

Ref: FOI2025-036

[REDACTED]

24 July 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in regards to your request for the following information:

*"You stated it would go over the cost limit to conduct a manual search because the information sought - a letter sent by fax - would be archived by topic, not date, and it was not clear from the covering letter what the letter was about.*

*I wonder if you could look under 'dosemetry' and 'health effects', as it would seem from the reference and covering letter those are the principal topics likely to be covered in the letter."*

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

We continue to be unable to confirm if AWE holds the information within scope of your request without exceeding the appropriate limit under 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 AWE is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.25 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting it. The AWE estimate remains that it would take one person over 400 working hours to carry out these activities.

Under Section 16(1) of the Act public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance, so far as it is reasonable to expect the authority to do so. Your suggested approach to carrying out a search does not change the search activity that would be required to determine if the information within scope of your request is held by AWE. Manual examination of the relevant archive, consisting of over 2,500 records, would still be required to determine if the information within scope of your request is held by AWE. The large volume of effort required means that we continue to be unable to offer any meaningful advice and assistance as to how you could refine your request so that it could be administered by AWE within the appropriate limit.

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