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Our Ref: **F0001469**

Date: October 2008

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I refer to your request for information dated 8th September 2008, which we have dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You stated that if data cannot be specified on a county-by-county basis, figures be provided for the following postcode areas: Darlington (DL), Bradford (BD), Leeds (LS), Huddersfield (HD), Halifax (HX), Wakefield (WF), Sheffield (S), Doncaster (DN), Hull (HU), York (YO), Cleveland (TS), Harrogate (HG). Information requested is not available on a county basis, so (unless specified within the text) data is based on the postcodes quoted above.

I will deal with the questions in the same order as your-e-mail

Q1) How many vehicle testing stations in the Yorkshire region are authorised to carry out MOT testing?

A1) As at 24th September 2008 there are 2031 active and authorised vehicle testing stations. This figure is subject to very slight fluctuation on a daily basis as garages enter or leave the scheme.

Q2) How many Authorised Examiners (AE) and Nominated Testers (NT) are based in the Yorkshire region?

A2) Every testing station has an AE linked to it. However, some companies the company (and not a person) is the authorised examiner, and cover multiple sites. Therefore the active AE's linked to at least one Vehicle Testing Station (VTS) in the postcode areas quoted as at 24th September 2008 is 1727.

Q3) How many complaints about MOT tests and servicing has VOSA received from Yorkshire-based complainants in the last five years for which figures are available? Please break these figures down year by year.

A3) VOSA cannot comment on servicing carried out, as our role is only concerned with MOT testing. To answer this specific question relating to the MOT activity would involve a manual search of all files held in our area office(s) that deal with the postcode areas. This would cause the whole of your request to substantially exceed the statutory cost limit (currently £600) and would result in the whole request being refused. Therefore in this instance VOSA is not answering this element.

Q4) How many individuals/companies based in the Yorkshire region have had their Authorised Examiner status withdrawn by VOSA in the last five years for which figures are available? Please break these figures down year by year.

A4) Please see the table below.

Count of withdrawn	
Year	Total
2002	5
2003	14
2004	3
2005	12
2006	16
2007	14
2008	14
Grand Total	78

Q5) How many individuals based in the Yorkshire region have had their Nominated Tester status withdrawn by VOSA in the last five years for which figures are available? Please break these figures down year by year.

A5) When a Nominated Tester is removed from an active role within the MOT scheme, the link between the person and the VTS where they were employed is lost. VOSA does not therefore hold the information you have requested.

Q6) Please list reasons why Authorised Examiner and Nominated Tester status has been withdrawn from individuals/companies based in the Yorkshire region.

A6) There are many reasons for withdrawing authorisation from either an AE or NT (or both). The general headings are:

- Fraud, Dishonesty or Gross Negligence
- Conviction
- Incorrect test standards
- Incorrect test methods
- Incorrect operation of testing scheme (eg breaches of security, maintenance and/or calibration of equipment)

Any or all of these reasons may have been the reason(s) to AE's or NT's in the Yorkshire area.

Q7) Please list prosecutions pursued and prohibitions enforced by VOSA against Yorkshire haulage companies and their drivers in the last five years for which figures are available. In each case, please list the reason(s) why this action was taken (eg. Drivers' hours, Overloading, Mechanical etc).

A7) VOSA does not record figures on a basis which would show the number of operators and their drivers, based in Yorkshire who have been subject to action by the Agency. The information we do hold shows the number of vehicles which have been stopped on Yorkshire roads, within our two operational areas which include Yorkshire.

Area 21 (21021) covers the postcode areas DN08 4**, DN08 5**, DN09 1**, DN09 2**, DN14 5**, DN14 6**, DN14 7**, DN14 8**, DN15, DN16, DN17 1**, DN17 2**, DN17 3**, DN17 4**, DN18 to DN20, DN21 4**, DN31 TO DN36, DN37 0**, DN37 7**, DN37 8**, DN37 9**, DN38 6**, DN39 to DN41, HU01 to HU20, YO08 6**, YO08 7**, YO15 1**, YO15 2**, YO15 3**, YO16 4**, YO16 5**, YO25 0**, YO25 7**, YO25 8**, YO25 9**, YO42 1**, YO42 2**, YO42 3**, YO42 4** and YO43.

Area 22 (21022) covers the postcodes BD01 to BD24, DL08, HD01 to HD06, HD07 3**, HD07 4**, HD07 5**, HD07 6**, HG 01 to HG05, HX01 to HX07, LA02, LA06, LS01 to LS29, OL14, WF01 to WF04, WF06 to WF08, WF10 to WF17, YO01 to YO03, YO04 1**, YO04 5**, YO04 6**, YO05 7**, YO05 8**, YO05 9**, YO6, YO7, YO08 0**, YO08 8**, YO08 9**, YO11 to YO14, YO17, YO18, YO21 and YO22.

