



Ref: FOI2021-003
5th August 2021

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence of 12th July 2021, requesting the following information:

The data I am requesting: All information pertaining to

*“UAP Unidentified Aerial Phenomena”,
“UFO Unidentified Flying Object(s)”,
“USO Unidentified Submerged Object(s)”,
“UAV Unmanned Aerial Vehicle(s)”,
“UAS Unmanned Aircraft System(s)” and
“Drone(s)” relating to the MOD/UK Navy
and all references containing “Nuclear” or “Atomic” since records began, across all
departments in a digital format.*

Your correspondence has been treated 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 department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting it. As a result of the nature of the work conducted at AWE, the vast majority of recorded information held will be likely to contain references to the words “Nuclear” or “Atomic”, and to fulfil your request we would need to search and review every file held since the organisation was created. Therefore, due to the wide scope of your request, it is not possible to provide an estimate of how long such a search would take, but it would clearly far exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours.

AWE may be able to identify some information in scope of your request if it were reduced or refined to bring the cost of compliance within the appropriate limit. If you were to refine your request by limiting it to a specific topic or piece of information, it may fall within the appropriate limit. However, depending on the subject matter and the number of files that would need to be searched we must warn you that a refined request of this nature may still exceed the appropriate limit.

We must also advise that no information related to “UAP Unidentified Aerial Phenomena”, “UFO Unidentified Flying Object(s)”, “USO Unidentified Submerged Object(s)”, “UAV Unmanned Aerial Vehicle(s)” and “UAS Unmanned Aircraft System(s)” is held by AWE.



Aldermaston ▪ Reading
Berkshire ▪ RG7 4PR

www.awe.co.uk

If you have any queries about this request, please contact this office in the first instance. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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