



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

From: Information Access
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Our ref: **F0001304**

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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I refer to your recent request for information and the subsequent acknowledgement.

You asked the following questions:

1. How many prosecutions have VOSA brought so far of limousine operators illegally carrying an excessive number of passengers - or simply operating illegally?
2. How many stretched limos have been issued with a COIF (Certificate of Initial Fitness) from VOSA?
3. What sort of success has VOSA had in cracking down on illegal limos?
4. What are the licensing rules - simply speaking - for limos of up to 8 passengers and those for more than eight?

In response to the above questions I can advise as follows:

1. VOSA's Prosecution and Legal Services department have advised that since July 2005, 49 prosecutions and 257 offences have been recorded in relation to limousines/limousine operators. We are unable to extract information specific to limousines prior to July 2005, as before this date Public Service Vehicles were also included in the data recorded.

We are also unable to provide information relating specifically to an excessive number of passengers as there is no classification of this type of offence.

2. The limousines which are given a COIF are Ford Excursions or GMC Hummers. To date VOSA have only issued 4 of these vehicles with a COIF. COIFs are only issued for PSVs.

Further information may be obtained via VOSA's website using the following URLs:

www.vosa.gov.uk/vosacorp/repository/CONT076659.pdf

www.vosa.gov.uk/vosacorp/repository/CONT076661.pdf

3. We are unable to provide an answer to this question as a response would be dependant upon the interpretation of the term 'success' and how this might be quantified.
4. Information regarding licensing rules in relation to limousines may be obtained via VOSA's website using the following URLs:

www.vosa.gov.uk/vosacorp/repository/CONT076659.pdf

www.vosa.gov.uk/vosacorp/repository/CONT076661.pdf

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F0001304**.

If you are unhappy with the information supplied, 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 Access

*An executive agency of the
Department for
Transport*

 *Saving lives, safer roads, cutting crime, protecting the environment*