



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

From: Information Access
inform@vosa.gov.uk

Information Access Team
Room BA1
Berkeley Annex
Croydon Street
Bristol
BS5 ODA

Tel: 0300 123 9000
Fax: 0117 954 2546

Our Ref: **F0002221**

Date: 13th November 2009

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I refer to your correspondence of 18th October 2009 requesting information, which we have dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for information regarding MOT failure rates of cars, I will answer each of your questions in turn;

Q1) Failure rates have increased over the last few years; Is this because the number of tests has increased and therefore there are more things to fail?

VOSA can confirm that the number of Class IV vehicle tests recorded on MOT Computerisation has increased by approx 1.75m tests from year 2006/07 to 2008/09, and in that period the fail rate has increased from 33.3% to 36.3%. VOSA is unable to speculate that the increase in the number tests recorded directly correlates to the increase in failure rate.

Q2) Have the rules become tighter – making failure more likely?

The MOT testing requirements / standards have not been tightened, we have however started to remove some of the ambiguity from the inspection manuals to make them easier to understand.

Q3) Do particular brands/types of cars have poorer success rates?

The data recorded on MOT Computerisation does show that some makes of vehicles have poorer success rates than others.

Q4) How many cars fail their first test?

Below is a table displaying the number of, "First Normal, Completed MOT tests recorded on MOT Comp for Class 4 Vehicles with 4 years or less between the vehicle's First Use date and Test date."

Test Year	Total Tests	Pass	Fail	% Failure
2007	2695424	2327015	368409	13.7%
2008	2539157	2196090	343067	13.5%
2009 to 30/9/09	1942215	1685459	256756	13.2%
Total	7176796	6208564	968232	13.5%

Please note that VOSA is unable to provide the exact number of vehicle's that have failed their first MOT test, as any MOT tests conducted using the "old-style" hand written certificates prior to completion of "Roll-Out" of the MOT Computerisation system were not captured. Therefore VOSA was unable to identify if a vehicle's first test recorded on MOT Computerisation was in fact its first MOT test.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F0002221**.

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 Access