



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear ,

Thank you for your email of 16 December in which you requested the following information:

“To clarify the request, I would be grateful if you could provide the following:

1. A copy of the document called ‘Civil Engagement Finance Directive’
2. A copy of Joint Service Publication 360: Use of Military Airfields by British and Foreign Civil Aircraft
3. A copy of Joint Service Publication 368: MOD Finance Guide to Repayment.”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. A copy of the information which can be released is enclosed.

Some information held by the Department falling within scope of your request is exempt from release under sections 40 Personal information and 27(1) International Relations of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore withheld. Section 40 is an absolute exemptions and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information. I have, therefore, redacted names and contact information contained within both JSP 360 and 368.

Section 27 is a qualified exemption, which means a public interest test has had to be undertaken to establish if whether the information should be released. The release of Appendix 4 of JSP 360 would allow access to Government and how it undertakes its public functions. It would also be in line with the Government’s wish to be open and transparent. However, the release of the information could damage relations with the countries listed, which may take issue with the additional clearances required of them for their aircraft to use MOD airfields. Having taken regard to the arguments both for and against release, I have decided to withhold Appendix 4 of JSP 360.

I should advise that the Civil Engagement Finance Directive is a guidance document for the Army only. It is, therefore, only used in the context of Army business, within its delegations, and is not universally used within the wider department.

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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 Information Rights Compliance team, 1st 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,

Army Secretariat