



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 2024

Request Number 2023-0098 (Fires involving E-Bikes and E-Scooters in 2023)

Request received on 02 January 2024:

Q1) Between January 1st 2023 - December 31st 2023, how many fires were suspected of being **caused** by faulty e-bike or e-scooter batteries by your fire service?

Q2) How many **injuries** occurred as a result of these fires?

Q3) How many **deaths** occurred as a result from these fires?

Response:

Q1) Between January 1st 2023 - December 31st 2023, how many fires were suspected of being caused by faulty e-bike or e-scooter batteries by your fire service?

Number of fires suspected of being caused by faulty e-bikes/scooters in 2023:

Month	Number of Incidents involving e-bikes/scooters during 2023:
January	0
February	2
March	0
April	3
May	1
June	1
July	2



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Month	Number of Incidents involving e-bikes/scooters during 2023:
August	0
September	1
October	2
November	1
December	1
Total	14

Q2) How many injuries occurred as a result of these fires?

Q3) How many deaths occurred as a result from these fires?

Number of Injuries/Fatalities caused by e-bike/scooter Fires in 2023:

Injury Type	Incidents	Individuals
Rescued with Injury	4	5
Rescued without Injury	1	1
No Injuries/Intervention	9	9
Fatalities	0	0



Request Number 2023-0099 (Site Visit Report - Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading [2021])

Request received on 02 January 2024:

Following an incident on the 13/05/2021 (RBFRS not in attendance), NHS England invited RBFRS to help form a report and recommendations on the system and impacts on attending a future incident - Request copy of that report.

Response:

Following a response from our Fire Safety Department, I can confirm that whilst an independent report from NHS England in relation to the incident and equipment has been mentioned in correspondence, we do not hold a copy of the report. We would suggest contacting the Principal Engineer of the NHS Estates (NHS England and NHS Improvement - Commercial Directorate), who may hold more information.



Request Number 2023-0100 (Fire Safety: School Road, Barkham, Wokingham)

Request received on 05 January 2024:

Copy of a letter from RBFRS dated 2003 or the early part of 2004 relating to School Road, Barkham, Wokingham.

Response:

Following a response from the relevant departments, I can confirm that we are unable to comply with your request as Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service do not hold the information.

Please be aware that as the requested information is at least twenty years old and not an ongoing matter, it would have been destroyed in accordance with our Fire Safety records (including enforcement case files and prosecution cases) retention period, which is six years from the date of the last action.



Request Number 2023-0101 (Contracts - Telephone Maintenance)

Request received on 10 January 2024:

The information that I require relates to a specific telephone maintenance contract.

The contract information sent by the organisation previously has now expired please can you provide me with a new update of the telephone maintenance contract:

Please can you send me the following contract information with regards to the organisation's telephone system maintenance contract (VOIP or PBX, other) for hardware and Software maintenance and support if all the information is still the same besides the contracts dates please send just the new contract dates. It would be much appreciated.

1. Contract Type: Maintenance, Managed, shared (If so, please state orgs)
2. Existing Supplier: If there is more than one supplier, please split each contract up individually.
3. Annual Average Spend: The annual average spends for this contract and please provide the average spend over the past 3 years for each provider
4. Hardware Brand: The primary hardware brand of the organisation's telephone system.
5. Number of telephone users:
6. Contract Duration: please include any extension periods.
7. Contract Expiry Date: Please provide me with the day/month/year.
8. Contract Review Date: Please provide me with the day/month/year.
9. Application(s) running on PBX/VOIP systems: Applications that run on the actual PBX or VOIP system. E.g., Contact Centre, Communication Manager.



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10. Telephone System Type: PBX, VOIP, Lync etc
11. Contract Description: Please provide me with a brief description of the overall service provided under this contract.
12. Go to Market: How where these services procured, please provide me with either the tender notice or the framework reference number. Please specify if procured through other routes.
13. Contact Detail: Of the person from within the organisation responsible for each contract full Contact details including full name, job title, direct contact number and direct email address.

If the service support area has more than one provider for telephone maintenance, then can you please split each contract up individually for each provider.

