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**Our ref: F0001622**

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Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

I am writing to you following your recent request for information and the subsequent acknowledgement and correspondence relating to your request.

You asked for details of checks carried out on Heavy Goods vehicles using UK Ports/Channel Tunnel in 2008, broken down by the following:

Number of vehicles stopped and checked;  
Type of check carried out;  
Number of prohibitions issued and nature of prohibition;  
Nationality of vehicle stopped;  
Nationality of vehicle to which prohibition was issued.

I can confirm that VOSA does hold the above information.

However, having taken your request into full consideration, the Agency has decided not to disclose the information that you have requested.

The Agency is applying the following exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:-

### **Section 31**

(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice—

(g) the exercise by any public authority of its functions for any of the purposes specified in subsection (2).

(2) The purposes referred to in subsection (1) (g) to (i) are –

(a) the purpose of ascertaining whether any person has failed to comply with the law,

(b) the purpose of ascertaining whether any person is responsible for any conduct which is improper,

(c) the purpose of ascertaining whether circumstances which would justify regulatory action in pursuance of any enactment exist or may arise.

### **Section 43**

(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under the Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

These exemptions are subject to a public interest test, copies of which I have attached to this letter.

However, whilst it is considered that the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure in its entirety, we are able to provide you with summarised information relevant to your request. I have therefore attached the following spreadsheets for your information:-

- Volumes of vehicles checked, number and type of encounters and number and type of prohibitions issued, broken down by region for the ports/tunnel specified by you, for 2008;
- Nationality of vehicles checked and prohibitions issued, broken down by region for the ports/tunnel specified by you, for 2008.

The data contained within the attached spreadsheets relates only to vehicles checked at ports, or at VOSA enforcement sites close to ports, not for the whole region in which the ports lie.

I have also attached a copy of VOSA's Operations Structure which shows how the regions are split.

Information relating to checks and prohibitions for UK and foreign HGV vehicles and trailers may also be obtained from VOSA's Annual Effectiveness Report. A copy of the 2007/2008 report is available via VOSA's website [www.vosa.gov.uk](http://www.vosa.gov.uk) and may be found under Publications > Corporate Reports.

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](mailto: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](http://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

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F00001622**.

Yours sincerely

VOSA Information Access

An executive agency of the  
Department for  
**Transport**

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