



Information Requests received by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service

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Key:

EIR – Environmental Information Regulations 2004

FOI – Freedom of Information Act 2000

BAU – Business as Usual

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January 2023

Request Number 2022-0108 (Fleet Information)

FOI request received on 05 January 2023:

Please can you provide the below information relating to your Fire and Rescue Service, please can this be in either word or excel format.

1. Please can you confirm who your Head of Transport is and provide name and contact details including email address?
2. Can you share your fleet list, detailing make and model of assets?
3. Please can you confirm who is your breakdown provider (2022)?
4. Can you please confirm how your vehicles are serviced e.g. whether you have your own workshops/ use council workshops?
5. Please confirm the total number of workshops and technicians you have that service your vehicle fleet?
6. Please can you confirm your annual spend on service, maintenance (2021-2022)?
7. Please can you confirm your annual spend on damage repair (2021-2022)?

Response:

1. Please can you confirm who your Head of Transport is and provide name and contact details including email address.

Head of Fleet, Facilities and Equipment [Name and email address provided]

2. Can you share your fleet list, detailing make and model of assets?

[RBFRS Fleet List - By Station - Jan 23.xlsx] provided

3. Please can you confirm who is your breakdown provider (2022)?



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Heavy vehicles – In house technicians and/or local contractor if recovery needed.

Light vehicles – In house technicians/local contractors/RAC (Dependent on job type and location)

4. Can you please confirm how your vehicles are serviced e.g. whether you have your own workshops/ use council workshops?

Heavy vehicles:

Major servicing and defects are facilitated via a strategic partnership with a neighbouring fire authority.

Minor to moderate repairs, defects and periodic inspections are carried out by in-house technicians.

Light vehicles:

Mixture of in-house technicians and outsourcing to local providers.

5. Please confirm the total number of workshops and technicians you have that service your vehicle fleet?

One workshop (single bay) and three mobile service vans.

Three vehicle technicians and one vehicle maintenance controller

6. Please can you confirm your annual spend on service, maintenance (2021-2022)?

Total spend for 21/22 on all planned and unplanned maintenance of fleet for RBFRS: £288,077. (*see detail line below)

***The above includes all scheduled and unscheduled (defects) maintenance delivered by HIWFRS and RBFRS technicians at Fleet Maintenance Centre (FMC) and on station, i.e. all activity recorded within Tranman. It includes only labour which is 'chargeable' via the partnership which is not covered by the staffing establishment at RBFRS. All parts/orders relating to activity is included in figure if captured within Tranman. The figure stated above relates to all costs that are chargeable for vehicle maintenance and repair as per terms and conditions of the RBFRS/HIWFRS partnership.**



7. Please can you confirm your annual spend on damage repair (2021-2022)?

Regretfully we are unable to provide this detail as most damage repair is incorporated into planned maintenance events to save vehicle downtime (see response above). Repair cost data is contained within each individual job card, which would then need to be examined and the data extracted and costs calculated, which would exceed the appropriate limit under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Fleet Department advise that for the year 2021/2022 there are 1,207 job cards relating to work carried out on RBFRS vehicles. In order to separate out work associated with 'damage repair', each job record would have to be accessed manually, checked and appropriate detail recorded. Some sample testing has been carried out to determine how long it would take to respond to this part of your request and the result was that the average time taken to do this is approximately two minutes per job. Consequently, to view every job card, it would take more than 40 hours.

Consequently, in accordance with Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I must issue a refusal notice as the Information you seek is not readily identifiable or locatable. It has been estimated that the cost of complying with your Request - in time spent to identify, locate and retrieve the information which is contained within individual files - would exceed the appropriate limit, namely £450.

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service has determined that, to provide the information you seek would be an inappropriate use of public resources, as we could not justify the cost of identifying, locating and retrieving the information given the conflicting priorities for expenditure upon the Service at this time. Following this determination, we (RBFRS) will not exercise our discretion, under Section 13 of the Act, to provide the information for a fee, thus as a consequence the information is not available for purchase.



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Request Number 2022-0109 (Statistics and Fire Safety – Cavalry Development, Arborfield)

FOI request received on 11 January 2023:

I was hoping to get some more information regarding number of call outs due to false alarms, fire safety report/risk assessments you may have conducted, along with any other useful information or assistance you would be able to provide.

Response:

Attached are the Action Plan letters from RBFPS that were written on 10th September 2021. We have recently received and responded to a request for information that directly relates to your request, therefore we have provided a copy of the response below along with the attachments. Redactions have been made to Data Protected material in accordance with Regulations 12(3) and 13 of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, as well as the Principles of Data Protection Legislation.

It may be useful to know that we publish our Information Request responses on our website under [Request Disclosure Logs](#).

[Provided request and response to 2022-0101 as seen on the [Jan-Dec 2022 Request Disclosure Log](#)]



Request Number 2022-0110 (Secondary Employment)

FOI request received on 11 January 2023:

- Do you allow secondary employment in your service?
- If yes, do you allow secondary employment to carry out fire safety work such as fire risk assessment, fire training or any other fire consultancy work?
- If yes, do you allow you staff to carry out this work within the Services area or not?

Response:

- Do you allow secondary employment in your service?

Yes

- If yes, do you allow secondary employment to carry out fire safety work such as fire risk assessment, fire training or any other fire consultancy work?

Yes but with permission to ensure there is no conflict of interest (as outlined in the attached policy)

- If yes, do you allow you staff to carry out this work within the Services area or not?

Yes but with permission to ensure there is no conflict of interest (as outlined in the attached policy)

[Outside Employment-work Policy and Procedure (v07)(17 Feb 2021).pdf]



Request Number 2022-0111 (Employment - Grievances)

FOI request received on 16 January 2023:

I am requesting the below under the freedom of information act.

For each of the calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 please can you provide figures on the following?

1. How many formal grievances have been raised with the service by members of staff and firefighters from an ethnic minority background regarding complaints of harassment, inappropriate language, behaviour and assault?
2. How many claims have been submitted to employment tribunal regarding the above?
3. How many of those claims have settled prior to a full remedy hearing?
4. What was the settlement figure in each claim?
5. How many of those settlements involved the signing of a non-disclosure agreement?
6. How many grievance/discipline cases have been brought by the service in relation to Inappropriate behaviour/language/conduct* by an employee (*race discrimination or harassment)?

Response:

For each of the calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 please can you provide figures on the following?

1. How many formal grievances have been raised with the service by members of staff and firefighters from an ethnic minority background regarding complaints of harassment, inappropriate language, behaviour and assault?

2019 - 0

2020 - 0

2021 - 0



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2022 – 1

2. How many claims have been submitted to employment tribunal regarding the above?

2019 - 0

2020 - 0

2021 - 0

2022 – 0

3. How many of those claims have settled prior to a full remedy hearing?

N/A

4. What was the settlement figure in each claim?

N/A

5. How many of those settlements involved the signing of a non-disclosure agreement?

N/A

6. How many grievance/discipline cases have been brought by the service in relation to Inappropriate behaviour/language/conduct* by an employee (*race discrimination or harassment)?

2019 – 0

2020 – 0

2021 – 0

2022 – 0



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Request Number 2022-0112 (Contracts – Fire Extinguisher Maintenance)

FOI request received on 20 January 2023:

Please can you advise who your current supplier is for fire extinguisher maintenance?

Response:

I am pleased to be able to advise you that the information you seek is already easily accessible to you and can be found on our website under [Selling to RBFRS](#) where you will see the [Contracts Register](#) – contract ref 477.

This email serves as a refusal notice in accordance with Section 21 (Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act).



Request Number 2022-0113 (Employees – Sexual Offences)

FOI request received on 20 January 2023:

Please provide total figures for the four year period 2019-2022 for:

1. How many firefighters and fire service staff have been reported to or investigated by the police for alleged sexual offences (including all categories, e.g. rape, indecent assault etc.)?
2. Of those reported and investigated, please tell us:
 - a. How many were convicted?
 - b. How many are still being investigated?
 - c. How many were cleared?
 - d. How many cases resulted in no further action by the police?
3. Of those convicted, please tell us:
 - a. How many remain in the fire service?
 - b. How many have left (please say whether they were dismissed, retired or resigned)?

Response:

1. How many firefighters and fire service staff have been reported to or investigated by the police for alleged sexual offences (including all categories, e.g. rape, indecent assault etc.)? **2019-2022 - 1**
2. Of those reported and investigated, please tell us:
 - a. How many were convicted? **0**



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- b. How many are still being investigated? **0**
- c. How many were cleared? **0**
- d. How many cases resulted in no further action by the police? **0**

3. Of those convicted, please tell us:

- a. How many remain in the fire service? **0**
- b. How many have left (please say whether they were dismissed, retired or resigned)? **1 (resigned)**



Request Number 2022-0114 (Employees - Complaints)

FOI request received on 25 January 2023:

For each of the previous three fiscal years (i.e. 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22) and 2022/23 - up to December 31 - please can you tell me:

1. The total number of complaints brought by fire and rescue service employees, against other fire and rescue employees, under the relevant Complaints Procedure; ideally, I wish the data to be broken down by type of grievance/s (e.g. bullying and discrimination, sexual harassment and assault, etc.).
2. The total number of complaints that were upheld.
3. The total number of upheld complaints that resulted in disciplinary action.

Response:

1. The total number of complaints brought by fire and rescue service employees, against other fire and rescue employees, under the relevant Complaints Procedure; ideally, I wish the data to be broken down by type of grievance/s (e.g. bullying and discrimination, sexual harassment and assault, etc.).

| Year/Type of Grievance | Total |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 2019/20 | 22 |
| Behaviour | 10 |
| Bullying/Harassment | 4 |
| Health and Safety | 2 |
| Policy/Process | 5 |
| Training/Development/Promotion | 1 |
| 2020/21 | 15 |
| Behaviour | 1 |
| Bullying/Harassment | 1 |
| External Matters | 1 |
| Policy/Process | 5 |



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| Year/Type of Grievance | Total |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Training/Development/Promotion | 7 |
| 2021/22 | 13 |
| Behaviour | 2 |
| Bullying/Harassment | 3 |
| Health and Safety | 1 |
| Policy/Process | 5 |
| Training/Development/Promotion | 2 |
| 2022/23 | 20 |
| Behaviour | 2 |
| Bullying/Harassment | 6 |
| Grievance | 10 |
| Training/Development/Promotion | 2 |

2. The total number of complaints that were upheld.

| Year/Complaints Upheld* | Total |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 2019/20 | 11 |
| 2020/21 | 1 |
| 2021/22 | 3 |
| 2022/23 | 3 |

*please note this includes complaints that were partially upheld

3. The total number of upheld complaints that resulted in disciplinary action.

| Year/Upheld Complaint resulted in disciplinary action | Total |
|---|-------|
| 2019/20 | 2 |
| 2020/21 | 0 |
| 2021/22 | 1 |
| 2022/23 | 3 |



Request Number 2022-0115 (Contracts Register)

FOI request received on 25 January 2023:

I would like to submit a request for some information from the organisation, in relation to their contract's register.

The full contract register should display all the organisations existing/live contracts I would like the register to display the following columns/headings:

1. Contract Reference -Unique reference number associated with the contract.
2. Contract Title
3. Procurement Category –Please state the category name of the contract, I wish to know the category the contract is under.
4. Supplier Name
5. Spend (Total, Annual or contract value)
6. Contract's Duration
7. Contract's Extensions
8. Contract's Start Date
9. Contract's Expiry Date
- 10.Contract Description [Please provide me with as much detail as possible.]
- 11.Contact Owner (Person that manages the contract register)
- 12.Contract details of section 151 officer
- 13.CPV codes/Pro-Class



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Contract Data/API Contact Details

1. Can you also provide me with contact details of the person responsible for the actual contract's register or someone responsible for API? [Name, Job Title, Telephone, Email Address] At the very least provide me with their actual job title.

(Meaning of API “a set of functions and procedures that allow the creation of applications which access the features or data of an operating system, application, or other service.”)

Important

1. If the organisation has a CRM system or a similar system, there should be a facility to download and extract contract data.
2. You may forward me a Weblink to a portal to download the contract register, please make sure all the organisation's contracts are provided as doing prior research I have found that most organisations have only uploaded a small portion of all their contracts.
3. For those organisations planning to make an exemption around spend, the spend information I have requested is an overall figure and I am not requesting a complete breakdown of services relating to the spend.

Please provide me with the contract's register file in an excel format.

Response:

I am pleased to be able to advise you that the information you seek is already easily accessible to you and can be found within our [Contracts Register](#) on our website under [Selling to RBFRS](#).

Any enquiries about the Contracts Register itself can be directed to [email address provided].



Request Number 2022-0116 (Employment - Vacancies)

FOI request received on 25 January 2023:

1. The number of current vacancies in fire and rescue services in your area.
2. The percentage of vacancies in fire and rescue services when compared to the total required work force.

Clarification request:

Please can you confirm if you require the data on just permanent vacancies vs our authorised establishment? I.e. what is budgeted for and not fixed term or temporary project positions.

Clarification provided:

Yes, permanent vacancies vs our authorised establishment

Response:

| | Establishment | Vacancies | % of Vacancies against total required workforce (Establishment) |
|-------------|---------------|-----------|---|
| Control | 40 | 3 | 7.50 |
| Green Book | 170 | 20 | 11.76 |
| On-Call | 65 | 18 | 27.69 |
| Wholetime | 361 | 6 | 1.66 |
| Grand Total | 636 | 47 | 7.39 |



Request Number 2022-0117 (Financial – Annual Budgets)

FOI request received on 26 January 2023:

Please could I request the following information Under the Freedom of Information Act?

- Your fire and rescue authorities total budget for each year since 2015.

Please could you provide this information by email, preferably in a spreadsheet?

Response:

Assumptions made:

- 'budget' means revenue budget allocation approved by Councillors at Fire Authority in the meeting prior to the financial year commencing
- The Authority's financial year runs 1st April to 31st March. Data provided includes the financial year that commenced 1 April 2014, so data is for all of the calendar

| Year | Budget |
|---------|--|
| 2023/24 | To be approved by Councillors at Fire Authority at the meeting 15/02/2023. Papers will be available on the RBFRS website week commencing 06/02/2023. |
| 2022/23 | 38,445,604.43 |
| 2021/22 | 35,778,674.08 |
| 2020/21 | 35,263,256.03 |
| 2019/20 | 34,080,895.36 |
| 2018/19 | 33,479,110.43 |
| 2017/18 | 33,166,771.21 |
| 2016/17 | 32,770,241.91 |
| 2015/16 | 33,836,916.90 |
| 2014/15 | 34,384,428.32 |



February 2023

Request Number 2022-0118 (Secondary Employment)

FOI request received on 01 February 2023:

1. How many full-time/wholetime firefighters does your service employ as of 1st February 2023?
2. Of these, how many are registered as having secondary employment?
3. Please provide a breakdown of how many are employed by category e.g. 12 taxi drivers, 73 plumbers etc.
4. Please supply any rules or guidance your service uses for secondary employment covering maximum hours or ineligible jobs

Note you do not need to include figures for on-call firefighters, fire control staff or support staff. Just full-time firefighters of all ranks.

Response:

1. How many full-time/Wholetime firefighters does your service employ as of 1st February 2023?

RBFRS currently employs 358 Wholetime firefighters.

2. Of these, how many are registered as having secondary employment?

170 individuals are currently registered as having secondary employment. 20 of these individuals hold more than one secondary employment on their personal records.

3. Please provide a breakdown of how many are employed by category e.g. 12 taxi drivers, 73 plumbers etc.

| Type of Employment | Total |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Acting Agency | 1 |
| Agency Work-window cleaning | 1 |
| Army | 3 |



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| Type of Employment | Total |
|--|-------|
| Assistant Sports Coach | 1 |
| Builder | 7 |
| Butcher | 1 |
| Car Detailing | 1 |
| Carpenter | 1 |
| Cleaning | 1 |
| Company director | 1 |
| Consulting | 1 |
| Cycle Mechanic | 1 |
| Decorating | 3 |
| Director, manager | 1 |
| DIY & Labouring | 1 |
| Driver | 1 |
| Driving Instructor | 4 |
| Erecting Marquee's | 1 |
| Event fire marshalling / Self Employed | 1 |
| Farm Manager | 1 |
| Film, TV and publishing, Barbering | 1 |
| Fire Alarm Testing | 1 |
| Fire Cover & Health & Safety | 1 |
| Fire Safety | 4 |
| First Aid Training | 1 |
| First Aider | 2 |
| Fitness & Personal Training | 3 |
| Fleet Management | 1 |
| Garden Maintenance | 2 |
| Gas Services | 1 |
| General building & landscaping | 1 |
| Ground Crew | 1 |



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| Type of Employment | Total |
|--|-------|
| Handyperson | 3 |
| Health and Safety Manager | 1 |
| Heavy Plant Engineer | 1 |
| Home improvements | 1 |
| Hospitality | 1 |
| Hypnotherapy Services | 1 |
| Illustrator | 1 |
| Independent trainer | 1 |
| Instructor | 1 |
| Labourer | 4 |
| Landscaper | 3 |
| Lifeguard and supervision of pool | 1 |
| M.O.D green keeper | 1 |
| Maintenance and Cleaning | 2 |
| Marketing | 1 |
| Mechanic | 4 |
| Mobile Bicycle Repair Service | 1 |
| MOT Tester | 1 |
| Motor Trade | 1 |
| Not specified | 1 |
| Other Fire and Rescue Service - Crew Manager | 1 |
| Other Fire and Rescue Service - Firefighter | 4 |
| Other Fire and Rescue Service - Retained Firefighter | 9 |
| Outdoor education | 1 |
| Own Business | 3 |
| Own Business - Building / Property Service | 1 |
| Painter and Decorator | 3 |
| Pall Bearing | 1 |
| Pensions Administrator (Contractor) | 1 |



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| Type of Employment | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Personal Trainer | 5 |
| Photographer | 1 |
| Plasterer | 2 |
| Plumber | 2 |
| Plumbing and Heating | 2 |
| Property & garden Maintenance | 1 |
| Property Maintenance | 6 |
| Removals | 1 |
| Reservist | 2 |
| Running Coach | 1 |
| Scaffolder | 1 |
| Self Employed | 8 |
| Soldier | 1 |
| Specials (Police) | 1 |
| Sports Performance Coach | 2 |
| Stage setups/lighting | 1 |
| Static Security | 1 |
| Studio Fire Marshall | 1 |
| Supermarket | 1 |
| Surveyor | 1 |
| Teaching | 1 |
| Tiler | 2 |
| Trainer | 2 |
| Transportation of stock | 1 |
| Voluntary Solider | 1 |
| Welder | 1 |
| Window Cleaner | 33 |
| Woodland management | 1 |
| Grand Total | 190 |



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4. Please supply any rules or guidance your service uses for secondary employment covering maximum hours or ineligible jobs

Please see attached policy

[Outside Employment-work Policy and Procedure (v07)(17 Feb 2021).pdf]



Request Number 2022-0119 (Contracts – Facilities Management)

FOI request received on 07 February 2023:

As per my records, Sasse Facilities Management Ltd and The Chiltern Lift Company Ltd contracts are expired. I would like to know whether these contracts are still valid or replaced by any other supplier.

If all the information besides the contract dates are the same, I am happy to just receive an update on the contract dates

Below highlighted original FOI request for your reference only.

I would like the organisation to review my freedom of information request below, that's focused around contract data for services around facilities management.

1. Office and building cleaning – Service contract that is focused around office, commercial and building cleaning services.
2. Lift service and maintenance – Service contract for lift service and maintenance.
3. Food – Service contract that is focused around catering services.
4. General waste services contracts – The organisation's primary general waste service contract.
5. Laundry services where clothes and linen can be washed and ironed.

Contract profile questionnaire for each type of contract:

1. Supplier/Provider of the services
2. Total Annual Spend – The spend should only relate to each of the service contracts listed above.



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3. A description of the services provided under this contract please includes information if other services are included under the same contract.
4. The number of sites the contract covers
5. The start date of the contract
6. The end date of the contract
7. The duration of the contract, please include information on any extensions period.
8. Who within the organisation is responsible for each of these contracts? Name, Job Title, contact number and email address.

Response:

I am pleased to be able to advise you that some of the information you seek is already easily accessible to you and can be found within our [Contracts Register](#) on our website under [Selling to RBFRS](#). This is updated regularly on our website so please do refer back to it when needed.

Sasse Facilities Management Ltd

2. Total Annual Spend – The spend should only relate to each of the service contracts listed above. **£246,000**
3. A description of the services provided under this contract please includes information if other services are included under the same contract. **General Clean, Deep Clean of Kitchens, Bay cleans and Window Cleaning to all RBFRS sites**
4. The number of sites the contract covers. **19**
5. The start date of the contract. **01.11.2019**
6. The end date of the contract. **30.04.2023**



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7. The duration of the contract, please include information on any extensions period. **3 years, one year extension (currently only 6 month extension)**
8. Who within the organisation is responsible for each of these contracts? name, Job Title, contact number and email address.
Facilities Assistant Manager [contact details provided]

Lift Service and Maintenance

1. Supplier/Provider of the services – Please refer to our [Contracts Register](#) on our website under [Selling to RBFRS](#), Contract No. 1295 (Eze Lifts Ltd)

For questions 2 and 5-7, please refer to the Contracts Register

3. A description of the services provided under this contract please includes information if other services are included under the same contract. – **Six (06) Monthly Pre-Planned Maintenance (PPM) and Reactive Maintenance Work Orders.**
4. The number of sites the contract covers – **Four (04)**
8. Who within the organisation is responsible for each of these contracts? name, Job Title, contact number and email address –
Facilities Manager [contact details provided]



Request Number 2022-0120 (AFSA Events)

FOI request received on 08 February 2023:

This is an information request relating to AFSA events attended by the fire service

Please include the following information:

- All documents provided by AFSA as part of any conferences in 2022 attended by the fire service, including food and drinks menus

Response:

Please see the attached documents that RBFRRS have on file. Please note there were no food menus provided and hard copy Information Books were provided on the day but RBFRRS does not hold any copies.

[AFSA Spring Conference Flyer 2022 with Programme.pdf]

[AFSA Update 78 – 30.08.2022.pdf]

[AFSA Winter Conference Flyer 2022.pdf]

[Booking form AFSA Winter Conference 2022.docx]



Request Number 2022-0121 (Fire Safety – Residential Building on Stoke Road, Slough SL2)

FOI request received on 14 February 2023:

Your team made an assessment of our building in February 2021. [Building address provided]. Please can we have a copy of that report as the building management service has had a change of managing agent provider and this report has become inaccessible?

Response:

Please see the attached copy of the Inspection Audit Report from an audit that took place on November 2020, just before your requested date. After this inspection, there have been various follow-up visits to the building. Some of those follow-up visits have a 'Note for File' that you may find useful as they provide updates on the Fire Safety of the building.

[FS080_Inspection_Audit_Report_REDACTED.pdf]

[NFF_2021_05_12_NFF_REDACTED.pdf]

[NFF_2021_12_01 NFF Update of works_REDACTED.pdf]

[NFF_2021_12_14 NFF Update of works_REDACTED.pdf]

[NFF_2022_03_14 NFF Update of works_REDACTED.pdf]

[NFF_2022_04_14 NFF Update of works_REDACTED.pdf]



Request Number 2022-0122 (Statistics – Fires Caused by Electric Heating Devices)

FOI request received on 14 February 2023:

I would like to know the following:

- The number of calls to fires caused by electric blankets.
- And the number of calls to fires caused by plug-in electric heaters.

I would like the data from January 2017 until as recently as records allow. I would like the data to be broken down as follows:

In both cases would like to know, in total, how many calls there were in each year: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.

For 2022 and 2023, I would like a month-by-month breakdown of the number of calls.

In both cases, I would also like to know, in each year, the ages of the callers, if this information is held. If it is not, please omit.

Furthermore, I would like for you to provide a case summary of the last five callouts; five for blankets and five for heaters.

Response:

Emergency incidents attended by RBFPS per calendar year

| | Electric Blanket | Plug-in Electric Heater |
|------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 2017 | - | 3 |
| 2018 | 1 | 7 |
| 2019 | 2 | 4 |
| 2020 | - | 3 |
| 2021 | 1 | 8 |



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| | Electric Blanket | Plug-in Electric Heater | | | | |
|------|------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | - | Jan | Feb | Apr | Jul | Dec |
| 2022 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 2023 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - |

Notes:

- Data is supplied from 01/01/2017 - 20/02/2023.
- Figures are based on the number of emergency incidents actually attended, responding to a Primary Fire.
- Text searches were used to identify the specific cause of fire according to the criteria of 'electric blanket' or a 'plug-in electric heater', which included electric oil heaters. Ceiling fan/heaters, for example, were excluded due to being 'wired in' to mains electricity.

Please be informed, re the ages of callers, I am unable to comply with this part of your request as the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service does not record the ages of callers and therefore we do not hold the information you seek.

Last 5 callouts for Electric Blankets

| Month | Year | Property Type | Unitary Area | Cause | Cause of Fire | Room of Origin |
|-------|------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| May | 2018 | Residential Dwelling | West Berkshire | Accidental - Electrical - blanket | Overheating, unknown cause | Bedroom |



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| Month | Year | Property Type | Unitary Area | Cause | Cause of Fire | Room of Origin |
|----------|------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|
| January | 2019 | Residential Dwelling | Reading | Accidental - Electrical - blanket | Faulty leads to equipment or appliance | Bedroom |
| October | 2019 | Residential Dwelling | Slough | Accidental - Electrical - blanket | Fault in equipment or appliance | Bedroom |
| November | 2021 | Residential Dwelling | Slough | Accidental - Electrical - blanket | Other | Living Room |

Last 5 callouts for Electric Plug-in Heaters

| Month | Year | Property Type | Unitary Area | Cause | Cause of Fire | Room of Origin |
|----------|------|----------------------|------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| December | 2022 | Residential Dwelling | Windsor and Maidenhead | Accidental - Electrical - wiring faults | Faulty fuel supply - electricity | Bedroom |
| April | 2022 | Residential Dwelling | Windsor and Maidenhead | Accidental - Electrical appliance - other | Combustible articles too close to heat source (or fire) | Other |
| July | 2022 | Residential Dwelling | Reading | Accidental - Electrical appliance - other | Fault in equipment or appliance | Other |



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| Month | Year | Property Type | Unitary Area | Cause | Cause of Fire | Room of Origin |
|---------|------|----------------------|------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| January | 2023 | Residential Dwelling | Windsor and Maidenhead | Accidental - Heater/boiler/open fire/log burner | Combustible articles too close to heat source (or fire) | Bedroom |
| January | 2023 | Residential Dwelling | Windsor and Maidenhead | Accidental - Heater/boiler/open fire/log burner | Fault in equipment or appliance | Living Room |



Request Number 2022-0123 (Emergency Response Motorcyclists)

FOI request received on 21 February 2023:

We would like to request information on:

- Any/all risk assessment which have been created to support emergency response motorcyclist roles (as per HSE requirements)
- Documentation covering the required CE standards for motorcyclist riding clothing (garments, policy, procurement, etc.)

Response:

I refer to your Request for Information and can advise you that we (Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service) do not have Emergency Response Motorcyclists and therefore cannot provide any documents/risk assessments etc. relating to such role.



Request Number 2022-0124 (Statistics – Incidents Mobilised)

FOI request received on 26 February 2023:

I am requesting to receive the number of incidents that RDS crews across the county were mobilised to and subsequently the number of times they booked mobile to an incident. As well as the same information for standbys.

Clarification Request:

Please can you confirm a timeframe of which you would like these statistics? E.g. From 1st April 2022 to date.

Clarification Provided:

The timeframe for the statistics I have requested are from 1/1/22 to 1/1/23

Response:

The two tables below are for Berkshire incidents only, for RBFRS On-Call pumps only. Exclusions were applied to remove incidents where no action was required e.g. test calls.

The Count of Time Ordered is how many times each appliance was Ordered and the Count of Time Mobile is how many times each appliance Mobilised.