If the contract is a managed service or is a contract that provides more than just telephone maintenance, please can you send me all the information specified above including the person from within the organisation responsible for that particular contract.

If the maintenance for telephone systems is maintained in-house, please can you provide me with:

1. Number of telephone Users:
2. Hardware Brand: The primary hardware brand of the organisation's telephone system.
3. Application(s) running on PBX/VOIP systems: Applications that run on the actual PBX or VOIP system. E.g., Contact Centre, Communication Manager.
4. Contact Detail: Of the person from with the organisation responsible for telephone maintenance full Contact details including full name, job title, direct contact number and direct email address.

Also, if the contract is due to expire, please provide me with the likely outcome of the expiring contract. If this is a new contract or a new supplier, please can you provide me with a short list of suppliers that bid on this service/support contract?



Response:

1. Contract Type: Maintenance, Managed, shared (If so, please state orgs)? **Maintenance**
2. Existing Supplier: If there is more than one supplier, please split each contract up individually. **Vodafone**
3. Annual Average Spend: The annual average spends for this contract and please provide the average spend over the past 3 years for each provider? **£18,000**
4. Hardware Brand: The primary hardware brand of the organisation's telephone system. **Avaya**
5. Number of telephone users: **Approximately 200**
6. Contract Duration: please include any extension periods. **2 years**
7. Contract Expiry Date: Please provide me with the day/month/year. **31 March 2025**
8. Contract Review Date: Please provide me with the day/month/year. **November 2024**
9. Application(s) running on PBX/VOIP systems: Applications that run on the actual PBX or VOIP system. E.g., Contact Centre, Communication Manager. **Call Manager 8**
10. Telephone System Type: PBX, VOIP, Lync etc. **VOIP**
11. Contract Description: Please provide me with a brief description of the overall service provided under this contract. **Maintenance and software assurance**



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12. Go to Market: How were these services procured, please provide me with either the tender notice or the framework reference number. Please specify if procured through other routes.

3 quotes process

13. Contact Detail: Of the person from within the organisation responsible for each contract, full contact details including full name, job title, direct contact number and direct email address.

Contact details provided for the ICT Service Delivery Manager

You may also be interested to know that our Contracts Register is available via our website: [Selling to RBFRS | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service](#).



Request Number 2023-0102 (Statistics/Information - Fires involving Lithium-ion Batteries)

Request received on 10 January 2024:

1. How may fires have your Service attended which involved electric or Hybrid vehicles powered by lithium-ion batteries between the following dates 1/1/21 – 1/11/23?
2. Of these fires attended in how many of these was the cause recorded as a fault on the lithium-ion battery?
3. Of the fires attended how many involved the lithium battery cells?
4. Have your Service developed specific operational procedures for dealing with fires involving lithium-ion batteries?
5. Have your service purchased any specific equipment/extinguishing/PPE agents to deal with fires involving lithium-ion batteries?
6. Does your Service provide specific training to operational crews who may be called to fires involving lithium-ion batteries?
7. Where lithium-ion batteries are involved in RTA's persons trapped, do you adopt any specific measures to isolate the potential battery ignition risk?
8. Have your Service initiated any specific information gathering exercise on fires attended involving lithium ion batteries?

Response:

1. How may fires have your Service attended which involved electric or Hybrid vehicles powered by lithium-ion batteries between the following dates 1/1/21 – 1/11/23?
Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) responded and attended to 40 incidents of electric/hybrid vehicles, across Berkshire during calendar year 2021 to end of 2023.



