



Owen Boswarva <owen.boswarva@gmail.com>

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

1 message

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**VEHICLES STATS** <VEHICLES.STATS@dft.gov.uk>  
To: Owen Boswarva <owen.boswarva@gmail.com>

14 May 2026 at 16:56

OFFICIAL

Hi Owen,

Yes – the information provided may be re-used under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Kind regards,



OFFICIAL

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**From:** Owen Boswarva <owen.boswarva@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 14 May 2026 16:55  
**To:** VEHICLES STATS <VEHICLES.STATS@dft.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: FOI and RoPSIR requests for number of licensed vehicles in UK by Output Area

Hi ,

Thank you, that's brilliant. I've checked the new file and everything looks good.

May I also have a response from DfT to my re-use request, as follows:

"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 other 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."

I realise this may seem like a formality, but legally I have to ask for a clear statement of permission in order to re-use the supplied data. The OGL does not apply by default in the way that it does to information published proactively on GOV.UK.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Owen Boswarva

Contact details

e-mail: [owen.boswarva@gmail.com](mailto:owen.boswarva@gmail.com)

telephone: [REDACTED]

address: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **VEHICLES STATS** <[VEHICLES.STATS@dft.gov.uk](mailto:VEHICLES.STATS@dft.gov.uk)>

Date: Thu, 14 May 2026 at 16:41

Subject: RE: FOI and RoPSIR requests for number of licensed vehicles in UK by Output Area

To: Owen Boswarva <[owen.boswarva@gmail.com](mailto:owen.boswarva@gmail.com)>

OFFICIAL

Hi Owen,

Apologies - yes, as you mentioned, there was an error during exporting which caused it to revert to the default number of Excel rows. That file has now been resent with the correct number of rows (2,263,964).

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

OFFICIAL

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**From:** Owen Boswarva <[owen.boswarva@gmail.com](mailto:owen.boswarva@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** 14 May 2026 15:49

**To:** VEHICLES STATS <[VEHICLES.STATS@dft.gov.uk](mailto:VEHICLES.STATS@dft.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: FOI and RoPSIR requests for number of licensed vehicles in UK by Output Area

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for providing this response to my request. I have downloaded the file from Egress and reviewed the contents.

The supplied CSV file seems to contain 1,048,576 records, all of which relate to Census 2021 Output Areas in England. But not all of the OAs are covered.

Has the file accidentally been truncated? I am aware that 1,048,576 rows is a hard limit in Excel.

This might be an issue at my end, but I don't think so. I have viewed the file in various applications including Notepad and can only see those records.

The equivalent file that I received last year contained 2,220,066 records.

My request was for data related to each Output Area (OA) in England, Wales, and Scotland and each Data Zone (DZ) in Northern Ireland.

Please also provide a response from DfT to my re-use request, which was as follows:

"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 other 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."

Basically that just means I'm asking for confirmation that OGL applies to the supplied data.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Owen Boswarva

Contact details

e-mail: [owen.boswarva@gmail.com](mailto:owen.boswarva@gmail.com)

telephone: [REDACTED]

address: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **VEHICLES STATS** <[VEHICLES.STATS@dft.gov.uk](mailto:VEHICLES.STATS@dft.gov.uk)>

Date: Thu, 14 May 2026 at 14:41

Subject: RE: FOI and RoPSIR requests for number of licensed vehicles in UK by Output Area

To: Owen Boswarva <[owen.boswarva@gmail.com](mailto:owen.boswarva@gmail.com)>

OFFICIAL

Hi Owen,

The dataset has now been prepared and has been sent via egress due to its size. You should receive it shortly.

**To note:** Vehicles are allocated to an output area according to the postcode of the registered keeper. This is the keeper's address for privately owned vehicles or the company's registered address for company owned vehicles. The address does not necessarily reflect where the vehicle is located. This is especially true for large fleets kept by companies involved with vehicle management, leasing or rentals. Significant changes in the number of vehicles from year to year can often occur when these companies change their registered address.

Kind regards,



OFFICIAL

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**From:** Owen Boswarva <[owen.boswarva@gmail.com](mailto:owen.boswarva@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** 29 April 2026 10:25  
**To:** VEHICLES STATS <[VEHICLES.STATS@dft.gov.uk](mailto:VEHICLES.STATS@dft.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** FOI-ADVICE-TEAM-DFT <[FOI-ADVICE-TEAM-DFT@dft.gov.uk](mailto:FOI-ADVICE-TEAM-DFT@dft.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** FOI and RoPSIR requests for number of licensed vehicles in UK by Output Area

Good morning,

I would like to request some information about the number of licensed vehicles in the UK, based on 2021/22 Census geography. I am submitting requests under the Freedom of Information Act and the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations.

I am aware that the DfT has published (and regularly updates) a data file, table df\_VEH0125, that contains counts of licensed vehicles in the UK by Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA), broken down by body type, keepership, and licence status:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vehicle-licensing-statistics-data-files#vehicles-by-small-geography>

I am requesting equivalent data – i.e. the number of licensed vehicles, broken down by the same categories of body type, keepership, and licence status – for each Output Area (OA) in England, Wales, and Scotland and each Data Zone (DZ) in Northern Ireland, as at the end of Q4 2025.

(If DfT does not hold the requested data for 2021/22 Census areas, please provide the data based on the smallest unit of 2011 Census geography in each country i.e. each OA for England, Wales, and Scotland and each Small Area (SA) for Northern Ireland.)

I am requesting this data without any rounding or suppression of small numbers. I understand that DfT normally suppresses counts < 5 in statistical releases. However, please take into consideration the ICO's decision notice IC-166259-J8V3 which confirmed, in 2022 following a similar information request, that this information is not exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act:

<https://ico.org.uk/action-weve-taken/decision-notice/2022/11/ic-166259-j8v3/>

I am not requesting information for periods prior to Q4 2025. There is no need to include statistical names for the Output Areas, if they are represented by ONS statistical codes.

Please provide the data by email in a re-usable file 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 other 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.

Thank you for your attention to these information requests.

Kind regards,

Owen Boswarva

Contact details

e-mail: [owen.boswarva@gmail.com](mailto:owen.boswarva@gmail.com)

telephone: [REDACTED]

address: [REDACTED]