



# Department for Transport

S Smith

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OUR REF: F0013713

22 July 2016

Dear S Smith,

I am writing regarding your request for information dated 28 May 2016. In that request, you asked:

1. *Can you please provide a list of the names of each Bulk Personal Dataset held by the Department, and, for each dataset:
  - a) the purposes for which the dataset is held,
  - b) the size of the dataset (in terms of either terabytes of disc space, or millions of people, or both),
  - c) how many copies of the dataset are floating around the department, and the source of that figure (ie whether that figure is as a result of copy control measures, a comprehensive audit, or guesswork)*

*If any part of the above is not held for any particular dataset, it is sufficient to say that the information isn't held because you don't know.*

2. *Can you please provide the definition of "Bulk Personal Dataset" that was used to reply to that previous request, and the source of that definition? If it defines "Personal data", can you include the source of that definition, or confirm whether that is section 1 of the Data Protection Act.*

Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

The Department consists of a central Department and four executive agencies as follows:

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)  
Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA)  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)  
Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)

The information you have requested in relation to the names of each bulk personal dataset held by the Department and their purpose can be found in the tables contained within Annex A.

Information on the size of each dataset in terms of terabytes of disc space or millions of people has not been provided. We have estimated that the cost of complying with this part of your request would exceed £600. Section 12 of the Act (the full text of which is attached at Annex B) does not oblige the Department to comply with requests that exceed this limit, and we are therefore refusing this part of your request.

We are unable to answer this part of your request within the cost limit because the records held within each of the datasets do not always directly relate to an individual. For example, DVLA's Vehicles Database holds information by the number of vehicle records. For each record there could be a current and/or previous registered keeper recorded, who may be an individual, company or organisation. To answer this part of your request would require us to manually access each record in the dataset in order to establish if it related to any individuals. This would involve going through thousands and in some cases millions of records, which could only be achieved by exceeding the cost limit.

If you send us a new, more specific request, we will consider if that can be dealt with within the limit. For example, you could narrow this part of your request to just a small subsection of the datasets listed in Annex A.

We are also unable to provide within the cost limit the size of the datasets in terms of terabytes of disc space. This is because some of the datasets are linked and overlap, and significant human intervention would be required to ensure full segregation of each dataset, and no double counting. In any event, we would withhold this information under section 31(1)(a) for the reasons stated below in relation to your request for the number of copies of each dataset.

Information about the number of copies of each dataset is being withheld under section 31(1)(a) of the Act, which applies to information that would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

In applying this exemption we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. In favour of release, we acknowledge that there is a public interest in knowing that the Department has measures in place to protect its bulk personal datasets appropriately. However, disclosure of the information would be likely to provide information that is useful to those wishing to cause malicious and criminal harm to the Department's IT systems, by increasing their ability to target attacks at specific parts of our IT systems. On balance, we have decided that it is not in the public interest to disclose this information.

HMG does not have a formal published definition of "Bulk Personal Dataset" but below is the working criteria, provided by the Cabinet Office, which is used to differentiate bulk data from other data sources.

*An electronic collection of related information comprising of aggregated records originating from one or more databases and which:*

- a. Hold Personal Data.*

- b. Are not in the public domain.*
- c. Are owned by a Ministerial and Non-Ministerial Department, (including executive agencies) and where the Department remains the Data Controller (either singularly, joint or in kind).*
- d. Are vulnerable to cyber or technical attacks e.g. are directly or indirectly connected to the internet.*
- e. Where the loss, exposure or compromise of the Bulk Dataset will lead to significant financial, personal, physical or reputational harm to:
  - i. The Department or to HMG; or*
  - ii. The Data Subject**

The term 'personal data' within this definition has been given the same meaning as that contained within section 1 of the Data Protection Act.