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2. Of these fires attended in how many of these was the cause recorded as a fault on the lithium-ion battery?
Out of 40 incidents where RBFRS attended electric/hybrid vehicle fires, 30 incidents have a recorded cause of Lithium-ion Battery.
3. Of the fires attended how many involved the lithium battery cells?
We do not consistently record specific details on the lithium battery cells, so cannot answer this question with accuracy.
4. Have your Service developed specific operational procedures for dealing with fires involving lithium-ion batteries?
RBFRS have developed procedures for dealing with lithium-ion battery fires, for this type of incident, the incident commander will request a Hazardous Materials Advisor (HMA), unless one has already been mobilised as part of the pre-determined attendance and obtain specialist guidance to inform their tactical plan. This is in line with the National Operational Guidance approach of identifying hazards and implementing control measures on a case by case basis. Please see attached the two most relevant guidance documents, which are available to crews on our intranet and on the incident ground via appliance mounted mobile data terminals (Note: the links to National Operational Guidance are currently broken due to its migration from UKFRS.com to the NFCC site – comms regarding this are ongoing with NFCC).
[OIN-TV-404 Hybrid Electric Vehicles (v2.0)(13 May 2021).pdf]
[OIN-TV-413 Lithium-Ion Batteries (v1.0)(16 May 2021).pdf]
5. Have your service purchased any specific equipment/extinguishing/PPE agents to deal with fires involving lithium-ion batteries?
We have not bought any specific equipment for Lithium-ion battery fires.
6. Does your Service provide specific training to operational crews who may be called to fires involving lithium-ion batteries?
We provide an operational information note on fires involving Lithium-ION Batteries. We have a Learning Management System (LMS) package on new vehicle technology, which identifies the hazards presented by alternative fuels in modern vehicles. We have an LMS package on vehicle fires involving alternative fuels, covering hazards, control measures and operational considerations. Our competency framework, the Operational Training Planner has National Operational Guidance aligned modules that cover Electric Vehicles, Rechargeable Batteries (including Lithium-ion) and Roadway Incidents.



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7. Where lithium-ion batteries are involved in RTA's persons trapped, do you adopt any specific measures to isolate the potential battery ignition risk?
Crews are always expected to isolate batteries as per the *Service Procedure* section in OIN-TV-404 Hybrid/Electric Vehicles. The Incident Commander would then consider the relevant hazards aligned to our published guidance and operational training programme in relation to this incident type.
8. Have your Service initiated any specific information gathering exercise on fires attended involving lithium- ion batteries?
RBFRS are currently collating information about all incidents involving e-bikes/scooters to help shape our Prevention and Protection activities regarding the risk and we are also providing returns to the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) for their data gathering and research into improving the sector.



Request Number 2023-0103 (Social Media Management and Social Listening/Media Monitoring)

Request received on 10 January 2024:

- 1) Do you use a social media management platform?
- 2) If so, what tools do you use?
- 3) How much do you spend annually on a Social media management tool?
- 4) Which month & year does your contract with your supplier end?
- 5) Do you use a social listening / media monitoring platform?
- 6) If so, what tools do you use?
- 7) How much do you spend annually on a social listening / media monitoring tool?
- 8) Which month & year does your contract with your supplier end?
- 9) Who is the senior officer in charge of these contracts?

Response:

- 1) Do you use a social media management platform? Yes
- 2) If so, what tools do you use? Hootsuite
- 3) How much do you spend annually on a Social media management tool? £1,068
- 4) Which month & year does your contract with your supplier end? Annual contract. Renewal month is February 2024.
- 5) Do you use a social listening / media monitoring platform? We use Hootsuite to monitor social media.



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- 6) If so, what tools do you use? As above.
- 7) How much do you spend annually on a social listening / media monitoring tool? As above.
- 8) Which month & year does your contract with your supplier end? As above.
- 9) Who is the senior officer in charge of these contracts? Paul Bremble, Area Manager Head of Corporate Services.



Request Number 2023-0104 (Bariatric Incidents)

Request received on 11 January 2024:

1. How many callouts has the service attended for a plus size patient either in an evacuation process or to assist them with movement in their home or hospital between 1st January to 31st December in 2022 and January 1st to 31st December 2023?
2. For callouts involving plus-size patients, how many vehicles attend the scene?
3. In instances of callouts to plus-size patients, how many staff members are typically present on a vehicle?
4. If a callout to a plus-size patient occurs, who covers the watch during that time?
5. In the period of Jan to Dec 2022 and Jan to Dec 2023, did any members of staff go off from work injured due to moving a plus-size patient, if so, how many?
6. If a callout to assist in moving a plus-size patient happens, who is responsible for covering the associated service costs?
7. Does your service have equipment to facilitate and support moving a plus-size patient?
8. Has your service seen an increase in activity for supporting Plus-size patients?
9. Does your service believe there is a growing need for a service to facilitate moving plus-size patients

