

XXX XXX
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Via e-mail:
XXX@XXX

XXX XXX
XXX XXX
Department for Transport
Zone 3/31
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DR

DIRECT LINE: 0207 944 XXX
GTN No: 3533 XXX

XXX@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

21 September 2011

Dear XXX,

Freedom of Information Request - F0008025

Thank you for your information request of 23 August 2011. You requested the following information:

I would like to ask under the Freedom of Information Act how much the Department has spent on asbestos abatement within it's estate, broken down in £, by year from 2000-2010 and by white, brown and blue asbestos abated?

Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information.

The Department for Transport (DfT) comprises a central department and seven executive agencies:

- Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
- Driving Standards Agency
- Government Car and Despatch Agency
- Highways Agency
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency
- Vehicle and Operator Services Agency
- Vehicle Certification Agency

A copy of the information is enclosed at Annex A.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. A copy of this response and the information provided may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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,

XXX XXX

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

Organisational Unit	Spend	Year	Type
<u>DfT Central:</u>			
- London HQ	£13,294	2009-10	Relates to Type 2 asbestos surveys carried out at two headquarter buildings. No information is held on surveys carried out prior to 2009-10.
- Air Accidents Investigation Branch	£552	2000-01	Removal of Chrysotile asbestos
	£3,458	2007-08	Removal of Chrysotile and Amosite asbestos
- Marine Accident Investigation Branch	Nil	N/A	N/A
- Rail Accident Investigation Branch	Nil	N/A	N/A
Driving Standards Agency ¹	£3,579.10	2010	Abatement of white asbestos
	£3,182.00	2010	Abatement of brown asbestos at 1 site. DSA was charged one figure for this asbestos abatement and, therefore, DSA doesn't hold information on how much was charged for each type of asbestos abated at that site
	£1,515.48	2010	Abatement of brown and white asbestos at 1 site. DSA was charged one figure for this asbestos abatement and, therefore, DSA doesn't hold information on how much was charged for each type of asbestos abated at that site
	£3,868.60	2010	Abatement of blue and white asbestos
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	See note 2	See note 2	See note 2
Government Car and Despatch Agency	Nil	N/A	N/A
Highways Agency	See note 2	See note 2	See note 2
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	See note 3	See note 3	See note 3
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	See note 2	See note 2	See note 2
Vehicle Certification Agency	Nil	N/A	N/A

1) Information is not held in a central record on spend during the period from 2000-09 and this information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

2) Data is not separately recorded. We have estimated that the cost of complying with this part of your request would exceed £600. Section 12 of the Act (the full text of which is attached at Annex B) does not oblige the Department to comply with requests that exceed this limit and we are therefore refusing this part of your request.

3) The Maritime and Coastguard Agency does not hold any records of asbestos abatement spend split into brown blue and white asbestos.

Annex B

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.