



HEADQUARTERS AIR COMMAND

RAF Business Secretariat 6

Mr Briels

Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Request-13478-
b87235e1@whatdotheyknow.com

24 June 2009

Dear Mr Briels

Your correspondence of 18 June 2009 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

Is it possible to provide me with the date, time and location of supersonic flights carried out over the North Sea in 2007.

I can confirm that we hold information on the subject you have requested. However I should point out that it is not held centrally. It has been assessed that the costs for which we are permitted to charge in providing this information will exceed the appropriate limit. This appropriate limit specified in regulations and for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3 and a half working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under the terms of Section 12 of the FOI Act, this means that we are not obliged to comply with your request.

The MOD may be able to provide information requested if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. For example, a specific date.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Head of Corporate Information, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

[signed electronically]

Hazel King
RAF Business Secretariat 6

The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.

If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.