



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

**From: Information Access**  
inform@vosa.gov.uk

Information Access Team  
Room BA1  
Berkeley Annex  
Croydon Street  
Bristol  
BS5 ODA

Tel: 0300 123 9000  
Fax: 0117 954 2546

Our Ref: **F0002715**

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010

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Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

I refer to your correspondence of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010 requesting information, which we have dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked if worn coil springs are a reason for MOT failure and if VOSA publish any statistics on the reasons for MOT failures which would enable you to establish the number of coil springs sold each year as a result of MOT failures.

I can confirm that if a Coil Spring is, "...worn so that its cross sectional area is reduced and seriously weakened" does constitute an MOT fail on class 3, 4 & 7 vehicles.

Further information relating to method of inspection and reason for failure can be found in *Section 2.4C Suspension – General* of VOSA's "MOT Inspection Manual for Classes 3, 4, 5 and 7 vehicles". A link to this manual is provided below;  
<http://www.mot.vosa.gov.uk/manuals/index.htm>

VOSA do publish MOT failure statistics in our annual Effectiveness Report, but they do not detail statistics on specific failure items. However, we have managed to collate the number of Coil Spring related MOT failures recorded on class 3, 4 & 7 vehicles for the fiscal years 2006/07 – 2009/10. This can be found on the spreadsheet attached to the covering email.

As mentioned above, VOSA does publish MOT statistics collated via the MOT Computerisation system in its annual "Effectiveness Report". The latest version of this report collates the MOT statistics for fiscal years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. A link to VOSA's latest "Effectiveness Report" is copied below.

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/publications/corporatereports/2008-2009reportsuite/2008-2009reportsuite.htm>

Please refer to Table A3.1 & A3.2 in this report for Annual MOT Test Results and the Failure Percentage of each default category.

Furthermore, reports for previous years are contained within the Corporate Report Suite for each financial year dating back to 2000 - 2001. A link is copied below.

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/publications/corporatereports/corporatereports.htm>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F0002715**.

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