



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

**From: Information Access**  
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Information Access Team  
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BRISTOL  
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**Our ref: F0001397**

Tel: 0117 954 2545  
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Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008

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Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

I refer to your e-mail of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008 requesting information relating to VOSA's Prohibition Policy/Instructions concerning prohibited vehicles, and in particular

- a) When a driver/vehicle is prohibited from continuing on their journey What facilities should a VOSA Officer ensure are available.
- b) What distance would VOSA regard as reasonable for a driver to walk to obtain somewhere to eat, use toilet facilities, shower, sleep etc.
- c) What instructions are given to VOSA officers in relation to conversing directly with the owners of vehicles that are being prohibited for any reason.

VOSA has no specific policy on ensuring a prohibited driver has access to facilities, other than examiners should give special consideration to certain types of vehicles. For example, examiners should consider whether or not an exemption notice should be applied to a prohibition issued to a passenger carrying vehicle or a vehicle carrying livestock or perishable goods. They should also consider carefully any conditions which might apply to such an exemption notice. VOSA takes the view that every prohibition creates a unique situation which should be dealt with full consideration of the local conditions and the particular circumstances relating to the prohibition being issued.

As far as drivers having to walk to the nearest facilities is concerned, again there is no specific policy instruction. Where an exemption notice isn't considered to be a viable possibility due to the nature of the defect or infringement, examiners should help in facilitating alternative transport such as the provision of contact numbers for taxi firms. VOSA's primary concern is road safety, and the removal from the road of a vehicle which is deemed to be a danger

With regard to conversing directly with employers, examiners will usually only indulge in dialogue if prompted by the operator. There is no specific instruction to contact an operator directly, unless of course the circumstances dictate that would be appropriate.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F0001397**.

If you are unhappy with the information supplied, you may ask for an internal review. To request an internal review, please write to:

VOSA Corporate Office,  
Berkeley House,  
Croydon Street,  
Bristol,  
BS5 0DA

or email [vosa.corporateoffice@vosa.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:vosa.corporateoffice@vosa.gsi.gov.uk)

giving the reasons for your dissatisfaction. It will help us if you quote the reference number for your case.

If you do not agree with the outcome of the internal review, you may lodge an appeal with the Information Commissioner ([www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)). The Information Commissioner is an independent official appointed by the Crown to oversee the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

The Information Commissioner can consider complaints about any aspect of the way in which requests for information have been handled. Please note: the Information

Commissioner would be unlikely to consider your complaint if you have not first requested an internal review.

You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

VOSA Information Access

An executive agency of the  
Department for  
**Transport**