



**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 644000
e. DP@hantsfire.gov.uk
w. hantsfire.gov.uk

Date: 17 December 2024

Our Reference: FOI 121 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 19 November 2024. We can confirm that we have now completed our search for the information requested.

You asked:

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information:

1. Fires Attended on Christmas Day

- The number of incidents on Christmas Day (25th December) for each of the past five years (2018 to 2023).
- For each relevant report, where possible, please include:
 - A brief description of the incident (redacted to remove personal identifying information)
 - Any outcomes or actions taken in response to the report
 - The type of location involved (e.g., private dwelling, commercial property, outdoor location, etc.)
 - Please also reference any incidents where keywords such as “turkey” or “Christmas dinner” are mentioned in the incident report.

2. Christmas Tree-Related Incidents

- The number of incidents involving fires where a Christmas tree was explicitly mentioned or was a contributing factor for each of the past five years (2018 to 2023...and 2024 if possible)

- For each relevant report, where possible, please include:*
 - OA brief description of the incident (redacted to remove personal identifying information)*
 - O Any outcomes or actions taken in response to the report*
 - O A breakdown of these incidents by date*
 - O The type of location involved (e.g., private dwelling, commercial property, outdoor location, etc.).*

Our answer:

We can confirm we hold the information requested apart from where mentioned below. Please find the data we do hold attached.

We have checked our system and cannot locate any incidents that mention 'turkey' or 'Christmas dinner'. Additionally, we do not have any records of any follow-up actions or outcomes that relate to the incidents we have managed to locate. Therefore, we are unable to provide you with this information as per Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We do not hold a brief description of each incident as per Section 1 of the FOIA. However, to assist we have included the stop message of incidents. Please be aware we have had to redact some of the information as per Sections 24 and 40 of the FOIA. As some stop messages contain personal data, we have redacted this information as it would enable the identification of individuals. It would be unfair to disclose this in response to your request within the meaning of the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. Therefore, we are refusing to provide you with this as per Section 40 of the FOIA.

National Security

Some information included in the stop messages contains sensitive national security data. Call signs of some of our vehicles are displayed in stop messages provided. This data can be used by criminals and/or terrorists to endanger the health and safety of individuals. Releasing this data would cause harm to Service and public safety.

Public Interest Test

For Disclosure

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

- It promotes transparency, showing that we have appropriate vehicles/capabilities and that they are appropriately located.
- There is a general interest in our vehicles which has been expressed by several members of the public.

Against Disclosure

There are also reasons against disclosing this information to the public at large:

- be used to facilitate and increase the effects of terrorist activities in our area and attacks on our vehicles and stations.

- It would be likely to endanger the safety of our staff in our vehicles and both staff and visitors to our stations were such an attack to take place.

Conclusion

Public safety and the ability to deliver an effective response to emergencies are of paramount importance to HIWFRS. Disclosing this information would be likely to compromise our ability to respond to criminal/terrorist activities. We believe that the balance of public interest favours not disclosing this information. Therefore, we are refusing to provide you with this as per Section 24 of the FOIA.

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