All Incidents

| Appliance | Count of Time Ordered | Count of Time Mobile |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Hungerford | 172 | 163 |
| Lambourn | 10 | 10 |
| Mortimer | 239 | 227 |
| Crowthorne | 341 | 331 |
| Maidenhead Pump 2 | 79 | 73 |
| Grand Total | 841 | 804 |



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Standby Result Code Incidents Only

| Appliance | Count of Time Ordered | Count of Time Mobile |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Hungerford | 60 | 55 |
| Lambourn | 4 | 4 |
| Mortimer | 120 | 111 |
| Crowthorne | 129 | 125 |
| Maidenhead Pump 2 | 28 | 27 |
| Grand Total | 341 | 322 |



Request Number 2022-0125 (Statistics – Vehicle Fires)

FOI request received on 28 February 2023:

Number of vehicle fires

| | 2019/2020* | 2020/2021* | 2021/2022* |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| Vehicle fires | | | |
| Vehicle fires within public car parks | | | |
| Fires within domestic garages | | | |
| Fires within domestic garages confirmed as vehicle origin | | | |

Fuel source of involved vehicle

| | Vehicle fires | Petrol | Diesel | E/V | Other/Unknown |
|------------|---------------|--------|--------|-----|---------------|
| 2019/2020* | | | | | |
| 2020/2021* | | | | | |
| 2021/2022* | | | | | |

*Figures provided to include 1st April – 31st March. If your FRS collates statistics by calendar year, please provide those under the headings 2019, 2020, 2021 or 2022, with your most recent 3 complete years.

Response:

Number of vehicle fires

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Vehicle fires | 240 | 212 | 273 |
| Vehicle fires within public car parks | 10 | 10 | 7 |
| Fires within domestic garages | 2 | 1 | 1 |



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| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--|------|------|------|
| Fires within domestic garages confirmed as vehicle origin | 2 | 1 | 1 |

Fuel source of involved vehicle

| | Vehicle fires | Petrol | Diesel | E/V | Other/Unknown |
|-------------|---------------|--------|--------|-----|---------------|
| 2020 | 240 | 127 | 90 | 7 | 16 |
| 2021 | 212 | 109 | 83 | 7 | 13 |
| 2022 | 273 | 144 | 108 | 6 | 15 |



March 2023

Request Number 2022-0126 (Non-disclosure Agreements)

FOI request received on 01 March 2023:

1. Please state how many non-disclosure agreements with former or current staff at your fire brigade have been signed in the following years:
 - a. 2020
 - b. 2021
 - c. 2022
 - d. Between 1/1/2023-1/3/2023
2. Please state how many non-disclosure agreements were signed by female former or current staff in the following years:
 - a. 2020
 - b. 2021
 - c. 2022
 - d. Between 1/1/2023-1/3/2023
3. For each year please state the total amount paid out to staff through non-disclosure agreements in the following years:
 - a. 2020
 - b. 2021
 - c. 2022
 - d. Between 1/1/2023-1/3/2023

Response:

1. Please state how many non-disclosure agreements with former or current staff at your fire brigade have been signed in the following years:



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| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| a. 2020 | 1 |
| b. 2021 | 0 |
| c. 2022 | 0 |
| d. Between 1/1/2023-1/3/2023 | 0 |

2. Please state how many non-disclosure agreements were signed by female former or current staff in the following years:

Please note, that due to the low number of staff involved, we are unable to disclose specific details of the NDAs, as to do so would identify individuals and contravene the first and second Data Protection Principles and subsequently breach the Data Protection Legislation. Therefore this email serves as a Part Refusal Notice, in accordance with Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as well as the Principles of the Data Protection Legislation.

3. For each year please state the total amount paid out to staff through non-disclosure agreements in the following years:

Please note, that due to the low number of staff involved, we are unable to disclose specific details of the NDAs, as to do so would identify individuals and contravene the first and second Data Protection Principles and subsequently breach the Data Protection Legislation. Therefore this email serves as a Part Refusal Notice, in accordance with Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as well as the Principles of the Data Protection Legislation.



Request Number 2022-0127 (Financial/Staffing – Royal Funeral)

FOI request received on 01 March 2023:

For the following FOI request, I would like data concerning all activities associated with the Queen's death and subsequent proceedings that saw her coffin transported to London, lying in state, and then transported to her funeral service(s) - for instance, attendances at/monitoring of the queue to see the Queen lying in state, and the deployment of staff in response to funeral/lying in state activities or the expected influx of people into the London area.

Please tell me:

1. What was the estimated cost to the Berkshire Fire Brigade of the Queen's death and subsequent proceedings, if any
2. What types of activity relating to these events resulted in a cost to the Fire Brigade - please present this as an itemised breakdown to question 1, with a cost attributed to each specific activity. Examples of such activities could include but are not limited to:
 - staffing costs
 - callouts
 - inspecting/auditing buildings such as media village, viewing platforms, pop up businesses, accommodation for military and police personnel, transport hubs
 - reviewing fire and evacuation strategies at key locations
 - planning

Please be as specific as possible for the itemised breakdown of costs - for instance, please give an estimated cost for Bank holiday pay or pre-arranged overtime, rather than one aggregate staffing cost. Where possible, for question 2, please give me a breakdown of what would be a cost that the Brigade would normally expect to have had (for instance firefighters already scheduled to work who were deployed to activities related to the funeral) versus additional costs from deploying more staff than would be usual.



Please also tell me:

3. How many staff members were deployed in relation to the events, whether through callouts or in keeping additional staff on standby/on duty (please provide a breakdown of the types of staff and nature of their deployment)

Response:

1. What was the estimated cost to the Berkshire Fire Brigade of the Queen's death and subsequent proceedings, if any?

The total cost to RBFRS attributed to the above event was £72,463.

Due to the nature of the event RBFRS received £41,482 from the Home Office.

2. What types of activity relating to these events resulted in a cost to the Fire Brigade - please present this as an itemised breakdown to question 1, with a cost attributed to each specific activity. Examples of such activities could include but are not limited to:
 - staffing costs

The £72,463 figure as mentioned in question 1 can itemised into:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Bank Holiday payment for those staff normally on duty | £24,460 |
| Operational Staff | £24,124 |
| Thames Valley Fire Control | £2,358 |
| Prevention/Protection | £8,207 |
| Communications | £958 |
| Collaboration and additional support | £1,791 |



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| | |
|---|----------------|
| Information Technology | £222 |
| Event Control | £4,401 |
| Other costs (mainly travel and subsistence) | £5941 |
| Total | £72,463 |

- callouts

There were no callouts as a direct result of the funeral or in what could be considered the operational footprint of Windsor during the event.

- inspecting/auditing buildings such as media village, viewing platforms, pop up businesses, accommodation for military and police personnel, transport hubs

Our Protection teams identified and inspected 170 premises in the operational footprint as a result of the Risk Based Inspection Programme with 41 of those being considered high risk. The primary focus was on sleeping accommodation in Windsor. Fire Safety provisions were also considered at other venues including Police accommodation and the media village

Fire Safety inspecting Officers were on duty and available in Windsor throughout the event.

In addition our Prevention Teams were engaged in the local area, and on social media in the lead up to the event with a focus on outdoor safety (camping), boat safety, road closures and candle safety.

- reviewing fire and evacuation strategies at key locations

These were reviewed as required as part of the inspection programme but none were altered.

- Planning

No additional cost was incurred due to planning, under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 we are required to make arrangements for such events.



3. How many staff members were deployed in relation to the events, whether through callouts or in keeping additional staff on standby/on duty (please provide a breakdown of the types of staff and nature of their deployment)

186 staff were deployed in relation to the events. This figure includes those on duty away from the footprint who provided business as usual fire cover throughout the County.

Additional Fire Appliances, Specialist Teams and Officers were deployed across multiple locations in the Windsor footprint – This included Mass Decontamination Teams, Marauding Terrorist Attack (MTA) Teams and Detecting Identifying Monitoring (DIM) Teams. This formed part of a planned multi agency response to Queens’s passing and subsequent funeral.

The additional fire appliances were crewed by RBFRS operational personnel. The MTA, DIM and mass decontamination teams were drawn from National Assets.

Additional staff were placed in Thames Valley Fire Controls to support operations and also in a support room at our Service Headquarters.

24 Protection staff worked over the course of the event, this included support from Surrey and Oxfordshire colleagues.



Request Number 2022-0128 (Fire Safety – Hotel Audits)

FOI request received on 02 March 2023:

1. How many fire safety audits have been undertaken at hotels in each of the last six financial years, including the current financial year to date?
 - 2017/18
 - 2018/19
 - 2019/20
 - 2020/21
 - 2021/22
 - 2022/23 to date
2. How many of these fire safety audits at hotels were “unsatisfactory” in each of the last six financial years, including the current financial year to date?
 - 2017/18
 - 2018/19
 - 2019/20
 - 2020/21
 - 2021/22
 - 2022/23 to date
3. How many enforcement notices - article 30 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 - have been served to hotels in each of the last six financial years, including the current financial year to date?
 - 2017/18
 - 2018/19
 - 2019/20
 - 2020/21



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- 2021/22
 - 2022/23 to date
4. How many prohibition notices - article 31 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 - have been served to hotels in each of the last six financial years, including the current financial year to date?
- 2017/18
 - 2018/19
 - 2019/20
 - 2020/21
 - 2021/22
 - 2022/23 to date
5. How many prosecutions - article 32 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 - have been served to hotels in each of the last six financial years, including the current financial year to date?
- 2017/18
 - 2018/19
 - 2019/20
 - 2020/21
 - 2021/22
 - 2022/23 to date

I would like the above information to be provided to me in a table format on a searchable document or spreadsheet.

Response:

I am pleased to be able to advise you that the information you seek for 2017-2022 is already easily accessible to you and can be found within the published Home Office [Fire Statistics](#) in the [FIRE1024 Spreadsheet](#). On this spreadsheet, please go to the tab named 'FS1 Pivot' and filter by the Year and FRS Name (Berkshire) at the top of the page. You can also filter the property type by 'Hotels'.



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This email serves as a part refusal notice in accordance with Section 21 (Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act).

The 2022/23 statistics will be provided to the Home Office soon but we are unable to advise when they will be published, therefore please see the below data for 2022/23 (up to 7th March 2023).

2022/23 Performance Year (up to 07.03.23)

| Question | Answer |
|---|--------|
| How many fire safety audits have been undertaken at hotels? | 119 |
| How many of these fire safety audits at hotels were unsatisfactory? | 24 |
| How many enforcement notices - article 30 of the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety order 2003 - have been served to hotels? | 0 |
| How many prohibition notices - article 31 of the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety order 2005 - have been served to Hotels? | 0 |
| How many prosecutions - article 32 of the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety order 2005 - have been served to Hotels? | 0 |

Note:

- Data extracted on 7th March 2023.
- Figures will differ to Home Office published data due to the date the data has been extracted.



Request Number 2022-0129 (ICT Documents)

FOI request received on 02 March 2023:

I would like the organisation to provide me with the following departmental documents around ICT and corporate procurement.

Many organisations within your region have different document title names:

1. 2023/24 IT Department Documents; - these types of documents have detailed information on the department's future plans and strategies. These documents include:
 - ICT Strategy/Plan, ICT Department Plan, ICT Financial Plan
2. ICT Org Chart ; - with names and job titles
3. Corporate Procurement Strategy that covers 2023/24 and more.

For all the documents I have requested, please provide me with the 2023/24 documents, I only want to only receive documents that are live and valid. If the document is a strategic plan (e.g. 2020-2025) that covers a set number of years, please provide me with the 2023 version.

I also require the full version of the documents I have requested, if any parts of the document is missing, please state this in the response.

Clarification Request: Please may you elaborate on 'Corporate Procurement Strategy' and what information you are expecting to see?

Response:

No response was received from the applicant by the deadline, therefore the request was closed.



Request Number 2022-0130 (Statistics – Fires at Waste Centres/Refuse Vehicles)

FOI request received on 10 March 2023:

We are interested in the number of fires in refuse vehicles and at waste and recycling centres. I appreciate you may not have a specific code for this, and if not, it would be great if you could use a free text search for any terms you might think would capture this (e.g. waste centre, recycling centre, rubbish truck, refuse vehicle). It would be great to have the data split by waste facilities and refuse vehicles, and broken down by the years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Response:

| Number of emergency incidents recorded as primary fires attended by RBFRS in refuse vehicles and waste and recycling centres by calendar year | | | |
|---|------|------|------|
| Category | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Refuse vehicle (lorry/HGV) | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Waste facilities | 3 | 3 | 5 |



Request Number 2022-0131 (Statistics – Incidents Involving ‘Bariatric Person’)

FOI request received on 12 March 2023:

I am writing to request some information under the Freedom of Information Act in relation to the rescue of a “bariatric person”

I understand that in April 2012 a new category relating to obese people was created for your incident reporting systems.

Could you please tell me how many call outs you received to move Bariatric or obese people from their homes or to rescue them during the following calendar years: 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013?

Would it be possible to reveal whether you were called to assist the ambulance service or the police, or whether you received a call directly from the person’s home?

Would you be able to list the gender of the people you moved?

Where possible – could you please reveal the age of the youngest and oldest person that you would called to assist?

Response:

Number of times RBFRS have been called out to attend to assist as special services for a Bariatric person:

| Calendar Year | Number of times RBFRS have been called out to attend to assist as special services for a Bariatric person: |
|---------------|--|
| 2013 | 3 |
| 2014 | 1 |
| 2015 | 19 |
| 2016 | 23 |
| 2017 | 23 |
| 2018 | 31 |
| 2019 | 44 |



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| Calendar Year | Number of times RBFRS have been called out to attend to assist as special services for a Bariatric person: |
|---------------|--|
| 2020 | 35 |
| 2021 | 56 |
| 2022 | 56 |

Reasons for Call to Assist

Note that data was recorded under separate categories only for years 2015 – 2017.

| Calendar Year | Any call via ambulance control | Other | Running call to a station | Police | Any call via the 999 operator | Total incidents |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2013 | 3 | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| 2014 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 2015 | 13 | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | 19 |
| 2016 | 17 | 1 | - | 2 | 3 | 23 |
| 2017 | 4 | 19 | - | - | - | 23 |
| 2018 | - | 31 | - | - | - | 31 |
| 2019 | - | 44 | - | - | - | 44 |
| 2020 | - | 35 | - | - | - | 35 |
| 2021 | - | 56 | - | - | - | 56 |
| 2022 | - | 56 | - | - | - | 56 |

Breakdowns by gender and age:

There are incidents recorded as attended to where gender or age detail has not been recorded or is Unknown.

The below figures are a breakdown of incidents attended by gender including those confirmed as recorded as Male or Female only.

Number of times RBFRS have been called out to attend to assist a Bariatric person categorised by Male or Female gender:



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| Calendar Year | Female | Male |
|---------------|--------|------|
| 2013 | 1 | - |
| 2014 | - | 1 |
| 2015 | 8 | 7 |
| 2016 | 12 | 8 |
| 2017 | 14 | 6 |
| 2018 | 10 | 17 |
| 2019 | 19 | 13 |
| 2020 | 10 | 19 |
| 2021 | 24 | 25 |
| 2022 | 30 | 17 |

Youngest and Oldest age of a Bariatric person attended to by RBFRS, by Male or Female gender:

| Gender/Age | Youngest | Oldest |
|------------|----------|----------|
| Female | 22 years | 90 years |
| Male | 22 years | 97 years |

Notes:

All incidents attended comprise the Number of times RBFRS have been called out to attend to assist as special services for a Bariatric person. Where age or gender were recorded as blank or unknown, such figures have been excluded from the breakdowns of age/gender only.



Request Number 2022-0132 (Statistics and Fire Safety – Enforcement of Means of Escape)

FOI request received on 15 March 2023:

1. The number of low, medium and high-rise residential buildings in your area (or your current/best estimate of them) covered by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
2. The total number of deficiency and/or enforcement notices served to the owners of these buildings relating to means of escape (Articles 14(2)(b) & 15 (1)(b)), since July 2021 to the date of this FOI
3. The number of deficiency and/or enforcement notices served to the owners of these buildings specifically relating to the identification of vulnerable and disabled residents, and planning for their escape (Articles 14(2)(b) & 15 (1)(b)), since July 2021 to the date of this FOI
4. Copies of the notices referred to in (3)
5. The fire authority's current policy covering the evacuation of disabled people from multi-occupancy buildings during a fire

Clarification Request:

Please may you define low, medium and high-rise?

Clarification Provided:

It would be helpful if you could give a breakdown as follows as this will keep in line with other responses:

1-3 storeys

4-5 storeys

6-9 storeys

>10 storeys



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Response:

| | | Question 1 Count of Properties by FSEC | Question 2 Breakdown of non-compliance for articles 14 and 15 | |
|--|--------------|--|--|--|
| FSEC Code Description | FSEC CODE | Number of Premises known | Emergency routes and exits (Article 14) | Procedures for serious and imminent danger and for danger areas (Article 15) |
| Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) | C | 1579 | 7 | 2 |
| Purpose built flats 1-3 storeys | D | 23 | 1 | 1 |
| Purpose built flats 4-9 storeys | D | 1011 | 121 | 36 |
| Purpose built flats ≥10 storeys | D | 32 | 13 | 7 |

3. The number of deficiency and/or enforcement notices served to the owners of these buildings specifically relating to the identification of vulnerable and disabled residents, and planning for their escape (Articles 14(2)(b) & 15 (1)(b)), since July 2021 to the date of this FOI

None.



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4. Copies of the notices referred to in (3)

N/A

5. The fire authority's current policy covering the evacuation of disabled people from multi-occupancy buildings during a fire

RBFRS do not evacuate people from buildings, we rescue them if necessary, it is for the Responsible Person(s) to ensure they have appropriate evacuation procedures for all `Relevant Persons`.



Request Number 2022-0133 (Fleet List)

FOI request received on 16 March 2023:

Could you please send me the below details of your current Blue light fleet (inc Motorbikes) for market research -

- Model Year
- The Vehicle Make & Model
- Type of Vehicle (Example-Saloon, Wagon etc) -The Role of the Vehicle (Including Armed Response Unit) -The Year the Vehicle was Commissioned

Response:

[RBFRS Fleet List - Mar 2023.xlsx]



Request Number 2022-0134 (Incidents - Terror and Bomb Disposal Incidents since 2017)

FOI request received on 17 March 2023:

Re presentation to the overview and scrutiny commission at Bracknell Forest Council. GM Readings said RBFRS crews are equipped to deal with terror incidents.

1. Therefore, may I ask how many terror and bomb disposal incidents has RBFRS attended in total since 2017?
2. Additionally, can you tell me if fire crews from Bracknell fire station attended the biggest incidents since 2017? These include the Reading crane collapse of 2017 and the Maidenhead club fire and Reading scaffolding collapse both from 2019.

GM Readings said: "Berkshire also has a group of officers who have enhanced training in ballistic protection equipment and will respond to a terror incident as part of a specialist response capability."

3. Any clarity on how many officers are trained in this fashion and what ballistic protection equipment is would be appreciated?

My understanding is that this equipment includes stab proof vests.

Follow-up Request:

Can you give dates for the three incidents in the first table supplied please?

Response:

1. Therefore, may I ask how many terror and bomb disposal incidents has RBFRS attended in total since 2017?

| Revised Incident Type | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Grand Total |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| P2.1.0.P PUBLIC ORDER - BOMB SUSPECTED | | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| P6.1.0.P PUBLIC ORDER - MTFA | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Grand Total | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |



2. Additionally, can you tell me if fire crews from Bracknell fire station attended the biggest incidents since 2017? These include the Reading crane collapse of 2017 and the Maidenhead club fire and Reading scaffolding collapse both from 2019.

We do not categorise incidents by their size so in order to provide the 'biggest incidents' attended by Bracknell Fire Station we have included all incidents which involved 10 or more pumps (including Over the Border pumps). These are located in Berkshire only.

Incidents Attended by Bracknell with 10 or more pumps

| Year | Count of Incidents Attended |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2017 | 2 |
| 2018 | 12 |
| 2019 | 3 |
| 2020 | 6 |
| 2021 | 5 |
| 2022 | 12 |
| Grand Total | 40 |

GM Readings said: "Berkshire also has a group of officers who have enhanced training in ballistic protection equipment and will respond to a terror incident as part of a specialist response capability."

3. Any clarity on how many officers are trained in this fashion and what ballistic protection equipment is would be appreciated?

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) creates a statutory right of access to information held by Public Authorities. A Public Authority in receipt of a request must, if permitted, state whether it holds the requested information and if held, then communicate that information to the applicant. The right of access to information is not without exception and is subject to a number of exemptions. These



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exemptions are designed to enable public authorities to withhold information that is unsuitable for release. Importantly, the Act is designed to place information into the public domain, meaning that any information that we (RBFRS) release under the Act, is considered as being released to the world at large.

Having considered your request, we are able to provide you with most of the information you have requested, however, I am unable to provide you with the information you seek regarding question 3 as we believe it to be risk sensitive and is exempt from disclosure in accordance with Section 24 (National Security) and Section 38 (Health and Safety) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act).

Section 24(1) and 38(1) are both qualified exemptions, which means they are subject to a public interest test.

Whilst we acknowledge there is a public interest in knowing that Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) has adequate procedures, officers and equipment in place to deal with any incident, we believe it is not in the public interest to know the specific details. The international security landscape is increasingly complex and unpredictable, and the threat from terrorism should not be ignored. Since 2006, the UK Government have published the threat level, based upon current intelligence and the current threat level to the UK is 'substantial'.

Disclosing details of RBFRS's capability to respond to certain types of incident could increase the risk of a sophisticated future attack. RBFRS considers that possessing the information requested could provide any individual or organisation in planning a targeted attack, with the confidence and knowledge that could be used to enhance the chances of a successful attack, or attacks, by understanding the emergency response and planning accordingly. Disclosure of these details would, or would be likely to provide anyone wanting to carry out acts of terrorism with an informed view as to our capability and consequently form a detailed plan to cause maximum disruption and in turn could place the UK, and its citizens, more vulnerable to a security threat. Release of this information would increase the likelihood of criminals using the information to plan targeted attacks within Berkshire which would endanger the safety of our staff, our premises and the wider community.

Consequently, this email serves as a part Refusal Notice in accordance with Section 24 and 38 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In considering the application of these exemptions, it has been determined that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.



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I would like to reassure you that RBFPS has adequate capability, equipment and procedures in place to respond to, or provide assistance to any other agency to deal with any relevant incident.

Follow-up Request Response:

The dates of the x3 incidents previously supplied to you were as follows:

P2.1.0.P PUBLIC ORDER - BOMB SUSPECTED (09/05/2018 and 12/06/2018)

P6.1.0.P PUBLIC ORDER – MTFA (20/06/2020)



Request Number 2022-0135 (Statistics – Disposable E-Cigarettes and Vapes)

FOI request received on 20 March 2023:

I would be very grateful if you could provide figures relating to fires caused by disposable e-cigarettes and vapes. I appreciate this may not be a category you record. It would be great if you could perform a free text search on "vape" and "e-cigarette" together with any other terms you think relevant. Please could you provide the information, split by the years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Response:

Number of fire-related incidents attended by RBFRS caused by e-cigarettes and vapes in Berkshire by calendar year

| Cause of fire | 2020 | 2021 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Electrical appliance - e-cigarette | 1 (Battery in vaping device) | 1 (malfunctioning vape) |



Request Number 2022-0136 (Fleet Management)

FOI request received on 20 March 2023:

Fleet Management

1. What is the size of your fleet?
2. What is the Fleet Manager's name?
3. Does your authority operate a fleet management software product? If so, which provider?
4. What is the annual spend for this contract?
5. When does the contract expire?
6. If you go through the tender process, which framework or platform do you use?
7. Is your fleet maintenance conducted in-house? Externally outsourced? Or both?

EV

1. Is your authority planning on moving towards an alternative fuel fleet? Or have you already implemented an alternative fuel fleet and charging provider?
2. If you already have charging ports installed for fleet vehicles, how many are installed and what charging network (i.e., ChargePoint, PodPoint, Engie) do you use?
3. What is planned next?

Telematics

1. Who is your current telematics supplier?



2. What is the annual spend for this contract?
3. When does the contract expire?

Response:

Fleet Management

1. What is the size of your fleet?

140

2. What is the Fleet Manager's name?

RBFRS have a fleet maintenance partnership agreement with a neighbouring Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) – Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. Our Head of Facilities, Fleet and Equipment is Andrew McLenahan.

3. Does your authority operate a fleet management software product? If so, which provider?

No, RBFRS do not utilise a fleet management system. RBFRS are in a strategic partnership with our neighbouring FRA for the provision of fleet maintenance and fleet management. Under the terms of this partnership, RBFRS can utilise/access the fleet management system that is in place with the partner FRA. Some lower-level elements of “fleet management” (defect reporting, asset register etc) are incorporated into a larger “Service wide” system called Firewatch. This system is not a dedicated fleet management system.

4. What is the annual spend for this contract?

Cost of access to the fleet management system is included in costs of the, aforementioned, partnership agreement. Please see our [Contracts Register](#) under [Selling to RBFRS](#) (ref 300).

5. When does the contract expire?

Please see details on the Contracts Register. Strategic Partnership with neighbouring FRA is due to expire in 2024 but is likely to be renewed.



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6. If you go through the tender process, which framework or platform do you use?

Unlikely to do so but if it were to be, CCS would most likely be utilised.

7. Is your fleet maintenance conducted in-house? Externally outsourced? Or both?

Both, as follows:

Heavy vehicles: Major servicing and defects are facilitated via a strategic partnership with a neighbouring fire authority. Minor to moderate repairs, defects and periodic inspections are carried out by RBFRS (in-house) technicians.

Light Vehicles: Mixture of RBFRS (in-house) technicians and outsourcing to local providers.

EV

1. Is your authority planning on moving towards an alternative fuel fleet? Or have you already implemented an alternative fuel fleet and charging provider?

Yes in part. We currently have four EVs on order and have a charging provider from an existing framework.

2. If you already have charging ports installed for fleet vehicles, how many are installed and what charging network (i.e., ChargePoint, PodPoint, Engie) do you use?

5 points installed but not yet operational. Alfen units.

3. What is planned next?

No immediate plans as this will be subject to funding.

Telematics

1. Who is your current telematics supplier?

No telematics fitted



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2. What is the annual spend for this contract?

N/A

3. When does the contract expire?

N/A



Request Number 2022-0137 (Financial – Small Kitchen Appliances)

FOI request received on 24 March 2023:

1. How many freestanding countertop electric convection ovens (aka "air fryers") did you purchase in the last 12 months? How much did these cost in total? In that period, how many were given free of charge to members of the public after you attended/responded to fires at their properties and what did these cost in total?
2. What was the most expensive and the least expensive freestanding countertop electric convection oven (aka "air fryer") you purchased in the last 12 months? Please include the brand and model of both products.
3. How many toasters did you purchase in the last 12 months? How much did these cost in total? In that period, how many were given free of charge to members of the public after you attended/responded to fires at their properties and what did these cost in total?
4. What was the most expensive and least expensive toaster you purchased in the last 12 months? Please include the brand and model of both products.
5. How many microwaves did you purchase in the last 12 months? How much did these cost in total? In that period, how many were given free of charge to members of the public after you attended/responded to fires at their properties and what did these cost in total?
6. What was the most expensive and least expensive microwave you purchased in the last 12 months? Please include the brand and model of both products.

Response:

Following a response from the appropriate departments, I can advise that Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) do not provide freestanding countertop electric convection ovens, toasters or microwaves free of charge to members of the public.

With regards to the cost of purchasing freestanding countertop electric convection ovens, toasters or microwaves in the last 12 months, unfortunately I am unable to provide you with the detail that you seek as RBFRS does not mandatory record this level of detail when



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purchasing items. RBFRS does not have a contract in place for these items so they are therefore purchased on an ad-hoc basis via Procurement Cards.

Although this detail is not actively recorded within RBFRS finance systems, this data may be detailed on individual returns and their receipts/invoices, which would then need to be examined and, where recorded, the data extracted and costs calculated, which would exceed the appropriate limit under the Freedom of Information Act.

It may assist you to know that procurement card transactional data is published on our [website](#) (Transparency and Governance - Financial Transparency – Procurement Card Transactions).

The total number of line transactions across the previous 12 months of published data for procurement cards is 2,125. The data published is high level in terms of the descriptions used as there are set descriptions. We therefore would need to review every return submitted, and potentially every receipt/invoice submitted to be able to respond. There may be occasions where a return will include a description such as 'Cooker purchase', however, we would still need to examine the receipt/invoice to identify whether it was an actual cooker, an air fryer, a microwave etc. It also may not be possible to identify the make and model information from the provided receipt/invoice.

