



Ministry of Defence

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

Ref. 2014/02755

[REDACTED]

7 August 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 24 June 2013 asking for information about passengers in Red Arrows aircraft.

You requested the following information:

Could you please provide the names of any individual who is not a member of the UK military who has flown as a passenger in any of the Red Arrow aircraft since May 2010. For each individual could you please provide the date of their flight and the location.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have now completed a search of our paper and electronic records for the information you requested and I can confirm that some information within the scope of your request is held. The Red Arrows does not hold data relating to non UK military passengers prior to February 2013.

Information relating to non UK military passengers in Red Arrows aircraft for the period February 2013 onwards can be found in the table at Annex A. Names of individuals that are not public figures or of senior rank have been withheld within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at Section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA. The name of one individual has been withheld under Section 27(International Relations) of the FOIA and one under Section 23 (Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters).

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information. Section 23 is also an absolute exemption and again, there is no requirement to consider the public interest in deciding to withhold the information.

Section 27(1)a of the FOI Act provides that we should withhold information which has the potential to adversely affect relations with our allies. The Act requires that we have to carry out a public interest (PI) test in this respect to show that the reasons for withholding the information outweigh the reasons for releasing the information.

Public Interest (PI) factors in favour of disclosing the information requested:

- The public interest in ensuring that the passenger flights in Red Arrows aircraft are limited and correctly administered.
- To provide a detailed measure of the level of passenger activity in Red Arrows aircraft.
- To develop an understanding of the role of the Red Arrows in promoting both the RAF and the wider UK.

Public Interest (PI) factors against disclosing the information requested:

- There is a very strong public interest in maintaining trust and confidence between states and international organisations as a key tenet of international relations.
- Releasing the name of a senior figure in another country without their permission, which is extremely unlikely to be given would undermine the relationship of trust that exists between the UK and another country.
- Damaging this relationship could have serious strategic and economic implications for the UK.

Section 27(1)(a) has been applied because some of the information has the potential to adversely affect relations with our allies. The balance of the public interest test concluded that whilst release would increase public understanding and confidence that the opportunities for passenger flights in Red Arrows aircraft are limited and carefully controlled, the balance of the public interest lay in withholding this information you desire. It is considered that in one specific instance, the release of personal details would be likely to adversely affect relations with our allies. There remains a strong public interest in preserving the UK's relations with its allies at a time of international uncertainty and tension.

I conclude that the balance of the public interest for providing full details of the names of overseas passengers in Red Arrows aircraft is firmly in favour of maintaining the exemption under S.27(1) and thus of withholding the information.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that all non UK military passenger sorties are flown as part of routine training or practice sorties.

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,



Air DRes Sec 3a1

Annex A to FOI2014/02755

NAME	EXEMPTION	DATE	LOCATION
Miss H Skelton	N/A	11 Feb 13	RAF Cranwell
	S.23	25-Feb-13	RAF Cranwell
	S.40	13-Mar-13	HAF Andravida - Greece
	S.40	13-Mar-13	HAF Andravida - Greece
	S.40	14-Mar-13	HAF Andravida - Greece
	S.40	14-Mar-13	HAF Andravida - Greece
	S.40	15 Mar 13	HAF Andravida - Greece
	S.40	15-Mar-13	HAF Andravida - Greece
	S.40	19-Mar-13	HAF Andravida - Greece
	S.40	19 & 20 Mar 13	HAF Andravida - Greece
	S.40	20 & 21 Mar 13	HAF Andravida - Greece
	S.40	21 Mar 13	HAF Andravida - Greece
	S.40	22-Mar-13	HAF Andravida - Greece
	S.40	22-Mar-13	HAF Andravida - Greece
	S.40	24 Apr 13	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
	S.40	24 Apr 13	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
	S.40	24 Apr 13	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
	S.40	24 Apr 13	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
	S.40	26-Apr-13	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
Mr E J van Koningsveld	N/A	10 & 13 May 13	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
Mr L Hamilton	N/A	21 Jun 13	RAF Scampton
Mr D Coulthard	N/A	21 Jun 13	RAF Scampton
Mr J Hunter	N/A	20 & 21 Jul 13	RAF Fairford
Mr A Manley	N/A	03-Oct-13	RAF Scampton
	S.40	18-Nov-13	Dubai
	S.40	18-Nov-13	Dubai
	S.27	20-Nov-13	Dubai
Mr E Hobart	N/A	20-Nov-13	Dubai
	S.40	14-Apr-14	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
Mr J Hunter	N/A	28-30 Apr 14	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
Mr K Tokunaga	N/A	28,29,30 Apr 14	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
	S.40	02 May 14	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
	S.40	05 May 14	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
Mr S Wagen	N/A	07-May-14	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
Mr K Tokunaga	N/A	2,5,7,8,14 May 14	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
	S.40	14 May 14	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
	S.40	15-May-14	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
	S.40	19 May 14	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
	S.40	19-May-14	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
Mr T Fletcher	N/A	19-May-14	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus
	S.40	19 May 14	RAF Scampton
	S.40	19 & 20 May 14	RAF Scampton
	S.40	19 & 20 May 14	RAF Scampton
	S.40	19 & 20 May 14	RAF Scampton
	S.40	23 May 14	RAF Akrotiri - Cyprus

HAF = Hellenic Air Force