



**Information Commissioner's Office**  
Promoting public access to official information  
and protecting your personal information

## **Press Release**

### **For immediate release**

Date: 3 September 2007

### **ICO guidance explains DVLA information sharing**

The DVLA may pass on individuals' personal details if there is good reason, such as the prevention or detection of crime, according to guidance published today by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The [user-friendly guidance](#) explains to individuals the circumstances where the information might be shared without breaking data protection rules.

The DVLA keeps a register containing details of all vehicles licensed for use on the road and can pass details from the register to a third party for a number of legitimate reasons. For example, to identify vehicles on the road to help prevent and detect crime, to investigate suspected insurance fraud, to improve road safety or to ensure that vehicles are properly taxed.

Although the DVLA does not have to obtain permission before passing an individual's details to other people, the person or organisation requesting the information must prove that they have 'reasonable cause' to obtain an individual's details. For example, a company requesting information to enforce parking fees must also provide evidence that a parking charge scheme actually exists and that drivers are made aware that the scheme is in force.

Phil Jones, Assistant Commissioner at the ICO, said: "The DVLA passes on information from its register to third parties for a variety of legitimate reasons. However, the person or organisation requesting the information must always provide evidence to the DVLA which shows why their request is reasonable. It is an offence

under the Data Protection Act to unlawfully obtain information, for example by misleading the DVLA as to why the information is required.”

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded at:

## **ENDS**

If you need more information, please contact the Information Commissioner’s press office on 020 7025 7580 or visit the website at: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

### **Notes to Editors**

1. The Information Commissioner promotes public access to official information and protects personal information. The ICO is an independent body with specific responsibilities set out in the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003.
2. For more information about the Information Commissioner’s Office subscribe to our e-newsletter at [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)
3. The Information Commissioner’s Office has also published guidance to help individuals understand their rights on a number of data protection issues. These include:
  - a. Claiming compensation
  - b. Bankruptcy
  - c. The electoral register
4. Anyone who processes personal information must comply with eight principles, which make sure that personal information is:
  - Fairly and lawfully processed
  - Processed for limited purposes
  - Adequate, relevant and not excessive
  - Accurate and up to date
  - Not kept for longer than is necessary
  - Processed in line with your rights
  - Secure
  - Not transferred to other countries without adequate protection