

Xxxx xxxxxxx  
Department for Transport  
Bus Service Operators Grant  
F14 Ashdown House  
Sedlescombe Road North  
St Leonards on Sea  
East Sussex  
TN37 7GA  
Direct Line: 0207944 xxxx  
Fax: 020 7944 XXXX  
GTN No: XXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Web Site: [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

Our Ref: **xxxxx**

Dear Mr xxxxxxxxxxxx

### **Freedom of Information Act Request – F0009054**

I refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for information regarding grants / subsidies paid to London Bus Operators. Some of the information you have requested is in the public domain, and under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (the full text of the exemption is attached at **Annex A**), the Department is not required to provide information which is already reasonably accessible to you. Details of where you can obtain this information are given below.

There is one bus grant paid directly by the Department for Transport to London bus operators, the Bus Service Operator's Grant. The amount paid is linked to the fuel consumed by an operator in running bus services. The current rate from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 is £0.3457 per litre of fuel.

Details of BSOG payments made to English bus operators, including those in London, can be found at:  
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/bsog-payments-to-31-march-2012/> and for 2009/2010 information <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/bsog-payment-data/bsog-payment-data.pdf>, we do not hold payment data prior to 2009.

In addition, the Government provides an un-ringfenced grant to Transport for London (TfL) under Section 101 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, for the purposes of transport in the capital. There is no specific grant paid to subsidise bus operations specifically. TfL determine their annual budget each year according to spending priorities in line with the Mayor's Transport Strategy.

Summary financial data, including the DfT grant, is publicly available via the TfL website. Previous years' annual report and accounts can be found at:  
<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/investorrelations/1458.aspx>

TfL also submits quarterly operational and financial reports to the TfL Board, which can be found online alongside other Board papers, at:  
<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/boardandchiefexecutives/papers/1438.aspx>

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's Information Rights Unit at:

Zone D/01  
Ashdown House  
Sedlescombe Road North  
Hastings  
East Sussex TN37 7GA  
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

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

Yours Sincerely

Xxxx xxxxx

### **Your right to complain to [DfT/Agency] and the Information Commissioner**

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

## **Annex A**

### **21 Information accessible to applicant by other means.**

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—

(a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

(b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.