



Ministry of Defence

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Mr Chris Cole

Reference: FOI2016/00034

Email: Chris@dronewars.net

Date: 1 February 2016

Dear Mr Cole,

Thank you for your email of 4 January 2016 which requested the following information:-

For each month between October and December 2015, and broken down between Iraq and Syria,

- 1. The number of a) Reaper b) Tornado, c) Typhoon missions flown;*
- 2. The number of a) Reaper b) Tornado c) Typhoon sorties with weapons released;*
- 3. The number and type for weapons released by a) Reapers, b) Tornado, c) Typhoon*
- 4. The number of UK air strikes in Iraq and Syria per month from 1st October 2015 and 31st December broken down between Reaper, Tornado and Typhoon aircraft?*
- 5. If UK armed forces have utilised US unmanned aircraft since 1st October and, if so, the number of sorties/ weapons releases?*
- 6. A monthly breakdown of number of airstrikes carried out by a) Reaper b) Tornado and c) Typhoons using the UK method rather than the Coalition method since 1 October 2015.*

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 we can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The information requested, covering from 1 October to 31 December 2015, can be found below:

1. For this question alone, missions that have flown in Syrian airspace have also flown in Iraq, therefore the missions have been included in both columns making the Syrian missions a subset of the Iraq missions.

Month	Aircraft	Mission Location	
		Iraq	Syria
October	Reaper	61	16
	Tornado	45	0
	Typhoon	0	0
November	Reaper	62	18
	Tornado	52	0
	Typhoon	0	0
December	Reaper	56	20
	Tornado	72	15
	Typhoon	47	10

2. The number of sorties with weapon released.

Month	Aircraft	Mission Location	
		Iraq	Syria
October	Reaper	10	0
	Tornado	14	0
	Typhoon	0	0
November	Reaper	15	0
	Tornado	31	0
	Typhoon	0	0
December	Reaper	9	1
	Tornado	44	7
	Typhoon	26	3

3. The number and type of weapons released split by aircraft type.

Month	Aircraft	Weapon type	Mission Location	
			Iraq	Syria
October	Reaper	Hellfire	14	0
		GBU12	0	0
	Tornado	Paveway IV	18	0
		Brimstone	0	0
	Typhoon	Paveway IV	0	0
November	Reaper	Hellfire	23	0
		GBU12	6	0
	Tornado	Paveway IV	49	0
		Brimstone	12	0
	Typhoon	Paveway IV	0	0
December	Reaper	Hellfire	20	1
		GBU12	3	0
	Tornado	Paveway IV	60	19
		Brimstone	9	0
	Typhoon	Paveway IV	37	3

4. The number of UK air strikes in Iraq and Syria per month from 1 October 2015 and 31 December broken down between Reaper, Tornado and Typhoon aircraft.

Month	Aircraft	Mission Location	
		Iraq	Syria
October	Reaper	8	0
	Tornado	10	0
	Typhoon	0	0
November	Reaper	17	0
	Tornado	40	0
	Typhoon	0	0
December	Reaper	11	1
	Tornado	35	9
	Typhoon	29	1

Regarding your fifth question, the UK Reaper Force has not flown any US Air Force aircraft in support of operations in Iraq and Syria in the period in question.

As per the written statement provided to the House by the Secretary of State for Defence on 16 July 2015, we are to use Coalition produced numbers for UK strikes. As such, we have ceased to produce strike data using the UK method and the information you requested on airstrikes from 1 October 2015 is not held. Further information on the decision to move to Coalition methodology can be found in the written statement at:-

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2015-07-16/HCWS132/>

The data contained in this statement is believed to be complete and correct at the time of issue. The MOD operational activity databases are frequently reviewed and any errors and omissions are corrected. It is therefore possible that future statements might not match this statement exactly. The MOD regrets any difficulty that this may cause but emphasises that our aim is to ensure that our records are as complete and correct as possible.

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, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail 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 J9 FOI Secretariat