Response:

1. **How many callouts has the service attended for a plus size patient either in an evacuation process or to assist them with movement in their home or hospital between 1st January to 31st December in 2022 and January 1st to 31st December 2023?**



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Calendar Year	Count of Incidents
2022	74
2023	45
Grand Total	119

NOTE: Number of callouts will include over the border (OTB) incidents that RBFRS has attended to. The number of callouts will also include false alarms where a crew has gone out to the incident before deeming that they were not needed.

2. For callouts involving plus-size patients, how many vehicles attend the scene?

Calendar Year	Average Appliances in Attendance
2022	2.5
2023	2.7
Grand Total	2.6

NOTE: Number of vehicles in attendance will include any over the border (OTB), RBFRS appliances and officers in attendance.

3. In instances of callouts to plus-size patients, how many staff members are typically present on a vehicle?

The amount of crew required (as a minimum) per pumping appliance or rescue unit is 4 firefighters, any Officers that attend are using RBFRS small vehicles and usually attend individually. Multiple pumps/rescue units or officers can attend these incidents if deemed necessary.

4. If a callout to a plus-size patient occurs, who covers the watch during that time?

As per the normal service global emergency cover arrangements we will move our resources to meet the risks across the county.



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5. In the period of Jan to Dec 2022 and Jan to Dec 2023, did any members of staff go off from work injured due to moving a plus-size patient, if so, how many?

We had one injury reported during this period whilst a member of staff was assisting with moving a bariatric casualty.

6. If a callout to assist in moving a plus-size patient happens, who is responsible for covering the associated service costs?

This type of callout is deemed a non-chargeable special service as RBFRS only support requests from South Central Ambulance Service or Thames Valley Police where there is a risk to life or health, or specialist Fire and Rescue Service equipment or knowledge is required.

7. Does your service have equipment to facilitate and support moving a plus-size patient?

Yes

8. Has your service seen an increase in activity for supporting Plus-size patients?

RBFRS has seen an increase in Bariatric incidents, which peaked in 2021 and 2022. We believe the contributing factors include:

- Standard of Recording – we have continually improved the recording of Bariatric incidents, which in turn has helped us identify more incidents.
- Covid Pandemic – during 2021 and 2022 RBFRS saw an increase of incidents involving “Bariatric Patients”. This could be attributed to the pressure being placed on SCAS during these times.

We can now see a reduction during 2023, which may be incidents normalising to pre-2021 levels.

9. Does your service believe there is a growing need for a service to facilitate moving plus-size patients?

See response above to question 8.



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Request Number 2023-0105 (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Training – Spending & Events)

Request received on 12 January 2024:

I am seeking information relating to the costs of Equality and Diversity Training within the in the 2022 Financial Year.

A list of all official equality, diversity and inclusion events held by Civil Servants in the Department from 1 July 2023-31st December 2023. For these events, please put the date and time scheduled and for how long.

Response:

Request placed on hold - awaiting clarification from the Applicant.



Request Number 2023-0106 (Stonewall)

Request received on 15 January 2024:

1. Is your force is a current member of the Stonewall Diversity Champions scheme?
2. Is your force a current member of the Stonewall Workplace Equality scheme? If so, please provide a copy of the most recent employer feedback report. An example published under FOI can be found here.

<https://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/media/7336/20220803-foi-ref-244-2223-2-of-4.pdf>

3. How much has your force paid to Stonewall for membership of these schemes in the past five years?

Response:

1. Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is not currently a member of the Stonewall Diversity Champions scheme.
2. Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is not currently a member of the Stonewall Workplace Equality Scheme.
3. Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) has paid a total of £5,000 for Stonewall Memberships in the past 5 years.



Request Number 2023-0107 (Energy Management System)

Request received on 18 January 2024:

Please find my request below, which relates to the organisation's contract relating to their energy management system. Not all organisations have an energy management system and if the organisation does not have one, please ignore the contractual part of my request (1-6) and concentrate on questions 7-12.

