



I seriously wondered if I was using more power to heat it than to move it

# AUTOCAR

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## COMMENT

### GOOD-NEWS STORIES LIFTING THE GLOOM



LAST YEAR WAS largely calamitous for new car sales around the world. Yet amid the gloom, there were success stories, as our comprehensive global sales analysis reveals (p46).

Stars of the past year include the Land Rover Defender, which confounded any critics of its styling by making a strong start after its rebirth; Bentley, which posted a global sales record despite factory lockdowns; and the Porsche 718 and 911 sports cars, sales of which rose year on year. Who said the sports car was dead?

And who can stop Tesla? Sales there were up by over a third to reach record levels once more, with the result that last week even Tesla boss Elon Musk admitted buyers should steer clear of its cars while it ramps up production to avoid any quality control issues (wow!).

Perhaps most notable of all was last week's confirmation that Volvo had the best-selling second half to any year in its history in 2020. The brand has known nothing but success since it was taken over by Geely a decade ago and that success shows no sign of slowing.

At this rate, Volvo will soon smash through the annual one million sales barrier, a threefold increase over its 2009 performance. Perhaps best of all, it has shown that chasing the German big three of Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz can produce a great car business as well as great cars.

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