



Ministry
of Defence

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3 November 2015

By e-mail to: [REDACTED]

Reference: FOI2015/08722

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 8 October in which you asked for:

"between the financial years 2007-2015, how much the Ministry of Defence spent per year on first class train travel for UK journeys for its employees and what the percentage was for those under four hours (each way if a return) for members of staff on detached duty."

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

I confirm that the MOD holds information on expenditure on first-class rail travel by our military and civilian employees for financial years 2008-09 to 2014-15 inclusive, which I provide in the table below. I regret that we do not hold this information for financial year 2007-08 and would explain that there is no statutory obligation to retain financial and contractual records for more than six historical years. Although we are able to provide seven years' worth of data in this instance, because information on 2008-09 has previously been published, comparable information for 2007-08 has not previously been published. We do not hold information on journey length.

Financial Year	Expenditure on First Class Rail Travel
2008-09	£6,497,000
2009-10	£5,613,977
2010-11	£228,714
2011-12	£89,860
2012-13	£47,094
2013-14	£70,437
2014-15	£44,386

By way of context, the rapidly changing profile of expenditure over the period is attributable to policies that minimise the administrative overhead to maximise the amounts we can spend on our Armed Forces. First-class rail travel is therefore now authorised only exceptionally, mainly for medical or compassionate reasons, to meet the needs of staff with disabilities or for solo-occupancy sleeper travel.

I hope this is helpful. 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.