

I refer to the statistics of:

- **168 cases of learner drivers paying impostors to take their driving test in 2004**
- **700 cases of learner drivers paying impostors to take their driving test since April 2010**

Please can I have the ethnic groups of those who are committing these crimes?

There were 158 allegations referred to us of learner drivers paying impersonators to take their driving test in 2004 and 672 allegations referred to us between 1 April 2010 and 31 January 2011. The figures quoted in the recent Daily Mail article for candidate impersonation for 2004 and from April 2010 were incorrect.

It is not our policy to collect or record information on the ethnicity of the individuals that are alleged to have impersonated candidates at the driving test or are convicted of having done so.

We may, however, hold information on the ethnicity of some of the individuals that impersonated candidates at the driving test on individual case files. This information would not have been collected or recorded as a matter of course.

We would need to review each individual candidate impersonation case file for the 2004 calendar year and those since April 2010 to 31 January 2011 to check whether the ethnicity of the individual committing the crime was held or not. We suspect that this information will be held only on a small number of cases.

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 have estimated that to review the case files of those 830 cases of learner drivers paying impersonators to take their driving test would greatly exceed the 24 working hours prescribed.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use,

for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents supplied by the Driving Standards Agency will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the Open Government Licence (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/>). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see The National Archives website - <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/uk-gov-licensing-framework.htm> .

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the Intellectual Property Office's website at www.ipo.gov.uk.