

By email to
XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX
Department for Transport
Zone 5/31
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: FOI F0008224

8th November 2011

Dear XXXXXXXX,

Freedom of Information Request F0008224

I am writing regarding your request for information, received on 18th October 2011. In that request, you asked us for details of services provided to the Department by the following individuals and companies since 2005:

- Mr. Mark Fullbrook
- Mr. Lynton Crosby
- Mr. Mark Textor
- CTF Partners Limited (Company No. 07196537)
- Crosby Textor Fullbrook Ltd (Company No. 07196489)
- Crosby Textor Pepper Limited (Company No. 06622214)
- Crosby Textor Limited (Company No. 05522161)

For each such entity this should include:

- Nature of the service provided
- Expenditure broken down by appropriate accounting unit (invoice, financial year etc.)

Services should include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Opinion polling
- Market research
- Public relations/communications
- Public affairs and government relations
- Consultancy of any form

The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and consists of a central Department 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.

However, in case you find it helpful, I have, within the FOI cost limit, been able to carry out a very limited search of the accounts system for just the central Department dating back to April 2008 when the current system came into use. This has produced no evidence of purchasing activity directly with the individuals and business entities listed in 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 in order to determine, locate, retrieve and extract the information that you seek.

You have asked for information dating back to 2005. The initial source for searching the information you require will be the current accounting systems of the above business units and in many cases these came into use later than 2005. Accessing information from previous systems would take a considerable amount of time.

You have asked for the nature of the services provided by each entity. This information, if it exists, would be required from a range of sources across these business units of the Department. The level of detail readily accessible varies depending on the nature and scale of communications activities and the attributes captured within local business records. It's also possible that services may have been provided by companies which are directly associated with those on your list but would not necessarily be recorded in such a way as these individuals or companies could be identified.

If you send us a new, more specific request, we will consider if that can be dealt with within the limit. This may include specifying a particular part of the Department that you are interested in receiving information from e.g. an agency or just the central Department, significantly reducing your time scales e.g. to the most recent completed financial year and reducing the list of individuals or companies.

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. We have

also very recently started to publish information on Government Procurement Card transactions above £500 from April 2011. In case you find this information useful I enclose the relevant links:

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

<http://data.gov.uk/dataset/dft-gpc-spend>

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 contact XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX on XXXXXXXXXX. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

XXXXXX
XXXXXX

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.