



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: FOI2015-03225, 03226 and 03227

Date: 15 June 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your separate emails of 20 March 2015 which requested the following information:-

“Have any UK military personnel conducted air strikes in Syria or Iraq using non-UK equipment? If so, how many, where and using whose equipment?”

“Have any UK military personnel carried out ISR sorties in Syria and Iraq using non-UK equipment? If so, how many, where and using whose equipment?”

“Please state whether any UK military personnel are or have been embedded with partner nations during coalition operations in Iraq and Syria and if so, with which partner nations?”

Your correspondence has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We have interpreted ‘coalition operations in Iraq and Syria’ as those that commenced in 2014 against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). We have interpreted the term ‘how many’ in your question to refer to the number of air strikes or ISR sorties conducted, and the term ‘where’ as the specific location of the air strike or sortie.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and we can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested that the Ministry of Defence holds can be found below.

UK military personnel embedded with the USA, French and Canadian armed forces have been authorised to deploy with their units to participate in coalition operations against ISIL. UK Embeds operate as if they were the host nation’s personnel, under that nation’s chain of command. These personnel include pilots flying ISR and Strike missions against ISIL targets using the equipment of those units. Of these three nations only the USA and Canada are operating in Syrian airspace.

The UK does not hold information on the specific location or number of air strikes/ISR sorties conducted by embedded personnel. Overall Coalition air strike information can be found at:

http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/

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