

Ref: FOI-483

Sent via email only:

12 May 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

1. Thank you for your email of 11 April 2025 in which you requested information from UK Anti-Doping ('UKAD') under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'). Specifically, your request was as follows:

This is an information request relating to flights taken by staff in your organisation.

Please include the following information for the following financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25:

- *A list of all flights taken by employees and board members,*
- *Including the following details:*
 - *The airline*
 - *The class (e.g. economy, business, first)*
 - *The departure airport and destination*
 - *The cost*
 - *The dates of travel*
 - *The name of the hotels stayed at, if possible*
 - *The cost of any other expenses*

Response

2. UKAD holds information relevant to your request. However, UKAD is not obliged to comply with your request because it estimates that the cost of complying with your request will exceed the appropriate cost limit.

3. Section 12(1) of the Act provides:

Section 1(1) [of the Act] does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

4. The appropriate limit is set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 and Schedule 1(1) of the Act, which provide that the limit for the cost of compliance is £450, or 18 hours at the flat rate of £25 per hour.
5. The information sought in your request is not readily accessible to UKAD. UKAD would be required to conduct extensive searching to comply with your request and provide information to the level of detail sought.
6. By way of example, UKAD has determined that there were 10 flights taken in the first quarter of the 2024/25 financial year ('Q1 2024/25'). It will take UKAD at least, approximately 10 minutes per flight to locate and review the details sought in your request concerning flights (in particular, the airline, the class of ticket, dates of travel and departure airport and destination). It would therefore take UKAD, at least, approximately 100 minutes to comply with your request in relation to flight information for Q1 2024/25 only (please note, this is before UKAD identifies any other information it holds in respect of hotels and other expenses for Q1 2024/25 as per your request). Using Q1 2024/25 to estimate the time it would take to comply with your request for the entire period sought (2022 – 2025), UKAD estimates that it will take well in excess of 20 hours to comply with your request in respect of flight information only.
7. Please note that the above estimate does not include the further extensive time it would take for UKAD to locate and compile the names of hotels stayed at, and the cost of any other expenses associated with each flight/stay.

Advice and assistance

8. Section 16(1) of the Act states:

It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.

9. UKAD would therefore like to provide you with some advice and assistance in refining your request for information.

10. UKAD invites you to consider reducing the scope of your request to bring it within the cost ceiling. For example, you may wish to revise your request by reducing the amount of detail sought in relation to each flight (in particular, details pertaining to the airline, the class of ticket, dates of travel and departure airport and destination, names of hotels and other associated expenditure) and/or by limiting the timeframe to which your request relates.
11. Please also be aware that UKAD already publishes the expenses of each Board member and executive director on its website on a quarterly basis. This includes the total expenditure on flights, accommodation, meals and hospitality for each Board member or director. You can find this information on the Transparency page of UKAD's website via the link [here](#).

Conclusion

12. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this response and should be addressed via email to foi@ukad.org.uk. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any further communications.
13. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "UK Anti-Doping".

UK Anti-Doping