



Dear

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your e-mail dated 5 January requesting information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Before answering each of your requests in turn, you may find the information available via the following link useful and of assistance with regard this response:

<https://www.gov.uk/penalty-points-endorsements/overview>

You asked for:

How many drivers in Britain currently hold a driving licence which has 12 or more penalty points (endorsements) which they have been given in a three year or less period?

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.

Whilst DVLA maintains a record of all GB fixed penalties and Court ordered endorsements, the Agency has no responsibility or influence on Court imposed sentences.

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 following table provides the number of driving licence holders with 12 or more penalty points awarded in the last 12 months with current entitlement to drive. These figures reflect the position as at 3 January 2015.

Current Points	Driver Count
12	4,611
13	533
14	475
15	676
16	151
17	74
18	157
19	23
20	8
21	6
22	17
23	3
24	4
25	7
26	1
27	3
28	1
30	1
31	2
34	1
36	2
38	1
45	1
Total	6,801

In relation to question 1, what is the highest amount of points on a driving licence and what the offences?

You will see that the highest number of points is 45 and details of the offences causing those points, with points awarded, can be found in the table below.

Offence Code	Number of Points
SP30	3
MS90	6
SP30	6
MS90	6
SP30	6
MS90	6

MS90	6
MS90	6
Total	45

Details of each offence code can be found at the link provided above.

How many drivers in Britain currently hold a driving licence which has 12 or more penalty points (endorsements) which they have been given in a period of time more than three years?

Endorsements are pruned from the driver's record once they are spent. The link above provides information on the amount of time endorsements stay on a driving licence. Therefore DVLA holds the number of driving licence holders given penalty points within the last 4 years and this information is provided in the table below.

Total Points	Driver Count
12	13,058
13	1,483
14	1,188
15	1,754
16	332
17	189
18	299
19	53
20	44
21	59
22	16
23	8
24	28
25	5
26	6
27	17
28	2
30	7
31	1
34	1
36	2
38	1
45	1
Total	18,554

In relation to question 3, what is the highest amount of points on a driving licence and what the offences?

You will see that the highest number of points is 45 and details of the offences causing those points, with points awarded, can be found in the table below.

Offence Code	Number of Points
SP30	3
MS90	6

SP30	6
MS90	6
SP30	6
MS90	6
MS90	6
MS90	6
Total	45

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

unsigned, sent via e-mail

pp Robert 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 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 Alternatively you may wish to write to: Customer Contact, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.