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service centre, says it has been a big hit with workers at the nearby mail processing unit.

'We've had a really good time with it,' he says. 'Interest in Autocare has doubled over the past year. It's brilliant for colleagues because they can just drop their cars off and head in to work. I ring them when they're done and they pick it up after their round.

Joe says happy customers mean the message about Autocare is spreading through word of mouth.

'Some colleagues were dropped off in a taxi

When not working on private cars, the Hull service centre team maintains the region's 320-strong 'red fleet' of Royal Mail vans and lorries, alongside work on British Gas vehicles.

Mechanic technician Graham Meakes has worked on Autocare at Hull for three months. It's a good deal for postmen and women because it's reasonably priced and convenient,' he says.

'Autocare gives us a bit of variety as you get to work on different cars as well as vans. We're getting good feedback from the customers and

- Autocare offers competitively priced MOTs, repairs and servicing for Royal Mail colleagues, their friends and families.
- Since launching in September 2016, mechanics at 86 workshops have handled more than 10,000 Autocare iobs.
- Colleagues can receive a £10 discount for servicing or repairs of £100 or more - available until

# NEWS IN BRIEF DASHBOARD **CAMERA TRIAL**



We are trialling dashboard cameras to protect our drivers, while they are out on the road.

The cameras are widely used across the logistics industry, and many of our drivers already choose to install cameras for their own personal use.

As part of the trial, a total of 20 forward-facing cameras have been installed at the vehicle operating centre at Rochester - which achieved a 50% reduction in road traffic collisions in the past financial year (2017-18).

The trial will last three months before the next steps are decided. Driver Ashley Wigg says: 'It's protection for the drivers in case of any incidents and will also protect the company against other road users.'

## **NEW EMERGENCY BRAKING SYSTEM**

We have placed our first order for 100 Volkswagen Caddy and 262 Volkswagen Crafter vans, which are due to start arriving on our sites from next month

The vans will all be fitted with the ity emergency braking system, a llision-avoiding technology.

Automatically activated at speeds inder 18mph, it uses a laser sensor to detect the risk of an impending collision and automatically primes the brakes to make them more sensitive. f the driver does not brake and a collision is imminent, then the system applies them automatically.

## RIDE & PREJUDICE

Sue Whalley, CEO Post & Parcels, ttended The Economist's Pride and Prejudice LGBT Summit in London ast week where a panel discussed whether organisations still need to make a business case for diversity.

Pride and Prejudice began in 2016 as a global conference and initiative to instigate debate and discussion around the economic and human costs of discrimination against the LGBT community

Speaking at the event, Sue said: We want to create a workplace where ll employees feel respected, included nd comfortable.

**Open for business** 

### We've expanded our Autocare scheme with the opening of a new workshop in Boston, Lincolnshire.

The new vehicle maintenance workshop opened at Boston delivery office last month and is equipped with a dedicated MOT service area

Boston is now one of 72 in-house MOT facilities across the country. We have almost doubled our MOT capability in recent times as part of our drive towards greater commercialisation of the husiness

Fleet technician Paul Hartnett is excited by the new range of commercial work being carried out at the site. It's brilliant for our apprenticeships,' he says. 'You've got to make them interested, and apparently we're doing a good job at that.'

First-year apprentice Tom Gibbon agrees. If you enjoy it, it's not really work. There's nothing more I could really ask for,' he says. Head of fleet maintenance Sally Warren recently visited the college that is helping to train Tom.

'They told me Royal Mail has the best retention rate of all of their major vehicle providers,' she says. 'They were asking us what it is we do to look after our apprentices, because we generally don't have anyone leave the program.'

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