

Ref: FOI2025-035

18 August 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

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

"In response to a previous request, FOI2024-037, AWE stated this archive held 'regulations and orders for each operation' in the UK nuclear weapons testing programme.

I would like to know:

- A) how many regulations there are*
- B) how many orders there are*
- C) The time period covered*
- D) How many of the orders or regulations refer to blood testing, chest x-rays, or urine testing"*

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 your request, 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. In this instance the AWE estimate is that it would take one person over 220 hours to carry out these activities.

Under Section 16(1) of the Act public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance, so far as it is reasonable to expect the authority to do so. We must advise in this instance to determine the amount of regulations and orders in Archive A38.1 would require manually searching through the archive. The large volume of effort required means that we are unable to offer any meaningful advice and assistance as to how you could refine your request so that it could be administered by AWE within the appropriate limit.

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