

Ref: FOI2026-035

Email

13 July 2026



We refer to your request for the following information:

“Please provide me with a copy of any information held by AWE about blood samples, or microscope slides containing blood, at or by AWE Tadley.

If such information exists, please provide any further information that references how many such slides or samples are held, when they were gathered, the origin of and reason for any such slides to be held.”

A search has been carried out to locate the information you requested and we can confirm that AWE does not hold any recorded information.

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, AWE would neither be authorised nor expected to store microscope slides or samples of human blood collected during the UK’s nuclear weapons testing programme.

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