radius

The 2026 mobility report

Signals from the Road

Insights, trends and data shaping modern fleet operations

A message from our Telematics CEO

Mobility is evolving at an unprecedented pace. Today's fleets operate in an environment shaped by rising costs, heightened safety demands, increasing theft risk, and a growing responsibility to reduce environmental impact.

Fleet operators are facing sustained and complex pressures. Operating costs continue to rise, with **76% of fleet managers** identifying them as their greatest challenge. At the same time, progress on road safety has slowed, while vehicle theft is accelerating. In the UK, **68% of stolen vehicles** are never recovered, meaning full asset replacements, downtime and higher insurance costs for fleets.

Search behaviour further reinforces where these pressures are most acutely felt. Increasingly, fleet managers are focusing on fleet security, fuel efficiency, stolen vehicle recovery, and safety. These are clear signals of where challenges persist and where expectations are rising.

Telematics will play a defining role in addressing these challenges. It must do so without adding complexity. The focus should be on solutions that deliver the right insights at the right time, support safer driving, strengthen security and recovery, and keep vehicles on the road. In short, telematics must work in service of people and businesses.

This report brings together the most important signals shaping fleet mobility today. Drawing on industry research, customer insight, market data, and operational experiences shared through customer case studies from our connected fleet of 600k+, it provides a clear view of what is changing and why it matters.

At its core is a simple belief. Fleets can achieve three critical outcomes simultaneously. Save time by reducing downtime and creating operational efficiencies. Save money by improving fuel utilisation, minimising losses, and enabling evidence-based decisions around incidents and disputes. Reduce carbon through smarter driving, and more sustainable fleet operations.

As you read this report, I encourage you to reflect on the pressures facing your own fleet and the signals that can help you stay ahead of them. The future of mobility will be data-driven and built around the needs of the people who keep our world moving.

Radius supports more than 500,000 fleet operators across 19 countries with connected solutions spanning telematics, fuel, insurance, and mobility services.

Sources: Fleet News "rising costs... dominate fleet concerns" and Keytek "Vehicle Crime Statistics UK – 2026".

"The start of 2026 has seen unprecedented volatility. The fleets who win tomorrow are the ones who understand their data today."

Jolawn Victor

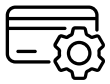
Chief Executive Officer at Radius Telematics

The big picture

Fleet pain points rising in 2026

Fleet operators across the UK are facing intensifying pressure on every front. Costs, security, safety and maintenance are all moving in the wrong direction at the same time and search data shows the industry knows it. This section sets out the five challenges shaping fleet management in 2026.

1.Security concerns are escalating



1562% "Fleet security" searches up year-on-year in the UK.

1147% "Stolen vehicle recovery" searches up year-on-year in the UK.

2. Cost pressures continue to build

200% "Reduce fleet costs" searches up year-on-year globally.

3. Fuel efficiency is a priority

1072% "Fleet fuel efficiency" searches up year-on-year globally.

4. Safety concerns are growing

500% "Fleet safety" searches up year-on-year in the UK.

5. Maintenance and downtime are painful

438% "Fleet maintenance" interest up year-on-year in the UK.

Sources: SEMrush Google search volumes of key phrases compared YoY.

The three big telematics wins

Every fleet is ultimately trying to achieve the same three outcomes: save time, save money and reduce carbon.Telematics is enabling those successes in 2026.

25%

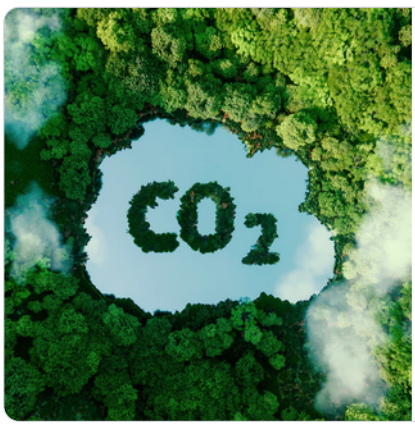
Money

If drivers consistently adopted efficient driving techniques supported by telematics feedback, fuel consumption could be reduced by around 20–25%.

