

**Reference: 2025-052**

Thank you for your letters in which you requested the following information:

**“any and all material where SriLankan Airlines and/or any of its subsidiaries was named, particularly at the time that the SFO was in discussion with Airbus SE about the terms of the Deferred Prosecution Agreement to which Airbus SE was made subject”.**

### **Response**

I can confirm that we are treating this request as a Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“FOIA”) request. A subject access request is not applicable in this instance as the requester is not an individual but a company.

I can confirm that the SFO does hold the information you have requested. However, we have determined that it would exceed the cost limit to gather the information requested.

Information pertaining to the wider matter has been published on our website here: [SFO Deferred Prosecution Agreement with Airbus - GOV.UK](#).

While the SFO may hold some of the information you have requested, due to the scope of the question we are unable to provide a breakdown of the requested information as it is exempt under section 12 of the FOIA.

### **How the exemption is engaged**

Under section 12 of the FOIA, a public authority does not have to comply with a request for information if complying with the request would exceed the appropriate cost limit, which has been set at £600. A flat rate of £25 per person, per hour, is given for determining whether information is held, finding and retrieving records and extracting the requested information. This means the appropriate limit of £600 will be exceeded if more than 24 hours are required to complete the work, which would be the case in this instance.

In relation to this request, please note that the information pertaining to SriLankan Airlines is not held in one central place. The breadth of information you have requested would require us to review a number of digital locations which hold a very large number of documents potentially within scope. Therefore, the numbers of hours required to identify the requested information would exceed the time limit of 24 hours and this would be of disproportionate cost to the SFO. The determination that your request exceeds the cost limit contained within section 12 has been made after considering these circumstances, which are found to be disproportionate when measured against the the burden this would put on our investigating team and the consequent costs to the SFO to fulfill this request.

As per section 16 of the FOIA, you are entitled to submit a refined request, which may enable us to gather information within the cost limit.

Section 12 is an absolute exemption and therefore does not require consideration of the public interest test.