



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

From: **Information Access**
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Date: 18th July 2007
Our Ref: **F0000885**

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I refer to your recent fax sent to the Traffic Commissioners office in Edinburgh concerning accessibility of buses to disabled people. The request has been answered using the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as this is the Act that applies to VOSA, as part of the Department of Transport. It is also this Act that would apply to the Traffic Commissioners for information held by them as they are separately named in Schedule 1 part VI of the Act.

VOSA does not hold some of the information that you have requested, I will explain the reasons for this below. However I have provided information to you where it is held by VOSA.

For ease of understanding I will explain a little of the operator licensing requirements in respect of passenger carrying vehicles - PCVs.

Operators of PCV's are required to hold operators licences for vehicles that are operated in line with the requirements as described in VOSA's Public Service Vehicle Operator Licensing Guide for Operators. This booklet is available from the VOSA website using the following URL

[http://www.vosa.gov.uk/vosacorp/repository/PSV%20Operator%20Licensing%20-%20A%20Guide%20for%20Operators%20\(PSV%20437\)%20Dec%202005.pdf](http://www.vosa.gov.uk/vosacorp/repository/PSV%20Operator%20Licensing%20-%20A%20Guide%20for%20Operators%20(PSV%20437)%20Dec%202005.pdf)

PSV operator licence identity discs are not vehicle specific and as such VOSA has no mechanism for establishing the exact identity of vehicles in use other than if they are checked 'in service'.

However VOSA is responsible for the annual testing of such vehicles and is in a position to confirm the numbers of vehicles tested which meet DDA requirements.

I have attached to this correspondence, tables which show numbers of vehicles that have been tested during each financial year and the period April to end of June 2007.

The VOSA Annual Effectiveness Report gives within part 2 PSV the total numbers of annual tests conducted on PSVs along with the number of bus and coach operators who have licences in issue and the number of discs in issue at the end of each financial year. The most recent Effectiveness report on the website under Corporate Reports is for year 2005/06. The report for year 2006/07 is due to be published in the Autumn.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F000885**.

If you are unhappy with the response provided, you may ask for an internal review. To request an internal review, please write to:

VOSA Corporate Office,
Berkeley House,
Croydon Street,
Bristol,
BS5 0DA

or email vosa.corporateoffice@vosa.gsi.gov.uk

giving the reasons for your dissatisfaction. It will help us if you quote the reference number for your case.

If you do not agree with the outcome of the internal review, you may lodge an appeal with the Information Commissioner (www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk). The Information Commissioner is an independent official appointed by the Crown to oversee the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

The Information Commissioner can consider complaints about any aspect of the way in which requests for information have been handled. Please note: the Information Commissioner would be unlikely to consider your complaint if you have not first requested an internal review.

You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

VOSA Information Standards