



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

From: **Information Access**
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Information Access Team
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Tel: 0300 132 9000
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BY E-MAIL

Your ref:
Our Ref: **F0003121**

Date: 18th January 2010

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I refer to your e-mail of 10th January 2011 which you sent to our Contact Centre. This has now been passed on to this section to answer.

You asked why mileage information is not available to the public at large for any vehicle from the information held on our MOT database.

During the design and build process of the computerised MOT system the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) had various meetings with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) (Data Protection Commissioner at that time) in respect of the information which would be captured, the purpose and use or uses of capture and who could/can have access to that information.

The view of the ICO at that time was, and still is, that the information stored is personal information, as it would be possible to identify a living individual from the registration mark of a vehicle. For this reason additional information other than the registration mark (which would be available to the keeper of a vehicle) is needed to access information on the database.

This however does not debar prospective purchasers from having access to the recorded information. Anyone with a legitimate interest can access information – a prospective purchaser would be considered to have a legitimate interest. However, they would need to obtain the reference number from the V5 document or last MOT number from the pass/fail notification from the vendor. It would be in the vendors interest to supply details.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F0003121**.

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