

Ref: FOI2026-010

[REDACTED]
13 April 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

We refer to your request for the following information:

** Titles of all documents held on AWE's behalf by third parties relating to the safety, monitoring or radiation exposure of UK or Commonwealth personnel or civilians involved in nuclear weapons testing*

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

We can advise that whilst AWE may hold the information in scope of the subjects you have requested, we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit set out at Section 12 of the Act.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with these would exceed the appropriate limit, which for public authorities is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.25 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

To identify and extract the information requested, AWE would be required to review the titles of all documents held by The National Archives (TNA) that fall within scope. Based on current holdings, this would involve examining approximately 24,800 document titles. At a reasonable working rate of 100 titles per hour, this stage alone would require around 248 hours of staff time.

The total time required to complete these tasks would be approximately 248 hours, significantly exceeding the cost limit set out in Section 12 of the Act. As a result, AWE is not obliged to process the request further.

Under section 16 of the Act, which places a duty on public authorities to provide advice and assistance, it may be helpful to explain how you could refine your request to bring it within the cost limit. We would suggest narrowing the scope by specifying a particular date range or identifying the titles records you are seeking. A more focused request is significantly more likely to fall within the statutory cost threshold, and we would be happy to consider a refined request on that basis.

Please note that if you break your request down into several smaller parts, it may be possible that your requests fall under the cost limit in their entirety.

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