



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

Information Compliance Team

Headquarters
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Hampshire
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Sent by email to:

[REDACTED]

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

Date: 30 October 2024

Our Reference: FOI 102 24-25

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 25 October 2024. We can confirm that we have now completed our search for the information requested.

You asked:

We write to request information regarding the presence of asbestos in the former New Milton Barclays Bank, previously located at 32 Station Road, BH25 6JX

We understand that the first floor of the building underwent a conversion in the 1970's, turning flats into offices. We further understand the ground floor was converted from a Barclays Bank to a Domino's Pizza in 2021

We would be grateful if you could please provide us with any fire safety inspection documents and/or any

details of ACMs found within the building, specifically:-

1 Photographs you hold for the property,

2 . Fire safety surveys,

3 Any documents detailing the presence of asbestos containing materials within the property,

4 Risk assessments, health and safety policies or other documents in relation to fire safety measures within the property, in particular any which reference the presence of asbestos.

Our answer:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service does not hold, per Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, any of the documents you have requested and have no knowledge of any asbestos at the site.

Health and Safety

The only document Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service does hold relating to the building is a floor plan of the proposed building works for conversion. We received this as part of the building consultation process. These plans do not refer to Asbestos or ACM. This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 38(1)(a) and (b) Health and Safety of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 38(1)(a) and (c) provide that information is exempt from Section 1(1)(b) where release would be likely to endanger the physical or mental health of any individual or endanger the safety of any individual.

As you may be aware, disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release to the world at large. While we are not questioning the motives of the applicant, releasing the building plan would assist criminals in planning raids and/or robberies at the bank. Crimes of this nature risk the health and safety of both members of the public using the bank and the bank's staff and would be likely to subject them to threats of violence and injury.

Public Interest Test

For these exemptions to apply the public interest in maintaining these exemptions must outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.

Public Interest for Disclosure

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

- It promoted transparency, giving information about what we do as a Service to protect the public.
- It promotes public debate on the way in which conversions of premises occur.

Public Interest Against Disclosure

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

- Would be likely to endanger the physical health, safety, and mental health of individuals at the bank should a robbery be attempted.
- Be used to facilitate criminal activity in relation to the bank.
- It would create a precedential effect meaning we may have to release maps of more sensitive properties in the future.

Conclusion

Public safety is of paramount importance to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service. Releasing this data would increase the risk to the health and safety of individuals and as such 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