



Ministry
of Defence

J8 FOI Secretariat
Permanent Joint Headquarters
Northwood Headquarters
Sandy Lane
Middlesex
HA6 3HP
United Kingdom

E-mail: PJHQ-J8-FOI-Group@mod.uk

Reference: FOI2015-04502

Date: 18 June 2015

Dear

Thank you for your email of 21 May 2015 which requested the following information:-

"I am looking for information which shows the total number of airstrikes and ground operations undertaken in Iraq and Syria against ISIL to date – the MOD website only gives dates of airstrikes but not the total number unfortunately."

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 all of the information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested can be found below, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the qualified exemption provided for at section 22 (information intended for future publication) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

As per the MOD press releases on UK air strike statistics please find below the monthly breakdown of strikes in Iraq up to the end of March 2015. The UK has not conducted any air strikes in Syria.

Date	Total Strikes in Iraq
Sep-14	2
Oct-14	15
Nov-14	40
Dec-14	33
Jan-15	46
Feb-15	24
Mar-15	42
Total	202

Section 22 has been applied because the Secretary of State for Defence has told Parliament that future strike and sortie information will be released to the House on a periodic basis. We have only provided strike data that has previously been released, because the MOD is reviewing the definition for air strikes and the information it releases. Under Section 22 of the FOI Act (2000) we are withholding further information that is not yet in the public domain while that review is ongoing. This information will be released once that review has concluded.

In answer to the second part of your question there have been no UK ground operations in Iraq or Syria against ISIL.

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