



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

DE&S Pol SecAsstHd3
Defence Equipment & Support



#2045 Maple 0a
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH
DESSEC-PolSecShipsandSubs@mod.uk

Mr Martin Butcher
request-9761-549860f1@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: 153652-005

Date: 25 June 2009

Dear Mr Butcher,

Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Further to my letter of 24 April 2009, in response to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request, I am writing to provide you with a substantive response. In your request you asked for information on experiments and other research on US warhead designs carried out at the Atomic Weapons Establishment since 1992, requesting information on where work was carried out by UK or US personnel and from which US laboratory, and indicating costs incurred by AWE Aldermaston in this work.

In the timescale in question, the US has used neither AWE facilities nor AWE personnel for research activities which benefitted only the US Nuclear Weapons Programme. The United States has, however, participated, and continues to participate, in collaborative work with the UK at AWE Aldermaston to mutual benefit. These are under the auspices of the 1958 UK/US Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA). Such collaborative activities ensure the continued safety, security and performance of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent, and demonstrate the UK's commitment to the 1958 MDA. It is not possible, however, to distinguish between activities and costs relevant to US warhead design and activities and costs relevant to other collaborative work. We therefore consider that we do not hold any information that falls within the scope of your request.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Head of Corporate Information, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail xxxxx@xxx.xx). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the

role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

DES Sec Policy Secretariat

For Director Secretariat and Communications