



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

From: Information Access
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Information Access Team
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Our Ref: **F0002615**
Your Ref: 251/2010

Date: 13th May 2010

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I refer to your correspondence of 31st March 2010 whereby you have requested copies of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency's (VOSA) Hospitality and Gift Register for 2007, 2008 & 2009. We have dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency does not hold a bespoke Hospitality / Gift Register, however details of all gifts and hospitality received are recorded locally and copies of these registers are enclosed.

Names have been given for those members of staff with Director-level and Senior Management responsibilities whereas the names of junior civil servants and third parties has been withheld as this is believed to be personal data, relating to a living individual, that can be used to identify that individual. This information is therefore being withheld under section 40(2)&(3)(a)(i) of the Act:

Section 40

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if –

(a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and

(b) either the first or the second condition below is satisfied.

(3) the first condition is –

(a) in a case where the information falls within any of paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of "data" in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene –

(i) any of the data protection principles

It is considered that the release of this information would breach the first and second data protection principles.

Additionally, two comments recorded in the Chief Executive's Hospitality Registers for 2007 and 2008 have been withheld under section 43(2) of the act, as VOSA considers that the release of this information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of one of our contractors. The relevant part of the act is copied below:

Section 43(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

This exemption is subject to a public interest test, a copy of which has been enclosed.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F002615**.

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

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). 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 Information Access