



**Hampshire
& Isle of Wight**
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Information Compliance Team

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Sent by email to:

[REDACTED]

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Date: 17 May 2024

Our Reference: FOI 013 24-25

Enquiries to: Information Compliance Officer

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Dear [REDACTED]

We are writing in respect of your application for the release of information held by the Service, which we received on 23 April 2024. We can confirm that we have now completed our search for the information requested.

You asked:

The two sites are:

- *Sharps Copse Primary School, Prospect Lane, Havant, PO9 5PE*
- *Liphook C of E Junior School, Avenue Close, Liphook, GU307QE*

The information we are looking for includes:

- *Number of cases of arson or deliberate fire within school grounds (in the last 5 years and last 10 years)*
- *Number of major fires at the school (defined as in excess of £50k damage) (in the last 5 years, 10 years and 20 years)*
- *Incidence of arson in the locality (2-5 mile radius) (in the last 5 years, last 10 years and last 20 years)*
- *Fires in other schools in the locality (2-5 mile radius) (in the last 3 years and last 5 years)*

Our answer:

We can confirm that we hold some of the information requested, please find what we hold attached.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service does not record fires as arson, this is because determining whether a fire is arson is the role of the police. Consequently, we only record deliberate fires. Deliberate fires include fires which the police categorise as arson and any fire where there was a deliberate intention to set a fire. For example, if a science teacher lights a Bunsen burner as part of a science class which then lights something else causing an incident, this would be classified as a deliberate fire (but likely would not be classified as arson).

Additionally, we do not hold, per Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of damage of any fire. To assist, we have defined "major fire" as any fire exceeding ten meters squared or involving more than five appliances. Also, we only hold data since April 2009 as this is the limit of our records. We have provided data for 15 years (rather than the 20 requested) to assist you.

Please be aware that these schools are on the border of our operating area and, while we have included data on incidents we have attended in other counties, further information may be acquired from neighbouring fire and rescue services.

We have assessed that locating the data on deliberate fires within five miles of Sharps School, due to the number of schools in the area, will take more than 18 hours. Consequently, we are refusing to provide this data per Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The above concludes our investigation into this matter.

Any future correspondence with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service in relation to this matter should be sent to the Information Compliance Officer at the above address.

If for whatever reason you are unhappy with our response you may request an internal review by contacting DP@hantsfire.gov.uk or by writing to the Data Protection Officer at the above address.

Should you remain dissatisfied you can appeal against the internal review decision by contacting the Information Commissioners Office. This can be done online at www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints or by post to The Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Information Compliance Officer
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service