24.1%

Time

Fleet managers without telematics data spend significant time on manual data entry every week. 24.1% spend 2-4 hours, 21.3% spend 4-8 hours, and 13.8% report spending 16 or more hours per week on manual data entry.



50%

Carbon

A UK fleet case study showed that using telematics data to guide electrification cut annual CO_2 emissions by 50% in 12 months .

Sources: UK Department for Transport, Efficient Driving: Rapid Evidence Assessment, 2026 Fleet Benchmark Report as reported by Fleet Maintenance Magazine February 2026 and South West Net Zero Hub case study, Wiltshire Council.

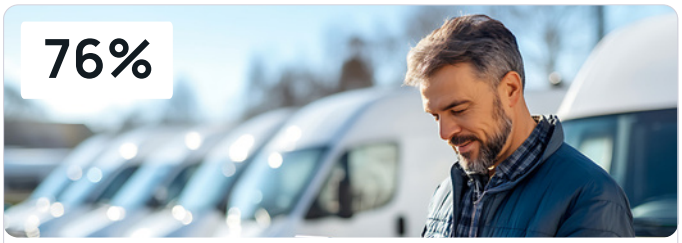
Fleet focus 1

Cost control

Cost control: overview

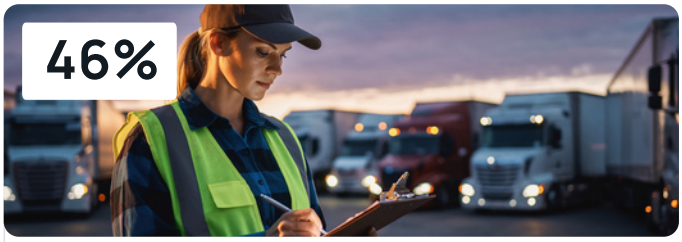
Cost control remains the number one priority for fleets in 2026. Driven by desires for efficiency, economic uncertainty, and rising operational and fuel costs. Across the UK and Europe, fleet managers are looking for practical, measurable ways to cut unnecessary spend without compromising performance.

Why cost control matters right now



Operating costs are rising faster than budgets

76% of fleet managers cite rising operating costs as their top challenge. This includes fuel, insurance, maintenance, labour and compliance.



Economic uncertainty is reshaping fleet strategy

Reports show growing pressure on fleets to maintain margins. **46%** of fleet managers cite 'economic risks' as a key concern for their business.

Search interest shows what fleets are urgently trying to fix

200%
"Reduce fleet costs" searches up 200% globally.

438%
"Fleet maintenance" interest is up 438% in the UK in the past year.

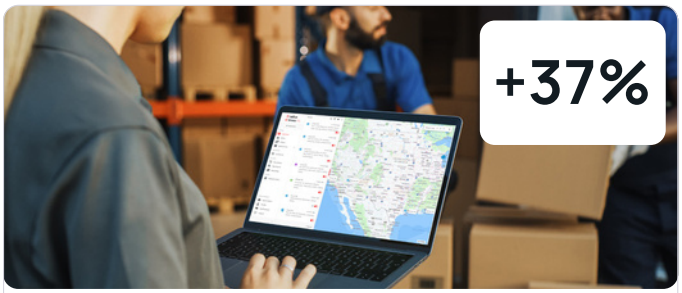
1072%
"Fleet fuel efficiency" searches are up 1072% globally in the past year.

These behavioural signals from Google search volumes confirm the financial pressure fleets feel day-to-day.

Sources: Fleet News, UK fleets open to change to meet the challenge of rising costs, and SEMrush Google search volumes year-on-year comparison.

Cost control: fuel efficiency

Rising fuel prices, operational costs and sustainability commitments mean fleets are looking closely at the factors that influence fuel use. Industry research highlights how driving behaviour, vehicle condition and idling all directly affect fuel performance.

