



Ministry of Defence

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Thank you for your email of 13 September 2016 which requested the following information:-

1) *The number of enemy combatants killed in RAF airstrikes in Iraq in October 2014, November 2014, December 2014, January 2015, February 2015, March 2015, April 2015, May 2015, June 2015, July 2015, August 2015, September 2015, October 2015, November 2015, December 2015, January 2016, February 2016, March 2016, April 2016, May 2016, June 2016, July 2016, August 2016 and any available data for September 2016. Please provide a breakdown for each month listed.*

2) *The number of civilians killed in RAF airstrikes in Iraq for the same period.*

3) *Please provide a breakdown of air strikes in Iraq by location, if possible.*

4) *The number of enemy combatants killed in RAF airstrikes in Syria in December 2015, January 2016, February 2016, March 2016, April 2016, May 2016, June 2016, July 2016, August 2016 and any available data for September 2016. Please provide a breakdown for each month listed.*

5) *The number of civilians killed in RAF airstrikes in Syria for the same period.*

6) *Please provide a breakdown of air strikes in Syria by location, if possible.*

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 some information in scope of your request is held. The answers to questions 1 and 4 are contained in the table below. Please be aware that the figures for enemy combatants killed by RAF airstrikes have not been verified as the UK is not in a position to visit strike sites and verify the numbers of enemy killed. They are estimated figures only based on post-strike analysis.

As you are probably aware, UK air strikes are part of a wider Coalition operation to counter Daesh in Iraq and Syria by targeting their command and control sites, military equipment and revenue streams including oil infrastructure, rather than Daesh fighters. Therefore, we would not always expect to see enemy killed and wounded in action for all targets the UK strikes.

Enemy Killed In Action (EKIA)			
Year	Month	Iraq	Syria

2014	Oct	2	
	Nov	47	
	Dec	26	
2015	Jan	50	
	Feb	11	
	Mar	31	
	Apr	38	
	May	41	
	June	18	
	July	21	
	Aug	42	
	Sep	64	
	Oct	26	
	Nov	112	
	Dec	152	0
2016	Jan	133	6
	Feb	97	16
	Mar	66	0
	Apr	70	0
	May	133	1
	Jun	180	13
	Jul	85	20
	Aug	54	108
	Sep	72	17

Regarding questions 2 and 5, the UK takes all steps necessary to minimise civilian casualties. All weapons releases by RAF aircraft are conducted in strict accordance with the Law of Armed Conflict and rigorous Rules of Engagement, incorporating estimates to minimise the chance of civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure. Furthermore, the MOD also conducts an assessment after every British strike of the damage caused which includes checks to see whether there are likely

to have been civilian casualties. Our records show that there were no civilian casualties for the period in question.

Regarding questions 3 and 6, a chronological list of British forces air strikes as part of the wider Coalition operation to counter Daesh in Iraq and Syria can be found at the following gov.uk link, broken down by month and detailing the location of each strike.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-forces-air-strikes-in-iraq-monthly-list>

The data contained in this statement is believed to be complete and correct at the time of issue. The MOD operational activity databases are frequently reviewed and any errors and omissions are corrected. It is therefore possible that future statements might not match this statement exactly. The MOD regrets any difficulty that this may cause but emphasises that our aim is to ensure that our records are as complete and correct as possible.

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 J9 FOI Secretariat