

XXXX

Our Ref: F0007420

17 March 2011

Dear Mr Franklin,

Cycle Helmet Researchers

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 25th February.

Please supply the following information about the persons who undertook the "specialist biomechanical assessment of over 100 police forensic cyclist fatality reports" for the research report "The potential for cycle helmets to prevent injury (TRL PPR 446)":

- a) Number of persons;**
- b) For each, whether they were internal or external to TRL;**
- c) For each, the particular expertise that it was considered that they would bring to the assessment.**

Please note that personal information is not being requested.

The answers to the questions you raised are below:

- a) Number of persons: 4
- b) All were TRL staff.
- c) (1) An accredited AIS coder of trauma data. This allowed accurate and precise descriptions of injuries to be made, with respect to the nature and severity of the trauma sustained. AIS (Abbreviated Injury Scale) is the international standard used to code injuries (AAAM).
- (2) An experienced accident investigator with expertise in accident reconstruction techniques and injury causation mechanisms. Where practicable, this allowed for the mechanics of the collisions to be evaluated based on the police forensic accident investigation reports, and factors such as impact speed and points of impact to be determined.
- (3) A vehicle safety engineering expert who also has accident investigation and data analysis expertise. This brought to the project a specific knowledge of the vehicles and associated impact contact areas with respect to their properties (e.g. stiffness/ underlying structures etc).

(4) A biomechanics expert with more than ten years' experience in the investigation of injury mechanisms and the development of injury criteria used to link loading conditions with the risk of injury to different segments of the population. This includes the application of this knowledge to test tools such as crash test dummies or helmet test headforms, and the development of test procedures to encourage improved safety systems.

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/04
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,

Road Safety Research and Statistics

Your right to complain to DfT 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