We estimate that checking an individual line takes one minute. It would therefore take in excess of 35 hours to check every line.

If we were to narrow the timeframe to bring your request under the limit, even if we were to examine a number of individual receipts for a specific month, this would not provide an accurate or meaningful reflection, as some items may not be described or are described incorrectly.

Consequently, in accordance with Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I must issue a refusal notice as the Information you seek is not readily identifiable or locatable. It has been estimated that the cost of complying with your Request - in time spent to identify, locate and retrieve the information which is contained within individual files - would exceed the appropriate limit, namely £450.

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service has determined that, to provide the information you seek would be an inappropriate use of public resources, as we could not justify the cost of identifying, locating and retrieving the information given the conflicting priorities for expenditure upon the Service at this time. Following this determination, we (RBFRS) will not exercise our discretion, under Section 13 of the Act, to provide the information for a fee, thus as a consequence the information is not available for purchase.



Request Number 2022-0138 (Statistics – E-Bike and Scooter Fires)

FOI request received on 30 March 2023:

Please could you tell me for each of 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023:

1. How many fires suspected of being caused by faulty e-bike or scooter batteries have there been which have been responded to by your fire service
2. How many of these caused injuries?
3. How many of these cause death?

Response:

Initial Response:

I am pleased to be able to advise you that most of the information you seek is already easily accessible to you and can be found under [Request Disclosure Logs](#) in the [Jan-Dec 2022 log](#). Please refer to the request numbers **2022-0023** and **2022-0061** that includes data for 2020, 2021 and 2022.

This email serves as a **part** refusal notice in accordance with Section 21 (Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act).

Therefore I will process your request in reference to 2023 only.

Final Response:

I am pleased to advise that the relevant department has provided all up-to-date data as originally requested. Please see the below response:



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Number of fires attended by RBFRS with a main cause of e-scooter and e-bicycle battery fire, broken down by calendar year:

| Category | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|
| E-bicycle | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| E-scooter | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 |

Number of fatalities / casualties resulting from fires attended by RBFRS with a main cause of e-scooter and e-bicycle battery fire, broken down by calendar year:

| Category | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| E-bicycle casualties | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| E-scooter casualties | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| E-bicycle fatalities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| E-scooter fatalities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

No fatalities have been recorded.

NB: 2023 data is year-to-date up to 02 April 2023.

Additional Notes:

Data has been checked CS110_IRS Primary Fires primarily via a free text search seeking terms including 'e-bike', 'bicycle', 'electric scooter', 'scooter', 'lithium' and 'battery'.

Evidence from **Main Cause** details these reasons cause of fire:

- Fault in equipment or appliance



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- Overheating, unknown cause
- Heat source and combustibles brought together deliberately
- E bike battery and or charger
- Negligent use of equipment or appliance (heat source)
- Faulty fuel supply - electricity



April 2023

Request Number 2023-0001 (Emergency Response and Rescue Equipment)

FOI request received on 03 April 2023:

For the purpose of this FOI request, 'emergency response and rescue equipment' refers to:

- Water rescue equipment (including craft)
- PPE (floatation devices, life jackets, helmets, protective clothing, footwear, body armour, gas detectors, dosimeters, etc)
- Fire extinguishers for mobile units
- Land and sand rescue equipment (including vehicles that are not cars or standard response vehicles)
- Medical response equipment (first aid kits, burns kits, defibrillators, stretchers, evacuation equipment, medical devices)
- Equipment for patient mobility
- Working at height equipment
- Confined and restricted space equipment
- Rescue tools
- Thermal imaging or drones
- Survival equipment

Excludes:

- Cars, trucks, aircraft, motorcycles



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- Single use medical consumables such as bandages, cannulas etc.

Please also feel free to include any equipment that the organisation includes in this term that I have not mentioned.

FOI questions regarding the procurement of emergency response and rescue equipment by your organisation

1. What is your organisation's annual spend / budget on emergency response and rescue equipment?
2. Does your organisation procure advisory or consultancy services relating to emergency response and rescue equipment, or emergency planning, preparedness and resilience? If yes, please additionally answer section 3 in relation to this.
3. Which suppliers do you use for emergency response and rescue equipment?
 - a. What is the length of the supplier contract with your organisation?
 - b. When will the contract(s) expire?
 - c. What is the maximum value of the contracts held?
4. How does the organisation maintain, service and repair emergency response and rescue equipment? Please provide details as to whether this is outsourced or fulfilled by the organisation internally. If outsourced, please also answer the questions in section 3 in relation to the outsourcing.
5. Does the organisation plan to increase or decrease budget and spending on emergency response and rescue equipment in the next 5 years from 2023? If so, by how much?
6. If held, please provide a full itemised inventory list of emergency response and rescue equipment your organisation has?
7. Has the organisation identified a proposed or planned change in how it procures emergency response and rescue equipment?

Response:

1. What is your organisation's annual spend / budget on emergency response and rescue equipment?



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22/23 budget was £110,000 for the purchase of emergency response and rescue equipment

2. Does your organisation procure advisory or consultancy services relating to emergency response and rescue equipment, or emergency planning, preparedness and resilience? If yes, please additionally answer section 3 in relation to this.

Re Consultancy services relating to emergency response and rescue equipment – No, we do not procure this.

Please refer to our Contracts register on the Selling to RBFRS page for the remainder of the question.

3. Which suppliers do you use for emergency response and rescue equipment?
 - a. What is the length of the supplier contract with your organisation?
 - b. When will the contract(s) expire?
 - c. What is the maximum value of the contracts held?

Please refer to our [Contracts register](#) on the [Selling to RBFRS](#) page.

4. How does the organisation maintain, service and repair emergency response and rescue equipment? Please provide details as to whether this is outsourced or fulfilled by the organisation internally. If outsourced, please also answer the questions in section 3 in relation to the outsourcing.

First line maintenance is provided by in-house resources. Specialist repair may have to be carried out by the manufacturer.

5. Does the organisation plan to increase or decrease budget and spending on emergency response and rescue equipment in the next 5 years from 2023? If so, by how much?

The budget setting papers for 2023/24 published on the [Financial Transparency](#) page on our website provide a high level outline of the expected significant movements in revenue budget allocations over future years in the [Medium Term Financial Plan](#) and planned areas of capital expenditure in the [Strategic Asset Investment Framework](#). Detailed work on plans for the forthcoming financial year commence in the Autumn before it begins and budget allocations are finalised in February, for the year that then commences on the 1st April. By default, planned spend in the areas mentioned would be likely to increase in the period to reflect inflationary pressures and nationally



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agreed pay awards. The outcome of the ongoing Community Risk Management Plan review process will influence planned levels of spend over the period in these areas as well.

6. If held, please provide a full itemised inventory list of emergency response and rescue equipment your organisation has.

Please see attached our Standard Inventory list for our Fire appliances. [Copy of Volvo Pumping Appliance Standard Locker Inventory.xlsx]

7. Has the organisation identified a proposed or planned change in how it procures emergency response and rescue equipment

No identified change.



Request Number 2023-0002 (Contracts - HR Systems)

FOI request received on 05 April 2023:

| | Core HR System | Payroll System | Learning Management System (LMS) | Recruitment / Application Tracking System | Employee Performance Management System | ER (HR Cases) Casework System |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Current System provider (e.g. iTrent, Oracle EBIS, Oracle Fusion etc) | | | | | | |
| System type: i.e. On Premise, SaaS or outsourced | | | | | | |
| What date does this contract expire? | | | | | | |
| How did you procure this technology? (e.g. via G-Cloud, Request for Quote etc) | | | | | | |
| What is the current annual licensing cost? | | | | | | |
| What is the current internal staffing cost to enable the support of this system | | | | | | |



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| | Core HR System | Payroll System | Learning Management System (LMS) | Recruitment / Application Tracking System | Employee Performance Management System | ER (HR Cases) Casework System |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|
| What are the total, annual 3rd party costs for this system | | | | | | |
| Who is the 'product owner' for this system? (please provide the email address) | | | | | | |
| Please tell us your total employee headcount? | | | | | | |

Response:

Following a response from the appropriate department, I am pleased to be able to provide you with the information you requested. Please see below:

| | Core HR System | Payroll System | Learning Management System (LMS) | Recruitment / Application Tracking System | Employee Performance Management System | ER (HR Cases) Casework System |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Contract Register Ref. | Contract Register Ref.1206 | Contract Register Ref.257 | Contract Register Ref. 777 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Current System provider (e.g. iTrent, Oracle) | Infographics (Firewatch) | Dataplan | Skill Set Ltd | Webrecruit | N/A | N/A |



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| | Core HR System | Payroll System | Learning Management System (LMS) | Recruitment / Application Tracking System | Employee Performance Management System | ER (HR Cases) Casework System |
|--|---|---|----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| EBIS, Oracle Fusion etc) | | | | | | |
| System type: i.e. On Premise, SaaS or outsourced | On premises | Outsourced | Outsourced | Outsourced | N/A | N/A |
| What date does this contract expire? | 01/04/2027 | 03/05/2024 | 31/01/2024 | 31/08/2024 | N/A | N/A |
| How did you procure this technology? (e.g. via G-Cloud, Request for Quote etc) | Extended contract | Extended contract | Extended contract | Request for quote | N/A | N/A |
| What is the current annual licensing cost? | Total licencing, support and maintenance 64K PA | No separate licencing cost. Payroll is outsourced through a third party West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF). Payroll is contracted through WYPF. | £1,800 for two licences | Total licencing, support and maintenance 2.5K PA | N/A | N/A |



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| | Core HR System | Payroll System | Learning Management System (LMS) | Recruitment / Application Tracking System | Employee Performance Management System | ER (HR Cases) Casework System |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| What is the current internal staffing cost to enable the support of this system | 75K PA Approx. | 38k PA Approx. | 32k PA Approx. | 26k PA Approx. | N/A | N/A |
| What are the total, annual 3rd party costs for this system | Total licencing, support and maintenance 64K PA | The figure is an annual payment of £34.2k. This is paid via contract between WYPF and Dataplan. | £70,422 | Total licencing, support and maintenance 2.5K PA | N/A | N/A |
| Who is the 'product owner' for this system? (please provide the email address) | Details supplied | Details supplied | Details supplied | Details supplied | N/A | N/A |
| Please tell us your total employee headcount? | 644 | | | | | |

It may be of interest to you to know that Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service proactively publishes information about contracts within our Contracts Register which is available via our website: <https://www.rbfrs.co.uk/your-service/selling-to-rbfrs/>



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Please be advised that Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service do not give permission to re-use the contact details given for any commercial purposes and assert their rights under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 to opt-out of receiving any form of direct-marketing communication.



Request Number 2023-0003 (Body Worn Cameras/Videos BWC/BWV)

FOI request received on 11 April 2023:

1. Which departments in your Fire Brigade/Service use Body Worn Cameras/Videos (BWC/BWV) and is this part of a pilot programme or has this been adopted on a permanent basis?
2. How many BWC/BWV has your Fire Service/Brigade purchased over the last 3 years?
3. Who is the portfolio lead for the purchase, deployment and maintenance of BWC/BWV in your Fire Brigade/Service?
4. If you do not currently have BWC/BWV, does your Fire Brigade/Service propose to introduce BWC/BWV, and if so who would be responsible for this?
5. What is the process for procuring your BWC/BWV?

Response:

1. None
2. None
3. N/A
4. Not currently planned
5. N/A.



Request Number 2023-0004 (Statistics – Vehicle Fires)

FOI request received on 11 April 2023:

I would like to request under the Freedom of Information Act data held by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service on vehicle fires attended by your emergency crews for the financial years 2017-18 to 2022-23 inclusive.

The information I am seeking relates directly to vehicles which have caught fire either while parked or while in use. An example would be a car which catches fire while parked outside a house or a car which catches fire while driving along the road.

I am not looking for information on vehicles which have been deliberately set alight or that have caught fire after being involved in a road traffic collision.

I would like information held by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service broken down into the following categories:

- Type/Class of vehicle (such as Car/SUV/MPV/Van/HGV)
- Make: (Such as Ford/Vauxhall/Mercedes/LandRover)
- Model: (Such as Mondeo/Corsa/E-Class/Discovery)
- Fuel: (Such as Petrol/Diesel/LPG/Hydrogen/Hybrid/Electric)

I would also like information as to whether the vehicle fire caused any casualties / fatalities or caused damage to other vehicles / buildings.

Response:

Vehicle Fires attended by RBFRS in Berkshire - 2017 to 2022 Performance Year

| Vehicle Type | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Agricultural - Road Vehicle/Tractor | 2 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 |



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| Vehicle Type | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Bus/coach | 4 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Car | 99 | 101 | 79 | 78 | 93 | 115 |
| Caravan on tow | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Lorry/HGV | 5 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 13 |
| Minibus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Motor Home | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Motorcycle | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Multiple Vehicles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Van | 17 | 19 | 17 | 27 | 14 | 16 |
| Total | 128 | 149 | 113 | 128 | 120 | 157 |

Number of Casualties and Fatalities

| Victim Type | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Fatalities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Casualties | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 |

Please see data set for make/model details and extent of damage information.

Criteria used:

- Fire Incidents where the Property Category has been recorded as Road Vehicle
- Cause recorded as Accidental
- Main cause does not include RTC, Vehicle Crash or Collision



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The following vehicle types have been excluded:

- Towing Caravan elsewhere
- Other Vehicle (bicycle/milk float etc.)
- Trailers - Trailer unit (not attached to tractor)
- Bicycle

[2023-0004 – Vehicle Fires – data set.xlsx]



Request Number 2023-0005 (Financial – Expenditure (Name Suppliers))

FOI request received on 11 April 2023:

Please could you provide the annual spend for the below suppliers from April 2022 to March 2023? Please note this information is not commercially sensitive as all you will be providing is the total money spent with each supplier not any detail of what you bought. Please could I have this in an excel spread sheet?

The suppliers are:-

- Alan Wilson Electrical Supplies
- Albion Electric
- AN Supplies Ltd
- B E D ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTIONS
- Bennett & Fountain
- Bridge Electrical Supplies
- C & K Supplies
- CEL Electrical
- City Electrical Factors
- Contact Electrical Distributor
- CRS Electrical Supplies Ltd
- CUMBERLAND ELECTRICAL WHOLESALERS LTD
- DINNING ELECTRICAL WHOLESALE
- Edmundson Electrical



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- Electric Base
- Electric Centre
- ELECTRICAL WHOLESALE SUPPLIES LTD (EWS)
- Electrical Wholesale Supplies Swansea Ltd
- EXPERT ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES LTD
- Eyre and Elliston Ltd
- FYLDE ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES LTD
- GCG ELECTRICAL WHOLESALE LTD,
- GILBEY ELECTRICAL WHOLESALE LTD
- GILTBROOK ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTORS LTD
- Hardings Electrical
- IMPACT ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTORS LTD
- Independent Electrical Supplies
- Juice Electrical Supplies
- KEW ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTORS LTD
- LH Evans
- Lincs Electrical Wholesalers Ltd (LEW)
- Links Electrical Supplies
- MAINS ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTORS LTD
- Medlock



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- Newey & Eyre
- NORTHERN & CENTRAL ORMSKIRK ELECTRICAL LTD
- Park Electrical Distribution
- Phase Electrical Distributors
- QUALITY ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES AND TECHNOLOGY LTD
- R & M Electrical
- Rexel
- Roblett Electrical Supplies Ltd
- RS Components
- Ryness Electrical
- S & A Electrical Distribution
- Screwfix
- Service Electrical Wholesale
- Smith Brothers
- Stearn Electrical
- SWIFT ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES
- THE WHOLESALE LIGHTING & ELECTRICAL COMPANY
- TJ ELECTRICAL WHOLESALE LTD
- TLC Electrical Supplies
- TN Robinson



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- TRAFFORD ELEC WHOLESALERS
- Upex Electrical Distributors Ltd
- WF Senate
- Wilson Electrical Distributors Ltd
- Wilts Wholesale
- Wyeverne Electrical
- YESSS Electrical
- Cu-Plas

Response:

Annual Spend April 2022 – March 2023

There is one supplier where RBFRS have incurred spend via Invoice in the above period:

Screwfix – net spend of £4,499.49

Spend may have been incurred for the suppliers listed via Procurement card. I am pleased to advise you that information regarding Procurement card spend is already easily accessible to you and can be found on our [website](#) under [Procurement Card Transactions](#).



Request Number 2023-0006 (Employees – Active Transport)

FOI request received on 15 April 2023:

In consideration of the climate crisis, I would like to request the following information about how the organisation is enabling staff to reduce their emissions through sustainable transport, and more specifically, cycling.

1. Over the past five years, broken down by year –
 - a. How many staff members used the Cycle to Work scheme?
 - b. What percentage of staff was this?
 - c. What was the average value of the vouchers claimed on the scheme?
 - d. What was the number of those who took up the scheme, who then failed to complete, leaving the organisation with costs?
2. What tools does the organisation use to encourage cycling for their staff?
 - a. On a work basis
 - b. On a leisure/health basis
3. With regards to staff, does the organisation -
 - a. Have any monitoring for what modes of transport staff use?
 - i. for their journey to work
 - ii. for journeys during work time
 - b. And if this data is recorded, I request a copy of such data as detailed as it can be reasonably given, while still protecting personal data rights
4. How many of the following does the organisation have available for staff use?
 - a. pedal cycles
 - b. electric bikes
 - c. motorbikes



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- d. internal combustion cars
 - e. electric or hybrid cars
 - f. internal combustion vans
 - g. electric or hybrid vans
 - h. heavy trucks
5. Does the organisation mileage scheme clearly state the claim rate for cycling?
6. How many cycling miles have been claimed by the organisation's staff in the past five years?
7. Regarding your current cycle to work scheme -
- a. What scheme is currently in place?
 - b. What is the maximum limit on the cost of a bike, if a limit is currently in place?

Response:

1. Over the past five years, broken down by year –

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Total | 11 | 28 | 30 | 21 | 15 |
| % of staff | 1.71% | 4.39% | 4.67% | 3.30% | 2.35% |
| Average value | £814.54 | £1,000.11 | £956.80 | £892.00 | £1,260.00 |

- a. How many staff members used the Cycle to Work scheme? **See above table**



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- b. What percentage of staff was this? **See above table**
- c. What was the average value of the vouchers claimed on the scheme? **See above table**
- d. What was the number of those who took up the scheme, who then failed to complete, leaving the organisation with costs? - **0**

2. What tools does the organisation use to encourage cycling for their staff?

- a. On a work basis

Offering the Cycle to Work scheme is intended to encourage staff to cycle to work. There is secure cycle parking at HQ and Stations will have an area where bikes can be stored. All workplaces have shower facilities for use if cycling to work.

- b. On a leisure/health basis

Through regular health promotion campaigns we actively encourage a healthy lifestyle including physical activity, which for some staff will mean cycling. Our messaging is general & focuses on the individual finding an activity that they enjoy to improve activity adherence. Methods of communication include articles in staff magazine, 1-1 wellbeing check-ins, intranet & Facebook Workplace.

3. With regards to staff, does the organisation -

- a. Have any monitoring for what modes of transport staff use?

- i. for their journey to work

- ii. for journeys during work time

- b. And if this data is recorded, I request a copy of such data as detailed as it can be reasonably given, while still protecting personal data rights

RBFRS do not monitor modes of transport for staff journeys to work.



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RBFRS do not actively monitor use where journeys during work time is claimed, however if mileage is claimed, this is subject to approval at the time. Staff use a range of modes of transport most appropriate to the journey, which could range from Taxi, Air, Rail, Boat, private vehicle or pool cars. We have lease car users that have unrestricted use of their cars which means they use their cars to travel to work and for all their business journeys – there are currently 16 lease cars, a list of the car make and model are attached if this is of interest.

[Lease Car Users – Redacted.xlsx]

We can confirm from Travel and Expense claims that the following count of claims via the below modes of transport were made in the year 2022/2023:

| Mode of Transport | Train | Taxi | Air | Boat |
|-------------------|-------|------|-----|------|
| Count/Total | 22 | 4 | 0 | 0 |

Travel, such as train fares and air travel, is sometimes purchased via Procurement Cards in advance and the transactions for these are published on our [website](#) under [Procurement Card Transactions](#). The category type is 'Travel'.

4. How many of the following does the organisation have available for staff use?
- a. pedal cycles - 0
 - b. electric bikes - 0
 - c. motorbikes - 0
 - d. internal combustion cars - 17
 - e. electric or hybrid cars - 8



- f. internal combustion vans - **41**
- g. electric or hybrid vans - **0**
- h. heavy trucks - **42**

5. Does the organisation mileage scheme clearly state the claim rate for cycling?

No, cycling mileage is not in RBFRS policies.

6. How many cycling miles have been claimed by the organisation's staff in the past five years?

N/A

7. Regarding your current cycle to work scheme -

- a. What scheme is currently in place?

Through our employee benefits provider, Edenred, we offer the Halfords Cycle to Work scheme.

- b. What is the maximum limit on the cost of a bike, if a limit is currently in place? - **£2,000**



Request Number 2023-0007 (Fire Investigation – Search Dogs)

FOI request received on 17 April 2023:

Please may you provide me with the following:

1. How many dogs were part of the fire service for each of the last ten calendar years (2012-2022), broken down by job type. (e.g. Fire investigation search dog)
2. Please list the main breeds used in the totals in question 1. Please list the most commonly used breeds first.
3. How many full time members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc) were working in the service's dog unit for each of the years in the same period?
4. What was the service's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit?
5. Does the service have its own dog breeding unit?

I would like the above information to be provided to me in a table format on a searchable document or spreadsheet.

Response:

1. How many dogs were part of the fire service for each of the last ten calendar years (2012-2022), broken down by job type. (e.g. Fire investigation search dog)

None

2. Please list the main breeds used in the totals in question 1. Please list the most commonly used breeds first.

N/A

3. How many full time members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc) were working in the service's dog unit for each of the years in the same period?



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N/A

4. What was the service's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit?

N/A

5. Does the service have its own dog breeding unit?

N/A



Request Number 2023-0008 (Employees – Temporary Labour Usage)

FOI request received on 18 April 2023:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information regarding temporary labour usage in your organisation, including contractors, temporary workers, and freelancers.

Please can you provide me with the following information for the most recent complete fiscal year:

- Total number of temporary workers engaged by your organisation, broken down by department or function, if possible.
- Total annual expenditure on temporary workers, including a breakdown of costs by department or function, if possible.
- Total number of agency suppliers (Preferred Suppliers/non-Preferred Suppliers) in your organisation's labour supply chain

Details of any existing Managed Service Programme or Provider (MSP) and/or Vendor Management System (VMS) used to manage temporary workers:

- Name of the MSP and VMS.
- Date the contract was awarded.
- Date of contract expiration.
- Name of the government procurement framework through which the MSP and VMS were procured.

Details of any upcoming retendering or renewal processes related to your MSP and VMS contracts:

- Anticipated date for the retendering or renewal process to commence.
- Name and contact information of the person responsible for overseeing the retendering or renewal process.

Please can you provide the information in the form of an Excel spreadsheet.



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Response:

Please can you provide me with the following information for the most recent complete fiscal year:

- Total number of temporary workers engaged by your organisation, broken down by department or function, if possible.

Temporary workers (casual/agency) 12 month total 2022/23:

| Numbers | Department/Function | Expenditure |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Collaboration, change, finance | £3,115.51 |
| 11 | HR and L & D | £32,579.73 |
| 1 | Facilities | £451.69 |
| 1 | Safe and Well | £24,070.55 |
| 2 | Safety Education | £8,405.07 |
| 1 | Information & Systems | £8,886.94 |
| 17 | | £77,509.49 |

Contractors 12 month total 2022/23:

| Category | 12 Month Total |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Business Strategy | £97,917 |
| Change Management | £2,613 |
| Technology | £26,943 |
| Property | £64,461 |
| ICT | £47,734 |



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- Total annual expenditure on temporary workers, including a breakdown of costs by department or function, if possible.

As above – these are all casual workers, although 1 person accounted for in the HR and L & D figures commenced as an agency worker before becoming casual.

- Total number of agency suppliers (Preferred Suppliers/non-Preferred Suppliers) in your organisation's labour supply chain

The main preferred agency used is Reed, however others can be considered if needed for specialist roles. There have been no other agencies required in 2022/23

Details of any existing Managed Service Programme or Provider (MSP) and/or Vendor Management System (VMS) used to manage temporary workers:

- Name of the MSP and VMS.

Consultancy Plus for contractors, and Reed for Agency staff although others can be used.

- Date the contract was awarded.

Consultancy Plus – 01 October 2022 (contract extension) until 30 September 2023

Reed - 1 July 2022 (contract extension) until 30 June 2023

- Date of contract expiration.

Consultancy Plus - 30 September 2023

Reed – 30 June 2023

- Name of the government procurement framework through which the MSP and VMS were procured.

Contingent Labour Managed Service – Agency Worker Solution – Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) framework 569 Lot 1 Managed Services for Contingent Labour



Specialist Consultants – Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) framework 940 Managing Consultancy and Professional Services

Details of any upcoming retendering or renewal processes related to your MSP and VMS contracts:

- Anticipated date for the retendering or renewal process to commence.

Commenced already for the consultancy temporary workers– contract to be in place 01 October 2023, for Agency staff there is currently low demand to necessitate a process to commence with one Agency provider.

- Name and contact information of the person responsible for overseeing the retendering or renewal process.

Contact details provided.



Request Number 2023-0009 (Statistics – Lithium-Ion Battery and Waste Centre Fires)

FOI request received on 19 April 2023:

1. How many firefighters have died as a result of lithium-ion battery fires between April 2022 - April 2023?
2. How many times have your firefighters come into contact with a vapour cloud?
3. How many fires specifically in recycling centres or scrapyards they you encountered between April 2022 - April 2023 (excluding other waste fires)?

Response:

1. How many firefighters have died as a result of lithium-ion battery fires between April 2022 - April 2023?

Between April 2022 - April 2023 0 (zero) RBFPS firefighters have died as a result of lithium-ion battery fires.

2. How many times have your firefighters come into contact with a vapour cloud?

This information is not recorded, we wouldn't be able to distinguish between a vapour cloud and smoke.

3. How many fires specifically in recycling centres or scrapyards they you encountered between April 2022 - April 2023 (excluding other waste fires)?

Between April 2022 - April 2023 RBFPS attended:

- 4 fire-related incidents in the 2022 stats year which relate to 'recycling centres'.
- No fire-related incidents relating to lithium-ion batteries in 'recycling centres'.



Request Number 2023-0010 (Windsor Castle Fire 1992)

FOI request received on 28 April 2023:

Would you be able to send me a copy of the incident log for the above fire? (Windsor Castle Fire in 1992)

Response:

I am pleased to be able to provide you with the following documents in relation to the Windsor Castle Fire on 20th November 1992:

- Windsor Castle Fire Transcript - Radio Messages (all channels)
- Windsor Castle Fire Report
- Windsor Castle Fire Vehicles in Attendance

With regard to the redactions, this only applies to data protected material and information that is not related to this incident.



Request Number 2023-0011 (Statistics - Wildfires)

FOI request received on 28 April 2023:

1. How many wildfires did your fire brigade deal with from 2017 to 2022? Please break down your response by year, size of fire, date, cause and if possible, location.
2. Please let me know any new equipment your service has purchased or plans to purchase in the last 5 years to combat wildfires.
3. If possible, please let me know the annual cost of dealing with wildfires to your brigade 2017 to 2022. Please break the figure down by each year.

Response:

1. How many wildfires did your fire brigade deal with from 2017 to 2022? Please break down your response by year, size of fire, date, cause and if possible, location.

Spreadsheet provided [Summary - FOI 2023-0011 - Wildfires.xlsx] and note the below NFCC definition of a wildfire.

NFCC - A wildfire will meet one or more of the following criteria

Involves a geographical area of at least one hectare (10,000 square metres)

Has a sustained flame length of more than 1.5 metres

Requires a committed resource of at least four fire and rescue service appliances/resources

Requires resources to be committed for at least six hours

Presents a serious threat to life, environment, property and infrastructure

2. Please let me know any new equipment your service has purchased or plans to purchase in the last 5 years to combat wildfires.

4 x Valfirest DVD1445-G04A0 skid mounted pump units for use in the 4x4 vehicles.



