



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Resources Secretariat  
Ministry of Defence  
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Reference: **FOI2015/09928**



E-mail: [REDACTED]

Date: **9 December 2015**

Dear [REDACTED],

Your correspondence dated 10 November 2015 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

*I am writing to you today to request the total cost of the airstrikes on Syria today, the cost of maintaining the fighters and the total cost of an individual operation to eliminate IS including maintenance and pilot pay, and the cost of the weapons in a strike layout.*

I am writing to confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because information concerning operational costs is currently being updated, collated and refined, and to locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of your request would involve at least some 10 man days of effort.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. This might be done by reducing the number of questions or removing reference to ongoing operational costs.

Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA, public authorities are required to provide advice and assistance while processing FOI requests, and I have therefore included some additional information below that you may find useful.

Total net additional costs of operations are included in the MOD Annual Report and Accounts which is available via the link below:

[MOD Annual Reports and Accounts \(2014-2015\)](#)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/445955/20150716-17-MOD-ARAc-combined-at-16-July-2015-print-version.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445955/20150716-17-MOD-ARAc-combined-at-16-July-2015-print-version.pdf)

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 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, 1<sup>st</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>.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Resources Secretariat