



Dear

### **Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your e-mail dated 22 February requesting information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked for:

**The counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. The post code areas for Norfolk are NR1 to NR34 and for Suffolk are IP1 to IP33.**

**The information I request is:**

**The number of people holding driving licences in Norfolk and Suffolk, broken down into gender, age and the amount of penalty points.**

DVLA's drivers database changes constantly as the Agency receives driving licence applications and other information that updates the records of individual drivers. Therefore, it is possible only to provide a snapshot of the state of the record at the time of any request. It should be noted that there can be a delay between the notification of penalty points and of the sentence imposed by the Court. These can update the driver record separately.

The information provided in the attached spreadsheet reflects the position as at 28 February 2015.

The first tab gives the numbers of drivers in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk by age, full or provisional licence entitlement and gender.

The second tab gives the numbers of drivers in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk with penalty points on their driving licence by age, gender and the number of points given.

In England and Wales, the Magistrates' Courts Sentencing Guidelines produced by the Sentencing Council provide a framework setting out how to establish the

seriousness of each case and the most appropriate way of dealing with it. This helps the Magistrates Courts ensure that any penalty reflects the seriousness of the offence and the personal circumstances of the offender.

In Scotland, Sentencers determine each case on its merits and give full consideration to the most appropriate way of dealing with it. The penalty imposed reflects the seriousness of the offence and the personal circumstances of the offender.

In a small percentage of cases where the driver has accumulated 12 or more penalty points, the Agency understands that a Court can exercise its discretion and not disqualify the driver. In the majority of these cases, Magistrates' or Sentencers may have decided to allow drivers to retain their entitlement to drive where it is considered that disqualification would cause exceptional hardship.

The minimum legal age to drive on GB roads is 17 for motorcars and 16 for moped, however anyone who drives in GB is subject to the road traffic laws of this country. In the case of an endorseable offence involving any driver, irrespective of age or nationality Courts of Law are legally required to notify the DVLA of the offence and penalty. DVLA is required to maintain records of all endorsements, including those given to offenders who do not meet the minimum age requirement to hold a driving licence.

The information which follows concerns the procedures for making any complaint you might have about the reply. Please quote the reference number of this letter in any future communications about it.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Robert Toft', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ppRobert Toft  
Head of Data Sharing Policy & Freedom of Information Team

## **Your right to complain to DVLA and the Information Commissioner**

If you are not happy with the reply to your request, you can ask DVLA to re-consider the response you received by writing (within two calendar months of receiving this response) to either [foi@dvla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foi@dvla.gsi.gov.uk) or DVLA Freedom of Information Team, DSPG/FOI, D16, DVLA, Swansea SA6 7JL.

DVLA will acknowledge and consider your request, re-visiting the response provided. This is known as an Internal Review and will be considered by a staff member not involved with the original reply.

If you disagree with the outcome of the Internal Review, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office. Further information can be found via: [www.ico.org.uk/concerns/getting](http://www.ico.org.uk/concerns/getting) Alternatively you may wish to write to: Customer Contact, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.