



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

Information Compliance Team
Headquarters
Leigh Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO50 9SJ

Sent by email to:

[REDACTED]

t. 02380 644000
e. DP@hantsfire.gov.uk
w. hantsfire.gov.uk

Date: 5 January 2023

Our Reference: FOI 119 23-24

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 13 December 2023. We can confirm that we have now completed our search for the information requested.

You asked:

I would like to formally request the following please:

Gross vehicle weight of the Volvo UHPL light rescue appliance

Our answer:

We can confirm that we hold the information requested. The gross weight of the Volvo UHPL light rescue appliance is 11760 Kgs.

You asked:

Availability of the vehicle, reliability and pre scheduled service costs to maintain over its lifespan.

Our answer:

These appliances are stationed at a mixture of permanently crewed fire stations and on call fire stations. Those on permanently crewed stations the appliances will be available 100% of the time, for on call stations availability will dependant on crew availability. We can also

confirm that the reliability of this type of appliance is very good. The estimated maintenance cost per year per appliance will be approximately £850 to £950.

You asked:

Cost per unit for your Volvo UHPL light rescue appliance

Our answer:

Commercial Interests

While we can confirm that we hold this information, we are refusing to provide it as per Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it would be likely to prejudice our commercial interests.

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 this information would enable organisations to create bids for future tenders not at the best commercial rate but at a value that we would be likely to accept. This would make the procurement process less competitive and prejudice our ability to get the best value for money. This would lead to an increased burden on the taxpayer for the provision of fire and rescue services in our area. This is especially the case due to the limited number of organisations that can build and supply a compliant fire appliances.

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

- It promotes transparency, showing how we spend public funds and allows scrutiny.
- Adds to the public knowledge around procurement and facilitates debate.

Public Interest Against Disclosure

There are also reasons against disclosing this information to the public at large:

- It decreases the competition in the procurement process.
- It would be likely to decrease the number of organisations providing tenders for the supply of these vehicles.
- It would prevent us getting best value for public funds leading to more burden on the public.

Conclusion

Ensuring we have the appropriate vehicle to engage in life saving activities and ensuring that we get the best value for taxpayer money is important to the Service. Disclosing this information would prejudice our ability to achieve this and create an increased financial burden

on taxpayers. Therefore, we believe that the balance of public interest favours not disclosing this information.

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