

The Revised BMW 5 Series Range

FOR some 40 years there has been a 5 Series in the BMW family and more than a million versions of the Saloon have been sold in the past three years and in order to maintain its strong position in the market all versions, Saloon, Touring and Gran Turismo now benefit from an array of technological innovations and modifications.

In order to get in touch with the revisions I spent some time behind the wheel of



Saloon versions and right at the top of the range there is a new engine while there is also a new entry point.

Subtle styling changes further enhance the 5 Series range, plus the ride quality is further improved with suspension tuning.

Every model in the extensive line up is more fuel efficient and for example the 184bhp version of the two litre diesel engine has a CO2 figure of 119g/km, this is not only going to please the business user but also the retail buyer.

Both manual and automatic transmissions, match the figures of the former EfficientDynamics model,

which is discontinued as a result, it was only available in manual form.

Clearly in our market in Northern Ireland the 520d is going to continue to prove popular. It has aerodynamic additions to the wheel arches, under-body panelling and front apron which lowers its drag co-efficient to 0.25 to enhance fuel efficiency.

All variants of the 5 Series have Xenon headlights as standard and Adaptive LED lights are optional.

The door mirrors now incorporate indicator repeaters with the Saloon and Touring having new-style tail lights with slender, elegant LED light strips.

Along with an additional crease in the rear apron, they emphasise the car's width and sporting stance.

The Gran Turismo has a new front air intake and an extended tailgate which ensures the roof blends more harmoniously into the rear end.

An additional benefit is that it increases boot capacity by 60 litres to 500 litres.

Throughout the range there are chrome strips bordering the central Control Display in the cabin, and the Saloon and Touring have larger storage areas and cup holders.



The Comfort Access system can now close as well as open the boot or tailgate by a movement of the driver's foot beneath the rear apron.

There are new paint and alloy wheel options, and new Luxury and Modern models to increase the range of personalisation possibilities.

I spent some time behind the wheel of a Luxury version and it delivers as its name suggests.

The full trim levels also include SE and M Sport. I did briefly take the wheel of an M Sport version and there is no doubt this will prove extremely popular.

The network of intelligent ConnectedDrive technologies has been expanded to advance the safety, connectivity and convenience of both drivers and passengers.

The BMW Business Navigation system becomes standard on all new Saloon and Touring models while the Gran Turismo family maintains Business Navigation on all four-cylinder variants with the upgraded Professional Navigation system available.

The Saloon and Touring range also includes 518d versions, again I tried one and with its 143bhp power output I found it drove surprisingly well and with a sub £30,000 price tag it will conquest from other rivals. Prices go from £29,050 to £71,885.

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