

Ref: EIR2025-055

27 October 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

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

“ The titles of all files dated 1957 on the Merlin database, which concern the environmental monitoring conducted at Christmas Island in the wake of Operation Grapple X”*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).

A search has been carried out to locate the information you requested and we can confirm that AWE does not hold a specific list of file titles dated 1957 within the Merlin database that concern environmental monitoring conducted at Christmas Island following Operation Grapple X. Therefore, we are applying Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, which permits refusal of a request where the information is not held.

In accordance with Regulation 14, this serves as a formal refusal notice. However, in line with our duty to provide advice and assistance under Regulation 9, we can advise that while a list is not available, all relevant records held in the Merlin database relating to environmental monitoring at Christmas Island will be published at The National Archive (TNA) subject to classification.

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 and Regulation 18 of the EIRs 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