



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
HQ Air Command
[REDACTED] Spitfire Block
Walters Ash, Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2014/06194

E-mail address:

13 November 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 21 October requesting the following information:

"a) The number of missiles fired from RAF drones (or Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems) in Kenya, Somalia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan or Iraq per month for each of the last 3 years and for this year (2014) up until the time my request is answered.

b) The number of occasions British pilots flew RAF drones (or Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems) in Kenya, Somalia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan or Iraq per month for each of the last 3 years and for this year (2014) up until the time my request is answered.

c) The number of occasions British pilots flew US drones (or Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems) in Kenya, Somalia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan or Iraq per year for each of the last 3 years and for this year (2014) up until the time my request is answered.

Please further break down figures by:

--type of missile fired (for part a only), -drone type (Watchkeeper, Reaper etc.) (for part b only) -country the drone was flown in (for all)"

I am treating your correspondence 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 I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. Data for 2014 is recorded in complete months so has been provided up to and including the 31st October 2014.

The data requested for part a) of your request is attached at Annex A below and is broken down into missile types as requested. All missiles were fired from the RAF Reaper Remotely Piloted Air System (RPAS). Reaper is the only armed RPAS (referred to as "drones" in the media). All the information in Annex A relates to UK Reaper operations in Afghanistan. No missiles were released from RAF RPAS in Kenya, Somalia, Yemen, and Pakistan as RAF RPAS have not operated in these countries. No data is held for Iraq during the period of your request.

For question b) the data requested is as follows:

The number of occasions British pilots flew UK RAF Reaper RPAS in Afghanistan is shown in the following table:

Year	Total
2011	838
2012	717
2013	841
2014*	815

*From January to October 31st inclusive.

British pilots flew UK RAF Reaper RPAS in Iraq on 10 occasions during the month of October 2014, information prior to that date is not held.

No data is held for Kenya, Somalia, Yemen, and Pakistan as RAF Reaper RPAS have not operated in these countries.

For question c) the data requested is as follows:

The number of occasions British pilots flew US owned Reaper RPAS in Afghanistan is shown in the following table:

Year	Total
2011	62
2012	178
2013	55
2014*	191

* From January to October 31st inclusive.

No data is held for Kenya, Somalia, Yemen, Pakistan and Iraq. UK personnel embedded with the US Air Force have only flown US Reaper RPAS in support of operations in Afghanistan, Libya and Iraq (prior to the period you have requested in relation to Iraq).

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 me 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,



Air D-Res Sec 3b

Annex A

Month	GBU-12	AGM-114 Variant
January 2011	0	4
February 2011	1	0
March 2011	4	10
April 2011	0	1
May 2011	0	2
June 2011	0	8
July 2011	1	2
August 2011	2	9
September 2011	0	17
October 2011	2	18
November 2011	1	24
December 2011	0	5
January 2012	0	2
February 2012	0	4
March 2012	0	6
April 2012	0	5
May 2012	0	4
June 2012	0	12
July 2012	0	8
August 2012	0	18
September 2012	0	16
October 2012	0	14
November 2012	0	11
December 2012	0	4
January 2013	0	3
February 2013	0	3
March 2013	0	10
April 2013	0	2
May 2013	0	10
June 2013	0	8
July 2013	0	8
August 2013	0	11
September 2013	0	15
October 2013	0	19
November 2013	0	3
December 2013	0	2

Month	GBU-12	AGM-114 Variant
January 2014	0	6
February 2014	0	7
March 2014	0	0
April 2014	0	4
May 2014	0	4
June 2014	0	6
July 2014	0	3
August 2014	0	16
September 2014	0	4
October 2014	0	5