



Ministry  
of Defence

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Mr Chris Cole

Ref: FOI2014/06629

[chris@dronewards.net](mailto:chris@dronewards.net)

26 November 2014

Dear Mr Cole,

Thank you for your email of 4 November 2014 requesting the following information:

*"a) The number of weapon releases by month from UK Reapers in Afghanistan from 1 September to 31 October 2014 inclusive, with the figures broken down (as you have previously done) between types of weapon and between UK and USAF Reaper platforms.*

*b) The total number of UK Reaper sorties by UK and USAF Platforms in Afghanistan from 1 January 2014 to 31 October 2014. Please can you break these down into number of sorties with weapons released between UK and USAF platforms as previously done.*

*c) In your response to my FOI request of 20 June 2014 (FOI2014/02630) dated 18 July 2014 you stated that a review was being undertaken into the division between UK and USAF Reaper airframes in Operation Herrick. Please can you tell me the outcome of this review if it has been completed and if not, when the review is expected to be completed.*

*d) Please can you confirm whether or not UK Reaper sorties continue to be flown in Afghanistan at the time of answering this FOI request."*

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 the information in scope of your request is held.

ISAF Reaper RPAS missions are tasked from a combined pool of available assets from both the UK and US Reaper RPAS Squadrons. In the event that no UK Reaper aircraft is available to the UK, the UK can use a USAF Reaper for a UK-tasked mission and it will be flown by UK crews adhering to UK Rules of Engagement.

Details of the number and type of weapons released by UK aircrew operating Reaper RPAS between 1 January 2014 and 30 April 2014 can be found below;

Month (2014)	Number of Weapons Released	Type of Weapon Released	Released From:	
			UK Platform	US Platform
September	4	AGM Hellfire	4	0
October	5	AGM Hellfire	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>

Details of total number of UK Reaper sorties by UK and USAF platforms in Afghanistan from 1 January 2014 to 31 October 2014 can be found below:

UK/US Platform	Total number of sorties including sorties with weapons releases	Number of sorties with weapon releases
UK	815	34
US	191	10

With regards to the review you mention I have found no evidence of a specific review, however, the I have been able to establish figures for the division of sorties between UK and USAF Reaper airframes in used in support of Operation HERRICK.

Year	UK owned Platform	US owned Platform
2011	838	62
2012	717	178
2013	841	55
2014 (Jan to Oct inc)	815	191

I can confirm at the time of answering this response UK Reaper operations have ceased in Afghanistan.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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,

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Mr Chris Cole

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[chris@dronewars.net](mailto:chris@dronewars.net)

19 December 2014

Dear Mr Cole,

Thank you for your email of 12 December 2014 asking for clarification on the Freedom of Information response we provided to you dated 26 November 2014.

The data in the table below was extracted from the MOD's database on 17 December. This data differs slightly from the information previously provided. Reviews and general maintenance of the database occasionally result in updates. A recent review has resulted in an increase of two in the total numbers of weapons released from January 2014 to April 2014, compared to the data previously provided. In addition to this there has also been a decrease by one in the total number of sorties resulting in a weapon release event, compared to the data previously provided.

The following table provides detailed up to date information covering the total number of weapons released and the total number of sorties resulting in a weapon release event (i.e the event where one or more weapons was released) from the 1 January 2014 up to and including the 31 October 2014. In summary a total of 55 weapons were released from a total of 43 sorties.

Month Year	No. Weapons Released:		No. Sorties resulting in a weapon release event (i.e. one or more weapons released):	
	UK	US	UK	US
January 2014	5	1	4	1
February 2014	6	1	5	1
March 2014	0	0	0	0
April 2014	1	3	1	3
May 2014	3	1	1	1
June 2014	4	2	3	2
July 2014	2	1	2	1
August 2014	16	0	12	0
September 2014	4	0	3	0
October 2014	5	0	3	0
Total Weapons Released: 55	46	9	-	-
Total Sorties Releasing Weapons: 43	-	-	34	9

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Yours sincerely,

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