

FOI Request (received 25 March 2024) - Reference: DFI/2024-0139

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request details in relation to MOT bookings in Northern Ireland.

More details on this can be found here: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/book-your-mot-vehicle-test-online> and <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/driver-vehicle-agency-activity-statistics>.

1. For each financial year from 2021/22 to 2023/24, please disclose the following:
 - a) The number of MOTs booked.
 - b) The number of MOTs cancelled.
2. If possible, please provide a breakdown of the above answers in Q1 for each test centre.
3. For each financial year from 2021/22 to 2023/24, please disclose the total cost of operating the overall Northern Ireland MOT service; and the total revenue generated from the MOT service.

Response (issued 23 April 2024)

Thank you for your e-mail of 25 March 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 held by this office to include the following:

1. *For each financial year from 2021/22 to 2023/24, please disclose the following:*
 - c) *The number of MOTs booked.*
 - d) *The number of MOTs cancelled.*
2. *If possible, please provide a breakdown of the above answers in Q1 for each test centre.*
3. *For each financial year from 2021/22 to 2023/24, please disclose the total cost of operating the overall Northern Ireland MOT service; and the total revenue generated from the MOT service.*

In response to the questions you have asked, please see the following.

1. *For each financial year from 2021/22 to 2023/24, please disclose the following:*
 - a. *The number of MOTs booked.*
 - b. *The number of MOTs cancelled.*

2. *If possible, please provide a breakdown of the above answers in Q1 for each test centre.*

MOT bookings, which we have interpreted as vehicle test applications, are detailed in the table below for each of the financial years specified. The figures by test centre are generated from management information, which inform published statistics. These are for all vehicle test applications during the period from 1 April to 31 March for 2021/22 and 2022/23. As data is not yet published for the full financial year 2023/24, figures are for the period from 1 April to 31 December 2023 only.

Test Centre	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024¹
Armagh	56,205	59,133	41,150
Ballymena	67,997	85,145	61,413
Belfast (Balmoral)	113,125	117,451	85,902
Coleraine	60,943	81,733	60,919
Cookstown	63,066	81,097	62,871
Craigavon	85,263	89,805	60,432
Downpatrick	43,575	54,146	35,900
Enniskillen	51,350	55,201	36,418
Larne	44,668	55,651	41,363
Lisburn	86,114	96,664	70,292
Londonderry (Newbuildings)	85,896	93,261	79,923
Mallusk	82,443	92,753	70,080
Newry	66,635	86,192	58,501
Newtownards	132,793	153,633	126,874
Omagh	42,363	49,140	33,160
Overall	1,082,436	1,251,005	925,198

¹ Figures for 2023/24 relate to Q1 to Q3 only (i.e. 1 April to 31 December 2023).

Figures requested for MOT vehicle test cancellations are not readily available.

In making our calculations, the Department considered the costs it reasonably expected to incur in carrying out the following activities in complying with your request:

- determining whether the information is held.
- locating the information.
- retrieving the information; and
- extracting the information.

We do not readily hold this information in the format you have requested. Retrieving and extracting this information, in line with your request, would involve significant amounts of staff time and requesting information from our strategic partner. The cost of complying with your request for information for the number of MOTs cancelled in 2021/2022 to 2023/24 period alone, would require significant effort to validate and test our assumptions on the original data. As such, we estimate the cost for providing this information would greatly exceed the Department's FOI threshold of £600.

3. *For each financial year from 2021/22 to 2023/24, please disclose the total cost of operating the overall Northern Ireland MOT service; and the total revenue generated from the MOT service.*

We have assumed your reference to “MOT Service” relates to the Agency’s vehicle testing service. Income and costs are recorded for the Agency’s vehicle testing service which includes the testing of motor vehicles, goods vehicles, public service vehicles and other vehicles, and also the provision of duplicate test certificates. The total cost of operating the vehicle testing service and the total revenue generated from the vehicle testing service for 2021/22 and 2022/23 are disclosed within the Business Activity Attracting Fees and Charges table (on page 89) in the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023. A link to the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 is provided below.

[DVA Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23 | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/annual-report-and-accounts-2022-23)

Audited accounts are not yet available for the 2023/24 financial year.

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