



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

Information Compliance Team
Headquarters
Leigh Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO50 9SJ

Sent by email to:



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

Date: 14 May 2025

Our Reference: FOI 006 25-26

Enquiries to: Information Compliance Officer

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Dear 

We are writing in respect of your application for the release of information held by the Service, which we received on 11 April 2025. We can confirm that we have now completed our search for the information requested.

You asked:

*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information for the period from **1 January 2009 to the most recent date available**:*

1. ***Mobilisation-level incident data** from your Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, similar in structure and scope to the data published by London Fire Brigade here:*

<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-fire-brigade-mobilisation-records>

*I would like this data **at the level of individual appliance mobilisations**, not aggregated at the incident level. For example:*

*- If two appliances are mobilised to the same incident, this should be represented as **two separate rows**, one for each appliance.*

- Each row should represent a single appliance being mobilised to a single incident.

The data should include:

- *Incident number*
- *Date and time of call*
- *Date and time of mobilisation/ pump informed*
- *Date and time pump mobile*
- *Date and time of arrival*
- *Date and time of departure/ leaving*
- *Date and time of pump return to station*
- *Pump attending station*
- *Pump callsign*
- *Type of incident*

Our answer:

We can confirm we hold some of the information requested. Please find attached spreadsheets containing the data requested. Please be aware that where there are gaps in this data, this information has not been recorded and so is not held per Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please note that in the spreadsheet entitled "HIWFRS FOI 006 2009 to 2015 start" this data includes attendances by both appliances and officer cars. This is because we are unable to identify which attendances were made solely by appliances as per your request. Rest assured that we have removed these from the other spreadsheets in line with your request. Officer cars are not considered to be appliances by the Service.

Additionally, the system from which we extracted this data does not hold, per Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information relating to the return time or station of the vehicle.

National Security

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (HIWFRS) holds the callsigns for our vehicles. However, this information is exempt under Section 24(1) National Security of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 24(1) provides that information is exempt from Section 1(1)(b) if it is required for the purposes of safeguarding national security. The national security exemption is based on the effect the disclosure would have, not on the content or source of the information.

As you may be aware, disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release to the public at large. While we are not questioning the motives of the requestor, releasing our vehicles' callsigns would enable the tracking and targeting of our vehicles to prevent us from responding in the event of criminal/terrorist activity. Additionally, this would assist malicious actors in creating false 'Trojan' emergency vehicles which could then be used for the purposes of terrorism. This would increase the effectiveness, severity, and likelihood of terrorist attacks, endangering the public. This would be to the detriment of providing an efficient emergency service and a failure in our duty of care to all members of the public.

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

- it promotes transparency, showing that we have appropriate capabilities to identify our appliances quickly in emergency situations.
- there is a general interest in our vehicles which has been expressed by several members of the public.

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 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 lead to an increased risk of theft of equipment from our vehicles. This would negatively affect our ability to conduct our life-saving work and lead to increased public costs in replacing the equipment. This would not be an efficient use of taxpayer funds.

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 and would endanger the health and safety of those at our stations as well as members of the public. Therefore, we believe that the balance of public interest favours not disclosing this information.

You asked:

2. ***The total number of appliances across the service**, for context when interpreting the mobilisation data.*

- I am not requesting information on when appliances were unavailable or off the run.

- I am simply requesting the total number of appliances that could be recorded in the mobilisation dataset referenced above (e.g. front-line fire engines, rescue units, etc., as relevant to your service).

This second point is similar in nature to the context provided in the following London Fire Brigade disclosure:

<https://london-fire.disclosurelog.co.uk/disclosures/014a7f93-116f-4b99-9569-c592e3f8a1f4>

Our answer:

Please find below figures for the last 5 years. Figures prior to that are not held per Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Numbers of Vehicles	
Apr-21	189

Apr-22	187
Apr-23	188
Apr-24	184
Apr-25	176

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