

Ref: FOI2025-065

10th November 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

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

I would like to make a request under the relevant legislation for the following information.

** A copy of file 9 from AWE archive box K3435, titled 'human thyroid counting, RAF, Army, Australians'*

If I can be of any help further refining this request please let me know. Thank you.

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

A search has been conducted for the requested information; we can confirm that the paper records have been digitised and are held within the Merlin database, that the 'K Boxes' are no longer in use.

Those records are currently being transferred to The National Archives (TNA) as part of AWE's transparency initiative to publish material held within the Merlin database. As the documents you are seeking are included within the Merlin Database, they are therefore in the scope of this publication effort.

A dedicated team of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) at AWE is actively preparing these records for release. This involves applying necessary redactions in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and national security requirements.

Accordingly, AWE is applying Section 14(1) of the Act, as fulfilling your request would impose a disproportionate burden on the team while the 'Merlin' transfer is ongoing. The same SMEs who would handle your Freedom of Information (FOI) request are currently focused on the Merlin publication project, there is therefore significant public interest in ensuring this broader transparency exercise proceeds without delay or disruption, which would inevitably result from diverting those resources to process individual FOI requests at this time.

Section 16(1) of the Act requires public authorities to provide advice and assistance to individuals making requests, we would like to highlight that the requested documents are reasonably accessible via the ES18 Series at TNA. The National Archives

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