

Ref: FOI2025-004

██████████  
25 February 2025

Dear ██████████

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

\* A copy of all information held by AWE about births or deaths at the medical centre at Woomera Rocket Range, also known as Woomera Hospital or Woomera Village Hospital, or among service personnel at Woomera or Maralinga between 1952 and 1980

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

We can confirm that AWE holds all of the information in scope of your request.

We are able to release the following information, please see the documents attached.

However, we are withholding some of the information under section 40(2) of that act in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. This information has been redacted from the documents attached.

Section 40(2) requires the Department to conduct a balancing exercise which involves balancing the rights and interests of individuals against the legitimate interests in disclosure. This is not the same as carrying out the public interest test associated with certain exemptions under the Act. The balancing exercise is carried out in order to decide whether the absolute exemption in section 40(2) is engaged. In particular, there is no assumption of disclosure in the legitimate interest's test, as there is with qualified exemptions. The outcome of the balancing exercise lay in withholding the third-party personal data identified as being within scope of your request.

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

RESTRICTED

1241-115 16  
OCT 1961

2.

3. GENERAL.

A fire occurred at Watson on Monday 2nd October and as a result of this fire which destroyed the home of [REDACTED] the death occurred of their son [REDACTED].  
Coroners Court was not held as there were no suspicious circumstances.

A department of National Development Geophysical Party arrived at Emu from Giles on Wednesday 4th October and departed for Kingoonya on Friday 6th October.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

E. S. O.  
MARALINGA.

RESTRICTED

610754

83 | 6 | 6  
103 | L.R.W.E.R.

LRWE Range,  
WOOMERA, S.A.

R136-004

20 JAN 19

Superintendent,  
LRWE Range,  
WOOMERA, S.A.

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dec 20th.

<sup>WIRRAMINNA</sup>  
Went to Wirraminna with [redacted] wished to check on death of 2 or 3 hour old half-caste baby. [redacted] was the mother. I wished to see [redacted]

Both [redacted] and [redacted] were away in Pt Augusta but we saw their mother [redacted]. Her story agreed in all essential details with [redacted] story as told to Pt Augusta Police and I am satisfied there was no foul play.

Dec 23rd.

Went to Bullers and saw [redacted] and [redacted] also [redacted] quite happy with a friend [redacted] has applied for a job here which will necessitate both [redacted] and [redacted] going elsewhere.

Jan 3rd.

<sup>WIRRAMINNA</sup> Left for patrol of the following stations. Wirraminna, Coondambo, Kingoonya, Wilgena, Tarcoola, Bulgunnya, Bon Bon and Mt. Vivien.

[redacted] accompanied me. Visited Coondambo on the way to Kingoonya, 12 men, 14 women and 8 children at Kingoonya.

[redacted] and his wife who were sent to Pt. Augusta Hospital on 19 Nov 49 back and apparently better. He is going to work at Mt. Vivien.

Jan 4th.

Got away early for Bulgunnya via Tarcoola. Did not see any natives at Wilgena or Tarcoola. Wilgena employ only one, he travels about as a dogger. Police say very few seen at Tarcoola, none at Valley Well or Mintor's Well.

One old man and two boys at Bulgunnya. An old woman died recently and all hands except those three on 'walkabout'.

Jan. 5th.

Travelled back to Kingoonya via No 7, Bon Bon and Mt Vivien.

Did not see any natives with the exception of one woman and two half-caste children who were at Gosse Range Well.

(cont)

20 JAN 1950

Some working at either Bon Bon or Mt Vivian at present. Bon Bon usually has a few. Mt Vivian Employs them when there is work and when they are available.

Jan 6th.

WIRRAMINGA Left for Woomera and visited Coondango East Well, Winamena Siding and Winamena. The old hands fencing at Winamena. Arrived at Woomera 5-30.  
WIRRAMINGA Total number of miles travelled. 462.

Jan 7th.

1 half-caste child born at Winamena. Mother, [REDACTED]

*Father??*

✓
SA
SA

*PAGE 13/1*

*SR*  
[REDACTED]

*27/1*

[REDACTED]



*P/A.*

A.A. PA (WA)

76/47

18 AUG 1953

40 Mount Street, PERTH, W.A.

- 18th August 1953.

1. 1938.

Minister for Native Affairs,  
PERTH.

Dear [REDACTED]

There are several reasons I think, why [REDACTED] reports about the condition of the natives which he has come across, should be taken seriously, though it is a pity he does not give their numbers.

The following events have occurred within recent years which must have affected the position.

1. The closing of Oldea Mission to which some of these nomads used to repair in hard times. I understand that the people from the inland dispersed instead of repairing with the local natives to Yalata, the new site of the Mission.
2. The death of [REDACTED]. A certain amount of clothing used to be provided for the natives through this lady in my time.
3. The speeding up of the Trans-Australian trains, which do not now stop at the places where the natives used to beg.
4. The establishment of the Woomera Rocket Range.

In 1947, in Melbourne, at the request of the Government here, I represented W.A. on the Committee to consider and report on the Welfare of Aborigines in relation to the Guided Projectiles project. On the 11th February 1947 I reported to the [REDACTED], who was then [REDACTED].

That letter should of course be available to you, and I would refer you particularly to the penultimate paragraph.

I then had it in mind that unreasoned fear might cause some of the natives inhabiting the eastern portion of this huge reserve to move further west.

With regards,  
Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

R 22-003  
3 APR. 1957

UNCLASSIFIED 104A

3 APR 1957

Project Officer,  
Department of Works,  
WOOMERA, S.A.

I know of no evidence of 30 white men photographing or watching the birth of a native child at Giles.

Some little difficulty was experienced in explaining to Department of Works personnel that all the rules were necessary for the welfare of the natives. At first some of these rules were regarded lightly but co-operation by almost everyone was obtained quickly in avoiding unnecessary contacts.

I have no knowledge of Department of Works at any time giving joy rides to natives on any vehicle.

1224  
[Redacted]  
Native Patrol Officer.