



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

**Information Compliance Team**  
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Sent by email to:

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Date: 07 February 2024

Our Reference: FOI 133 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 11 January. We can confirm that we have now completed our search for the information requested.

### ***You asked:***

*How many callouts has the service attended for a plus size patient either in an evacuation process or to assist them with movement in their home or hospital between 1st January to 31st December in 2022 and January 1st to 31st December 2023?*

*For callouts involving plus-size patients, how many vehicles attend the scene?*

*Has your service seen an increase in activity for supporting Plus-size patients?*

*In instances of callouts to plus-size patients, how many staff members are typically present on a vehicle?*

*Does your service believe there is a growing need for a service to facilitate moving plus-size patients?*

### **Our answer:**

We can confirm we hold the information requested, please find it on the attached spreadsheet. For your awareness, we do not record plus-sized patient evacuations. We do record bariatric

rescues. This term is generally adopted to refer to persons who require specialist manoeuvring strategies to evacuate.

Aside from 2020 and 2021, where there was an increased need for fire service support in rescuing people due to COVID-19, there has been a stable need for our Service to facilitate bariatric rescues, as shown by the attached data.

Please be aware the IOW have a higher number of these rescues recorded as they have a MOU with the IOW ambulance service and are mobilised more frequently than the mainland

***You asked:***

*If a callout to a plus-size patient occurs, who covers the watch during that time?*

**Our answer:**

There are no finite rules on standby cover Stations. This is at the discretion of Fire Control and dependent on operational activity within the service at the particular time.

***You asked:***

*In the period of Jan to Dec 2022 and Jan to Dec 2023, did any members of staff go off from work injured due to moving a plus-size patient, if so, how many?*

**Our answer:**

We have reviewed all injuries from 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2023 and have no record of any members of staff going off from work injured due to moving a bariatric patient.

***You asked:***

*If a callout to assist in moving a plus-size patient happens, who is responsible for covering the associated service costs?*

**Our answer:**

We have a responsibility to assist and rescue people as part of our duties under the Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004. Consequently, the cost is covered by our budget to provide a fire and rescue service.

***You asked:***

*Does your service have equipment to facilitate and support moving a plus-size patient?*

**Our answer:**

The Service has equipment and skilled personnel to deal with the moving and support of plus-size patients.

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](mailto: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](http://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