



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref. 2019/01276

[REDACTED]

25 February 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 29 January 2019 asking about delays to flights between the UK and the Falkland Islands. Specifically, you requested information about:

*"Percentage of the AirTanker airbridge flights between RAF Brize Norton and RAF Mount Pleasant that were delayed in the past 12 months.
If possible, a breakdown of the reasons cited for delays."*

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 information within the scope of your request is held.

During the period 1 January to 31 December 2018 there were 384 flights undertaken of which 47 (some 12%) were delayed by 20 minutes or more after scheduled departure time. The journey from the UK to the Falkland Islands is undertaken in legs from RAF Brize Norton to Cape Verde and then from Cape Verde to the RAF Mount Pleasant. Each leg is recorded as a separate flight. Figures exclude cancellations or re-scheduled flights.

The table below breaks down the reasons for delays:


| Reason for Delay | Number of Delays |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Weather | 14 |
| Ground Handling | 12 |
| Late Inbound Aircraft | 12 |
| Crew | 1 |
| Mechanical /Technical | 6 |
| Unwell Passenger | 2 |

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


Secretariat 3a1
Air Command