



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

Information Compliance Team

Headquarters
Leigh Road
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Hampshire
SO50 9SJ

Sent by email to:

[REDACTED]

t. 02380 626850
e. DP@hantsfire.gov.uk
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Date: 22 February 2023

Our Reference: FOI 128 22-23

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

Can I please receive a list containing the number (total) of non-deliberate, fatal residential fires attended in the last five years? Alongside this, for the aforementioned cases, can I have the following information taken from each fire investigation report:

- * *Service rank of fire investigation report author*
- * *Date*
- * *Time of first call to fire service*
- * *Time of fire service arrival*
- * *Time of confirmed fire extinguishment*
- * *Number of fatalities*
- * *Age of victim (s)*
- * *Evidence of skin burns reported on victim? (given as yes/no)*
- * *Description of injuries reported on victim*
- * *Any mention of flashover within the property? (given as yes/no)*
- * *Description of evidence of flashover given*
- * *Property type*
- * *Details of property construction*
- * *Recorded cause of death(s)*
- * *Location(s) of victim(s) within the property*
- * *Location of seat of fire within the property*
- * *Extent of fire spread beyond item first ignited*
- * *Extent of fire spread beyond the room of fire origin*

- * *Recorded cause of fire*
- * *Recorded source of ignition*
- * *Material first ignited*
- * *Material primarily responsible for fire development*

Our answer:

We can confirm that we hold the information requested, there were a total of 33 non-deliberate, fatal residential fires that we have attended in the last five years. However, we are refusing to provide any further information from our Fire Investigation Reports as it is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

Court Records Exemption

Fire Investigation Reports record the results of our investigations into the cause/s of fire and the surrounding circumstances that contributed to the fire. They are created solely for the purpose of providing expert evidence for use in coroner's inquiries (falling within Section 32(4)(b) of the Act) and criminal court proceedings. Consequently, information within them is exempt from disclosure as per Section 32 (1)(a) of the Act as they are a court record. As this exemption is an absolute exemption, it is not subject to a Public Interest Test.

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 Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

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