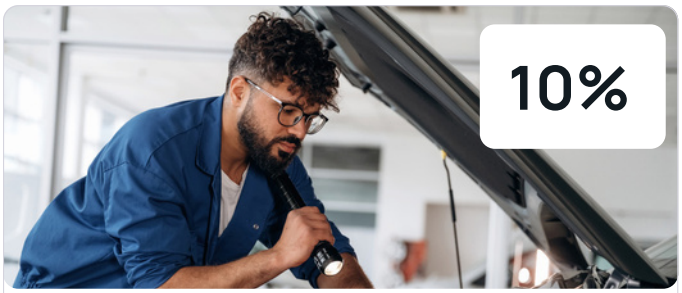


Driving behaviour directly affects fuel use

Industry analysis consistently identifies the following behaviours as key contributors to excessive fuel burn: harsh acceleration, harsh braking, speeding and unnecessary idling. Poor driving behaviour can cost fleets up to **37%** more in fuel.

Idling is a major source of fuel waste

HGVs burn up to **21.7g** of diesel per minute while idling. If 50% of all LGVs in London idled for just one minute at traffic lights in a single day, nearly **3,000 kg of CO_2** would be released. With fleet vehicles idling daily, the impacts on fuel costs and sustainability commitments are high.



Vehicle condition is a key efficiency factor

Poor vehicle maintenance can significantly increase fuel costs; according to UK energy-efficiency guidance, maintaining correct tyre pressure and servicing a vehicle regularly can improve fuel efficiency by up to **10%.**

The fraud risk

65% of UK fleet managers now consider fuel-related fraud a significant issue for their business. Almost half of fleet managers acknowledge they need to do more about it, with potential losses exceeding **5%** of total fuel spend.

Why this matters for fleets in 2026

Fuel remains one of the biggest operational cost centres and one of the hardest to predict. With "fleet fuel efficiency" searches up 1072% year on year, it's clear that fleets are prioritising fuel-saving strategies more intensely than ever.

Sources: Edmunds: Fuel economy - we test the tips, Transport Research Laboratory - Idling Action Research, Shell "Fraud Matters United Kingdom" Report, Energy Saving Trust – driving and fuel efficiency advice and Google search volumes year-on-year comparison.

Cost control: insurance and claims reduction

Insurance premiums and claims-related costs continue to rise across UK and European fleets. With collision rates, repair delays and incident-related costs increasing, fleets are looking for ways to reduce their risk profile and gain clearer evidence when incidents occur.

Industry data shows that the financial impact of collisions goes far beyond insurance premiums and that preventing incidents or resolving them quickly can save fleets significant time and money.

The true cost of collisions

National safety and economic data highlights the scale of the issue: collisions cost the UK economy **£6.9 billion in lost output,** £3.1 billion in medical and ambulance costs, and £264 million in policing costs every year.

The impact of telematics on vehicle insurance

Fleet telematics can lead to "**15-40%** fewer claims" through improved driver behaviour monitoring. While, telematics systems can reduce fleet insurance premiums by **10-25%**.

Why this matters for fleets in 2026

Insurance and claims reduction have become strategic priorities for fleets because incidents increase repair costs, create downtime, reduce vehicle utilisation, and can significantly raise insurance premiums. Minimising repair-related incidents is particularly important, with **24%** of fleets now reporting downtime caused by repairs, directly impacting operational efficiency and billable time.

Time and cost savings with telematics

Tom Griffiths, Fleet Supervisor and Radius customer at ARH Group was surprised by how much the Radius vision cameras benefited their insurance rates and sped up the overall claims resolution process. Tom emphasised, 'I didn't realise quite how much cameras would save off our insurance premium; that was a pleasant surprise'.

Sources: Highways News reporting on the 2026 Road Safety Strategy, MyMoneyComparison.com - Fleet Trackers & Telematics: How They Reduce Insurance Costs, Fleet Europe – downtime issues 24% vs 18% and Radius ARH Group case study.

Fleet focus 2

Safety and security

Safety and security: overview

Rising incident rates, increasing vehicle crime and driver-related risks mean fleets are prioritising tools and processes that help to protect valuable assets, people and their brand reputation. Search behaviour and industry data both point to safety and security as dominant themes for 2026 and fleets are actively seeking practical solutions.

Driver behaviour remains the leading cause of road incidents, with issues such as poor hazard perception, distraction, speeding and fatigue consistently highlighted as key risk factors.

Why safety and security matters right now

Safety is increasingly critical for fleets

Data shows major gaps in risk management, with **80%** of fleets lacking a formal road safety policy, **39%** of professional drivers never having received safety training, and **53%** of fleets only able to exonerate drivers in crash incidents using telematics data.

