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18 January 2016

[jonruffell@mac.com](mailto:jonruffell@mac.com)

Dear Mr Ruffell

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request F0013162**

Thank you for your information request on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2015. You requested the following information:

*“Please can you tell me the breakdown of passenger transport vs car/taxi traffic in and out of Heathrow Airport. For clarity I would like to understand the numbers both in volume and percentages. I would also like to understand any methodology in reaching the results.”*

Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information.

Tables 1 and 2 below show the breakdown of the mode of transport used by passengers at Heathrow Airport in percentages and numbers respectively.

These results were produced by applying estimates from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) passenger survey to the total number of passengers at Heathrow.

The CAA passenger survey is a survey of departing passengers carried out at selected airports, including Heathrow. It is designed to collect information on passenger characteristics and routes, including transfer status and mode of travel to the airport. The CAA survey data are grossed up to the total population of passengers at Heathrow (arrivals and departures) on the assumption that the characteristics and routes of arriving passengers are similar to departing passengers. This assumption may be less reliable for mode of travel than other passenger characteristics.

The tables below exclude transfer passengers, who are just changing from one flight to another at Heathrow and who therefore do not have a mode of travel.

The survey collects up to three modes of transport to the airport; the results in the tables are based on the final mode used.

**Table 1: Final mode of transport to Heathrow airport<sup>1, 2</sup>, 2010-2014**

	<i>Percentage</i>				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Private Car <sup>3</sup>	31	29	29	27	26
Hire Car	3	3	2	3	3
Taxi/Minicab	26	27	28	29	30
Rail	11	12	11	10	11
Bus/Coach	12	12	12	13	13
Tram/Tube	16	17	18	18	17
Other	0	1	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	36,551	33,484	40,221	37,506	37,176

1. These results are based on the CAA passenger survey, which surveys departing passengers only. The assumption, for weighting purposes, is that arriving and departing passengers share the same modal characteristics. Where more than one mode of transport is used, the final mode is presented in this table.
2. Terminating passengers only, does not include passengers who are transferring between flights.
3. Including passengers using car park courtesies buses.

Source - Civil Aviation Authority

**Table 2: Estimated number of passengers by final mode of transport to Heathrow airport<sup>1, 2</sup>, 2010-2014**

	<i>Number (millions)</i>				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Terminating Passengers <sup>3</sup>	42	46	44	46	48
Private Car <sup>4</sup>	13	13	13	12	13
Hire Car	1	1	1	1	1
Taxi/Minicab	11	12	12	13	14
Rail	5	5	5	5	5
Bus/Coach	5	6	5	6	6
Tram/Tube	7	8	8	8	8
Other	0	0	0	0	0

1. These results are based on the CAA passenger survey, which surveys departing passengers only. The assumption, for weighting purposes, is that arriving and departing passengers share the same modal characteristics. Where more than one mode of transport is used, the final mode is presented in this table.
2. Terminating passengers only, does not include passengers who are transferring between flights.
3. Calculated using the total number of terminal passengers and applying the terminating type of passenger percentage.
4. Including passengers using car park courtesies buses.

Source - Civil Aviation Authority

The data used to produce Tables 1 and 2 are available on the Department's website (see tables AVI0102b, AVI0106 and AVI0107 at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/avi01-traffic-passenger-numbers-mode-of-travel-to-airport>).

More details on the CAA survey methodology are available on the CAA website at the following link: <http://www.caa.co.uk/Data-and-analysis/UK-aviation-market/Consumer-research/Departing-passenger-survey/Departing-passenger-survey/>. Additional bespoke analysis from the CAA survey is available on request from the CAA at [aviation.intelligence@caa.co.uk](mailto:aviation.intelligence@caa.co.uk).

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. A copy of this response and the information provided may now be published on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) web-site, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's FOI Advice Team at:

Zone D/04  
Ashdown House  
Sedlescombe Road North  
Hastings  
East Sussex TN37 7GA  
E-mail: [FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

Please send or copy any follow-up correspondence relating to this request to the FOI Advice Team to help ensure that it receives prompt attention. Please also remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,  
Laura Clarke  
[laura.clarke@dft.gov.uk](mailto:laura.clarke@dft.gov.uk)  
020 7944 4859

## **Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner**

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

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