The following two tables show the information requested for all UK vehicles stopped within these areas.

	Country Group	Vehicle Type	Number of Checks	Mechanical Prohibition
2003/04				
21021	UK	HGV	1333	224
21021	UK	Trailer	696	169
21022	UK	HGV	3123	727
21022	UK	Trailer	652	161
2004/05				
21021	UK	HGV	911	146
21021	UK	Trailer	303	72
21022	UK	HGV	3500	862
21022	UK	Trailer	835	211
2005/06				
21021	UK	HGV	1120	204
21021	UK	Trailer	533	146
21022	UK	HGV	3935	957
21022	UK	Trailer	1029	260
2006/07				
21021	UK	HGV	1207	222
21021	UK	Trailer	620	195
21022	UK	HGV	2732	882
21022	UK	Trailer	855	299

Cost Centre Code	Country Group	Number of TE Full Check	Number of Drivers Hours Prohibition	Number of TE Weighing	Number of Weighing Prohibition
2007/08					
21021	UK	HGV	1313		267
21021	UK	Trailer	702		178
21022	UK	HGV	2517		803
21022	UK	Trailer	755		267
2003/04					
21021	UK	2385	98	778	73
21022	UK	4706	379	1773	140
2004/05					
21021	UK	1999	69	876	69
21022	UK	4353	449	1412	186
2005/06					
21021	UK	1716	100	576	61
21022	UK	4813	454	1622	228
2006/07					
21021	UK	715	68	130	48
21022	UK	3716	348	1293	217
2007/08					
21021	UK	844	128	235	70
21022	UK	3371	479	1636	341

Q8) How many HGVs and drivers registered overseas have been issued with prosecutions or prohibitions by VOSA following vehicle checks on Yorkshire roads in the last five years for which figures are available? In each case, please list the reason(s) why this action was taken (eg. Drivers' hours, Overloading, Mechanical etc) and the country in which the HGV and driver were registered. Please break these figures down year by year.

A8) As a general rule, prosecutions are not taken against foreign drivers or foreign-registered lorries because it is not possible – either for VOSA or the police to require non-UK residents to return to the UK to attend court on such matters. The introduction of fixed penalties and deposits in 2009 will, however, ensure that they do pay the relevant penalty. With regards to checks undertaken and their results, please see the following tables.

	Country Group	Vehicle Type	Number of VE Full Check	Number of Mechanical Prohibition
2003/04				
21021	Non UK	HGV	38	3
21021	Non UK	Trailer	50	14
21022	Non UK	HGV	14	3
21022	Non UK	Trailer	16	5

2004/05				
21021	Non UK	HGV	365	24
21021	Non UK	Trailer	308	60
21022	Non UK	HGV	26	4
21022	Non UK	Trailer	28	10
2005/06				
21021	Non UK	HGV	155	19
21021	Non UK	Trailer	156	35
21022	Non UK	HGV	100	23
21022	Non UK	Trailer	96	31
2006/07				
21021	Non UK	HGV	186	28
21021	Non UK	Trailer	229	49
21022	Non UK	HGV	177	49
21022	Non UK	Trailer	187	69
2007/08				
21021	Non UK	HGV	254	55
21021	Non UK	Trailer	312	82
21022	Non UK	HGV	216	41
21022	Non UK	Trailer	204	60

	Country Group	Number of TE Full Check	Number of Drivers Hours Prohibition	Number of TE Weighing	Number of Weighing Prohibition
2003/04					
21021	Non UK	667	21	362	77
21022	Non UK	47	2	18	3
2004/05					
21021	Non UK	941	46	455	83
21022	Non UK	91	13	50	6
2005/06					
21021	Non UK	658	47	381	96
21022	Non UK	188	23	115	12
2006/07					
21021	Non UK	233	29	106	65
21022	Non UK	246	23	160	31
2007/08					
21021	Non UK	555	129	230	84
21022	Non UK	274	49	165	29

Details of country of origin of vehicles attracting a prohibition are available on a national basis only. I attach these figures for your information.

Table A1.30 Top ten checks of foreign motor vehicles by country of origin

Country	No of checks	Prohibitions	Prohibition rate
Eire	2,865	1090	38.0%
Poland	2,594	1315	50.7%
Netherlands	1,502	497	33.1%
Spain	1,500	599	39.9%
Germany	975	437	44.8%
Italy	935	418	44.7%
France	767	246	32.1%
Czech Republic	707	430	60.8%
Hungary	610	312	51.1%
Belgium	577	247	42.8%

This table shows the number of Encounters performed on motor vehicles from the specified country detailing the number of prohibitions issued during these encounters.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number **F0001469** in any future communications.

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

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