



Press Information

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THREE NEW VOLVO FMX TIPPERS RAISE THE STAKES AT KELSTON SPARKES GROUP

The Kelston Sparkes Group of Bristol has re-commenced tipper transport after a gap of 14 years, with three Volvo FMX 8x4 rigids supplied by Truck and Bus Wales and West Ltd. of Avonmouth.

As Kelston Stark, On-Site Manager at Kelston Sparkes Group reports. *“Our customers are now looking for a complete, single-source supplier package. That’s why we’ve re-introduced tipper trucks back into our fleet.”*

He adds, *“At the beginning of the new Millennium we ran around 14 tipper trucks, but then it became more viable to use sub-contractors. Nowadays safety and quality standards are paramount for our business, as is the requirement to provide customers with the complete service package delivered by one supplier, so the re-emergence of tippers is the way forward for our business.”*

Supplied by Wayne Bryant, Transport Solutions Executive at Truck and Bus Wales and West Ltd., the Volvos’ all come with Day Cabs and 5.1m wheelbases. Supplied ready-bodied from stock, the FMXs are powered by Volvo’s D13K engine rated at 420hp. The remainder of the powertrains include Volvo’s I-Shift automated gearboxes and single reduction bogies, with differential and cross locks, that carry a ratio of 3.09:1.

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Volvo Trucks UK & Ireland provides complete transport solutions for professional and demanding customers by offering a full range of medium to heavy duty trucks through a network of 85 dealerpoints, as well as solutions for financing and service. Based in Warwick, Volvo Trucks delivered more than 6,300 trucks In 2018. The company is part of the AB Volvo Group, which is headquartered in Gothenburg, Sweden and is one of the world's leading manufacturers of trucks, buses and construction equipment, drive systems for marine and industrial applications, aerospace components and services. All the Group's activities are based on its core values of quality, safety and environmental care.



All round steel suspension and twin eight-tonne front axles cushion the 8x4 Extra High B ride chassis. To reduce dust levels on site, they all come with steel vertical exhausts.

The three FMXs are fitted with Boweld Taperlite steel tipping bodies, PM1155 onboard weighing systems and air operated tailgates. Kelston Sparkes Group's comprehensive safety standards saw the fitment of a full complement of warning and working lights, plus additional LED reversing lamps.

All three vehicles are also fitted with high voltage cable detection systems, five way camera systems, white noise reversing alarms and side scan systems with audible left turn alarms.

The FMXs are covered by two-year, Volvo Gold Service Contracts, which guarantee 100 per cent uptime for the operator. Six-weekly safety inspections will be carried out at the Shepton Mallet dealerpoint of Truck and Bus Wales and West Ltd.

Kelston Stark is looking at a three year-retention period for the new FMXs. *"In previous years we've kept our Volvo trucks for a full lifetime of service; however the industry is changing fast. Tipper vehicles take much more of a daily pounding than the remainder of our fleet. We've always deployed the highest vehicle maintenance and presentation standards, a factor our customers naturally expect. Technology and safety standards are also advancing rapidly, so we predict that three years' frontline service will tick all the boxes,"* he notes adding, *"Our drivers really like the new Volvos, particularly the I-Shift gearboxes. The ordering and sales process with Wayne Bryant was really good, as is his ongoing support."*

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Caption for photograph :

Bristol-based, Kelston Sparkes Group has re-commenced tipper transport after a gap of 14 years, with three Volvo FMX 8x4 rigids supplied by Truck and Bus Wales and West Ltd. of Avonmouth.



Notes for Editors :

1. Founded by Mr Kelston Sparkes in 1952, the Kelston Sparkes Group remains a family-run business specialising in Earthworks, Earthmoving, Crushing and Screening, Quarrying and Training.
2. Now in its 67th year, the Kelston Sparkes Group remains one of the largest and most recognised Earthmoving Contractors in the UK.
3. Employing over 150 staff and operating over 200 items of earthmoving, crushing and land remediation plant, Kelston Sparkes has the resources, capacity and expertise required to deliver schemes and services of any size and complexity.

For more information, please contact :

Martin Tomlinson, Head of Media, Volvo Trucks UK & Ireland

Mobile: +44 7775 938063

E-mail: martin.tomlinson@volvo.com