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Department for Transport
XXXXXXXXXX
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: FOI F0008745

26 March 2012

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXXX,

Freedom of Information Request F0008745

I am writing regarding your request for information, received on 20 March 2012. In that request, you asked us the following:

"I am asking the Secretary of State if she will let me know the total cost to the Department and its Agencies of producing all documents, forms and other material for which they are responsible in Welsh and English and what proportion of the total relates to Welsh."

The Department for Transport consists of a central Department (DfT) and seven executive agencies as follows:

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

This response covers both the central department and our seven executive agencies.

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

We are unable to answer your full request within the cost limit because we do not keep a central record of the information you request. We would need to contact multiple teams

across the Department and Executive Agencies in order to determine, locate, retrieve and extract the information that you seek.

Clarification would be needed to define what was expected to be included within 'producing' documents and forms as well as what is expected to be identified within 'other material'. The Department or its Agencies do not necessarily separate out specific production costs in a way that matches this request.

If you send us a new, more specific request, we will consider if that can be dealt with within the limit.

For example, if the request was restricted to the Department for Transport or a particular agency, if the specific costs expected to be included were identified e.g. translation costs, design costs, printing costs or if the request was restricted to a specific time frame, for example the most recent completed financial year, or seeking information about a specific document.

You may also like to be aware that the Department is fully committed to the Government's transparency agenda and publishes details of expenditure over £500 by month. In case you find this information useful I enclose the relevant link below:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/dft-monthly-spending/>

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.

Yours sincerely,

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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

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.