

Ref No: FOI 12/1358

Thank you for your email of 21 September where you requested information about the Department of Energy and Climate Change's (DECC's) use of air travel. Your specific questions were:

A) Separately for the 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years, please state:

1. The total number of flights (separated into domestic and international) taken by Ministers within your Department.
2. The total number of flights (separated into domestic and international) taken by Civil Servants/Officials within your Department.

Where the information is held, please also state which UK airports the departures were made from.

If the flights were domestic, please state both the arrival and departure airports.

B) Separately for the 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years, please state:

1. The total number of occasions (specifying destinations, purpose, and nationality of air carrier) on which your Department chartered an aircraft for the purpose of transporting people and/or cargo.
2. The total spend on travel using British registered air carriers.
3. The total spend on travel using foreign registered air carriers.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would 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, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

From our preliminary assessment, we estimate that it will take us in excess of 3.5 working days to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract all the information in reference to your request. In order to provide you with the information on the scale that you have requested would require reviewing individual travel and subsistence claims and individual invoices allocated to the relevant account codes on the Department's finance system.

I can however provide data relating to flights booked through the Department's official supplier, which I believe will be helpful to you. Some details of suppliers are missing. This information is at Annex 1.

We are unable to provide information on the spend for British or foreign carriers as the travel data we hold does not include airline company registration details.

It is possible that some flights may have been booked directly with carriers by staff and the costs reimbursed. We do not hold details of such flights centrally. Use of mandated suppliers ensures that the most cost effective and suitable flights are identified.

The Department chartered no aircraft in either year.

Information about DECC Ministers' overseas travel can be found on the DECC website.

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/overseas/overseas.aspx>

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the department. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.