



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

From: **Information Access**

Information Access Team
Berkeley House
Croydon Street
Bristol
BS5 0DA

BY E-MAIL

Tel: 0300 123 9000

Our Ref: **F0003504**

Date: 28th July 2011

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

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

As I explained in my e-mail response to you on 20th July 2011, the Operator Licencing database is "owned" by the Traffic Commissioners, and not the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA). I have spoken to colleagues who deal with Freedom of Information matters for the Traffic Commissioners and understand that your request was also sent to them and they are dealing with the questions raised.

You will be aware that the Traffic Commissioners are appointees of the Secretary of State for Transport, and are a separately named public authority (Schedule 1 Part VI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Commissioners are also the Data Controllers in relation of information supplied to them for the purposes of operator licence applications.

There are currently seven independent Traffic Commissioners. They are regional appointments and the geographic regions are defined as follows: North Western, North Eastern, Eastern, South East and Metropolitan, Western, West Midlands, Wales and Scotland.

Further information can be found in respect of these areas and the Traffic Commissioners regulatory activities, within the Traffic Commissioners Annual Report, which can be found on the Department for Transport website following the link below

<http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/trafficcommissioners/annualreports/>

A small number of VOSA staff act as data processors on behalf of the Traffic Commissioners with regard to the operator licensing. Additionally, access to limited

*An executive agency of the
Department for
Transport*

operator licence information has also been given to VOSA to enable staff to undertake enforcement and roadworthiness duties which support the Traffic Commissioners in their regulatory functions.

The anonymous operator search facility provides information on all operator licences for both goods and passenger vehicles which is already in the public domain via the the statutory publications Applications & Decisions (A&D) and Notices & Proceedings (N&P).

This facility allows searches to be conducted by name, address or postcode. The returned details will provide details of each operator licence number, the name and business address of the licence holder, the licence status and the number of vehicles and trailers that are authorised under that licence. The anonymous operator search can be accessed via the following address

http://www.tan.gov.uk/tanen/VOSA_AnonymousOperatorSearch_New.asp.

The anonymous search facility was introduced as a service to the public at a time when the A&D and N&P were only available by paid subscription.

To assist with your understanding, the Applications & Decisions publications contain details of all new goods vehicle operator licence application, applications for major change or variation, Public Inquiry information where operators are to appear before the Traffic Commissioner in respect of disciplinary matters along with the outcomes of those Inquiries and the details of licences which have been surrendered or where continuation has not been sought. The publication of these details is in line with the requirements for Traffic Commissioners contained at Section 10 of the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995.

The Notices & proceedings publications contain similar information in respect of passenger vehicle operator licences. The publication of these details is in line with the requirements for Traffic Commissioners contained at Sections 5 & 54 of the Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981 (as amended) and the Public Service Vehicles (Traffic Commissioners Publication and Inquiries) Regulations 1986 SI 1629.

The publication of operator details in either the A&D and/or N&P booklets has been undertaken since the 1930's. These publications were originally available either by inspection at the office of the Traffic Commissioner or by postal subscription only. However since 2003 they have also been available via the website at no cost to view.

I now return to your original question. VOSA wishes to confirm that the list of operator licence holders has not been sold in part or in full to any party.

In the light of this response the supplementary question with regard *to whom the list had been sold and for what cost* does not require VOSA to respond.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F0003504**.

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 Team