

The New BMW 1 Series Tested

By Ian Lynas

THE 1 Series has proved to be a very important car in the UK for BMW capturing almost 30% of BMW's total of new car sales with the first generation model

conquering from the competition.

Last year I got my first taste of the new 1 Series and recently I had the chance to try the three door version, which is more sporty in its bodystyling than the five door which I recently tested on my home patch.

The newcomer has a more premium feel, it is wider and longer and rear passenger space and comfort is improved thanks to the adoption of a longer wheelbase.

The styling of the new model has a much stronger appeal and more good news, boot space is increased by 30 litres

The interior is strictly BMW and at last the 1 Series adopts a big car feel and as with other models in the BMW range,

this is a driver's car with easy to read instruments and controls which fall easily to hand.

The company's revolutionary iDrive system is available as standard on cars with SE specification and above, comprising of a controller on the centre console, Favourites buttons and a freestanding and high-resolution 6.5 inch flat screen monitor.

This display is used for all information, entertainment, telecommunications and navigation functions, should satellite navigation be specified.

Powering the new range, all new TwinPower turbo petrol engines with revisions to the diesel engines and for the first time in this range, an eight speed automatic gearbox is available.

BMW like so many other car manufacturers is ever mindful of improving fuel economy and lowering emissions. So all models come with Stop/Start and there is a 1 Series with a CO2 rating of just 99g/km.

The sportier in our midst will enjoy the M Sport models. Such badged BMWs have proved a huge seller with other models in the range, especially in our market.

Worth noting that the UK is one of the most popular markets for 1 Series.

The new cars perform well, delivering grip and comfort and I was surprised to learn that the suspension has been tuned for UK roads.

I have to say that my experience of the first generation models was that they simply



delivered a harsh ride and they were not particularly comfy for rear seat passengers, the new car presents a different story.

For those who aim for a sporty model, then the 118d M Sport in three door guise might just fit the bill. Power output is 143bhp, rest to 62mph in 8.9 seconds and on to a top speed of 132mph.

Now for the good news, 62.8mpg on the combined fuel cycle.

With its 18 inch alloys and sports trim, this car will appeal greatly to the young set.

Desire the ultimate in fuel efficiency then it has got to be the 116d ED. I spent a week with this model driving on my home patch and it delivered not only in terms of economy, but a quality of drive that puts it very high in its class.

A well appointed car that could reword with 74mpg on the combined fuel charts. Over a week which involved a variety of driving conditions I managed a wallet pleasing 56mpg.

Yes the new generation 1 Series from BMW offers a model for all tastes.