



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.

ICT Service Delivery Manager contact details provided.

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 Valle 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.



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 (clarification not received, request cancelled).



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 RBFMS does not currently employ such software.



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?**

ICT Service Delivery Manager contact details provided.

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](#).



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.

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:

Gas and Electricity Contracts:

1. **Energy Provider**
Corona, EDF, N Power under Laser Energy Buying Group (Procurement Framework)
2. **Annual Spend for each provider for the past 3 financial years.**
Corona £383,309, EDF £398,123, N Power £554,663 (under Laser Energy Buying Group)
3. **Contract Duration (Including any extensions)**
4 Years
4. **Contract start date**
01.10.2020
5. **Contract Expiry Date**
30.09.2024
6. **Contract Review Dates**
30.03.2024



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7. **Contact details of the person responsible, including job title**
Facilities Manager contact details provided.
8. **Total Consumption of Gas, please provide me with the latest figure in cubic metres.**
624,700
9. **Total Consumption of Electricity (NHH), please provide me with latest figure in kWh for the past 3 financial years.**
834552, 1069729, 870193
10. **Total Consumption of Electricity (HH), please provide me with latest figure in kWh for the past 3 financial years.**
871528, 774102, 892239
11. **Contact details of the person responsible, including job title at the very least**
Facilities Manager contact details provided.

Energy Management System Provider: Not applicable, we do not have an Energy Management System provider.

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



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:

1. How many vehicles do you have across the whole fleet (please provide data for the past 3 years)?
Please see attached spreadsheet for the response to this question (tabs Feb 24, Feb 23, and Feb 22).
2. Please break down vehicles in Q1 by vehicle type (i.e. make / model)
Please see attached spreadsheet for the response to this question (tabs Feb 24, Feb 23, and Feb 22).
3. Please break down vehicles in Q1 by fuel type (i.e. petrol / diesel / hybrid / full electric)
Please see attached spreadsheet for the response to this question (tabs Feb 24, Feb 23, and Feb 22).
4. How much do you spend annually on refuelling costs for vehicles in Q1 (please provide data for the past 3 years)?
Please see attached spreadsheet for the response to this question (tab Refuelling Costs).



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5. What is the average annual mileage per vehicle for vehicles in Q1?
Please see attached spreadsheet for the response to this question (tab Vehicle Usage (ODO)).
6. Do you have (and if yes, how many) electric vehicle chargers at your vehicle fleet base/HQ?
There are 3 electric vehicle chargers at our HQ.

[FOI 2023-0111 - Fleet (February 2024).xlsx]



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:

1. Within your organisation, what policies exist to support staff members who identify as transgender and are transitioning?
Trans Equality Policy – Currently being reviewed and updated. (Appendix A)
2. With respect to the question above, could you please provide a copy of the policies to support staff who identify as transgender?
Trans Equality Policy (Appendix A)
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.

Links to useful resources are provided on the staff intranet:

- **Top tips for trans inclusion poster (Appendix B)**
- **Trans and Nonbinary FAQ poster (Appendix C)**
- **Transgender Day of Remembrance publication (Appendix D)**
- **LGBT in Britain Trans Report (Appendix E)**
- **Transgender Myths and Facts (Appendix F)**
- **Resources from Trans Creators and Celebrities (Appendix G)**
- **Link to stonewall website ([Stonewall](#))**
- **Trans Inclusion for Customer Facing Colleagues Factsheet (Appendix H)**
- **Stonewall Glossary ([List of LGBTQ+ terms \(stonewall.org.uk\)](#))**
- **How Gender Equality Benefits Everyone – Ted Talk ([How gender equality benefits everyone \(youtube.com\)](#))**
- **LGBT+ At Work Podcasts - CIPD**



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4. How many persons who identify as transgender are employed or volunteer with your organisation, and at what grade or position are they employed?

RBFRS does not currently hold this information.

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.

Managers are required to familiarise themselves with all of our policies including the Trans Equality Policy which includes links to further resources.

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?

RBFRS is members of Inclusive Employers who provide support and guidance on EDI matters including the LGBTQ+ and Transgender community through both the account manager, webinars for staff and bank of member resources.

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?

Trans Equality Policy (Appendix A)

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?

RBFRS has an EDI Coordinator who is the point of contact for LGBTQ+ issues as well as the wider HR team.

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?

This is encompassed within our Trans Equality Policy (Appendix A)

Please be aware that some Appendices may be subject to intellectual property or copyright laws, therefore authorisation to re-use material belonging to any third parties should be sought directly from them.



