

From: **Information Access**
inform@vosa.gsi.gov.uk

Information Access Team
Berkeley House
Croydon Street
Bristol
BS5 0DA

Tel: 0300 123 9000
Fax: 0117 954 2546

BY E-MAIL

Our ref: **F0003802**

Date: 11th January 2012

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I refer to your email of 9th December 2011 we are dealing with this under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You have asked for any and all information regarding the site owned and/or operated by the DfT or it's Agencies know as Purfleet Testing Station for vehicle and driving tests as to plans to close the site in part or whole.

On 8th December 2011 an announcement was made to VOSA staff that testing would cease at three VOSA sites, one of these being Purfleet. In relation to this particular site, the testing of vehicles will cease by the end of October 2012. At this stage there are no plans to close the site in part or in full. We will however be working on our plans for the site over the coming months, and they will then be submitted to the VOSA Board for consideration.

Annex A The following relates to information provided by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA). At Annex B, you can find the information that DSA's holds about the plans to close Purfleet goods vehicle testing station. That is to say, you can find a copy of the letter to vocational trainers about the closure of Purfleet GVTS and the briefing for DSA staff at Purfleet GVTS.

Please note that we have removed an extract from the briefing for DSA staff at Purfleet as it contained information about Sheffield and Taunton GVTs. This has been removed as it falls outside the scope of this request.

Annex B

Letter from DSA to vocational trainers about the VOSA decision to close Purfleet GVTS

Dear Vocational Trainer

VOSA DECISION TO CLOSE PURFLEET GVTS

Following a successful market validation test, VOSA have announced that it is to cease testing from Purfleet in 11 months time and will conduct all of its testing in the area from selected customer sites (referred to as Authorised Testing Facilities). DSA therefore expect VOSA to have completely vacated this site by the end of October 2012.

DSA is now reviewing all of its options at this site, and whilst the agency is committed to continuing to offer vocational testing in this area, the development of customer sites will be seen as its top priority. In the meantime DSA will continue to offer tests at Purfleet until VOSA move out. We will advise you in due course of the exact date when testing will cease at this site.

VOSA's decision reflects the Government's strategy to reduce its estate and the associated costs.

If you wish to register your interest about becoming a customer site or require further details then please send an e-mail to *****@dsa.gsi.gov.uk along with your contact details and we will send you the relevant details.

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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.

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You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House,
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SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F0003802**.

Yours sincerely

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