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3. If possible, please let me know the annual cost of dealing with wildfires to your brigade 2017 to 2022. Please break the figure down by each year.

RBFRS do not record this type of cost, however to assist you please see our current fees and charges for appliance cost. Please also see an estimation of time RBFRS attended to these incidents, broken down year below or by each incident on the attached spreadsheet.

This could be used to calculate an **approximate** cost.

| Calendar Year | Hours/minutes RBFRS attended |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2017 | 37.02 |
| 2018 | 297.67 |
| 2019 | 78.19 |
| 2020 | 71.42 |
| 2021 | 70.18 |
| 2022 | 219.56 |
| Total RBFRS attending time: | 774.04 |



Request Number 2023-0012 (Protection Department)

FOI request received on 29 April 2023:

1. A list of the ranks and or roles within the business safety/protection department in order of seniority
2. The salary for each rank/role
3. The number of people in each rank/role
4. A copy of the job description for each role

Response:

1. A list of the ranks and or roles within the business safety/protection department in order of seniority

| Job Title | Rank/Role | Grade | Payscale from | Payscale To | Heads |
|---|------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------|
| Area Manager (B) Prevention and Protection | Grey Book | Area Manager | 60,155 | 65,984 | 1 |
| Group Manager Investigation and Enforcement | Grey Book | Group Manager | 51,239 | 56,802 | 0 |
| Fire Safety Advisor | Green Book | GRADE 4 | 29,439 | 33,820 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Advisor | Green Book | GRADE 4 | 29,439 | 33,820 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Advisor | Green Book | GRADE 4 | 29,439 | 33,820 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Inspector | Green Book | GRADE 5 | 35,411 | 40,478 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Inspector | Green Book | GRADE 5 | 35,411 | 40,478 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Inspector | Green Book | GRADE 5 | 35,411 | 40,478 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Inspector | Green Book | GRADE 5 | 35,411 | 40,478 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Inspector | Green Book | GRADE 5 | 35,411 | 40,478 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Inspector | Green Book | GRADE 5 | 35,411 | 40,478 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Inspector | Green Book | GRADE 5 | 35,411 | 40,478 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Inspector | Green Book | GRADE 5 | 35,411 | 40,478 | 1 |



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| Job Title | Rank/Role | Grade | Payscale from | Payscale To | Heads |
|---|------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|-------|
| Fire Safety Inspector | Green Book | GRADE 5 | 35,411 | 40,478 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Inspector | Green Book | GRADE 5 | 35,411 | 40,478 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Inspector | Green Book | GRADE 5 | 35,411 | 40,478 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Inspector | Green Book | GRADE 5 | 35,411 | 40,478 | 1 |
| Fire Engineering Lead | Green Book | GRADE 6 | 41,496 | 46,549 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Enforcement Lead | Green Book | GRADE 6 | 41,496 | 46,549 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Manager | Green Book | GRADE 6 | 41,496 | 46,549 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Manager | Green Book | GRADE 6 | 41,496 | 46,549 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Manager | Green Book | GRADE 6 | 41,496 | 46,549 | 1 |
| FSLTE- Technical Support Officer (Primary Authority Scheme Lead) | Green Book | GRADE 6 | 41,496 | 46,549 | 1 |
| Fire Safety Manager (SMA) | Grey Book | Station Manager | 44,489 | 49,071 | 1 |

2. The salary for each rank/role – **See above table, salary rates are from 1st April 2022. You can also view the Pay Scales on our website under [Pay Scales and Leave Allowances](#) and [Wholetime Pay Scales](#)**
3. The number of people in each rank/role - **See above table**
4. A copy of the job description for each role – **See attached PDF's**



May 2023

Request Number 2023-0013 (Contracts – Facilities Management)

FOI request received on 02 May 2023:

As per my records, Shred-It waste contract has expired. **I would like to know whether this contract is still valid or replaced by any other supplier.**

If all the information besides the contract dates are the same, I am happy to just receive an update on the contract dates

Below highlighted original FOI request for your reference only.

I would like the organisation to review my freedom of information request below, that's focused around contract data for services around facilities management.

1. Office and building cleaning – Service contract that is focused around office, commercial and building cleaning services.
2. Lift service and maintenance – Service contract for lift service and maintenance.
3. Food – Service contract that is focused around catering services.
4. General waste services contracts – The organisation's primary general waste service contract.
5. Laundry services where clothes and linen can be washed and ironed.

Contract profile questionnaire for each type of contract:

1. Supplier/Provider of the services
2. Total Annual Spend – The spend should only relate to each of the service contracts listed above.
3. A description of the services provided under this contract please includes information if other services are included under the same contract.



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4. The number of sites the contract covers
5. The start date of the contract
6. The end date of the contract
7. The duration of the contract, please include information on any extensions period.
8. Who within the organisation is responsible for each of these contracts? name, Job Title, contact number and email address.

Response:

1. Supplier/Provider of the services – **Shred Station**
2. Total Annual Spend – The spend should only relate to each of the service contracts listed above. **£4224.00**
3. A description of the services provided under this contract please includes information if other services are included under the same contract. **Collection and the safe destruction of all confidential waste from all of RBFRS sites**
4. The number of sites the contract covers **17**
5. The start date of the contract **1st April 2023**
6. The end date of the contract **1st April 2026**
7. The duration of the contract, please include information on any extensions period. **3 years with possible 2 year extension, one year at a time**
8. Who within the organisation is responsible for each of these contracts? name, Job Title, contact number and email address.
Facilities Manager Interim [contact details provided]



Request Number 2023-0014 (Retained/On-Call Fire Appliances)

FOI request received on 04 May 2023:

I would like the service to provide me with details of the Retained/On-Call fire appliances availability over the most recent 12-month period, stipulating the amount of time these appliances were 'off the run' (unavailable) to respond to an emergency.

I would like these details to be broken down into the number of hours per month that an appliance has been unavailable on a station-by-station basis and expressed as a percentage figure.

In addition, and if possible, could the reason why the appliances were unavailable be included: i.e., lack of crew; lack of Officer in Charge; lack of driver etc?

Response:

[Summary FOI 2023-0014 - Retained Appliance Unavailability.xlsx]



Request Number 2023-0015 (Statistics – Electric Heaters)

FOI request received on 05 May 2023:

1. How many fires in your area were caused by electric heaters in each of the months listed (see attached spreadsheet)?
2. How many deaths were caused by fires caused by electric heaters in each of the months listed?
3. What was the age of the deceased in each case?

Response:

| Date | Fires | Deaths | Age of deceased |
|--------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| Apr-23 | - | - | - |
| Mar-23 | - | - | - |
| Feb-23 | 2 | - | - |
| Jan-23 | 4 | - | - |
| Dec-22 | 5 | - | - |
| Nov-22 | - | - | - |
| Oct-22 | 2 | - | - |
| Sep-22 | - | - | - |
| Aug-22 | - | - | - |
| Jul-22 | 3 | - | - |
| Jun-22 | - | - | - |
| May-22 | 2 | - | - |
| Apr-22 | 1 | - | - |
| Mar-22 | - | - | - |
| Feb-22 | 1 | - | - |
| Jan-22 | - | - | - |
| Dec-21 | 1 | - | - |



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| Date | Fires | Deaths | Age of deceased |
|--------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| Nov-21 | 1 | - | - |
| Oct-21 | 2 | - | - |
| Sep-21 | - | - | - |
| Aug-21 | - | - | - |
| Jul-21 | - | - | - |
| Jun-21 | - | - | - |
| May-21 | 1 | - | - |
| Apr-21 | 1 | - | - |
| Mar-21 | 4 | - | - |
| Feb-21 | 2 | - | - |
| Jan-21 | 2 | - | - |
| Dec-20 | - | - | - |
| Nov-20 | - | - | - |
| Oct-20 | 1 | - | - |
| Sep-20 | - | - | - |
| Aug-20 | - | - | - |
| Jul-20 | - | - | - |
| Jun-20 | - | - | - |
| May-20 | - | - | - |
| Apr-20 | - | - | - |
| Mar-20 | - | - | - |
| Feb-20 | 1 | - | - |
| Jan-20 | 4 | - | - |



Request Number 2023-0016 (Statistics – Fire Safety Notices)

FOI request received on 10 May 2023:

1. How many alterations notices have been issued in the past five years? Please break down per year.
2. How many enforcement notices have been issued in the past five years? Please break down per year.
3. How many prohibition notices have been issued in the past five years? Please break down per year.

Response:

I am pleased to be able to advise you that most of the information you seek is already easily accessible to you and can be found under the [Fire Statistics Data Tables](#) on the government website. Please refer to FIRE1202 and navigate to the FIRE1202 pivot tab where you are able to filter the data by the relevant Fire and Rescue Service.

The 2022-23 data has not yet been published, therefore please see the below table:

| Question | 2022/23 |
|--|---------|
| 1. How many alterations notices have been issued in the past five years? | 0 |
| 2. How many enforcement notices have been issued in the past five years? | 23 |
| 3. How many prohibition notices have been issued in the past five years? | 0 |



Request Number 2023-0017 (ICT Equipment/Contracts)

FOI request received on 11 May 2023:

We would be grateful if you could help in answering our request for information for the following questions; answering for A-J on questions 1-8.

- a) Photocopiers/MFDs (Multi-Functional Device)
- b) Printers
- c) Print room / reprographic
- d) Desktops
- e) Laptops
- f) Displays
- g) Network
- h) cyber security
- i) Audio Visual
- j) infrastructure

1. Please name all the IT resellers that you have contacts with and buy from.
2. What is the length of the contracts, more specifically their end date, with the named IT resellers in question 1.
3. What year and month is the next hardware refresh due?



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4. Please name the number of devices deployed by the NHS/Fire service/university/council/school?
5. In reply to question 4, which department/facility are those located?
6. Please name the brand and model of the devices mentioned and the spend for each product.
7. Details on how these were procured. i.e. By Framework
 - i. Procurement method
 - ii. If Framework, please state which one.
8. Do you normally purchase equipment as services or as a capital?
9. What is your annual print/copy volume and spend?
10. Who is the person(s) within your organization responsible for the MFD's, print hardware, and supplies contract(s)? Please provide their title and their contact details.
11. Who is responsible for purchasing end user devices such as laptops, desktops, networking, infrastructure, cyber security, displays and accessories? Please provide their title, and their contact details.

Clarification Request:

Please can you provide clarification/further explanation as to what is meant by:

- g. Network
- i. Audio Visual
- j. Infrastructure

Clarification Provided: Not received.



Response:

Q1. Please name all the IT resellers that you have contacts with and buy from.

- a) Konica
- b) Konica
- c) N/A
- d) Phoenix / SCC / CDW
- e) Phoenix / SCC / CDW
- f) Phoenix / SCC / CDW
- g) Managed in house
- h) please refer to the Contracts Register available on our website under [Selling to RBFRS](#), see contact numbers 779 and 1276V2
- i) Synos
- j) Managed in house

Q2. What is the length of the contracts, more specifically their end date, with the named IT resellers in question 1?

- a) 30 June 2023
- b) 30 June 2023
- c) N/A
- d) April 2024
- e) 31 March 2023 – Currently under discussion
- f) 31 March 2023 - No current contract in place
- g) N/A as managed in house
- h) 31 October 2023
- i) 31 August 2025
- j) N/A as managed in house

Q3. What year and month is the next hardware refresh due?



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- a) June 2023
- b) June 2023
- c) N/A
- d) 31 March 2025
- e) 31 March 2026
- f) 31 March 2026
- g) Currently ongoing procurement discussions
- h) Currently ongoing procurement discussions
- i) No planned change dates or reason to change the equipment
- j) Currently ongoing procurement discussions

Q4. Please name the number of devices deployed by the NHS/Fire service/university/council/school?

- a) 35
- b) 35
- c) N/A
- d) 134
- e) 400
- f) 1000
- g) N/A
- h) N/A
- i) 30
- j) N/A

Q5. In reply to question 4, which department/facility are those located?

- a) HQ / Stations / Control / Training Centre
- b) HQ / Stations / Control / Training Centre
- c) N/A
- d) HQ / Stations / Control / Training Centre
- e) Staff



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- f) HQ / Stations / Control / Training Centre
- g) All sites
- h) All sites
- i) HQ / Stations / Control / Training Centre
- j) All sites

Q6. Please name the brand and model of the devices mentioned and the spend for each product.

- a) Konica: C454e / C3350 / C654e - £30k
- b) Konica: C454e / C3350 / C654e - £30k
- c) N/A
- d) Lenovo: Thinkvision Micro M720 - £58k
- e) Lenovo: L380 / L13 / L14 / P53 - £94k / £83K / £790
- f) Lenovo: Thinkvision 24 - £37k
- g) £500k
- h) £250k separate systems currently under a consolidation process
- i) Creston - £90k
- j) See item G above as these are the same thing.

Q7. Details on how these were procured. I.e. By Framework

Frame work and procurement method

Q8. Do you normally purchase equipment as services or as a capital?

Capital

Q9. What is your annual print/copy volume and spend?

Pages Count: 734,204 Cost: £ 9,330.0960



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Q10. Who is the person(s) within your organization responsible for the MFD's, print hardware, and supplies contract(s)? Please provide their title and their contact details.

Contact details for ICT Service Delivery Manager provided

Q11. Who is responsible for purchasing end user devices such as laptops, desktops, networking, infrastructure, cyber security, displays and accessories? Please provide their title, and their contact details.

Contact details for ICT Service Delivery Manager provided



Request Number 2023-0018 (Policy – Travelling During Covid-19 Pandemic)

FOI request received on 11 May 2023:

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could you provide me with information (emailed to me) with regard to how your organization, dealt with certain matters during the Covid 19-Pandemic.

*Personnel refers to organizational employed personnel.

**Non-operational vehicles refers to non-blue light response vehicles owned or leased by the organization.

***Level of PPE - respiratory and/or eye protection and IMPORTANTLY the grade of PPE specified e.g. in the case of respiratory protection 'Workwear or FFP1 or FFP2 or FFP3 grade masks.

**** Operational vehicles refers to blue-light response vehicles owned or leased by the organization

In relation to personnel*, traveling within NON-operation vehicles:**

1. Were personnel prohibited from traveling together in a vehicle at any period during the Covid pandemic?
2. If so, during what date period had this prohibition taken effect?
3. Were personnel permitted to travel together in a vehicle at any period during the Covid pandemic?
4. If so, were personnel required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) while traveling together in a vehicle?
5. If answer to Q4 is YES, during which date period had the PPE been required?
6. What level of PPE*** was specified for occupants traveling together in a vehicle?
7. Was the requirement to wear PPE, mandatory or advisory?



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In relation to personnel*, traveling within OPERATIONAL vehicles****:

8. Were employees permitted to travel together in operational-vehicles****, (in particular Fire Engines) at any period during the Covid pandemic?
9. If so, were personnel required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while traveling together in a vehicle during any period within the Covid pandemic?
10. If answer to Q9 is YES - what level of PPE*** was specified for occupants within a vehicle?
11. Was the requirement to wear PPE mandatory or advisory?
12. In relation to Q9 above - during what date period had the PPE requirements been in place?

Response:

In relation to personnel*, traveling within NON-operation vehicles**:

1. Were personnel prohibited from traveling together in a vehicle at any period during the Covid pandemic? **No, RBFRS advised to only take essential journeys and if possible, do not share a vehicle, but sharing vehicles was permitted.**
2. If so, during what date period had this prohibition taken effect? **N/A**
3. Were personnel permitted to travel together in a vehicle at any period during the Covid pandemic? **Yes, see response to question 1**
4. If so, were personnel required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) while traveling together in a vehicle? **Yes**
5. If answer to Q4 is YES, during which date period had the PPE been required? **From 12/08/2020, face coverings were required. However, face coverings were not classed as PPE, IIR masks were instructed to be worn from 10/11/2020. Rescinded on 28/02/2022.**



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6. What level of PPE*** was specified for occupants traveling together in a vehicle? **From 12/08/2020 a face covering – see note above that this is not classed as PPE. This was upgraded on 10/11/2020 to an IIR surgical mask.**
7. Was the requirement to wear PPE, mandatory or advisory? **Mandatory, with the caveat that if the wearing of an IIR mask compromised safety in any way (e.g. causing glasses to mist up) the mask could be removed for the duration that it presented a danger.**

In relation to personnel*, traveling within OPERATIONAL vehicles****:

8. Were employees permitted to travel together in operational-vehicles****, (in particular Fire Engines) at any period during the Covid pandemic? **Yes, see response to question 1 and 3**
9. If so, were personnel required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while traveling together in a vehicle during any period within the Covid pandemic? **Yes, from 12/08/2020 face coverings were required. However, face coverings were not classed as PPE. Where a member of the crew was classed as vulnerable, that member of staff was required to wear an FFP3 mask. IIR masks were instructed to be worn from 10/11/2020. Rescinded on 28/02/2022**
10. If answer to Q9 is YES - what level of PPE*** was specified for occupants within a vehicle? **Please see response to question 9**
11. Was the requirement to wear PPE mandatory or advisory? **Mandatory, please see answer to question 7**
12. In relation to Q9 above - during what date period had the PPE requirements been in place? **From 12/08/2020 to 28/02/2022**



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Request Number 2023-0019 (Statistics – Fires Caused by Beauty Tools and Candles)

FOI request received on 12 May 2023:

If possible, please can you share information on how many fires have been recorded where one of the below items were involved:

- A heated hair or beauty tool (for example, hair straighteners, curling wands, hair dryers)
- Candles

If possible, please can you provide the above data split by month, and for the calendar years 2021, 2022, and 2023 to date.

Response:

| Calendar Year/Item | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2021 - total | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 4 | 4 | 7 |
| Candle | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| Incense sticks | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Hairdryer | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | |
| 2022 - total | 3 | | 3 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Candle | 3 | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Candle/incense sticks | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Incense sticks | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Hairdryer | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Massage gun | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 2023 - total | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Candle | | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Candle/incense sticks | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incense sticks | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hairdryer | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |

Please note, where it was unclear if the exact cause was either a candle or incense sticks, these incidents have been amalgamated as Candle/incense sticks.



Request Number 2023-0020 (Mobile Phone Contracts)

FOI request received on 15 May 2023:

I want to make a Freedom of Information request, could you please send me the following information with regards to the organisation's Mobile Phones contract.

You may have received the same request in the past and this information sent has now expired and I require an update as soon as possible for the following information:

If there is more than one provider, please split all the information including the annual average spend, number of connections, duration, contract dates and internal contact details.

1. Network Provider(s) - Please provide me with the network provider name e.g., EE, Telefonica, Vodafone, Three
2. Annual Average Spend for each Network Provider - Can you please provide me with the average annual spend over the last 3 years. If this is a new contract, can you please provide the estimated annual spend.
3. Number of Connections- Number of connections for each network provider. (Number of voices only devices, voice and data devices, data only devices) please provide me with the breakdown and not the overall total.
4. Duration of the contract- please state if the contract also includes contract extensions for each provider.
5. Contract Start Date- please can you provide me with the start date of the signed agreement. Please do not provide me with the framework contract date I require the contract dates of the signed agreement. (if there are multiple start dates, could you please provide me with the earliest date for each provider)
6. Contract Expiry Date- please can you provide me with the expiry date of the signed agreement. Please do not provide me with the framework contract date. I require the contract dates of the signed agreement. If the contract is rolling, please state.
7. Contract Review Date- Please can you provide me with a date when the organisation plans to review this contract.



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8. The person in the organisation responsible for this particular contract. Can you send me the full contact details Contact Name, Job Title, Contact Number and direct email address for each network provider? If full contact details cannot be provided, please send me their actual job title.
9. If the mobile phone contract is provided by a managed contract, please provide me with the actual name of the network provider along with the number of connections and the internal contact from within the organisation responsible for this contract.

Please can you provide me with the latest information- If the organisations are currently out to tender, please can you also state the approx. date of the award along with the information above.

Also, if the contract in the response has expired/rolling please can you provide me with further information if available of the organisation's plans going forward with regards to mobiles and the contract status?

If this contract was awarded within the past three months, can you please provide me with a shortlist of suppliers that bid on the contract?

Response:

1. Network Provider(s) - Please provide me with the network provider name e.g., EE, Telefonica, Vodafone, Three

Daisy Telecom, (Vodafone airtime)

2. Annual Average Spend for each Network Provider - Can you please provide me with the average annual spend over the last 3 years. If this is a new contract, can you please provide the estimated annual spend.

Average of £ 24,700 including call spends outside of bundles.

3. Number of Connections- Number of connections for each network provider. (Number of voices only devices, voice and data devices, data only devices) please provide me with the breakdown and not the overall total.

320 devices, all sims are combined voice and data due to way the shared bundles work. We have 2 data only sims in modems for SMS only (still voice and data sims.)

4. Duration of the contract- please state if the contract also includes contract extensions for each provider.



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1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025 with the option to extend for one further year until 31st March 2026

5. Contract Start Date- please can you provide me with the start date of the signed agreement. Please do not provide me with the framework contract date I require the contract dates of the signed agreement. (if there are multiple start dates, could you please provide me with the earliest date for each provider)

1st April 2023

6. Contract Expiry Date- please can you provide me with the expiry date of the signed agreement. Please do not provide me with the framework contract date. I require the contract dates of the signed agreement. If the contract is rolling, please state.

31st March 2026

7. Contract Review Date- Please can you provide me with a date when the organisation plans to review this contract.

1st November 2025

8. The person in the organisation responsible for this particular contract. Can you send me the full contact details Contact Name, Job Title, Contact Number and direct email address for each network provider? If full contact details cannot be provided, please send me their actual job title.

ICT Service Delivery Manager [contact details provided]

9. If the mobile phone contract is provided by a managed contract, please provide me with the actual name of the network provider along with the number of connections and the internal contact from within the organisation responsible for this contract.

N/A

Please can you provide me with the latest information- If the organisations are currently out to tender, please can you also state the approx. date of the award along with the information above.

Date of award 25th April 2023



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Also, if the contract in the response has expired/rolling please can you provide me with further information if available of the organisation's plans going forward with regards to mobiles and the contract status?

Fully intend to take the extension option in 2026 unless there is a clash with delayed ESN delivery or dissatisfaction with the supplier.

If this contract was awarded within the past three months, can you please provide me with a shortlist of suppliers that bid on the contract?

3 bidders shortlisted were Daisy, Vodafone (declined to bid at final stage) and BT EE.



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Request Number 2023-0021 (Statistics – E-Bike and E-Scooter Fires)

FOI request received on 16 May 2023:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information.

In each of the past five years, going back to January 1 2018, and into 2023 up to and including the date of receipt of this FOI request, where that data is held, please provide the number of instances where the fire service has been called out to attend a fire caused by e-scooters and e-bikes.

Further, in your data, please differentiate between instances where the callouts to fires were caused by e-bikes, and to fires caused by e-scooters.

Response:

I refer to your Request for Information of the 16th May. I am pleased to be able to advise you that most of the information you seek is already easily accessible to you as we have received previous Information Requests that are published on our website. Under [Request Disclosure Logs](#) you will find the Information Requests for each year which are updated regularly. Please see request 2022-0005, 2022-0023 and 2022-0061 on [Jan-Dec 2022](#) and 2022-0138 on [Jan-Dec 2023](#). If you require any further information then please do feel free to email FOI@rbfrs.co.uk with your refined request.



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Request Number 2023-0022 (Firefighting Staircases within Multi-Occupancy Buildings)

FOI request received on 24 April 2023:

Please details which buildings you have identified as having Firefighting Staircases (used for leading people to safety in the event of an evacuation) - list of buildings supplied.

Response:

Clarification was sought from the applicant in relation to their request. No response was received by the deadline, therefore the request was closed.



June 2023

Request Number 2023-0023 (Premises – Cladding Regulations)

EIR request received on 02 June 2023:

I would really appreciate it if you could give me a list of Reading hotels' names that fail to comply to the cladding regulations.

Response:

Clarification was sought from the applicant in relation to their request. No response was received by the deadline, therefore the request was closed.



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Request Number 2023-0024 (HR – Software)

FOI request received on 05 June 2023:

Please can you tell me what software you use for your Fire Services HR and for payroll.

(for example do you use iTrent / SAP / Service / Firewatch etc)

Response:

RBFRS currently uses Firewatch and Dataplan for our payroll system.



Request Number 2023-0025 (Pride Month)

FOI request received on 05 June 2023:

This is an information request relating to Pride Month.

Please include the following information:

1. Whether any events have been organised for Pride month. If so please provide the date, start and end time, and title/topic of the event
2. Whether any LGBT themed merchandise has been purchased for Pride month. i.e. since the beginning of the 2023/24 financial year. If so please provide me with information on what has been purchased and the cost
3. Whether the organisation has sponsored any Pride events. If so which events and please provide details of the nature of the sponsorship (particularly the financial value)

Response:

1. A crew and colleagues will be attending Bracknell Pride on Saturday June 10th from 12-5pm. A crew and colleagues will also be attending Newbury Pride on Saturday 24th June from 1pm-5pm. Timings are subject to change if the crew in attendance is required to attend an emergency.
2. At this moment in time, no further Pride merchandise has been purchased in the 2023/24 financial year. We have existing merchandise from previous Pride events that we have attended.
3. No sponsorships have been made for Pride events.



Request Number 2023-0026 (Business - Senior Team Leaders)

FOI request received on 06 June 2023:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please state the name and email address of;

- 1- Your CEO (or similar position if you do not have a role with this exact title)
- 2 - Your HR Director (or similar position if you do not have a role with this exact title - this could be Director of People, Head of HR etc. I am looking for the person primarily responsible for HR/People/Workforce)
- 3 - The person and role responsible for workforce productivity and/or performance
- 4 - The person and role responsible for people/workforce analytics and data

Response:

Contact details provided for the following roles -

- Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive
- Head of HR & Learning & Development
- Area Manager Corporate Services

Further information about our Senior Leadership Team is available on our website under [Organisation Chart | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service \(rbfrs.co.uk\)](#)



Request Number 2023-0027 (Whistle Blowing)

FOI request received on 08 June 2023:

My request relates to how many reports of wrongdoing have been made as Whistle blowing (or termed protected disclosure under legislation)

1. For the year 2020, how many reports of whistle blowing did you receive?
2. For the year 2021, how many reports of whistle blowing did you receive?
3. For the year 2022, how many reports of whistle blowing did you receive?
4. How many serving officers do you currently have?

Response:

1. 0
2. 0
3. 0
4. **Total Headcount as of 31 March 2023:**

Total Green Book (non-operational staff) – 168

Total Grey Book (operational and control staff) – 476

For clarity the figures above refer to the total headcount for each staff group.



Request Number 2023-0028 (Business - Invoices paid after 30 days)

FOI request received on 14 June 2023:

Please may you provide me, in Microsoft Excel or an equivalent electronic format, with a list of invoices that were not paid within 30 days for the last 6 financial years which would feed into the Regulation 113 Notice you are required to publish each year as part of your obligations under The Public Contracts Regulations 2015, with the following information for each invoice (where available):

- The name of the Supplier
- Supplier email address
- Supplier company registration number
- Supplier postal address
- Supplier telephone number
- Supplier website
- The date of the invoice
- The invoice reference
- The gross value of the Invoice
- The date the invoice should have been paid by
- The actual payment date of the invoice
- The total amount of interest liability due to late payment of the invoice
- The total amount of interest paid to the supplier due to late payment of the invoice.

For the avoidance of doubt we request the data behind payment performance summaries for Regulation 113 Notices, not the summaries themselves.

Response:

Following a response from the appropriate department, I am pleased to be able to provide you with most of the information you have requested. Please see the attached XL Spreadsheets.



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[FOI 2023-0028 - Supplier Invoices Rolling 12 Months 20-21.xlsx, FOI 2023-0028 - Supplier Invoices Rolling 12 Months 21-22.xlsx, Response for FOI 2019-0082 - Supplier Invoices YTD 17-18.xlsx, Response for FOI 2019-0082 - Supplier Invoices YTD 18-19.xlsx, Response for FOI 2020-0020 - Supplier Invoices Rolling 12 Months 18-19.xls, Response for FOI 2020-0020 - Supplier Invoices YTD 19-20.xlsx]

Please note that in 2022/23 no (zero) suppliers were paid over 30 days of receipt of their valid undisputed invoices.