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, 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? 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:

1. RBFRS have not issued any prohibition notices to NHS trusts since 2020.
2. RBFRS have not issued any enforcement notices to NHS trusts since 2020.



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:

Q1) 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?
- b) Of these how many were the result of an e-scooter?



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-	Calendar Year						Grand Total
Vehicle	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
E Bike	2	1	2	2	15	0	22
E Scooter	0	0	2	5	1	0	8
Other	2	16	19	8	17	1	63
Grand Total	4	17	23	15	33	1	93

Q2) 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?
- b) Of these how many were the result of an e-scooter?

There have been no recorded fatalities from lithium battery fires over the last 5 years.

Q3) 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?
- b) Of these how many were the result of an e-scooter?

-	Calendar Year						Grand Total
Vehicle	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
E Bike	0	0	1	0	5	0	6
E Scooter	0	0	0	6	0	0	6
Other	0	1	6	1	3	1	12
Grand Total	0	1	7	7	8	1	24



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 – awaiting clarification from applicant



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:

Calendar Year	Month	Type of Incident	Property Type	Fatalities	Injuries	Injuries_No
2018	10	E SCOOTER	Dwelling	N	N	0
2021	7	E SCOOTER	Dwelling	N	Y	3
2021	9	E BIKE	Dwelling	N	N	0
2021	10	E BIKE	Dwelling	N	Y	1
2022	2	E BIKE	NonResidential	N	N	0
2022	4	E SCOOTER	NonResidential	N	N	0
2022	9	E BIKE	Dwelling	N	N	0
2022	11	E SCOOTER	Dwelling	N	N	0
2022	12	E SCOOTER	Dwelling	N	Y	6
2022	12	E SCOOTER	Dwelling	N	N	0



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Calendar Year	Month	Type of Incident	Property Type	Fatalities	Injuries	Injuries_No
2023	2	E BIKE	Dwelling	N	Y	1
2023	2	E BIKE	Dwelling	N	N	0
2023	4	E BIKE	Dwelling	N	N	0
2023	4	E BIKE	Dwelling	N	N	0
2023	4	E BIKE	NonResidential	N	N	0
2023	6	E BIKE	OtherResidential	N	N	0
2023	7	E BIKE	NonResidential	N	N	0
2023	7	E BIKE	Dwelling	N	Y	1
2023	10	E BIKE	Dwelling	N	N	0
2023	10	E SCOOTER	Dwelling	N	N	0
2023	12	E BIKE	Dwelling	N	Y	2



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:

- 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?**

The Fire and Rescue Indemnity Company (FRIC) is the mutual protection provider for all Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service insurance. The insurance charge for 'Motor' for the past financial years is listed as follows:

2018 / 2019	£125,052
2019 / 2020	£132,728
2020 / 2021	£119,110
2021 / 2022	£113,094
2022 / 2023	£106,760



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2. What is the authority's projected spending on insurance for authority vehicles for the financial year 2023/24?

For 2023/24 the charge is estimated at £111k.

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?

The cost for petrol and diesel fuel for the Authority's vehicles for the financial years is:

2018 / 2019	£237,047
2019 / 2020	£227,049
2020 / 2021	£140,605
2021 / 2022	£225,717
2022 / 2023	£309,267

Note: 2020/21 shows the effect of Covid.

Please also note that these figures do not include the cost of charging our electric vehicles as the breakdown of this information is not currently available.

4. What is the authority's projected spending on fuel costs for authority vehicles for the financial year 2023/24?

The current spend on Petrol and Diesel (to January 2024) is £212k, consequently, the estimate for 2023/24 is approximately £260k.



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:

Following a response from the appropriate department, I am pleased to be able to provide you with the information you requested regarding successful prosecutions of companies, however, please be aware that our legal retention schedule is set at 6 years. Consequently, we only hold data for that time period.

Please see the attached XL Spreadsheet, as requested.

[FOI 2023-0119 - Successful Prosecutions.xlsx]



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:

1. Any drone footage / photographs of the flooding that occurred as a result of the above storms.

We do not have any drone footage from the requested locations. We do however have several photos from an incident that occurred near Burghfield. Please see the attached.

2. Details of staff recounts of the flooding and events occurring as a result of the above storms.

Our official statements are available on our website via [Latest News | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service \(rbfrs.co.uk\)](#) and [Incidents | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service \(rbfrs.co.uk\)](#).

