

1) All registered trainer bookers can buy test slots for candidates 10 weeks in advance. I need to know how many tests have been purchased by trainer bookers for the LGV/PCV test centre at Caernarfon - all vocational tests. I need to know who the trainer bookers are and how many tests have been purchased and when. I would like this information to be provided for the 12 month period between 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011.

2) All tests can be cancelled without losing any fees three clear working days before a test. Out of all the tests purchased by these trainer bookers, how many tests have been cancelled using this facility? I would like this information for the 12 month period between 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011.

We do hold information on the number of LGV and PCV tests booked and cancelled by each trainer booker at Caernarfon driving test centre (DTC) between the period 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011 but we are unable to provide you with this information. This information is exempt from release under section 43 (2) (commercial interests) of the FoIA, and a copy of this exemption and the required public interest test are attached at Annex B.

Even if we were to provide this information in an anonymised format, due to the small number of trainer bookers that book LGV and PCV tests at Caernarfon DTC, it could lead to the identification of that trainer booker organisation.

I can, however, confirm that in the period 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011, 618 LGV and PCV practical tests were booked by trainer bookers at Caernarfon driving test centre (DTC), 112 of which were cancelled by trainer booker with more than three clear working days notice and three of which were cancelled by trainer bookers with less than three clear working days notice.

Please note that the information on test cancellations is:

- for tests cancelled, moved and refunded by the trainer bookers; it is not just for refunded tests

We do not hold, in a central record, information of the date on which these 618 LGV and PCV practical tests were booked. To compile this information would involve us manually looking at the record of each booking on our testing and registration system (TARS).

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.

We have estimated that it would take two minutes to check the record of one booking on our TARS. To check all 618 LGV and PCV bookings would equate to spending an additional 20.6 hours to the 16 hours we have spent on providing information to answer your entire request. This would exceed the 24 working hour limit prescribed.

3) How many tests have been cancelled using the three day cancellation policy at Caernarfon LGV DTC which have not been re-sold thus leaving the examiner with no tests to conduct?

Once a test booking is cancelled we are unable to determine what subsequently happens to the vacated slot. This is because the test slot reverts back to an open slot.

We can, however, provide you with the total number of slots where no tests were booked for LGV and PCV for the period 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011 at Caernarfon LGV DTC. In this period, there were 72 such slots. Please note that these 72 slots may be made up of cancellations by trainer bookers or were never booked in the first place.

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