



Ministry of Defence

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Thank you for your email of 2 July 2016 which requested the following information:-

“Date, time, location (preferably latitude and longitude), and type (e.g. Predator + model) of all UK drone (UAVs or RPAS) strikes in Syria since strikes were authorised in 2015. For each strike: the number and type of missiles dropped.”

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 all the information in scope of your request is held and some can be found below. However, an element of your request seeking detail on specific location and time falls within the scope of the qualified exemptions under section 26 of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 26 (Defence) is a qualified exemption and is subject to a public interest test, which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 26(1)(b) has been applied to some of the information because it contains details which are operationally sensitive which contribute to the effectiveness of air operations, and which would prejudice the capability and effectiveness of our armed forces. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information, given that the public interest is best served in not releasing any details of Reaper strikes as it would provide tactical advantage to our enemies.

Date	Location	Aircraft	Munitions Used	Number
25/12/2015	Raqqah	MQ-9 Reaper	AGM-114 Hellfire	1
10/01/16	Raqqah	MQ-9 Reaper	AGM-114 Hellfire	1
10/01/16	Omar Oilfield	MQ-9 Reaper	AGM-114 Hellfire	2

11/01/16	Deir ez-Zor	MQ-9 Reaper	AGM-114 Hellfire	1
12/01/16	Deir ez-Zor	MQ-9 Reaper	AGM-114 Hellfire	1
18/02/16	Raqqah	MQ-9 Reaper	AGM-114 Hellfire	1
19/02/16	Raqqah	MQ-9 Reaper	AGM-114 Hellfire	1
20/02/16	Raqqah	MQ-9 Reaper	AGM-114 Hellfire	1
02/03/16	As Shadadi	MQ-9 Reaper	AGM-114 Hellfire	1
22/03/16	Ukayrishah	MQ-9 Reaper	AGM-114 Hellfire	2
21/04/2016	Deir ez-Zor	MQ-9 Reaper	AGM-114 Hellfire	1
22/04/16	Abu Kamal, Tabuqah	MQ-9 Reaper	AGM-114 Hellfire	4
23/05/16	Deir ez-Zor	MQ-9 Reaper	AGM-114 Hellfire	1
8/06/16	Raqqah	MQ-9 Reaper	AGM-114 Hellfire	1

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the MOD regularly publishes information about RAF activity in Iraq and Syria at:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-air-strikes-against-daesh>.

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