



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Central FOI Unit
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

Mr Simon Calder
request-648829-e149f033@whatdotheyknow.com

23rd March 2020

Dear Mr Simon Calder

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI2020/01472

Thank you for your email of 24th February asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

“My name is Simon Calder, and I am travel correspondent for The Independent. I wish to know the cost of the three charter flights operated so far: two from China and one from Japan.

For each flight, can you kindly tell me:

The company organising the charter

The aircraft used

The number of passengers carried

The cost to the taxpayer

I look forward to hearing from you.”

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request. Please note the passenger numbers include FCO, MOD and medical staff.

	Wuhan to Brize Norton	Wuhan to Brize Norton	Tokyo to Boscombe Down
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Company	Air Partner	Air Partner	Air Partner
Aircraft	Boeing 747-400	Boeing 747-400	Boeing 747-400
Number of passengers	124	216	48

Some of the information is exempt under Section 43 (2) of the Act, which relates to commercial interests. The use of this exemption was carefully considered. The factors in favour of disclosure of this information, including the general public interest and greater transparency and accountability, were carefully weighed against the need to allow the FCO to conduct their business competitively and without fear of disclosure of sensitive commercial information. Failure to protect such commercially sensitive information would limit the interlocutors available to the FCO and limit the FCO's ability to provide the best value for money. In this case after such consideration we believe that the public interest in withholding the redacted information outweighs the public interest in its release.

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If you would like a review of our decision, or if you wish to make a complaint, please write to the Central FOI Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room WH2.177, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk. You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

You can apply directly to the Information Commissioner. However, the Information Commissioner will not normally make a decision unless you have first exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Central FOI Unit



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