



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

Information Compliance Team

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Date: 16 January 2024

Our Reference: FOI 123 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 18 December 2023. We can confirm that we have now completed our search for the information requested.

You asked:

May I request the budget savings and delivery achievements from drastically cutting back the Vehicle visits, Dedicated Team presentation with Served time Fire Fighters. These reductions of delivery of Quality education of Fire, Home and Road safety to Hampshire School children were instigated almost 5 years to the day with redundancy to Team members which I'm informed prompted the voluntary resignation of the bulk of the dedicated remaining team members. Who had decades of Fire Safety Education experience distributed among their number.

Therefore, can I request a cost breakdown of savings made from reducing the team and the removal of Fire Engines visiting schools.

Our answer:

In January 2019, the Children and Young People (CYP) Team was restructured. The aim was to create a new staffing structure which was cost effective and allowed for efficient delivery with the appropriate resourcing of programmes. The intention was to create one resilient CYP team which could deliver a diverse range of CYP programs.

Specifically in relation to schools education delivery, the following was implemented because of the restructure:

- The number of education officers reduced from 5.6 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) to 3.
- One Education Officer rather than two delivers an education session to a class.
- The use of adapted educational vehicles for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 vehicles, namely the hazard house and fire appliances were decommissioned. The session was moved to being a one-hour classroom-based session with education officers traveling to schools in cars.
- New Home Fire Safety sessions were developed to be taught in Key Stage 1 and 2 and an arson workshop was developed to be delivered in Key Stage 3. Prior to the restructure, the Schools Education Team did not deliver to Key Stage 3.
- Due to Road Safety education being delivered by other partners, the Service ceased its delivery of road safety in schools. The NFCC have since created an online platform of educational resources that teachers and other partners can use to educate children on safety messages including road safety. This platform is called Staywise and as a Service we promote schools using Staywise to inform their road safety and water safety education in school.
- Evaluation forms are completed by schools after visits and satisfaction levels are high.

As a result of the restructure no permanent employee was offered redundancy. Some members of the education team who were on temporary contracts were given notice that these would end.

These changes as the restructure proposed have enabled school visits to be delivered more efficiently, with the same number of children and young people receiving education advice as prior to the restructure but with a smaller team of education officers. All education officers have an experience of working in education or with children and young people.

The table below shows the number of visits and total number of children and young people educated since the restructure. The only significant decrease in visits was during Covid when schools were closed, thus impacting on figures in 2020 and the start of 2021. It is of note that during that time, the education team adapted to deliver fire safety sessions online to children and young people.

Year	Number of pupils	Number of Visits
2018 (pre restructure)	26,209	420
2019	26,441	408
2020	11,661	112 -COVID
2021	23,467	436
2022	26,611	448
2023	23,738	589

These figures are based on delivery between January-December each year, rather the academic year as the new CYP structure came into effective in January 2019.

A financial breakdown of savings cannot be provided as the money was reinvested into the wider CYP team meaning no savings were made overall, consequently this information is

not held, as per Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. As highlighted above, the aim of the restructure was to create a new staffing structure across the Children & Young People for the department to work more efficiently and deliver more workstreams. This meant resources were reallocated to create efficiency improvements across the department and the wider Service as opposed to savings being accrued.

Regarding vehicle cost savings this information was not recorded by the Service and therefore is not held as per Section 1 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