

# EDITOR'S LETTER

**A**s I write this, on our press day, our publishing house is hosting a 'bring your dog to work day' for a limited number of staff who wish to warm their feet on a furry friend beneath their desk. It's just one of several things Bauer Media now does as a major modern employer to maintain the sanity and physical wellbeing of its workforce.

The same day, our industry charity, Ben, published its annual report, which I view as a snapshot of the health of UK automotive workers. You can find it at: [am-online.com/BEN2019](http://am-online.com/BEN2019).

It contains some quite worrying reading, and I'm glad that Ben is there to help people in their times of need. The charity has recorded a 23 percentage-point rise in the share of mental health calls to its helplines. It has surveyed people in our industry and found 91% reported that they had struggled with their health and wellbeing at some point in the past 12 months.

I've heard directly from a few AM100 group bosses that they are concerned about some managers becoming 'burned out' by the pressure of carmakers' targets, audits and mystery shops. And the climate of our industry has toughened recently – our analysis of new car sales, and recent reports from dealers, suggest everyone had to work even harder in Q2 just to try to stand still.

The health of our industry is so important. Ben knows that. At AM, we do our best to support Ben through fundraising at our dinners. Let's hope it can come to the aid of all who need it.



## MEET THE TEAM



**Tim Rose**  
Editor



**Tom Sharpe**  
News and features editor



**Stephen Briers**  
Editor-in-chief



**Jeremy Bennett**  
Head of digital/  
associate editor