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Our ref: 15-09-2009-170539-001

22 September 2009

Dear Mr Jones

Re: Freedom of Information

Your email dated 14 September 2009 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your questions:

I am looking into the effects of jet aircraft upon our weather and would like to see your weather satellite images of Britain which were produced on 11/09/2009 which show the contrails produced by aircraft.

I would also like to know whether the Met Office takes aircraft contrails into consideration when forecasting the weather, since sometimes it seems that the sky is just covered in the exhaust vapour trails from aircraft.

The Met Office holds this information.

I attach 8 pictures, 4 from the 11th and 4 from 12th, 2 visible and 2 infra red.

These pictures do show some vapour trails, especially over Ireland on the morning of the 12th, but by midday the visible picture does not show anything as the vapour trails are too thin. On the 11th there is a lot of naturally formed cirrus cloud which is mixing with the vapour trails and making it very difficult on these pictures to sort them out.

We do not take vapour trail cirrus into account in forecasts in general, as they are quite difficult to forecast if they are permanent or not, which makes all the difference to the state of the sky. However, we would mention it in forecasts if we actually saw them persisting and starting to cover the sky, something that does not happen too regularly.

I hope this answers your enquiry.

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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,

FOI Manager