

Ref: FOI2025-049

22 September 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

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

"Hello, I would like to make a request under the relevant legislation for publication of the following documents held by AWE:

- * AustC_BK18_209.pdf, monthly medical report June 1956*
- * AustC_Bk20A_098.pdf, letter Daley to ANP/DCAS, dated 2/10/56*
- * AustC_Bk22_138.pdf, radiation medical examination - personnel maralinga, dated 20/5/57*
- * AustC_Bk22_140.pdf, radiation medical examination - personnel maralinga, dated June 1957*
- * AustC_Bk23_065.pdf, medical examination: maralinga personnel, dated 19/7/57*
- * AustC_Bk25_046.pdf, peace officer guard monthly report August 1956, dated 2/9/56*
- * AustC_Bk40_027.pdf, western command general staff instruction, dated 8/3/65*
- * AustC_Bk50_093.pdf, title unreadable, dated 5/10/1980*
- * AustC_Bk51_083.pdf, medical examinations of Australian personnel, dated January 1957"*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and we can confirm that AWE holds all the information you have requested.

The records requested are being transferred to The National Archives (TNA) as part of the transparency exercise to publish the records within the Merlin database. A small team of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) at AWE are preparing the records for publication, making the necessary redactions in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and national security requirements. It is with regret that AWE must advise you it is unable to comply with your request because the records titled AustC_BK18_209.pdf, AustC_Bk20A_098.pdf and AustC_Bk51_083.pdf, medical examinations of Australian personnel, dated January 1957 are being reviewed in line with GDPR requirements. The same SMEs who would process your individual request and would be required to conduct a line-by-line review of the information to assess its likelihood of release, are preparing the records for publication. There is a strong public interest in ensuring that the publication of the Merlin database is not delayed or disrupted by the handling of individual Freedom of Information requests.

We must therefore advise you that AWE is applying Section 14(1) of the Act, as compliance with your request would impose a disproportionate burden coupled with the work and effort to complete the ongoing transfer of the Merlin records to TNA.

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 that the remaining six records requested are being transferred to TNA unredacted as part of the first tranches of records. The transfer of unredacted records to TNA is now underway.

If you wish for us to write to you again and inform you if and when all the records requested are released to TNA, please confirm this to information.requests@awe.co.uk.

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