



Ministry of Defence

Army Policy and Secretariat
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06 February 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 11 January 2023 in which you requested the following information:

I would like to refine my request as per your advice - can I ask, what funds - other than public - may pay for adventurous training?

My refined request is below please provide the answer to the first question as well as as much of the further requested information as possible within the time and cost limits:

1. The total public funds committed to Adventurous Training Courses and expeditions and number of participants for the training years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22, with subtotals for each year.

2. For the three most expensive trips in 2021/22, please state the activity, the duration, the number of people that attended and IF POSSIBLE the spend on hotel, spend on travel etc.

2. IF POSSIBLE: For each year, please provide a breakdown of spending by activity. For example, £200,000 Nordic skiing in Norway, £300,000 scuba diving in Indonesia, £150,000 sailing in Corfu etc.). If it is not possible for every year, please just provide 2021/22.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held and is provided at Annex A.

For part 2 of the request, total public spend for Adventure Training courses could not be provided. The data is held but has not been compiled and is therefore not held by the Department. This is because the raw data does exist but would need to be analysed to produce a new information set. As we do not hold this information set, we are not required to provide it under the framework of the Act.

For part 4 of the request, only information for training years 2021/2022 could be provided. If any further data was provided, this would cause the request to exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person

spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving, and extracting it.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Freedom of Information act, please be advised that Adventurous Training is designed to take individuals outside their comfort zone. The Adventurous Training Leadership and Resilience programme (ALeRT) develops leadership, resilience, coping strategies, decision making, teamwork, physical fitness and courage. With this comes a sense of achievement and camaraderie through tackling challenges together. A renewed sense of self determination makes for better soldiers and enables better lifestyle decisions.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,



Army Policy & Secretariat

Annex A

Caveats

- Please note that these figures are single service estimates and are not official statistics produced by Defence Statistics.

1. What funds - other than public - may pay for adventurous training?

- The only area of Adventurous Training (AT) where non-public funds are required are Expeditions and they are voluntary. They consist of non-public money that Corps, Regiments, Trusts, and Army Sports Lottery may wish to make available. Personal contributions are also accepted.

2. The total public funds committed to Adventurous Training Courses and expeditions and number of participants for the training years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22

Training Year	Number of Personnel attending AT Courses
19/20	7,909
20/21	2,171
21/22	5,701

Training Year	Number of Personnel attending and cost (public spend) for expeditions	
	Personnel	Public Spend (£)
19/20	31,140	8,726,997.25
20/21	5,652	562,367.15
21/22	18,068	4,651,663.96

3. For the three most expensive trips in 2021/22, please state the activity, the duration, the number of people that attended and IF POSSIBLE the spend on hotel, spend on travel etc.

- Under category for Other Expenditure, "Other" refers to all additional costs including but not limited to lift passes, unforeseen costs etc.
- Under category for Travel, "Other" refers to all additional travel costs including but not limited to coach transfers, parking etc.

Finance Type	Type	Category	Amount (£)
Expenditure	Other Expenditure	Accommodation	75,544.00
		Equipment Hire	14,596.27
		Food	5,341.00
		Insurance	5,450.24
		Other	76,236.99

	Travel	Ferry/Shuttle	660
		Flights	6,240.00
		Fuel	1,945.13
		Other	29,655.90
		Road Tolls	450.47
		Vehicles	4,250.00
Total Cost:			220,370.00

- Activity: Skiing (Alpine) & Skiing (Alpine Touring)
- Number of Personnel: 262
- Number of Days: 33
- Expenditure includes public and non-public funds. This cannot be separated out.

Finance Type	Type	Category	Amount (£)
Expenditure	Other Expenditure	Accommodation	43,288.00
		Equipment Hire	7,465.00
		Food	16,342.46
		Insurance	4,000.00
		Other	40,625.5
	Travel	Ferry/Shuttle	20,000.00
Total Cost:			131,720.96

- Activity: Skiing (Alpine)
- Number of Personnel: 154
- Number of Days: 22
- Expenditure includes public and non-public funds. This cannot be separated out.

