



Mr Stephen Whiteside

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Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Dear Mr Whiteside,

Thank you for your correspondence, I am writing to you in response to your further communication dated 07 February 2017 in order to explain our consideration of the points that you have separately raised to us on a number of occasions. My officers have reviewed each of your points and below you will see our response. For ease of understanding the points you have raised are designated in **bold font** and contained within speech marks “”.

1. **“Please provide me with a copy of Mr Godson’s report, which I assume constitutes the Authority’s retrospective risk assessment.”**

HFRS response: A Freedom of Information request has been made by yourself, Ref **113 16-17**.

2. **“Please confirm/clarify that the Authority has concluded that the assessed risk is acceptable, WITHOUT (apparently) any form of emergency fire access from Brislands Lane”.**

**“Please provide assurance that the Authority has not compromised this assessment as a consequence of not having been consulted by the Building Control Body, or others, at the appropriate times”.**

HFRS response: The previous letter dated 26 January 2017, Question 1, states this authority’s position on access for provisions for access firefighting. Our provisions for planning according to risk are public facing documents and are available here for your reference <https://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/about-us/a-safer-hampshire/>



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3. **“Please explain the meaning in this context of the availability of fire access ‘at all reasonable times’; what is the implied tolerance for the site being rendered, at times, inaccessible for firefighting purposes’?”**

HFRS response: The previous letter dated 26 January 2017, Question 1, states this authority’s position on access for provisions for access firefighting which should be in accordance with The Building Regulations 2000, Approved Document B5 Section 11, which is enforced by the Local Authority, not the Fire Authority.

4. **“Please confirm where the new hydrants will be installed, which washouts are to be converted and when this work is scheduled to be complete.”**

HFRS response: The previous letter dated 26 January 2017, Question 2, states this authority’s position on provision of hydrants and the holder of this information

5. **“Please clarify on what basis [to what standards and to what cost to whom] the installation/conversion of hydrants will be undertaken”.**

HFRS response: The previous letter dated 26 January 2017, Question 2, states this authority’s position on provision of hydrants and the holder of this information.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of HFRS to thank you for raising these issues. We have taken these matters very seriously and have provided all the information we hold and that you have requested on this subject. In addition, we thank you for the recent information and file reference numbers you have provided which has enabled us to target our database search. Please find attached correspondence reference this site as per your FOI request **Ref 56 16-17**.

HFRS has now been corresponding with you on the subject of fire access and hydrants at Brislands Lane since August 2016 and we have responded to three formal information requests from you, including a number of subsequent additions and clarifications. We have also dealt with a number of additional points on this issue that you have raised directly with senior fire officers and the Fire Authority Chairman.

The Building Regulations 2000 stipulate that access and facilities for fire service appliances and firefighters should be in accordance with Approved Document B5 of the Building Regulations. The local authority has a general duty to enforce the building regulations in its area and will seek to do so by informal means wherever possible. If informal enforcement does not achieve compliance with the regulations the local authority has two formal enforcement powers which it may use in appropriate cases.

For the avoidance of doubt, if you wish to continue to make requests for information from this Authority, please forward them to [foi@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:foi@hantsfire.gov.uk). The Authority will continue to consider any further information requests you submit under the Freedom of Information Act. However, should your requests continue to ask for information on the same or similar subject



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areas to those the Authority has already responded to, we may consider applying the provisions of s14 Freedom of Information Act in relation to vexatious requests. This provision may be applied if the Authority considers that requests are likely to cause a disproportionate or unjustified level of disruption, irritation or distress. In these circumstances, we would not respond to such requests.

For completeness, if you wish to make any complaints about matters that have not already been dealt with you will need to follow the Authority's complaints process and send these to [complaints@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@hantsfire.gov.uk). Any communications made to other officers will not be replied to.

Yours sincerely



Shantha Dickinson  
Assistant Chief Officer  
Director of Community Safety & Resilience



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