

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

### Decision notice

**Date:** 18 July 2024

**Public Authority:** Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

**Address:** King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

**Request:**

The complainant requested the following information from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) on 29 April 2024:

"I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for information held by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) regarding the decision-making process behind the selection of transportation for diplomatic tours, specifically focusing on the recent chartering of a £42 million VIP plane for a diplomatic tour of Central Asia by Foreign Secretary David Cameron.

1. Documentation outlining the decision-making process behind the selection of the £42 million VIP plane, including key factors considered such as cost-effectiveness, necessity, and diplomatic protocol.
2. If available, please provide a copy of the comparative cost analyses conducted between the chartering of the Embraer Lineage 1000 and alternative, more cost-effective transportation options for diplomatic tours, along with any conclusions drawn from the analyses.
3. A copy of your active policies, guidelines, or provisions aimed at promoting fiscal responsibility and efficient use of public funds in the context of selecting transportation for official government travel, highlighting key principles and objectives."

The Commissioner notes that the complainant has made a detailed submission setting out why they believe that the requested information should be disclosed, including public interest factors in favour of disclosure. He has not included them in this decision notice, as the matter being considered at this time is the FCDO's failure to respond to the request rather than a refusal to provide the requested information.

**Commissioner's Decision:**

A public authority will breach section 10 of FOIA if it fails to respond to a request within 20 working days. Based on evidence available to the Commissioner, by the date of this notice the public authority has not issued a substantive response to this request. Therefore the Commissioner finds a breach of section 10.

**Steps:**

The public authority must provide a substantive response to the request in accordance with its obligations under FOIA.

The public authority must take this step within 30 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

**Right of Appeal:**

Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)  
GRC & GRP Tribunals,  
PO Box 9300,  
LEICESTER,  
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: [grc@justice.gov.uk](mailto:grc@justice.gov.uk)

Website: [www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber](http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber)

Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF**