

The Jet-Set Met

How London's police force
wastes your cash

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Introduction

The Met has national and international policing responsibilities, and as a part these, will need to take flights for operational purposes.

Yet there is clearly room for significant savings to be made. Between April 2015 and December 2017, the Metropolitan Police spent £8,577,748 on flights. Of this amount, 56 per cent was spent in non-economy cabins (premium economy, business and first class).

Key findings

- The Metropolitan Police undertook **13,763 flights** over three years. This is equivalent to **13.7 flights a day**.
- **More than half of the spending was in premium cabins**. This amounted to **£4,838,689**.
- **£407,952** was spent on **114 first class flights**.

Table 1: total number of flights, April 2015 to December 2017.

Financial year	Economy	Premium economy	Business	First
2015-16	3,812	341	766	30
2016-17	4,115	316	551	44
2017-18	3,290	193	265	40
Totals	11,217	850	1,582	114

Table 2: total spending on flights (£), April 2015 to December 2017.

Financial year	Economy (£)	Premium economy (£)	Business (£)	First (£)
2015-16	1,145,035	368,649	943,212	72,575
2016-17	1,381,959	575,018	1,373,343	140,538
2017-18	1,212,065	332,564	837,951	194,839
Totals	3,739,059	1,276,231	3,154,506	407,952

Sources and methodology

- A Freedom of Information request was sent to the Metropolitan Police. For each flight taken, it asked for the fare paid, class of ticket, the date, port of departure and arrival and the airline used. [Click here for the original data.](#)
- The Met only gave the total amount spent on flights for each financial year, the total number of flights, and details of the class of travel (economy, premium economy, business and first class). Port of departure and arrival was not included.