3. Details of any responses undertaken by RBFRS either during or following Storms Henk, Isha, and Jocelyn at the above locations.



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We attended only one incident that would fall within the remit of your request (within target locations specified and during storm dates). The Incident occurred in Newbury, during Storm Henk. This is the only incident of flooding, in the locations specified, that was called in and responded to by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS).

Additionally, Number of flooding incidents occurring in Newbury, Burghfield, Eastbury, Purley, Streatley during January 2024:

Newbury 8

Burghfield 2

And number of Incidents occurring in Berkshire on dates of storms:

Storm Henk 4

Storm Isha 4

Storm Jocelyn 2

Our official statements are available on our website via [Latest News | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service \(rbfrs.co.uk\)](#) and [Incidents | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service \(rbfrs.co.uk\)](#).



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:

1. 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

Business Name	Complete Address
The Ferry	Sutton Road Cookham Maidenhead SL6 9SN
Malmaison Hotel	18-20 Station Road Reading RG1 1JX
Reading School	Reading School Main House Erleigh Road Reading RG1 5LW
	Flats 1-6 27 Market Place Newbury RG14 5AA
Theatre Royal Windsor	Theatre Royal 31-32 Thames Street Windsor SL4 1PS
The Old Boot Inn	From Cock Lane To New Barn Farm Stanford Dingley Reading RG7
Crooked Billet Ph	Honey Hill Crowthorne RG40 3BJ
De Vere Hotel	De Vere Hotel Wokefield Park Mortimer Reading RG7 3AE
The Ferry	Sutton Road Cookham Maidenhead SL6 9SN
Integrated Chinese School of	19/21 Castle Street Reading RG1 7SB
Easthampstead Park Conference	Easthampstead Park Wokingham RG40 3DF
Queens Oak Ph	Church Lane Finchampstead Wokingham RG40 4LS
The Old Vicarage	3 Parsonage Lane Hungerford RG17 0JB



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Business Name	Complete Address
Reading Railway Station	Station Approach Reading RG1 1LY
The Ship Inn Ph	104 Peach Street Wokingham RG40 1XH
Hinds Head Hotel	Hinds Head Hotel Wasing Lane Aldermaston Reading RG7 4LX
Kings Arms	High Street Cookham Maidenhead SL6 9SJ
Castle Inn	Church Hill Hurst Reading RG10 0SJ
New Rose	30 Market Place Wokingham RG40 1AP
The Old Boot Inn	Cock Lane To New Barn Farm Stanford Dingley Reading RG7 6LT

2. The number of listed buildings in your covered area that have had fires each year for the last five years
3. The number of fires in any buildings, listed or not listed, that have occurred in your covered area over the last five years

		Calendar Years					Total
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Question 2	The number of listed buildings in your covered area that have had fires each year for the last five years	6	6	3	4	1	20
Question 3	The number of fires in any buildings, listed or not listed, that have occurred in your covered area over the last five years	612	541	585	583	88	2409



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.



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:

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

We are aware that you requested data from 2013 onwards. However, due to changes within our recording systems, we are only holding data for severe flooding from 2016 onwards. I should also let you know that we do not record longitude and latitude for incidents. All other data requested can be found in the attached file.

[Summary - Flooding incidents caused by severe weather (2023-0123).xlsx]



Request Number 2023-0124 (Updated Vehicle Fleet List)

Request received on 17 February 2024:

1. An update of vehicle fleet list, including:
 - a. Stations
 - b. Reg No
 - c. Model
 - d. New builds on order

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 XL Spreadsheet.

[RBFRS Fleet List – By Station – February 2024.xlsx]



Request Number 2023-0125 (Dementia and Fire Risk)

Request received on 19 February 2024:

1. I wondered if you could share with me the number of fire incidents you attended which involved people living with dementia in the last reporting year.
 - a. Number of fire incidents attended by your service involving people living with dementia in the years 2023, 2022, and 2021
 - b. The above broken down into actual fire incidents and false alarms
 - c. Number of deaths from fire related incidents for people living with dementia 2023, 2022, and 2021
2. Do you have any strategies or policies in place regarding people living with dementia?

Response:

The number of fire incidents attended which involved people living with dementia in the last reporting year.

Number of fire incidents attended by the service involving people living with dementia in the years 2023, 2022, and 2021

The above broken down into actual fire incidents and false alarms

The breakdown below is for fire incidents attended by RBFRS in calendar years 2021, 2022, 2023 where a Safe and Well visit to a property has recorded a person(s) living with Dementia/Alzheimer's.

