

## MINI Clubvan Cooper D

By Jim Mc Cauley

With MINI coming close to fulfilling all possibilities in their passenger car derivatives, they have moved into the commercial side with the Clubvan. Based on the earlier estate version, the new model retains the twin rear doors and off-side half-door to access the somewhat neat load bay measuring just over 1 metre square, giving a capacity of 860 litres.



Of the three engine options available, test choice was the range topping MINI Cooper D for those in need of speedy deliveries. The van retains the cuteness of the passenger vehicles as well as their luxury provision, adding to its attraction. This includes DAB radio, air conditioning, electric windows and front, side and head airbags all as standard. All models also feature auto start/stop, gear shift advice, brake energy regeneration and on-demand operation of ancillary units.

The two-seat cabin is separated from the load bay by a protective mesh upper grille and extruded lower barrier which guarantee the safety of the occupants. Behind the wheel, and the Clubvan drives with the same dynamics of the other models, spurred on by the sharpness of the Cooper diesel power unit. This offers a 0-60 mph time of a shade under 10 seconds while maximum speed is given as 122 mph. Noise may be a little more than in the passenger models, but the van still offers the driving satisfaction expected from the brand.

Loading is aided by the remote keyfob opening of a rear door and a low flat floor, while the half-door on the side allows access for small items. Obviously in a van this size, carrying possibilities are limited but users are likely to come from a broad selection of professions and trades such as paramedics, vets, fast food outlets, florists and service engineers.





The standard Cooper D is priced at £13,600 while the test vehicle also included a Pepper Pack at a further £975. This adds automatic air conditioning, Bluetooth connectivity, front fog lights, leather trimmed steering wheel, rain sensing wipers and automatic headlights. Like the other MINI models, the Clubvan can be further personalised with a range of accessories, taking the price to wherever the customer wants to stop.

With a CO2 emissions of 103 gms/km, the Clubvan qualifies for zero road tax in Year 1 and £20 per annum thereafter. Official fuel consumption is given as 72.4 mpg and the availability of the company's 'tlc' service package reduces ownership costs and heightens the vehicle's residual value when traded on.