



Mr Tony Wise

Ceri Baker
HEADQUARTERS AIR COMMAND
Air Command Secretariat

Spitfire Block
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

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

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23 January 2012

Dear Mr Wise,

Thank you for your e-mail of 22 December 2011 in which you requested information about the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team (RAFAT), more commonly known as the Red Arrows. This has been considered as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I am responding on behalf of Headquarters Air Command which has responsibility for the Red Arrows.

This followed your e-mail of 10 November 2011 in which you requested the budget allocated to maintenance of the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the staffing levels and the staffing costs allocated to their maintenance teams for the Financial Years 2007-08 to 2011-12. I can confirm the MOD does hold information within the scope of your request. This information is provided below.

Financial Year	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
RAFAT Establishment (Engineering Personnel)	68	69	69	69	69
RAFAT Numbers of Engineering Personnel	68	66	68	71	71
Cost of RAFAT Engineering Personnel £ Million	2.92	2.94	3.00	3.12	3.12

The costings and figures provided in the table relate to direct pay costs only and exclude pilots, administrative staff and non-engineering trades. Support costs such as travel and subsistence are not included as providing this information would exceed the appropriate costs limit.

Information relating to Defence Equipment and Support costs which covers maintenance of RAFAT is not held in the format which you have requested dating back to Financial Year 2007-



08 as it is recorded against individual units rather than aircraft types and therefore this information could not be provided without exceeding the appropriate costs limit. However, I am able to advise you that this expenditure in Financial Year 2010-11 amounted to approximately £900K. In Financial Year 2011-12 it is anticipated that RAFAT maintenance expenditure will amount to about £765K. This reduction is due to RAFAT's reduced flying hours during this period.

I hope this is helpful.

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>.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

Mr Ceri Baker
Air Director Resources Secretariat 4b

