

AUTO EXPRESS

NEWS WEEKLY

THE UK'S BEST SELLING WEEKLY CAR MAG

ALL-NEW MINI

AUTO EXPRESS EXCLUSIVE IMAGES



PLUS: New MINI Coupé JCW driven



562 BHP
4581

worked on the supercharged unit – told us: "You can be fairly confident it will." The resulting XFR-S will eclipse the newly facelifted R

the standard 503bhp, with additional coming from an engine remap. Variable-rate dampers aim to ensure the models remain the most comfortable in their class.

Ford Ka passes brake test

THE passenger braking problem we uncovered in the Fiat 500 does not extend to the latest generation Ford Ka on which it's based – despite the mechanism on both cars being the same.

In Issue 1,169, we revealed our engineer had tested a reader's 500 and discovered it could be brought to a halt by a passenger pressing down on the floor. During the inspection, Mark Brown of Banwells in Nottingham found a protective plastic cover stamped by Ford, leading him to believe the Fiat's sister model, the Ka, might be affected. But

16 autoexpress.co.uk 15 June 2011

Mark tested a current Ford model for Auto Express and told us: "Access to the bar is restricted by the design and shape of the dash. The passenger would not be able to get a foot on it."

A Ford spokesman said: "The unique design of our console ensures passengers are not able to get in direct contact with the brake link shaft mechanism."

Fiat is currently testing reader Sharon Brook's 500, and has promised to report back with its findings. The Government's vehicle inspection agency, VOSA, will also investigate the matter.



Although Ka and 500 share platforms, Ford is unaffected by brake problems

NHS CAR PARKS IN £32M 'RIP-OFF'

HOSPITAL parking profits soared to an incredible £32million in England during the past financial year. That's up 14 per cent compared to the previous 12 months, and is part of a total revenue of £149million.

Following a Freedom of Information request to 175 NHS hospitals, the figures revealed an average fee of £2.29 to use an NHS car park – 60 per cent more than in council facilities. Four trusts made an annual profit of more than £1m: Worcestershire Acute Hospitals, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and South London Healthcare. Two – West Hertfordshire and Luton and Dunstable – have a minimum £4 charge for parking.

FIAT 500: CAN YOU EAT 458 ITALIA?

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Conti GT first UK drive
- Best fast tax-friendly cars
- Great runabouts for £3k
- How to reject a faulty car



New Car... & cabrio! Renault's 261bhp Mégane

247
9 770954 886197

www.autoexpress.co.uk