With regards to figures for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20, this detail has previously been disclosed following other requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI 2019-0082 and FOI 2020-0020). Consequently, these previous responses have been attached for your ease.

Please be advised that the reports do not log disputes or resolutions dates, however, we have detailed below some of the reasons why invoices may appear as been paid over 30 days:

- Invoice received without valid purchase order (PO) numbers or without any purchase order number quoted on the invoice
- Purchase order not sufficient to pay the invoice
- Postage/carriage was not included in the PO
- Where POs are not raised or receipted in a timely manner
- Invoices are put on hold if the purchase order details are different from the invoice details
- Quantity receipted not enough to pay the invoice
- Invoices are put on hold if supplier bank details on the invoice is different from the Bank details on our system – the hold is lifted after we have completed a Bank verification check and the duration of the check will depend on how quick the supplier is in responding to us
- Invoices are not paid if there is supplier name change. If supplier does not notify us about the change before sending the invoice – we put the invoice on hold and ask for a formal request and will only lift the hold after completing a verification check
- Amount on the invoice is in dispute
- Work has not been completed
- Invoice put on hold because goods received were damaged or services delivered were unsatisfactory
- We return invoices received without purchase order quoted on them to the supplier



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With regards to the supplier's website, company registration number, postal address, telephone number and email address, in accordance with Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this information is reasonably accessible to you by searching for the company listed in the attached spreadsheets on the internet.

With regards to questions relating to the total amount of interest liability due to late payment of the invoice and the total amount of interest paid to the supplier due to late payment of the invoice, unfortunately, this information is not readily identifiable or locatable. Most of the invoices that appear on these reports as paid over 30 days may not be such due to the reasons listed above. In order to verify these our Finance Team would need to interrogate hundreds of invoices for the time period specified, which they confirm would exceed 18 hours. Consequently, we are unable to meet the terms of this part of your Request, as it has been estimated that the cost of complying with this part of your Request alone - in time spent to identify, locate and retrieve the information - would exceed the appropriate limit, namely £450.

This e-mail message therefore serves as a part Refusal Notice in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service has determined that, to provide the information you seek would be an inappropriate use of public resources, as they could not justify the cost of identifying, locating and retrieving the information given the conflicting priorities for expenditure upon the Service. Following this determination, RBFRS will not exercise its discretion, under Section 13 of the Act, to provide the information for a fee, thus as a consequence the information is not available for purchase.

I hope the information that has been provided to you is of assistance, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to advise you that if, at any time, you are dissatisfied with the way in which we deal with your Request for Information, you can submit a request for an internal review. Having exhausted our process, you may ultimately refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner, whose website is www.ico.org.uk, for final determination.



Request Number 2023-0029 (Statistics – Electric Vehicle Fires)

FOI request received on 19 June 2023:

Please could you tell me how many electric vehicle fires your fire and rescue service has dealt with in each of the past three financial years.

If you do not distinguish between electric vehicles and internal combustion engine vehicles then please let me know at your earliest convenience as I have the overall figures already for the time period concerned.

Clarification sought: After asking for clarity from the applicant, they confirm they would like data on vehicle fires that occurred because the vehicle was electric AND how many electrical cars have been involved in car fires.

Response:

I confirm that Royal Berkshire Fire And Rescue Service has attended to the following number of primary/secondary fires in Berkshire for the years as detailed below.

| Question | | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|----------|--|------|------|------|
| 1 | Vehicle fires that occurred because the vehicle was electric | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 2 | How many electrical cars have been involved in car fires | 4 | 4 | 6 |



Request Number 2023-0030 (ICT Strategy & Hardware)

FOI request received on 19 June 2023:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would request you to respond to questions included in the attachment.

| Q1. Can you please list the number of devices deployed by your organisation for the following? | |
|---|-------------------|
| Device Type | Number of Devices |
| Desktop PCs | |
| Laptops | |
| Mobile Phones | |
| Printers | |
| Multi Functional Devices (MFDs) | |
| Tablets | |
| Physical Servers | |
| Storage Devices (for example: NAS, SAN) | |
| Networking Infrastructure (for example: Switches, Routers, Interfaces, Wireless Access Points) | |
| Security Infrastructure (for example: Firewalls, Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS), Virus Monitoring Tools) | |

| Q2. Does your organisation have plans to procure any of the below services, if yes then please provide information in the below format? | Estimated/ Total Cost | Duration |
|---|--------------------------|----------|
| Example: Platform as a Service | 1 million | 2023/28 |
| a. Cloud computing | | |
| b. Software as a Service (SaaS) | | |
| c. Platform as a Service (PaaS) | | |
| d. Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) | | |
| e. Anything as a Service (XaaS) | | |



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| Q3. Does your organisation have any plans to procure the below services, if yes then please provide required information in the below format? | Estimated/ Total Cost | Duration |
|---|--------------------------|----------|
| Example: IoT security | 0.5 million | 2023/28 |
| a. Network Security | | |
| b. Cloud Security | | |
| c. Endpoint Security | | |
| d. Mobile Security | | |
| e. IoT Security | | |
| f. Application Security | | |

| Q4. Can your organisation provide planned ICT procurement plans across software, hardware or services for current and future years? (Software Applications/Hardware Devices/IT Managed Services) | Estimated/ Total Cost | Duration |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Example: Financial Software | Example: 800,000 | Example: 2023/26 |
| | | |

Response:

| Q1. Can you please list the number of devices deployed by your organisation for the following? | |
|--|----------------------|
| Device Type | Number of Devices |
| Desktop PCs | 150 |
| Laptops | 400 |
| Mobile Phones | 371 |
| Printers | 0 |
| Multi Functional Devices (MFDs) | 38 |



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| Q1. Can you please list the number of devices deployed by your organisation for the following? | |
|--|----------------------|
| Tablets | 85 |
| Physical Servers | 6 |
| Storage Devices (for example: NAS, SAN) | 1 |
| Networking Infrastructure (for example: Switches, Routers, Interfaces, Wireless Access Points) | 170 |
| Security Infrastructure (for example: Firewalls, Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS), Virus Monitoring Tools) | Information withheld |
| <p>Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) are unable to provide information about our security infrastructure as we believe the requested information is exempt in accordance with Section 31 (Law Enforcement) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</p> <p>We consider that disclosure of this information would attract intrusion and cyber-attacks from groups/cyber criminals wishing to exploit possible vulnerabilities within our Service's systems. Consequently, we would not wish to reveal information that would make our Service more vulnerable to crime.</p> <p>Section 31(1)(a) says that we do not need to provide information that would or would be likely to prejudice the functions of law enforcement, in this case, the prevention and detection of crime. This is a qualified exemption and subject to a public interest test.</p> <p>RBFRS understand that there would be public interest in the transparency and accountability of the Service. However, there would also be public interest in favour of withholding the information –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to avoid disruption to an emergency service /public service (critical national infrastructure);• to prevent any threat to the integrity of RBFRS data;• to ensure RBFRS can comply with its duties to take all necessary measures to safeguard data;• to avert costs associated with any attacks recovery. <p>In considering the application of this exemption, it has been determined that the balance of public interest lies in maintaining the exemption and not releasing the information. Therefore, this document serves as a part Refusal Notice, in accordance with Section 31 (Law Enforcement) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</p> | |



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| Q2. Does your organisation have plans to procure any of the below services, if yes then please provide information in the below format? | Estimated/ Total Cost | Duration |
|---|--------------------------|----------|
| None, not at this time. Starting to migrate to Win 365 and SharePoint which has a storage element in the cloud. | | |
| Example: Platform as a Service | 1 million | 2023/28 |
| a. Cloud computing | | |
| b. Software as a Service (SaaS) | | |
| c. Platform as a Service (PaaS) | | |
| d. Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) | | |
| e. Anything as a Service (XaaS) | | |
| | | |

| Q3. Does your organisation have any plans to procure the below services, if yes then please provide required information in the below format? | Estimated/ Total Cost | Duration |
|---|--------------------------|----------|
| Example: IoT security | 0.5 million | 2023/28 |
| a. Network Security (contracted to a network upgrade through BT with Meraki switches which includes in built security) | | |
| b. Cloud Security (no current provision) | | |
| c. Endpoint Security (currently with Trend no immediate plans to change) | | |
| d. Mobile Security (currently with Mobile IRON, will be migrating to the service within 365) | | |
| e. IoT Security | | |
| f. Application Security (no current provision) | | |



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| Q4. Can your organisation provide planned ICT procurement plans across software, hardware or services for current and future years? (Software Applications/Hardware Devices/IT Managed Services) | Estimated/ Total Cost | Duration |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Example: Financial Software | Example: 800,000 | Example: 2023/26 |
| Financial Software (currently Sage) | 32,000 | 01/04/23 - ??? |
| Network Upgrade (procurement complete) | £252,226.38 PA | up to April 2024 |
| Upgrade replacement of NetApp storage and Backup, no budget allocated yet, estimated replacement costs. | 250,000 | April 2025 - March 2030 |
| Mobile data terminal Application - Joint Procurement through Buckinghamshire FRS. | £34,000 PA | 01/04/24 - 30/03/2029 |
| UHF fire ground radios - Joint Procurement through Buckinghamshire FRS. Hardware Procurement | £67,000 | 01/04/24 - 31/03/29 |
| Laptop and desktop replacement 5 year call off contract. Expectation of 100k per year. | £500,000 | 01/04/24 - 31/03/29 |
| MFD (printing) 3 to 5 years | £150,000 (5 year) | 01/04/24 - 31/03/29 |
| Mobile data terminal Application - Joint Procurement through Buckinghamshire FRS. | £136,000 | 01/04/24 - 31/03/29 |



Information Requests 2023

Request Number 2023-0031 (Statistics – Lithium Battery Fires involving e-bikes and e-scooters)

FOI request received on 23 June 2023:

How many lithium battery fires involving e-bikes and e-scooters have been attended in your fire service area in the last five years for which data is available? If possible, please provide data broken down by year. I don't mind if the data is broken down by calendar year, financial year, or other 12-month reporting period. Spreadsheet format preferred.

Response:

| Summary of fire-related E-bike or E-scooter incidents where battery was involved in cause of fire: | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| | Calendar Year | | | | | | | |
| Category | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023* | Total |
| Electric Bike | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 11 |
| Electric scooter | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Grand Total | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 17 |

* up to June 2023

Having re-examined the data to identify incidents only where 'Lithium' is recorded within the system, we can provide you with updated statistics, please see below. Please be aware that this may not be an accurate representation of incidents RBFRS have attended where lithium-ion batteries have been involved as the cause, as the specific type of battery is not always recorded. It is also relevant to note that most mass-market electric vehicles today rely on lithium-ion battery packs to power the electric motors or that most e-bike batteries use a series of cells containing lithium ions.

The above notwithstanding, from our data we have identified only these incidents which specifically state **lithium** battery:

| Category | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Total |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Electric Bike | | | | 1 | | | 2 | 3 |
| Electric scooter | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Grand Total | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 |



Request Number 2023-0032 (Animal Rescues)

FOI request received on 23 June 2023:

How many animals/pets the Royal Berkshire fire service has rescued in the last five years.

Please can you include a breakdown of the figures for each year of the last five years, starting from Jan 2018 to date.

Can you detail (where possible):

What the animal was

What date the animal was stuck

Where it was stuck

How long it was stuck for

How long it took for you to save the animal

How many crew members were involved?

Response:

Summary of Incidents attended:

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Grand Total |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| BADGER | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| BIRD | 12 | 7 | 4 | 15 | 11 | 5 | 54 |
| CAT | 28 | 19 | 28 | 34 | 36 | 6 | 151 |
| CHICKEN | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| COW | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 15 |
| DEER | 14 | 8 | 11 | 12 | 16 | 2 | 63 |



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| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Grand Total |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| DOG | 12 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 2 | 56 |
| DUCK | | 1 | | 2 | 2 | | 5 |
| FAKE ANIMAL | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| FOX | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 8 |
| HEDGEHOG | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| HORSE | 5 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 9 | 3 | 36 |
| LAMB | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| LARGE ANIMAL | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| PARROT | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | 3 |
| PONY | 1 | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| RABBIT | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| SHEEP | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| SMALL ANIMAL | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | | | 11 |
| SQUIRREL | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| SWAN | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | | 4 |
| TORTOISE | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Grand Total | 85 | 59 | 68 | 95 | 91 | 20 | 418 |

Full response provided: FOI 2023-0032 - Animal Rescues.xlsx



Request Number 2023-0033 (Business - HR, Payroll & Finance Software)

FOI request received on 27 June 2023:

Please can I ask the following questions

- Which finance system/ ERP system, and which version of it, do you currently use?
- What is the expiry date of the current agreement for your finance/ ERP system?
- Which HR and Payroll system, and which version of it, do you currently use?
- What is the expiry date of the current agreement for your HR and Payroll system?
- Are you planning on running, or are currently running, a soft market test or procurement/tender process around your finance/ ERP system? If so what and when?
- Who is the primary contact for your finance/ ERP system?

Response:

- Which finance system/ ERP system, and which version of it, do you currently use? Sage 1000
- What is the expiry date of the current agreement for your finance/ ERP system? 31st March 2024
- Which HR and Payroll system, and which version of it, do you currently use? Our payroll provision is delivered by a third party - Dataplan
- What is the expiry date of the current agreement for your HR and Payroll system? The HR system is called Infographics (Firewatch). The contract expires 1st April 2027



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- Are you planning on running, or are currently running, a soft market test or procurement/tender process around your finance/ ERP system? If so what and when? We are currently planning to run a soft market engagement around finance system by September 23 and planning to go out to tender early next year
- Who is the primary contact for your finance/ ERP system? Contact details provided



Request Number 2023-0034 (Business - HR - DBS Checks)

FOI request received on 29 June 2023:

I'd like to submit a FOI request specifically with regards to the DBS process that you undertake on employee's within the Fire service with the below questions: -

- How many DBS checks do you complete on average a year
- What system do you use to complete your DBS checks
- How long do your DBS checks take, on average, to complete from point of submitting to be countersigned
- How much is spent on average per year for DBS checks broken down by admin costs and DBS fee's

Response:

- How many DBS checks do you complete on average a year - 90
- What system do you use to complete your DBS checks - North East Regional Employers Organisation
- How long do your DBS checks take, on average, to complete from point of submitting to be countersigned - we do not hold this information
- How much is spent on average per year for DBS checks broken down by admin costs and DBS fee's - we record the costing as a whole, not split out between admin fees and DBC checks. I can confirm the following costs – a basic check is £18, an enhanced check is £48 (the check is £38 and the admin fee is £10). The average annual cost for checks total £2,780.



July 2023

Request Number 2023-0035 (Statistics – Incidents involving phone chargers)

FOI request received on 04 July 2023:

I am doing some research for an item. I was wondering under the Freedom Of Information Act if you could tell me how many house fires or incidents have been caused by knock off phone chargers.

Not only that, but I am asking this because of a story I read that a 12-year-old in Brazil lost her life after plugging in a mobile phone into one of these Chinese knock off chargers, and she ended up being electrocuted and died with 3rd degree burns. Furthermore, I know that Brazil is going to make it law that when mobile phone manufacturers release new phones it will have to include a brand-new charger. I think it should be law in this country as well as the rest of the UK. As heaven forbid if anything like that happens to any of our children because of a knock off charger.

I hope you will be able to help me with the information.

Response:

Our recording of incidents does not precisely detail the type of chargers involved. Therefore, we are unable to confirm if a charger is authentic/fake, if it met UK safety regulations or is compatible to a particular make or model of phone. We can provide the number of incidents attended that may have been caused by a mobile phone or mobile phone charger - please see this data below

Number of fires/incidents where cause is likely to have been a mobile phone or mobile phone charger in a domestic dwelling or other residential property attended by RBFRS.

| Calendar Year | Count of Incidents |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2020 | 4 |
| 2021 | 2 |
| 2022 | 2 |
| Up to 30 th June 2023 | 1 |



Request Number 2023-0036 (Fire Safety Audits)

EIR Request received on 04 July 2023:

I have been instructed to conduct a fire risk assessment at the above property.

The adjacent property had a fire on the 26th May 2023.

I have not been provided with any information regarding the fire or the local FRS investigation or whether the not the building has been inspected previously.

Please can you provide any information you have on this building (if you have it) to assist me, I'd greatly appreciate it.

Response:

I can confirm that Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) attended a fire at [location details provided] on 26th May 2023. There is an ongoing investigation into this incident, therefore no information can be disclosed at this time.

Please find attached a redacted copy of the fire safety audit carried out in 2012 on [location details provided].

[FS080_Inspection_Audit_Report- SCUK_Redacted]



Request Number 2023-0037 (Statistics – EV Battery Fires)

Request received on 06 July 2023:

- Number of EV battery fires that have been tackled by this fire brigade from June 2019 - June 2023
- Please include a breakdown of types of vehicle in the data (car, bus/coach, e-bike/e-scooter, etc)
- Please include details on month, year, cause of fire, fire spread and injuries/fatalities as a result of the fire
- If possible, can you provide any details on how many of the batteries were certified by the vehicle OEM, or if the batteries had a battery management system or state of health monitoring?

Response:

[FOI 2023-0037 – Statistics EV Battery Fires – Data Summary]



Request Number 2023-0038 (Statistics – Solar & Photovoltaic Panels)

Request received on 06 July 2023:

Could you please supply me with the number of fires that have been attended relating to solar / photovoltaic panels from 2010 to date. I'd be grateful if you could break this down by year.

If you don't have a specific recording category for these, a free text search would be much appreciated.

If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.

If the release of any of this information is prohibited on the grounds of breach of confidence, I ask that you supply me with copies of the confidentiality agreement and remind you that information should not be treated as confidential if such an agreement has not been signed.

I understand that you are required to respond to my request within the 20 working days after you receive this letter. I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request.

Response:

Number of primary fire-related incidents attended by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) relating to solar panel / photovoltaic panels:

| Calendar Year | Number of incidents |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 2010 | 0 |
| 2011 | 1 |
| 2012 | 0 |
| 2013 | 0 |



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| Calendar Year | Number of incidents |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 2014 | 0 |
| 2015 | 0 |
| 2016 | 1 |
| 2017 | 0 |
| 2018 | 0 |
| 2019 | 0 |
| 2020 | 1 |
| 2021 | 0 |
| 2022 | 3 |
| 2023 | 1 |



Request Number 2023-0039 (Business - ICT - Telephone, Broadband & WAN Contracts)

Request received on 07 July 2023:

All or some of the information provided previously has expired, I require an update on the questions below.

See my request below:

Contract 1 - Telephony/Voice Services (Analogue, ISDN VOIP, SIP etc)

1. Telephony/Voice Services Provider- Please can you provide me with the name of the supplier for each contract.
2. Telephony/Voice Services - Contract Renewal Date- please provide day, month and year (month and year are also acceptable). If this is a rolling contract, please provide me with the rolling date of the contract. If there is more than one supplier, please split the renewal dates up into however many suppliers
3. Telephony/Voice Services - Contract Duration- the number of years the contract is for each provider, please also include any contract extensions.
4. Telephony/Voice Services - Type of Lines - Please can you split the type of lines per each supplier? PSTN, Analogue, SIP, ISDN, VOIP
5. Telephony/Voice Services Number of Lines / Channels / SIP Trunks- Please can you split the number of lines per each supplier? SIP trunks/connections, PSTN, Analogue, ISDN

Contract 2 - Incoming and Outgoing of call services.

6. Minutes/Landline Provider- Supplier's name (NOT Mobiles) if there is no information available, please can you provide further insight into why?



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7. Minutes/Landline Contract Renewal Date- please provide day, month and year (month and year is also acceptable). If this is a rolling contract, please provide me with the rolling date of the contract.
8. Minutes Landline Monthly Spend- Monthly average spend on calls for each provider. An estimate or average is acceptable. If SIP services, please provide me with the cost of services per month.
9. Minute's Landlines Contract Duration- the number of years the contract is for each provider, please also include any contract extensions.
10. Number of Extensions- Please state the number of telephone extensions the organisation currently has. An estimate or average is acceptable.

Contract 3 - The organisation's broadband provider.

11. Broadband Provider- Supplier's name if there is not information available, please can you provide further insight into why?
12. Broadband expiry I Date- please provide day, month, and year (month and year is also acceptable). If this is a rolling contract, please provide me with the rolling date of the contract. If there is more than one supplier, please split the expiry dates up into however many suppliers
13. Broadband Annual Average Spend- Annual average spend for each broadband provider. An estimate or average is acceptable.

Contract 4 - Contracts relating to Wide Area Network [WAN] services, this could also include HSCN network services.

14. WAN Provider- please provide me with the main supplier(s) if there is no information available, please can you provide further insight into why?



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15. WAN Contract expiry Date- please provide day, month, and year (month and year are also acceptable). If this is a rolling contract, please provide me with the rolling date of the contract. If there is more than one supplier, please split the expiry dates up into however many suppliers
16. Contract Description: Please can you provide me with a brief description for each contract
17. The number of sites: Please state the number of sites the WAN covers. Approx. will do.
18. WAN Annual Average Spend- Annual average spend for each WAN provider. An estimate or average is acceptable.
19. For each WAN contract can you please provide me with information on how this was procured, especially around those procurement that used frameworks, please provide me with the framework reference.
20. Internal Contact: please can you send me their full contact details including contact number and email and job title for all the contracts above.

Response:

Contract 1 - Telephony/Voice Services (Analogue, ISDN VOIP, SIP etc)

1. Provider - Please can you provide me with the name of the supplier for each contract.
BT and Vodafone
2. Contract Renewal Date - please provide day, month and year (month and year are also acceptable). If this is a rolling contract please provide me with the rolling date of the contract. If there is more than one supplier please split the renewal dates up into however many suppliers
Rolling contract, 1st April
3. Contract Duration - the number of years the contract is for each provider, please also include any contract extensions.
BT rolling contract, Vodafone 2 year contract up to the 1st April 2025.



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4. Type of Lines - Please can you split the type of lines per each supplier? PSTN, Analogue, SIP, ISDN, VOIP
BT – PSTN, ISDN 30. Vodafone ISDN 30
5. Number of Lines / Channels / SIP Trunks - Please can you split the number of lines per each supplier? SIP trunks/connections, PSTN, Analogue, ISDN
BT ISDN30 x 2 (30 Channels), PSTN approximately 50 lines.
Vodafone ISDN 30 x 1 (16 Channels) Back up circuit now disconnected.

Contract 2 - Incoming and Outgoing of call services.

6. Minutes/Landline Provider - Supplier's name (NOT Mobiles) if there is no information available please can you provide further insight into why?
Through BT and Vodafone (we don't purchase a minutes package)
7. Minutes/Landline Contract Renewal Date - please provide day, month and year (month and year is also acceptable). If this is a rolling contract please provide me with the rolling date of the contract.
N/A
8. Minutes Landline Monthly Spend - Monthly average spend on calls for each provider. An estimate or average is acceptable. If SIP services, please provide me with the cost of services per month.
N/A
9. Minute's Landlines Contract Duration - the number of years the contract is for each provider, please also include any contract extensions.
N/A
10. Number of Extensions - Please state the number of telephone extensions the organisation currently has. An estimate or average is acceptable.
N/A



Contract 3 - The organisation's broadband provider.

11. Broadband Provider - Supplier's name if there is not information available please can you provide further insight into why?
BT
12. Broadband Expiry Date - please provide day, month and year (month and year is also acceptable). If this is a rolling contract please provide me with the rolling date of the contract. If there is more than one supplier please split the expiry dates up into however many suppliers
30 August 2024, BT.
13. Broadband Annual Average Spend - Annual average spend for each broadband provider. An estimate or average is acceptable.
£170K. We are now in the process of upgrading within the UNICORN contract but this is delayed and the contract end date is still valid. Costs are still as per current setup.

Contract 4 - Contracts relating to Wide Area Network [WAN] services, this could also include HSCN network services.

14. WAN Provider- please provide me with the main supplier(s) if there is no information available please can you provide further insight into why?
There is no separate WAN provider, it is through the BT Broadband contract.
15. WAN Contract expiry Date - please provide day, month and year (month and year are also acceptable). If this is a rolling contract please provide me with the rolling date of the contract. If there is more than one supplier please split the expiry dates up into however many suppliers
N/A
16. Contract Description: Please can you provide me with a brief description of the contract
N/A



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17. The number of sites: Please state the number of sites the WAN covers. Approx. will do.

N/A

18. WAN Annual Average Spend - Annual average spend for each WAN provider. An estimate or average is acceptable.

N/A

19. For each WAN contract can you please provide me with information on how this was procured, especially around those procurement that used frameworks, please provide me with the framework reference.

OJEU 2011/S 154-256537 UNICORN FRAMEWORK extended until August 2024.

20. Internal Contact: please can you send me there full contact details including contact number and email and job title for all the contracts above.

Contact details for ICT Service Delivery Manager provided

Please note, some of this information is available via our website, refer to our [Selling to RBFRS](#) pages for the Contracts Register.

Contract reference 1174 – British Telecommunications – WAN Unicorn Contract

Contract reference 1392 – Vodafone Limited - VOIP



Request Number 2023-0040 (Statistics - Construction Industry Fires)

Request received on 19 July 2023:

I write to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information from you regarding the statistics surrounding the number of fires in the construction industry and the number of fires, injuries and fatalities caused by hot works in the areas this fire service is responsible for.

The specific information we are requesting is:

- The number of fires in the construction industry (buildings under construction) in 2022/23.
- The number of fires caused by hot works in the construction industry in 2022/23.
- The main causes of hot works incidents in the construction industry.
- The number of injuries and fatalities caused by hot work incidents in the construction industry.

Response:

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) attendance at Primary/Secondary fires through year 2022/23:

| Question | Response |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. The number of fires in the construction industry (buildings under construction) in 2022/23 | 3 |
| 2. The number of fires caused by hot works in the construction industry in 2022/23 | 1 |
| 3. The main causes of hot works incidents in the construction industry | Welding/cutting equipment/blowtorch |
| 4. The number of injuries and fatalities caused by hot work incidents in the construction industry | 0 |



Request Number 2023-0041 (Statistics - Fire Safety Regs 2022 & External Wall Material)

Request received on 20 July 2023:

I would like to make a freedom of information request from Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service for the following:

1. The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022, came into force on 23 January 2023. Since its implementation, how many up-to-date electronic building plans and information on the design and materials of external walls have you received in relation to high rise buildings in your jurisdiction?
2. How many up-to-date electronic building plans and information on the design and materials of the external wall did you receive in relation to high rise buildings in your jurisdiction in 2022?

Response:

1. The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022, came into force on 23 January 2023. Since its implementation, how many up-to-date electronic building plans and information on the design and materials of external walls have you received in relation to high rise buildings in your jurisdiction?

Since the Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 came into force, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service has received a total of 34 electronic building/floor plans and 45 electronic External Wall Report submissions up to 26 July 2023.

2. How many up-to-date electronic building plans and information on the design and materials of the external wall did you receive in relation to high rise buildings in your jurisdiction in 2022?

Duty holders (Responsible Persons) were not required to send External Wall Reports and floor/buildings plans to Fire & Rescue Services (FRS) prior to the Fire Safety (England) Regulations coming into force. This information would have been historically gathered by FRS crews when completing 7.2.d visits for high rise residential buildings (HRRBs).



Request Number 2023-0042 (Statistics - Complaints)

Request received on 20 July 2023:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following details.

For each of the financial years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 to date:

1. How many complaints have your Fire and Rescue Service received?
 - a. Please can this be broken down by who has made the complaint, including by members of the public and by members of your staff.
 - a. Please can this be broken down by who/what the complaint has been made against, including against members of your staff.
 - a. Please can this be broken down by the type of complaint, including sexual harassment/assault.
 - a. Please can you outline the outcome of the complaint, including whether there was an investigation, whether misconduct by your staff was found, and whether a member of your staff was dismissed.

I would like this information in Word or Excel format. If some of the information is already published, please can you direct me to it.

Response:

Please see the attached Excel spreadsheets detailing complaints received by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service that have been investigated and concluded.

Complaints (dealt with by Business Support)

Please note under this process complaint outcomes that are passed to HR would be dealt with under relevant disciplinary/grievance policies.

[FOI 2023-0042 Complaints.xlsx]



Staff Complaints (dealt with by Human Resources)

During the specified timeframe (April 2017 to date), one of the complaints where misconduct was found lead to a dismissal.

