



Ministry of Defence

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Dear

Thank you for your email of 1 July 2015 which requested the following information:-

"Where can I find up-to-date and regularly updated information regarding UK military operations - including but not limited to special forces, UCAV strikes and training - against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria?"

"If this information is not currently publicly available, can you please provide a snapshot of current UK military operations in Iraq and Syria."

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 that you requested.

The MOD provides regular updates on UK military operations against ISIL (Op SHADER) on the gov.uk website. This can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-air-strikes-in-iraq>

The Secretary of State for Defence also provides routine updates on our military contribution to the anti-ISIL Global Coalition activity. The latest written ministerial statement was laid in the House of Parliament on 16 July and can be found at the link below:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2015-07-16/HCWS132/>

In Iraq the RAF is conducting airstrikes against ISIL and in Syria, we are providing surveillance for other Global Coalition members who are conducting airstrikes. We are also providing training and equipment to Iraqi, Kurdish and moderate opposition forces in Syria to take the fight to ISIL on the ground. The RAF aircraft committed to the operation to defeat ISIL includes:

- Tornado GR4s;
- Reaper Remotely Piloted Aircraft,
- C130 transport aircraft;
- Voyager (air-to-air refuelling aircraft);
- E3D Sentry command and control aircraft;
- Sentinel surveillance aircraft; and
- Rivet Joint surveillance aircraft.

We have over 500 personnel currently in the region supporting the operation to defeat ISIL, and the Prime Minister announced on the 7 July that an additional 125 troops would be deployed to train the Iraqi security forces in Countering-IEDs. This is on top of the £600,000 worth of military equipment the UK has gifted to the Kurdish Peshmerga. We have already provided over 50 tonnes of non lethal support and 40 heavy machine guns and nearly half a million rounds of ammunition

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