



Ref: FOI2023-007

[REDACTED]

21st February 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Further to our previous correspondence regarding your request for the following information:

I would like to refine my request for all information AWE holds on the urine monitoring of individuals at the nuclear weapons testing programme, regardless of whether they are categorised as 'results' or not, that you have located within AWE emails.

I imagine this will be an easier search to perform, on digital records and servers, using key words, over a shorter span of time, and should therefore cut the working hours down considerably and hopefully bring it under the £450 cost limit. As you state that there are many different formats and reasons for gathering the information, I would expect the eventual release to include more than just my own emails making FOI requests, but also internal and inter-departmental discussions of the same as they relate to, for example, court cases.

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

We can advise that whilst AWE may hold some information in scope of the subjects you have requested, we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit set out at Section 12 of the Act.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with these would exceed the appropriate limit, which for public authorities is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.25 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

We initiated a search using the key words 'urine monitoring' within AWE emails which returned over 186,000 results. It may be helpful for you to know that as an organisation, urine monitoring is carried out on a daily basis for our current employees. This is discussed and arranged by email and consequently is included in our search results. However, there is no way we can narrow down the search to just emails discussing historical urine monitoring other than manually, which would exceed the £450 cost limit.

We would also like to advise you that email is a difficult search method due to the change of staff over the years; email accounts are deleted and are therefore unavailable for scrutiny.

It is unlikely that a search for emails will ever fall under the cost limit, unless you provide more specific keywords for us to search with. However, we still cannot guarantee that this will be possible.



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We would like to be able to help you with your research, and suggest perhaps limiting your request to one particular trial, Hurricane for example, and exclude emails from your request.

Please note that if you break your request down into several smaller requests, we may still consider that your requests fall under the cost limit in their entirety.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled you have a right to request an internal review within 40 days of receiving this letter, by writing to information.requests@awe.co.uk or our postal address: Information Requests Team, AWE Aldermaston, Reading, RG7 4PR. If you are still unhappy after an internal review has been completed, under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you have the right to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office. Please note the Commissioner will generally not consider a complaint until you have exhausted AWE's internal complaints process.

Yours sincerely,

AWE Information Requests Team