

## **Dividends for Admiral Shareholders up 10% as consumers face 11% price hike since last year**

One of the UK's largest car insurers, Admiral, has today announced a 10% increase in interim dividend payouts compared with the same time last year, at a time when consumers are paying the highest premiums yet.

Car insurance premiums have gone up by 11% in the last year, according to the Association of British Insurers (ABI), almost exactly the same amount by which Admiral has increased its interim dividends.

Admiral even brazenly credits 'higher average premiums' as one of the factors which has allowed them to increase turnover by 9% to £1.08 billion (2016: £0.99 billion) in their half year financial results for 2017.

David Stevens, CEO of Admiral, stated he was happy to report an 'increase in profitability and to deliver a more material increase in the underlying dividend.'

Campaigning law firm [Thompsons Solicitors](#) has been tracking the half year results of the UK's major car insurers and highlighting the discrepancy between what insurers say publically about 'crises' and a 'compensation culture' and what they report to their shareholders as part of their [#FeedingFatCats](#) campaign.

Tom Jones, head of policy at Thompsons Solicitors, said: "Another day, another set of results and yet more evidence of good times for insurers and their shareholders. Insurers seem to think it's perfectly acceptable to talk up a crisis and scare motorists into accepting that booming premiums are unavoidable whilst quietly pocketing the profit.

"Admiral's profits and dividends are up yet again just like those at their competitors. Where is any credible independent evidence of the problematic market conditions insurers go on about? The simple fact is that ever-increasing car insurance premiums aren't down to any 'compensation culture' crisis. The crises are being manufactured to scare the government into taking away the rights of injured people so as to leave shareholders' and insurance CEOs laughing.

"Car insurers in the UK seem to think they can take consumers for a ride. We've heard in the last month that insurers have been inflating prices for their loyal customers when they [come to renew](#), inflating repair costs by [up to 100%](#) and charging [up to £300](#) for motorists to pay their car insurance monthly.

“Claims costs have dropped 30% in the last five years, making it cheaper for insurers to do business because they are paying out less and yet the cost of insurance cover rises every year. It's a nice old game if you are a [fat cat](#) insurer - give the government and the public a load of baloney to explain price rises, keep the profits rising and rub your little hands at the prospect of a minimum of an extra £200m a year coming your way if the government falls for the small claims con trick.”

**ENDS**