We are unable to attribute this to a specific case/year, as to do so would likely identify the individual concerned and would contravene the first and second Data Protection Principles and subsequently breach the Data Protection Legislation. Therefore this serves as a Part Refusal Notice, in accordance with Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as well as the Principles of the Data Protection Legislation.

[FOI 2023-0042 Staff Complaints.xlsx]



Request Number 2023-0043 (Business - Reprographics/Print Arrangements)

Request received on 21 July 2023:

I would be grateful if you would provide details of your current contract covering reprographics/print arrangements under the Freedom of Information Act as follows

1. Number of MFDs (Multi-functional devices) & photocopiers at Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
2. Name of incumbent Your contracts register says Konica Minolta
3. Start/end date of contract (if expired, WHEN do you expect to revisit the marketplace) Your contracts register says 31/7/23, therefore virtually expired
4. Details of any extension options
5. What framework / Route to market used
6. Number of regular/desktop printers (in addition to above)
7. Is there a support contract on above, if yes please state start/end date
8. Does RBFRS have a Print Room
9. If yes, name of supplier, number of devices and start/end date of contract, also details of any extension options
10. Total annual print/copy volumes including, if applicable your Print Room, for (a) mono (b) colour
11. What Print software does RBFRS run
12. Your total annual spend on print
13. Name of person at Royal Berkshire Fire responsible for the running of MFDs and, if applicable, your Print Room



Response:

1. Number of MFDs (Multi-functional devices) & photocopiers at Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service - 38
2. Name of incumbent Your contracts register says Konica Minolta - Correct
3. Start/end date of contract (if expired, WHEN do you expect to revisit the marketplace) Your contracts register says 31/7/23, therefore virtually expired - Yes expired, contracted for 1 further year on the old hardware. Up to 31st March 2024, no further use of old equipment is intended
4. Details of any extension options - None
5. What framework / Route to market used - Crown Commercial
6. Number of regular/desktop printers (in addition to above) - Two label printers
7. Is there a support contract on above, if yes please state start/end date - Part of same contract same term
8. Does RBFRS have a Print Room - No we do not have a specific print room function
9. If yes, name of supplier, number of devices and start/end date of contract, also details of any extension options – N/A
10. Total annual print/copy volumes including, if applicable your Print Room, for (a) mono (b) colour – For the period 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023 there were 364,629 colour pages and 306,124 black & white pages printed
11. What Print software does RBFRS run - Konika safeQ
12. Your total annual spend on print - £16,780 rental and £10,000 click charges estimated (includes ink but not paper)
13. Name of person at Royal Berkshire Fire responsible for the running of MFDs and, if applicable, your Print Room – ICT Service Delivery Manager



Request Number 2023-0044 (Business - HR - Numbers of Officers)

Request received on 21 July 2023:

Please can you provide me with your wholetime establishment figures for the following ranks/roles.

These numbers should reflect what the establishment should be if all roles are filled.

Numbers of each -

1. Chief Fire officer
2. Deputy Chief Fire officer
3. Assistant Chief Fire Officer/Assistant Chief Officer
4. Area Managers
5. Group Managers
6. Station Managers
7. Watch Managers
8. Crew Managers
9. Firefighters
10. Area Managers (Control)
11. Group Managers (Control)
12. Station Managers (Control)
13. Watch Managers (Control)
14. Crew Managers (Control)
15. Firefighters (Control)



Response:

Wholetime establishment figures for the following ranks/roles:

1. Chief Fire Officer - 1
2. Deputy Chief Fire Officer - 1
3. Assistant Chief Fire Officer/Assistant Chief Officer - 0 - Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) does have an ACFO but this is held by a Green Book (non-operational) employee at Director Level
4. Area Managers - 4
5. Group Managers - 13
6. Station Managers - 29
7. Watch Managers - 34
8. Crew Managers - 62
9. Firefighters - 216
10. Area Managers (Control) - 0
11. Group Managers (Control) - 1
12. Station Managers (Control) - 2
13. Watch Managers (Control) - 4
14. Crew Managers (Control) - 12
15. Firefighters (Control) - 21



Request Number 2023-0045 (Statistics - EV Battery Fires Including Vehicle Type)

Request received on 24 July 2023:

I write to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information from you regarding the statistics surrounding the number of fires caused by electric vehicle batteries, broken down by the specific type of vehicle & city/town this occurred in throughout the past fiscal year (2022/23) in the specific region this fire service is responsible for.

The specific information I am requesting is:

- The number of fires caused by electric vehicles broken down by each city/town your fire service is responsible for during the last fiscal year (2022/23).
- The type of electric vehicle involved in each fire caused by an electric battery throughout the last fiscal year (2022/23).

Response:

Additional wording added into response - we have interpreted the request to include 'make and model' for the 'specific type of vehicle', and 'make and model' data may not be detailed on every recorded incident.

[Summary FOI 2023-0045]



Request Number 2023-0046 (Statistics - Domestic Fires)

Request received on 24 July 2023:

Could I please request data on the following:

- The total number of domestic fires attended in the most recent one-year period you have available.
- The cause or category of each fire, if possible.

Response:

[FOI 2023-0046 - Data - July 2022 - June 2023]

Additional wording added into email:

There are several highlighted rows on the attached spreadsheet, please note the following in relation to these incidents:

- One incident highlighted in **blue** - this incident is currently being investigated, therefore, no details relating to cause can be released.
- Three incidents highlighted in **yellow** – these incidents are currently part of on-going coroner inquests, therefore, no details relating to cause can be released.



Information Requests 2023

Request Number 2023-0047 (Business - HR - DBS Checks)

Request received on 25 July 2023:

Please can you tell me who provides the DBS check service (Basic, Standard and Enhanced) for Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service.

Response:

North East Regional Employers Organisation provide the DBS check service for Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service.



Request Number 2023-0048 (Statistics/Incidents - Stairlifts)

Request received on 27 July 2023:

How many call outs to homes made by the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service were related to injuries or problems with stairlifts in (a) 2019, (b) 2020, (c) 2021, and (d) 2022?

Response:

Call outs to homes made by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service that were related to injuries or issues with stairlifts in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

| Year | Incident Total | Comments |
|------|----------------|----------------------|
| 2019 | 6 | No injuries recorded |
| 2020 | 2 | No injuries recorded |
| 2021 | 6 | No injuries recorded |
| 2022 | 12 | No injuries recorded |

One incident in 2019 detailed injuries relating to existing medical conditions unrelated to stairlifts. Incident included in the data above.
One incident in 2020 & one incident in 2022 were callouts due to bleeping stairlifts. Both incidents have been included in the data above.

One incident in 2022 did not detail whether any injury was sustained. Incident included in the data above.
Data includes references to chairlifts and stairlifts.



Request Number 2023-0049 (Business - HR - Fire Safety Inspectors)

Request received on 31 July 2023:

Please can you confirm the number of fire safety inspectors that RBFRS has and how many are on the following pay scales:

- Scale 21
- Scale 22

And what qualifications are required to achieve these pay scales?

Response:

Q - Please can you confirm the number of fire safety inspectors that RBFRS has and how many are on the following pay scales: Scale 21 & Scale 22

A - RBFRS currently employs 14 staff in a Grade 5 Fire Safety Inspector role which covers spinal points 21 to 26. Due to the small numbers we are unable to provide a breakdown as to who is receiving a particular pay scale as this is considered personal data of those individuals and to release this will contravene the Data Protection Principles and subsequently breach the Data Protection Legislation. The link below provides further information on the pay scales within the service but not the number of staff within each pay scale. Staff Pay Scales and Leave Allowances | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (rbfrs.co.uk)

Q - And what qualifications are required to achieve these pay scales?

A - The attached pdf document provides information on the Development and Assessment pathway for Fire Safety Inspectors in RBFRS. In relation to this question please refer to appendix 1 on page 28. Please note this pathway/pathway booklet is currently being reviewed.



Information Requests 2023

[DAPs Booklet 2 - Fire Safety Inspector] also sent on email

Further response emailed to applicant following further email and telephone call:

I refer to your Request for Information of the 31st July 2023, my response to you on the 24th August 2023, your subsequent email dated the 26th August 2023 and your telephone call this morning.

To clarify, I am unable to provide a breakdown of how many Fire Safety Inspectors within Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service are receiving the salary relating to spinal point 21 or 22 as we believe this constitutes personal data.

‘Personal data’ means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. ‘Identifiable living individual’ means a living individual who can be identified, directly or indirectly. We believe that people’s personal financial circumstances and exact salary information is personal to that individual and thus constitutes personal data. Whilst numbers of individuals who are on a particular salary may not specifically constitute personal data and that salary information, in isolation, may be unlikely to identify an individual, as disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is akin to disclosure to the world at large, it is likely that combined with other information such as length of service, job titles and names (which can be easily located for those staff in public facing roles), an individual could be identified.

Our employees have a reasonable expectation that their actual salaries will be kept private. Actual salaries are not advertised in job adverts, only salary ranges and actual salaries are also not published internally, all giving employees an expectation of privacy around their actual salary.

Consequently, In accordance with Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am unable to disclose the information relating to spinal point 21 or 22 as it would not be lawful or fair and transparent and would consequently contravene Principle a of the UK Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 5(1)(a) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation, thus breaching the Data Protection Legislation.

As previously advised, we can confirm that RBFRS currently employees 14 staff in a Grade 5 Fire Safety Inspector role, which covers spinal points 21 to 26.



August 2023

Request Number 2023-0050 (Statistics - Balcony Fires)

Request received on 02 August 2023:

Please supply me with data relating to fires on balconies on residential buildings in your area, as follows;

- How many fires involving balconies occurred in total between 1st August 2022 and 31st July 2023?
- In the same period, how many fires occurred where balconies were found to have contributed to the spread of the fire across the external walls?

Please provide data on the causes of any fires that started on balconies in the period (ie; barbecue, discarded cigarette, electrical appliance fault, etc) and please provide the number of occurrences for each cause.

Response:

Incidents involving balconies between 1st August 2022 and 31st July 2023

| Date | Adjacent Property Affected | Extent of flame and heat damage on arrival | Source of Ignition | Cause |
|------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2022 | No other property affected | Limited to room of origin | Matches and candles - Matches | Heat source and combustibles brought together deliberately |
| 2023 | No other property affected | Limited to item 1st ignited | Not known | Not known |
| 2023 | No other property affected | Limited to item 1st ignited | Smoking related - Smoking materials | Careless handling - due to careless disposal |
| 2023 | Not known | Not known | Not known | Not known |



Request Number 2023-0051 (Business - HR - Staff Information)

Request received on 04 August 2023:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

- A full list of your Senior Management Team
- A full list of your IT Team
- A list of staff involved in digital or transformation.

Please include Name, Job Title and Email Address.

I would like you to provide this information in PDF or XLS format.

Response:

Clarification was sought from the applicant in relation to their request. No response was received by the deadline, therefore the request was closed.



Request Number 2023-0052 (Statistics - Fires in Listed Buildings)

Request received on 06 August 2023:

Can I please request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

- 1) The number of fires that the service responded to in listed buildings (to include Grade I, Grade II*, Grade II) between January 2018 and August 2023 (or the latest available date).
- 2) The names and addresses of the buildings referred to in Q1.
- 3) If possible, information on whether each fire referred to in Q1 was considered deliberate.

Response:

Clarification sought on the * in original email as there was no foot note detailing what the * related to. Response received and passed to relevant team.

[FOI 2023-0052 Statistics - Fires in Listed Buildings]



Request Number 2023-0053 (Statistics - Fires involving Bariatric People)

Request received on 08 August 2023:

How many times were you called out for bariatric assists / bariatric incident in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (broken down by year, and, if possible, by month)

Response:

Incidents involving bariatric people from 2019 to current

| Month | Calendar Year | | | | | Grand Total |
|-------------|---------------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | |
| Jan | 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 27 |
| Feb | 4 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 19 |
| Mar | 3 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 25 |
| Apr | 3 | 4 | - | 7 | 2 | 16 |
| May | 5 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 24 |
| Jun | 5 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 24 |
| Jul | 7 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 22 |
| Aug | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | - | 19 |
| Sep | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | - | 17 |
| Oct | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | - | 16 |
| Nov | 3 | 7 | 6 | 3 | - | 19 |
| Dec | 6 | 7 | 1 | 7 | - | 21 |
| Grand Total | 47 | 42 | 62 | 69 | 29 | 249 |



Request Number 2023-0054 (Statistics - HR - Employee Splits)

Request received on 14 August 2023:

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, please provide me with the following information:

How many staff the service employs as of August 14, 2023

- The number of men employed by the service
- The number of women employed by the service
- The number of non-binary people employed by the service
- The number of people who identify as the following (categories taken from the 2021 census) employed by the fire service:
 - Indian
 - Pakistani
 - Bangladeshi
 - Chinese
 - Any other Asian background
 - Caribbean
 - African
 - Any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background
 - White and Black Caribbean
 - White and Black African
 - White and Asian
 - Any other Mixed or multiple ethnic background
 - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
 - Irish
 - Gypsy or Irish Traveller
 - Roma
 - Any other White background
 - Arab
 - Any other ethnic group



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- The number of people who identify as:
 - heterosexual or straight
 - gay or lesbian
 - bisexual
 - other

In your response, please separate all information for operational firefighters and other fire service staff

Response:

Employees of the service as of 14th August 2023

| Gender | Green Book and Control | Operational (Wholetime and On-Call) | Grand Total |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Female | 131 | 33 | 164 |
| Other | | 1 | 1 |
| Male | 88 | 396 | 484 |
| Grand Total | 219 | 430 | 649 |

Ethnicity groupings for employees (these are the categories RBFRS use):

| Ethnicity | Green Book and Control | Operational (Wholetime and On-all) | Grand Total |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Asian or British Asian: Indian | 5 | | 5 |
| Asian or British Asian: Other | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Asian or British Asian: Pakistani | 3 | | 3 |
| Black or Black British African | 5 | | 5 |



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| Ethnicity | Green Book and Control | Operational (Wholetime and On-all) | Grand Total |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Black or Black British Caribbean | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Black or Black British other | 1 | | 1 |
| Chinese | 1 | | 1 |
| Mixed White and Asian | 2 | | 2 |
| Mixed White and Black Caribbean | | 4 | 4 |
| Other | | 1 | 1 |
| Other Mixed | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| White British | 187 | 412 | 599 |
| White Irish | 3 | | 3 |
| White Other | 5 | 9 | 14 |
| Grand Total | 219 | 430 | 649 |

Please note we are unable to provide numbers of employees who are heterosexual or straight, gay or lesbian, bisexual or other as we do not hold this information.



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Request Number 2023-0055 (Statistics - E Bikes & E Scooter Fires (July 2020 to July 2023))

Request received on 16 August 2023:

How many call outs the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service have had to ebike and scooter fires in the last three years (from July 2020 to July 2023).

I would like you to provide this information in an excel spreadsheet with a month-by-month total of ebike call outs and a total of scooter call outs.

Response:

[FOI 2023-0055 Summary Request]



Request Number 2023-0056 (Incidents - Hayloft House, RG2 9YN)

Request received on 23 August 2023:

Fire at Hayloft House, The Cavalry, Millard Place, Arborfield Green, RG2 9YN

Please provide me with the following:

1. Copies of any high-resolution photographs and/or videos within your possession that were taken as part of your investigation and subsequently used within the aforementioned report;
2. The recorded footage of the test burns carried out on 20 July 2021, which had been sent to RBFRS and Hawkins and Associates;
3. The Incident Recording System (IRS) Report and incident log produced by RBFRS in the aftermath of its investigation on 16 April 2021; and
4. Any witness statements or interviews conducted with the firefighters on scene during the fire on 15 April 2021.

Response:

Additional wording along with standard response wording as follows:

I am pleased to be able to provide you with copies of the photographs that were taken and subsequently used within the Fire Investigation Report. Unfortunately, some of these are only contained within the Fire Investigator's Contemporaneous Notebook and are the best quality we hold.

Please also find attached the test burn photos and video, as well as the incident log and fire crew statements. Please note that we do not hold a copy of one statement, however, the details of the statement are contained within the Fire Investigation Report, and so we have provided you with an extract detailing the statement.



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Please be aware that Personal Data and security information relating to our Service has been redacted from the information provided to you.

With regards to the request for the Incident Recording System (IRS) Report, as you are aware this is a chargeable service and has been provided to you separately following payment.

Attachments saved here - [I:\2023-24\2023-0056]



Request Number 2023-0057 (Business - ICT - Technology & Networks)

Request received on 23 August 2023:

| Section 1 - Mark 'X' to the following that apply | Mark 'X' if the following is correct |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Motor vehicles (for example police cars or ambulances), human powered vehicles (for example a cycle response bike), aircrafts (such as air ambulances or police helicopters) or portable devices used by first responders (such as mobile phones or tablets), allocated for responding to emergency incidents use radio technology for communication with first responders or other emergency services personnel? | |
| Motor vehicles (for example police cars or ambulances), human powered vehicles (for example a cycle response bike), aircrafts (such as air ambulances or police helicopters) or portable devices used by first responders (such as mobile phones or tablets), allocated for responding to emergency incidents use mobile technology for communication with first responders or other emergency services personnel? | |
| Motor vehicles (for example police cars or ambulances), human powered vehicles (for example a cycle response bike), aircrafts (such as air ambulances or police helicopters) or portable devices used by first responders (such as mobile phones or tablets), allocated for responding to emergency incidents use satellite technology for communication with first responders or other emergency services personnel? | |
| Motor vehicles (for example police cars or ambulances), human powered vehicles (for example a cycle response bike), aircrafts (such as air ambulances or police helicopters) or portable devices used by first responders (such as mobile phones or tablets), allocated for responding to emergency incidents use 2G networks for communication with first responders or other emergency services personnel? | |
| Motor vehicles (for example police cars or ambulances), human powered vehicles (for example a cycle response bike), aircrafts (such as air ambulances or police helicopters) or portable devices used by first responders (such as mobile phones or tablets), allocated for responding to emergency incidents use 3G networks for communication with first responders or other emergency services personnel? | |



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| Section 1 - Mark 'X' to the following that apply | Mark 'X' if the following is correct |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Motor vehicles (for example police cars or ambulances), human powered vehicles (for example a cycle response bike), aircrafts (such as air ambulances or police helicopters) or portable devices used by first responders (such as mobile phones or tablets), allocated for responding to emergency incidents use 4G networks for communication with first responders or other emergency services personnel? | |
| Motor vehicles (for example police cars or ambulances), human powered vehicles (for example a cycle response bike), aircrafts (such as air ambulances or police helicopters) or portable devices used by first responders (such as mobile phones or tablets), allocated for responding to emergency incidents use 5G networks for communication with first responders or other emergency services personnel? | |
| Section 2 | Answer here |
| Are your first responders and emergency services vehicles able to achieve guaranteed network connectivity across 100% of their administrative area? Yes or No? | |
| How many issues specifically relating to communication or connectivity issues across first responder vehicles and devices have been logged over the last five calendar years? | |
| Over the last five calendar years there has been a set budget allocated for new communication technologies for incident response? If so, what was this figure? | |
| Over the last five calendar years was there a set budget allocated for replacing or mending faulty or unreliable incident response communication technologies? If so, what was this figure? | |



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Response:

| Section 1 - Mark 'X' to the following that apply | Mark 'X' if the following is correct |
|--|--|
| Motor vehicles (for example police cars or ambulances), human powered vehicles (for example a cycle response bike), aircrafts (such as air ambulances or police helicopters) or portable devices used by first responders (such as mobile phones or tablets), allocated for responding to emergency incidents use radio technology for communication with first responders or other emergency services personnel? | X |
| Motor vehicles (for example police cars or ambulances), human powered vehicles (for example a cycle response bike), aircrafts (such as air ambulances or police helicopters) or portable devices used by first responders (such as mobile phones or tablets), allocated for responding to emergency incidents use mobile technology for communication with first responders or other emergency services personnel? | X |
| Motor vehicles (for example police cars or ambulances), human powered vehicles (for example a cycle response bike), aircrafts (such as air ambulances or police helicopters) or portable devices used by first responders (such as mobile phones or tablets), allocated for responding to emergency incidents use satellite technology for communication with first responders or other emergency services personnel? | The control unit and MRV have satellite connection |
| Motor vehicles (for example police cars or ambulances), human powered vehicles (for example a cycle response bike), aircrafts (such as air ambulances or police helicopters) or portable devices used by first responders (such as mobile phones or tablets), allocated for responding to emergency incidents use 2G networks for communication with first responders or other emergency services personnel? | Pagers operate on the 2G network as do for the time being mobile phones if the other network connections are not available |
| Motor vehicles (for example police cars or ambulances), human powered vehicles (for example a cycle response bike), aircrafts (such as air ambulances or police helicopters) or portable devices used by first responders (such as mobile phones or tablets), allocated for responding to emergency incidents use 3G networks for communication with first responders or other emergency services personnel? | As above |



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| Section 1 - Mark 'X' to the following that apply | Mark 'X' if the following is correct |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Motor vehicles (for example police cars or ambulances), human powered vehicles (for example a cycle response bike), aircrafts (such as air ambulances or police helicopters) or portable devices used by first responders (such as mobile phones or tablets), allocated for responding to emergency incidents use 4G networks for communication with first responders or other emergency services personnel? | X |
| Motor vehicles (for example police cars or ambulances), human powered vehicles (for example a cycle response bike), aircrafts (such as air ambulances or police helicopters) or portable devices used by first responders (such as mobile phones or tablets), allocated for responding to emergency incidents use 5G networks for communication with first responders or other emergency services personnel? | We do not yet utilise 5G |
| Section 2 | Answer here |
| Are your first responders and emergency services vehicles able to achieve guaranteed network connectivity across 100% of their administrative area? Yes or No? | Yes |
| How many issues specifically relating to communication or connectivity issues across first responder vehicles and devices have been logged over the last five calendar years? | None |
| Over the last five calendar years there has been a set budget allocated for new communication technologies for incident response? If so, what was this figure? | No |
| Over the last five calendar years was there a set budget allocated for replacing or mending faulty or unreliable incident response communication technologies? If so, what was this figure? | 5K Per Annum |



Request Number 2023-0058 (Business - Facilities Contracts)

Request received on 24 August 2023:

I would like the organisation to review my freedom of information request below, that's focused around contract data for services around facilities management specifically around the services below:

1. Office and building cleaning – Service contract that is focused around office, commercial and building cleaning services.
2. Lift service and maintenance – Service contract for lift service and maintenance.
3. Food – Service contract that is focused around catering services.
4. General waste services contracts – The organisation's primary general waste service contract.
5. Laundry services - where clothes and linen can be washed and ironed.

Contract profile questionnaire for each type of contract:

1. Supplier/Provider of the services
2. Total Annual Spend – The spend should only relate to each of the service contracts listed above.
3. A description of the services provided under this contract please includes information if other services are included under the same contract.
4. The number of sites the contract covers
5. [ONLY FOR LIFT CONTRACT] The Brand name of the type of lifts used by the organisation
6. The start date of the contract
7. The end date of the contract
8. The duration of the contract, please include information on any extensions period.
9. Who within the organisation is responsible for each of these contracts? name, Job Title, contact number and email address.



Response:

Cleaning – Sasse (Contract Register ref. 729)

- Annual Spend 2022/23 – £279,005.40
- Provision of: General Clean, Window Clean and Kitchen Deep Cleans of all RBFRS sites
- 17 Sites serviced
- 1st November 2019 – 31st October 2022 (3 years with offer to extend)– Extension in place until 31st March 2024
- Contact details provided for Interim Facilities Manager

Lift – Eze Lifts (Contract Register ref. 1295)

- Annual Spend 2022/23 - £2,350.00
- Provision of the Testing and Call out arrangement for the lifts of RBFRS
- 4 Sites serviced
- Kone HQ; Stannah Hungerford; Schindler lift; Theale; Aritco Crowthorne
- 1st October 2022 – 30th September 2026 – No current extension on the contract
- Contact details provided for Interim Facilities Manager

Corporate Catering – Catering (Contract Register ref. 1016)

- Annual Spend 2022/23 - £58,698.31
- Provision of the catering for RBFRS sites
- Up to 5 sites
- 1st January 2021 – 31st December 2025 (3 years plus one extension)
- Contact details provided for Interim Facilities Manager



General Waste – Veolia (Contract Register ref. 1065)

- Annual spend 2022/23 - £41,116.38
- Provision of all general waste for all RBFRS sites
- 17 Sites serviced
- 1st May 2021 to 30th April 2024 – Option to extend for a further two years
- Contact details provided for Interim Facilities Manager

Laundry – Overalls – Johnsons Workwear (no contract reference as not listed on the contract register)

- Annual spend 2022/23 - £2,000.00
- Clean & repair overalls
- One site covered
- January 2013 – on-going
- Contact details provided for Fleet Controller

Laundry – PPE – Bristol Uniforms Ltd - (Contract Register ref. 520)

It may be useful to know that the PPE for Firefighters contract includes a PPE cleaning service. The PPE cleaning service is washing only and is an integral part of the PPE supply contract rather than being a discrete contract. It is a service provided with each piece of PPE rather than a service that can be accessed to wash any item of PPE.

Our 'Contracts Register' can be found here - [Selling to RBFRS | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service](#)



Request Number 2023-0059 (Business - Fleet Information)

Request received on 28 August 2023:

Would you be able to provide me with the following information for your fire fleet please.

1. A list of registration, make, model, VIN number, Bodybuilder job number, Bodybuilder manufacturer, role, location and vehicle type such as WrL or TL of every vehicle in your fire fleet.
2. A list of recently disposed of vehicles.
3. A list of vehicles awaiting disposal.
4. A list of vehicle awaiting to enter service, currently in build/on order and vehicles out to tender.

Can you please provide me with this information either on Microsoft Excel or Word.

Response:

Following a response from the appropriate department, I am pleased to be able to provide you with most of the information you requested. Please see the attached XL Spreadsheet.

I am unable to provide you with the Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs) as disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime. Availability of Vehicle Identification Numbers to the public at large would be likely to increase the risk of vehicle cloning.

Consequently, this information has been withheld in accordance with Section 31 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 31 is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test. In this instance, I believe that the public interest in maintaining the exemption in Section 31 (1) (a) of the Act in relation to the information about Vehicle Identification Numbers outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

[FOI 2023-0059 - RBFRS Fleet Information (Aug 23)]



September 2023

Request Number 2023-0060 (Business - Appliances - Fire Extinguishers)

Request received on 04 September 2023:

Note - Applicant is asking about fire extinguishers, the following is taken from the attached XL spreadsheet - 'Call-Off for Appliance Fire Extinguisher Refill, Servicing and Replacement Service and Supply of Other Fire Related Products'.

Email contents below:

I am doing a research project investigating call-off contracts in the public sector. I have identified a potential call-off contract awarded by Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service, but I can't find details of the framework agreement it was awarded from.

I have attached an Excel file that contains the information I am looking at. The last two columns ("Title of framework used" and "Further framework info") is where I am missing information. Please could you provide the name of the specific framework agreement or DPS used here. If there is any further info which you think would help me locate the framework agreement (e.g., a link to the framework's Contract Finder or FTS listing, the framework provider, or a widely-used reference number such as CCS's RM codes), please use the final column for this.

Please note that I have identified this contract as a possible call-off contract, so there is a chance it is not a call-off. It could be, for instance, procured directly (without being called off from a framework agreement), or could be itself a notice of the establishment of a framework agreement. Therefore I would kindly ask you to specify in this instance what kind of procurement was used in the "Title of framework used" column.

I have provided the title, description, details of the email contact from the notice, the publication date, and procedure type used to award the potential call-off, as well as a URL link to the call-off in question and a unique reference ID for the potential call-off. Please let me know if there is anything else you need to complete the request.



Response:

Following a response from the appropriate department, I am pleased to be able to confirm that the information you require is available on our website - please refer to our 'Contracts Register' on the following link - [Selling to RBFRS | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service](#). The contract reference is 1331.

FURTHER UPDATED PROVIDED 09/10/2023:

I am able to confirm that Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) did not use any framework to award the contract for the provision Call-Off for Appliance Fire Extinguisher Refill, Servicing and Replacement Service and Supply of Other Fire Related Products. RBFRS issued invitation to quote (ITQ) to three suppliers - CF International Ltd, RES Systems Ltd and Walker Fire UK Ltd - on a flexible call off basis with no commitment of any minimum or maximum spend through the contract period. No framework was used to award the contract.



