



Ministry
of Defence

J8 FOI Secretariat
Permanent Joint Headquarters
Northwood Headquarters
Sandy Lane
Northwood ,Middlesex
HA6 3HP
United Kingdom

E-mail: PJHQ-J8-FOI-Group@mod.uk

Mr Chris Cole

Ref: 24-02-2014-150254-014

chris@dronewars.net

19 March 2014

Drone Wars UK
Peace House
19 Paradise Street
Oxford
OX1 1LD

Dear Mr Cole,

Thank you for your email of 23 February 2014 requesting the following information:

“Please can you tell me the number of missions undertaken by Reaper UAVs in Afghanistan during 2013. Please can you also tell me the number of weapons launched by Reaper UAVs in Afghanistan during 2013 broken down by month and type of weapon. Please can you also tell me how many mission were flown by RAF pilots utilising USAF Reapers during 2013 and how many weapons, if any, were launched during these missions”.

I am treating your correspondence 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 I can confirm that all of the information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested can be found below.

Answering your questions in turn;

1. “Please can you tell me the number of missions undertaken by Reaper UAVs in Afghanistan during 2013”.

Given that you have asked the UK Ministry of Defence, we have interpreted part one of your request as, ‘Please can you tell me the number of missions undertaken by [UK] Reaper UAVs in Afghanistan during 2013’.

Between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013, inclusive, a total of 901 UK Reaper missions were flown.

2. “Please can you also tell me the number of weapons launched by Reaper UAVs in Afghanistan during 2013 broken down by month and type of weapon”.

Given that you have asked the UK Ministry of Defence, we have interpreted part two of your request as, ‘Please can you also tell me the number of weapons launched by [UK] Reaper UAVs in Afghanistan during 2013 broken down by month and type of weapon’. The information you have requested can be found in the table below.

Date (2013)	Total Number of Weapons Released on UK Reaper Missions
January	3
February	3
March	10
April	2
May	10
June	8
July	8
August	11
September	15
October	19
November	3
December	2
Grand Total	94

The type of weapons released by UK Reaper in 2013 is withheld under section 21 (information accessible to applicant by other means). This is because this information was provided to you on the 31 January 2014 in a letter (Ref: 20-01-2014-151520-012) from the Ministry of Defence. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and not subject to public interest testing.

3. “Please can you also tell me how many mission were flown by RAF pilots utilising USAF Reapers during 2013 and how many weapons, if any, were launched during these missions”.

Between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013, inclusive, RAF pilots flew 55 UK missions in USAF Reapers in Afghanistan. During these missions, four weapons were 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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 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,

PJHQ J8 Secretariat

Chris Cole

From: "PJHQ-J8-FOI-Group (MULTIUSER)" <PJHQ-J8-FOI-Group@mod.uk>
Date: 20 March 2014 14:32
To: "Chris Cole" <chris@dronewars.net>
Subject: clarification request - 24-02-2014-150254-014

Dear Mr Cole,

The 55 missions flown by RAF pilots operating USAF Reapers in Afghanistan are included in the 901 UK Reaper missions flown in 2013. The 4 weapons released by RAF pilots during these 55 missions are also included in the total of 94 weapons released on UK Reaper missions in 2013.

Regards

PJHQ-J8-Sec-FOI

From: Chris Cole [mailto:chris@dronewars.net]
Sent: 20 March 2014 13:36
To: PJHQ-J8-FOI-Group (MULTIUSER)
Subject: Re: clarification request - 24-02-2014-150254-014

Thank you

Chris Cole

From: [PJHQ-J8-FOI-Group \(MULTIUSER\)](#)
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 12:29 PM
To: [Chris Cole](#)
Subject: clarification request - 24-02-2014-150254-014

Dear Mr Cole,

Thank you for your email and which has been passed to the relevant area here for action accordingly.

A response will be provided in due course.

Regards

PJHQ-J8-Sec-FOI

From: Chris Cole [mailto:chris@dronewars.net]
Sent: 19 March 2014 15:33
To: PJHQ-J8-FOI-Group (MULTIUSER)

Subject: clarification request - 24-02-2014-150254-014

Dear PJHQ-J8-Sec-FOI

Thank you for your response. Please can I ask a quick clarification question?

Can you confirm that the 55 missions flown by RAF pilots utilising USAF Reapers in Afghanistan are in addition to the 901 UK Reaper missions flown by RAF pilots and that the 4 weapons released during these 55 missions are not included in the figure of 94 weapons released on UK Reaper missions as detailed in your reply.

Thank you

Chris Cole

From: [PJHQ-J8-FOI-Group \(MULTIUSER\)](#)
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 2:46 PM
To: chris@dronewars.net

Dear Mr Cole,

Please see attached response to your Freedom of Information request.

Regards

PJHQ-J8-Sec-FOI