



Ministry  
of Defence



[DESSec-FOI@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DESSec-FOI@mod.gov.uk)

Dave Cruddas  
Whatdotheyknow  
[request-508001-4e33317f@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-508001-4e33317f@whatdotheyknow.com)  
WhatDoTheyKnow

Defence Equipment & Support  
Maple 0a #2043  
MOD Abbey Wood  
Bristol BS34 8JH



Our Reference: FOI2018/10365

Date: 7 August 2018

---

Dear Mr Cruddas,

Your email dated 7 August 2018 is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. You requested the following information:

*I am looking to purchase an ex mod vw Passat from a dealer, where can I find out the vehicle service history*

The department has undertaken a routine review of the MERLIN archive, which contains the service histories for many ex-MOD vehicles. The final version of this has since been released as part of a previous FOI request, which can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-published-by-mod-week-commencing-09-july-2018>.

Section 16(1) of the FOI Act requires public authorities to provide advice and assistance to requesters, so far as it is reasonable to do so. The database in the above link is split into seven spreadsheets. The first has a list of vehicles, while sheets two through seven have the service histories. To search for a vehicle this can be done by pressing Ctrl + F, then typing the vehicle registration number, and then enter.

Furthermore, you may wish to note that when the MERLIN database was archived into its current format some data may have been lost or corrupted. You should, therefore, be cautious that some of the data may be inaccurate.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water

Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

DE&S Secretariat Parliamentary.