



Ministry of Defence

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Mr Chris Cole
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Reference: FOI2016/03828

Date: 29 April 2016

Dear Mr Cole,

Thank you for your email of 1 April 2016 which requested the following information:

- 1) *For each month between January and March 2016, and broken down between Iraq and Syria:*
 - a) *The number of Reaper, Tornado and Typhoon missions flown;*
 - b) *The number of Reaper, Tornado and Typhoon sorties with weapons released;*
 - c) *The number and type of weapons released by Reaper, Tornado and Typhoon.*
- 2) *The number of UK air strikes in Iraq and Syria per month from 1st January 2016 to March 2016 broken down between Reaper, Tornado and Typhoon aircraft.*
- 3) *Confirm if the UK armed forces have utilised US unmanned aircraft since 1st October and if so, the monthly number of sorties/ weapons releases?*
- 4) *If the figures are available, a monthly breakdown of number of airstrikes carried out by Reapers, Tornados and 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 of records held by the Ministry of Defence has now been completed and we can confirm that some of the information within the scope of your request is held and answers to questions one and two is provided in the tables below. It should be noted

each Reaper mission count as one sortie, whereas Tornado and Typhoon missions consist of two aircraft and thus count as two sorties per mission.

Question 1.

A) Missions Flown		Reaper		Tornado		Typhoon	
		Iraq	Syria	Iraq	Syria	Iraq	Syria
2016	Jan	42	32	32	40	46	2
	Feb	13	41	42	31	48	1
	Mar	15	40	38	15	148	4

B)Sorties With Weapons Releasing		Reaper		Tornado		Typhoon	
		Iraq	Syria	Iraq	Syria	Iraq	Syria
2016	Jan	11	6	36	18	40	2
	Feb	1	4	28	2	35	1
	Mar	4	2	17	2	48	0

C)Number and Type of Weapons Released		Reaper		Tornado		Typhoon	
		Hellfire	GBU-12	Brimstone	PWIV	PWIV	27mm
2016	Jan	30	4	23	70	94	26
	Feb	9	1	12	40	53	0
	Mar	8	0	7	37	105	0

Question 2.

UK Air Strikes		Reaper		Tornado		Typhoon	
		Iraq	Syria	Iraq	Syria	Iraq	Syria
2016	Jan	5	5	36	12	38	1
	Feb	1	4	1	2	34	1
	Mar	2	3	15	1	46	0

Regarding your third 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.

Referencing your fourth 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