'Paperwork & spares' checklist - the seven things to check

☐ Logbook, or V5C. This is issued by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) as proof that you are the keeper of the vehicle. It should list you as the registered keeper, though you may not be the owner if you've bought the car on finance.

☐ Servicing booklet. Check that you've got this as it will list when the car was last serviced.

☐ Manuals. Make sure you've got these. As cars get more and more technical, it's good to have manuals as a backup.

☐ Spares. If you were expecting a spare wheel, check it's there along with the tools needed to change it.

☐ Keys. Make sure you're given at least one spare, as replacements are expensive.

☐ Sales contract. Make sure you get a dated sales contract showing that you've completed the deal and paid the right money. Check your name and address, plus the full details of the car, the agreed price, and any payments already made.

☐ Finance package. If you're opting for finance, make sure you understand any jargon in the fine print before you sign.