

Our ref: 706,666
Your ref:

[REDACTED]
via e-mail
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Group Financial Controller
Highways Agency
Woodlands
Bedford
MK41 7LW
[REDACTED]

17th April 2014

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your e-mail Freedom of Information request regarding the Highways Agency's ICT telecommunications services. The answers to your request are below.

Q1 I would like to know how much the department has spent on cars on an annual basis for the last three calendar years. This includes hiring cars and purchasing cars. I would like to know what car was hired/purchased, when it was hired/purchased, what it was used for, who was using it and how much it cost to hire/purchase.

The Highways Agency has not spent any money purchasing cars. It leases two different types of cars:

Patrol vehicles: These vehicles are leased on 12 and 36 month lease contracts and are used to patrol and transport Highways Agency Traffic Officers to incidents on the Road Network. The lease cost is £3,750,000 per year with a total spend of £11,250,000 over the last three years.

Hire cars: The Highways Agency has a commercial hire car contract with Enterprise for employees to rent cars for business use such as visiting a Highways Agency development site or another Highways Agency office. The spend for the last 3 years is as follows:

Calendar Year 2011: £282,000

Calendar Year 2012: £316,000

Calendar Year 2013: £485,000

Please note that due to the volume of car hires we cannot provide details of every hire date and reason for hire without incurring disproportionate costs. Additionally we cannot provide details of staff who rented the vehicles for confidentiality reasons.

Q2 I would also like to know if the department spent any money on personalised number plates. If so I would like to know how much was spent on an annual basis for the past three calendar years, what cars they were attached to, who was using the cars, and (if this can be released) what they said.

The highways Agency has not spent any money on personalised number plates in the last 3 years.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the legislation, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. We may therefore be publishing the information you requested, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context, via our website: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/>

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. Our internal review process is available at <http://www.highways.gov.uk/foiresponses/FOIresponses/8024.aspx>.

If you require a print copy, please phone the Highways Agency Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk . You should contact me if you wish to complain.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature block]