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Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 2813

28 July 2009

Dear Mr Urquhart

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: LORD HUNT'S TRAVEL COSTS AND ASSOCIATED CARBON EMISSIONS.

Thank you for your request for information about Lord Hunt's travel costs and associated carbon emissions, which we received on 1 June 2009. We are dealing with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A copy of the information you requested is set out in the table enclosed with this letter.

You will also wish to be aware UK Government has developed a Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF) to meet the commitment to offset emissions arising from official and ministerial air travel from April 2006. This commitment was made by the Prime Minister as part of the wider UK Sustainable Development Strategy.

The Fund is available for all central Government departments to offset emissions from official and ministerial air travel in a simple and cost effective manner that will also ensure high environmental integrity. Defra is a participating department. The central feature of the Fund is a portfolio of projects under the Kyoto Protocol Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The portfolio offsets the total estimated emissions of participating departments and agencies for a period of three years, from April 2006 to April 2009.

Please note that we do not hold the information relating to the use of Ministerial cars. These are supplied by the Government Car and Despatch Agency, who also work on a carbon neutral basis using the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund. We also do not hold information on some travel arrangements booked at very short notice or overseas.

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In keeping with the spirit and effect of FOIA, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The information you requested may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. I also attach an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Rowe', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Rowe
ex-Senior Private Secretary to Lord Hunt