



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

From: **VOSA Press Office**  
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**BY E-MAIL**

Tel: 0300 123 9000  
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Our Ref: **F0003603**

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

I refer to your e-mail of 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 requesting information, which we have dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for, "the number of vehicles in the UK which, in the year to March 2011, showed lower recorded mileages on their MOT certificates than for the previous year".

VOSA has conducted a search of its MOT Computerisation database of all valid, completed tests conducted nationally between 01/04/2010 and 31/03/2011 and I can confirm that the following numbers of tests were recorded with a mileage lower than the previous completed test.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Normal First Tests</b>	<b>Instances</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Class 1 & 2	964,600	27,993	2.90%
Class 3 & 4	26,421,162	681,826	2.58%
Class 5	49,045	1,542	3.14%
Class 7	589,255	19,406	3.29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,024,062</b>	<b>730,767</b>	<b>2.61%</b>

**KEY**

- Class 1 Motor bicycles
- Class 2 Motor bicycles with sidecars
- Class 3 Three wheeled vehicles up to 450kg unladen weight
- Class 4 Cars (up to 8 passenger seats)  
Motor caravans

	Three wheeled vehicles over 450kg unladen weight
	Quads
	Dual purpose vehicles
	Private Hire and Public Service Vehicles (up to 8 seats)
	Ambulances and Taxis
	Private Passenger Vehicles and Ambulances (9 – 12 seats)
Class 5	Private Passenger Vehicles and Ambulances (13 – 16 seats)
Class 7	Goods vehicles (over 3000kg and under 3500kg DGW)

Please note that this does not necessarily indicate that any of these vehicles have been 'clocked'. When recording the MOT test results the Nominated Tester is only required to enter the odometer reading displayed on the vehicle at the time of test.

There are a number of legitimate reasons for differences in odometer readings in consecutive tests. These include, but are not limited to, input error by Nominated Tester conducting the test, an inoperative odometer, the replacement of an odometer using either a second hand or new instrument or an automatic reset or restart of the odometer when maximum figure exceeded. In respect of Class V or Class VII vehicles it could be explained by installation and/or replacement of a tachograph instrument (if required to be fitted for specific use).

You secondly asked for a breakdown of the figures to show the number of vehicles in each category above which were registered in Wales.

VOSA does not hold information in relation to vehicle registration. This is a matter for the Driver and Vehicle Licencing Agency in Swansea, and an approach would need to be made to that Agency.

I have however attempted to find out the number of tests carried out within CF, LD, LL, NP, SA and SY postcode areas, being an "approximation" of Wales (the only possible criterion we can use for this type of query is the postcode). This is not information which VOSA has a business need to hold and the extraction of this data would require a specific query to be written and run to produce the data. My colleagues have attempted to write a program to extract this information, without success.

The other alternative is to approach our IT contractor to write and run a program to extract this information which would take a minimum of 3 days to complete. The average daily cost is around £1500, producing a rough overall cost of £4000 - £5000. The Ministry of Justice "Better FOI Guidance Notes" (Held and Raw Data) dated June 2009 state that **"if an external contractor would be needed to undertake the work, the department should request a quote. If the quote exceeds the appropriate limit departments can apply s.12 as normal"**.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act does not oblige a public authority to comply with request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate cost limit which is currently £600 based on cost of £25 per hour in respect of central governments departments. To supply this information, the extraction and preparation of this data, would take the request over the threshold as described above.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F0003603**.

If you are unhappy with the response provided, you may ask for an internal review. To request an internal review, please write to:

VOSA Corporate Office,  
Berkeley House,  
Croydon Street,  
Bristol,  
BS5 0DA

or email [vosa.corporateoffice@vosa.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:vosa.corporateoffice@vosa.gsi.gov.uk)

giving the reasons for your dissatisfaction. It will help us if you quote the reference number for your case.

If you do not agree with the outcome of the internal review, you may lodge an appeal with the Information Commissioner ([www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)). The Information Commissioner is an independent official appointed by the Crown to oversee the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

The Information Commissioner can consider complaints about any aspect of the way in which requests for information have been handled. Please note: the Information Commissioner would be unlikely to consider your complaint if you have not first requested an internal review.

You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

VOSA Communications