



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

From: **Information Access**  
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Our Ref: **F0002186**

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

I refer to your email of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009. We have dealt your request for a list of all MOT test stations under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please find attached an Excel spreadsheet. This contains details of the MOT stations under the MOT scheme as at July 2009. Please note the following:

The list does not contain details of ALL of the MOT stations. Where an AE is a Limited Company, there is no exemption under the Freedom of Information Act that requires their details to be withheld. Where an AE is a sole trader or partnership, and their details can be used to identify an individual, VOSA can only release the details with the individual's consent. Where sole trader/partnership details are **not** deemed to constitute personal data, these garages have been included on the list. For garages whose details do constitute personal data, VOSA has considered the disclosure indicator.

*The Disclosure Indicator.* When MOT Computerisation was introduced, VOSA asked all garages whether or not they would be happy for their details to be released. Garages that did not grant permission or that failed to respond were given an 'N' indicator. Garages that granted permission were given a 'Y'.

To summarise, the list includes:

1. All limited companies
2. Sole traders/partnerships whose trading name **does not** reflect a personal name (i.e. Joe Bloggs trading as Commercial Cars)
3. Sole traders partnerships whose trading name does reflect a personal name (i.e. Joe Bloggs trading as J. Bloggs Cars) but whose disclosure indicator is 'Y'.

The included VTSs represent some 17500 of the approximate 19300 in the scheme.

You will note that the list has a number of columns at the far right, headed 1 – 7. These numbers refer to the testing capability of the VTS, in terms of class. Where a '1' appears in a cell, it indicates that the VTS in question is able to test that particular class of vehicle. Where the cell is empty, the VTS does not have that capability. Guidance on the types of vehicles that fall within each class is available at [http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/OwningAVehicle/Mot/DG\\_4022514](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/OwningAVehicle/Mot/DG_4022514).

All of the information that has been withheld is believed to be personal data, relating to a living individual, that can be used to identify that individual. This information is being withheld under section 40(2)&(3)(a)(i) of the Act:

*Section 40(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if –*

*(a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and*

*(b) either the first or the second condition below is satisfied.*

*(3) the first condition is –*

*(a) in a case where the information falls within any of paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of “data” in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene –*

*(i) any of the data protection principles*

It is considered that the release of this information would breach the first and second data protection principles.

**Finally, I remind you that the Freedom of Information Act only provides members of the public with a right of access to information held by public authorities. This Act does not relate to the reuse of any information that it released and it should not be assumed that there is an automatic right to reuse. If the applicant plans to use the released information for any purpose, it is their responsibility to ensure that this use is in line with all relevant legislation.**

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F0002186**.

If you are unhappy with the response provided, 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 faithfully

Information Access