

The New BMW 2 Series Active Tourer

BMW is set to conquer with the arrival of a new model which breaks new ground for the German premium carmaker.

The 2 Series Active Tourer offers for the first time front wheel drive and entry into the small MPV sector. A sector of the market which has really taken on. BMW has the potential to capture a whole new audience and a spokesperson informed me that conquest sales could be in the region of 75%.

Longer than a 1 Series, wider and taller there is the combination of a compact exterior and a spacious and extremely versatile interior.

The good news story continues with pricing making the new BMW very

competitive with its main rivals; prices range from £22,125 - £27,205.

I had the opportunity to get behind the wheel of two models, a 218i and a 218d, one petrol and one diesel and the preference I suspect in our Northern Ireland market will be to go the way of the diesel.

The engines I sampled, the innovative three-cylinder petrol and lightweight diesel. The result is CO2 emissions of only 115g/km, yet peak power of 136bhp for the petrol unit and the new four-cylinder diesel engine with CO2 emissions as low as 109g/km with a power output of 150bhp. Of course further additions will be arriving on the power front later this year.

Since BMW introduced xDrive to the UK market demand has steadily grown and the 2 Series Active Tourer will get the higher-power 225i with this four-wheel-drive and future additions will include the 220i, 216d, 220d and 220d xDrive.

SE, Sport, Luxury and M Sport trim levels will provide excellent choice for the customer and BMW expect M Sport trim to be a big favourite, by the way with this level there will be no suspension change etc., purely cosmetic.

The standard specification includes, automatic tailgate, two-zone automatic air conditioning, rear Park Distance Control, BMW Emergency Call, 40:20:40 split folding rear seat with electronic folding functionality and 60:40 sliding rear bench.

In addition, Bluetooth with USB interface and audio streaming functionality, BMW



Professional radio with single CD player and 6.5 inch monitor, DAB digital radio, Performance Control, Comfort Go keyless engine start and Drive Performance

Control with ECO PRO, Comfort and Sport modes are also included. Rain sensor

with automatic headlight activation, Sport multi-function leather steering wheel and additional 12V power socket, quite a package.

Sport highlights include 17-inch Sport alloy wheels, sports front seats, LED ambient lighting etc. at a cost £1,250 over the SE.

Luxury models build on this with 17 inch Luxury alloy wheels, Dakota leather upholstery, LED ambient lighting, Chromeline exterior and Fineline Stream wood trim.

Living with this new BMW, it will be the ideal choice for families and those with an active lifestyle and I would not at all be surprised to see some move down from the more conventional BMW models.

The new 2 Series Active Tourer is a thoroughly modern vehicle with lots of new features and yet there it retains that BMW quality feel.



Ian Lynas