

Ref: FOI2025-047

29 September 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

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

- “1. How many records are held in archive A38.1
- 2. The date of creation of archive A38.1
- 3. What format archive A38.1 is stored in - ie digital, paper, PDF
- 4. The security level necessary for an individual to access archive A38.1
- 5. How many times archive A38.1 has been accessed since 2020
- 6. Whether archive A38.1 includes copies of the Blue Books”

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 the subjects you have requested, 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 order to satisfy question 1 of your request it would require AWE to manually count the contents of Archive A38.1. It is estimated that this would cost around £5,500 and take roughly 220 hours. Where section 12 applies to one part of a request; we are required to refuse all parts of the request, as defined in the cost limit guidance as advised by the Information Commissioner’s Office.

If you refine your request so it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. Based on our initial assessment, it appears that points 3 and 6 could likely be addressed without exceeding the cost threshold.

Please note that if you break your request down into several smaller requests, we may still consider that your requests fall under the cost limit in their entirety.

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