



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

Information Compliance Team

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Sent by email to:

[REDACTED]

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Date: 21 March 2024

Our Reference: FOI 161 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 12 February 2024. We can confirm that we have now completed our search for the information requested.

You asked:

I am looking for the pre determined attendance plans for HIWFRS. To see what the planned response are to incidents in Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

Our answer:

We can confirm that we hold the information requested, please find it in the attached document. Where an incident type is noted as having pumps, or some other acronym in the response plan, this indicates the types of vehicle/ resource we will deploy to the incident type. We have also included a list of the abbreviations that we use for our vehicles.

While we do have pre-determined attendance plans for other sites, we are refusing to provide them per sections 24(1) (National Security), 36(2)(c) (Prejudicing the effective conduct of public affairs) and 38(1) (Health and Safety) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is treated as a release to the world at large. While we are not questioning the motives of the applicant, the release of the pre-determined attendance plans for some specific high-risk sites would facilitate attacks on such premises. Releasing this information would facilitate people with malicious intent from entering the sites,

posing as Fire and Rescue Service personnel, to cause damage and endanger lives. Given that an attack on one of these sites. The release of this information would therefore make the public more vulnerable to a national security threat and risk their health and safety.

Equally, releasing the information for these sites would enable malicious actors to identify what appliances were attending and take steps to prevent them from doing so. This would be achieved by targeted attacks upon our appliances. Such attacks would endanger the health and safety of our staff and delay or prevent their arrival. It is of critical importance for our Service to arrive in a timely and uninterrupted manner to emergencies we are called to attend. This is to seek to minimise and prevent damage, injuries and avoid fatalities. Consequently, the release of this information would prejudice our ability to perform our public task and endanger the health and safety of both members of the public and our Service.

Public Interest Test

For this exemption to apply the public interest in refusing to provide the information must outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.

Reasons for disclosure

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

- It promotes transparency showing that we deploy appropriate resources to tackle all incidents within our area.
- It gives further information about our capabilities as a Fire and Rescue Service.
- It shows that we have clear plans to response to any incident within our area.

Reasons against disclosure

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

- Would be likely to lead to terrorist and other criminal attacks on those sites with the potential to cause severe damage to not only the sites but the areas around them.
- Would be likely to facilitate other criminal action in relation to some types of premises.
- In the worst-case lead to significant loss of life not only of those at the premises but also wider members of the public.
- Enable malicious actors to seek to delay our response by being able to identify resources attending a specific incident.

Conclusion

Public safety and the ability to deliver an effective response to emergencies are of paramount importance to HIWFRS. As the timely arrival of emergency services to engage in life saving activities is of key importance to our function and the protection of the public, 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

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