



Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Freedom of Information – D16

DVLA

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Miss E Smith

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Telephone

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Website

www.direct.gov.uk/motoring

Your Ref

Our Ref

FOIR1683

Date:

12 October 2009

Dear Miss Smith

We are writing in response to your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) which was made on 24 September 2009.

You asked:

- 1. I would like to know how many people in the UK have been issued with a driving licence with matching:**

First name middle name surname sex date of birth

This information is held however, with almost 44 million licence holders, a scan of the database would be necessary to provide the matches you have requested.

Section 12 of the FOI Act exempts the DVLA from complying with a request where the cost in determining whether we hold the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information exceeds £600. DVLA estimates that to collate these figures would exceed that to extract and collate these figures would exceed that limit.

This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 days (or 24 hours) costs at £25.00 per hour. This costing is set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

- 2. I would also like to know how this would be reflected on their respective driving licences as I assume they would not be issued with an identical number?**

Please see answer to question 3 for a full explanation of how the driver number is made up – including what happens when more than one person shares the same surname, gender initials and date of birth.



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3. Please also provide a detailed explanation as to how the 16 digit driving licence number is generated, including the two digits after the space?

This information is held. There are no spaces in a driver number so I assume here you are referring to the last two letters. A driver number is made up of the first five letters of the individual's surname, unless that surname has less than 5 letters, when the missing letters are replaced with 9's. So, for example, the surname FOX would read as FOX99. The following 6 digits are the individual's date of birth in scrambled form. For a male born on 10 July 1959 this would read as – 507109 (ymmddy)

To differentiate female drivers from male drivers, **50** is added to the month of birth, so for a female born on 10 July 1959 the digits would read as – **557**109 (ymmddy)

The next two characters are the individual's first two initials. Where the individual only has one forename then the first initial is followed by 9.

The next character is always a 9 unless there is already a driver with the same surname, gender, initials and date of birth. If this is the case then the character becomes 8. If there is a third driver with the same name and date of birth then the character will be 7 then 6 and so on.

However, it is the last two letters, which are allocated by the computer, that make every driver number unique.

4. I would also like to know how many driving licences exist for all classifications, preferably in electronic format.

This information is held. Please see the attached spreadsheet detailing ordinary driving licence entitlement (ODL – car/motorcycle etc) as well as vocational driving licence entitlement (VOC – bus and lorry). You will note that the figures are also separated into male and female and broken down by age. Please be aware that a person may have one or several of these categories on their driving licence at once. For example, car, motorcycle and lorry entitlement. A separate spreadsheet shows provisional licence holders.

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<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/click/use/index.htm>.

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 this email address.

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 this email address using the details above. Please remember to quote the reference above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information
DVLA