Security concerns are escalating sharply

Vehicle theft and cargo crime continue to rise across the UK and Europe. **68%** of stolen vehicles in the UK are never recovered and vehicle thefts have increased by **75%** in the last decade.

Fleet-related search behaviour confirms this surge in concern

500%
"fleet safety" searches are up 500% year-on-year.

1147%
"stolen vehicle recovery" searches are up 1147% in the past year.

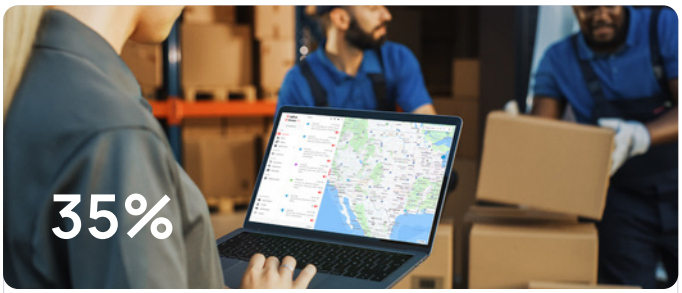
1562%
"fleet security" searches are up 1562% in the past year.

These behavioural signals from Google search volumes confirm the safety and security concerns fleets feel daily.

Sources: Fleet News "Fleets failing to manage driver risk, says IAM RoadSmart", "Driver exoneration is major reason for using safety tech", Office for National Statistics (ONS), Cinch vehicle theft analysis and SEMrush Google search volumes year-on-year comparison.

Safety and security: driver behaviour

Safety performance is heavily influenced by driver behaviour, and the data confirms that real-time alerts, driver monitoring systems, early interventions and behaviour-led coaching remain some of the most effective tools available to fleets. Industry research consistently shows that most collision risk comes from factors that can be influenced through driver feedback, provided managers have access to the right data. This growing focus is also reflected in market demand, with UK searches for “driver safety” increasing **175%** year on year.



Driver behaviour is a leading safety risk factor

Department for Transport–commissioned studies indicate that combining training with feedback systems such as telematics can reduce accident rates by approximately **14–35%**, highlighting the effectiveness of structured safety interventions in fleets.

Speeding reaches 4-year high

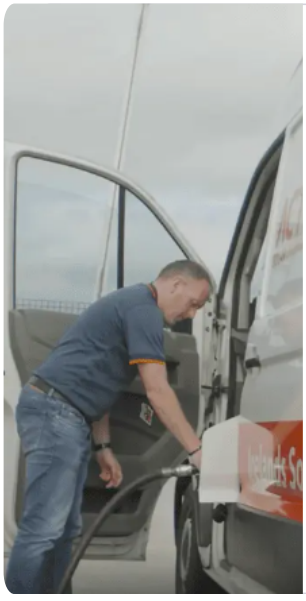
Speeding offences are up **32%**: 939,519 drivers received an SP30 endorsement in 2025, up from 678,367 in 2022.

Motorway speeding is also rising: 216,141 drivers were caught in 2025, **29%** higher than three years ago.

Enforcement data is only part of the story: **61%** of drivers admit breaking 30mph limits. Speed is a factor in **40%** of UK road collisions.

In fleet management, the sooner unsafe driving is identified, the easier it is to correct. Telematics data, coupled with video evidence and alert history, all support the coaching process to improve safety.

Improving safety with telematics



Turning fleet data into safer driving behaviours

Since implementing Radius telematics, Activ8 has seen measurable improvements in safety, including 5% reduction in speeding incidents, in addition to better driver engagement and accountability.

Deidre Brady, Fleet Manager, explained "In order for me to make changes, I need the data. It provides us with more data for us to make decisions in relation to vehicles on the road, driver performance, and compliance".

Sources: Department of Transport/Fleet News "DfT calls for robust data for training return on investment", DVLA and IAM RoadSmart, Fleet News "Drivers caught speeding reached 4-year high" and Radius Activ8 case study.

Safety and security: theft and recovery

Vehicle and asset theft has escalated sharply across the UK and Europe, with fleets facing both higher incident rates and greater financial losses. The data shows a clear trend: theft is becoming more difficult to recover from without the support of telematics and rapid recovery teams.

