

Cortina heads car sales

The Ford Cortina has dislodged British Leyland's 1100/1300 range as Britain's top selling car and in turn the Escort has dislodged the Mini from 2nd place.

This is revealed in the first quarter registration results for 1972, published by the SMMT. The Cortina led with 47,877 and the Escort was 2nd with 32,597. BL's 1100/1300 range attracted only 29,963 buyers (compared with 37,391 in '71) and was placed 3rd. Fourth was the Marina with 29,761 and in 5th spot came the Mini (25,509 compared with 25,789 in '71). The Viva rated 6th with 23,284.

Volvos live the longest

Volvo cars top the list in a life expectancy chart produced by AB Svensk Bilprovning, the Swedish vehicle testing authority. Of a chart comprising 17 makes, British Leyland rate 15th with 10.2 years and Chrysler

8th with 11.3. Volvo, who top the list for the second year in succession, have a life expectancy of 14.2 years.

These figures are regarded as an accurate guide because in Sweden all cars undergo a stringent annual inspection from which the authorities can

determine the "drop-out" rate.

Second in the longevity stakes are Volkswagen — their cars last an average of 13.2 years. Mercedes are next with 12.4. Ford rate 9th with 11.2 and the distinction of 17th place rests with Simca. Their cars are said to last only 9.9 years.

