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Mr Chris Cole

Ref: FOI2014/02630

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5 August 2014

Dear Mr Cole,

Thank you for your email of 20 June 2014 requesting the following information:

Please can you tell me the number of sorties flown by UK Reaper UAVs in Afghanistan per year each year since 2008. Please can you break these figures down into sorties flown by UK Reapers and those flown by RAF utilizing US Reapers. Please can you tell me for each year since 2008 during how many of these sorties were weapons released, again broken down between those released from UK Reapers and those released when the RAF have been utilizing US Reapers'.

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 most of the information in scope of your request is held. However some of the information you have requested is not held and therefore can not be provided.

I am unable to provide you with information on the number of UK Reaper sorties, broken down by UK and United States Air Force (USAF) Reaper platforms, between 2008 and 2014 as this information is not held. As you are aware, we did provide you this information for 2013 in a FOI response on the 17 March 2014, reference 24-02-2014-150254-014. However the division between UK and USAF Reaper airframes used on UK sorties is currently being determined for the whole period of Operation HERRICK and therefore all information is currently being reviewed. We will provide you with this information as soon as the review has concluded.

The information you have requested on UK Reaper sorties and weapon releases can be found below, this has now been corrected following your query into the data that was originally supplied in the previous response sent to you on 18 July 2014.

Year	Total number of UK Reaper sorties by UK and USAF Platforms	Number of sorties with one or more weapon releases:			Number of weapons released from:		
		UK Platform	USAF Platform	Total	UK Platform	US Platform	Total
2008	296	14	0	14	29	0	29
2009	431	33	0	33	44	0	44
2010	758	51	0	51	73	0	73
2011	901	67	7	74	99	12	111
2012	895	65	26	91	76	28	104
2013	897	68	4	72	90	4	94
2014 (1st Jan - 31st May inclusive)	312	10	6	16	15	6	21
Total	4490	308	43	351	426	50	476

The operational database which records information about UK Reaper sorties in Afghanistan is regularly reviewed for errors and omissions. As a result of these internal quality control checks, there are a few occasions where data has, or will be, amended. An example of this is the sortie count for 2013. In our FOI response to you on 17 March 2014, reference 24-02-2014-150254-014, this figure was stated to be 901; review has now resulted in its revision to 897.

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 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

PJHQ J8 Secretariat