

Department for **Transport**

Mr Simon Birkett
Founder and Principal Contact
Campaign for Clean Air for London
(request-18040-
abfb25bc@whatdotheyknow.com)
by email

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30th September 2009

Our Ref E0005733

Dear Mr Birkett,

FOI/EIR Request for Vehicle Emissions Information

Thank you for your recent request for information which was received on 15th September and has been handled under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations.

For new cars, the information that you request is published annually in the "New Car Fuel Consumption and Emission Figures" booklet. This booklet is compiled from information supplied by vehicle manufacturers, and is available from the "downloads" area of the Vehicle Certification Agency website at <http://www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk/downloads/>. Alternatively, if you would prefer a printed copy of the booklet, any new car dealer will probably be pleased to provide you with one, or I can supply you with a copy by post if that would be more convenient for you.

For motorcycles, and for vans and similar light commercial vehicles, I regret that neither the Department nor its agencies hold all of the data that you have requested in an accessible form. I have attached to this letter a summary spreadsheet that has been compiled, in response to your request, from information held by our Transport Statistics Directorate. This spreadsheet contains some of the data that you have requested for both cars and vans. Information supplied by manufacturers on the Carbon Dioxide emissions from the vans that they produce is, in addition, now available through the Vehicle Certification Agency website at <http://www.vca.gov.uk/vandata/>.

The equivalent database for cars, as I have indicated above, is produced using the resources of the vehicle manufacturers, rather than by extracting the information from the type-approval certificates for the individual vehicles.

We want to be as open as possible in answering requests, and to help people obtain the information that they are looking for. Unfortunately, in this case, extracting the information you have requested on the air quality pollutant and carbon dioxide emissions of motorcycles, and of vans and other light commercial vehicles, will involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the authority's other work. The cost involved in processing fully this part of your request would be approximately £4600. This cost is based upon an estimate that the work would require the Vehicle Certification Agency to dedicate between four and six weeks of staff effort to its completion, and the

administrative rate of £25 per hour for each of the technical staff required to perform it. For this reason we would ask you to revise your request, if possible, or we would have to refuse this part of the request under the exception in the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 covering requests that are manifestly unreasonable.

For lorries and other heavy-duty vehicles, no official figures of the kind that you request exist. This is because the engines used in heavy-duty vehicle are tested for type-approval purposes in isolation from the vehicles into which they might be fitted, and the emissions limits for them are necessarily set in terms of units of work done (kilowatt hours) rather than distance travelled.

If you wish to undertake air quality modelling, I would recommend the use of the emissions factors information available on the Department's website at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/emissions/>. These emissions factors reflect vehicle emissions over the range of real-world driving conditions. I would be happy to discuss the processes involved in the performance of air quality modelling with you if that would be of assistance.

I hope that this answer is of use to you. 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 forty working days 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 the 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 me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Davies

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within 40 working days 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 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 or 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

