



Ref: FOI2023-004

[REDACTED]

8th February 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Further to our email of 30th January 2023 regarding your request for the following information:

Request for copies of 1952 documentary. *Whilst clearing a building at the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE), Farnborough, a formerly secret 35 mm film was found. This film showed historically important details showing that the RAE was deeply, and secretly, involved in the development of nuclear weapons. It shows Blue Danube loading trials with a Valiant aircraft, drop trials from the Valiant, and the work on the (inert) part of the Hurricane Ball. (The live part was exploded on HMS Plym, our first weapon test in 1952.) Being part of the NW history, the film was transferred in about 1998-99 to AWE for safe keeping. Extensive extracts from the now unclassified film were then used by the BBC for the BBC4 film "Britain's Nuclear Bomb - The Inside Story". (2017).*

In the meantime the museum at Farnborough, the Farnborough Air Sciences Trust, has become a fully accredited museum and is anxious to rectify the gap in their records that cover this particular aspect of the RAE's history. For the BBC to use the film it is likely to have been digitised and we are hoping that you can supply a digital copy.

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 information in scope of your request is held.

We are able to disclose the footage requested and have sent it to you on two discs to the address specified. One is a higher resolution for editing purposes.

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