

1) How many accidents have happened on driving tests over the last five years in cars that were not fitted with dual controls?

From 1 October 2010, we began capturing information in a central electronic log on the number of accidents that occurred on driving tests in cars where no dual controls was a contributory factor to the accident.

Between 1 October 2010 and 15 March 2011, we have a record of eight accidents on the car practical test where no dual controls were fitted in the vehicle. This information is correct as of 18 March 2011.

Before 1 October 2010, information on the number of accidents that occurred on driving tests in cars that were not fitted with dual controls is not held in a central record. To compile this information, would involve us reviewing each health and safety incident report form where an accident occurred on the car practical test to retrieve the driving licence number of the candidate that was on test when the accident occurred. We hold paper copies of the health and safety incident report forms for a period of four years.

Since January 2008, information on whether a vehicle involved in an accident was fitted with dual controls is captured on the health and safety incident report form in a designated box. Before this date, it would have been captured in a free-text field on the form.

To compile information as to whether a vehicle involved in an accident was fitted with dual controls 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 B.

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.

There were 3,119 car incident report forms completed between April 2007 and 30 September 2010. We have estimated that it would take between two and three minutes to locate, retrieve and check each health and safety form. To check all 3,119 forms would equate to at least 103 hours of work, which would exceed the 24 working hour limit prescribed.

2) How many driving examiners have been prevented from exiting a car or unable to stop a car while conducting driving tests in cars without dual controls in the last five years?

We do not hold information on the number of driving examiners that have been prevented from exiting a car or unable to stop a car while conducting tests without dual controls in a central record. To compile this information would involve us manually looking at each

paper health and safety incident report form completed for the car practical test. We only hold paper health and safety incident report forms for a period of four years.

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 B.

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.

We would need to check 3,127 health and safety report forms that have been completed between April 2007 and March 2011. We have estimated that it would take between two and three minutes to locate, retrieve and check each health and safety form. To check 3,127 health and safety report forms, would equate to at least 104 hours of work, which would exceed the 24 working hour limit prescribed.

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