



Ministry  
of Defence

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Reference: FOI2015-03656

Mr Cole  
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Date: 14 May 2015

Dear Mr Cole,

Thank you for your email of 7 April 2015 which requested the following information:-

*"Please can I request under the Freedom of Information Act, for each month between Jan and March 2015, and broken down between Iraq and Syria,*

- a) the number of Reaper missions flown;*
- b) the number of sorties with weapons released;*
- c) the number of weapons released; and*
- d) the type of weapon released."*

*"In your FOI response to me of 3 Feb 2015 (FOI 2015-00070) it was stated that there had been 4 missions flown by RAF Reapers in Syria in December 2014 but in a recent Written Answer Lord Astor of Haver gave the figure as 9 missions*  
[\(http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-10/HL5582/\)](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-10/HL5582/).

*Can you confirm which figure is correct?"*

*"Finally, the Secretary of State for Defence and MoD press releases have on several occasions now reported on the number of air strikes that British forces have undertaken in Iraq: In Defence Questions on 12 January the Secretary of State reported that UK forces had "have carried out 99 air strikes in Iraq" On 1st March in press release headed "Defence Secretary thanks UK military personnel tackling ISIL" it was reported that RAF Tornado GR4s had conducted 90 strikes while Reapers had conducted 70 strikes. In his written statement to parliament on 26 March Michael Fallon stated "Tornado aircraft and Reaper Remotely Piloted Air Systems have conducted 199 strikes up to 26 March 2015"*

*Please can you give me monthly figures of UK air strikes in Iraq since September 2014 broken down between Tornado and Reaper aircraft."*

Your correspondence has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and the answers to your specific questions are detailed below.

Op SHADER UK Reaper Operations Data					
Date	Missions-solely in Iraqi Airspace	Missions entering Syrian Airspace	Total Missions	Missions Releasing Weapons	Hellfire Missiles Released
Jan-15	63	8	71	12	33
Feb-15	59	8	67	7	13
Mar-15	62	14	76	13	18
Total	184	30	214	32	64

One Reaper mission equals one Reaper sortie. UK Reaper carried only AGM-114 Hellfire during the period in question on Op SHADER. All weapons released were released over Iraq directed at targets in Iraq.

I can confirm that there were 9 UK Reaper missions entering Syrian airspace in December 2014. As articulated in the FOI response that you received, the operational database which records information about UK Reaper and Tornado missions is regularly reviewed for errors and omissions. As a result of these internal quality control checks, there are a few occasions where data has, or will be, amended. This was one of those occasions.

As per the MOD press releases on UK strike stats please find below the monthly breakdown of strikes in Iraq.

Op SHADER UK Operations Strike Data			
Date	Reaper Strikes Conducted in Iraq	Tornado GR4 Strikes Conducted in Iraq	Total Strikes in Iraq
Sep-14		2	2
Oct-14		15	15
Nov-14	20	20	40
Dec-14	13	20	33
Jan-15	25	21	46
Feb-15	12	12	24
Mar-15	17	25	42
Total	87	115	202

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact this office in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely  
 PJHQ J8-FOI-Secretariat