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Vetting Team  
Department for Transport  
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LONDON SW1P 4DR

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

Our Ref: F0008999

10<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Dear XXXXXXXXXX

### **Freedom of Information request - F0008999**

Thank you for your information request of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012. In your request you asked:

- 1) How many items have been reported as stolen from within the department and all of its offices in each of the last two years (June 2010 - May 2011; June 2011 - May 2012)
- 2) What items have been reported as stolen from within the department and all of its offices in each of the years in each of the last two years (June 2010 - May 2011; June 2011 - May 2012)
- 3) How many items have been reported as lost from within the the department and all of its offices in each of the last two years (June 2010 - May 2011; June 2011 - May 2012)
- 4) What items have been reported as lost from within the department and all of its offices in each of the years in each of the last two years (June 2010 - May 2011; June 2011 - May 2012)
- 5) How many items owned by the department have been reported as lost or stolen while outside of the department in each of the last two years (June 2010 - May 2011; June 2011 - May 2012)
- 6) What items owned by the department have been reported as lost or stolen while outside of the department in each of the last two years (June 2010 - May 2011; June 2011 - May 2012)
- 7) What other crimes have been reported within the department and all of its offices in each of the years in each of the last two years (June 2010 - May 2011; June 2011 - May 2012)

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information. I have provided the information requested for the whole Department including its seven Executive Agencies, our shared service centre (SSC) and the central Department. The details provided do not include losses, thefts or reported crimes where records are not available centrally, or where such losses, thefts or crimes were not

reported. In addition the central records do not show in all cases whether items were lost or stolen while within the Department or one of its offices. While some of this information may exist in records held locally within the central Department, the Agencies or the SSC such information could only be obtained at disproportionate costs in excess of £600. Section 12 of the Act does not oblige the Department to comply with requests that exceed this limit, and we are therefore refusing your request in so far as it relates to any such additional information that may be held locally. The annex A to this letter sets out the exemption in full.

The table below summarises information available from the Department's central database on lost and stolen items for the dates in question (parts 1 to 6 of your request).

**Table 1**

|                           | <b>Reported stolen<br/>between June<br/>2010 – May 2011</b> | <b>Reported lost<br/>between June<br/>2010 – May 2011</b>                     | <b>Reported stolen<br/>between June<br/>2011 – May 2012</b> | <b>Reported lost<br/>between June<br/>2011 – May 2012</b>                   |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Laptop computer</b>    | 13  | 5   | 11  | 4 (including 1 recovered)   |
| <b>USB drive</b>          | 2   | 7   | 1   | 9 (including 1 recovered)   |
| <b>Encryption token</b>   | 8   | 46 (including 2 recovered)  | 7   | 40 (including 1 recovered)  |
| <b>Blackberry</b>         | 8   | 18 (including 2 recovered)  | 4   | 17 (including 1 recovered)  |
| <b>Other media</b>        | 1 (disk)  | 0   | 1 (CD)  | 3 (2 CDs plus encrypted hard drive)   |
| <b>Mobile Phone</b>       | 4   | 14 (including 2 recovered)  | 1   | 6   |
| <b>Other IT hardware</b>  | 2 (PC plus keyboard)  | 5 (projector screen, PC, charger, docking station, keyboard)                  | 0   | 5 (3 chargers, dongle**, digital camera)                                    |
| <b>Non IT hardware</b>    | 0   | 4 (adaptor, digital radio, radio terminal, alarm fob)                         | 0   | 0   |
| <b>Personal items</b>     | 5 (Watch, money, bicycle, boiler flue*, unrecorded)         | 1 (ear ring, subsequently recovered)  | 7 (bicycles)  | 4 (Watch, silver ring, 2 necklaces)   |
| <b>Non Personal items</b> | 1 (250 litres heating oil)                                  | 9 (uniform, high vis jacket, warrant card, 3 pocket books, 3 building passes) | 1 (pocket book)   | 11 (warrant card, binder, MoT test file, 3 building passes, 5 pocket books) |
| <b>Paper</b>              | 1 (non classified documents)                                | 2 (test record, paper file)   | 1 (PDQ merchant slips)                                      | 2 (tender document, 400 tachograph charts)                                  |
| <b>Totals</b>             | <b>45</b>   | <b>111</b>  | <b>34</b>   | <b>101</b>  |

\*Stolen boiler flue presumed to be incorrectly classified as a personal item in central database

\*\* An electronic key that attaches to a computer and allows a piece of secured software to run

As regards part 7 of your request the table below summarises our central records for cases where an incident (other than a loss or theft of DfT or personal property) has taken place within DfT/Agency offices between the dates specified and has been reported to the police as a crime.

**Table 2**

| Date                              | Location   | Incident reported   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>From June 2010 to May 2011</b> |  |   |
|                                   | Heol Pentrefelin entrance to DVLA Morriston                                  | Unknown male behaving in an aggressive manner   |
|                                   | Heol Pentrefelin Carpark   | Unknown male caused damage to 2 DVLA staff vehicles   |
|                                   | Entrance/exit at Heol Pentrefelin  | Unknown male parked his vehicle across the entrance preventing access/exit to and from the site |
|                                   | DVLA offices   | Suspect package (later confirmed as a malicious package containing waste/rubbish).              |
|                                   | Highways Agency, West Midlands Regional Control Centre, Quinton              | Criminal damage to an employees pedal cycle by an intruder                                      |
|                                   | DSA Test centre  | Break in  |
|                                   | DSA Test centre  | Threat to burn down test centre   |
|                                   | DSA Offices  | Threatening letter  |
|                                   | DSA Test centre  | Vandalism and fire  |
|                                   | DSA Offices  | Threatening email   |
|                                   | DSA Offices  | Drugs found in building   |
| <b>From June 2011 to May 2012</b> |  |   |
|                                   | DVLA offices   | Suspect package (later confirmed as a malicious package).                                       |
|                                   | Highways Agency, The Cube, Birmingham  | Hoax postal bomb threat   |
|                                   | DfT London HQ main entrance  | Criminal damage   |
|                                   | Swansea Vale estate (area of the site is no longer part of the DVLA estate). | Driver crashed vehicle through locked gates   |
|                                   | Government Car and Despatch Agency Birmingham Depot                          | Break-in  |
|                                   | DSA Test centre  | Threat to blow up centre  |
|                                   | DSA Offices  | Threatening and racial letter   |
|                                   | DSA Offices  | Member of staff threatened  |

In addition to the crimes reported in table 2 the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) Fraud and Integrity team have sought to detect attempted impersonations and other fraudulent behaviour associated with driving tests. Over the two years in question they have investigated multiple cases of;

- Fraud by impersonation
- Possession of items to be used in fraud
- Bribery and corruption of public officials
- Identity Card Act offences

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 have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

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## **Your right to complain to the 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 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