

1) Has the DSA ever waived a test fee because a candidate did not arrive with the additional mirrors required for a horsebox?

We do not hold, in a central record, information as to whether we have ever waived a test fee because a candidate did not arrive with the additional mirrors required for a horsebox.

To compile this information would involve us manually reviewing all the paperwork associated with each driving test fee waiver. The test fee waiver paperwork is held for two years and is not separated by category of test. We would, therefore, need to review all the test fee waiver correspondence to identify whether it referred to a candidate arriving for test in a horsebox without the additional mirrors. It may be that after reviewing the waiver paperwork we are unable to identify whether the vehicle was a horsebox.

We may also hold information on our testing and registration system (TARS) against each candidate's record as to whether we waived their test fee because they didn't arrive with the additional mirrors required for the horsebox. We hold information on TARS from 1999. We would need to manually review the record of each candidate that had a category C or C1 test from 1999. It may be that after reviewing information on TARS we are unable to identify if the vehicle was a horsebox.

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 waiver paperwork alone would take 48 hours, which would exceed the 24 working hour limit prescribed.

2) How many tests were conducted and passed on horsebox drivers at Swynnerton large goods vehicle (LGV) driving test centre (DTC) in each of the financial years from 2006/7 to 2010/11? I would also like to know how many passed first time.

In the tables below, you can find the number of category C and C1 tests that were conducted, passed and passed first time at Swynnerton LGV DTC in the period 2006/7 to 2010/11.

Financial year	Total number of category C tests conducted	Total number of category C tests passed	Total number of category C tests passed first time
2006/7	1,804	857	474
2007/8	1,699	815	459
2008/9	1,504	802	496

2009/10	994	554	384
2010/11	841	742	315

Financial year	Total number of category C1 tests conducted	Total number of category C1 tests passed	Total number of category C1 tests passed first time
2006/7	38	23	11
2007/8	49	30	19
2008/9	28	19	16
2009/10	14	9	6
2010/11	10	7	5

We do not hold, in a central record, the number of tests that were conducted on horsebox drivers and those that were passed and passed first time during the period 2006/7 to 2010/11.

A horsebox will be classed as a category C or C1 vehicle and will get recorded as such on our booking system and on the driving test report form (DL25) of each candidate. It may be that the information on the type of vehicle presented for test, for example horsebox, is recorded on the back of the DL25. To identify whether this information is held would require us to review the DL25 of each category C and C1 test conducted at Swynnerton LGV DTC. We only hold the back of the DL25 for two years. In the majority of tests, however, information as to the type of vehicle presented will not be captured on the DL25. It will only be captured if the examiner has referred to the type of vehicle in the remarks box on the back of the DL25.

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We have estimated that it would take two minutes to check the back of one driving test report form. We would need to check a minimum of 941 driving test reports form, which would equate to over 31 hours of work, which would exceed the 24 working hour limit prescribed.

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