

XXXXXXXXXXXXX
By email to: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Our Ref: F0007508
Date: 15 June 2011

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Application under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 – F0007508

I am writing in response to your request for information received on 28 March 2011 made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 asking for details as follows:

Details of request Total Budget April 2010 - March 2011 Total number of Outsourced/Partnership contracts Details of Service/Good provided with each contract Length of contract Total value of payments made to suppliers for each contract during the period April 2010 - March 2011.

You clarified your request on 29 March and said that you would like the contract information related to any Supplier/ Provider that payments were made to, under an outsourced agreement within the year April 2010- March 2011.

DfT consists of a central HQ organisation (DfT(c)) and seven Executive Agencies as follows:

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)
Driving Standards Agency (DSA)
Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA)
Highways Agency (HA)
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)

This response covers the whole Department.

In this reply the term “outsourced” means the contracting out of services that had previously been undertaken in-house and includes any fresh outsourcing contracts let since the Department was formed in May 2002 that are still running and for which payments are still being made.

DfT(c), DVLA, DSA, GCDA, MCA and VCA have not contracted out any services that had previously been undertaken in-house since May 2002.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)

VOSA has one outsourced contract details are listed in the table below:

Supplier:	Capita Resourcing
Contract Title:	Outsourcing of Recruitment Services
Spend during financial year 2010/11	£39,558.67 (gross)

Highways Agency (HA)

HA have estimated that the cost of complying with your request would exceed £600. Section 12 of the Act (the full text of which is attached at Annex A) does not oblige the Department to comply with requests that exceed this limit, and we are therefore refusing your request in respect of HA information.

We are unable to answer your request within the cost limit as following the Gershon report of 2004 ('Releasing Resources to the Front Line'), the HA has taken opportunities to consider whether functions/services should be undertaken in house or outsourced, with business cases prepared on a case by case basis.

There are, therefore, no discrete HA contracts creating completely outsourced arrangements, nor would it be possible without disproportionate cost to investigate existing contracts so as to accurately and confidently determine all elements previously provided in house.

The information provided may be published on our website. 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 response, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number F0007508 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

XXXXXXXXXX- by e-mail
Direct Line: 020 7944 XXXX
Fax: 020 7944 XXXX
GTN No: 3533 XXXX
e-mail: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@dft.gsi.gov.uk
www.dft.gov.uk/
www.dft.gov.uk/about/procurement

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

Annex A

Section 12 exemption:

Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

(2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.

(3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.

(4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—

(a) by one person, or

(b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,

the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

(5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.