



Driver & Vehicle  
Licensing  
Agency

Isa Bell

**Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency**

Head of Data Sharing Policy & FOI Team – D16  
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Email us at: [foi@dvla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foi@dvla.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: [www.gov.uk/browse/driving](http://www.gov.uk/browse/driving)

Your Ref:

Our Ref: FOIR3570 - Internal Review

Date: 10 September 2013

Dear Ms Bell

**Freedom of Information – Internal Review**

Thank you for your e-mail of 20 August to the Department for Transport (DfT) following the response you received to your recent request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

You expressed dissatisfaction about the response you received from DVLA and your request has therefore been forwarded to DVLA by DfT for an Internal Review to be conducted. An Internal Review considers the decision and handling of the original request and has been carried out in accordance with DVLA's FOI complaints procedure. The outcome of the review can be found below.

Your e-mail said that question 4 of your original request remained unanswered. For the avoidance of doubt that question was: **Why can't English motor vehicles and drivers resident in England register with an English entity - especially those who don't want to speak or write an ancient language lacking a full vocabulary like Welsh?**

Having reviewed that question, it is not one that would fall within scope of the Freedom of Information Act because it is not a request for recorded information held by DVLA. Instead it is a question that could have been handled as a matter of routine business. As such, section 14(1) of the FOI Act should not have been applied with regard to question 4. In light of this, and as a matter of routine business (rather than in accordance with the FOI Act), the response to question 4 is as follows:

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is an executive agency of the Department of Transport and sponsored through the Department's Motoring Services Directorate, which registers vehicles and driving licence holders in Great Britain (GB). Those registers support action by DVLA, the police and others to maintain high levels of road safety and the effective collection of vehicle excise duty (VED). DVLA registers are used to deliver other departmental and government initiatives such as traffic management and reducing carbon emissions. Those registers are held by DVLA on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport. DVLA is therefore a GB-wide entity.

If you remain unhappy about the outcome of the Internal Review that has been carried out, your next course of action is to make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). A reminder of the ICO's contact details can be found below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a series of horizontal strokes.

pp Robert Toft  
Head of Data Sharing Policy & Freedom of Information Team

## **PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS**

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### **Complaints**

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request for information has been handled, about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested and/or that the DVLA has not complied with its FOI publication scheme, you have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter. You may complain by writing to the Freedom of Information Team, DSPG/FOI, D16, DVLA, Swansea, SA6 7JL or e-mail [foi@dvla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foi@dvla.gsi.gov.uk).

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a date by which you should have received a response. Initially, your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that person decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to an independent official who will conduct a further review (an Internal 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 by writing to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.