

Brian Marr

Your Ref:
Our Ref: FOIR5330

Date: 25 May 2016

Dear Mr Marr

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your e-mail dated 4 May requesting information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

I'm looking to clarify the requirement for the British standard (currently BS UA 145d) and supplier post code to be printed on number plates.

In May 2008 it was suspended as an MOT requirement.

<http://www.transportoffice.gov.uk/crt/repository/Special%20Notice%2004-08.pdf>

And in April 2009 it was removed/obsoleted as an MOT and no longer selectable Reason for Rejection.

Did the DVLA have input on this removal? And why?

Outside of the FOIA, DVLA were not involved in the decision to remove this specific requirement from the MOT test. The MOT test and any decision to remove a particular component is a matter for the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency, who would also consider if it is necessary to consult further with the DVLA.

Is it currently required for a motorist/registered keeper (RK) to display a plate with BS AU 145d and the supplier post code on the plate? What legislation covers this requirement?

Is it currently required for a number plate supplier to create plates with BS AU 145d and their post code printed on the plate? What legislation covers this requirement?

While DVLA holds this information, Section 21 of the FOIA exempts DVLA from providing information which is reasonable accessible to you by other means. The

information you are requesting is published and can be accessed via the following links:- www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2001/561/contents/made at Schedule 2 Part 1 and www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2001/3/contents Section 28.

If this is a legal requirement for RK please specify, Since May 2009 how many times have RK have been warned solely over lack of the above requirements? And how many have been subsequently revoked?

For the above question, do not include times where there were other issues with the plate, e.g. mis-spacing of characters. This refers solely to the lack of BA US 145d and/or supplier post code.

The information you have requested is not held. Enforcement action regarding the display of number plates on road vehicles is a matter for the police. DVLA does not collate data on the individual reasons why a numberplate may not meet the legislative requirements.

When a notification is received from the police with an admission of guilt from the keeper that a registration has been misrepresented, the Agency automatically sends a warning letter to the registered keeper telling them to change their registration mark immediately and provide photographic evidence within 21 days that this has been carried out. They are also told that any further notification will result in the registration mark being permanently withdrawn from use. This action is most commonly taken where a registration mark is displayed in a manner which makes it difficult to read accurately.

Between December 2013 and April 2016, a total of 2000 warning letters have been sent by DVLA to registered keepers about a registration not meeting the legal requirements following a police notification, of which 71 registrations were subsequently withdrawn.

Does your GUIDELINES ON ACTIONING MISREPS apply on the BS AU 145d and post code requirements also? If not, please supply the internal policy documents and guidelines that cover the lack of BA AU 145d and supplier post code printed on a RK plate.

The information you have requested is not held as the DVLA does hold internal guidance on how to action those cases where it is only the BS AU 145d number and/or supplier postcode which have not been correctly displayed on a numberplate.

The information which follows concerns the procedures for making any complaint you might have about the reply. Please quote the reference number of this letter in any future communications about it.

Yours sincerely



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

Your right to complain to DVLA and the Information Commissioner

If you are not happy with the reply to your request, you can ask DVLA to re-consider the response you received by writing (within two calendar months of receiving this response) to either foi@dvla.gsi.gov.uk or DVLA Freedom of Information Team, DSPG/FOI, D16, DVLA, Swansea SA6 7JL.

DVLA will acknowledge and consider your request, re-visiting the response provided. This is known as an Internal Review and will be considered by a staff member not involved with the original reply.

If you disagree with the outcome of the Internal Review, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office. Further information can be found via: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/getting/> Alternatively you may wish to write to: Customer Contact, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.