

Ref: FOI2026-006

[REDACTED]

09 March 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

We refer to your request for the following information:

*In the recent declassification of the Merlin database, one file ref ES 38/ZPTK3 was published. I attach it below.*

*As you will see it is a top secret report written in 1954 on Operation Hurricane. It has been seen by the Prime Minister's Office, and was found and added to Merlin in this format in 2007.*

*It is, though, blank - and it is hard to see why a blank piece of paper went to the PM.*

*Therefore please could I request AWE to search its archives OTHER THAN MERLIN to see if it holds the top secret section of the director's report on scientific data obtained at Operation Hurricane, dated 27 August 1954, and provide a copy.*

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 the information you have requested. However, we are withholding it under Section 21 (Information accessible by other means) of the Act. Section 21 provides that information is exempt from disclosure where it is already reasonably accessible to the applicant.

The information you have requested is already publicly available via The National Archives (TNA). You may access it at the following link:

[Operation HURRICANE: directors report; scientific data; top secret section | 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](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