The Case for Driving

Steve Baker MP

Scope

- Government policy
- Fuel prices
- Speed limits and enforcement
- Congestion and road infrastructure
- Politics and driving

Coalition Policy

"The Government believes that a modern transport infrastructure is essential for a dynamic and entrepreneurial economy, as well as to improve well-being and quality of life. **We need to make the transport sector greener and more sustainable, with tougher emission standards and support for new transport technologies.**"

Government Road Policy

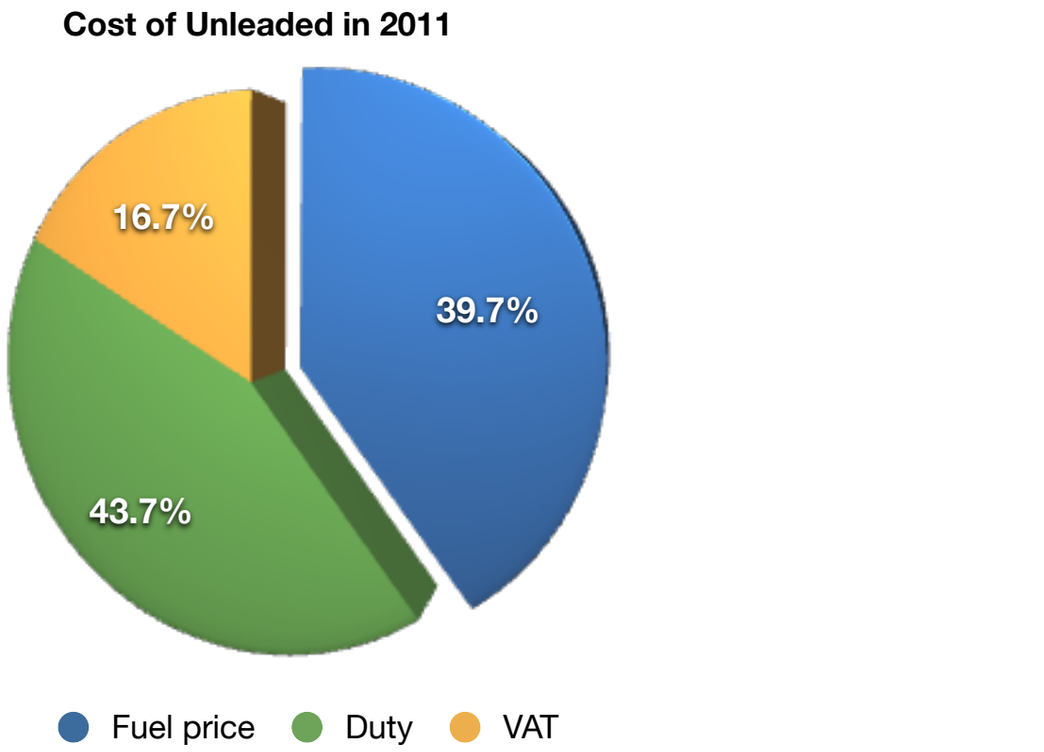
- Mandate a national recharging network
- Fully recognize the benefits of low carbon transport proposals
- Support sustainable travel initiatives
- Stop central funding for new fixed speed cameras
- Road pricing ruled out (but HGV...)

