

Parasitic Royal's Travel Bill Soars as Wills and Kate Spend £52,000 on One-Way Flight From Los Angeles to London

Zen Haven

3/7/12



- Buckingham Palace releases Annual Report into Royal Public Finances for 2011/12 tax year
- Prince Andrew clocked up £378,000 bill on flights in his last few months as a controversial global ambassador for UK trade and industry
- Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall's private jet for tour of Middle East, South Africa and Tanzania cost taxpayers £460,387
- Prince Harry's jubilee tour on behalf of the Queen in March cost £107,098

But accounts show that Royal Family cost Britain just 52p per head which amounts to £32.3million, up £200,000 on previous year

Prince William and his wife Kate spent an incredible £52,000 on a one-way flight from Los Angeles to London for themselves and their seven-strong entourage, Buckingham Palace said today.

In their Annual Report into Royal Public Finances, aides also revealed that Prince Andrew, nicknamed Air Miles Andy, clocked up a bill for £378,000 on flights in his last few months as a

controversial global ambassador for UK trade and industry during the 2011/12 tax year.

The cost of royal travel is continuing to raise eyebrows with a bill for £6.1million last year, an increase of £100,000 on the year before.

The most expensive trip was the tour taken by the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall to the Middle East, South Africa and Tanzania last October. Their private jet cost taxpayers £460,387, but it is understood it would not have been possible to complete the tour by scheduled services.

A few days before flying out to the Middle East, Charles flew by charter to Saudi Arabia at a cost of £67,215, to pay his condolences on behalf of the UK following the death of the Crown Prince.

But it is believed it would not have been possible to combine the two trips as the heir to the throne had commitments in the UK.

During their Los Angeles to London flight, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and a senior advisor got upgraded from their business class seats for free, however, by British Airways.



But the price of each business class ticket cost in the region of £5,500 each.

Prince Harry also figures for the first time on the list of big spenders. His jubilee tour on behalf of the Queen back in March cost £107,098.

Of that £51,443 was spent on scheduled flights for himself and his staff from London to Miami and Rio de Janeiro back to London. A further £55,655 was spent on a private jet to take him from Miami to Belize and onto the Bahamas, Jamaica and

then back to Miami.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman stressed that all trips were undertaken at the request of the Government and every possible step was taken to ensure they were as cost effective as possible.

The spokesman said: 'The visits strengthen Britain's relationships with other countries, and contribute to economic and strategic goals.'

The accounts show that the Queen and the Royal Family cost the British population just 52p per head.

But the figure does not include the cost of providing security and police protection for members of the monarchy.

The sovereign's official expenditure in 2011-2012 was £32.3million, up £200,000 on the previous year.

But royal 'bean counters' said they had managed to reduce their spending by 26 per cent in real terms over the last three years.

'The Queen was very keen that the Royal Household should play its part in reducing its expenditure according and is pleased at what has been achieved' said her money man, Keeper of the Privy Purse, Sir Alan Reid.

Royal finances are in a transitional phase as the old system is phased out and a new Sovereign Grant funding model is introduced.

It will replace money from the Civil List, Government funds which cover the official expenses of the Queen and her household, and grants-in-aid.

Under the new grant, the Queen will receive 15 per cent of the profits from the £6.7billion Crown Estate.

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