

Ref: FOI2025-014

[REDACTED]

24 July 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

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

- *The date on which t the AWE applied for and had approved a retention instrument to keep hold of all documents that form part of the Merlin database at AWE*
- * The reasons given for the retention of these documents*
- * The date on which the Secretary of State for the MoD, or a junior minister, was informed of either the application or the approval of the retention of these documents*

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

We apologise for the delay in responding to your request. A search for the requested information within AWE has now been completed, and we can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

AWE does not hold any information for the date AWE applied for The Lord Chancellors Instrument (LCI) 118, however we can disclose that it was approved on 18th December 2014.

AWE holds some of the information relating to your second question, however we are withholding it under section 21 of the Act as the information is reasonably accessible and has been addressed in a previous FOI:

[FOI2023-047.pdf](#)

We do not hold any details of the date on when the Secretary of State for the MoD, or a junior minister, was informed of either the application or the approval of the retention of these documents.

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