

Ref: FOI2026-027

28 May 2026

We refer to your request for the following information:

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

*Please confirm whether or not the AWE facility at Tadley holds, or has held in the past 20 years, microscope slides or samples of blood collected during the UK's nuclear weapons testing programme."*

Under section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), a request must describe the information sought. As currently framed, your request seeks a general confirmation rather than clearly describing specific recorded information. On that basis, the request does not fully meet the requirements of section 8 of the Act.

Notwithstanding the above, and in accordance with our duty to provide advice and assistance under section 16 of the Act, we have undertaken proportionate enquiries to enable us to be able to provide sensible suggestions to make to you, enabling you to refine your request for recorded information and confirming whether such material is or has been held.

On this basis, we can confirm that AWE does not hold any recorded information, nor has it held within the past 20 years, microscope slides or samples of human blood collected during the UK's nuclear weapons testing programme. Under section 16, advice and guidance, it may be useful to know that the storage and use of human tissue in the United Kingdom is regulated under the Human Tissue Act 2004. Only organisations licensed by the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) are permitted to store human tissue under the Human Tissue Act 2004. As AWE is not an HTA-licensed establishment, it would neither be authorised nor expected to store such material.

This should be understood as a response under section 1(1)(a) FOIA (information not held).

If you are seeking specific categories of recorded information (for example, particular reports, datasets, or historical records), we would be pleased to consider a refined request.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future correspondence. If you have any queries regarding this response, please contact this office in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

AWE Information Requests Team