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Communication Directorate
Department for Transport
Zone xxx
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR
Direct Line: 020 7944 XXXX
Fax: 020 7944 XXXX
GTN No: XXXXe-mail XXXX

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

15 February 2011

Dear xxxxx,

Request for Information under Freedom of Information Act - reference F0007367

I am writing regarding your request for information, received on 8 February 2011. In that request, you asked us for:

- Values of monies spent on promotional services between 1/1/06 to 1/1/11; and
- a breakdown by Directorates/ sub Department of this spend for each of the above years.

A request for information made to the Department is interpreted as a request for information held by the Department as a whole, including the central Department (DfT(C)) and its seven executive agencies as listed below:

- 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).

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) does not oblige the Department to comply with requests that exceed this limit, and we are therefore refusing your request.

If you send us a new, more specific request, we will consider if that can be dealt with within the limit. For example, you may wish to consider reducing the time span that your query covers or perhaps restricting it to specific [policy areas](#).

I am able to provide you with some information which is readily to hand as follows:-

- In answer to a Parliamentary Question in March 2010 the Department stated "The Department for Transport has not spent any money on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years apart from the Government Car Dispatch Agency who spent £818 in 2006/07 on Desk planners". This does not mean that promotional items have not been

purchased carrying brands other than the Department's corporate brand e.g. the THINK! road safety brand and others.

Could I take the opportunity to advise you that under the governments' Transparency agenda that we, along with other public bodies, are obliged to publish details of transactions above (in the case of the central department) £500. This information is directly available from our website at the above address and covers all expenditure since May 2010.

The department also makes use of the Central Office of Information in delivering our communication requirements. COI is the contracting authority for all purchases made against their frameworks and is responsible for reporting the same under the transparency agenda.

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

Yours sincerely,

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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.

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