



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI2016/12052

[REDACTED]

11 January 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for email of 8 December requesting the following information:

"I'd like to know how many different occasions RAF ISR/fighter aircraft have been used to protect European countries against terrorist attack or a possible Russian threat over the past year?"

I am treating your correspondence 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 I can confirm that some information within the scope of your request is held. The information provided relates to our European allies, and not the UK itself.

The MOD can confirm that Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) aircraft were responsible for Baltic Air Policing as part of Operation AZOTIZE¹ from 01 May 2016 to 31 August 2016. The aircraft were launched 21 times.

The UK Sentry Force is committed to NATO and provides 25% of NATO airborne command and control capability. The fleet is routinely tasked by NATO to fly missions in Europe, providing airborne command, control and assurance.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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, Ground 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 normally investigate your case until the

¹ Operation AZOTIZE Mission Statement:

"To reassure NATO allies in Eastern Europe, deter any Russian threat and strengthen NATO cohesion and moral authority as part of its Assurance Measures Effort"

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,

Air Command Secretariat