



Ref: EIR2023-019

██████████
27th June 2023

Dear ██████████

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

- 1. Can you please provide evidence whereby AWE is regarded as either a statutory and /or a non-statutory consultee for development proposals taking place within the Burghfield AWE's DEPZ and/or OPZ?*
- 2. Can you please provide evidence whereby AWE has issued correspondence expressing they are consulted on ALL planning applications being processed by Local Authorities being identified as the responsible Planning Authority, associated with the DEPZ/OPZ area of AWE Burghfield and AWE Aldermaston?*
- 3. In some instances more than one planning application is associated with the same identified area of landscape. Can you therefore please provide evidence whereby AWE would be expected to be consulted on multiple planning applications associated with the landscaped area ?*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).

A search for the requested information within the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) has now been completed, and we can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. We will address your questions in turn:

- 1. Can you please provide evidence whereby AWE is regarded as either a statutory and /or a non-statutory consultee for development proposals taking place within the Burghfield AWE's DEPZ and/or OPZ?*

AWE plc is not a statutory consultee for planning matters – please see [Consultation and pre-decision matters - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) Which sets out the process for efficient and inclusive consultation of planning applications.

Duty to Provide Advice and Assistance

Regulation 9 of the EIR places a duty on public authorities to provide advice and assistance to applicants. Therefore, it might be useful to advise that AWE is contacted from time to time by the local planning authorities regarding planning applications which are located near to the AWE sites. Please contact the relevant local planning authorities for their procedures for non-statutory consultees.

AWE plc are a member of the Off-site Emergency Planning Working Group lead by West Berkshire District Council and this group is consulted on planning applications which have the potential to



impact the AWE Off-Site Emergency Plan. Please direct any questions about the local planning authorities' consultation with this Group to West Berkshire District Council.

2. Can you please provide evidence whereby AWE has issued correspondence expressing they are consulted on ALL planning applications being processed by Local Authorities being identified as the responsible Planning Authority, associated with the DEPZ/OPZ area of AWE Burghfield and AWE Aldermaston?

AWE plc has found no record of any issued correspondence from AWE plc expressing that AWE plc is consulted on all such planning applications.

3. In some instances more than one planning application is associated with the same identified area of landscape. Can you therefore please provide evidence whereby AWE would be expected to be consulted on multiple planning applications associated with the landscaped area ?

AWE does not have any evidence on this matter. However under Regulation 9, it may be useful to you to see minutes from the Local Liaison committee on our website : [Local Liaison Committee – AWE](#) as planning is discussed during these meetings.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance, remembering to quote the reference number above in any future communications

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 and Regulation 18 of the EIRs 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