

Ref : FOI2024-015

[REDACTED]

5<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

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

*I am fully aware that there is an issue with the roof at a building where it is used 24/7 by Police officers.*

*There is concern that the building is constructed especially the roof that contains materials that can cause health conditions that can affect an individual's health. The concerns are that the part of the building may contain Asbestos especially the roof. Building Concerned is where the roof has been leaking for a considerable amount of time leaking into various areas and continues to do so.*

*Can you please confirm the following:*

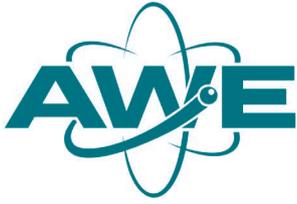
- 1. What is the building constructed of such.*
- 2. What materials are within the building structure.*
- 3. What is the roof constructed of including materials used.*
- 4. Has any checks been carried out to see what the roof is made from and its materials.*
- 5. How many faults / issues have been raised regards this building.*
- 6. What actions have been taken to rectify the faults and issues raised considering it is used 24/7.*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). A search for the requested information within the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) has now been completed, and we can confirm that information in scope of your request is held, we will now address each of your points in turn:

With regard to the building construction, we can advise that; *'The building is principally a high-bay, steel framed building with a brick-built, conventional single storey height area on the front elevation'.*

With regard to the building materials used within the building structure; we can advise that *'The steel framed high-bay building has a profiled steel sheet flat roof deck and concrete floor slab. The flat roof edges were noted to comprise grey-painted bitumen felt, draining to painted aluminium gutters and downpipes. Elevations are enclosed by cavity brickwork at low level and original Satin Anodised Aluminium (SAA) framed curtain walling incorporating wired glass single-glazing above. Doors are colour-coated aluminium plus a timber exit door at the rear. The lower accommodation in front of the main building consists of cavity brickwork walls under a white-painted bitumen felt covered concrete flat roof which drains to painted aluminium gutters and downpipes. Windows and doors are colour-coated aluminium units'.*

In regard to your enquiry about the construction of the roof and if any checks have been carried out; we can advise that; The roof is constructed of *'Profiled metal sheet deck covered by roofing felt containing both*



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*Asbestos (chrysotile) and composite material (Unknown material which was later confirmed in a subsequent specialist contractor's survey in October 2023 that No Asbestos was Detected (NAD)' within the composite material).*

With regard to your enquiry on recorded faults or issues; we can advise that; *There are 31 roof related breakdowns documented dating back to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014.*

*There have been 3 incidents since 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 relating to the roof for slip hazards.*

In response to your final point, we can confirm that a project was instigated to come up with a design and solution to rectify the roof issues. An initial project was programmed to re-cover the roofing with an overlay system. Upon commencement of the works, the contracting team stated that the works could not commence due to saturation of the roof substrate that would expand and potentially fail when the moisture evaporated during elevated temperatures. Project halted and further scope discussed with the Project Manager to decide on a solution. Proposal is to remove the existing roof entirely and replace with a new roofing system. No dates as yet as to when this works will 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](mailto: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