

Ref: FOI2026-045

22 July 2026

We refer to your request for the following information:

"I recently came across the published response to reference FOI2025-077, dated 18 February 2026, concerning the Facilities Management contract with EMCOR covering the Berkshire Estate, including the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites. Having read the response carefully, I noted that AWE confirmed that it holds all of the requested information but withheld it under sections 24(1) and 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

My request is not intended to revisit the same request or seek disclosure of information that AWE has already determined would engage those exemptions. Rather, having read the published response, I wish to make a follow-up request seeking information about the existence, administration and categorisation of the records, together with information concerning the procurement and the decision-making process surrounding the application of the exemptions.

Where possible, I would ask that information be disclosed in a redacted form rather than withheld in its entirety. If any individual item below is considered exempt, I would be grateful if AWE could consider the remaining items independently and disclose any information capable of being released.

Accordingly, I respectfully request the following recorded information.

1. Schedule of Records Held

Please provide a schedule or index of the recorded information held by AWE relating to the Facilities Management contract referred to in FOI2025-077.

For each record, where reasonably practicable, please identify:

- the title or brief description of the record;*
- the document type (for example contract, contract variation, service specification, pricing schedule, governance paper, meeting minutes, correspondence, performance report, KPI report, audit report, drawing, map, procurement document, risk assessment, evaluation report, award report, contract management record or similar);*
- the date the record was created;*
- whether the record remains active or has been archived;*
- whether the record is held electronically, physically or both; and*
- whether AWE considers that the record would be wholly disclosable, partially disclosable with redactions, or exempt from disclosure, together with the exemption(s) that would be relied upon.*

I am not requesting the substantive contents of each document at this stage. Rather, I am requesting an inventory or schedule of the records held.

2. Contract Metadata

Please provide any recorded information identifying:

- *the contract title;*
- *the procurement reference number;*
- *the contract reference number;*
- *the date on which the contract commenced;*
- *the original contract duration;*
- *whether the contract remains active;*
- *whether the contract contains extension provisions;*
- *whether any extension has been exercised;*
- *whether a replacement procurement has commenced; and*
- *whether EMCOR remains the current contractor.*

If any of the above information has already been published elsewhere, I would be grateful if you could direct me to the relevant publication.

3. Publicly Available Information

Your response referred applicants to AWE's supplier webpage.

Please identify any additional publicly available documents relating to this procurement, including but not limited to:

- *contract notices;*
- *award notices;*
- *procurement notices;*
- *transparency publications;*
- *spending publications;*
- *supplier guidance;*
- *procurement documentation;*
- *archived webpages;*
- *contract summaries; or*
- *any other publicly available records relating to this contract.*

4. Procurement Records

Please provide a schedule identifying the procurement records created during the procurement exercise, including (where held):

- *procurement strategy documents;*
- *procurement timetables;*
- *evaluation methodologies;*

- moderation records;
- governance approvals;
- award recommendations;
- contract award reports; and
- contract management plans.

Again, I am requesting identification of the records themselves rather than necessarily their complete contents.

5. Information Concerning the Application of Sections 24 and 43

Please provide recorded information identifying the process followed in deciding to rely upon sections 24(1) and 43(2) in response to FOI2025-077.

This includes, where held:

- records identifying the individuals, teams or departments consulted;
- records identifying whether external parties, including EMCOR, were consulted;
- dates on which consultations took place;
- records identifying the exemptions considered;
- records describing the public interest balancing exercise;
- any guidance, submissions, recommendations or briefing papers prepared for the decision-maker;
- any approval records authorising the final response; and
- any policy or internal guidance relied upon when determining that sections 24(1) and 43(2) applied.

I appreciate that some material may itself engage exemptions. Where that is the case, I request that any reasonably severable information be disclosed in accordance with section 1 of the Act and the principle of partial disclosure.

6. Public Interest Assessment

Please provide any recorded information that describes, explains or evidences how the public interest test was conducted in relation to this request, including any generic guidance or templates used by AWE when balancing the public interest under sections 24 and 43.

7. Categories of Information

Please identify the categories of information that AWE considered to be capable of prejudicing national security or commercial interests in relation to this contract. I am not requesting the sensitive information itself, but rather a description of the categories of information that were considered sensitive.