Finance Type	Type	Category	Amount (£)
Expenditure	Other Expenditure	Accommodation	59,910.00
		Equipment Hire	7,200.00
		Food	15,962.00
		Other	43,519
	Travel	Other	240
		Road Tolls	3,000.00
Total Cost			129,831.00

- Activity: Skiing (Alpine) & Skiing (Alpine Touring)
- Number of Personnel: 85
- Number of Days: 15
- Expenditure includes public and non-public funds. This cannot be separated out.

4. IF POSSIBLE: For each year, please provide a breakdown of spending by activity. For example, £200,000 Nordic skiing in Norway, £300,000 scuba diving in Indonesia, £150,000 sailing in Corfu etc.). If it is not possible for every year, please just provide 2021/22.

- Where there is a "0" in public money spent, it means there were no public funds used for that expedition.

Activity	Country	Number of Expeditions	Number of Personnel	Public Money (£)	Total Public Money Spent per Activity (£)
Caving	United Kingdom (UK)	2	21	3129.5	3129.5
Gliding	United Kingdom (UK)	1	13	1085.1	1085.1
Kayaking (Inland)	United Kingdom (UK)	13	113	11017.43	11017.43
Kayaking (Sea)	Cyprus	2	24	9114.54	10768.5
	United Kingdom (UK)	1	17	1653.96	
Mountain Biking	United Kingdom (UK)	35	450	34,373.55	34373.55
Mountaineering (Alpine)	France	1	2	2274.69	2274.69
Mountaineering (Summer)	Bulgaria	1	11	12295	272049.69
	Chile	1	29	41027.24	
	Corsica	1	18	10800	
	France	1	15	10055.75	
	Jordan	1	6	5938.02	
	Kenya	4	52	26115	
	Nepal	1	14	31506.72	
	United Kingdom (UK)	104	1610	100,121.72	
	United States of America (USA)	1	16	34190.24	
Mountaineering (Winter)	France	1	17	10913	27038.37
	United Kingdom (UK)	9	103	16125.37	
Multi-Activity	Andorra	3	52	33968.12	2368358.37
	Austria	12	649	472462.72	
	Belize	1	121	29063.65	
	Bulgaria	1	39	52626.9	
	Canada	1	105	29810.76	
	Cyprus	4	285	5301.54	
	France	44	1786	1165764.36	
	Germany	4	137	33584.27	
	Italy	1	24	21535.02	
	Oman	2	426	0	
	Spain	1	15	13061.25	
	Switzerland	1	67	103937.63	
	United Kingdom (UK)	219	7952	407242.15	
Offshore Sailing	Antigua & Barbuda	1	8	9192	134477.65
	Channel Islands	1	15	1656.25	
	Croatia	1	8	6302.64	
	Cyprus	6	41	3115.66	

	France	5	60	8247.89	
	United Kingdom (UK)	84	1007	105963.21	
Open Canoeing	United Kingdom (UK)	6	80	6961.18	6961.18
Parachuting	France	1	14	25828.69	165070.05
	Spain	1	11	16017.27	
	United Kingdom (UK)	2	62	9750	
	United States of America (USA)	3	81	113474.09	
Rock Climbing	Cyprus	1	24	0	33761.65
	Spain	3	45	15479.85	
	United Kingdom (UK)	18	260	18281.8	
Skiing (Alpine Touring)	Austria	2	25	21580.69	130768.32
	Bulgaria	1	52	27411.91	
	France	2	52	44923.93	
	Italy	1	24	22247.43	
	Norway	1	6	8871.36	
	Romania	1	7	5733	
Skiing (Alpine)	Austria	4	188	123424.21	1395365.66
	France	45	1690	1231778.8	
	Germany	1	31	23733.65	
	Italy	1	20	16429	
	Scotland	1	18	0	
Skiing (Nordic Touring)	Norway	1	14	12573.14	12573.14
Skiing (Nordic)	Iceland	1	2	8225.31	8225.31
Sub-Aqua Diving	Cyprus	1	13	10643.18	18156.47
	Gibraltar	1	9	7513.29	
Winter Climbing	Norway	1	12	16209.33	16209.33