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for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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26 February 2020

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Domestic Flights

Thank you for your request for information of 14 February 2020 about domestic flights. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The information you requested and our response are detailed below.

- *In total, how many domestic flights have been taken by representatives of your department in the following years: a) 2015 b) 2016 c) 2017 d) 2018 e) 2019.*

By ‘representatives of your department’ I mean ministers, staff, special representatives, or anyone otherwise carrying out duties for your department. My definition of domestic flight is a flight between any points of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The table below sets out the information you requested.

	Year	
	2015	2016
Number of Domestic Flights	127	148

The information for 2017, 2018 and 2019 is available via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-and-internal-flights-foi202001080>

As the information is reasonably accessible to you by other means, section 21 of the FOIA exempts Defra from providing a copy of the information with this response to your request.

Domestic flights include UK flights, typically over water or long distances. The information is based on what Defra has been invoiced for. Last-minute changes may mean some flights are recorded that weren’t actually taken. Furthermore, the Ministerial Department of Defra underwent a merger with some of its agencies’ corporate services functions between 2017 and 2018 meaning there was a jump in the headcount and travel over this period. Due to the nature of work Defra is involved in, extensive travel is required.



Information disclosed in response to this FOIA request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and 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 me.

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Team
InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

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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 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Andrew Mobsby, Head of Information Rights, Area 5B, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: InformationRequests@defra.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's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

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