Fuel Prices – Tax

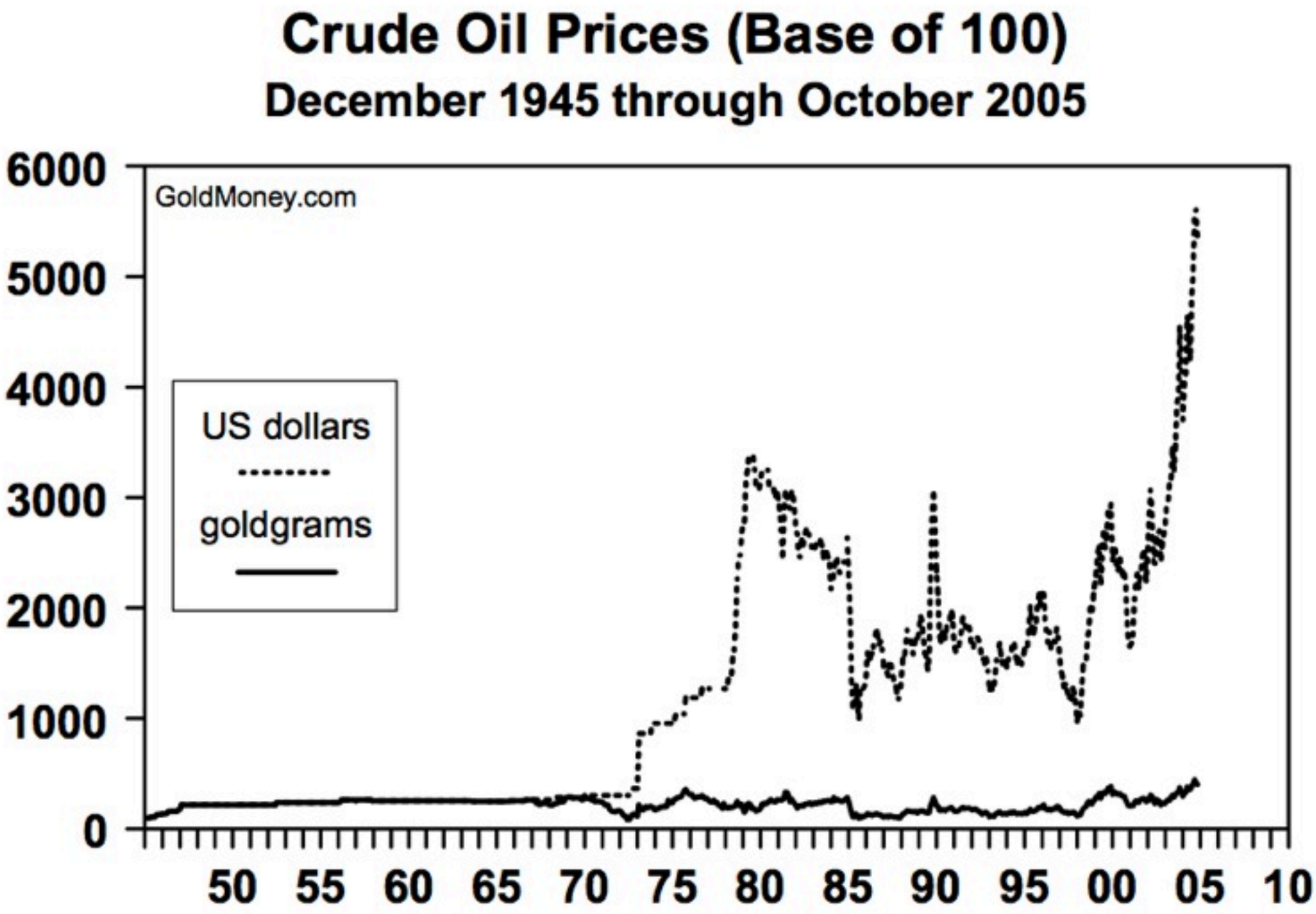
- Mar 2011 - duty reduced by 1p instead of plus 4p, funded by raid on oil companies

- 60% tax in 2011, down from 66% in 2009

- www.fairfueluk.com



Fuel Prices – Money



Source: GoldMoney.com

Speed Limits

- Motorway speed limit
- EU cross-border fixed fine enforcement
- 85th percentile?
- Political factors

Government considering raising motorway speed limit to 80mph 'to shorten journey times and help economy'

By RAY MASSEY

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Motorway speed limits could rise to 80 mph to shorten journey times and boost the economy under a radical review of road safety, Transport Secretary Philip Hammond signalled today.

He is concerned that anti-car campaigners have for too long used 'road safety' as a convenient excuse to both stymie raising speed the limit on motorways from the current 70mph, and to push for more 20mph zones in urban areas - even when they are inappropriate.

Britain has some of the safest roads in Europe, and within that motorways are by far the safest.

In future, Mr Hammond will demand that safety alone cannot be the sole determining factor when changing limits and that a thorough cost-benefit analysis which takes into account the economic impact must also be carried out when deciding such matters.

There are also likely to be more variable speed limits on motorways which reduce when traffic is congested, but can rise when roads are empty.

The UK speed limit is lower than much of Continental Europe, and far below speeds on German Autobahns which are unrestricted.

The latest push for an 80mph limit comes nearly 50 years after the Government imposed an 'experimental' 70mph speed limit on Britain's first motorway - the M1 - following a spate of unofficial road racing and accidents on what was originally an unrestricted road.

Speed: Philip Hammond signalled speed limits could rise to 80 mph, but dismissed reports that the Government was considering cutting them

Congestion

- Why were there queues for everything in the USSR?
- What does it mean for drivers?

