I have a 57 plate 318D (106,000 miles) I bought it at 6 months old (1,600 miles). It has been driven carefully, mainly on motorways, and has been regularly serviced.

Eight months ago (94,000 miles) the timing chain broke which cost £3,500 to repair. This included a new crankshaft.

Recently I have noticed a rough / rasping noise when driving in the lower gears (1st – 3rd). It sounds as though the exhaust is blowing but it is not). It is more noticeable when the engine is cold. In the higher gears (4th – 6th) the noise disappears.

My local dealer has looked at the car and agrees that there is something wrong but does not know what it is. He has speculated that it could the crankshaft (which is still under warranty) or the flywheel.

Any ideas?

(I have also noticed that I sometimes hear a low pitched rumbling noise which seems to be independent of the engine speed, but dependant on the road wheel speed. I think that this is unrelated and could be a wheel bearing but I am not sure).

Also, since the rebuild, the engine has started to use oil for the first time ever.