



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

Information Compliance Team
Headquarters
Leigh Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO50 9SJ

Sent by email to:

Oliver Todd

t. 02380 626850
e. DP@hantsfire.gov.uk
w. hantsfire.gov.uk

Date: 11 April 2023

Our Reference: FOI 154 22-23

Enquiries to: Information Compliance Officer

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Dear Oliver Todd

We are writing in respect of your application for the release of information held by the Service, which we received on 13 March 2023. We can confirm that we have now completed our search for the information requested.

You asked:

Please may I have the Current HIOWFRS PDA's.

Our answer:

We can confirm we hold the information requested, please find it in the attached spreadsheet. For your awareness, we have redacted some of the incident types. We are also not providing other information as it does not relate to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (HIWFRS) pre-determined attendance (PDA).

National Security Exemption

HIWFRS holds the redacted information from the PDA. 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 applicant, releasing our response plan to certain incident types would enable terrorists to plan and execute attacks designed to overwhelm the immediate response causing more damage and loss of life. 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 this exemption to apply, the public interest in maintaining these exemptions must outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.

Public Interest in 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.
- Shows we have an appropriate response plan to tackle any incident effectively.
- It shows we are not sending excessive resources for any incident we attend, wasting public funds.
- There is a general interest in how our service responds to incidents.

Public Interest Against Disclosure

There are several reasons against the disclosure to the public at large as follows:

- The information would be likely to be used to plan attacks designed to overwhelm our immediate response, leading to increased loss of life.
- Would be likely to lead to more damaging attacks by terrorists.
- Would be likely to lead to the identification of vehicles that are attending the incidents, enabling them to be targeted to increase the effect of the primary terrorist attack.

Health and Safety Exemption

We are refusing to provide certain incident types and our response plan on the grounds that it would be likely to endanger the health and safety of individuals, as per sections 38(1)(a) and (b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

While we are not questioning the motives of the applicant, a disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is deemed to be to the world at large. This information can be used by terrorists and criminals to target our vehicles and would lead to an increased risk to the safety of operational staff traveling to and operating at the incident. This would also have consequences for the public as it would impinge on our ability to respond to incidents.

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 in 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 to tackle incidents.
- Shows we have an appropriate response plan to tackle any incident effectively.

Public Interest Against Disclosure

There are also significant reasons why providing the information is not in the public interest as it may:

- Be likely to endanger the safety of our staff that attend certain incident types, which could lead to loss of life.
- Would be likely to enable the targeting of our vehicles as part of increasing the effect of a terrorist attack leading to our staff being injured
- Would delay our response time to other vehicles affecting our ability to carry out lifesaving work, which would endanger members of the public.

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 terrorist activities and would endanger the health and safety of those involved in incidents. Therefore, we believe that the balance of public interest favours not disclosing this information.

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 Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Information Compliance Officer

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service

