

Our reference: FOI 19233 (formerly FOI 19176)

Dear Richard,

You originally contacted us on 7th December requesting the following information:

Please provide me with details of any incidence / serious incidence reports that relate to any events involving your fire engines in the Cowley / Littlemore area of Oxford since 1 March 2021. I am happy to have confidential private citizens information redacted.

In order for us to identify the information you were seeking, we asked you to clarify your request. You responded as detailed below on 18th December and a new FOI request was created (FOI 19233):

1. Are you are looking for details on Incidents attended by Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service appliances (fire engines) in the Littlemore/Cowley area or Incidents directly involving our appliances i.e., vehicle accidents?

Incidents attended please

2. You have requested incidence reports, could you clarify what you mean by this? What exactly are you seeking?

Any internal report about the reason you were called out, in whatever format these are normally compiled. Feel free to redact personal information relating to private citizens.

3. We require further detail regarding the geographical area requested. Could you please clarify the desired geographical area? We could use partial postcodes (e.g., OX4 1), full postcodes, or the parish boundaries for Littlemore Parish and Cowley Parish.

ideally - incidents occurring in the Cowley, Temple Cowley, and Littlemore council administrative wards. Postcode approximations are acceptable if this is easiest (i.e. OX42, OX43, OX44)

Our Response

We can confirm that Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service attended 100 Incidents between March 2021 and 31st December 2021 in the Littlemore and Cowley areas of Oxford:

Fires	21
Special Services	20
False Alarms	59

Below are some breakdowns for these figures

Fires:

Property Type	Count of Incidents
Car	2
Cycle path/public footpath/bridleway	1
House	1
Loose refuse	2
Other public buildings	1
Park	1
Playground (not equipment) or Recreational area	1
Private Garden Shed	1
Purpose Built Flat/Maisonette - multiple occupancy >> Up to 3 storey	1
Roadside furniture (e.g., lamp posts, road signs, telegraph pole, etc.)	4
Self-contained Sheltered Housing	1
Sheltered Housing – not self-contained	1
Small refuse/rubbish container (e.g., wheelie bin)	1
Van	2
Wheelie bin	1
Grand Total	21

Special Service:

Special Service Category	Count of Incidents
Effecting Entry / Exit	8
Removal of Objects from People	1
Lift Release	3
No Action (not False Alarm)	2
RTC	1
Flooding	5
Grand Total	20

False Alarms:

False Alarm Category	Count of Incidents
Automatic Fire Alarm	48
False Alarm - Malicious	1
False Alarm Good Intent	10
Grand Total	59

On this occasion, the Council cannot disclose to you the Incident Reports in relation to these incidents as the Council considers that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA"). Section 40(2) provides that information shall not be disclosed where it constitutes the *personal data* of someone other than the applicant and that disclosure would satisfy one of the following three conditions:

1. That disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles or would do so if the exemptions in section 24(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (manual unstructured data held by public authorities) were disregarded.;
2. That the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene Article 21 of the GDPR (general processing: right to object to processing); or
3. That on a request under Article 15(1) of the GDPR (general processing: right of access by the data subject) for access to personal data, the information would be withheld in reliance on provision made by or under section 15, 16 or 26 of, or Schedule 2, 3 or 4 to, the Data Protection Act 2018, or (b) on a request under section 45(1)(b) of that Act (law enforcement processing: right of access by the data subject), the information would be withheld in reliance on subsection (4) of that section

In this case, the relevant condition is the first condition. Specifically, the council considers that the first data protection principle would be breached; namely that disclosure would not be *fair* for the following reasons:

1. The reasonable expectations of the data subjects and the nature of the information itself leads the Council to conclude that the data subjects could not reasonably expect that this information would be disclosed into the public domain;
2. Neither this, nor similar information has been released into the public domain by the data subjects or anyone else;
3. That the legitimate interests in the public having access to this information do not outweigh the interests in preserving the rights and freedoms of the data subjects.

In reaching this decision, the Council noted that the following consequences may occur if this information was disclosed:

1. Releasing this information may cause distress to the data subjects and
2. The data subjects would not expect this information to be released

In light of the above, the Council considers it necessary to withhold the information referred to above.

Internal review

If you are dissatisfied with the service or response to your request, you can ask for an internal review as follows:

- Contact the Freedom of Information team in Law & Governance:
foi@oxfordshire.gov.uk
- Write to the Freedom of Information team at the FREEPOST address:

FOI Team
Oxfordshire County Council
FREEPOST RTLL-ECKS-GLUA
Oxford OX1 1YA

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Paul Bremble
Freedom of Information Officer