



Ref: FOI2021-001
20th July 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 5th July 2021 requesting the following information:

*I can see pylons about 8 or so when I travel along the M4 near Reading.
Could you tell me what the purpose is*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and we can confirm that the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) holds information in scope of your request.

However, the information you have requested falls entirely within the exemption provided for under section 21 of the Act (Information accessible to applicant by other means). Information in scope of your request can be found in the document titled 'COMMITTEE REPORT' dated 06/03/2009 in planning application for Mensa, available here:

<http://planning.westberks.gov.uk/rpp/index.asp?caseref=08/02287/COMIND>

Under Section 16(1) of the Act, whereby public authorities should provide advice and assistance to requesters, so far as it is reasonable to do so, we can confirm that the pylons on the AWE Burghfield site that are visible from the M4 motorway near Reading are catenary towers, part of the lightning protection system which protects the Mensa facility from lightning strikes.

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