



**Sent by Email:**

To: Joe McMahon

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Date: 30 May 2018

Our Reference: FOI 23 18-19

Enquiries to: Information Compliance  
Officer

Your Reference: USAR Skills Payments

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

We are writing in respect of your recent application for the release of information held by the Authority.

Q1. With the annual firefighter salary at £29.934, What additional payment(s) are given to USAR personnel (i.e. USAR Technician and USAR Advisor) in your brigade for undertaking training and delivery of the USAR capability?

There are no additional payments given to USAR personnel. USAR personnel are employed on an additional and separate Retained Duty System (USAR) contract, in addition to their annual firefighter salary. This USAR contracts are on-call contracts with separate training requirements.

The contract payment is 75% of a standard Retained Duty System (RDS) contract being £2,500 (based on being on call for between 70 and 119 hours per week). A full time retained firefighter would need to be available for a minimum of 120 hours to qualify for 100% on call pay, in line with RDS policy, with the addition of 206 hours training per annum paid at £15 per hour.

The National USAR Tactical Adviser (TacAd) role is provided as part of their normal duties.

Q2. What on call/recall payments are made to USAR personnel (if additional to above).

See Above

Q3. Do USAR technicians undertake USAR/Technical Rescue only or do they also have full firefighting and CFS responsibilities?



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE | Silver

The USAR team is currently undergoing a restructure. As the USAR RDS contract is a separate contract, their primary function is to be a Firefighter for HFRS. This requires them to have full firefighting and Community Fire Safety responsibilities.

Q4. How many USAR personnel do you have?

There are 30 USAR personnel plus 2 x TacAd plus 1 x Canine handler.

Q5. Please provide a breakdown of your annual USAR budget and expenditure.

Please see table attached (breakdown for 2017/18).

		Annual Budget	Actuals YTD
Cost Element		£	£
PAYCOSTS	Pay Costs-Basic,NI,Sup etc	770,000	769,473
TRAINEXP	Training Expenses	7,000	22,087
PREMISES	Premises Related Expenditure	0	6,681
TRANSPORT	Transport Related Expenditure	12,000	29,014
SUPP-SERVS	Supplies and Services	29,000	37,237
Expenditure	Total Expenditure	796,000	864,491
INCOME	Income	-22,000	-10,705
NON-CURREN	Non-Current Expenditure	-815,000	-801,058
Income	Total income	-837,000	-811,763
HCCREV	NET Total	-41,000	52,728

Q6. Please explain the expected training requirements of USAR personnel.

There are many skillsets that are required to meet the Key performance indicators (KPI's). As a basic requirement all Technicians need to attend the following courses (1-5)

1. USAR 1 (5 days)
2. USAR 2 (10 days)
3. SWAH (Safe working at Height) 2 days
4. LACE (Line Access and Casualty Extrication) 5 days
5. Confined space operator (2 days)

A percentage of the team need to attend the following courses to meet the National requirements (5-11)

6. Timber Shoring
7. Hot Cutting
8. Chainsaw operations
9. Prime mover driving and Hook Lift
10. MPV (Multi-purpose Vehicle) driving
11. Confined space Supervisor

These courses are spread amongst the team as appropriate.

Any future correspondence with HFRS 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](mailto:DP@hantsfire.gov.uk) or by writing to the Data Protection Team at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 9SJ.

Should you still remain dissatisfied you can appeal against the internal review decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Information Compliance Officer  
Data Protection, Freedom of Information & Environmental Information Regulations