Vehicle theft is rising across the UK

68% of stolen vehicles are never recovered, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). An estimated 54,830 vehicle were stolen in 2025. Theft rates have soared **75%** since 2013-14, demonstrating a long-term upward trend.

Theft is causing downtime

Van theft is rising, with projections of 20,000 vans stolen annually by 2030. More than 1 in 4 **(28%)** of UK van drivers fell victim to tool theft in 2024, up from **19%** the year before. The majority of tool theft victims **(86%),** were forced to take unplanned downtime averaging nearly four days, with one in five off work for over a week.

Keyless entry and modern tech are accelerating theft in the UK

Keyless-entry vehicles are twice as likely to be stolen, pushing more fleets toward immobilisation and advanced tracking technologies for protection. Stolen vehicles are often exported within 24 hours, particularly through major ports such as Dover. This speed of export significantly reduces the chance of police-led recovery without specialised support.

The theft risk you may not know about: fuel fraud

Research commissioned by Shell plc shows that nearly two-thirds **(65%)** of UK fleet managers now consider fuel-related fraud a significant issue for their business. Almost half **(48%)** also recognise the need to take further action.

Value of stolen tools on the rise

The value of stolen tools increased by over **40%**, with the average loss reaching **£2,433** last year. In addition, more than a quarter **(27%)** of tool theft incidents involved losses of **£3,500** or more, compared with just **10%** in 2023. These figures make it clear why integrating telematics with tool and asset tracking systems is increasingly important

Sources: Office of National Statistics, car.co.uk "Car Theft Statistics in the UK", Fleet News "Tool theft from vans increases" and WifiTalents Fleet Management Industry statistics.

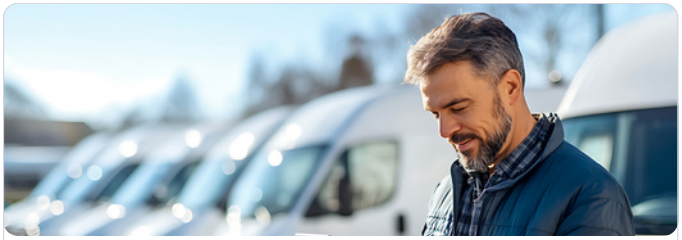
Fleet focus 3

Operational efficiency

Operational efficiency: overview

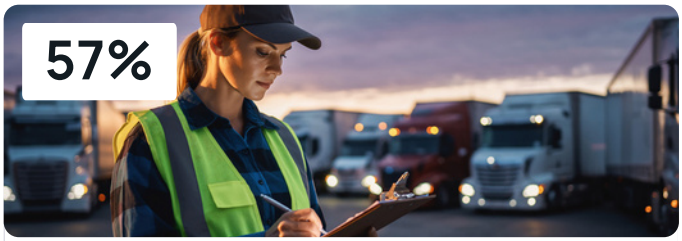
With repair delays rising, unplanned downtime increasing and admin requirements expanding across compliance, maintenance and reporting, fleets should be prioritising tools and processes that help them run smoothly. Industry evidence shows that operational waste, especially downtime, is one of the most expensive and disruptive challenges fleets face.

Why operational efficiency matters right now



Unplanned downtime is a growing crisis

Vehicle off-road (VOR) times have increased across almost all regions since the start of the pandemic. For example, in Scotland, average VOR rose from **1.96** days in 2020 and reached **2.39** days in 2023, showing a steady year-on-year increase in fleet downtime.



Asset visibility is a persistent challenge

57% of fleet operators still rely on manual data entry to track performance, highlighting a lack of real-time visibility that undermines operational efficiency. Many professionals spend hours each month compiling data, adding to avoidable time and cost pressures.

Adapting operations to new regulations

Fleets in 2026 and beyond must stay adaptable as regulatory expectations continue to shift across emissions, driver hours, safety, and cross-border transport requirements.

UK and EU rules are tightening on CO_2 emissions. Mandating stricter standards and pushing operators toward cleaner vehicles and real-time emissions monitoring. While evolving driver-working-hours laws and the ongoing updates to the EU, Mobility Package are adding new layers of compliance around rest periods, postings and operational documentation.

