



Ministry
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2022/11245

31st October 2022

Mr Chris Cole
chris@dronewars.net

Dear Mr Cole,

Thank you for your email of 3rd October 2022 requesting the information as follows:

“1) For each month between July 2022 and September 2022 and broken down between i) Reaper and ii) Typhoon

*a) the total number of missions undertaken by these aircraft on Operation Shader;
b) the number of those missions entering Syria; c) the number of those missions entering Iraq?*

2) For each month between July 2022 and September 2022, the number of sorties with weapons released by a) Reaper and b) Typhoon broken down between Iraq and Syria?

3) For each month between July 2022 and September 2022, the number and type of weapons released by a) Reapers and b) Typhoons broken down between Iraq and Syria?

4) The number of UK weapon release events in a) Iraq and b) Syria per month from July 2022 and September 2022, broken down between Reaper and Typhoon?

5) Please can you tell me, for each month between July 2022 and September 2022, how many hours have UK a) Reaper and b) Typhoon flown on Operation Shader?

6) Please can you confirm if the RAF Reaper (ZZ209) damaged in an accident on 1 December 2021 has returned to service, continues to await repair or has been withdrawn from service?”

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and we can confirm that all the information to questions 1-5 can be found at Annex A.

The RAF Reaper (ZZ209) you refer to in Question 6 is currently awaiting repair.

The data contained in this statement is believed to be complete and correct at the time of issue. The MOD operational activity databases are frequently reviewed, and any errors and omissions are corrected. It is therefore possible that future statements might not match this statement exactly. The MOD regrets any difficulty that this may cause but emphasises that our aim is to ensure that our records are as complete and correct as possible.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

PJHQ J9 Secretariat

Encl: Annex A: Operation SHADER Data Tables – July – September 2022

Annex A - Operation SHADER Data Tables – July to September 2022

1) For each month between July 2022 and September 2022 and broken down between i) Reaper and ii) Typhoon

a) the total number of missions undertaken by these aircraft on Operation Shader

Mission Count		Ac Type		
Year	Month	MQ9	FGR4	Total
2022	JUL	54	35	89
	AUG	53	48	101
	SEP	38	41	79
Total		145	124	269

b) the number of those missions entering Syria

Mission Count		Ac Type		
Year	Month	MQ9	FGR4	Total
2022	JUL	38	32	70
	AUG	5	45	50
	SEP	4	37	41
2022		47	114	161

c) the number of those missions entering Iraq

Mission Count		Ac Type		
Year	Month	MQ9	FGR4	Total
2022	JUL	16	3	19
	AUG	48	3	51
	SEP	34	4	38
Total		98	10	108

2) For each month between July 2022 and September 2022, the number of sorties with weapons released by a) Reaper and b) Typhoon broken down between Iraq and Syria?

- a) Iraq – Nil recorded
- b) Syria – Nil recorded

3) For each month between July 2022 and September 2022, the number and type of weapons released by a) Reapers and b) Typhoons broken down between Iraq and Syria?

- a) Iraq – Nil recorded
- b) Syria – Nil recorded

4) The number of UK weapon release events in a) Iraq and b) Syria per month from July 2022 and September 2022, broken down between Reaper and Typhoon?

- a) Iraq – Nil recorded
- b) Syria – Nil recorded

5) Please can you tell me, for each month between July 2022 and September 2022, how many hours have UK a) Reaper and b) Typhoon flown on Operation Shader?

Duration of flight		Ac Type		Total
Year	Month	MQ9	FGR4	
2022	JUL	798	425	1223
	AUG	704	566	1269
	SEP	506	466	972
Total		2008	1456	3456