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Via e-mail:

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Property Division
Department for Transport
Zone 4/06
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London SW16 4DR

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: F0007372

9 March 2011

Dear XXXXX,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: F0007372

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 11 February 2011. You also clarified the request on 11 February and confirmed that you were interested in receiving information on “the total volume of mail (envelopes) and total volume of every piece of paper” that is sent out.

The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002 and comprises a central department and seven executive agencies:

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

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that some of the information you requested is not held by the Department because some parts don't keep statistics on the volume of outgoing correspondence.

The information that is held is attached at Annex A and covers both the central department and our seven agencies.

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,

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

Annex A

DfT Organisational Unit	Total volume of mail 2009 (no. of items)	Total volume of mail 2010 (no. of items)	Total volume of every piece of paper that is sent out
DfT Central - London HQ	66,676	64,034	Information is not held
DfT Central - Air Accidents Investigation Branch	Information is not held	Information is not held	Information is not held
DfT Central - Marine Accident Investigation Branch	Information is not held	Information is not held	Information is not held
DfT Central - Rail Accident Investigation Branch¹	3,200	2,400	Information is not held
Driving Standards Agency (DSA)²	3,486,611	1,229,610	Information is not held
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	127,093,910	102,981,395	Information is not held
Government Car and Despatch Agency	Information is not held	Information is not held	Information is not held
Highways Agency	Information is not held	Information is not held	Information is not held
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Information is not held	Information is not held	Information is not held
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	Information is not held	Information is not held	Information is not held
Vehicle Certification Agency	Information is not held	Information is not held	Information is not held

¹ Estimate

² Excludes DSA Cardiff Office and DSA Driving Test Centres. The data for these sites is not held centrally. We have estimated that the cost of complying with your request for these sites would exceed £600. Section 12 of the Act (the full text of which is attached) does not oblige the Department to comply with requests that exceed this limit, and we are therefore refusing this part of your request.

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.