



Department
for Transport

Mr Owen Boswarva
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Vehicles, Drivers and Access to
Services Statistics
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
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Email: vehicles.stats@dft.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dft

26 January 2022

Dear Mr Boswarva,

Freedom of Information Request: Reference F0020605

Thank you for your request of 21 December 2021 requesting information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

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.

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.

The Department holds information that is relevant to your request. The information being disclosed in the attached XLSX file is outlined below:

This file contains the number of vehicles licensed in the UK by Output Area 2011 code (OA11CD), broken down into cars, motorcycles, and all other vehicles as per your request. The data relates to the end of September 2021 (or 2021 Q3) as the most recent data held by DfT.

In accordance with your request, we have also provided an additional dataset, containing the number of vehicles licensed in the UK by Lower Super Output Area 2011 code (LSOA11CD), broken down into cars, motorcycles, and all other vehicles. The areas used in Scotland and Northern Ireland are the national equivalents of LSOAs, as described in your request.

Some information is being withheld under section 40(2) (Personal information - The exemption for third party data) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on the grounds that disclosure would contravene the Data Protection Act 2018.

Due to the small number of vehicles registered in particular areas, release of information would be likely to lead to identification of individuals if pieced together with other information. The mosaic effect of combining information may potentially identify individuals who have a reasonable expectation that information about them is not placed into the public domain. As section 40 is an absolute exemption, there is no requirement to carry out a public interest test.

In instances where originally values would have been between 1 and 4, these data have been suppressed and the values in these cells replaced with 'c'. In addition to this, some values at LSOA-level have received secondary suppression to avoid the OA-level suppressed figures being disclosed using subtraction. This approach is consistent with all the statistical outputs that DfT produces from its extract of DVLA data.

You additionally asked:

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.

This dataset can be freely used and shared openly.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's FOI Advice Team at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gov.uk

Please send or copy any follow-up correspondence relating to this request to the FOI Advice Team to help ensure that it receives prompt attention. Please also remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you have any queries about vehicle licensing statistics, please contact vehicles.stats@dft.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Head of Vehicles, Drivers and Access to Services Statistics

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

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