



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

Information Compliance Team
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Sent by email to:

[Redacted]

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Date: 21 June 2024

Our Reference: FOI 022 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 17 May 2024. We can confirm that we have now completed our search for the information requested.

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would request you to respond to questions included in the attachment.

Q1. Can you please list the number of devices deployed by your organisation for the following?

Desktop PCs
Laptops
Mobile Phones
Printers
Multi Functional Devices (MFDs)
Tablets
Physical Servers
Storage Devices (for example: NAS, SAN)
Networking Infrastructure (for example: Switches, Routers, Interfaces, Wireless Access Points)

Security Infrastructure (for example: Firewalls, Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS), Virus Monitoring Tools)

Q2. Does your organisation plan to procure any of the below enterprise applications or software, if yes, please provide information in the below format.

Content Management System
Supply Chain Management (SCM)
Inventory Management Software
Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) Software
Business Intelligence Systems
Other software/apps (mention the name of the software)

Q3. Do you have any plans to procure End user devices (desktop/laptop/tablet/mobile phones etc)? if yes, please provide information in the below format.

Desktops
Laptops
Mobile Phones
Tablets and Others (Please specify, if Others)

Q4. Do you have any plans to procure below services/software? if yes, please provide information in the below format.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Cyber Security

Our answer:

We can confirm that we hold the information requested, apart from the budgets to purchase a Content Management System and Supply Chain Management system. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service do not have and have no intention of purchasing such systems, consequently there is no budget for them. Therefore, this information is not held per Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please find the information we do hold in the attached document.

Commercial Interests

We can confirm that we hold budgets for the purchase of the applications, devices and services/ software listed in your request. However, we are refusing to provide the specific amounts of those budgets per Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 43(2) provides that information is exempt from Section 1(1)(b) if disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interest of any person (including the public authority).

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release to the public at large. Releasing the budgets we have allocated for the purchase of these items would show the amounts that

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service are willing to pay in any tendering process. This would be likely to cause competitors to submit bids close to this value rather than at the most competitive rate. Consequently, there would be less commercial competition for our contracts preventing us from getting the best value for money. Disclosure of these budgets in such granularity is therefore commercially sensitive, as divulging is likely to cause financial loss to us as an organisation. Revealing this information may give competitors an advantage in future tendering processes which would be unfair. This would undermine the integrity and effectiveness of the tendering process as it may dissuade organisations from submitting tenders or encourage those who do to compete on price rather than the products they provide.

This would, therefore, be prejudicial to our commercial interests as per Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Public Interest Test

For this exemption to apply, the public interest in maintaining these exemptions must outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.

Public Interest in Disclosure

There are several reasons in favour of disclosure to the public at large as follows:

- Release would give more information on how we plan to spend money and increase the Service's transparency, to ensure we operate effectively and efficiently
- It would provide more information contributing to the debate on the spending of public funds.
- It is important that HIWFRS are held accountable for any financial decisions that are made

Public Interest Against Disclosure

There are also reasons against the disclosure as follows:

- Disclosure would negatively impact our ability to get the best value for money, meaning we may need to reduce services in other areas.
- It would be likely to decrease the competitiveness of our tendering process.
- Further, we do not want to encourage companies to compete solely on price to the detriment of the quality of the products they offer.
- There is a possibility this may lead to additional funds being required from taxpayers via increased council tax contributions as we would have to spend more money on acquiring products and services.

Conclusion

For a public interest test on disclosure, issues that favour release need to be measured against issues that favour non-disclosure. The public interest is not what interests the public, or a particular individual, but what will be the greater good, if released, to the Community as a whole.

In this time of financial pressure on individuals, we are particularly conscious of the need to ensure that we provide the best value for money to the Community we serve. In this case this is achieved by ensuring our contracts are competitively pursued. The release of this information would prejudice our ability to achieve this. Consequently, we assert that the reasons against the disclosure of this information outweigh the reasons in favour of release.

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