

From J9 POLOPS



Freedom of Information
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Reference 11-02-2013-121203 - 016

11 March 2013

Dear Mr Cole,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 11 February 13 which is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

You requested:

Please can you tell me the total number of weapons released from British Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles during 2012.

Please can you also tell me the total number of weapons released from Reaper UAVs to date.

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is held by the Ministry of Defence.

Reaper entered operational service with the RAF in Afghanistan in October 2007 and whilst it has been armed with GBU-12 500lb laser guided bombs and Hellfire laser guided missiles since May 2008, its primary role remains Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR). The following munitions were released during the period 1 May 2008 until 31 January 2013:

Reaper – Munitions Releases						
Precision Guided Weapon	2008 (1 May - 31 Dec)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 (1 Jan - 31 Jan)
Hellfire	17	32	58	100	104	3
GBU-12	13	12	15	11	0	0

The increase in the number of Reaper sorties and associated weapons releases has risen as the number of UK Reaper assets has increased. Reaper was first brought into service in October 2007 with the deployment of a single system. Since then there has been a phased build up in capability. Currently, the UK has five assets in service. Reaper only operates in support of UK and coalition forces on ground operations, in Afghanistan, under the legal authority of UN Security Council resolutions and with the consent of the Government of Afghanistan.

The figures above are routinely reviewed and are produced using the best data available to us at the time. As such, there may be slight differences to the figures previously released.

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 me 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 Head of Corporate Information, 2nd 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

HERRICK Secretariat
J9 Policy and Operations