From Russian Notes - Rules of a Russian Queue

Politics and Driving

- Factors
  - *Safety*
  - *Community blight*
  - *Environment*
- Pressure groups
- Cathedral and Bazaar
- Political parties

Policy failure

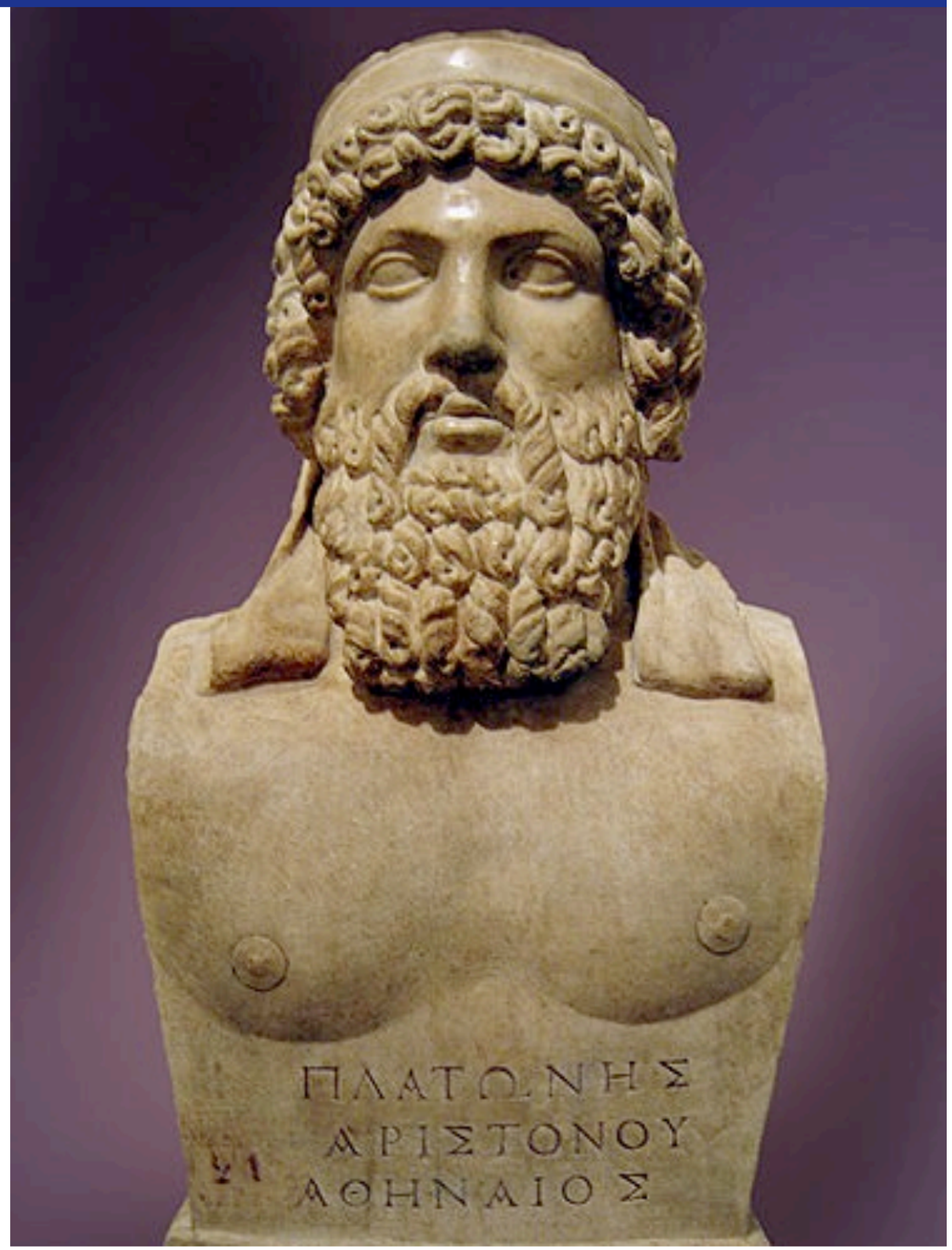
2000: Lord Whitty, Minister for Roads

"We must make speeding as socially unacceptable as drinking and driving. So we need better enforcement; more and better funded safety cameras; and tougher penalties."

2009: satire from The Daily Mash

Insight

- Force: the first resort?
  - *Compulsion fails*
  - *Compulsion breeds resentment*
- People are moral and cooperative
- People enjoy driving
- People respond to their environment



Attitude counts

Peugeot:
"Rediscover the joy of driving"

BMW: "Joy. That's who we answer to."

Going with the grain

- Personal responsibility as the first resort
- A drive to make Britain Great – a Great British Drive
- Transformed motoring

"This is what people need." – Sir Jackie Stewart

"This is what people want." – Mark Ryall, IT entrepreneur

"If you can turn the disillusionment and resentment the average motorist feels into enthusiasm and optimism you are definitely onto a winner... "
– Peter Frater, PFPR

Conclusion

- Government policy
- Fuel prices
- Speed limits and enforcement
- Congestion and road infrastructure
- Politics and Driving
  - The Great British Drive