

Ref: FOI2024-048

foxy medialimited@gmail.com

17 October 2024

Dear Ms Boniface,

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

*\* Confirmation (YES/NO) whether the database known as 'mini Merlin', referenced in the attached screenshot from a MoD sworn statement to the High Court in November 2008, holds any information about blood or urine testing of servicemen or civilians who were part of the nuclear weapons testing programme 1952-1967;*

*\* If yes, a list of the titles of those documents;*

*\* If no, a descriptive summary of what information mini Merlin holds and the type of documents therein.*

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

Thorough searches have been carried out to locate the information you requested and we can confirm that AWE does not hold any relevant information.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act (advice and assistance) you might find it helpful to note that Mini Merlin was a direct copy of the unclassified documents from the Merlin database intended to be used to aid the MOD legal team in the Tribunal hearings and no longer exists. Any historic searches for blood or urine carried out on the Merlin database would yield the same result, or a more comprehensive result than one made of Mini Merlin.

The results for the searches of the Merlin database for blood and urine have already been published. These can be found at:

[Atomic Weapons Establishment \(AWE\) records relating to nuclear test veterans - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

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.

Yours sincerely,

AWE Information Requests Team