



Ministry
of Defence

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Mr Chris Cole (Drone Wars UK)

Reference: FOI2015/06171

Email: chris@dronewars.net

Date: 7 August 2015

Dear Mr Cole,

Thank you for your refined request dated 10 July which requested the following information:

'How many of the 184 Reaper missions in Iraq between Jan and March 2015 facilitated strikes by means of laser designation of targets for a) UK Tornado aircraft; b) aircraft of other coalition members and how many strikes for each category were facilitated by such laser designation.'

Your correspondence has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We are writing to confirm that MOD holds the information on the subject you have requested. However, we have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. This is because to locate and extract information in scope of your request would involve manually searching through all 184 Reaper mission reports and this would not be possible within the timeframe under the appropriate cost limit. This request has therefore not been met in accordance with Section 12 of the FOI Act.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

As this is the second occasion where we have not been able to answer this question under the Cost exemption we thought that it might be helpful to explain that a UK Reaper will only laser designate for another nation's aircraft where the UK's rules of engagement are met. Therefore, a UK Reaper will not facilitate an airstrike by another nation outside the parameters for the RAF.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in the scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. For example, you might narrow the date range of your request or ask about a specific UK Reaper mission in Iraq on the gov.uk website.

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 this office 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

PJHQ J8-FOI-Secretariat