



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Our ref: RFI 7159
4 March 2015

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Flights for Amanda Craig

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 13 January 2015, about flight details for Amanda Craig. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked for a list of all the flights paid for by the Department for Amanda Craig during her tenure as Special Adviser to the Secretary of State between September 2012 and July 2014, including the date, cost, destination and class of travel for each.

Some of the information requested is being withheld as it is covered by two exemptions under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Both of these exemptions concern personal data, which relates to persons other than the applicant. They provide that information is exempt if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

We have decided that the exemption in s. 40(2) and (3)(a)(i) applies to the information in question, as disclosure would be unfair to the data subject and, therefore, would breach the first data protection principle. This is an absolute exemption and does not require us to carry out a separate consideration of whether the public interest favours disclosure.

In addition, the exemption in s. 40(2) and (3)(a)(ii) applies to the same information, as we have concluded that disclosure would contravene s. 10 of the Data Protection Act. This exemption requires a public interest test to be carried out, and we have considered the public interest in transparency, particularly relating to the expenditure of public money and work undertaken by Special Advisers balanced against the public interest in the protection of personal data and privacy of individuals. Our conclusion is that the public interest requires that we withhold the information in question.

Annex C sets out some of the information you have requested. Please note that the data incorporates flights that were paid for up to July 2014.

Data relating to the current financial year (2014/15) is included within this answer. This data is provisional, has not yet been independently audited and may be subject to revisions before being finalised.



In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt.

Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on www.gov.uk together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you. I also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Defra FOIA and EIRs Team
InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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Annex B

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to [REDACTED] Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Annex C: Flights for Amanda Craig from September 2012 to July 2014

Travel Date	Journey		Class	Ticket Type	Cost (£)
	From	To			
12/11/2012	London Heathrow	Shanghai	Business	Return	8110.09
15/11/2012	Shanghai	Guangzhou	First	Single	312.00
12/02/2013	Edinburgh	London City	Economy	Single	273.52
14/02/2013	Amsterdam	London Heathrow	Business	Single	384.00
24/02/2013	Manchester	Brussels	Business	Single	621.00
25/02/2013	Brussels	London	Economy	Single	161.50
17/03/2013	Manchester	Brussels	Economy	Single	414.59
20/03/2013	Brussels	London Heathrow	Business	Single	374.60
21/04/2013	Manchester	Brussels	Business	Single	632.63
22/04/2013	Luxembourg	London City	Economy	Single	406.40
11/06/2013	London Gatwick	Edinburgh	Economy	Single	60.77
23/06/2013	London Gatwick	Luxembourg	Economy	Single	155.93
26/06/2013	Luxembourg	London City	Economy	Single	373.50
29/06/2013	London Heathrow	Washington Dulles (via JFK New York)	Business	Return	5065.45
16/07/2013	London Luton	Vilnius	Economy	Single	336.88
17/07/2013	Vilnius	London Heathrow (via Copenhagen)	Business	Return	452.10
05/08/2013	London Heathrow	Warsaw	Business	Return	769.60
06/08/2013	Gdansk	Bristol	Business	Single	1910.00
22/09/2013	Manchester	Brussels	Business	Single	168.00
22/09/2013	Manchester	Brussels	Economy	Single	378.37
06/10/2013	Manchester	Frankfurt	Economy	Single	179.64
08/10/2013	Cologne	London Stansted	Economy	Single	181.50
13/10/2013	London Heathrow	Luxembourg	Economy	Single	265.90
14/10/2013	Luxembourg	London City	Economy	Single	133.90
31/10/2013	London Heathrow	Nairobi	Business	Return	5270.65
16/01/2014	London Heathrow	Berlin Tegel	Economy	Single	92.30
22/04/2014	London City	Edinburgh	Economy	Single	321.19
12/05/2014	Edinburgh	London Heathrow	Economy	Single	190.98
18/06/2014	London City	Edinburgh	Economy	Single	200.19