



Ref: FOI2023-018

[REDACTED]

5th July 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Further to our previous correspondence regarding your request for the following information:

- 1. Confirmation (YES/NO) of whether AWE holds records about blood or urine testing of servicemen who were deployed, due to be deployed, or had recently been deployed, at atmospheric nuclear weapons testing and subsequent clean-ups between 1952 and 1967;*
- 2. Whether these records are about the requirement to test, process of testing, or the results of testing;*
- 3. The security classification and format (eg paper, digital, microfiche) of this documentation;*
- 4. What records, if any, AWE holds of documents that can be described as Army Form 20 or 21; F Med 4, 7, 12 or 29;*
- 5. The precise number of records held on the above points*

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

We can advise that whilst the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) may hold some information in scope of the subjects you have requested, we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit set out at 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 these would exceed the appropriate limit, which for public authorities is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours in determining whether the public authority holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Regarding point 5 of your request '*The precise number of records held on the above points*' ,there are over 150 documents that reference blood or urine testing and separately around 4711 dosimetry files which may contain references to blood or urine testing but would require manual examination to determine such information is held within these files. Manual examinations of these would take approximately 15 minutes per file so over 1200 hours in total, which would hugely exceed the cost limit. If you refine your request so it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. We can advise that we would be able to respond to the first four points of your request without exceeding the cost limit,

Under Section 16, the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, it may also be useful to know that a number of the 150 documents mentioned referencing blood or urine testing are available in the public domain in the National Archives of Australia, you can search for them at this link: [Home page | naa.gov.au](http://naa.gov.au)



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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