

1) Please can you supply the overall costs and quantities supplied of any free gifts that DSA supplied to staff, general public and ADIs? To be specific pens, key rings, mugs, sweets, etc. I would like this information from when they were introduced to present.

At Annex B you can find the overall costs and quantities of free gifts that we supplied to staff, general public and ADIs. This is based on information held by our Engagement and Communication team.

You'll notice that the cost and quantities of some of the free gifts supplied to staff, the general public and ADIs is not quoted at Annex B. This information is not held in a central record and would require us to manually review paper files associated with each campaign or event where the free gifts were issued.

To review these paper files would exceed the 24 working hours as prescribed in section 12 (1) (cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit) of the FoIA. This information is therefore exempt from release. A full breakdown of this exemption can be found at Annex C.

Even if we were to review these paper files, it is likely that the information on the cost and quantity of the free gifts that is not quoted in Annex B is not held by us. This is because it is likely that the paper work has been destroyed.

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.

2) Please can you advise how many multi-purpose test centres (MPTC) were planned to be built and where?

Ministers agreed that DSA would provide the motorcycle test from 50 to 75 MPTCs across Great Britain, supplemented by a number of occasional centres. As the project developed the overall target changed to be measured in service coverage with Ministers agreeing that DSA should seek to achieve a minimum of 51% coverage within the agreed criteria. The agreed criteria was that most candidates should have to travel no more than 20 miles or 45 minutes to reach a testing facility.

DSA undertook extensive geographical information systems analysis and found that 67 sites would deliver service coverage of 83% in 45 minutes travel time or 20 miles.

You can find the original 67 search areas at Annex D.

3) Please can you advise how many MPTCs are open and if they supply all categories of driving tests?

As of 4 February 2011, there are 52 MPTCs open. Annex E provides details of the category of tests conducted at each centre.

Dundee MPTC is due to open on 28 February 2011 and you can also find the categories of test that this centre will conduct at Annex E.

Module one motorcycle tests are also available at eight centres owned by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and four sites which we hire from VOSA on a casual basis.

One of the sites owned by VOSA and one of the sites we hire on a casual basis from VOSA are temporarily suspended for surface repairs resulting from severe weather.

4) Please can you provide the overall cost of these centres both in sourcing, building, running, staffing? This information should include all MPTC regardless whether they are operational or not. (confirmed during a telephone conversation that costs since 1 April 2007 would be acceptable)

The total capital cost of the MPTC project is £56.1m. This figure is for the 53 sites that have gone live and for Dundee MPTC.

Any costs incurred for previous sites or locations that did not go forward to be a live MPTC have been written off to revenue in the financial year they were incurred.

The running and staffing costs for MPTCs (including VOSA owned sites and those we rent) are £52,606,192. This figure is from 1 April 2007 to 31 December 2010. Please note that this figure includes staff costs for driving examiners that would be incurred for conducting of tests at any test centre so are not a direct cost attributable as a result of the need for MPTCs; staffing costs for this period were £29,565,987.

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