1. The supplier who provides the software to the organisation?
2. The cost associated with the software. Please provide me with the annual spend.
3. What is the brand of the software?
4. What is the duration of the contract?
5. When does this contract expires?
6. When does the organisation plan to review this contract?
7. Can you please provide me with the contract description of the services provided under the agreement with the supplier? This also includes potential extensions and support and maintenance services.
8. What is the organisation's annual energy spend for the following:
 - a. Electricity
 - b. Gas
 - c. Water
9. What is the total number of meter points for Electricity for:
 - a. Non Half Hourly (NHH) meter points



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b. Half Hourly (HH) meter points

10. What is the total number of Gas meter points?
11. What is the total number of Water meter points?
12. What is the total number of meter points for specialist gases and liquids?
13. Can you please provide me with the contact details of the key person responsible for this contract or around energy management.
14. Can you please send me the organisations' energy management strategy/plan that covers 2018?

Response:

Request **cancelled** by applicant 22 January 2024 – new request submitted, reference 2023-0110.



Request Number 2023-0108 (Contracts - Facilities Management Systems)

Request received on 19 January 2024:

1. Which CAFM/IWMS systems are used in the organisation?
2. When did this contract start and when does it end?
3. What are the organisations plans at the end of contract?
4. What are the contract values?
5. Who is the senior operational contact responsible for this contract and can you provide contact details?
6. Which of the following functionalities does the organisation use? Can you also indicate if these are incorporated within the software system? If no, please elaborate.
 - a. Planned & Reactive Maintenance
 - b. Asset Management
 - c. Property Management
 - d. Lease Agreements
 - e. Health & Safety
 - f. Project Management
 - g. Condition Surveys
7. Are there any limitations with the existing software system? Please elaborate.
8. Are there any upcoming plans for the adoption of new technologies or solutions? Please elaborate.

Response:

1. **Which CAFM/IWMS systems are used in the organisation?**
FireWatch – please note that this is not a CAFM system and RBFRS does not currently employ such software.



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2. **When did this contract start and when does it end?**
01/04/2022 – 31/03/2027
3. **What are the organisations plans at the end of contract?**
We do not hold any information relating to the organisations plans at the end of the contract.
4. **What are the contract values?**
£325,000
5. **Who is the senior operational contact responsible for this contract and can you provide contact details?**
Contact details provided for the ICT Service Delivery Manager.
6. **Which of the following functionalities does the organisation use?**
Can you also indicate if these are incorporated within the software system? If no, please elaborate.
 - a. **Planned & Reactive Maintenance** - Reactive only, within the FireWatch software system
 - b. **Asset Management** - Yes, within the FireWatch software system
 - c. **Property Management** - No
 - d. **Lease Agreements** - No
 - e. **Health & Safety** - No
 - f. **Project Management** - No
 - g. **Condition Surveys** - No
7. **Are there any limitations with the existing software system? Please elaborate.**
We do not hold any information relating to the existing software system's limitations.



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8. **Are there any upcoming plans for the adoption of new technologies or solutions? Please elaborate.**

Please refer to RBFRS Corporate Strategies available on our website, [ICT Strategy](#), [Strategic Asset Investment Framework \(rbfrs.co.uk\)](#) and the [Property Asset Management Strategy](#).

You may also be interested to know that our Contracts Register is available via our website: [Selling to RBFRS | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service](#).



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Request Number 2023-0109 (Firefighter availability planning software)

Request received on 22 January 2024:

1. Who is Royal Berkshire FRS's current provider of firefighter availability planning software? E.g. Gartan, Firewatch, FireServiceRota (On-call and Wholetime if different please)
2. When the contract (s) expire or are due for renewal?

Response:

Following a response from the appropriate department, I can advise you that we use Firewatch for firefighter availability planning. The contract end date is 31 March 2027.

It may assist you to know that information about most contracts are listed within our Contract Register which is available via our [website](#) under [Selling to RBFRS](#).



