

COMMERCIAL 4x4 OF THE YEAR



the edge when running fully laden. These two are joined by the Toyota Hilux GX as the only double cab models which still qualify for the VAT to be reclaimed and the flat-rate Benefit-In-Kind tax to apply once a hard-top is fitted.

These three might be on your shortlist if you have a vehicle supplied by your employer. The Nissan is the most powerful and has the highest towing capacity, it also has the lowest running costs at 34.64p per mile over three years/36,000 miles or 19.41p per mile over four years/100,000. No wonder then that the Nissan is increasingly favoured as a company car driver choice over a 4x4 station wagon.

For the self-employed wanting a dual-purpose work and weekend wagon, the double cab cost-kings are the Mitsubishi L200 and Nissan Pick-up. The Mitsubishi costs 33.18p per mile over three years/36,000 miles and 20.07p per mile over four years/100,000 miles. Although the Nissan is more expensive at 34.64p per mile in the short term, its lower servicing costs give it the edge in the long run, at 19.41p per mile, despite the Mitsubishi's higher residual value.

BOTTOM LINE

The mix of single and double cabs, van conversions and bespoke hard-tops, means that this sector can seem almost as diverse as that of the 4x4 passenger vehicles market. We have seen how the L200 carries more than any other pick-up, how the diminutive Kangoo offers kg/CPM that no other can match and how you need not desert creature comforts by opting for a station wagon-based van.

In double cabs, however, one stands out. It is able to retain VAT and BIK (Benefit-In-Kind) tax status with a hard-top fitted and in its range-topping form offers all the cab comfort and exterior swagger that the lifestyle market demands. It offers the best productivity over 100,000 miles and with the superior towing weight in the mix the most powerful of the bunch increases its lead over the competition still further. The Nissan, in Double Cab Pick-up or Navara guises, earns a conclusive victory here.

mainly due to the purchase price, the Shogun is 23.56p per mile and Discovery 25.17p per mile over 100,000 miles. However, being merely blank-window versions of the station wagons, they still look the part, particularly the five-door Discovery commercial – its black panels merely look like a station wagon with privacy glass. Both are worth considering as private vehicles if you can cope with only two seats.

However, the pick-up still dominates the 4x4 commercial sector and the double cabs are the spearhead. Payload-wise the Mazda and Nissan lead, but the Nissan's superior engine performance gives it

