

Ref: FOI2026-028

12 June 2026

We refer to your request for the following information:

“Please refine this request to such documents that cover Operation Buffalo in 1956. To reiterate, the request is for a list of documents that include, but are not necessarily be limited to, documents owned by AWE and held by other agencies, departments, organisations and institutions, in Britain or abroad.”

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). A search for the requested information within AWE has now been completed.

We can confirm that we hold information within the scope of your request. We are able to disclose the titles of documents owned by AWE which have been transferred to the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

Please see the attached schedule of titles.

Under section 16 of the Act, (duty to provide advice and assistance), it may be helpful to clarify that, while the document titles themselves are not classified, each document listed carries its own individual security classification.

If you wish to seek access to any specific document, you may submit a refined request identifying the particular document(s) of interest. Any such request would then be considered separately in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

It may be helpful to note that a number of the documents listed are in the process of being transferred to The National Archives (TNA) as part of the Merlin database publication program. Subject to this process being completed as planned, the material is expected to become publicly available by the end of September 2026.

Notwithstanding this anticipated future publication, any request for disclosure under the Act would be considered on the basis of the circumstances prevailing at the time of the request. It is likely that a request for early disclosure would be refused where release at this stage would engage exemptions under sections 14, (burdensome), 22 (future publication), 24 (national security) and 26 (defence).

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

Titles owned by AWE	Titles transferred to MOD
Rad at on Exposu e f om Atom c Weapons Tests.	Ma al nga Pol cy.
A L des on Atom c Weapon test ng w lten fo jnd by Aust al an Weapons Tests Safety Comm ttee.	Ua m by M. D. R. Johnstone and mit Commonwealth of Aust al a.
M nutes of the 5th Meet ng of the Ma al nga Comm ttee.	S gnal Cha m by M. D. R. Johnstone. P al m na y Reply and Respons b l ty fo Rad olog cal Safety at Ma al nga.
M nutes of the 4th Meet ng of the Ma al nga Comm ttee.	Effects of Atom c Explos ons on Pa ked A c aft and St uctu al Ta gets at Ope at on Buffalo.
M nutes of the 3 d Meet ng of the Ma al nga Comm ttee.	Append x of whe e Sampl ng A c aft we e based, and assoc ated levels of Rad at on, and Decontam nat on.
M nutes of the 18th Meet ng of the Ma al nga Comm ttee.	Indoct nee fo ce.
Lette about Fights th ough the Cloud.	Pr at UK Nuclea Tests n Aust al a.
Repo t to the P me M n ste of Aust al a by the Atom c Weapons Tests Safety Comm ttee on the Buffalo T als.	Ga an and Symonds V s t to UK.
Lette -- A. Sampl ng and Su vey.	Ma al nga Pol cy.
M nutes of the 8th Meet ng of the Ma al nga Comm ttee.	Indoct nee fo ce fo Buffalo One.
M nutes of the 9th-18th Meet ngs of the Atom c Weapons Tests Comm ttee.	
T pa t te Confe ence on Effects of Atom c Weapons. 1957.	
T pa t te Confe ence on Effects of Atom c Weapons. Naval Rad olog cal Measu ements on Ope at on Buffalo. F nal Repo t -- Pa t. The Pola D st but on of the Flash gamma Rad at on.	
The Response of A c aft, Runways and Rada s to the Effects of Nuclea Explos ons.	
Gamma Flash Spect omete A F nal Repo t.	
Release of Info mat on f om AWE: Repo t T23/57.	
The Indoct nee Fo ce A Note on the Rad at on Levels Expe enced n the Buffalo Se es Tests Conducted n 1956 at One T ee and Ma co on the Ma al nga Range.	