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Email: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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Olympics  
Department for Transport  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR  
Direct Line: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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

Our Ref: F0009105

1 August 2012

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,

**Re: FOI F0009105 use of Olympic Lanes**

I refer to your request for information about Olympic Lanes. Your request was received on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information which is already reasonably accessible to you, however I have provided hyperlinks where appropriate to the official documentation. The full text of exemption 21 is provided at Annex B to this letter.

**Question A.**

**With regards to the Olympic lanes on UK roads, is it only certain and/or specified individuals or employees associated with and/or employed by Olympic Games 2012 sponsoring companies or organisations who are legally permitted to use the Olympic lanes on UK roads? To clarify, by "legally permitted" I mean that they would by law not be liable for or could argue in court that they were not liable for any fine or other punishments as a result of driving a vehicle in the Olympic lanes during their period(s) of operation as the result of being associated with, employed by or being informed that they could (e.g. by a corporate wide, organisation wide, individual or other written notification) by an Olympic Games 2012 sponsoring company or organisation. Please clarify your response by providing explanatory information where this would only be the case in certain circumstances.**

The legal framework regulating use of the Games Lanes on some of the roads forming the Olympic Route Network (ORN) is the Traffic Regulation Orders for the ORN made by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), or in the case of the M4 Games Lane the Highways Agency.

Each Order specifies that, other than certain specified limited exceptions (e.g. for local authority refuse collection, postal delivery and 'blue light' responders), only 'official vehicles'

authorised by the ODA to be issued with a permit and displaying that permit may use the Games Lanes during the periods when they are in use, as indicated by traffic signs.

The policy on which vehicles will be authorised by the ODA can be found at: <http://www.getaheadofthegames.com/things-you-should-know/enforcement.html>.

In summary, this is vehicles that will be carrying members of the Games Family – that is athletes, officials, accredited media, the Olympic and Paralympic Family (IOC and National Olympic Committee officials etc) and LOCOG's marketing partners, plus certain other critical Games operations vehicles.

The Traffic Orders themselves can be found at:

- London: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/projectsandschemes/23230.aspx>
- Outside London (click on the venue towns on the ORN – Weymouth, Cheshunt, Leigh on Sea, Windsor and Eton): <http://www.getaheadofthegames.com/travel-in-affected-areas.html>
- M4 Games Lane: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/904/contents/made>

#### **Question B.**

**Would Olympic Games 2012 sponsoring organisations and/or companies, under the provisions of any agreement they may have entered into or the provisions of the applicable Law, be able to give permission for any of their employees to be able to use the Olympic lanes on UK roads and thereby be able to use the Olympic lanes legally and without their being liable for any fines or other punishments for so doing? If so, how would Olympic Games 2012 companies or organisations go about doing this (e.g. are there permits which the applicable individuals need to display, is there a list of number plates for authorised vehicles, etc.)?**

As indicated in the answer to question (a), only authorised vehicles are able to use the Games Lanes and a link to the ODA's policy is above. The allocation of passengers to those vehicles is a matter for LOCOG and its relevant client groups as listed in that policy.

### **END OF RESPONSE**

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](mailto:FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

Please see attached at Annex A 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

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**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

**Full Text – Section 21**

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
3. (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.
4. 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.