

Ref: FOI2026-008

April 23rd 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

We refer to your request for the following information:

Please provide the following information:

- *Copies of all draft and/or final versions of the report titled “review of environmental monitoring data for Christmas Island (CI) 1957-1958” by D.P Whithorn, C. Wilson, including versions stored on SharePoint, internal document systems or any other records management systems.*
- *All correspondence (e.g. emails, letters, briefing notes, attachments, internal communications) between the AWE and MOD in relation to the Freedom of Information (FOI) request it received in 2014 regarding environmental monitoring during nuclear weapons testing on Christmas Island, including (but not limited to):*
 - *Requests made by the MOD to the AWE to assist with the FOI requests / review;*
 - *The analysis AWE sent to the MOD in September 2014;*
 - *All correspondence between the authors of the “review of environmental monitoring data for Christmas Island (CI) 1957-1958” and the MOD in relation to that report;*
 - *Any correspondence between the MOD and the AWE relating to the “review of environmental monitoring data for Christmas Island (CI) 1957-1958” after the MOD received the report.*
- *Copies of any and all witness statements held by the MOD that were made in Leonard Abdale and Others v SSHD.*
- *All internal correspondence regarding the FOI requests made in July 2025 and September 2025 regarding the “review of environmental monitoring data for Christmas Island (CI) 1957-1958”.*
- *Records of any meeting held in relation to the July and September 2025 FOI requests referenced above, including but not limited to agendas, minutes, notes or briefing papers.*

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

After carefully assessing the scope of your request, AWE has determined that the work required to identify, locate and extract the information would exceed the cost limit as set out in Section 12 of The Act. The volume of material potentially in scope spans multiple systems, archived repositories, historic correspondence and legacy sites dating back over several decades. Complying with the request would require a manual review across several business areas and would exceed the statutory cost threshold.

Unfortunately, we are unable to process your request in its current form because it exceeds the appropriate cost limit set out in section 12 of the Act. This means that the work required to identify, locate, retrieve and extract the information you have requested would exceed the statutory cost threshold.

Under our duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with section 16 of the Act, we can advise that you may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope. For example, you could:

- limit the request to specific time periods (such as particular years),
- restrict it to defined categories of information (for example, documents or communications), and/or
- focus on a specific subject matter.

Please note that even if you choose to refine your request, other exemptions under the FOIA may still apply. In such circumstances we may not be able to provide all or some of the requested information.

If you would like to submit a refined request, we will be happy to consider it.

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