

My request concerns driving tests taken at the Hornchurch (Station Lane) and Brentwood (Warley Hill) test centres.

1) Could you please tell me how many individuals took their driving practical test more than 10 times at the Hornchurch centre between 2007 and 31 May 2012?

2) What were the top five numbers of attempts at a driving test at Hornchurch in the period?

16 candidates have taken their car practical test more than 10 times at Hornchurch driving test centre (DTC) between 1 January 2007 and 31 May 2012. The top five greatest number of attempts were 20, 19, 17, 15 and 13.

3) How many individuals took their driving practical test more than 10 times at the Brentwood centre between 2007 and 31 May 2012?

4) What were the top five numbers of attempts at a driving test at Brentwood in the period?

6 candidates have taken their car practical test more than 10 times at Brentwood DTC between 1 January 2007 and 31 May 2012. The top five greatest number of attempts were 16, 15, 14, 12 and 11.

Please note that in response to questions one to four, the information provided includes tests:

- where all attempts were taken at that test centre
- where the last attempt was taken at that test centre but not all previous attempts were

5) How many cases of suspected identity fraud or 'candidate impersonation' have there been at each of the centres since 2007?

We hold information, in a central record, on the number of cases of suspected identity fraud/candidate impersonation from October 2009. You can find the number of cases of suspected identity fraud/candidate impersonation at Brentwood and Hornchurch DTCs in the table below.

Calendar year/ driving test centre	Brentwood	Hornchurch
2009 (from October)	0	3
2010	0	0
2011	1	0
2012	0	1

Please note that:

- the information provided above refers to the number of reports of suspected identity fraud/candidate impersonation and not the total number of tests discovered during

the investigation where there was evidence that candidate impersonation may have taken place.

Information about suspected candidate impersonations prior to 2009 does not record in a central location the test centre related to each report. To establish this information we would have to manually review each report of suspected impersonation. It is estimated that to extract and compile details of cases of identity fraud/candidate impersonation at Brentwood and Hornchurch test centres before October 2009 would take 68 working hours, which would exceed the 24 working hour limit prescribed. This information is exempt from release under section 12 (1) (cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit) of the FOIA. A full breakdown of this exemption can be found at Annex C.

The appropriate limit, as prescribed by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, is £600 for Central Government and £450 for other public authorities, with staff costs calculated at a rate of £25 per hour. When calculating whether the appropriate limit is exceeded, authorities can take account of the costs of determining whether the information is held, locating and retrieving the information, and extracting the information from other documents. They cannot take account of the costs involved with considering whether information is exempt under the Act.

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