These changes mean fleets can no longer rely on manual reporting or multiple systems. Although **85%** of fleet managers worldwide are using GPS-based telematics tracking, they need to ensure streamlined operational reporting from one system to keep pace efficiently, avoid penalties, and remain compliant as regulations continue to evolve.

85%

of fleet managers

worldwide were using GPS-based telematics tracking by 2023.

Sources: Fleet News "Repair delays causing vehicle downtime problem for one-in-four fleets", Fleet News "'Major data disconnect' for more than half of fleets, and WifiTalents Fleet Management Industry Statistics.

Operational efficiency: downtime

Downtime remains one of the most disruptive and costly operational challenges for fleets. Whether caused by breakdowns, repair delays, or lack of asset visibility, unplanned downtime directly impacts delivery schedules, customer satisfaction, labour efficiency, and profitability. Industry evidence shows that earlier detection and better visibility are central to reducing loss.

Repair delays are worsening

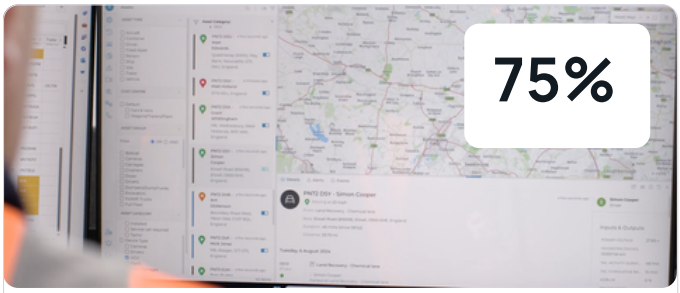
Fleet repair timelines are increasing due to limited workshop capacity, skilled-technician shortages, and ongoing parts supply issues. **24%** of fleets report repair-related downtime, up from **18%** the previous year. This reinforces the need for proactive planning to avoid entering clogged repair pipelines.

The cost of breakdowns

41% of businesses with van or HGV fleets experience vehicle breakdowns at least twice a month. **32%** said each breakdown costs their business up to **£300** per day in downtime alone. Businesses can lose more than **£7,000** annually per vehicle from breakdown-related downtime and disruption.

Predictive maintenance can dramatically reduce disruption

Industry analysis shows meaningful gains when fleets shift from reactive to predictive maintenance models. Predictive maintenance can reduce downtime by up to **30%.**



Visibility problems increase downtime risk

Like many growing fleets, **75%** of JAO Groundworks' vehicles weren't being tracked, creating operational risk. Since implementing telematics, Plant & Fleet Manager Asa Hooper said, "We've seen a clear reduction in out-of-hours usage and driver behaviour has definitely improved." These improvements help to reduce the number of incidents and downtime.

Sources: Fleet Europe (Arval Mobility Observatory / Fleet & Mobility Barometer), Fleet News "RAC Business: Trucks off the road costing businesses more than £7k a year", WifiTalents Fleet Management Industry Statistics and Radius JAO Groundworks Case Study.

Operational efficiency: simplifying admin

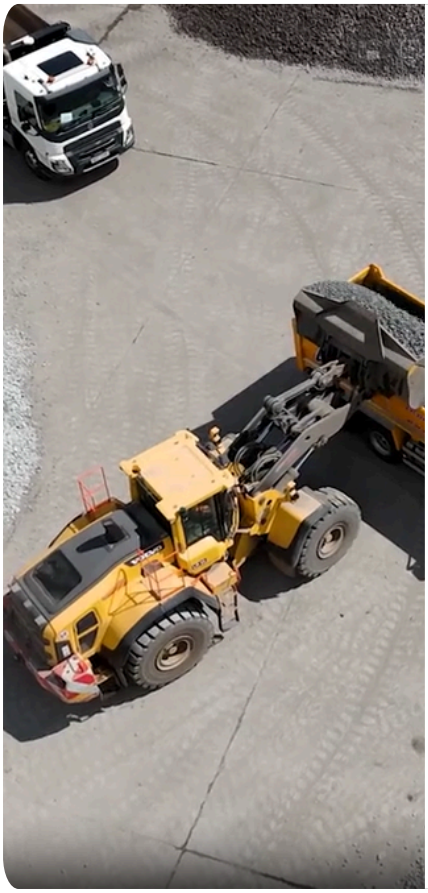
Automation is becoming essential as admin workloads rise. In 2026, the biggest operational gains are coming from reducing manual reporting and consolidating data for real-world use. Plus, with near-constant regulatory changes, fleets need to be adaptable and have audit-ready data without adding hours of manual processing.