Request Number 2023-0110 (Contracts - Gas and Electricity / and Energy Management System)

Request received on 22 January 2024:

Gas and Electricity Contracts:

1. Energy Provider
2. Annual Spend for each provider for the past 3 financial years.
3. Contract Duration (Including any extensions)
4. Contract start date
5. Contract Expiry Date
6. Contract Review Dates
7. Contact details of the person responsible, including job title
8. Total Consumption of Gas, please provide me with the latest figure in cubic metres.
9. Total Consumption of Electricity (NHH), please provide me with latest figure in kWh for the past 3 financial years.
10. Total Consumption of Electricity (HH), please provide me with latest figure in kWh for the past 3 financial years.
11. Contact details of the person responsible, including job title at the very least

Energy Management System Contract(s) - Contract(s) relating to the organisation's energy management system. An energy management system (EMS) is a system of computer-aided tools used by operators of electric utility grids to monitor, control, and optimise the performance of the generation or transmission system.



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Energy Management System Provider

1. Annual Spend
2. Contract Duration (Including any extensions)
3. Contract Expiry Date
4. Contract start date
5. Contract Review Date
6. Contract Description – A description of the services provided.
7. Brand of the software
8. Total number of meter points for electricity:
 - a. Non-Half Hourly (NHH) meter points
 - b. Half Hourly (HH) meter points
9. Total number of Gas meter points
10. Total number of meter points for specialist gases and liquids
11. Contact details of the person responsible, including job title

Response:

In progress



Request Number 2023-0111 (RBFA Fleet)

Request received on 24 January 2024:

1. How many vehicles do you have across the whole fleet (please provide data for the past 3 years)?
2. Please break down vehicles in Q1 by vehicle type (i.e. make / model)
3. Please break down vehicles in Q1 by fuel type (i.e. petrol / diesel / hybrid / full electric)
4. How much do you spend annually on refuelling costs for vehicles in Q1 (please provide data for the past 3 years)?
5. What is the average annual mileage per vehicle for vehicles in Q1?
6. Do you have (and if yes, how many) electric vehicle chargers at your vehicle fleet base/HQ?

Response:

In progress



Request Number 2023-0112 (LGBTQ+)

Request received on 25 January 2024:

1. Within your organisation, what policies exist to support staff members who identify as transgender and are transitioning?
2. With respect to the question above, could you please provide a copy of the policies to support staff who identify as transgender?
3. Do you have any information publications or presentations available to staff regarding LGBTQ+ and Transgender, if so please could you provide details and copies of the information.
4. How many persons who identify as transgender are employed or volunteer with your organisation, and at what grade or position are they employed?
5. What advice and information do you supply to managers and staff regarding Transgender? Do you provide any specialist training in dealing with colleagues or clients who identify as transgender?
If so, please provide copies of the relevant policies and material.
6. Does your organisation have any connections with Stonewall or similar organisations to support employees from the LGBTQ+ and Transgender community, and if so, please could you provide further details and copies of any documents or policies?
7. Do you have any specific policies to support staff members transitioning/transgender in where they are deployed or employed in the organisation and in dealing with members of the public, if so please could you provide further information?
8. Do you have a specific lead or individual(s) who deal with LGBTQ+ issues or liaison within the organisation? If so, please could you provide details?
9. Do you have specific policies regarding keeping female, LGBTQ+ and transgender staff safe? If so, could you please provide details and copies of any relevant policies?

Response:

In progress



Request Number 2023-0113 (Electric Bus Fires)

Request received on 26 January 2024:

Please could you inform me of the numbers of incidents your brigade has attended for fires on:

1. electric buses (where the battery was believed to be the cause of the fire)?
2. hybrid-powered buses (those with dual power; electric and usually diesel or petrol where the battery or hybrid power supply was believed to be the cause of the fire)?

If you could break that down for the (financial or calendar) years for 2023, 2022 and 2021, if that data is available. If there have been any such incidents this year (2024), I would also like to receive that.

