



Department  
for Transport

xxxx

Department for Transport  
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DIRECT LINE: 020 7944 xxxx

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

Our Ref: F0009444

7<sup>th</sup> December 2012

xxxx

[By Email: xxxx]

Dear xxxx,

#### **Freedom of Information Act Request - F0009444**

I am writing regarding your request for information, dated 11 November 2012. In that request, you asked:

- “1. Please supply the number of iPhones that have been issued to staff, and a list of the job titles of staff this device has been provided to.***
- 2. Please supply the number of Blackberry devices that have been issued to staff, and a list of the job titles of staff this device has been provided to.***
- 3. Please supply the number of iPads that have been issued to staff, and a list of the job titles of staff this device has been provided to.***
- 4. Total number of employees.”***

You confirmed on the 13 November that your request was only applicable to the Central Department for Transport. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

With regards to BlackBerry devices, at the end of October 2012 there were 748 BlackBerry devices issued to staff in the central Department. At the end of October 2012 the staff headcount was 1715 in the central Department.

Staff names rather than job titles are recorded when Blackberry devices are issued to staff so this information is not held centrally and would have to be manually located, retrieved and extracted from our staff directory. Unlike BlackBerry devices, iPads and iPhones are not devices that are widely used in DfTc so there is no central record for them. However it is possible individual areas may have purchased these from local budgets.

We have estimated that the cost of providing a list of job titles for issued Blackberry devices and the full information you seek on iPads and iPhones 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 these parts of your request.

We are unable to answer these parts of your request within the cost limit as we would need to contact multiple teams across the central Department and ask each of them to determine what information they held with regard to iPads and iPhones, then to locate, retrieve and extract it. We would also need to manually retrieve and extract the job titles of 748 DfT staff who have been issued with a Blackberry device from our internal staff directory. These two activities combined would clearly take longer than 24 hours work.

If you send us a new, more specific request, we will consider if that can be dealt with within the cost limit. You could for example narrow your request by asking us to search just one or two specific areas of the Central Department who are most likely to hold relevant information, such as our Communications Teams. Alternatively you may wish to specify another specific part of the Central Department that you wish us to search.

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/01  
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 wish to discuss any of the above, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

**XXXX**

**Your right to complain to the 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

## **Annex A**

### **12 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.