

Department for **Transport**

PERSONAL

Remi Junges- Stainthorpe

By email to

request-157462-2477d61f@whatdotheyknow.com

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Department for Transport
Bus Service Operators Grant
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Our Ref: **F0010045**

17 April 2013

Dear Remi

I am writing to confirm that the Department for Transport has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 13th April 2013:

I would like to know what differences there are, if any, in the subsidies paid to bus services that run in Northumberland (e.g mainly Arriva) and those paid to bus services that run in Tyne & Wear (e.g. Stagecoach, Go North East).

The Department currently pays subsidy in the form of Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) to bus operators who run bus services in England, rather than to local councils such as Northumberland County Council or the PTE in Tyne and Wear. So, it is open to any operator to claim BSOG – including those in Northumberland and Tyne & Wear – as long as they meet the eligibility criteria for this grant.

Since 1/04/12, operators who claim BSOG are paid at the same rate regardless of where in the country they are running the services. Where their vehicles use diesel, they will receive 34.57p for each litre of fuel they use; rates may vary where they use other fuels, such as biodiesel. Some operators may receive a higher rate if their vehicles are Low Carbon Emission Buses, or if they are fitted with Smartcard or Automatic Vehicle Locating apparatus, dependent on the amount of buses they have in their fleet.

Local authorities receive other Government funding for buses, for instance; Rural and Urban Bus Challenge, Kickstart Grant Awards, Rural Bus Subsidy Grants and concessionary travel funding. This funding is paid to local authorities and therefore any enquiry about payments to individual operators should be sent direct to the local authority concerned.

Please see the link below which shows the BSOG paid to all bus operators in 2011. We plan to make the same information available for 2012 shortly. As you can see, this table lists in which local council area each of the bus companies which receives BSOG has its registered office. This is not necessarily the same place as where they run all their services. So, for example a company registered in Tyne and Wear might run some services in Durham. Unfortunately, we do not keep information on how much BSOG is paid to support bus services in the areas of individual councils, such as Northumberland.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/3258/bsog-grants-paid-2011.pdf

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The Department will, therefore, be simultaneously releasing to the public the information you requested, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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 Information Rights Unit at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx

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

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Anna Terry

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