



Ministry of Defence

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

Ref. 2017/9126

[REDACTED]

1 December 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 21 September asking for information about the RAF's VIP Voyager. You requested the following information:

"...details of the costs of the VIP flights made by Voyager ZZ336, since the RAF refuelling aircraft was refurbished to carry members of the royal family and senior members of the Government.

Following a previous FOI request (attached - Ref 2017/8146) I have a list of the VIP flights made by Voyager and would like the individual costs of each of the 12 flights listed.

Could you also send me details of the refuelling trips the aircraft has made since August 9, 2017, giving details of the date it flew, whether it was an operation or exercise, and if it refuelled a UK or foreign aircraft.

I would also like the cost of the refuelling flights undertaken by the aircraft from, and including, July 12, 2016 to the date of this request.

If individual costs for the flights are not possible could you give an overall cost figure. I have also attached a previous FOI request (Ref 2017/7928) which lists refuelling flights from July last year until August."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

Firstly, I should point out that the MOD does not routinely record the cost of either individual flights or individual aircraft. We therefore do not hold information relating to the cost of the VIP Voyager being used in its refuelling role. That having been said, the MOD seeks re-imbursements of costs for the use of Voyager ZZ336 in the VIP role based on an agreed charge which covers elements such as engineering costs, aviation fuel, manpower costs and other variable local costs such as landing fees, handling or parking.

Travel costs for Ministers and the Royal Household including the use of Voyager are withheld under Section 21 (*Information reasonably accessible to the applicant through other means*) as they are available on line and can be found at the following links:

Chancellor of the Exchequer

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmt-ministers-meetings-hospitality-gifts-and-overseas-travel-1-april-to-30-june-2017>

Prime Minister

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ministers-transparency-publications>

Foreign Secretary

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662942/July - September Q2 2016 Ministerial Travel costs.csv/preview](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662942/July_-_September_Q2_2016_Ministerial_Travel_costs.csv/preview)

Royal Household

<https://www.royal.uk/financial-reports-2016-17>

Details of refuelling flights carried out by ZZ336 for the period 10 August to 21 September 2017 inclusive are given at Annex A. Details of a refuelling flight carried out on 9 August were provided in my previous FOI response of 22 August 2017 and have therefore been excluded from this return.

Finally, please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request.

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). 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,


Air DRes Sec 3a1

Event	Date	Receiver Task	UK Receiver aircraft?	Foreign receiver aircraft
There were a total of 7 Air-to-Air Refuelling Sorties in the requested period				
1	14-Aug-17	Exercise	Yes	No
2	17-Aug-17	Exercise	Yes	No
3	22-Aug-17	Exercise	No	Yes
4	24-Aug-17	Exercise	Yes	No
5	06-Sep-17	Exercise	Yes	No
6	07-Sep-17	Exercise	Yes	No
7	14-Sep-17	Exercise	Yes	No