



Mr Tony Wise
E-mail: request-92813-4c8fcdcf@whatdotheyknow.com

Frances Shailer
HEADQUARTERS AIR COMMAND
Air Command Secretariat

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Our Ref: 10-11-2011-164740-013

05 December 2011

Dear Mr Wise

Thank you for your e-mail dated 10 November 2011 in which you requested information about the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team (RAFAT), more commonly known as the Red Arrows. This is being treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am responding on behalf of Headquarters Air Command which has responsibility for the Red Arrows. Your request was as follows:

1. Please supply the level of the budget allocated to maintenance of the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team for the years 2000-01 to 2011-12. I require these figures in real terms taking account of inflation.
2. Please supply the staffing levels allocated to maintenance teams for these years.
3. Please supply all staffing costs for the years above for the maintenance team. I require these figures in real terms taking account of inflation and pay rises.

I can confirm that we hold information on the subject you have requested. However, 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 is specified in regulations and for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. We estimate that it would take approximately 28 working days to provide you with the information you have requested. 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 you with information about this subject if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. For example, if you requested information about the RAFAT staffing levels and their cost, together with annual



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maintenance costings dating back to Financial Year 2007-08 then we may well be able to assist you. Please note that we are only obliged to release recorded information under the FOI Act, so we will not be able to provide you with adjusted information taking account of inflation and pay rises as you requested in your e-mail dated 10 November 2011. Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require further advice on doing so.

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, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@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>.

I hope this information is useful.

Yours sincerely

[Original Signed]

Frances Shailer
Air Command Secretariat 4b1



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