



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

Information Compliance Team
Headquarters
Leigh Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO50 9SJ

Sent by email to:

[REDACTED]

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

Date: 22 January 2025

Our Reference: FOI 140 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 23 December 2024. We can confirm that we have now completed our search for the information requested.

You asked:

I request a copy of a recommendation that Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service are alleged to have made to Portsmouth City Council concerning fire safety on balconies and in communal areas in residential buildings in the City of Portsmouth.

since I dont know the exact nature of this alleged recommendation it is difficult to be precise but it would have concerned either the specific building Frank Miles House, Somers Road, Southsea, or buildings of a similar nature and design being used for the same or similar purpose. the date will be since 1 March 2023.

the recommendation was allegedly given to Portsmouth City Council in their capacity as the landlord and freeholder of the property, and might be found in either a letter, an email or the minutes of a meeting one of your representatives attended with Portsmouth City Council. it would have concerned the placement of objects of a domestic nature, flower pots, door mats, and so forth, in communal areas in residential buildings of this type.

if no such recommendation was made, I would very much appreciate it if you would confirm that.

Our answer:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service does not hold, per Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, a recorded recommendation made to Portsmouth City Council concerning fire safety on balconies and in communal areas in residential buildings relating to Frank Miles House. Due to the number of “buildings of a similar nature” that exist within Portsmouth, we are unable to confirm whether a recommendation has been made in relation to other properties. We have assessed it would take longer than 18 hours to check all properties in the area to locate such a recommendation. Consequently, in relation to “buildings of a similar nature”, we are refusing to provide this data per section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, it is possible that general comments could have been made regarding fire safety on balconies and in communal areas during inspections / visits by inspectors or even operational crews at Frank Miles House or at buildings of a similar nature. Any of these comments would have been in line with Government guidance regarding removal of items obstructing the means of escape or creating a fire load / fire spread risk within them.

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