



Ministry of Defence

J9 FOI Secretariat

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Mr C Cole
chris@dronewars.net

1 May 2018

Dear Mr Cole,

We refer to your email of 3 April 2018 which requested the following information:

- 1) For each month between January and March 2018, and broken down between i) Reaper, ii) Tornado, and ii) Typhoon:
 - a) the total number of missions undertaken by these aircraft on Operation Shader*
 - b) the number of those missions entering Syria*
 - c) the number of those missions entering Iraq**
- 2) For each month between January and March 2018, the number sorties with weapons released by a) Reaper, b) Tornado, c) Typhoon, broken down between Iraq and Syria?*
- 3) For each month between January and March 2018, the number and type of weapons released by a) Reapers, b) Tornado, c) Typhoon, broken down between Iraq and Syria?*
- 4) The number of UK air strikes in a) Iraq and b) Syria per month from 1st January 2017 to 31 March 2017 broken down between Reaper, Tornado and Typhoon aircraft?*
- 5) Please can you tell me, for each month between 1st January 2017 and 31 March 2017, how many hours have UK a) Reapers, b) Tornado and c) Typhoon flown on Operation Shader?*

You clarified that you had meant to request the number of UK air strikes in a) Iraq and b) Syria per month from 1st January 2018 to 31 March 2018 broken down between Reaper, Tornado and Typhoon aircraft. We have provided the data for 2018 as you requested.

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 information in scope of your request is held. The information requested can be found below.

- 1) In response to your question on the Number of Sorties in Syria and Iraq by Aircraft Type, between January and March 2018, please see the tables below.

Number of Sorties in Syria and Iraq by Aircraft Type							
Syria entry recorded				Iraq (no Syrian entry recorded)			Total
Aircraft Type	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	
FGR4 Typhoon	74	78	92	12	10	14	280
GR4 Tornado	75	68	78	17	10	20	268
MQ9 Reaper	64	31	65	4	12	8	184
Total	213	177	235	33	32	42	732

Please note you appear to have used the terms 'mission' and 'sortie' as if they are synonymous; your request switches from missions in (1) to sorties in (2).

Previously, we have stated the number of missions by aircraft type entering Syria and Iraq. For Tornado and Typhoon, one mission comprises two sorties as these aircraft operate in pairs whereas Reaper operates singly so that one mission generally involves only one sortie. In this case, we have stated the sortie count for each aircraft type, i.e. where one sortie is one flight by one aircraft.

(2) In response to your question on the Number of Sorties with Weapons Released by Aircraft Type, please see the table below.

Number of Sorties with Weapons Released by Aircraft Type							
Syria				Iraq			Total
Aircraft Type	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	
FGR4 Typhoon	10	9	3	1		2	25
GR4 Tornado	6	6				1	13
MQ9 Reaper	19	8	7				34
Total	35	23	10	1		3	72

(2) In response to your question on the Number of Weapons Released in Syria and Iraq by Aircraft Type, please see the tables below.

Number of Weapons Released in Syria and Iraq by Aircraft Type							
Syria				Iraq			Total
Aircraft Type	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	
FGR4 Typhoon	20	16	7	2		2	47
GR4 Tornado	12	11				1	24
MQ9 Reaper	58	15	19				92
Total	90	42	26	2		3	163

(3) In response to your question on the Number of each Weapon Type Released in Syria and Iraq by Aircraft Type, please see the table below.

		Number of each Weapon Type Released in Syria and Iraq by Aircraft Type						
		Syria			Iraq			
Aircraft Type	Weapon Type	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Total
FGR4 Typhoon	PWIV Mk2	20	16	7	2		2	47
GR4 Tornado	DMSB+	4	2					6
	PWIV Mk2	8	9				1	18
MQ9 Reaper	AGM-114N4	12	7					19
	AGM-114R2	38	6	19				63
	GBU-12	8	2					10
	Total	90	42	26	2		3	163

(4) In response to your question on the number of UK air strikes in Iraq per month from 1st January 2018 to 31 March 2018 broken down by Aircraft Type, please see the table below.

Iraq				
2018	TORNADO	TYPHOON	REAPER	TOTAL
JAN	0	1	0	1
FEB	0	0	0	0
MAR	1	1	0	2

(4) In response to your question on the number of UK air strikes in Syria per month from 1st January 2018 to 31 March 2018 broken down by Aircraft Type, please see the table below.

Syria				
2018	TORNADO	TYPHOON	REAPER	TOTAL
JAN	3	7	20	30
FEB	4	3	8	15
MAR	0	2	2	4

(5) In response to your question on the Total hours flown by Aircraft Type, please see the table below.

Total hours flown by Aircraft Type				
Aircraft Type	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Total
FGR4 Typhoon	515	573.6	624	1712.5
GR4 Tornado	516.7	454.4	529.1	1500.2
MQ9 Reaper	954	535.2	1014.8	2503.9
Total	1985.6	1563.2	2167.9	5716.6

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 have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

PJHQ J9 FOI Secretariat