Request Number 2023-0061 (Incidents - Hoarding)

Request received on 06 September 2023:

1. In the last 5 years, how many incidents have your Fire and Rescue Service been called out to attend, where **hoarding** was identified?

Please break down the data as follows:

1st July 2018 – 30th June 2019

1st July 2019 – 30th June 2020

1st July 2020 – 30th June 2021

1st July 2021 – 30th June 2022

1st July 2022 – 30th June 2023

2. For each year, how many of those incidents led to **injury**, and how many to **deaths**? Please state whether the injured/deceased were **civilians** or **firefighters** in each instance.
3. For each year, in how many of those incidents was access to the fire or emergency **obstructed** due to hoarding at the property?
4. Can you also please provide information regarding the number of incidents you have attended for each level of the [Clutter Image Ratings](#)?

Response:

1. In the last 5 years, how many incidents have your Fire and Rescue Service been called out to attend, where hoarding was identified?



Information Requests 2023

Breakdown of hoarding related incidents attended to by RBFRS:

| Time Period | Number of Hoarding Incidents | Number of Incidents that led to injury | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------|
| | | Civilian | Firefighter |
| 01 July 2018 – 30 June 2019 | 10 | 3 | - |
| 01 July 2019 – 30 June 2020 | 11 | 4 | - |
| 01 July 2020 – 30 June 2021 | 17 | 5 | - |
| 01 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 | 11 | 2 | - |
| 01 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 | 20 | 2 | 1 |

2. For each year, how many of those incidents led to injury, and how many to deaths? Please state whether the injured/deceased were civilians or firefighters in each instance.

Please see above table for details relating to injuries. No incidents recorded a civilian or firefighter fatality.

3. For each year, in how many of those incidents was access to the fire or emergency obstructed due to hoarding at the property?

We are unable to provide an answer to this question as that information is not routinely recorded

4. Can you also please provide information regarding the number of incidents you have attended for each level of the Clutter Image Ratings?



Information Requests 2023

Number of incidents attended to by RBFRS according to clutter scale (where recorded):

| Time Period | 4 to 5 | 5 | 5 to 6 | 7 | Blank [no entry made] |
|-----------------------------|--------|---|--------|---|-----------------------|
| 01 July 2018 – 30 June 2019 | - | - | - | 1 | 9 |
| 01 July 2019 – 30 June 2020 | - | - | - | - | 11 |
| 01 July 2020 – 30 June 2021 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 15 |
| 01 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 9 |
| 01 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 | - | - | - | - | 20 |

NB: At the time of an incident, data recorded does not always specify information according to a number that matches the clutter scale



Request Number 2023-0062 (Incidents - E-scooter & E-bike Fires 2021-2022)

Request received on 06 September 2023:

Under the FOI Act 2000, please provide me with the number of fires involving e-scooters and e-bikes in each of 2021 and 2022.

Please provide a breakdown for e-scooters and e-bikes please.

If also possible within the time constraints, can you provide the number of people injured/killed in such fires.

Eg:

2021; X fires involving e-scooters, X fires involving e-bikes + X killed, X injured in fires involving e-scooters, X killed, X injured in fires involving e-bikes.

2022; X fires involving e-scooters, X fires involving e-bikes + X killed, X injured in fires involving e-scooters, X killed, X injured in fires involving e-bikes.

Response:

Breakdown by year and injuries

| Year | 2021 | | 2022 | |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Type | E-Bike | E-Scooter | E-Bike | E-Scooter |
| Total Incidents | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| People Rescued with Injury | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Fatalities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |



Request Number 2023-0063 (Incidents – Lithium Battery Fires)

Request received on 08 September 2023:

As a freedom of information request, please provide data regarding the number of lithium battery related fires you have recorded. Specifically, please provide:

- Annual totals for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and so far in 2023
- Those annual totals split by the type of lithium device involved (such as e-bike, e-cigarette, e-scooter)
- Those annual totals split by the number of related injuries or fatalities

Please provide such data electronically, ideally as a spreadsheet.

Response:

[FOI 2023-0063 - Lithium Battery Incidents]



Information Requests 2023

Request Number 2023-0064 (Fleet List 2022/23)

Request received on 11 September 2023:

Please can you supply me with the following information?

Registration number:

Make:

Model:

of all vehicles currently on your fleet list.

And all vehicles sold between 14/11/2022 - 05/09/2023.

Response:

[August 2023 - Fleet List - FOI 2023-0064]



Information Requests 2023

Request Number 2023-0065 (Clarks Fire 1977 – Type of concrete)

Request received on 12 September 2023:

I am trying to find a piece of information from the Clarks fire in 1977. The information that I am looking for is the type of concrete that collapsed.

Response:

Having searched through our historical records, I believe I have found some that may be useful to you and answer your enquiry about the type of concrete.

You will notice that parts of the documentation have been redacted (blanked out). I am unable to disclose these details as it constitutes Personal Data (of which you are not the data subject) and to do so may identify individuals and contravene the Data Protection Principles and subsequently breach the Data Protection Legislation.

It may also be worth contacting the [Coroner](#), [Berkshire record office](#), [Local Authority](#) and [Bison](#) who may also be able to assist you.

[BRE Report - Clarks, Elgar Road, Reading (1977)_REDACTED.pdf, Fire Research Report - Clarks, Elgar Road, Reading (1977).pdf & Report of Collapse - Clarks, Elgar Road, Reading (1977)_REDACTED.pdf]



Request Number 2023-0066 (Premises - Non Emergency Control Telephone Number)

Request received on 19 September 2023:

I request a direct non-emergency telephone number and email address for your control room (or, where you have more than one control room, the aforementioned for each such control room).

Please note that I am not seeking your switchboard telephone number and that I do not seek to “jump the queue”, so to speak, but simply to make contact directly with your control room in circumstances where that is required without having to engage with your switchboard.

In order to assist, I believe that the telephone number I am seeking is likely to be that on which calls from your switchboard to your control room are forwarded.

Please contact me at once should you require clarification of my request. I otherwise look forward to hearing from you within the statutory timeframes set out by the Act.

Response:

I can advise you that the non-emergency number for the Thames Valley Fire Control Service is available on our website, under Contact Us.

As you will appreciate, Control Room staff at times can be extremely busy and that calls (and emails) to the non-emergency number may go unanswered.

I would like to reiterate that in an emergency, always call 999.



Request Number 2023-0067 (Other – Dog Ownerships)

Request received on 25 September 2023:

1. Please provide an annual breakdown since 2017, and including so far in 2023, how many dogs owned by your organisation have tested positive for Brucella canis.
2. Please also give the number of tests done every year for Brucella canis.
3. For any positive test please explain when the disease was identified, where the animal was living, the precautions put in place, if the infection spread, what happened to the dog and measures in place to ensure the disease does not spread in future.

Response:

I can advise you that Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service do not own any dogs.

1. None - Not Applicable
2. Not Applicable
5. Not Applicable



Request Number 2023-0068 (Other - EVO32 Petroleum Licensing & Storage)

Request received on 27 September 2023:

We have been commissioned to undertake a search of available petroleum licensing/storage information for EVO32, Poyle Road, Heathrow, SL3 0HG, which according to a previous report by WDE Consulting dated 2021, has listed on-Site historical tanks from 1896 to 1914. Please note that the assessment has not been commissioned as a result of any incident or known problem concerning releases of product.

Could you please let me know the process for undertaking such an enquiry, and any associated costs/ requirements for permission etc. as well as the likely timescale?

We would be interested in the following information;

1. The number, locations, sizes and specifications of any existing tanks at the Site;
2. Any historical above ground/underground storage tanks, their capacities, contents, age, specific locations and whether they have been decommissioned and/or removed;
3. Construction/ installation details, including any bunding and leak detection;
4. Historical tank failures, line leakages, incidents resulting in product releases or any records of nuisance caused by vapours; and
5. Records and dates of any integrity testing/ fuel line tests.

Response:

Following a response from the appropriate departments, I can advise you that Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service do not hold any information relating to the scope of your request. I would suggest contacting the local authority ([Slough Borough Council](#)) or the [Royal Berkshire Archives](#) to see if they hold any information in this regard.



October 2023

Request Number 2023-0069 (Incidents – Lockwood Court)

Request received on 06 October 2023:

I'm wondering if it's at all possible to receive a list of dates with regards to the callouts that you have had in the last 4 years, relating to the residence and the lift service.

Lockwood Court, Ashville Way, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 2AU.

Response:

I can confirm that RBFRS attended nine incidents involving 'person(s) shut in lift' at Lockwood Court, Wokingham. Please see the table below for specific dates.

| |
|------------|
| 24/08/2020 |
| 01/09/2020 |
| 09/10/2020 |
| 16/11/2020 |
| 23/11/2020 |
| 04/12/2020 |
| 20/01/2021 |
| 17/06/2023 |
| 06/10/2023 |

The date range used was 01/01/2019 – current. There were no incidents in 2019 or 2022.



Request Number 2023-0070 (BA entry records - Inc 1678 - Hayloft House, The Cavalry, Millard Place, Reading RG2 9YS - 15/04/2021)

Request received on 09 October 2023:

Does the Fire Service have records of the times that BA crews entered the building?

Response:

Unfortunately, the information you seek is no longer held by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS). During 2021, Breathing Apparatus (BA) entry times were manually recorded on a board during incidents. This information was no longer required after the incident and thus not subsequently recorded within our systems. At 15:05:43, an informative message from the incident ground was relayed back to the emergency control room stating that 4 Breathing Apparatus were in use, therefore it is reasonable to assume that breathing apparatus teams were deployed prior to this time.

I'm sorry that we couldn't be of more assistance to you.



Request Number 2023-0071 (Control Staff and Grey Book Roles)

Request received on 10 October 2023:

1. Do you have any former Fire Service Control Staff that have transferred out of Control in the last 20 years into Grey Book roles higher than Watch Manager?
2. Do they have or maintain an operational competency either with Control or for operational incidents?
3. Are they paid in accordance with the NJC agreed Firefighter Roles pay scale or Control Specific Roles pay scale?

Response:

1. No (Nil)
2. N/A
3. N/A



Request Number 2023-0072 (The Manor Hotel, Datchet)

Request received on 11 October 2023:

- 1 - What grading of fire risk is the The Manor Hotel, Datchet, Nr. Newbury, Berkshire?
- 2 - Has this hotel been subject to an updated fire assessment by your staff since its change to an asylum assessment centre?
- 3 - If it is high risk can you confirm if Crib 7 beds are being used as I understand that is the requirement for such a risk category in residential properties? If not, why not and did it feature on your last inspection?
- 4 - The Stradey Park Hotel in Llanelli was subject to a fire inspection by Mid and West Wales Fire Service on 29th September 2023. This hotel was being prepared for use as an asylum assessment centre. The inspector found a number of failings in the fire safety at the location and issued a prohibition notice stating persons could not sleep at the location. If you have not completed a recent fire assessment at the location I would suggest that one is conducted and matters including Crib 7 are checked. Could you provide notice if you intend to conduct a check? if not, not why not including your rationale for not conducting such safety checks?

Response:

As previously advised, as you have stated the address as 'The Manor Hotel, Datchet' we have proceeded with your request on this basis.

1. Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service have categorised this as a high risk premises.
2. Yes, our Fire Safety Team last inspected the premises on the 11th July 2023 and the reason for the inspection was due to its change of use.
3. We have been informed that due to the change in occupancy capacity, the management company appointed by the Home Office has provided the hotel with new single mattresses complying with BS 7177 crib 5 for hotel premises.
4. We do not intend to recheck the premises at this time as we believe the fire safety measures and crib 5 mattresses are of a sufficient standard.



Subsequent Enquiry & Response:

[In relation to the High Risk category I am aware of the following which bed manufacturers recommend - "Although hotels typically tend to be classed as 'medium hazard', some hospitality establishments could be categorised as high risk. If this is the case then it's also legally required for any beds and headboards to comply with Source 7 (Crib 7) UK regulations, which offers high resistance to ignition as part of British Standards BS 7177 (which covers specific requirements for the resistance to ignition of mattresses, mattress pads, divans and bed bases)." Also NHS trusts state the following- "Healthcare settings that have a higher risk, such as mental health wards, are classed as a 'high to very high hazard' environment and therefore require mattresses to comply with a more stringent fire test - BS 7177: Crib 7." In your response you confirm Crib 5 beds are in use at the hotel. Please can you confirm, since it would appear that this risk of hotel does require Crib 7 beds? I will be guided by your response and clarification of legal requirements in relation to Crib 7.]

Our Protection (Fire Safety) Department has advised that within BS 7177:2008 + A1:2001 Section 04 Performance requirements for resistance to ignition (p.03) it states:

“NOTE It is important to realize that the listing of types of premises under different hazard categories in Table 1 is given for guidance only, and that the classification of a particular premises into one of the hazard categories is a decision for the nominated responsible person accountable for the fire safety of the premises and its contents.”

Below is table 01:



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Table 1 Performance requirements for composites and notes on application of hazard categories ^{A1}
(When using this table it is essential to consult the notes which follow it.)

| Hazard category | Requirements | Typical examples (see Notes 1 and 2) |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Low hazard (domestic use) | Resistant to ignition source: smouldering cigarette as specified in BS EN 597-1:1995. Resistant to ignition source: match flame equivalent as specified in BS EN 597-2:1995. | Domestic dwellings (including non-motorized caravans) |
| Medium hazard | Resistant to ignition source: smouldering cigarette as specified in BS EN 597-1:1995. Resistant to ignition source: match flame equivalent as specified in BS EN 597-2:1995. Resistant to ignition source 5 as specified in BS 6807:2006, Clause 9. | Boarding schools Day centres Halls of residence at universities and colleges Holiday camp chalets Hospitals Hotels Old peoples' homes Residential schools Services' messes |
| High hazard | Resistant to ignition source: smouldering cigarette as specified in BS EN 597-1:1995. Resistant to ignition source: match flame equivalent as specified in BS EN 597-2:1995. Resistant to ignition source 7 as specified in BS 6807:2006, Clause 9. | Certain hospital wards Hotels Offshore installations Old peoples' homes |
| Very high hazard | Resistant to ignition source: smouldering cigarette as specified in BS EN 597-1:1995. Resistant to ignition source: match flame equivalent as specified in BS EN 597-2:1995. Resistant to ignition source 7 as specified in BS 6807:2006, Clause 9. Additional requirements at the discretion of the specifier with high hazard requirements as a minimum | Locked psychiatric accommodation Prison cells |

^{A1} In addition, the fillings used in domestic mattresses, divan and bed bases (low hazard) are subject to UK regulations (see Foreword).

While operationally the premises is considered a high risk premises by RBFRS, our Protection (Fire Safety) Department does not assign a risk rating to the premises. The categorisation of how we (RBFRS) rate the premises from an operational risk is different from how the premises is viewed from a fire safety perspective. Additionally, as highlighted above, hazard categories are a decision for the nominated Responsible Person (RP) accountable for the fire safety of the premises and its contents, not the Fire Service. The Responsible Person (RP) accountable for the premises, via guidance from the Home Office, has determined the use of Crib 05 beds is suitable for the premises.

Should you have any further queries relating to this, I would suggest contacting The Manor Hotel, Datchet directly.

Additional enquiry 2 & response:

[Can you confirm that even for large scale commercial interests that the fire risk assessment is conducted by a responsible person? What training should this responsible person have undertaken and what recourse is there if they have incorrectly graded a property?]

Our Protection (Fire Safety) department have provided me with a response to your enquiry. Should you have further fire safety enquiries, please direct these to our East Hub Fire Safety office on easthubfiresafety@rbfrs.co.uk.



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A fire risk assessment is a careful look at your premises and the people who use them, from a fire prevention perspective. It's about understanding the potential risks, then improving your fire safety precautions to keep people safe.

A Fire Risk Assessment is a legal requirement under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (FSO). If you are responsible for a building, for example an employer, owner or occupier of premises that aren't a 'single private dwelling' (a private home), you need to make sure a suitably competent person completes a Fire Risk Assessment. The Responsible Person must record all findings from their fire risk assessment, regardless of the size or purpose of the premises. This is a new requirement, effective from 1 October 2023. Previously this was only required for certain types of buildings. Responsible Persons must also record their fire safety arrangements. A fire risk assessment should be reviewed regularly and updated whenever significant changes have been made to the premises.

It is the responsibility of the Responsible Person to ensure that the risk assessment is conducted by a 'Competent Person'. The FSO states there are two means by which 'Competent Persons' might be identified. They must have both 'sufficient training and experience' or alternatively they must possess 'knowledge and other qualities', which will in both cases, enable them to properly carry out the task at hand. The nature of 'competent person' is clearly associated with 'competence'. The qualities present in the person must be akin to those expected of any person in that profession, but will by definition be limited by training, experience, knowledge or other qualities; in accordance with the complexity of the task at hand. It follows that as a task increases in complexity, so the expected ability of the competent person will also increase.

The fire risk assessment is used to assess the premises fire safety precautions and arrangements to ensure their suitability. Where these are unsuitable the potential risk at the point of time of the assessment maybe consider high, however the RP is then required to address the identified deficiencies to reduce the risk as low as reasonably practicable.

It may assist you to look at our website, which has useful fire safety advice. Additionally, the London Fire Brigade website also has very useful information (under Fire Risk Assessments - your responsibilities).



Request Number 2023-0073 (Incidents - Hayloft House, RG2 9YS)

Request received on 12 October 2023:

Has the Fire Service retained any information or written advice in relation to the adoption of a waking watch at Hayloft?

Response:

Following a response from the appropriate department, I am pleased to be able to provide you with the information you requested. Please see below and the attached PDFs.

Details relating to a 'waking watch' can be found here:

- 'DRAFT Savills - The Cavalry - Interim Report - 06.05.21_Redacted' – pages 5 & 21
- 'FSA_2021_05_18 Standard Letter - The Cavalry Interim Measures Arrangements_Redacted' – pages 1 & 2
- 'Savills - The Cavalry - Facade and Passive fire Precautions Report - 20.05.21v2 _Redacted' – pages 6, 37 & 38

Please note, the documentation attached may be subject to intellectual property right or copyright laws and belongs to company name supplied. Authorisation to re-use copyright material belonging to any third parties should be sought from the copyright holders concerned.

[FOI 2023-0073].



Request Number 2023-0074 (Other - Circa House, Bracknell, RG12 1GQ)

Request received on 16 October 2023:

The following is taken from the letter attached to the applicants email:

Re: Freedom Of Information Request - Circa House. The Ring. Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1GQ

We hereby make a freedom of information request in accordance with The Freedom Of Information Act 2000.

The original planning application had the following property address; 2A High Street, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 IAA, so the documentation may contain this address or one of the following addresses; Circa, The Ring, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 IGQ or Circa House, The Ring, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 IGQ.

Please provide us a copy of all fire safety audits conducted by Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service and a copy of the consultation with Assent Building Control Limited (Approved Inspector) including copies of the plans/drawings on the aforementioned property.

Response:

Following a response from the appropriate department, I am pleased to be able to provide you with the information you requested. Please see the attached PDFs which have been redacted where necessary.

Please note, the documentation attached may be subject to intellectual property right or copyright laws and belongs to company name supplied. Authorisation to re-use copyright material belonging to any third parties should be sought from the copyright holders concerned.



Request Number 2023-0075 (Contracts - ICT - Firewall, Anti-virus, and Enterprise Agreement)

Request received on 16 October 2023:

I am currently embarking on a research project around Cyber Security and was hoping you could provide me with some contract information relating to following information:

1. Standard Firewall (Network) - Firewall service protects your corporate Network from unauthorised access and other Internet security threats
2. Anti-virus Software Application - Anti-virus software is a program or set of programs that are designed to prevent, search for, detect, and remove software viruses, and other malicious software like worms, trojans, adware, and more.
3. Microsoft Enterprise Agreement - is a volume licensing package offered by Microsoft.

The information I require is around the procurement side and we do not require any specifics (serial numbers, models, location) that could bring threat/harm to the organisation.

For each of the different types of cyber security services can you please provide me with:

1. Who is the existing supplier for this contract?
2. What does the organisation annually spend for each of the contracts?
3. What is the description of the services provided for each contract?
4. Primary Brand (ONLY APPLIES TO CONTRACT 1&2)
5. What is the expiry date of each contract?
6. What is the start date of each contract?
7. What is the contract duration of contract?
8. The responsible contract officer for each of the contracts above? Full name, job title, contact number and direct email address.
9. Number of Licenses (ONLY APPLIES TO CONTRACT 3)



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Response:

| Question | Standard Firewall | Anti-Virus | Microsoft Enterprise Agreement |
|----------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Not under contract, we own them | Withheld | Softcat |
| 2 | Not known | £5,000 | £273,000 |
| 3 | Cyber Network Security | Cyber security to end user devices | Microsoft Desktop/Server/MS365 licensing |
| 4 | Withheld | Withheld | N/A |
| 5 | N/A - we own them | March 2025 | 30/08/2024 |
| 6 | N/A | 2019 | 01/09/2020 |
| 7 | N/A | 6 years | 4 years + extension |
| 8 | Contact details supplied | Contact details supplied | Contact details supplied |
| 9 | N/A | N/A | 730 |

Please note, further information relating to 'Softcat' can be found on our 'Contracts Register' on the following link - [Selling to RBFRS](#), the contract reference is 1101.

In relation to the withheld information it is the belief of the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) Information Communication Technology (ICT) team that the disclosure of specific system/equipment details would undermine the cyber security of our infrastructure. Such information about our cyber security operations and architecture, if revealed, could and would be useful to potential cyber-attackers. RBFRS is aware of the increasing threat from organisations and individuals who seek to use technology to disrupt the workings of public bodies. With this in mind, we consider that disclosure of core security architecture would prejudice the prevention and detection of cyber-crime.



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It is accepted there may be legitimate public interest in the cyber systems deployed by RBFRS; however disclosure of such information, if intercepted could provide groups or individuals with an indication of where to focus their efforts when targeting our systems. Groups planning attacks are known to conduct extensive research and will take advantage of the “mosaic effect” by combining information from different sources, for this reason we do not disclose contact details of ICT staff responsible for the area of Cyber security of RBFRS systems.

If the requested information were to be combined with other information already in the public domain or obtained from elsewhere via FOI, the disclosure of it could assist in mounting an effort to breach or bypass our cyber-security measures, with serious consequences for both staff of RBFRS and the general public of Berkshire.

RBFRS understand that there would be public interest in the transparency and accountability of the Service. However, there would also be public interest in favour of withholding the information –

- to avoid disruption to an emergency service /public service (critical national infrastructure);
- to prevent any threat to the integrity of RBFRS data;
- to ensure RBFRS can comply with its duties to take all necessary measures to safeguard data;
- to avert costs associated with any attacks recovery.

In considering the application of this exemption, it has been determined that the balance of public interest lies in maintaining the exemption and not releasing the information.



Request Number 2023-0076 (Employee - Maternity Pay)

Request received on 19 October 2023:

We are collecting information about maternity leave pay for firefighters in your fire and rescue service. Below is the information we would like to obtain from you under the Freedom of Information Act.

We would like to receive data relating to maternity leave pay made by your fire and rescue service, the below questions cover the 52 week period (Ordinary Maternity Leave and Additional Maternity Leave):

1. What pay does a firefighter receive for first 6 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?
2. What pay does a firefighter receive for the next 12 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?
3. What pay does a firefighter receive during for the next 21 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?
4. What pay does a firefighter receive during for the remaining 13 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?
5. As of 01/07/23 the salary for a competent firefighter is £36,226, what pay would a firefighter receive for 12 months maternity leave? Please can you state a numerical figure with a corresponding breakdown.

| Q1. What pay does a firefighter receive for first 6 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave? | Q2. What pay does a firefighter receive for the next 12 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave? | Q3. What pay does a firefighter receive during for the next 21 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave? | Q4. What pay does a firefighter receive during for the remaining 13 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave? |
|---|---|--|---|
| | | | |

| Q5. As of 01/07/23 the salary for a competent firefighter is £36,226, what pay would a firefighter receive for 12 months maternity leave? Please can you state a numerical figure with a corresponding breakdown |
|--|
| |

6. Attach a copy of your most recent FRS maternity policy.



Response:

1. What pay does a firefighter receive for first 6 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?

During the period of maternity leave the following pay is provided:

- 16 weeks at full pay, followed by;
- 20 weeks at 50% of average earning (RDS) or 50% of contractual pay
- 3 weeks at SMP
- 13 weeks unpaid

2. What pay does a firefighter receive for the next 12 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?

Please see answer in question one above

3. What pay does a firefighter receive during for the next 21 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?

Please see answer in question one above

4. What pay does a firefighter receive during for the remaining 13 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?

Please see answer in question one above

5. As of 01/07/23 the salary for a competent firefighter is £36,226, what pay would a firefighter receive for 12 months maternity leave? Please can you state a numerical figure with a corresponding breakdown.

Please see attached spreadsheet which is an example breakdown of a maternity schedule for a competent Firefighter

6. Attach a copy of your most recent FRS maternity policy.

Please see attached PDF copy of our current policy, please note that an updated version is currently under consultation

[Maternity Schedule Example for FFC & Maternity, Paternity, Shared Parental and Adoption Policy (28 April 2020)]



Request Number 2023-0077 (Employee - Whistleblowing)

Request received on 26 October 2023:

I would like to make a Freedom of Information Request (FOI)

My request relates to how many reports of wrongdoing have been made as Whistle blowing (or termed protected disclosure under legislation)

1. For the year 2020, how many reports of whistle blowing did you receive?
2. For the year 2021, how many reports of whistle blowing did you receive?
3. For the year 2022, how many reports of whistle blowing did you receive?

Response:

I am pleased to be able to advise you that the information you seek is already easily accessible to you as we received a previous Information Request that has been published on our website. Under [Request Disclosure Logs](#) you will find the Information Requests for each year which are updated regularly. Please see request '2023-0027' within the 'Jan-Dec 2023' log.



Request Number 2023-0078 (Statistics - EV Fires 2018 - 2023)

Request received on 27 October 2023:

I am currently working on a project related to electric vehicle fires.

For the purpose of statistical analysis related to electric vehicle fires, I request information on individual cases of electric vehicle fire incidents that have occurred in Royal Berkshire in the last 5 years (2018-2023). The information I am seeking includes:

1. Number of EV fires from Jan. 2018 - Current
2. Please include a breakdown of types of vehicle in the data (car, bus/coach, e-bike/e-scooter, etc)
3. Please include details on day, month, year, location cause of fire, fire spread and injuries/fatalities as a result of the fire
4. If possible, can you provide any details on the vehicle or battery Informations, or if the batteries had a battery management system or state of health monitoring?

I hope to receive the file in Excel format.

Response:

[EV Fires – 2018-2023]



Request Number 2023-0079 (Statistics - Lithium-Ion Battery Fires 2021-2023)

Request received on 30 October 2023:

We would like to investigate whether there has been an increase in fires caused by items that contain lithium-ion batteries, particularly items that children or young people have access to, such as toys, phones and laptops etc.

Therefore, under Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations, I would like to request the following information:

- The number of household fires caused (or thought to be caused) by lithium-ion batteries in toys, toothbrushes, phones and laptops from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021
- The number of household fires caused (or thought to be caused) by lithium-ion batteries in toys, toothbrushes, phones and laptops from 01.01.2022 to 31.12.2022
- The number of household fires caused (or thought to be caused) by lithium-ion batteries in toys, toothbrushes, phones and laptops from 01.01.2023 to 30.10.2023
- The number of fires in dustcarts and waste-processing centres fires caused (or thought to be caused) by lithium-ion batteries in toys, toothbrushes, phones and laptops from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021
- The number of fires in dustcarts and waste-processing centres fires caused (or thought to be caused) by lithium-ion batteries in toys, toothbrushes, phones and laptops from 01.01.2022 to 31.12.2022
- The number of fires in dustcarts and waste-processing centres fires caused (or thought to be caused) by lithium-ion batteries in toys, toothbrushes, phones and laptops from 01.01.2023 to 30.10.2023

If possible, please can you detail what has caused the fire, or what is thought to have caused the fire so we can identify the source of the fire.



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I would like you to provide this information in an excel document and have the data broken down by month per year so we can see if there are any spikes on particular months over the years. For instance, if there are any spikes in November, December or January when people may be clearing out homes in or around the Christmas period.