8. Redaction

If AWE considers that disclosure of complete documents would engage one or more exemptions, I respectfully request that you consider whether those documents, or parts of those documents, could be disclosed with appropriate redactions under section 1 of the Act rather than being withheld in their entirety.

Finally, if any part of this request would exceed the appropriate limit under section 12 of the Act, I would be grateful if AWE could comply with the remainder of the request and, in accordance with section 16 of the Act, provide advice and assistance identifying those elements that could reasonably be answered within the statutory cost limit or suggesting how the request might be refined."

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

We can advise that AWE may hold information falling within the scope of your request. However, we are unable to comply with the request in its current form because the cost of determining whether the information is held, and subsequently locating, retrieving and extracting that information, would exceed the appropriate limit set out in 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 a request would exceed the appropriate limit, which for AWE is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours determining whether information is held and locating, retrieving and extracting that information.

Your request seeks a broad range of information relating to the Facilities Management contract, including schedules of records, procurement records, contract management records, consultation records, public interest test materials, approval records and other information associated with the handling of FOI2025-077.

To identify and extract all information potentially falling within the scope of Questions 1,2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, AWE would be required to conduct extensive searches across multiple business areas and record repositories, including procurement, contract management, commercial, correspondence and FOI casework records.

Many aspects of the request would also require the manual review of a potentially significant volume of material to determine whether information falls within scope. The work required to determine whether information is held, and to locate, retrieve and extract that information, would therefore exceed the appropriate limit prescribed by Section 12 of the Act.

Where a request contains multiple elements and a public authority estimates that the cost of complying with one or more parts of the request would exceed the appropriate limit prescribed by Section 12 of the Act, the request may be refused in its entirety. In line with Information Commissioner's Office guidance, public authorities are not required to process the remaining parts of a request where the appropriate limit has been exceeded. Accordingly, AWE has applied Section 12 to the request as a whole.

In accordance with our duty under Section 16 of the Act, we have considered whether we can assist you in refining your request so that it may be considered within the statutory cost limit.

Questions 1 and 4 seek schedules or inventories of records relating to the contract and associated procurement activity. The Freedom of Information Act provides a right of access to recorded information held by a public authority. It does not require a public authority to create new information in order to answer a request. Accordingly, if AWE does not already hold a schedule, inventory or index of the type requested, the Act would not require AWE to create one.

In practice, producing the schedules requested would require AWE to identify, locate and review potentially large volumes of underlying records in order to compile new information. This contributes significantly to the estimated cost of compliance.

If you wish to pursue these elements of your request, you may find it helpful to identify a specific document type, record category or date range rather than seeking a comprehensive inventory of all records held.

Question 7 asks AWE to identify categories of information that it considered capable of prejudicing national security or commercial interests. The Freedom of Information Act provides a right of access to recorded information rather than requiring a public authority to create explanations, opinions, commentary or categorisations that have not already been recorded. If no such recorded information is held, the Act would not require AWE to create an explanation in response to this part of the request.

Question 8 does not seek recorded information. Rather, it asks AWE to consider whether information could be disclosed in redacted form rather than withheld in full. This is a request about how any responsive information should be handled, rather than a request for information in its own right. Should a future request be processed, AWE would consider its obligations under the Act, including whether partial disclosure by way of redaction is appropriate.

You may wish to consider refining your request by limiting its scope to a specific and clearly defined category of information. For example, you could focus on the contract metadata referred to at Question 2, publicly available procurement or contract information referred to at Question 3, or a specific procurement document or record type. Narrowing the scope of your request in this way may reduce the volume of searches and manual review required and increase the likelihood of the request being capable of being considered within the appropriate cost limit prescribed by the Act.

You may also wish to exclude Questions 1, 4, 5 and 6, as these elements are the principal contributors to the estimated cost of compliance.

Please note that we cannot guarantee that a refined request would fall within the statutory cost limit, nor that any information identified would necessarily be suitable for disclosure, as other provisions of the Act may apply. If you choose to submit a refined request, AWE will consider it afresh.

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.

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