Admin workloads burdensome

UK business productivity reviews consistently identify "excess administrative burden and manual processes" as a key drag on operational efficiency, particularly in transport and logistics sectors. Research shows that up to a third of working time can be spent on administrative and coordination tasks.

Fleet data that cuts workload

Telematics software, like Kinesis Pro, reduces administrative burden by automatically capturing and reporting fleet data like location, mileage and usage. This removes manual data entry, streamlines reporting and frees up time for higher-value operational work.



Saving time on compliance reporting with telematics

Steve Hepple, Transport Manager at Land Recovery, explained, "The business has grown exponentially over the last few years, and we needed to develop a way of monitoring the fleet."

"We were really impressed with the package Radius have on offer, as it makes our jobs a lot easier.

"We needed to create more reporting for the FORS (fleet operator recognition scheme)."

"Our account manager helped us with a weekly report that is sent via email, which we use to report back to FORS to prove that we are operating efficiently and to the standard required."

Sources: UK Government / Office for National Statistics productivity and business efficiency reporting and Radius Land Recovery Case Study.

To support leaders moving quickly, our Telematics CEO, Jolawn Victor, offers a simple starting point:

"If you only do three things this year, strengthen your fleet security to protect assets and avoid costly disruptions, ensure your fleet is fully connected with telematics to gain the visibility and data needed to operate faster and leaner, and focus on eliminating cost waste through smarter fuel use and improved efficiency. These three actions alone help fleets save time, save money and cut unnecessary carbon output."

Your fleet action plan for 2026/27

This simple action plan is designed to help operators quickly assess how well they are set up to save time, save money and reduce carbon, and where to focus next to build a more resilient and future-ready fleet.

An interactive checklist accompanies this report: **How well does your fleet support efficiency, cost control, security and safety?**

It allows teams to score their current processes across visibility, driver safety, reporting and security.

The outcome score highlights if there are gaps that require action. Gaps that create wasted time, unnecessary spend and avoidable emissions. For many fleets, these stem from outdated reporting processes, reactive habits and limited visibility over assets, all of which increase downtime and inflate operational costs.

This guidance aligns directly with the industry evidence showing how telematics, predictive maintenance and integrated reporting systems can reduce operating costs by **15%**, cut idling-related fuel waste by up to **25%** and prevent unnecessary mileage and emissions.

This action plan marks the final step of the operational journey outlined so far: reduce waste, control costs and save time. The next pages explore how to put these actions into practice.

Checklist: How well does your fleet support efficiency, cost control, security and safety?

This interactive checklist helps fleet leaders quickly assess how effectively their organisation is reducing waste, cutting costs and lowering emissions.

Question	Score
We have real-time visibility of all on-road assets and off-road assets.	1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐
We receive alerts when assets move out of hours or out of geofenced areas.	1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐
We use data and video footage to reduce malicious claims costs.	1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐
Reporting is automated (e.g., mileage, checks, compliance logs).	1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐
Compliance records can be exported instantly for audits or insurers.	1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐
Data is consolidated; we're not manually combining information from multiple systems. (ie our fuel expenditure and telematics data is available in one system).	1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐
We have fleet data for 'engine on' time and idling reports to reduce costs and emissions.	1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐
We monitor driving behaviour and intervene when risk increases.	1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐
Drivers receive training or coaching based on data, not guesswork.	1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐
We actively use data to reduce fuel consumption and unnecessary mileage.	1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐
We can identify underused or inefficient assets.	1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐
We receive notifications for suspicious fuel card activity based on proximity to the vehicle.	1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

Score outcome

0–20 At risk: High waste, high cost, high emissions.

21–40 Developing: Solid foundations, room for large gains.

41–70 Moderate: Systems are working, but efficiency and consistency are still uneven.

71–80 Excellent: High-performing, low-waste, low-carbon fleet.