3) Based on the assumption that such incidents are relatively low, can you provide details of each incident, including perhaps the when, where, owner of the vehicle (i.e. is it a public transport bus, minibus, schoolbus, double-decker, single-decker etc) and any other recorded particulars about the nature of the fire i.e. was the fire localised to the battery, did it spread, was the vehicle burnt out, were any other vehicles or buildings ignited, how many appliances and firefighters were in attendance, how long did it take to extinguish the fire/make it safe and were there reports of any injuries?

4) Again, based on the assumption that such incidents are infrequent, was the fire service ever required to write a report on any of the incidents. If so, could I have a copy of any such reports? I accept that may involve some redactions.

Response:

Please could you inform me of the numbers of incidents your brigade has attended for fires on:

1. electric buses (where the battery was believed to be the cause of the fire)? 0
2. hybrid-powered buses (those with dual power; electric and usually diesel or petrol where the battery or hybrid power supply was believed to be the cause of the fire)? 0



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If you could break that down for the (financial or calendar) years for 2023, 2022 and 2021, if that data is available. If there have been any such incidents this year (2024), I would also like to receive that. N/A

3) Based on the assumption that such incidents are relatively low, can you provide details of each incident, including perhaps the when, where, owner of the vehicle (i.e. is it a public transport bus, minibuss, schoolbus, double-decker, single-decker etc) and any other recorded particulars about the nature of the fire i.e. was the fire localised to the battery, did it spread, was the vehicle burnt out, were any other vehicles or buildings ignited, how many appliances and firefighters were in attendance, how long did it take to extinguish the fire/make it safe and were there reports of any injuries? N/A

4) Again, based on the assumption that such incidents are infrequent, was the fire service ever required to write a report on any of the incidents. If so, could I have a copy of any such reports? I accept that may involve some redactions. N/A



February 2024

Request Number 2023-0114 (Prohibition and Enforcement Notices issued to NHS trusts)

Request received on 01 February 2024:

1. A list of all prohibition notices issued to NHS trusts since 2020. For each, can you please list the site in question, a brief description of the issue, and whether the notice has since been lifted or is ongoing.
2. A list of all enforcement notices issued to NHS trusts since 2020. For each, can you please list the site in question, a brief description of the issue, and whether the notice has since been lifted or is ongoing.

I have attached a spreadsheet to fill in.

Response:

In progress



Request Number 2023-0115 (Lithium Battery Incidents)

Request received on 07 February 2024:

1. Number of lithium battery fires attended over the last 5 years (please include data for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, so far in 2024)
 - a) Of these how many were the result of an e-bike? (please include data for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, so far in 2024)
 - b) Of these how many were the result of an e-scooter? (please include data for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, so far in 2024)
2. Number of people who have died in a fire involving a lithium battery over the last 5 years? (please include data for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, so far in 2024)
 - a) Of these how many were the result of an e-bike? (please include data for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, so far in 2024)
 - b) Of these how many were the result of an e-scooter? (please include data for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, so far in 2024)
3. Number of people seriously injured in a fire involving a lithium battery over the last 5 years? (please include data for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, so far in 2024)
 - a) Of these how many were the result of an e-bike? (please include data for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, so far in 2024)
 - b) Of these how many were the result of an e-scooter? (please include data for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, so far in 2024)

Response:

In progress



Request Number 2023-0116 (Policy – Drug and Alcohol Misuse)

Request received on 07 February 2024:

I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, the following information regarding Drug and Alcohol Misuse within the workforce and how this is supported based on the following;

1. Do you as an organisation/trust have a designated policy or procedure to advise on substance abuse within your workforce and responsibilities?
2. As an organisation do you complete training awareness programmes to the workforce to raise awareness of spotting the signs of substance misuse?
3. What practices do you follow, if it advised there is a person at work under the influence of drink or drugs?
4. What support services do you have for those with known addiction issues to help them remain in work?
5. Do you have a process whereby adhoc screening can be undertaken?
 - a. Could you provide details of frequency testing is undertaken for individuals?
 - b. How many individuals have tested positive for Drug and Alcohol whilst on duty in the past 5 years?
 - c. Do you have specific trained individuals to conduct testing?
6. Due to Trauma being often seen as part of Front Line Services what support is available for Mental Health Support and Addiction.
7. How many employees do you employee on payroll.