The distinct count of incidents RBFRS attended:

Primary Fire incidents	2021	2022	2023	Total
Fire Primary	5	6	7	18
False Alarm	29	46	49	124
Total	34	52	56	142

Number of deaths from fire related incidents for people living with dementia 2023, 2022, and 2021: 1 fatality



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Do you have any strategies or policies in place regarding people living with dementia? If so, it would be great to see those.

We do not specifically have in place any strategies or policies that relate to people living with dementia. That said, from a prevention perspective, dementia is included within the Safe and Well Process. The agency referral form includes a box for a referrer to let us know if an occupant has dementia. The 'Risk to Individual Stratification Matrix' allocates a priority score for those with dementia and there is an area on the Safe and Well technician's assessment which records dementia and any advice given will be recorded within the comments. Additionally, if there are related issues raised, we may refer to Age UK as part of our processes.

RBFRS also aligns to the NFCC [Person Centred Framework Guidance - NFCC](#) and [Equality of Access to Services and Employment for people living with dementia - NFCC](#)

From the Training point of view, we have had dementia friends to provide some training to our Safe and Well Technicians and various fire crews have also attended the online dementia friends training. Our Mental Health Awareness training also includes some dementia awareness.

With regards to community engagement, we follow the NFCC campaigns calendar which has Dementia Action Week on the 20th – 26th May and also Carers Week on the 10th – 16th June. For these weeks we typically put out dementia related social media posts. We also work with partner agencies, such as the adult social care teams and local charities, to promote and attend targeted events during these weeks which promote a range of services for those with dementia and their carers.



Request Number 2023-0126 (Sprinkler Assessment Data Relating to the Castle School)

Request received on 21 February 2024:

- a) Have there been any cases of deliberate ignition/arson on the school grounds in the last 10 years? If so, please provide details.
- b) History of fires – Have there been any major fires on the school grounds in the last 10 years? If so, please provide details.
- c) Have there been any incidences of Arson in the locality in the last 10 years? - locality is 2-5 mile radius. If so, please provide details.
- d) Have there been any fires in other schools in the locality in last 10 years? - locality as (c) above. If so, please provide details.
- e) How far is the nearest fire station to the school? Please advise the name of the Fire Station.

Response:

Have there been any cases of deliberate ignition/arson on the school grounds in the last 10 years? If so, please provide details.

Ans: No

b) History of fires – Have there been any major fires on the school grounds in the last 10 years?

Ans: No

c) Have there been any incidences of Arson in the locality in the last 10 years? - locality is 2-5 mile radius.

Ans: There have been 733 deliberate Primary and Secondary Fires attended across West Berkshire in the last 10 years. Of these, 3 were deliberate secondary fires at school addresses. See below:

Cal Year	Time Of Call	Result Code	Cause	Revised Incident Type	IBIS Property Type	Address
2023	08/05/2023 17:21:19	02 - Fire Secondary	Deliberate – unknown owner	F8.0.0.P FIRE - FIRE IN THE OPEN	Tree scrub (includes single trees not in garden) (SF:B)	THE WILLINK SCHOOL,WILLINK SCHOOL,SCHOOL LANE,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3XJ



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Cal Year	Time Of Call	Result Code	Cause	Revised Incident Type	IBIS Property Type	Address
2017	03/07/2017 12:52:23	02 - Fire Secondary	Deliberate – others property	F8.0.0.P FIRE - FIRE IN THE OPEN	Other outdoor items including roadside furniture (SF: C)	PARK HOUSE SCHOOL,PARK HOUSE SCHOOL,239 ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NQ
2015	05/07/2015 22:24:17	02 - Fire Secondary	Deliberate – others property	F8.0.0.P FIRE - FIRE IN THE OPEN	Refuse/rubbish tip or bonfire (SF:C)	LITTLEHEATH SCHOOL,LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL,LITTLE HEATH ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 5TY

d) Have there been any fires in other schools in the locality in last 10 years? - locality as above.

