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Your ref:  
Our ref: **F0004607**

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

I refer to your email of the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012. We have dealt with this request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You have asked:-

*A) how many inspections of school buses have been carried out by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in each year since 2003.*

*B) how many random spot checks on school buses have been carried out by the Vehicle & operator Services Agency in each year since 2003 and how many buses failed.*

I believe you spoke to my manager who explained Operation Coachman, which targets buses and coaches transporting children to and from school. The operation is organised by Dorset Police, involving a nation-wide check.

I have provided a link below to VOSA's effectiveness reports which provides a year on year number of Scottish PSV checks which includes a high element of buses checked which are used for the carriage of school children, these reports also include the prohibition rates for PSVs, however this cannot be broken down to school buses  
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/publications/corporatereports/corporatereports.htm>

Please also see below an extract from the Lothian and Border Police to Ms Rohan Brankin MSP, in 2010. I have provided a link for the full letter and a link to a response from ACPOS with information relating to school buses.  
[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S3\\_PublicPetitionsCommittee/Submissions\\_09/09-PE1223X.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S3_PublicPetitionsCommittee/Submissions_09/09-PE1223X.pdf)

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S3\\_PublicPetitionsCommittee/Submissions\\_09/09-PE1223V.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S3_PublicPetitionsCommittee/Submissions_09/09-PE1223V.pdf)

*May I offer the following information, which gives an overview of the work being carried out in Scotland with regards to School bus safety.*

*There has been no work carried out under the banner of "Operation Coachman" for some considerable time, however Police forces throughout the country do carry out checks of buses, minibuses and private hire vehicles used to transport children to from school and on excursions during school time to ensure that they comply with the current safety requirements. This work is generally carried out with the assistance of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and in conjunction with local authorities.*

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

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F0004607**.

Yours sincerely

VOSA Information Access Team