



Ref: FOI2022-007

[REDACTED]

9th February 2022

Dear

Thank you for your email of 8th February 2022 requesting the following information:

We at the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association would like to confirm the activities of a veteran [Douglas Logan Peter Hern] during Operation Grapple, The details we have from his original application to the association differ from later accounts. Since he a member he joined the board of trustees. during this time he has given many public talks, he won awards and has been given welfare grants based on his participation on Christmas Island. Unfortunately the facts around his service have become blurred over the years and we cannot prove or disprove his service now. During his last talk at the Nuclear Archives symposium he stated he was in charge of an AWRE team, clearing dead birds and fish. What we fear is he has been taking stories from our veterans for years and passing them off as his own for his own benefit.

Information needed:

- 1) Confirmation of participation at the nuclear tests*
- 2) If he was there;
 - a. what period was he there?*
 - b. in what capacity?**

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

We have considered your request and have decided that the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOI Act. The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) are obliged to comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR and as such are prohibited from disclosing personal data to third parties where doing so would breach the data protection principles set out in the UK GDPR. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and as such does not require a Public Interest Test to be carried out.

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