Ans: There have been 8 accidental Primary and Secondary Fires attended at school addresses across West Berkshire in the last 10 years. See below:

Cal Year	Time Of Call	Result Code	Cause	Revised Incident Type	IBIS Property Type	Address
2022	14/05/2022 10:47:40	02 - Fire Secondary	Accidental	F8.0.0.P FIRE - FIRE IN THE OPEN	Tree scrub (includes single trees not in garden) (SF:B)	NEW BARN SCHOOL,NEW BARN,ROAD KNOWN AS VALLEY ROAD,WELFORD,NEWBURY,RG20 8HZ
2021	25/06/2021 19:41:11	02 - Fire Secondary	Accidental	F8.1.0.P FIRE - ROAD FURNITURE AND RECEPTICALS	Other outdoor items including roadside furniture (SF: C)	OUTSIDE LITTLEHEATH SCHOOL,LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL,LITTLE HEATH ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 5TY,
2019	01/05/2019 20:24:57	02 - Fire Secondary	Accidental	F8.0.0.P FIRE - FIRE IN THE OPEN	Tree scrub (includes single trees not in garden) (SF:B)	WOODLANDS REAR OF,BRADFIELD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL,2 COCK LANE,BRADFIELD SOUTHEND,READING,RG7 6HR



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Cal Year	Time Of Call	Result Code	Cause	Revised Incident Type	IBIS Property Type	Address
2018	24/07/2018 02:31:00	02 - Fire Secondary	Accidental	F8.0.0.P FIRE - FIRE IN THE OPEN	Scrub land (SF:B)	PANGBOURNE COLLEGE, PANGBOURNE COLLEGE, PANGBOURNE HILL, PANGBOURNE, READING, RG8 8LA
2017	13/06/2017 20:10:24	02 - Fire Secondary	Accidental	F8.0.0.P FIRE - FIRE IN THE OPEN	Refuse/rubbish tip or bonfire (SF:C)	LITTLEHEATH SCHOOL, LITTLEHEATH SCHOOL, LITTLE HEATH ROAD, TILEHURST, READING, RG31 5TY
2015	21/12/2015 23:24:08	02 - Fire Secondary	Accidental	F8.0.0.P FIRE - FIRE IN THE OPEN	Small refuse/rubbish/recycle container (excluding wheelie bin) (SF:C)	KENNET SECONDARY SCHOOL, KENNET SCHOOL, STONEY LANE, THATCHAM, RG19 4LL
2015	21/07/2015 14:47:54	02 - Fire Secondary	Accidental	F8.0.0.P FIRE - FIRE IN THE OPEN	Tree scrub (includes single trees not in garden) (SF:B)	PANGBOURNE COLLEGE, PANGBOURNE COLLEGE, BERE COURT ROAD, PANGBOURNE, READING, RG8 8LA
2015	21/05/2015 13:31:49	02 - Fire Secondary	Accidental	F8.0.0.P FIRE - FIRE IN THE OPEN	Refuse/rubbish tip or bonfire (SF:C)	LITTLEHEATH SCHOOL, LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL, LITTLE HEATH ROAD, TILEHURST, READING, RG31 5TY

e) How far is the nearest fire station to the school? Please advise the name of the Fire Station.

Ans: Newbury Fire Station (~ 1.3 miles away)



Request Number 2023-0127 (Operational Policies to Prioritize the Rescue of Children from Fires)

Request received on 23 February 2024:

1. Do they (we) have operational policy/policies that prioritise the rescue of children from fires? If not, why not?

Response:

1. Do they (we) have operational policy/policies that prioritise the rescue of children from fires? If not, why not?

Ans: Service policy and guidance does not specifically state how rescues should be prioritised. Decision making in relation to rescues will be made on a dynamic assessment of risk related to the specific circumstances of each incident.

The incident commander will assess these risks, weighing up a number of factors to determine a tactical plan that achieves the most benefit for those involved. Saving life is always our highest priority and we align to the

'firefighter safety maxim' - "At every incident the greater the potential benefit of fire and rescue actions, the greater the risk that is accepted by commanders and firefighters. Activities that present a high risk to safety are limited to those that have the potential to save life or to prevent rapid and significant escalation of the incident."



Request Number 2023-0128 (Fire Hydrant Measures and Procedures)

Request received on 23 February 2024:

1. What measures do they have in place to ensure that fire hydrants in their area flow a minimum of 2000lpm at 1.7 bar?
2. What agreements do they have in place with local water companies to ensure that fire hydrants in their area flow a minimum of 2000lpm at 1.7 bar?
3. What arrangements do they have in place to flow test fire hydrants?
4. Do they have an operational procedure in place to augment the water supply to a pumping appliance from more than one fire hydrant were necessary?
5. Have they ever trialled augmenting the water supply to a pumping appliance from more than one fire hydrant? What was the outcome?

