

# TECH TALK

AUTOTECHNICIAN NEWS

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GUIDE

LAUNCH



BRAND NEW FREE MAGAZINE FROM LAUNCH UK & IRELAND



Official UK SERMI website: [www.sermi.co.uk](http://www.sermi.co.uk)  
 Visit our website: [www.launchtech.co.uk](http://www.launchtech.co.uk)

## INDEPENDENT GARAGE GUIDE WHAT IS SERMI?

### Security-Related Vehicle Repair & Maintenance Information

A new UK accreditation scheme giving independent garages legitimate access to vehicle security data — the same access as franchised dealers. Access to vehicle security data — the same access as franchised dealers.

#### WHAT IS SERMI?

SERMI stands for Security-Related Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Information. It is a pan-European certification framework — developed jointly by vehicle manufacturers (via ACEA) and the independent repair sector — that gives accredited independent garages the legal right to access vehicle security data.

Prior to SERMI, accessing this level of security data was effectively the exclusive domain of franchised dealer networks. SERMI changes that — provided your garage meets the strict eligibility criteria.

#### UK LAUNCH & FIRST BRANDS

SERMI goes live in the UK on 1 April 2026, making the UK the first non-EU nations to adopt the scheme.

Initial participating manufacturers:



More manufacturers are expected to join over time. Check [sermi.co.uk](http://sermi.co.uk) for the latest list.

#### HOW IS SERMI DIFFERENT FROM SGW?

SGW (Security Gateway) is a hardware/software lock inside the vehicle — it controls which tools can communicate with the car's ECUs during a physical diagnostic session. SERMI is an accreditation and access scheme — it controls who is permitted to access manufacturers' secure online portals to obtain high-level security repair data, such as key programming algorithms, immobiliser configurations, and anti-theft system information. Both are important. SGW access keeps your in-bay diagnostics working. SERMI unlocks the security data behind those repairs.

#### REAL-WORLD EXAMPLE: WHY YOUR GARAGE NEEDS SERMI

**Ford — Lost Key**  
 A Ford owner loses all their keys. Without SERMI access, the garage cannot obtain the PIN code or key programming data from Ford's secure portal. The customer is turned away or referred to a dealer.

**Jaguar — Immobiliser**  
 A secondhand Jaguar arrives with an immobiliser fault after an ECU replacement. Solving it requires accessing JLR's security database — only available to SERMI-accredited operators.

#### WHAT WORK REQUIRES SERMI?

- Lost key / all keys lost — key programming
- Transponder and key fob coding
- Immobiliser reset or replacement
- Anti-theft system fault diagnosis
- Security-related ECU software updates
- Accessing encrypted wiring diagrams (security systems)
- Remote/online coding sessions requiring SERMI token

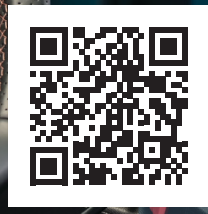
Note: Routine diagnostics (fault codes, live data, service resets) do not require SERMI accreditation.

#### WHO CANNOT APPLY?

Who Cannot Apply? Garages involved in DPF removal, emissions defeat devices, ECU tampering, odometer manipulation, or powermapping beyond manufacturer limits will be refused. Any unspent criminal conviction is disqualifying.



**LAUNCH**  
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 Visit our website: **www.launchtech.co.uk**

## INDEPENDENT GARAGE GUIDE SECURITY GATEWAY (SGW Access)

Why modern vehicles lock out diagnostic tools — and how authorised access keeps your workshop ahead.



### WHAT IS A SECURITY GATEWAY?

From around 2018 onwards, many vehicle manufacturers began fitting a Security Gateway Module (SGW) — a digital firewall that sits between the OBD-II port and the vehicle's internal networks. Think of it like a locked door inside the car. Your diagnostic tool can knock on the door, but without the right authorisation code, many functions simply will not respond. This is not a fault — it is intentional, manufacturer-designed protection against cyber-attack and unauthorised vehicle manipulation.

**Important:** SGW access is not about bypassing manufacturer security — it is about being an authorised workshop. With the correct licence, your tool communicates exactly as a franchised dealer's equipment would.

