

Ref: FOI2025-057

31 October 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

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

- * *A copy of a document, book or manuscript, consisting of several chapters authored by multiple individuals, titled "Operation Buffalo" and edited by William Penney. It was originally proposed for publication by the Ministry of Supply, but was never published and I believe has been transferred to AWE for its historic archives.*
- * *A copy of a document, book or manuscript, consisting of at least 7 chapters, titled "Damage from Atomic Weapons", edited by Derrick Garrard of the Ministry of Technology, and published as a classified document by the Ministry of Supply in 1958. Again, I believe it has not been published and was transferred to AWE.*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

We can confirm that AWE holds all of the information you have requested, however we are withholding the information under section 21 of the FOI Act. This section provides that information can be withheld where the information is already available to the applicant by other means.

In this case, the documents are publicly available via The National Archives (TNA). To assist you, we have compiled the relevant links in the attached spreadsheet.

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



Citable Reference	Context Description	Title	Link to TNA:
ES 18/36	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B12, weapon transient telemetry	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B12, weapon transient telemetry The National Archives
ES 18/52	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B28, meteorology	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B28, meteorology The National Archives
ES 18/29	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B3, theoretical predictions	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B3, theoretical predictions The National Archives
ES 18/48	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B24, target response, materials	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B24, target response, materials The National Archives
ES 18/44	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B20, target response, explosives	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B20, target response, explosives The National Archives
ES 18/46	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B22, target response, electronics	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B22, target response, electronics The National Archives
ES 18/43	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B19, target response, aircraft	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B19, target response, aircraft The National Archives
ES 18/37	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B13, photographic measurements	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B13, photographic measurements The National Archives
ES 18/26	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section A1, introduction	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section A1, introduction The National Archives
ES 18/59	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C1, administration; appendix 3, staff lists	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C1, administration; appendix 3, staff lists The National Archives

ES 18/41	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B17, target response, instrumentation	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B17, target response, instrumentation The National Archives
ES 18/63	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C4, signals	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C4, signals The National Archives
ES 18/30	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B4, photographic services	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B4, photographic services The National Archives
ES 18/33	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B8, weapon assembly (explosives)	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B8, weapon assembly (explosives) The National Archives
ES 18/31	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B5, firing control	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B5, firing control The National Archives
ES 18/50	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B26, Kittens	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B26, Kittens The National Archives
ES 18/32	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B7, weapon assembly (RA components)	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B7, weapon assembly (RA components) The National Archives
ES 18/61	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C2, air requirements, appendices	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C2, air requirements, appendices The National Archives
ES 18/60	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C2, air requirements	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C2, air requirements The National Archives
ES 18/35	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B10, radiochemical measurements	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B10 radiochemical measurements The National Archives
ES 18/27	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B1, health physics services	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B1, health physics services The National Archives

ES 18/38	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B14, radiological measurements	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B14, radiological measurements The National Archives
ES 18/47	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B23, target response, Biology Group	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B23, target response, Biology Group The National Archives
ES 18/57	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C1, administration; appendix 1, catalogue of common user stores	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C1, administration; appendix 1, catalogue of... The National Archives
ES 18/45	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B21, target response, structures	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B21, target response, structures The National Archives
ES 18/34	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B9, weapon functioning	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B9, weapon functioning The National Archives
ES 18/51	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B27, seismic measurements	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B27, seismic measurements The National Archives
ES 18/55	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B30, long distance radio flash measurement	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B30, long distance radio flash measurement The National Archives
ES 18/54	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B29, Indoctrinee Force	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B29, Indoctrinee Force The National Archives
ES 18/28	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B2, decontamination	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B2, decontamination The National Archives
ES 18/49	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B25, TIM Series 2	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B25, TIM Series 2 The National Archives
ES 18/58	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C1; administration; appendix 2, Buffalo administrative notices	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C1; administration; appendix 2, Buffalo... The National Archives

ES 18/40	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B16, air and ground shock measurements	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B16, air and ground shock measurements The National Archives
ES 18/62	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C3, security	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C3, security The National Archives
ES 18/39	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B15, thermal measurements	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B15, thermal measurements The National Archives
ES 18/56	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C1, administration, introduction	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section C1, administration, introduction The National Archives
ES 18/42	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B18, target response, ordnance	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B18, target response, ordnance The National Archives
ES 18/53	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and Predecessors: Records Relating to Atmospheric Trials.	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B28A, meteorology	Operation BUFFALO: summary plan; section B28A, meteorology The National Archives