



Ministry of Defence

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References: FOI2015/01778 & 2015/04545

Date: 9 July 2015

Dear

Thank you for your emails of 13 February 2015 and of 25 May 2015. We have consolidated your requests for information into this single response.

On the 13 Feb 15 you requested the following information:-

The number of terrorists and civilians killed, as well as deaths in friendly fire incidences, in RAF air strikes in Iraq for October 2014, for November 2014, for December 2014 and for January 2015.

If the first part of my request falls below the costs limits, I would also like the following information:

On the [gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website, the Ministry of Defence released information on RAF air strikes in Iraq in January 2015: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-forces-air-strikes-in-iraq-monthly-list/raf-air-strikes-in-iraq-january-2015>. There are 18 entries in all e.g. one entry is "January 4: An RAF Reaper, working in support of Iraqi army units, identified an ISIL vehicle and engaged it with a Hellfire missile. Shortly afterwards, the Reaper discovered an ISIL position close by, and attacked this with another Hellfire." For each entry for January 2015, I would like to know the number of terrorists and the number of civilians killed in the strikes. I would also like to know any deaths in friendly fire incidences.

The number of terrorists and civilians killed, as well as deaths in friendly fire incidences, for each entry for December 2014: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-forces-air-strikes-in-iraq-monthly-list/raf-air-strikes-in-iraq-december-2014>. There are 12 entries in all.

The number of terrorists and civilians killed, as well as deaths in friendly fire incidences, for each entry for November 2014: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-forces-air-strikes-in-iraq-monthly-list/raf-air-strikes-in-iraq-november-2014>. There are 8 entries in all.

The number of terrorists and civilians killed, as well as deaths in friendly fire incidences, for each entry for October 2014: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-forces-air-strikes-in-iraq-monthly-list/raf-air-strikes-in-iraq-october-2014>. There are 7 entries in all.

On the 25 May 15 you requested the following information:-

The number of terrorists killed in RAF airstrikes in Iraq in October 2014, in November 2014, in December 2014, January 2015, February 2015, March 2015, April 2015 and in May 2015

The number of civilians killed in RAF airstrikes in Iraq in October 2014, in November 2014, in December 2014, January 2015, February 2015, March 2015, April 2015 and in May 2015

The number of friendly fire deaths in RAF airstrikes in Iraq in October 2014, in November 2014, in December 2014, January 2015, February 2015, March 2015, April 2015 and in May 2015

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 of the information within the scope of your request is held.

Section 26(1)(b) and Section 27(1) have been applied to the information held on the number of enemy combatants killed for each of the strikes referred to in your request of 13 February 2015. Section 26 and Section 27 are qualified exemptions and 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. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that, overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing information that could enable enemy combatants to understand the effectiveness of our weapons and damage our relations with Coalition partners. We have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of 'would' rather than 'would be likely to'.

At Annex A please find attached the information requested in your email of 25 May 2015. Please be aware that the figures for enemy combatants killed by RAF airstrikes have not been verified because the UK can not visit strike sites and conduct detailed investigations on the ground such that the numbers of deaths can be categorically determined. They are estimated figures only.

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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

PJHQ J8 FOI Secretariat

Annex A to Reference FOI2015/04545
Dated 25 May 2015

The number of terrorists killed in RAF airstrikes in Iraq in October 2014, in November 2014, in December 2014, January 2015, February 2015, March 2015, April 2015 and in May 2015

Month	Estimated Enemy Combatants killed ¹
October 2014	2
November 2014	47
December 2014	26
January 2015	50
February 2015	11
March 2015	31
April 2015	38
May 2015	37

The number of civilians killed in RAF airstrikes in Iraq in October 2014, in November 2014, in December 2014, January 2015, February 2015, March 2015, April 2015 and in May 2015

There have been no known incidents of civilians being killed as a result of RAF airstrikes in Iraq since September 2014.

The number of friendly fire deaths in RAF airstrikes in Iraq in October 2014, in November 2014, in December 2014, January 2015, February 2015, March 2015, April 2015 and in May 2015

There have been no friendly fire deaths as a result of RAF airstrikes in Iraq since September 2014.

¹ Disclaimer: These are estimated figures only. It is not usually possible to verify enemy combatants killed categorically following an incident due to the risks involved in doing so.