



Ministry  
of Defence

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Date: 29 May 2015

Dear

Thank you for your email of 27 April which requested the following information:

“On 26 February 2015 Reuters news agency reported that two separate airstrikes in Iraq, which had apparently taken place over the previous 24 hours, had resulted in civilian casualties. The strikes were reported to have taken place in or near Al-Qaim and in or near the al-Rutba district. I note from your website that British Reaper drones launched three strikes on 25 and 26 February 2015. Under the Freedom of Information Act can you tell me whether those Reaper strikes occurred in or near Al-Qaim or al-Rutba and if so whether the MoD is aware that any civilians may have been injured or killed in such strikes?

“Can you confirm whether any UK strikes in Iraq have resulted in or may have resulted in civilian casualties. If so can you provide details.”

Your correspondence has been treated 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 we can confirm that some of the information in the scope of your request is held. We can confirm that the RAF Reaper missions on 25 and 26 February 2015 were not in or near either Al-Qaim or al-Rutba.

There have been no known cases of civilian casualties resulting from RAF weapon releases over Iraq, from the RAF's first weapon release on 30 Sep 14 to early May 15 inclusive. All weapon releases take place in accordance with UK Rules of Engagement and applicable law.

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, 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

PJHQ J8-FOI-Secretariat