### WHICH BRANDS ARE AFFECTED?

Brand Group	Models Affected	Access Type
FCA Group	Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Jeep, Abarth, Maserati, Dodge, Chrysler.	Annual licence (AutoAuth)
Mercedes-Benz	All models with Xentry Lock / Seed & Key	Annual licence
Renault / Dacia	Models using token-based gateway	Token bundle (50 included)
VAG Group	VW, Audi, SEAT, Škoda, Porsche, Curpa, Bentley, Lamborghini.	Annual licence

### LAUNCH UK & IRELAND SGW PACKAGE

**LAUNCH UK & IRELAND** offers a fully managed SGW solution for independent garages, covering 100+ vehicle brands and integrated directly into your LAUNCH X-431 EURO diagnostic device.

- Annual licences for FCA, Mercedes and VAG
- 50 Renault/Dacia tokens included
- Activate through your existing X-431 device
- Full UK support and software updates
- OEM-compliant — no workarounds or bypasses

### REAL-WORLD IMPACT: WHAT GETS BLOCKED WITHOUT SGW ACCESS?

**Fiat 500 — Service Reset**  
 A customer brings in their Fiat 500 for a routine oil service. Without SGW authorisation, the diagnostic tool cannot communicate with the Body Control Module to reset the service light. Job incomplete.

**Alfa Romeo Giulia — Fault Code**  
 Codes are readable, but without SGW access the tool cannot clear them or run actuator tests. The customer leaves thinking the job is done — but the warning light returns immediately

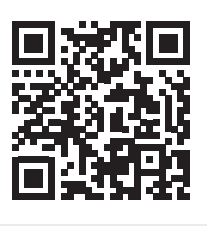
**VW Golf — Battery Registration**  
 A new battery is fitted, but the engine management system is not told. Without SGW access, battery registration fails and the vehicle enters incorrect charging cycles, leading to early battery failure.

**Mercedes C-Class — DPF Regen**  
 The DPF warning light is on. The technician attempts a forced regeneration — the command is sent but the gateway denies it without a valid SGW authorisation. The customer must visit a dealer.

### OTHER FUNCTIONS THAT REQUIRE SGW ACCESS

- ADAS Calibration
- Steering Angle Reset
- Bi-directional Controls
- ECU Programming
- Key Coding (non-SERMI)
- Module Coding
- Injector Coding
- Live Data (full)
- System Relearns
- Throttle Body Reset

Information is compiled from various online sources and data supplied by LAUNCH, and is not endorsed by any vehicle manufacturer. Brand names and logos remain the property of their respective owners and are used for identification only. Images are sourced from online resources for illustration purposes. Please visit the official SERMI website or vehicle manufacturer website for the latest information.



SCAN TO VIEW  
 OUR BLOGS

**LAUNCH**  
**UK & IRELAND**

# FIND YOUR NEAREST **LAUNCH** OFFICIAL SALES MANAGER



**Robert Allardyce - Area Sales Manager**  
Scotland & Northern Ireland  
Call: (+44) (0)7345 420 635  
Email: robert@launchtech.co.uk



**Jamie Hunter - Area Sales Manager**  
Newcastle, Sunderland, Durham, Manchester,  
Liverpool, Lancashire, Cumbria, Leeds,  
Sheffield, York, Hull, Birmingham, Coventry,  
Wolverhampton, Nottingham, Derby,  
Leicester, Wales (North, Mid & South).  
Call: (+44) (0)7345 421 519  
Email: jamie@launchtech.co.uk



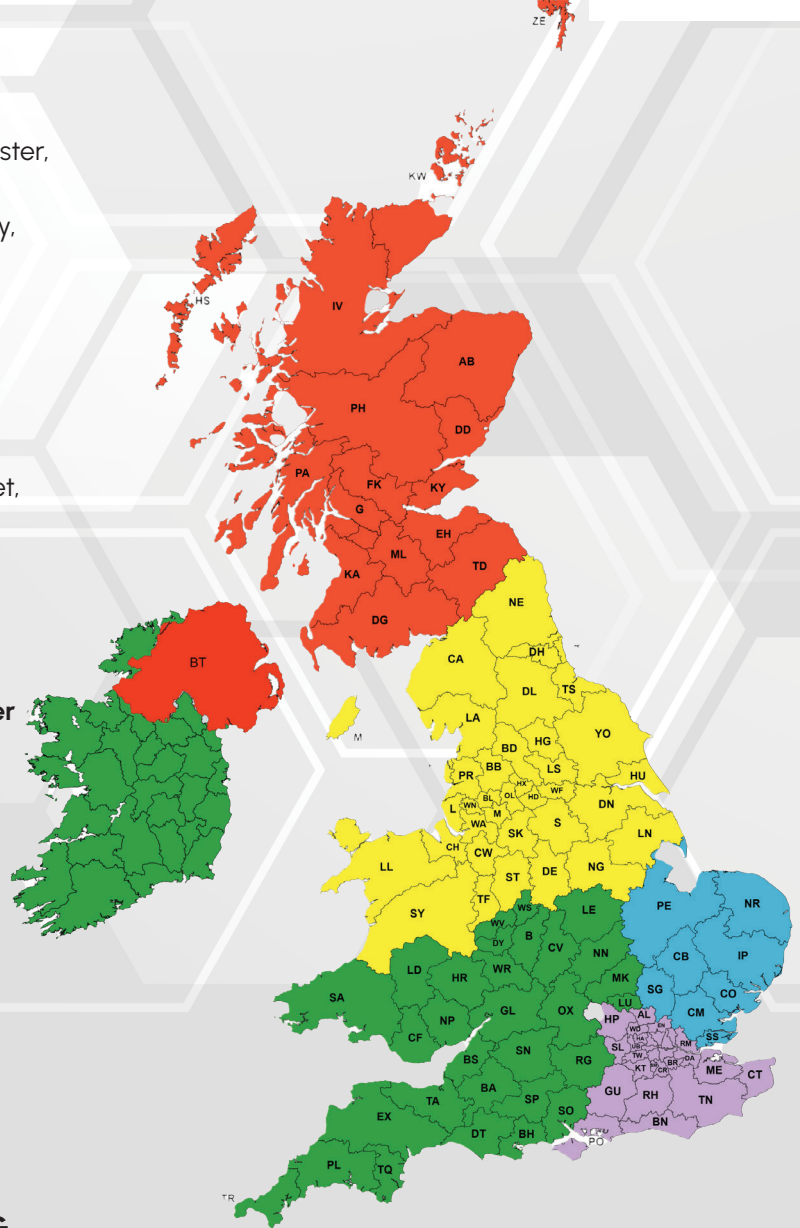
**Mike Carter - Regional Sales Manager**  
Ireland, Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset,  
Bristol, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire,  
Hampshire, Wiltshire & Berkshire.  
Call: (+44) (0)7508 847 331  
Email: mike@launchtech.co.uk



**Richard Collyer - National Sales Manager**  
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire & Essex  
Call: (+44) (0)7979 010 861  
Email: richard@launchtech.co.uk



**Dan Tucker - Area Sales Manager**  
Greater London, Kent, Surrey  
& Sussex (East & West)  
Call: (+44) (0)7345 421 556  
Email: dan.tucker@launchtech.co.uk



## CONTACT THE **LAUNCH** TEAM

### INTERNAL SALES TEAM & ORDER PROCESSING

Call: +44 (0)1752 344 989 [Option 1]

Orders Email: orders@launchtech.co.uk

Sales Enquiries Email: sales@launchtech.co.uk

### WARRANTY & HARDWARE

Call: +44 (0)1752 344 989 [Option 2]

Email: support@launchtech.co.uk

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Call: +44 (0)1752 344 989 [Option 3]

Email: support@launchtech.co.uk

### GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Email: enquiries@launchtech.co.uk

### ACCOUNTS & MARKETING

Call: +44 (0)1752 344 989 [Option 4]

Accounts Email: accounts@launchtech.co.uk

Marketing Email: marketing@launchtech.co.uk



The **LAUNCH** team pictured left to right (Photo taken October 2025).

Robert Allardyce\*, Jamie Hunter\*, Mike Carter (Regional Sales Manager), Jack Wood\*\*, Peter Toland (Managing Director), James Arrowsmith (Marketing Manager), Dean Welham\*\*, Phoebe Tranter (Office Team Leader), Rob Wood\*\*, Jon Wooley (Sales & Marketing Director), Dan Huggins (Warranty & Repairs Manager), Gary Armstrong (Finance Manager), Richard Collyer (National Sales Manager), Aaron Anglin (Warehouse & Electronic Equipment Operative).

\*= Area Sales Managers \*\*= Technical Support Team.

30 Alston Drive, Bradwell Abbey, Milton Keynes, MK13 9HA