



Ministry
of Defence

J9 Secretariat
Permanent Joint Headquarters
(United Kingdom)
Northwood Headquarters
Sandy Lane
NORTHWOOD
Middlesex
HA6 3HP

Email: UKStratCom-PJHQ-J9-FOI-Mbx@mod.gov.uk

Ref: FOI2023/05600

05 July 2023

Mr C Cole
chris@dronewars.net

Dear Mr Cole,

Thank you for your email of 03/05/2023 requesting the information as follows:

"1) 1) For each month between January 2023 and March 2023 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 January 2023 and March 2023, the number of sorties with weapons released by a) Reaper and b) Typhoon broken down between Iraq and Syria?

3) For each month between January 2023 and March 2023, 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 January 2023 and March 2023 broken down between Reaper and Typhoon?

5) Please can you tell me, for each month between January 2023 and March 2023, how many hours have UK a) Reaper and b) Typhoon flown on Operation Shader?

6) Please can you confirm if RAF Reapers operated outside of Operation Shader between January 2023 and March 2023."

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 in scope of your request is held.

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Information to all your questions falls within the scope of the qualified exemptions provided for at sections 23 (Security Bodies) and 24 (National Security) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Sections 24 is a qualified exemption and subject to a public interest test (PIT), which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure. The decision to withhold this information is based on that result, as the document(s) could have an impact on capability, effectiveness and the security of future operations. Furthermore, some of the information would provide an insight into the UK's capabilities and actions which could assist adversaries in the planning attacks against Armed Forces personnel and equipment.

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

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE