

Ref: FOI2026-060

October 2nd 2026

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

We refer to your request for the following information:

Please provide copies of, or relevant extracts from, all current recorded information held by AWE that sets out the basis on which security or vetting-related workplace restrictions may be imposed on individuals employed by, engaged by, or working for AWE.

This includes, but is not limited to, any policies, procedures, guidance, instructions, standards, frameworks, agreements or decision-making documents concerning:

The circumstances in which AWE may impose, implement or maintain a workplace restriction following a decision, direction, requirement or recommendation from the Ministry of Defence Directorate of Security and Resilience (DSR), UK Security Vetting (UKSV), or any other government security or vetting authority.

The types of workplace restrictions that may be imposed for security or vetting reasons.

Any restriction relating to home working, remote working, hybrid working, or the location from which an individual is permitted to carry out their duties.

The respective roles and decision-making authority of AWE and DSR where such a restriction is proposed or applied, including any recorded information showing:

who makes the final decision; whether AWE is required to implement a DSR decision, direction or recommendation; and whether AWE has discretion to modify, decline, suspend or remove such a restriction.

The criteria and process used to determine whether such a restriction is necessary, proportionate and appropriate.

The arrangements for reviewing, varying, extending, suspending or removing such restrictions, including any review periods or requirements for periodic reassessment.

Any process by which an affected individual may seek a review, reconsideration or appeal.

Please also provide, for each calendar year from 2021 to 2025 and separately for 2026 to date, any recorded aggregate figures showing:

a. The number of individuals employed by, engaged by, or working for AWE who were subject to a security or vetting-related restriction preventing or limiting home, remote or hybrid working.

b. Of those, the number where the restriction originated from, was required by, directed by, or recommended by DSR, UKSV or another government security or vetting authority.

c. The number of such restrictions that were subsequently reviewed, varied, suspended or removed.

d. The number of such restrictions that remained in force at the end of each reporting period.

For clarity, I am requesting existing recorded information and anonymised aggregate statistics only. I am not requesting personal data relating to any identifiable individual.

If AWE does not hold any part of the requested information, please state this clearly in relation to each relevant part of the request.

If any information is withheld, please identify the specific exemption relied upon, explain why it applies and, where applicable, provide the outcome of the public interest test. Please also disclose any reasonably separable non-exempt information.

If any of the requested information is held by another public authority rather than AWE, please identify that authority where known.

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 some of the information in scope of your request.

Information relating to security and vetting-related workplace restrictions.

AWE holds information within the scope of this part of your request.

However, some of the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under Sections 24(1) (National Security) and 26(1)(b) (Defence) of the Act.

Section 24(1) provides an exemption where withholding information is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security. Section 26(1)(b) provides an exemption where disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces or other bodies responsible for the defence of the United Kingdom.

The information withheld comprises internal policies, procedures, guidance, governance arrangements and operational processes relating to security vetting, the application of security-related workplace restrictions, and the implementation of security controls within AWE. Disclosure would reveal details of the manner in which security and vetting-related decisions are managed and implemented across a defence-sensitive environment.

The release of such information would provide insight into security and risk-management arrangements intended to protect sensitive assets, personnel, operations and information. AWE considers that disclosure would be highly likely to assist those seeking to exploit security measures and would therefore be contrary to the interests of national security and defence.

Sections 24 and 26 are qualified exemptions and are therefore subject to the Public Interest Test.

AWE recognises the public interest in transparency and accountability regarding the governance arrangements that underpin decisions affecting members of the workforce. Disclosure would facilitate public understanding regarding the framework and processes used when security-related workplace restrictions are considered and applied.

However, there is a compelling public interest in protecting national security and maintaining effective security arrangements within organisations supporting the defence of the United Kingdom. Disclosure of detailed information concerning security controls, vetting-related processes and associated decision-making arrangements could undermine the effectiveness of those measures and increase risks to national security.

Having considered the competing public interest arguments, AWE has concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosure. The information is therefore withheld under Sections 24(1) and 26(1)(b) of the Act.

Information relating to decisions made by UK Security Vetting (UKSV), the Ministry of Defence Directorate of Security and Resilience (DSR), or other government security authorities.

AWE does not hold information concerning the underlying decision-making processes, reviews, reconsiderations, appeals, recommendations or determinations undertaken by UK Security Vetting (UKSV), the Ministry of Defence Directorate of Security and Resilience (DSR), or other government security authorities.

Accordingly, this information is not held for the purposes of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act.

In accordance with our duty to provide advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Act, you may wish to submit this part of your request directly to the relevant government authority, including UK Security Vetting (UKSV) who can be contacted via: [UKSV FoI Enquiries](#) or the Ministry of Defence, as appropriate.

Statistical Information

a. The number of individuals employed by, engaged by, or working for AWE who were subject to a security or vetting-related restriction preventing or limiting home, remote or hybrid working.

2021: C830

2022: C830

2023: C830

2024: C830

2025: C830

2026 (to date): C830

b. Of those, the number where the restriction originated from, was required by, directed by, or recommended by DSR, UKSV or another government security or vetting authority.

2021: C830
2022: C830
2023: C830
2024: C830
2025: C830
2026 (to date): C830

c. The number of such restrictions that were subsequently reviewed, varied, suspended or removed.

AWE does not hold this information.

In accordance with Section 16 of the Act, you may wish to direct this part of your request to UK Security Vetting (UKSV) [UKSV Fol Enquiries](#) or the relevant government authority responsible for maintaining such records.

d. The number of such restrictions that remained in force at the end of each reporting period.

AWE does not hold this information.

In accordance with Section 16 of the, you may wish to direct this part of your request to UK Security Vetting (UKSV) [UKSV Fol Enquiries](#) or the relevant government authority responsible for maintaining such records.

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