



# Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat  
Spitfire Block  
Headquarters Air Command  
Royal Air Force  
High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire  
HP14 4UE

Ref. 2016/09194

[REDACTED]

21 October 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 4 October asking for details of strikes by UK Remotely Piloted Air Systems (RPAS). You requested the following information:

*"I would like to know the total number of drone strikes carried out by UK armed forces in Somalia, Pakistan, Yemen, Sudan and South Sudan over the past five years.*

*Furthermore, I would like to know the total number of enemy combatant casualties and also the total civilian casualties resulting from the above strikes. If this information is not available, I would like to know the total number of casualties resulting from the above strikes."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have now completed a search of our paper and electronic records for the information you requested and I can confirm that information within the scope of your request is not held because there have been no strikes carried out by UK Armed Forces using Reaper in Somalia, Pakistan, Yemen, Sudan or South Sudan.

Under Section 16 (Advice and assistance) of the Act, you may wish to note that Reaper is the UK's only armed RPAS and is operated by highly-trained Royal Air Force personnel. Reaper does not have the capability to fire weapons autonomously and can only fire its weapons when commanded to by the fully trained and qualified aircrew. The same strict rules of engagement that govern the use of conventional military aircraft also apply to Reaper. All weapons deployed by RAF aircraft are used 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.

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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, 2<sup>nd</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>.

Yours sincerely



Secretariat 3a1  
Air Command