



Ministry
of Defence

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Date: 2 July 2015

Dear

Thank you for your email of 8 June 2015 which requested the following information:-

"A further 125 Military Trainers are being sent to Iraq. This will bring the total to 275.

Please advise:-

The number of Arabic and Kurdish:

- 1. Speakers*
- 2. Writers*
- 3. Readers*

making up the 275 personnel."

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 we hold some of the information you requested.

The information we hold indicates that there are currently no UK military trainers deployed to Iraq on Op SHADER with Kurdish or Arabic language qualifications. This does not include the further 125 service personnel the Prime Minister announced would be deployed to Iraq later this year because the specific individuals have not yet been identified.

The UK employs local translators to enable our forces to train the Kurdish security forces. Therefore, we do not currently have a requirement for UK service personnel deployed on Op SHADER to have specific language qualifications.

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