



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

From: \*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

**BY EMAIL**

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> February 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 which you requested on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005 VOSA employed 317 vehicle examiners involved in enforcement work – that is staff who may actually examine vehicles for defects once they have been stopped for inspection, either by the police or by one of 38 specially trained members of VOSA staff who have been given powers to stop vehicles. Also at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005, VOSA employed 217 traffic examiners who would normally inspect vehicles once they have been stopped, to ensure they are not overloaded, and the drivers have not been driving for too long a period.

VOSA does not stop vehicles at random on the roadwork network for spot checks, but has specific sites used for checking vehicles. Once a vehicle has been selected for checking, it is directed to the site and checked by a vehicle examiner and a traffic examiner. I must make it clear that stopping vehicles and doing these spot checks is only a small (but important) part of the duties of our examiners. There are also 43 police forces in the UK who have traffic units which may also undertake this type of work.

I have been in contact with a colleague in the Highways Agency (who deal with the actual roads), and he informs me that at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005 there was 2688 kilometres of road designated as motorway in Great Britain. We also have a major trunk road network of 4683 kilometres, giving a total of 7371 kilometres.

If you are unhappy with the way the agency has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. You should contact \*\*\*\*\* 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 sincerely

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Records and Information Standards Team