Response:

[Lithium Battery Fires - FOI 2023-0079]



Request Number 2023-0080 (Other - Current Fleet List)

Request received on 31 October 2023:

Please can you send me an up to date copy of the vehicle fleet list which includes the stations, reg no, model also are there new builds on order on please send hard copy.

Response:

[RBFRS Fleet List (FOI) - By Station - Nov 23]



November 2023

Request Number 2023-0081 (Statistics - Battery Fires)

Request received on 07 November 2023:

We would like to investigate whether there has been an increase in fires caused by items that contain batteries (including lithium-ion batteries). For instance, toys, laptops, electric toothbrushes etc.

Therefore, under Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations, I would like to request the following information:

- The number of household fires caused (or thought to be caused) by items containing batteries from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021
- The number of household fires caused (or thought to be caused) by items containing batteries from 01.01.2022 to 31.12.2022
- The number of household fires caused (or thought to be caused) by items containing batteries from 01.01.2023 to 30.10.2023
- The number of fires in dustcarts and waste-processing centres fires caused (or thought to be caused) by items containing batteries from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021
- The number of fires in dustcarts and waste-processing centres fires caused (or thought to be caused) by items containing batteries from 01.01.2022 to 31.12.2022
- The number of fires in dustcarts and waste-processing centres fires caused (or thought to be caused) by items containing batteries from 01.01.2023 to 30.10.2023

If possible, please can you detail what has caused the fire, or what is thought to have caused the fire so we can identify the source of the fire.



Information Requests 2023

I would like you to provide this information in an excel document and have the data broken down by month per year so we can see if there are any spikes on particular months over the years. For instance, if there are any spikes in November, December or January when people may be clearing out homes in or around the Christmas period.

Response:

[Battery Fires - FOI 2023-0081]



Request Number 2023-0082 (Statistics - Hoarding)

Request received on 08 November 2023:

I am contacting you because I am trying to find stats relating to hoarded properties, the risks and any services you are providing/have provided over the last two years.

We are a company who have founded a hoarding support service working with clients. We are aware of national statistics but I would like to get hold of stats from my local area.

Do you have anything that can help me?

Response:

1 - Number of Safe & Well visits completed, where hoarding identified, from 01/01/2021 – Current

| Year/Month | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Grand Total |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 2021 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 13 | 17 | 8 | 15 | 11 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 109 |
| 2022 | 11 | 13 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 17 | 113 |
| 2023 | 14 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 1 | 121 |
| Grand Total | 32 | 24 | 20 | 22 | 33 | 39 | 26 | 38 | 28 | 31 | 26 | 24 | 343 |

This shows that across the last three years we identified 343 instances of hoarding properties (level 6 and above), which resulted in that property being flagged as a potential firefighter risk.



2 - Fires in hoarding properties

| Year | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Grand Total |
|----------------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Count of Fires | 5 | 6 | 3 | 14 |
| Injuries | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Deaths | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

We identified 483 properties which had hoarding tags applied to them. Out of these 483 properties, 14 properties have had a fire (none of which reoccurred). The property was either an existing identified hoarding property or was applied a hoarder tag as a result of our investigating the cause of the fire.

Out of the 14 fires that occurred in these properties, 2 resulted in injuries to the resident of the household and zero deaths were recorded.

In relation to your request for a percentage of fires in hoarded properties, unfortunately we don't hold these percentages as it is not something that is required to be reported on.

3 - Services Provided ([Safe and Well Visit | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service \(rbfrs.co.uk\)](https://www.rbfrs.co.uk))

All Safe and Well (S&W) referrals received by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) are scored via the risk to individual stratification matrix (attachment 1). The information taken from the referral form when scored against the matrix, takes into account person, behavioural, and home factors, relating to their risk in relation to fire.



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The risk matrix also takes into account the clutter rating (attachment 2). A clutter rating of 6-9 will increase the individual's score by 30 and a rating of 3-5 will score an additional 15. This ensures we provide a person centred approach.

Once the S&W referral has been scored, RBFRS will allocate to either a S&W technician or fire crew to arrange a S&W visit within timescale.

In the majority of cases, hoarding will be allocated to a S&W technician due to the complexities of the visit.

The technician or fire crew will attempt to make direct contact with the individual or joint visit nominee as appropriate to arrange a suitable time to visit. The visit can be conducted with a family member/trusted person and or a representative from an agency i.e. social worker, carer.

Where direct contact cannot be made, RBFRS Community Safety Advisers will contact the referring agency to gain further information or to arrange a joint visit. If the referral was not received by an agency and contact cannot be made, the details will be passed to RBFRS Safeguarding team to follow up.

At the visit, the technician will complete the S&W visit and discuss the outcomes with the individual and their representative. In the case of hoarding, a sensitive approach will be taken and advice will be given to prioritise fire safety risks.

- Example one – removal of flammable materials that are close to any heat source.
- Example two – a clear escape route from the property.

The above are examples as individual risks will be different depending on clutter rating, the layout of the property and individual behaviours.

At the conclusion of the visit a revisit will be arranged to check on progress and to update the priority of risk. The revisit can be arranged at one, three or six months. The time period would be at the discretion of the person carrying out the visit, the individual and agency if in attendance.



Following the visit, and where appropriate, the technician or fire crew will safeguard via our internal safeguarding.

To conclude:

- Clutter scale is taken into account when scoring against the risk stratification matrix
- A person centred approach is taken at all S&W visits
- A priority plan will be advised to reduce the risk of fire
- A revisit will be planned for one, three or six month intervals – the revisits will continue until the risk to fire has been reduced
- A safeguarding referral will be made where deemed appropriate

In addition to the above, RBFRS technicians have received additional training regarding hoarding and have completed Mental Health first aid course.

[FOIR Attachment 1 – Risk to Individual Stratification Matrix.pdf]

[FOIR Attachment 2 - Clutter Rating.pdf]



Request Number 2023-0083 (Incidents - Flooding in Properties)

Request received on 07 November 2023:

Do the RBFRS record call outs to flooded properties, and is this data shareable please? If so, what is the route to record this please?

This information would be used as part of the Section 19 investigation we are required to undertake following flooding. In this case specifically, March 2023 surface water event. *

Clarification sought from applicant who confirmed - I believe that the specific dates regarding the flooding incident are 31st March 2023 to 2nd April 2023.

* part of this request has been redacted as it details organisational information.

Response:

I can confirm that RBFRS record 'flooding' call outs – please see below results data based on your requested criteria.

| Incident No | Month | Calendar Year | Map Ref E | Map Ref N | Revised Incident Type | Unitary Authority |
|-------------|-------|---------------|-----------|-----------|--|-------------------|
| 50916 | 3 | 2023 | 475959 | 175015 | S6.0.0.P SPECIAL SERVICE - INTERNAL FLOODING | WOKINGHAM |

| Address | Postcode | Closure Message | Incident Category | Special Service Type | Property Type |
|---|----------|--|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| SONNING C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL, SONNING CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIGUGE WAY, SONNING, RG4 6XF | RG46XF | RAIN WATER DIVERTED AND NO LONGER AFFECTING SCHOOL | Special Service | Pumping out | Education – Primary School (includes Infant, Junior, Middle & Private Prep) |

Please note, we have used Wokingham Unitary Authority area only in our search criteria, any non-surface water related incidents have been excluded and the timeframe used was March & April 2023 (as provided by your colleague).



Request Number 2023-0084 (Statistics - Wildfires 2017 - Current)

Request received on 09 November 2023:

Can I please request, in the form of a spreadsheet such as Excel or CSV file, information on wildfires attended by the fire and rescue service.

1. I would like the total number of wildfires recorded by the fire and rescue service, broken down by month, for the calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (to date).
2. In a separate tab I would like details of each wildfire incident. Please include:
 - Date of incident
 - Time of day incident reported
 - Incident duration (minutes)
 - Location (please include longitude and latitude and local authority if available)
 - Cause of wildfire (if available)
 - Size of area damaged by wildfire (square meters if available)
 - Total number of buildings affected
 - Total number of dwellings affected
 - Total number of firefighters injured, seriously injured or killed

Response:

[FOI - 2023-0084 - Wildfires]



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Request Number 2023-0085 (Incidents - Hayloft House - RG2 9YS - November 2023)

Request received on 15 November 2023:

We are Insurance Loss Adjusters acting for the Insurers of Crest Nicholson Plc, the original developers of a residential apartment building called 'Hayloft House' on Arbourfield Green, in Wokingham, Berkshire. Following a fire at Hayloft House on 15th April 2021, we understand that Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service prepared a fire investigation report which we understand to have been dated 1st December 2021.

We would like to obtain a copy of this Report, along with copies of ALL and any other reports (e.g. preliminary or interim reports), attendance records, etc. prepared by the fire brigade in respect of this incident. The reason we require this information is to assist with an insurance claim investigation following notification of the incident by Crest Nicholson to their Insurers.

If there is a charge applicable for this information, please confirm the cost and preferred payment method and we can make arrangements to issue funds covering the fee.

It would be very helpful to receive this information as soon as possible, and therefore if you are able to expedite provision of the Report that would be greatly appreciated.

Response:

[2023-0085]

All files from FOI 0056 (18 in total), two report files from FOI 0073, IRS Report and Fire Investigation Report.

In total 22 files were sent.



Request Number 2023-0086 (Incidents - Strande Park, Cookham)

Request received on 27 November 2023:

I hope you can help me with a query about the Strande Park mobile home site Cookham. *

There has recently been a change of ownership and at short notice the hedges and fences were removed as the hedges were over one metre and it's claimed the fences brought the homes within six metres.

I wonder if you can please tell me if the fire service carries out inspections of this mobile home site and if there had been any issues raised about this.

If you do carry out inspections it would be helpful to know when the last one was.

It would be great to chat to someone about this if there was anyone available. Not for broadcast but for background.

* part of this request has been redacted as it details the organisation requesting the information.

Response:

There are model standards for caravan sites in England, issued by the Communities and local government department. The caravan site model standards details the fire safety requirements for caravan sites.

The Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order applies to caravan sites and the licencing authority for caravan sites is Royal Borough of Maidenhead and Windsor. They may consult Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) if they require any support or advice about site fire safety arrangements.

A fire safety inspection was carried out 14 June 2018 which resulted in RBFRS issuing a fire safety letter informing the management that the site had reasonable fire safety arrangements. I attach a redacted copy of this letter [Fire Safety Inspection Letter - Redacted.pdf].

We also carried out a goodwill site inspection on 25 March 2022 to give advice on designating fire assembly points.



Request Number 2023-0087 (Premises - The Ring, Bracknell)

Request received on 29 November 2023:

We would like to request information regarding Circa in Bracknell. The address is as follows:

Circa,
The Ring,
Bracknell
RG12 1DL

We make a request for any documents that you have in your possession relating to this collection of 69 studio, one and two bedroom apartments.

Clarification email sent as request too broad - email response received specifying the following information:

- Fire safety information.
- Fire incidents information.
- Fire Risk Assessments.
- Fire Safety Audit Information.
- Operational Risk Database.
- Notices of deficiency issued.

Response:

Following a response from the appropriate departments, I am pleased to be able to provide you with the information you have requested.

With regard to the redaction, this applies to building security and data protected material in accordance with Regulations 12(5)(a) and 12(3) and 13 of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, as well as the Principles of the Data Protection Legislation. I am unable to disclose these details as release would affect public safety and as some constitutes Personal Data (of which you are not the data subject), to release this may identify individuals and contravene the Data Protection Principles and subsequently breach the Data Protection Legislation.

Please note, the documentation attached may be subject to intellectual property right or copyright laws and belongs to company name supplied. Authorisation to re-use copyright material belonging to any third parties should be sought from the copyright holders concerned.



Request Number 2023-0088 (Statistics - Councillor Complaints)

Request received on 29 November 2023:

I am writing to submit a formal request for information under the Freedom of Information. I am seeking information regarding complaints lodged against councillors, their handling, and the outcomes of such complaints.

Time Frame: Please provide details of complaints made against councillors within the last 5 years

Types of Complaints: Specify the types of complaints (misconduct, ethical violations, etc.) and the corresponding details.

Handling of Complaints: Outline the procedures followed in handling these complaints.

Outcomes: Provide information on the outcomes of each complaint, including any disciplinary actions taken.

Source of Complaints: Indicate whether the complaints were raised by members of the public or serving officers of the brigade, both grey and green book.

Names of Councillors: include the names of councillors involved in these complaints.

Response:

I can confirm that in the last five years, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) have received one complaint against a councillor. The complaint was made by a green book member of staff relating to respect and/or bullying, harassment and discrimination. The complaint had an informal resolution. The name of the parties involved have been withheld under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - disclosure of that personal data would contravene the Data Protection Principles and subsequently breach the Data Protection Legislation. Please see the attached document 'How to make a complaint about a Fire Authority Member' for information on our process for handling Fire Authority complaints.

[How to make a complaint about a Fire Authority Member]



December 2023

Request Number 2023-0089 (Employee Related - Sick Leave)

Request received on 01 December 2023:

Can I please request the number of firefighters employed by the authority which are currently on long term sick leave?

If specifically firefighters is not possible, just total staff employed by the authority would be good.

Response:

I can confirm that Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) currently has 10 Wholetime Firefighters off on long term sickness.



Request Number 2023-0090 (Business - Print Management & Energy Consumption)

Request received on 04 December 2023:

I would be very grateful if you would provide me with answers for the following questions regarding your carbon goals and printer agreements through the organisation:

- What is the current average energy charge within the organisation (kW hour)?
- What Carbon reduction goals are in place within the organisation?
- What is the contact email for the person who deals with sustainability and ESG matters within the organisation?
- Do you lease/rent or Purchase your MFD's/Photocopiers?
- Who is your current supplier?
- What is the current number of MFD's/Photocopiers within the organisation
- What make/model are the MFDs/Photocopiers
- What is the total mono print volume for the MFD's/Photocopiers
- What is the total colour print volume for the MFD's/Photocopiers
- What is the approximate spend on service over the last 12 months?
- When does the Rental and or service agreement end for the MFDs/photocopiers, and what was the original contract term?
- Do you lease/rent or Purchase your desktop printers?
- Who is the current supplier?
- What is the current number of desktop printers within the organisation?
- What make/model are the desktop printers
- What is the total mono print volume for the desktop printers
- What is the total colour print volume for the desktop printers?
- What is the approximate spend on service over the last 12 months?
- When does the rental and or service agreement end for the desktop printers, and what was the original contract term?
- What is the contact email for the person who deals with the printer and MFD contracts?



Response:

1. What is the current average energy charge within the organisation (kW hour)?

Gas 7.83p per KWH per unit and Electricity (via Laser) 28.497p per KWH unit. However at our headquarters our electricity is supplied via EDF, for which the current rate is an average of 33p per KWH per unit. This is made up as day rate of 34.7p and night rate of 25.6p. In addition to these charges we pay Climate Change Levy (CCL) once usage is above a certain amount –this is charged at 0.0775p per KWH (on either gas or electricity). For example the gas rate when CCL is added would become 7.9p

2. What Carbon reduction goals are in place within the organisation?

The following projects are in place:

- LED Lighting
- Solar PV
- Heat Decarbonisation (Includes LED Lighting, Solar PV, Air source Heat Pumps, Fabric Upgrades, BMS systems) This is subject to funding but I believe that even if the funding doesn't go ahead, there will be a discussion as to whether any of this can be done through RBFPS core funding.
- EV Infrastructure (no further details available at this time)

There will also be a sustainability and environment strategy that will be developed and this will have further detail around targets and measurable actions.

3. What is the contact email for the person who deals with sustainability and ESG matters within the organisation? Head of Assets (Estates, Fleet & Equipment) - contact details provided
4. Do you lease/rent or Purchase your MFD's/Photocopiers? Rent
5. Who is your current supplier? Konica Minolta



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6. What is the current number of MFD's/Photocopiers within the organisation? 38
7. What make/model are the MFDs/Photocopiers? Bizhub C258, C454e, C554e, C654e, C3350, C3351 & C250i
8. What is the total mono print volume for the MFD's/Photocopiers? For the period 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023 there were 306,124 black & white pages printed
9. What is the total colour print volume for the MFD's/Photocopiers? For the period 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023 there were 364,629 colour pages printed. Further information relating to our printing facilities can be found on our website on the '[Request Disclosure Logs](#)', see request number 0043 within the 'Jan-Dec 2023' PDF
10. What is the approximate spend on service over the last 12 months? £16,780 rental and £10,000 click charges estimated (includes ink but not paper)
11. When does the Rental and or service agreement end for the MFDs/photocopiers, and what was the original contract term? Please refer to the 'Contracts Register' available on our website under [Selling to RBFRS](#), see contract number 1031

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) do not use desktop printers, therefore the following questions have not been answered.

12. Do you lease/rent or Purchase your desktop printers?
13. Who is the current supplier?
14. What is the current number of desktop printers within the organisation?
15. What make/model are the desktop printers
16. What is the total mono print volume for the desktop printers
17. What is the total colour print volume for the desktop printers?



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18. What is the approximate spend on service over the last 12 months?
19. When does the rental and or service agreement end for the desktop printers, and what was the original contract term?
20. What is the contact email for the person who deals with the printer and MFD contracts?



Request Number 2023-0091 (Statistics - Electrical Hazard Fires (2020-2023))

Request received on 06 December 2023:

Please could you list all of the call outs made to domestic homes and businesses due to fires related to electrical hazards between December 2020 – 1st December 2023.

Please may I request that information follow the below outline:

1. Call out number
2. Date of call out e.g. 16 June 2023 or 16/06/23
3. Category/cause of emergency e.g. fire caused by portable heater, electrical shock etc. Or equivalent breakdown
4. Related to electrics (Yes/No) - please specify if the incident was related to electricity/electrical issues.
5. Category of location e.g. Domestic / Business
6. Type of call out (e.g. category 1, 2,3 etc)
7. Result of call out (e.g. fatal/non-fatal, sustained injuries etc Or equivalent breakdown)

See example table attached. You can supply your responses in this format if suitable.

I require the information via email within 20 working days, if it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

Response:

[FOI 2023-0091 - Summary data]



Request received on 08 December 2023:

Alongside the responses of Wokingham Borough and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to our original request concerning the potential of an EIA, I also attach (within the following WeTransfer link):

- The planning appeal decisions referenced in the requests to Wokingham Borough and the Department for Levelling Up are also within the WeTransfer link.

To Royal Berks Fire & Rescue

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Overall conclusions

As detailed, these requests have been submitted in order to inform the preparation of the EIA for the development which taking account of the screening decisions is to be focused around potential human health impacts as a result of proximity to AWE Burghfield.

Please note only the parts of the request that are relevant to RBFRS have been included.

Response:

1) What plans do you have to manage (advice, select for monitoring, monitor, decontaminate) members of the public (a) potentially contaminated with plutonium or other alpha-emitters? and (b) worried but obviously unlikely to be contaminated?

The Thames Valley and Hampshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) CBRN and Hazmat Plan would be used in conjunction with the appropriate AWE Offsite Plan and its dependencies would form the basis of a response. The mechanics of decontamination and monitoring would be governed by Initial Operational Response, Mass Decontamination and Radiation Monitoring Plans.

Thames Valley and Hampshire LRF CBRN and Hazmat Plan (*Official Sensitive owned by LRF*)

Thames Valley Local Health Resilience Partnership and Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum: Mass Casualty Framework (*Official Sensitive owned by LRF*)

Thames Valley and Hampshire LRF Radiation Monitoring Unit Plan Standard Operating Procedure (*Official Sensitive owned by LRF*)

AWE Off-Site Emergency Plan (*Official Sensitive owned by West Berkshire Council*)

The Joint Operating Principles for Initial Operational Response are publicly available on the [JESIP website](#)

2) What plans do you have for authorizing your staff to enter and operate within an area subject to shelter advise in the event of an incident?

Operating in a potentially contaminated area would be subject to the provisions of RBFRS Operational Information Note 'OIN-TV-614 Radiation Incidents'. This aligns to Fire and Rescue National Operational Guidance.



3) What training do you provide to your staff to prepare them to respond appropriately to an incident at AWE Burghfield?

Operational crews receive training during initial training on responding to hazardous materials incidents, this includes incidents involving radiation. They then maintain their knowledge and skills through the Operational Training Planner by completing modules on a risk assessed repeat time period. These modules are aligned to National Operational Guidance and cover:

Contaminated or exposed members of the public

Contaminated responders

Environmental harm

Exposure of responders to hazardous materials

Hazardous Materials incident closure and handover

Release or spill of hazardous materials

A cadre of officers are trained as Hazardous Material Advisors through the Fire Service College. Of those, a number are then trained as detection, identification and monitoring officers.

Crews local to AWE premises will complete familiarisation visits. Operational crews also attend multi agency exercising to test local response arrangements.



Request Number 2023-0093 (Procedures - Fire Alarm Activations)

Request received on 15 December 2023:

Could you kindly let me have a copy of the current response guidelines that include reference to whether or not human visual confirmation or not is required for RBFRS to attend non dwelling fire alarm activations. (West Mids Fire Service requires this - I know others are moving to this model due to the incidence of nuisance alarms). My reason for this request (happy to have a short chat if easier for your goodselves) is that I am a witness needing to include this in a report regarding a fire, where you were only called once the fire had essentially burnt itself out - there are absolutely no issues with yourselves, the issue is with the non-activation of the fire alarm signalling to an independent alarm receiving centre outside of Berkshire.

Please note parts of the request have been removed as it contains personal information relating to the applicant.

Response:

I attach a redacted PDF – ‘TVFCS Automatic Fire Alarms Mobilising General Protocol’. Further information relating to this subject can be found on our website – please use the following links: [Automatic Fire Alarm Consultation | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service \(rbfrs.co.uk\)](https://rbfrs.co.uk/automatic-fire-alarm-consultation/) and [Reducing False Alarms | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service \(rbfrs.co.uk\)](https://rbfrs.co.uk/reducing-false-alarms/).

Please note the consultation exercise is now closed and a decision was reached – this has been implemented and forms part of the protocol PDF attached.

[‘TVFCS Automatic Fire Alarms Mobilising General Protocol’]



Request Number 2023-0094 (Statistics: Bariatric Incidents)

Request received on 23 December 2023:

Could you please tell me how many call outs you received to move Bariatric or obese people from their homes or to rescue them during the following calendar years: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019?

Would it be possible to reveal whether you were called to assist the ambulance service or the police, or whether you received a call directly from the person's home?

Would you be able to list the gender of the people you moved?

Where possible – could you please reveal the age of the youngest and oldest person that you would called to assist?

Response:

Number of times RBFPS have been called out to attend to assist as special services for a Bariatric person:

| Calendar Year | Number of times RBFPS have been called out to attend to assist as special services for a Bariatric person: |
|---------------|--|
| 2019 | 57 |
| 2020 | 45 |
| 2021 | 70 |
| 2022 | 75 |
| 2023 | 46 |



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Reasons for Call to Assist:

| Calendar Year | Any call via ambulance control | Other | Running call to a station | Police | Any call via the 999 operator | Total incidents |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2019 | - | 57 | - | - | - | 57 |
| 2020 | - | 45 | - | - | - | 45 |
| 2021 | - | 70 | - | - | - | 70 |
| 2022 | - | 75 | - | - | - | 75 |
| 2023 | - | 46 | - | - | - | 46 |

Breakdowns by gender and age:

There are incidents recorded as attended to where gender or age detail has not been recorded or is Unknown.

The below figures are a breakdown of incidents attended by gender including those confirmed as recorded as Male, Female or NULL.

Number of times RBFPS have been called out to attend to assist a Bariatric person categorised by Male or Female gender:

| Calendar Year | Female | Male | NULL |
|---------------|--------|------|------|
| 2019 | 23 | 19 | 15 |
| 2020 | 14 | 24 | 7 |
| 2021 | 29 | 31 | 10 |
| 2022 | 37 | 27 | 11 |
| 2023 | 17 | 19 | 10 |



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Youngest and Oldest age of a Bariatric person attended to by RBFRS, by Male or Female gender:

| Gender/Age | Youngest | Oldest |
|------------|----------|----------|
| Female | 22 years | 86 years |
| Male | 21 years | 90 years |

Please note that some IRS Reports are still in the course of completion and consequently, information may slightly vary/change for 2023. Additionally, due to new search criteria abilities, the figures provided may vary from previous disclosed historical data.



Request Number 2023-0095 (Contracts Register, Procurement Strategy Plan, API & Section 151 Officer responsibility)

Request received on 27 December 2023:

I would like to submit a request for some information from the organisation, in relation to their contract's register.

The FULL contract register should display all the organisations existing/live contracts I would like the register to include the following columns/headings:

1. Contract Reference -Unique reference number associated with the contract.
2. Contract Title
3. Procurement Category –Please state the category name of the contract, I wish to know the category the contract is under.
4. Supplier Name
5. Spend (Total, Annual or contract value)
6. Contract's Duration
7. Contract's Extensions
8. Contract's Start Date
9. Contract's Expiry Date
10. Contract Description [Please provide me with as much detail as possible.]
11. Contact Owner (Person that manages the contract register)
12. Contact details of section 151 officer
13. CPV codes/Pro-Class



Procurement Strategy Plan

Please attach the procurement strategy plan along with the contract register.

Contract Data/API Contact Details

1. Can you also provide me with contact details of the person responsible for the actual contract's register and someone responsible for API? [Name, Job Title, Telephone, Email Address] At the very least provide me with their actual job title.

(Meaning of API "a set of functions and procedures that allow the creation of applications which access the features or data of an operating system, application, or other service.")

IMPORTANT

1. If the organisation has a CRM system or a similar system, there should be a facility to download and extract contract data.
2. You may forward me a Weblink to a portal to download the contract register, please make sure all the organisation's contracts are provided as doing prior research I have found that most organisations have only uploaded a small portion of all their contracts.
3. For those organisations planning to make an exemption around spend, the spend information I have requested is an overall figure and I am not requesting a complete breakdown of services relating to the spend.

Please provide me with the contract's register file in an excel format.

Response:

I am pleased to advise you our contract register is reasonable accessible to you as it is publicly available on our Website, under selling to RBFRS ([Selling to RBFRS | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service](#)).



Information Requests 2023

Please find attached a copy of our current Procurement and Contract Management Strategy.

Our section 151 officer is Conor Byrne, Head of Finance and Procurement Services - 0118 9452888.

Our Procurement Team is responsible for updating the contract register – procurementenquiries@rbfrs.co.uk.

No person within RBFRS has overall responsibility for API. We use suppliers or industry standard APIs to ensure compatibility.



Information Requests 2023

Request Number 2023-0096 (Translation, Interpretation and language services costs)

Request received on 29 December 2023:

Please provide me with the following information for the financial years 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23.

All expenditure made by your organisation, in every facet of its operations and purview, on translation, interpretation, and language services.

Please provide the aggregated total spent by your organisation and then, if possible, please provide this broken down by particular function for which the service was carried out.

Response:

| Supplier Name | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | Department |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Language Line Solutions | | 74.52 | 34.02 | Control |
| Translation Empire | | 2721.60 | | Communications |
| TOTALS | 0 | 2796.12 | 34.02 | |

paid with Procurement Card

one off paid via BACS



Request Number 2023-0097 (Statistics: Lift Incidents)

Request received on 29 December 2023:

1) How many times was the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service called out to lift/elevator-related incidents in 2023? (1st Jan-31st Dec)

1a) How many of these total call outs required the fire service to rescue, or help to rescue, one or more parties stuck in a lift/elevator?

1b) How many of these total call outs were deemed as an emergency by the fire service?

1c) How many of these total call outs were deemed as a non-emergency by the fire service?

2) How many times was the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service called out to lift/elevator-related incidents in 2022? (1st Jan-31st Dec)

2a) How many of these total call outs required the fire service to rescue, or help to rescue, one or more parties stuck in a lift/elevator?

2b) How many of these total call outs were deemed as an emergency by the fire service?

2c) How many of these total call outs were deemed as a non-emergency by the fire service?

Response:

1) 220 - 1a) 213 - 1b) 220 - 1c) N/A*

2) 251 - 2a) 241 - 2b) 251 - 2c) N/A*

* Lift incidents are all classed as emergency. When RBFRS have been called to, mobilised and responded to an incident, such incidents are categorised as an emergency.