Response:

In progress



Request Number 2023-0117 (Lithium-ion Battery Incidents)

Request received on 07 February 2024:

I would like to request figures on the number of fires which occurred in a domestic premise caused by lithium-ion batteries (E-bikes and E-Scooters) over the last five years, as well as the data regarding if any members of the public who have sustain any sort of injury as a result of this.

Response:

In progress



Request Number 2023-0118 (Insurance and Fuel costs)

Request received on 12 February 2024:

1. what was your authority's annual spend on all insurance to insure all authority vehicles for the following years: a) 2018/19, b) 2019/20, c) 2020/21, d) 2021/22, e) 2022/23?
2. What is the authority's projected spending on insurance for authority vehicles for the financial year 2023/24?
3. What is the authority's annual spend on all fuel to fill up authority vehicles for the following years: a) 2018/19, b) 2019/20, c) 2020/21, d) 2021/22, e) 2022/23?
4. What is the authority's projected spending on fuel costs for authority vehicles for the financial year 2023/24?

Response:

In progress



Request Number 2023-0119 (Successful Prosecutions)

Request received on 13 February 2024:

I would like to request information on your successful prosecutions of companies since 2010 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 including:

- Name of company or organisation
- Date of prosecution
- Size of fine

Please could the information be provided in a spreadsheet

Response:

In progress



Information Requests 2024

Request Number 2023-0120 (January 2024 Floods - West Berkshire)

Request received on 12 February 2024:

Burghfield, West Berkshire, Eastbury, West Berkshire, Newbury, West Berkshire, Streatley, West Berkshire, Purley, West Berkshire

We have been instructed to carry out an investigation of flooding that occurred at the above sites around the below dates:

- 02/01/2024 – Storm Henk
- 21/01/2024 to 22/01/2024 – Storm Isha
- 23/01/2024 to 24/01/2024 – Storm Jocelyn

Please could the RBFRS provide the following information:

1. Any drone footage / photographs of the flooding that occurred as a result of the above storms.
2. Details of staff recounts of the flooding and events occurring as a result of the above storms.
3. Details of any responses undertaken by RBFRS either during or following Storms Henk, Isha, and Jocelyn at the above locations.

Response:

In progress



Information Requests 2024

Request Number 2023-0121 (Fires in Buildings)

Request received on 13 February 2024:

A list of all of the names and addresses of all the listed buildings in your covered area that have had fires in the past five years

The number of listed buildings in your covered area that have had fires each year for the last five years

The number of fires in any buildings, listed or not listed, that have occurred in your covered area over the last five years

Response:

In progress



Request Number 2023-0122 (Swinley Forest)

Request received on 14 February Month 2024:

1. Approximately 65,000 broadleaf trees were planted after the fire, using a mixture of oak and sweet chestnut to form fire breaks. Is there any plan for where the trees have been planted on the fire site?
2. Besides the huge impact on rare birds, are any other plants severely damaged in the forest?
3. What plant species remain unaffected by fire?
4. I found some puddles/ponds on the site. Are these created after the fire or are they natural in the forest?
5. The fire also spread to the peatland underground. Was the peatland treated after that?
6. Have any surrounding residents affected by the fire demanded help from the psychological department?

Also, I hope you can recommend the website or email contact information of the department that handles wildfire and forest environment management.

Response:

I have to advise you that Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service does not hold the Information you seek.

Swinley Forest is owned and managed by the [Crown Estate](#). Consequently, I would suggest redirecting your enquiries to the Crown estate ([Home](#) | [The Crown Estate](#)), who may be able to assist you further.



Information Requests 2024

Request Number 2023-0123 (Flooding incidents caused by severe weather)

Request received on 14 February 2024:

1. I would like the total number of flooding incidents recorded by the fire and rescue service, broken down by month, for the calendar years 2013 to 16 January 2024.
2. In a separate tab I would like details of each flooding 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), Total number of buildings affected, Total number of dwellings affected & Total number of firefighters injured, seriously injured or killed

Response:

In progress