

1 August 2011

XXXX XXXX
XXXX XXXX

Freedom of Information Request: Ref F0007836

Dear XXXX,

I am writing in regard to your Freedom of Information request received on 4 July 2011. I am dealing with the general questions you raised, as opposed to your specific queries around BRB (Residuary) Ltd, which have been dealt with separately. You requested the following pieces of information for the organisations that DfT controls:

- The original list of quangos / organisations to be closed
- Those which have closed or been transferred elsewhere
- Those which remain open
- Of those that remain open, the expected closure date.
- Any organisations originally on the list and under review with a view to keeping open, or which have been saved.
- Any organisations not on the list and which have closed or considered for closure.

I deal with each of these points in turn below.

1. Original list of quangos / organisations to be closed

The Department for Transport announced proposals for significant reforms to a number of public bodies on 14 October 2010. The organisations proposed to be abolished as public bodies were:

- Cycling England
- The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC);
- The Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA);
- The Railway Heritage Committee (RHC);
- The Commission for Integrated Transport (CfIT); and
- BRB (Residuary) Ltd.

It was also announced in October that key functions of the RFA would be brought in-house, and that one further body - Passenger Focus - would be retained, but substantially reformed to focus on the core role of protecting passengers while reducing costs to taxpayers.

2. Those Which Have Been Closed or Transferred

Since the announcement in October, CfIT, Cycling England and the RFA have been abolished. CfIT was abolished on 14 October 2010, and Cycling England and the RFA on 31 March 2011. The functions of the RFA have been brought into the DfT.

3. Those Which Remain Open

DPTAC, RHC, BRB (Residuary) Ltd and Passenger Focus remain open.

4. Possible Closure Dates

The proposed abolition of DPTAC, RHC, and BRB (Residuary) Ltd is subject to the ongoing passage of the Public Bodies Bill, to future consultation, and would require an Implementing Order to be laid before parliament. Subject to the conclusion of those processes, we envisage DPTAC and RHC being abolished in the second half of 2012, with BRB (Residuary) Ltd being abolished by 31 March, 2013. Passenger Focus has been substantially reformed.

5. Organisations Originally on the List and Under Review or Which Have Been Saved

Not applicable.

6. Organisations Not on the List Which Have Closed or Been Considered for Closure

None.

You have received a separate response (Ref: F0007898) in regard to the specific information you requested in regard to BRB (Residuary) Ltd.

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 let me know. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

XXXX XXXX

XXXX XXXX

Department for Transport

Your right to complain to Department for Transport 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