



## Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Telephone  
Fax  
Minicom  
Email  
Website [www.direct.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.direct.gov.uk/motoring)

Your Ref  
Our Ref

Date: 13 December 2006

Dear

### Freedom of Information Request

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has completed its search for the information you requested on 10 November 2006 under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

In answer to your request:

*"In the postcode areas SR1 - SR8, DH1 - DH5, NE35 - NE38, TS24 - TS26, how many fines and how much in fines have been issued to keepers of vehicles for not renewing their road tax or declaring SORN: a) in the past 12 months b) since the new system of automatically issuing fines for those who have not declared SORN or renewed their tax disk."*

When dealing with your request, we have taken your reference to 'fines' to mean the total number of late licensing penalty notices (LLPs) issued to vehicle keepers for failure to renew their vehicle excise licence or to declare Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) in the above postcode areas.

It might help if I begin by explaining that it has been a legal requirement since January 1998 that the registered keeper of a vehicle must ensure that it is, at all times, either currently licensed or that a SORN declaration is made. Under the system of Continuous Registration (CR) introduced in January 2004, the registered keeper will remain responsible for re-licensing or declaration of SORN until DVLA has been formally notified of the vehicle's transfer, destruction, export or theft. Enforcing this legislation is vital to the scheme's success.



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Since March 2004, enforcement action in respect of a failure to re-license or declare SORN for a vehicle is taken under CR legislation, and as such statistical information for either of these offences is recorded under the ‘CR offence umbrella’.

Each month, DVLA carries out a check of the vehicle register to identify vehicles apparently without a valid licence or SORN declaration in force. Where a breach of the CR legislation is thought to have occurred, penalty letters are issued automatically to the registered keeper. LLPs are issued in accordance with Section 7A of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 (VERA). The penalties are for the amount of £80, reduced to £40 on early settlement. County Court action may ensue where the penalty remains unpaid to afford recovery of the debt to the Crown.

To answer your request, we have determined the value of the LLPs issued at the higher rate of penalty, but would ask you to bear in mind that the majority of offenders settle at the lower rate. The statistical information for which you have asked is:

Period	Since March 2004		December 2005 - November 2006	
	LLPs issued	Value	LLPs issued	Value
SR1 - SR8	11306	£904,480	3861	£308,880
DH1 - DH5	6218	£497,440	2152	£172,160
NE35 - NE38	2720	£217,600	966	£77,280
TS24 - TS26	4210	£336,800	1413	£113,040

If you are unhappy with the way the Agency has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. You should contact the Local Operations Directorate Freedom of Information Champion.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Further guidance of DfT complaints procedures are detailed in Annex A.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me, quoting the above reference in any future communications.

Yours sincerely