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 two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's FOI Advice Team 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 send or copy any follow-up correspondence relating to this request to the FOI Advice Team to help ensure that it receives prompt attention. Please also remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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

Yours sincerely,

K Richardson

**Annex A:**

DfT(c):

| <b>Name</b>                      | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                      |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Staff Directory                  | Staff contact details and roles                                                     |
| Shared Services                  | Finance, HR, procurement and payroll for DfT and agencies                           |
| Foreign Operator Payments System | System for foreign HGV operators to pay for UK road use                             |
| Occupational Health              | Records of occupational health advice given to staff in DfT and arm's length bodies |
| Employee Assistance Programme    | Records of counselling advice given to staff in DfT and arm's length bodies         |

DVLA:

| <b>Name</b>             | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                              |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Drivers 90              | All GB driver licensing information required for transaction processing and law enforcement |
| VSS (Vehicles Database) | A record of full details of all vehicles registered in the UK and vehicle keepers           |

DVSA:

| <b>Name</b>                                         | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Automatic Number Plate Recognition information      | Information captured at the Roadside by the Automatic Number Plate Recognition system.                                                                                                       |
| Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) | Ongoing records of Driver CPC training for lorry and bus drivers                                                                                                                             |
| Data warehouse                                      | Database which contains data from source systems for the purpose of reporting management information using Statistical Analysis System (SAS) reporting software                              |
| Electronic Case Management Information              | Used by DVSA employees for casework and workflows                                                                                                                                            |
| Mobile compliance                                   | A record of all vehicle inspections, drivers and offences, prohibitions and intelligence                                                                                                     |
| MOT2                                                | Records tests conducted for each class of vehicle. Allows electronic vehicle re-licensing by feeding into DVLA's database. Allows effective monitoring of garages for enforcement activities |
| Operator and business licensing information         | Holds information required to process applications for licences for the use of public vehicle and heavy goods vehicle and to manage licences once granted                                    |
| Prosecution and Legal Services information          | Used for case management and includes details of prosecution taken and results                                                                                                               |

|                                                      |                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Driving test and approved driving instructor records | Driving test records are held to manage candidate's driving test and driving instructor records are held to manage their driving instructor licence |
| Vehicle testing information                          | Holds technical records of vehicles including pass/fail records                                                                                     |

MCA:

| Name                                           | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Approved Doctors Information System (ADIS)     | Global doctor's details who have been approved by the MCA to conduct medical examinations on seafarer. Also includes non-approved doctors                                                                                              |
| Agresso – Employee (HR) and Financial data     | Stores MCA employee information and financial information                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Consolidated European Reporting System (CERS2) | CERS 2 (predecessor to CERS3) stores historic information in the form of vessel information, voyage information including ships inventory, infringement / deficiency information, vessels transporting hazardous and chemical material |
| Consolidated European Reporting System (CERS3) | Vessel and voyage information, including port departures, arrivals and cargo details                                                                                                                                                   |
| EFIN (legacy)                                  | E-Fin is a historical finance system. Used for read only reference purposes                                                                                                                                                            |
| HRMIS (legacy)                                 | All employee personal and organizational information is held for purposes of referencing                                                                                                                                               |
| Incident Management System (IMS)               | Details of incidents at sea, and coastlines reported to and handled by HMG Coastguard                                                                                                                                                  |
| Seafarer Documentation System (SDS)            | Used to capture seafarer personal details. The primary function of SDS is for processing applications for qualifications of competency which are necessary under the Merchant Shipping Act                                             |
| Superpay                                       | A payroll system that was used for the recording of payment information pertaining to Coastguard Volunteers. This system is used for historical purposes only                                                                          |

VCA:

| Name               | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GeAR               | This system supports management of the vehicle type approval process (VCAs main business function) which ensures that a vehicle and its components meet design and production standards as legislated by European law |
| GeMS               | This is a customer facing system that supports the management and control of VCAs professional audit services provided to the motoring industry                                                                       |
| Infor SUN Accounts | Main Finance System for the Agency                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## **Annex B:**

### **Section 12 exemption:**

#### **Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

(2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.

(3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.

(4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—

(a) by one person, or

(b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,

the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

(5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.

## **Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner**

You have the right to complain within two calendar months 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 FOI 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/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