

Ref: EIR2026-032

[REDACTED]

2 July 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

We refer to your request for the following information:

*“Copies of all draft and/or final versions of the report titled “review of environmental monitoring data for Christmas Island (CI) 1957-1958” by D.P Whithorn, C. Wilson, including versions stored on SharePoint, internal document systems or any other records management systems.*

*The analysis AWE sent to the MOD in September 2014, referred to at paragraph 4 of page 5 in the attached document.”*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).

We can confirm that AWE holds information within scope of the first part of your request, regarding copies of draft versions of the report titled “Review of Environmental Monitoring Data for Christmas Island (CI) 1957–1958”.

However, we consider that some of the requested information is exempt from disclosure under Regulation 12(4)(d) of the Regulations, as it comprises unfinished documents and incomplete data. The material represents draft work that was not progressed to completion and does not reflect a current or settled position.

A copy of what we consider to be the most recent version of the draft report was released in February 2026 and can be accessed via the link below:

[Internal-Review-of-EiR2025-038v3.pdf](#)

Our letter of 27 February 2026 made it clear the draft report is subject to Regulation 12(4)(d) which allows a public authority to refuse disclosure where the request relates to material which is in the course of completion, unfinished documents and incomplete data. We remain of the view, as set out in our letter, that the public interest in maintaining the exception does outweigh the public interest in the disclosure of the drafts.

The decision to release the final draft in February 2026 was an exceptional circumstance and, as we explained at the time, was without prejudice to AWE’s right to apply Regulation and exceptions in the usual way for future requests.

In accordance with Regulation 12(1)(b), we have considered the public interest in disclosure of all draft and/or final versions. While we recognise the general public interest in transparency, we consider that this is outweighed by the public interest in avoiding the release of incomplete and unreliable information which could lead to misunderstanding or misinterpretation. Importantly, the requested information are internal working drafts with the exception of the final draft which has already been released.

Having considered all the circumstances, we have concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Accordingly, the draft versions of the report are withheld under Regulation 12(4)(d) with the exception of the final draft which has already been released and is already available on our website - [Internal-Review-of-EiR2025-038v3.pdf](#).

In relation to the second part of your request, concerning the analysis sent to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in September 2014 referred to in the attached document, we have conducted appropriate searches of our records. On the basis of those searches, we can confirm that AWE does not hold this information.

In accordance with our duty to provide advice and assistance under Regulation 9 of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, we can advise that the Ministry of Defence may hold information relevant to this part of your request. You may therefore wish to contact the Ministry of Defence directly to pursue this information at [CIO-FOI@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI@mod.gov.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](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 and Regulation 18 of the EIRs 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