



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Our Ref: FOI2017/08198

18 October 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of the 28 August 2017 requesting the following information:

*I am writing with the hope of finding the full budget allocated to the RAF Red Arrows' Middle East tour, scheduled for autumn 2017. This should include the cost of any additional events directly related to the tour hosted by the MOD.*

*Given that such tours are often planned years in advance (such as the Asia tour of 2016, which required 18 months of planning), can you please confirm whether any other future large-scale tours are currently being planned or considered, including the proposed dates and locations of these tours.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information you requested has now been completed and I can confirm that the MOD holds some information in scope of your request.

The Red Arrows tour of the Middle East is primarily funded from within the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team (RAFAT) standard allocation of flying hours for 2017/18. The cost associated directly with the flying hours (predominantly consumption of fuel) does not form part of the cost of the tour. The flying hours have been budgeted for as part of the overall funded Hawk flying hours i.e. the tour will not incur additional flying costs, as the flying hours will be absorbed from within the Red Arrows existing funded programme of activity. However, estimated costs of the tour are expected to be in the region of £1M, with the vast majority relating to Travel and Subsistence, with smaller amounts required for IT, contract costs and landing fees.

Future plans for the next major RAFAT tour are still being considered.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA you may find the following useful. The Red Arrows are a key part of defence engagement and are an internationally recognised symbol of GREAT Britain. The Red Arrows tour will maximise our contribution to international defence engagement in support of the Department of International Trade's (DIT) GREAT campaign, promoting the UK in key foreign markets. The GREAT Britain campaign is the Government's most ambitious international marketing campaign ever. It showcases the very best the nation has to offer to encourage the world to visit, study and to do business with the UK.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground 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 should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Air Command Secretariat