



Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

FOI - D16
DVLA
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SA6 7JL

Mr T Rogers

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Email foiv@dvla.gsi.gov.uk
Website www.direct.gov.uk/motoring

Your Ref Request-30501-0dbe584
Our Ref FOIR1877

Date: 25 March 2010

Dear Mr Rogers

We are writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

You asked

I was hoping that you would be able to break down the parts which make up the excessive cost (£50) of obtaining a provisional driving licence at the age of 17.

The cost seems excessive and I was hoping you could explain why it costs this amount.

DVLA is required by Parliament to ensure the costs of issuing driving licences are fully covered by the fees charged, without making a profit or a loss. The arrangement ensures DVLA is able to continue to issue licences free of charge following a change of address/name notification and for medical and over 70 renewals. In addition, licence fees have been abolished for professional (bus and lorry) drivers, and those adding entitlement following a driving test pass.

You may be interested to know that DVLA sets its fees to cover operational costs. Section 102 Pooling Order (October 2003) allows for Driver and Vehicle costs to be pooled. The pool covers the costs of maintaining the Driver and Vehicle register. For example, where a fee is charged for a first provisional licence, the revenue received would also be required to pay for other services and updates to the register that DVLA provides free of charge (renewal at 70 and over etc).

Whilst the actual cost of producing and despatching a driving licence is held, it is exempt from disclosure as it falls under section 43 (2) of the FOIA commercial interests. The cost of producing and despatching a driving licence is commercially sensitive information as the DVLA occasionally provides card protection services to other organisations. Providing costs may compromise DVLA's position in future procurement exercises. In relying on the exemption at Section 43 (2) of the FOI, DVLA has had to consider the public interest in the



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disclosure or withholding of this information. The table attached at Annex A provides further details of the Public Interest Test.

However, we can tell you that in producing a photocard licence DVLA takes into account the following costs:-

Postage
Staff Costs
Card Material
Cost of collecting data
Accommodation costs
General overheads

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If you are unhappy with the decisions made by this Agency in relation to your request, you may ask for an internal review. If you wish to complain, you should write to FOI D/16, DVLA, Swansea, SA6 7JL, or by e-mail, foi@dvla.gsi.gov.uk

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. Please see attached details of the complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

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

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information
DVLA