



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
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United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2018/02711

Mr Chris Cole
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Peace House
19 Paradise Street
Oxford
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23 March 2018

Dear Mr. Cole,

Thank you for your email of 21 February requesting the following information:

“1. a) Did RAF aircraft take part in ISTAR missions which included Naweed Hussain as a subject of surveillance? If so how many missions and which aircraft?

b) Were those missions part of Operation Shader?

2. For each year between August 2014 and December 2017, how many RAF Missions flown in Iraq and/or Syria were not part of Operation Shader? Please can you break those missions down by aircraft and country.”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Did RAF aircraft take part in ISTAR missions which included Naweed Hussain as a subject of surveillance? If so how many missions and which aircraft? Were those missions part of Operation Shader?

Under section 23(5) (Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters) and section 24(2) (National Security) the MOD neither confirms nor denies whether it holds any information in scope of your request. Section 23 is an absolute exemption and not subject to a public interest test. Section 24 is a qualified exemption and is subject to a public interest test. A public interest test has been completed and the balance of interest lay in neither confirming nor denying whether the MOD held any information in scope of your request. This should not be used as an indication that such information is or is not held.

Under section 26(3) (Defence) the MOD neither confirms nor denies whether it holds any information in scope of your request. Section 26 is a qualified exemption and is subject to a public interest test. A public interest test has been completed and the balance of interest lay in neither confirming nor denying whether the MOD held any information in scope of your request. This should not be used as an indication that such information is or is not held.

For each year between August 2014 and December 2017, how many RAF Missions flown in Iraq and/or Syria were not part of Operation Shader? Please can you break those missions down by aircraft and country.

There was one mission that was not part of Operation SHADER between August 2014 and December 2017, conducted by RAF MQ-9 Reaper Remotely Piloted Aircraft System. Under section 21 (Information accessible by other means) information on this is available from the Prime Minister's statement to Parliament and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/syria-refugees-and-counter-terrorism-prime-ministers-statement>.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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, Ground 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 normally 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,

**OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**