

From: *****

Date: 10th January 2006

Our Ref: *****

Dear *****

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I am writing to confirm that the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has now completed its search for the information you requested on 4th January 2006. I will deal with the questions in the same order as asked.

Q1) Any vehicle tested for the purpose of MOT and fails the test and a failed certificate issued can that certificate be asked for by a member of the public if that person other than the owner wishes.

A1) A vehicle that has failed a statutory MOT test will be issued with a VT30 (Refusal of an MOT Test Certificate) as evidence of that test. It is at the discretion of the vehicle owner whether they wish to produce the VT30 upon request of a member of the public, or indeed to retain this advisory document once it has been issued.

Q2) Is there any circumstances in which a member of the public could ask for that information.

Q3) Is there any other person other than the owner of the vehicle, which could ask for such information

A2 & 3) As we are part way through rolling-out MOT Computerisation to circa 19,000 Vehicle Testing Stations (VTS), the answers to these two questions will depend on whether a vehicle has been tested at a computerised VTS or a non-computerised VTS.

The results of MOT tests conducted at computerised vehicle test stations are now held on a secure central computerised database and it is possible for anyone to check the MOT status of a vehicle that has a computerised test record by visiting VOSA's website www.motinfo.gov.uk or by calling 0870 33 00 444.

The enquirer will need:

- the registration number of the vehicle and either
- the test number from the new style MOT test certificate, or
- the test number from the VT30 Refusal of an MOT Test Certificate, or
- the document reference number from the V5C registration certificate.

It is also possible using the website, to check the computerised test history of the vehicle, which would reveal any computerised failed tests. (It will not provide the test history of a vehicle prior to MOT computerisation.)

Information about this service is available in VOSA's leaflet "Your new MOT certificate – What it means for you" which is available on the VOSA website at www.vosa.gov.uk/vosa/publications/leafletsandflyers.htm or from a computerised VTS.

There is no way (other than through a willing vehicle owner) that a member of the public can check the test status and test history of a vehicle that has been tested only at a non-computerised VTS using the paper based system.

MOT Computerisation roll-out is due to be completed by the end of March 2006. However it will be at least a year after that before all testable vehicles have a test record on MOT Computerisation.

All of the above relates to vehicles which have been tested under MOT rules. However any vehicles which have been tested under powers delegated to local authorities for the testing of Hackney Carriages, VOSA would have no records of these vehicles, and a request would need to be made to the relevant Public Authority.

If you are unhappy with the decisions made in relation to your request from VOSA you may ask for an internal review. You should contact VOSA Corporate Office ***** if you wish to complain.

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

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

Yours faithfully
