



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Ref. 2020/10607

19 October 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 21 September 2020 asking about costs for the Red Arrows. Specifically, you requested the following information:

"I would like to know how much money it costs to maintain having the RAF Red arrows display team?

This should include all costs, planes (in spare aircraft), ground and flight personnel wage costs.

Fuel, spares and all accommodations including costs incurred abroad. Any estimated costs for replacement of aircraft"

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

Operating costs for the Red Arrows for Financial Year 2019/20 were some £13.3 Million. This figure, which includes revenue from display charges, comprises a wide range of expenditure including pay, aviation and ground fuel, administration and travel and subsistence. It includes costs incurred on the 11-week North American tour undertaken by the team and its support elements. The figure however excludes wider engineering costs and the cost of some spares and technical advice, which cannot be separately identified from the overarching fleet-wide Hawk T1 multi-year in-service support contracts.

Information is not held on any estimated costs for replacement of aircraft. This is because the decision about a replacement for the Hawk T1 has not been taken yet.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

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 CI0-

FOI-IR@mod.gov.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 faithfully


Secretariat 3a1
Air Command