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## FOI and RoPSIR requests for number of licensed vehicles in UK by Output Area

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21 December 2021 at 13:51

To: vehicles.stats@dft.gov.uk

Good afternoon,

This email follows from my telephone conversation with [REDACTED] this morning.

I would like to request some information about the number of licensed vehicles in the UK, based on 2011 Census geography.

I am interested in this data for its general utility, and for purposes of analysis in combination with other public datasets that are produced based on Census geography, rather than any more specific purpose.

I am submitting this request under the Freedom of Information Act and Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations. I appreciate it may be administratively easier to treat this as a business as usual request. However, the formalities are necessary because I may need to document the provenance of the data and may need to challenge DfT's response to my request.

Details of request:

I am aware that the DfT and the DVLA publishes statistics for licensed vehicles by postcode district and body type (Table VEH0122) at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/all-vehicles-veh01>.

I am requesting equivalent data – i.e. the number of licensed cars, motorcycles, and all other vehicles – by 2011 Census Output Area (OA) in England, Scotland and Wales, and Small Area (SA) in Northern Ireland.

I am requesting this data without any rounding or suppression of small numbers. OAs and SAs have a confidentiality threshold of 40 households. There should be no need to apply any rounding or suppression of the vehicle counts, as even a single vehicle could not be related to an identifiable individual within the pool of households.

On this subject, I draw your attention to the Upper Tribunal's recent decision in NHS Business Services Authority v Information Commissioner and Spivack: [2021] UKUT 192 (AAC) <https://www.gov.uk/administrative-appeals-tribunal-decisions/nhs-business-services-authority-v-information-commissioner-and-spivack-2021-ukut-192-aac>

If DfT does consider that it cannot release data for OAs/SAs without rounding or suppression of small numbers, please also provide the number of licensed cars, motorcycles, and all other vehicles in each 2011 Census Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) for England and Wales, Data Zone (DZ) for Scotland, and Super Output Area (SOA) for Northern Ireland.

Please provide the data as at Q2 2021 or as at Q3 2021 (whichever is the most recent held by the DfT) and specify the date to which the figures have been calculated.

There is no need to provide statistical names for Census areas, if they are represented by ONS statistical codes.

Please provide the data in a re-usable data format such as CSV, Excel or ODS.

I further request, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, permission to re-use all information provided in response to the above access to information request for the purpose of combining that information with data from existing open public datasets and making the outputs available to others in a re-usable electronic form under an open licence. I request that the DfT grants permission to re-use the information for this purpose under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3 (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>). Given my intended use, any more restrictive licensing terms would be likely to "unnecessarily restrict" the way in which the information can be re-used, contrary to RoPSIR regulation 12.

These requests are new and replace similar requests I submitted to the DVLA in an email dated 21 November 2021. I do not now require a separate response to those earlier requests, and will make the DVLA aware of that.

Thank you for your attention to these requests, and for our discussion earlier.

Kind regards,

Owen Boswarva

Contact details

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