

1) Can you please supply the number of theory tests booked on a monthly basis for the last 12 months at Chester.

In the table below, you can find the number of theory tests booked at Chester theory test centre between April 2011 and March 2012. We have broken this information down by month.

Month	Number of theory tests booked at Chester theory test centre
April 2011	978
May 2011	1,041
June 2011	1,178
July 2011	1,178
August 2011	1,311
September 2011	1,221
October 2011	1,348
November 2011	1,440
December 2011	903
January 2012	1,356
February 2012	1,197
March 2012	1,399

Please note that the information provided above is for all categories of theory test.

2) The number of candidates that failed to bring form counterpart D740W and had their test cancelled for the last 12 months on a monthly basis at Chester.

We do not hold, in a central record, information on the number of theory test candidates that failed to bring their paper counterpart of their driving licence with them and therefore weren't allowed to take their test in the last 12 months at Chester theory test centre.

Information on those candidates that weren't able to take their theory test as they arrived without their paper counterpart is shown against their theory test booking as a 'no show'.

A 'no show' status will be recorded against a theory test candidate's booking for other reasons which include, but isn't limited to, a candidate missing their theory test appointment, arrived late, didn't bring their photo card driving licence to their test or if they held an old style paper licence and didn't arrive with a valid passport.

Between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012, we have a record of 816 theory test bookings at Chester theory test centre where a 'no show' status is against their test booking. This information is for all categories of theory test.

To compile information on the number of theory test candidates that failed to bring their counterpart with them to Chester theory test centre between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012 and couldn't take their test would require us to manually review the incident log of each candidate where a 'no show' status is recorded against their booking. It may be on reviewing the incident log for each candidate that information is not held for some candidates as to the reason why a 'no show' status is against their booking.

We have estimated that it would take two minutes to review the incident log for one candidate to find out if they failed to bring their paper counterpart with them to Chester theory test centre between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012 and so were unable to take their test. To check all 816 incident logs would, therefore, equate to 27.2 hours of work, which would exceed the 24 working hour limit prescribed.

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.

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