

XXXXXX
[By e-mail: XXXXX]

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: F0007374

21 March 2011

Dear XXXXX,

Freedom of Information Request F0007374

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 12 February 2011. You asked:

"I would like to request the following information.

All correspondence between the European Commission and the DfT with regards to eCall since the beginning of January 2010. Any new data that the European Commission has provided the DfT with since the beginning of January 2010. Whether the DfT has completed its review of the latest developments of eCall and discussions with key UK Stakeholders and what were the conclusions of these? What the current policy is of the DfT towards eCall and whether this has changed since January 2010 or is currently under review?."

After further clarification as per your email of 22 February, you asked:

"There are two things that I am looking for:

Has the EU provided any new evidence to the DfT with regards to the implementation of eCall since January 2010? Even just a simple yes/no response would suffice although I would be interested to see what it was.

What is the current policy of the DfT towards eCall and whether this has changed since January 2010 or is under review?

I'm interested in finding out what progress has been made with this subject in the past year from the prospective of the DfT."

After a thorough search of our paper and electronic records, I can confirm that we do hold some information regarding policy of the DfT towards eCall.

The European Commission gave a presentation at the eCall "Next Steps for Deployment" meeting on 6 October 2010 and I have included a copy of the slide presentation at Annex A.

The European Commission also gave a presentation at the eCall Implementation Platform meeting on 19 October 2010 and I have included a copy of the slide presentation at

Annex B. This shows a possible timetable for implementation, and your attention is drawn to the strongly worded caveat, which confirms that the Commission has not adopted the timetable (slide 9).

Attached at Annex C are notes of meetings involving DfT officials, BIS Officials, SIM Provider stakeholders and vehicle manufacturers discussing aspects of eCall. The meeting note of 5 July shows track changes commenting on the original draft note.

Attached at Annex D is a letter from the DfT to the Head of Unit at the Information Society & Media Directorate General of the European Commission in Brussels dated 24 September 2010, giving support for technologies that improve road safety, but recognising that the benefits of each technology have to be measured against the cost of their implementation. In the case of eCall DfT has not been able to establish a positive benefit to cost case for mandatory deployment in the UK. DfT therefore opposes any proposals for the mandatory fitment of eCall to new vehicles.

Other sources of information which you might find useful are:

- The Lords European Scrutiny Committee document containing information on eCall (page 11).

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/eu-sub-com-b/cwm/cwmsubb.pdf>

- A TRL document on the UK eCall Impact Assessment published 3 August 2010.

http://www.trl.co.uk/online_store/reports_publications/trl_reports/cat_intelligent_transport_systems/report_uk_ecall_impact_assessment.htm

- A technical review on eCall implications for the Highways Agency published 19 March 2011.

http://www.highways.gov.uk/knowledge_compendium/publications/D2BCF59B5F9640CF8044C02D2C1C1160.aspx

These documents are all publicly accessible.

The names of officials have been withheld in reliance on the personal information exemption at section 40(2) and 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the full section 40 wording from the Act is attached at Annex E). These individuals are not in public facing roles and therefore have an expectation that their names will not be put into the public domain. It would be unfair for us to disclose their names and would contravene the first data protection principle.

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,

XXXXX
Zone XXX
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR
XXXXX@dft.gsi.gov.uk
Telephone: 020 XXXXX

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