



# Ministry of Defence

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Reference: **FOI2015/08183**

[Redacted]

E-mail: [Redacted]

Date: **19 October 2015**

Dear [Redacted],

Your correspondence dated 21 September 2015 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

1. *What is the total cost of Operation Shader up until 21st September?*
2. *What is the total cost of deploying eight RAF Tomado aircraft to RAF Akrotiri for Operation Shader?*
3. *How many personnel are currently deployed as part pf Operation Shader and how many have previously been deployed as part of the operation and have returned to other duties?*
4. *What is the total cost of the munitions used as part of Operation Shader up until 21st September*

I am writing to confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information on the subjects you have request in questions 1, 2 and 3. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because information concerning operational costs is currently being updated, collated and refined, and to locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of questions 1 and 2 would involve at least some 15 man days of effort. Details of the total number of personnel who have been previously deployed to date as part of Op SHADER, or been associated with the operation, are not held centrally and I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer this part of your request either without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of question 3 would involve at least some 10 man days of effort.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA, public authorities are required to provide advice and assistance while processing FOI requests, and I have therefore included some additional information below that you may find useful.

I draw your attention to the details published in the 2014-15 MOD Annual Report and Accounts which states the net additional costs of operations to Counter ISIL activity in Iraq and Syria between August 2014 and 31 March 2015 were around £80 million including the replenishment cost of munitions

expended in that period (which will be replaced in financial year 2015/16). Although costs financial year 2015/16 are not available, an initial £45M has been requested to meet the net additional costs of airstrikes in Iraq and airborne intelligence gathering operations in Iraq and Syria. The 2014-15 MOD Annual Report and Accounts can be found at the link below:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/445955/20150716-17-MOD-ARAc-combined-at-16-July-2015-print-version.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445955/20150716-17-MOD-ARAc-combined-at-16-July-2015-print-version.pdf)

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. Information the MOD can provide is the number of personnel currently deployed and the total cost of munitions used as part of Operation SHADER upto 21 September 2015.

Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so.

This response has been delayed in line with your telephone request, in which you asked that it not be sent to you until 26 October 2015.

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, 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>.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Resources Secretariat