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Our Ref: **F0000418**

Dear

I am writing in reply to your request for information concerning Operation Coachman.

Operation Coachman was an annual initiative which targeted public service vehicle (PSV) operators with schools contracts. The national figures for 2002/03 and 2003/04 were published in the annual Effectiveness Reports, available on our website **www.vosa.gov.uk**. I enclose copies of the relevant pages for information.

Since 2003/04 it has been the responsibility of VOSA Area Managers, working in conjunction with local authorities, to determine when and where these checks should take place. In the calendar year 2004, 213 vehicles were inspected in Area 23 (Tyneside, Northumberland and Durham) resulting in 37 prohibitions. In the calendar year 2005, 65 vehicles were inspected in Area 23 resulting in the issue of 7 prohibition notices for mechanical defects.

Where a defect indicates a significant failure in maintenance, the operator may be referred to the Traffic Commissioner, who will consider whether to take disciplinary action against the licence.

Advice and assistance

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F0000418**. The enclosed sheet provides further information, including details of our complaints procedures.

Yours sincerely

VOSA Information Access