



Ministry of Defence

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Dear

Thank you for your email of 26 January 2015 which requested the following information:-

“1) How many Tornado sorties did Britain conduct over Iraq between 1 October 2014 and 26 January 2015;

2) How many Tornado strikes did Britain conduct over Iraq between 1 October 2014 and 26 January 2015;

3) How many of these Tornado strikes resulted in the delivery of ordnance to targets;

4) What has been the total cost to date of Tornado operations against ISIS;

5) How many Reaper UAV sorties has the UK conducted over Iraq;

6) How many of these Reaper UAV strikes have resulted in the delivery of ordnance to targets;

7) Beyond special forces, how many British military personnel are currently stationed abroad for the purposes of training the Kurdish peshmerga:

8) What has been the total cost to date of British military operations against ISIS”

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 most of the information in the 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.

Section 22 has been applied to questions 4 & 8 because costs are still being collated and will be published in the MOD's Annual Report and Account due later this year.

Questions 1, 2 & 3

	01 Oct 2014 – 31 Jan 2015
The number of Tornado missions* flown over Iraq	189
The number of Tornado weapons released** over Iraq	129
Number of these Tornado strikes which resulted in the delivery of ordnance to targets	As Above

** Please note that the answers are given in the number of missions not sorties. A sortie is one flight by one aircraft irrespective of the duration of the sortie. A mission is a task for which one or more aircraft flies; typically one Tornado mission comprises two sorties.*

*** MOD records, in detail, all the air-to-surface weapons released by UK assets on operations; and this is therefore the format used above.*

Questions 4 & 8

The net additional costs of Defence's contribution to the international coalition's efforts to counter ISIL, including the additional costs of Tornado operations to date, are being collated and continue to evolve. They will be published in the MOD's Annual Report and Account. When published the report can be found at the following website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications>

Questions 5 & 6

	01 Oct 2014 – 31 Jan 2015
The number of Reaper missions* flown over Iraq	164
The number of Reaper weapons released** over Iraq	71

** Please note that these answers are given in the number of missions not sorties. A sortie is one flight by one aircraft irrespective of the duration of the sortie. A mission is a task for which one or more aircraft flies; typically one Tornado mission comprises two sorties.*

*** MOD records, in detail, all the air-to-surface weapons released by UK assets on operations; and this is therefore the format used above.*

The operational database which records information about UK Reaper and Tornado missions is regularly reviewed for errors and omissions. As a result of these internal quality control checks, there are a few occasions where data has, or will be, amended.

Question 7

As at 31 Jan there were 65 British military personnel stationed abroad for the purposes of training the Kurdish Peshmerga.

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