



# Ministry of Defence

Defence Resources Secretariat  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB  
United Kingdom

Reference: FOI2016/03539

[Redacted]

E-mail: [Redacted]

Date: 14 April 2016

Dear [Redacted],

Your correspondence dated 22 March 2016 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

1. Please provide details of the costs and expenses incurred on travel and hotel expenditure and associated meals by the MoD for the 2014/15 financial year.
2. For the 2015 calendar year where the cost of the hotel per night was in excess of £300 please provide the details of the name of those hotels, the number of room nights booked and the total cost to the MoD. If this request exceeds the appropriate FOI request costing for the twelve - month period please reduce the period accordingly ie six months, three months etc?

Please find below the information you requested.

## 1. Costs and Expenses Incurred on Travel and Hotel Expenditure and Associated Meals.

The Ministry of Defence's (MOD) expenditure on travel, hotels and associated meals for 2014/15 was £221.5 million. This expenditure includes rail, air and other public transport fares, auto rental, use of a private vehicle, overnight accommodation and meals and refreshments. In addition, we estimate that the cost of running the MOD's leased continuous use and rental service cars (including fuel) has been in the region of £50 million in each of the last five financial years.

## 2. Hotels Costing More than £300 a Night.

The table below contains information on hotels costing more than £300 a night per person for the 2015 calendar year.

Hotel Name	Hotel Location	Number of Room Nights	Cost
xx	ABU DHABI	5	£1,500
xx	ABUJA	9	£2,700
Hilton Adelaide	ADELAIDE	1	£317
Embassy Suites Crystal City	ARLINGTON	10	£3,153
Hilton Arlington And Towers	ARLINGTON	1	£429
Marriott Crystal Gateway	ARLINGTON	9	£3,199
NH Du Grand Sablon Brussels	BRUSSELS	1	£332

Thon Hotel EU	BRUSSELS	2	£695
Hilton Vancouver Metrotown	BURNABY	1	£328
Cape Grace	CAPE TOWN	4	£1,936
Curtis Hotel	DENVER	4	£1,470
XX	DJIBOUTI	6	£1,800
XX	DUBAI	6	£1,800
XX	DUBAI	1	£400
XX	DUBAI	3	£900
XX	DUBAI	7	£4,900
Sunborn Gibraltar	GIBRALTAR	20	£8,880
Grand Hotel Europa	INNSBRUCK	3	£975
51 Buckingham Gate Taj Suites	LONDON	4	£3,200
Ambassadors Bloomsbury	LONDON	3	£1,047
Bloomsbury Park Hotel	LONDON	1	£311
Charing Cross	LONDON	5	£1,620
Crowne Plaza London The City	LONDON	4	£1,306
Doubletree by Hilton Islington	LONDON	4	£1,356
Doubletree by Hilton London	LONDON	2	£648
Grosvenor Thistle Victoria	LONDON	1	£315
Grosvenor Victoria	LONDON	3	£1,143
Holiday Inn Camden Lock	LONDON	7	£2,583
Holiday Inn Express London Greenwich	LONDON	1	£310
Marriott London Regents Park	LONDON	3	£1,080
Millennium Baileys Hotel	LONDON	2	£745
Millennium Copthorne Chelsea	LONDON	1	£389
Millennium Hotel Knightsbridge	LONDON	1	£489
Park Lane Hotel London	LONDON	1	£312
Park Plaza Westminster Bridge	LONDON	18	£7,338
Radisson Blu Edwardian Grafton Hotel	LONDON	4	£1,248
Radisson Kenilworth Hotel	LONDON	2	£700
Royal Horseguards Hotel	LONDON	3	£1,696
The Cavendish London	LONDON	1	£323
Thistle Euston	LONDON	3	£1,029
Thistle London Piccadilly	LONDON	4	£1,370
Tower A Guoman Hotel	LONDON	14	£5,106
Doubletree by Hilton Luxembourg	LUXEMBOURG	2	£810
NH Parque Avenidas	MADRID	8	£3,154
Renaissance Manchester Hotel	MANCHESTER	3	£1,002
XX	N'DJAMENA	14	£4,200
Citadines Nice Promenade	NICE	1	£366
Pacific Hotel	OSTENDE	6	£3,822
Embassy Suites Mandalay Beach/	OXNARD CA	6	£1,918
De Lille Hotel	PARIS	1	£332
Holiday Inn Paris Elysees	PARIS	5	£1,627
Hotel D Orsay	PARIS	1	£301
Hyatt Paris Madeleine	PARIS	3	£915
Mercure Paris La Sorbonne St Germain des Pres	PARIS	1	£362
NOVOTEL PARIS LES HALLES	PARIS	3	£955
Saint Dominique Hotel	PARIS	4	£1,513
Hyatt at the Bellevue	PHILADELPHIA	2	£637

