

Ref: FOI2026-044

05 August 2026

We refer to your request for the following information:

“Please will you send me any documents you have which explain the organisational histories, current statuses and inter-relationships between your programmes called Astraea, Mensa, Aurora, Pegasus, the Future Materials Campus and Future Infrastructure Programmes (FIP). Please specify which physical locations the programmes are conducted at, i.e. Aldermaston, Burghfield.”

You subsequently clarified that by “organisational histories”, “current statuses” and “inter-relationships” you are seeking to understand which programmes are currently active, which have merged with others, which programmes no longer exist, the dates of those changes, whether any of the programmes have direct relationships with one another, whether any other publicly named AWE programmes support Astraea, what each programme/project was designed to do, what MENSA now does, and the physical or site-level locations of the programmes.

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

We can confirm that AWE holds information within the scope of your request. However, we are withholding the information in relation to the first part of your request under Section 21 of the Act. This exemption provides that information may be withheld where it is already reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and is not subject to a public interest test.

Information relevant to your request is available via:

- [NISTA Major Projects Annual Report 2025/26](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nista-major-projects-annual-report-2025-26), including the associated published data:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nista-major-projects-annual-report-2025-26>
- [Defence Nuclear Enterprise 2025 Annual Update to Parliament](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-nuclear-enterprise-2025-annual-update-to-parliament):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-nuclear-enterprise-2025-annual-update-to-parliament>
- [AWE’s public “Our projects” webpage](https://www.awe.co.uk/our-supply-chain/our-projects/) for information concerning the future infrastructure programmes:
<https://www.awe.co.uk/our-supply-chain/our-projects/>

Under Section 16 of the Act, AWE has a duty to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable to do so. The information available in the links includes details relating to MENSA and the Future Materials Campus (FMC), including the point at which the Aurora and Pegasus projects were incorporated into the programme. It also provides descriptions of MENSA, FMC and Astraea, together with their respective site locations. In addition, the information outlines the programmes that support Astraea, including the UK-France TEUTATES 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