



Ministry
of Defence

Operations Directorate
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Reference: FOI 2018/01307

Date: 8th February 2018

Mr Ollie Luckhurst

request-460047-fa206532@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Luckhurst,

Thank you for your email of 26th January 2018 which requested the following information:

I would be interested to know how many civilians the UK estimate have died as a result of RAF air strikes.

Your correspondence has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). No information is held in respect of your request.

Under Section 16 of the Act, (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that we do everything we can to minimise the risk to human life from UK strikes through our rigorous targeting processes and the professionalism of the RAF crews. All RAF weapons are deployed in strict accordance with the Law of Armed Conflict and rigorous Rules of Engagement.

Pre-strike assessments are undertaken to ensure that we minimise the risk to civilians and civilian objects. Post-strike, the UK uses a range of criteria, which may include the use of full motion video, to judge the effectiveness of its airstrikes and to determine whether we have caused civilian casualties. The Ministry of Defence is committed to investigating any credible reports that UK airstrikes have been responsible for civilian casualties.

Given the ruthless and inhumane behaviour of Daesh, we must accept that the risk of inadvertent civilian casualties is ever present. While we've not seen any evidence that we have caused civilian casualties, this is not the same as saying we have not or will

not do so, especially in close urban fighting against a callous terrorist enemy that deliberately uses civilians as human shields.

The information 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.

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,

Operations Directorate