



Ministry of Defence

J9 FOI Secretariat

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Reference: FOI 2019/01025(122)

Mr I Overton

request-546910-133c0fbb@whatdotheyknow.com

20 February 2019

Dear Mr Overton,

Thank you for your email of 23 January 2019 which requested the following information:

"1) The number of enemies killed in action (EKIA) and enemies wounded in action (EWIA) by RAF strikes in Iraq and Syria.

- The data broken down by aircraft type responsible for the strike (e.g. Typhoon, Tornado and Reaper) and by month, beginning from September 2014 (Iraq) and December 2015 (Syria). Please include data up to the latest date possible while processing this request.

2) All allegations of civilian casualties from RAF strikes in Iraq and Syria received by the British government since September 2014 to the present day.

For each allegation, please provide the date, location, and all other details available such as the numbers of civilians killed or injured."

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 information in scope of your request is held.

As you are aware some of the information you have requested has already been published on the MOD website¹ and is exempted under Section 21 (Information accessible to applicant by other means) of the FOIA.

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/571871/20161011-FOI2016_08593_Enemy_killed_or-wounded_in_Iraq-Syria_by_RAF-airstrikes.pdf

Please see the accompanying tables which answer your question relating to the number of Estimated Enemy Killed in Action (Annex A) and Estimated Enemy Wounded in Action (Annex B) covering the period from September 2016 to January 2019.

Information concerning enemy killed and wounded in action is based on the best available post-strike analysis. This information, however, is only given as an estimate as the UK is not in a position to visit airstrike sites inside Syria and verify the facts. One of the aims of the UK and Coalition airstrikes is to dismantle Daesh's military infrastructure by targeting fortified positions, command and control sites, and military equipment rather than Daesh fighters. Therefore, we would not always expect to see enemy killed and wounded in action for all targets the UK strikes.

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.

Regarding your second question, since 1 August 2016 the UK has received 7 allegations of civilian casualties caused by RAF Air Strikes in Iraq and Syria. In the seven allegations received, there was no UK involvement. The details of each of the allegations can be found in the table below, the data has been provided by a third party; it sets out their assessment of potential civilian casualties by comparing the evidence they have gathered with MOD's online narrative of the RAF's operational activity at the time.

CIVILIAN CASUALTY ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED SINCE 1 AUGUST 2016

Location (lat, long)	Date(s)
35.95181; 38.981945	28 June 2017, about 7.30 pm
35.950687, 38.993151	Between 13 and 22 July 2017
35.93988, 38.99818	18 July 2017, morning
35.952188, 39.016402	22 August 2017, about 7 pm
Close to 35.952188, 39.016402	Last week of August/first week of September
35.958671, 39.007236	12 October 2017, about 04.45 am
35.958649, 39.007077	12 October 2017, about 04.45 am

It is important to note, that we can't completely eliminate the risk of civilian casualties, but we carefully mitigate that risk through strict targeting procedures.

All weapons releases by RAF aircraft are conducted in strict accordance with the Law of Armed Conflict and rigorous Rules of Engagement, incorporating estimates to minimise the chance of civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure. Furthermore, after every British strike, the MOD conducts an assessment of its effectiveness, including whether or not the objective of the strike has been met. This assessment includes checks to see whether there are likely to have been civilian casualties. In the event that there is any evidence at all, a further investigation is undertaken.

The MOD has committed to examining all evidence of civilian casualties that may be submitted, no matter what the source is. We take all allegations of civilian casualties seriously and analyse each allegation individually.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-Ix@xxx.xx). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly 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 MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

PJHQ J9 FOI Secretariat

Annexes:

- A. Estimated Enemy Killed in Action Iraq and Syria – September 2016–January 2019.
- B. Estimated Enemy Wounded in Action Iraq and Syria – September 2016–January 2019.

**ESTIMATED ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION IN IRAQ AND SYRIA – SEPTEMBER 2016–
JANUARY 2019**

ESTIMATED ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION							
		IRAQ			SYRIA		
Year	Month	Typhoon	Tornado	Reaper	Typhoon	Tornado	Reaper
2016	Sep ²	14	15	43	0	3	14
	Oct	71	23	69	4	0	2
	Nov	32	2	73	6	0	9
	Dec	8	9	25	0	4	0
2017	Jan	8	7	46	5	0	0
	Feb	9	9	5	0	0	0
	Mar	95	62	1	0	7	0
	Apr	3	50	2	23	0	4
	May	15	146	0	7	0	2
	Jun	80	117	3	32	34	12
	Jul	86	57	0	58	25	6
	Aug	81	33	0	112	24	0
	Sep	9	45	0	20	4	27
	Oct	0	13	0	3	0	22
	Nov	0	7	0	1	36	3
	Dec	0	11	0	4	3	21
2018	Jan	6	0	0	35	12	53
	Feb	0	0	0	5	7	21
	Mar	0	1	0	0	0	9
	Apr	4	5	0	0	0	0
	May	0	21	0	4	2	0
	Jun	0	0	0	2	5	13
	Jul	0	0	0	0	0	13
	Aug	0	2	0	0	0	3
	Sep	1	0	0	21	14	4
	Oct	0	0	0	6	16	7
	Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dec	7	0	0	0	9	48
2019	Jan	0	5	0	4	1	4
Total		529	640	267	352	206	297

Information concerning enemy killed and wounded in action is based on the best available post-strike analysis. This information, however, is only given as an estimate as the UK is not in a position to visit airstrike sites inside Syria and verify the facts. One of the aims of the UK and Coalition airstrikes is to dismantle Daesh’s military infrastructure by targeting fortified positions, command and control sites, and military equipment rather than Daesh fighters.

² Please note this is the total number of Estimated Enemy Killed in Action for September 2016. The previously published data for September 2016 was for part of the month.

Therefore, we would not always expect to see enemy killed and wounded in action for all targets the UK strikes.

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.

**ESTIMATED ENEMY WOUNDED IN ACTION IN IRAQ AND SYRIA – SEPTEMBER 2016–
JANUARY 2019**

ESTIMATED ENEMY WOUNDED IN ACTION							
		IRAQ			SYRIA		
Year	Month	Typhoon	Tornado	Reaper	Typhoon	Tornado	Reaper
2016	Sep ³	1	0	5	0	3	3
	Oct	0	0	11	0	0	0
	Nov	0	0	16	0	0	3
	Dec	0	0	5	0	4	0
2017	Jan	7	0	8	0	0	0
	Feb	0	0	2	0	0	0
	Mar	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Apr	0	2	0	1	0	0
	May	4	0	0	2	0	0
	Jun	0	3	1	0	0	2
	Jul	0	4	0	4	0	0
	Aug	0	2	0	0	0	0
	Sep	1	12	0	0	4	2
	Oct	0	3	0	0	0	3
	Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dec	0	1	0	0	0	4
2018	Jan	2	0	0	1	3	6
	Feb	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Mar	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Apr	0	0	0	0	0	0
	May	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jun	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Jul	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Aug	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sep	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dec	0	0	0	0	0	6
2019	Jan	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total		15	27	48	8	14	38

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