

Ref : FOI2024-014

[REDACTED]

4<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

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

- i) how many times in each of the previous ten years (2014 -24) the Merlin database has been accessed, according to its audit trail*
- ii) whether and how many of these were by individuals who do not work for the AWE directly*
- iii) any reasons logged in the audit trail for each occasion of access*

*If this request goes over the cost limit, please limit it to the five years from 2018.*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). A search for the requested information within the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) has now been completed, and we can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. We will address each of your points in turn:

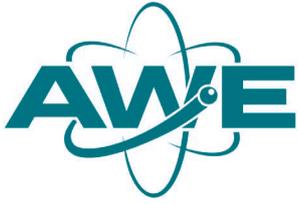
Regarding how many times The Merlin Database has been accessed, due to a system software change we can only provide information from 2022, according to the audit trail the Merlin database has been accessed 283 times.

No information is held to be able to respond to this point, however under Section 16, advice and assistance, it may be helpful to note that only AWE officials with the required security clearance have access to the database.

For each occasion of access, the only reason given in the audit trail is 'opening database'. Under Section 16, advice and assistance, it may be helpful to note that the database is accessed for various reasons including preparing responses to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act, Data Subject Access Requests for dosimetry readings made under the Data protection legislation.

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](mailto: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.



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[www.awe.co.uk](http://www.awe.co.uk)

Yours sincerely,

AWE Information Requests Team

