



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

Information Compliance Team
Headquarters
Leigh Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO50 9SJ

Sent by email to:



t. 02380 626850
e. DP@hantsfire.gov.uk
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Date: 2 August 2022

Our Reference: FOI 040 22-23

Enquiries to: Information Compliance Officer

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Dear 

We are writing in respect of your application for the release of information held by the Service, which we received on 22 July 2022. We can confirm that we have now completed our search for the information requested.

You asked:

Under the freedom of information act can I please request a copy of the IRS and any other information relating to a fire brigade call out down Mitchells Road, Ryde Isle of Wight?

Our answer:

Please find attached the information requested. This comprises the IRS report as requested and the information from our vehicle deployment system. Please be aware that these documents have been redacted as explained below.

Personal Data

As per Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 we are refusing to provide information that may identify individuals. This is because it would be unfair, within the meaning of the UK GDPR, to provide this data in response to a request as the response of this request is deemed to be made to the world at large under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please rest assured that we have redacted the minimum amount of data necessary to protect the rights of others.

National Security

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (HIWFRS) holds callsign information for our vehicles and staff. However, this information is exempt under section 24(1) National Security of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 24(1) provides that information is exempt from Section 1(1)(b) if it is required for the purposes of safeguarding national security.

The national security exemption is based on the effect the disclosure would have, not on the content or source of the information.

As you may be aware, disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release to the public at large. While we are not questioning the motives of the applicant, releasing our callsigns would enable individuals to impersonate members of staff and gain access to secure sites in our area, including our stations. This information could be used by terrorists and criminals to successfully infiltrate sites for the purposes of conducting attacks, leading to criminal damage and significant loss of life.

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:

- it promotes transparency in the way that we operate
- It shows that we can confirm to members of the public and organisations whether a member of staff and/or vehicle belongs to our organisation for security purposes.

Public Interest Against Disclosure

There are also significant reasons why providing the information is not in the public interest as it may:

- be used to facilitate terrorist activities in our area and attacks on our vehicles and stations.
- enables the impersonation of members of the Service and/or Service vehicles.
- Be used to subvert the security of sites across our area.

Conclusion

Public safety and the ability to deliver an effective response to emergencies are of paramount importance to HIWFRS. Disclosing this information would be likely to facilitate criminal/terrorist activities and subvert security measures designed to secure sites and protect the public. Therefore, we believe that the balance of public interest favours not disclosing this information.

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 Information Compliance Team at the above address.

Should you remain dissatisfied you can appeal against the internal review decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

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