

Ref: FOI2026-021

14 May 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

We refer to your request for the following information:

I write to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide 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.*
- *All correspondence (e.g. emails, letters, briefing notes, attachments, internal communications) between the AWE and MOD in relation to the Freedom of Information (FOI) request it received in 2014 regarding environmental monitoring during nuclear weapons testing on Christmas Island, including (but not limited to):*
 - *Requests made by the MOD to the AWE to assist with the FOI requests / review;*
 - *The analysis AWE sent to the MOD in September 2014;*
 - *All correspondence between the authors of the “review of environmental monitoring data for Christmas Island (CI) 1957-1958” and the MOD in relation to that report;*
 - *Any correspondence between the MOD and the AWE relating to the “review of environmental monitoring data for Christmas Island (CI) 1957-1958” after the MOD received the report.*

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 some 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. AWE refuses your request under section 12(1) of the Act.

To fulfill your request, AWE would be required to undertake a substantial programme of searches across a broad range of record-holding systems and formats. This would include (but would not be limited to):

- Searches of multiple legacy and current email systems for correspondence dating back to 2014 and earlier, including attachments and correspondence involving several IT systems no longer employed by AWE;
- Manual review of historical SharePoint sites, network drives and legacy records management systems, many of which pre-date current information governance structures;
- Identification, retrieval and comparison of numerous draft iterations of technical reports and working papers, many of which are not uniquely titled or centrally indexed; and
- Detailed review of the retrieved material to determine whether it falls within scope of the request and, if so, if any exemptions to releasing the materials are applicable.

Given the age, breadth and complexity of the requested information, AWE estimates that the time required to locate, retrieve and extract the information would significantly exceed 18 hours, which represents the appropriate cost limit of £450 as defined by section 12 of the Act

Under section 12, AWE is therefore not obliged to comply with the request, If you refine your request so it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again.

In accordance with section 16 of the Act, we have a duty to provide advice and assistance to assist you in refining your request so that it may fall within the cost limit. This may include, for example:

- Dividing the request according to the bullet points
- Narrowing the request to a specific and limited time period;
- Focusing on a particular category of correspondence.

If you wish to submit a refined request, please do so using the contact details below.

Please note that if you break your request down into several smaller requests, we may still consider that your requests fall under the cost limit in their entirety, or that the data may be subject to another exception/exemption.

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