

From: *****

Tel:
Fax:
Date: 18 July 2005

Our Ref:
Your ref:

Dear *****

MOT STATIONS

I refer to your email of 27th June 2005 and my colleagues acknowledgement of 29th June 2005.

Your request for information relates to the provision of MOT station data. I note in your letter that you state that you have agreements with other sections of DfT for the provision of information, in particular DSA. You will be aware that the driving test centres are owned and run by DSA or in the instance of 'theory' test centres are under contract with DSA to provide this service.

VOSA conducts annual testing of heavy goods and public service vehicles which is carried out by VOSA staff, usually at one of our 90 plus testing stations throughout the country or additionally at designated premises which are privately or council owned. Address and contact details of VOSA Test stations can be found on our website as below.
<http://vosa.gov.uk/vosa/hgvpsvoperators/vehicletesting/findingagoodsvehicletestingstation.htm>

Vehicle Testing Stations (VTS's), (MOT Stations) where the annual test for cars and motorcycles etc are conducted are, in the main, privately owned. The Authorised Examiners (AE's) being sole traders, partnerships or limited companys. They are authorised by VOSA on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport to undertake the MOT test.

The information we gather from the VTS's involved in the scheme is for the purposes of VOSA's administration of the MOT scheme, and can not be used for any other purpose without express permission from the business entity. This opinion is based on information received from both DfT's Lawyers and also the Information Commissioner's office following an earlier similar request.

Of the 19000 plus MOT garages in the UK, only 900 or so (about 4.7%) have given their express permission by way of a check box on the application form to the release their details for purposes unrelated to VOSA's administration of the MOT Scheme. I have arranged for this information to be forwarded to you from our Datacare Team in Swansea.

It should be noted that as a large proportion of MOT premises are operated either by sole traders or partnerships their details are exempt from release by virtue of Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as the information is considered to be personal information as defined by the Data Protection Act 1998.

At this time VOSA is unable to supply the information that you have requested, however, with the recent introduction of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations SI 2005 No 15. VOSA is addressing this matter and is seeking new advice from both The Information Commissioner's Office and also Departmental lawyers to take this change in legislation into account. We will keep your request on file and contact you again when this advice has been received.

Yours sincerely