Comwell Roskilde	ROSKILDE	3	£1,174
Best Western Americana	SAN FRANCISCO	6	£2,130
Holiday Inn San Francisco-Civic Center	SAN FRANCISCO	3	£1,111
Four Points By Sheraton Sydney	SYDNEY	10	£3,639
Novotel Sydney Darling Harbour	SYDNEY	3	£1,032
Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney	SYDNEY	1	£337
Sofitel Wentworth Sydney	SYDNEY	1	£344
XX	TEL AVIV	3	£900
New Otani The Main Hotel	TOKYO	4	£1,245
Four Seasons Toronto	TORONTO	2	£846
Hilton Universal City And Twrs	UNIVERSAL CITY	1	£306
Melia Valencia Palacio de Congresos	VALENCIA	4	£1,914
Grand Hotel Excelsior	VALLETTA	1	£417
Hotel La Prima Fashion	VIENNA	3	£978
Polonia Palace Hotel	WARSAW	6	£2,614
Hilton Capital Hotel	WASHINGTON	4	£1,385
Grand Hyatt Washington	WASHINGTON D.C.	4	£1,304
Hotel Rouge	WASHINGTON D.C.	20	£6,495

Section 38(1) (Health and Safety) has been applied to the names of certain hotels because their disclosure would be likely to endanger the safety of Defence staff and the staff of Defence service providers and their families. Section 38 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that we are currently living through a period of heightened terrorist threat and we have a duty of care to both our own employees and those of our service providers and their families to do all we can to secure their personal safety. There may moreover not be many suitable safe and secure locations in some parts of the world which places constraints on the opportunities to vary travel arrangements. We must in particular be alert to the possibility that terrorists may seek to target hotel locations both to kill, injure or take hostage members of our Armed Forces or our civilian staff and to punish those perceived as helping us. While the likelihood of such attacks is generally relatively low in most parts of the world, there are areas where we assess that the risks associated with the release of hotel names include a reduction in the potential anonymity of staff and a potential undermining of the counter-espionage measures and safety advice provided to Defence staffs travelling to those areas. It might also assist terrorists or foreign intelligence agencies to commit a hostile activity if they were to have access to a more refined pattern of hotel usage than they may otherwise have had.

We have therefore redacted the information provided accordingly and have rounded the cost using the average room rate for these hotels rounded to the nearest £100 in calculating the total cost.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA, public authorities are required to provide advice and assistance while processing FOI requests, and I have therefore included some additional information below that you may find useful.

We seek to minimise the risks to our staff while they are conducting MOD business, for example through providing advice on varying their travel arrangements.

Hotels are used by Service and civilian personnel on official business for MOD. The amount that may normally be spent by a member of MOD staff (whether Service or civilian) for a night at a hotel is capped depending on the destination, with exceptions to the cap requiring prior approval. Such exemptions will be authorised where, for example, there is limited availability of hotel accommodation (eg, because of conferences or other events), where a Host Nation organises a conference at a specific hotel, in medical emergencies, in compassionate cases and where there are good business reasons for doing so (eg, where the associated travel costs at the destination would have exceeded the additional cost of the accommodation).

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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.org.uk>.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Resources Secretariat