Response:

What measures do they (we) have in place to ensure that fire hydrants in their area flow a minimum of 2000lpm at 1.7 bar?

Ans: There are no existing measures to ensure that there is a blanket minimum flow of 2000lpm (33.3lps), consideration for flows varies on the type of buildings and their purpose, this is laid out in the “National Guidance Document on the Provisions of Water for Fire Fighting 2007: Appendix 5” as highlighted below. There are no agreements or assurances on pressures, apart from the standard water company assurance that they need to provide a minimum of 1bar at the customers property boundary, there is a statement that the water undertaker should look to increase the pressure when required by the fire service, but this isn’t always possible for example where there are installations of Pressure Reducing Valves (PRVs)

- 1) - Housing



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Housing developments with units of detached or semidetached houses of not more than two floors should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of eight litres per second through any single hydrant.

Multi occupied housing developments with units of more than two floors should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of 20 to 35 litres per second through any single hydrant on the development.

2) - Transportation

Lorry/coach parks - multi-storey car parks - service stations All of these amenities should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of 25 litres per second through any single hydrant on the development or within a vehicular distance of 90 metres from the complex.

3) - Industry

In order that an adequate supply of water is available for use by the Fire and Rescue Authority in case of fire it is recommended that the water supply infrastructure to any industrial estate is as follows with the mains network on site being normally at least 150 mm nominal diameter.

Up to one hectare 20 litres per second.

One to two hectares 35 litres per second.

Two to three hectares 50 litres per second.

Over three hectares 75 litres per second.

4) - Shopping, offices, recreation and tourism

Commercial developments of this type should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum flow of 20 to 75 litres per second to the development site.

5) - Education, health and community facilities



5.1) - Village halls

Should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum flow of 15 litres per second through any single hydrant on the development or within a vehicular distance of 100 metres from the complex.

5.2) - Primary schools and single storey health centres

Should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum flow of 20 litres per second through any single hydrant on the development or within a vehicular distance of 70 metres from the complex.

5.3) - Secondary schools, colleges, large health and community facilities

Should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum flow of 35 litres per second through any single hydrant on the development or within a vehicular distance of 70 metres from the complex.

What agreements do they (we) have in place with local water companies to ensure that fire hydrants in their area flow a minimum of 2000lpm at 1.7 bar?

Ans: As above no agreement exists for a blanket minimum flow of 2000lpm risk-based assessment on building type and use should be considered as above, understanding that limitations on geographical restrictions and local demands will vary the flow and pressures at any given time.

What arrangements do they (we) have in place to flow test fire hydrants?

Ans: As advised under the “National Guidance Document on the Provisions of Water for Fire Fighting 2007: Section 6 – Inspection, Testing and Abandonment of Hydrants”, we do not have any arrangements.

Do they have an operational procedure in place to augment the water supply to a pumping appliance from more than one fire hydrant were necessary?

Ans: Our service procedure is detailed in the Service Procedure section of OIN-TV-116 Securing or Provision of Water Supplies:



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“Incident commanders (ICs) must aim to secure enough media for a fire to be fully extinguished. This should include a secondary supply that can be used should the primary supply fail”

“Whenever ICs require a greater supply of water for firefighting, the IC is to request an increase in mains pressure via TVFCS, who will relay the request to the Water Authority and also inform them when the additional supply and pressure is no longer required.”

The Operational Considerations section of this same OIN includes the following:

“Where the mains pressure is low it is essential that a pump is positioned at the hydrant, and that hose lines are twinned in order to minimise friction loss and maximise flow to the fireground”

“Identify a secondary water supply in case of increased demand or failure using MDTs or mapping”

OIN-TV-121 Fire Hydrants includes similar instruction. Both OINs **attached**.

Have they ever trialled augmenting the water supply to a pumping appliance from more than one fire hydrant? What was the outcome?

Ans: No



Request Number 2023-0129 (Unconscious Bias Training)

Request received on 23 February 2024:

1. The total spending by your organisation on unconscious bias training for your staff in the financial year 2022/23.
2. The number of your staff that undertook unconscious bias training in the financial year 2022/23.

Response:

In progress – awaiting clarification from the Applicant



Request Number 2023-0130 (Attended Car Fires throughout 1995-2023)

Request received on 25 February 2024:

I am conducting research into the number of car fires that your Fire & Rescue Service has attended between the years 01 January 1995 – 31 December 2023 (inclusive). I have particular interest in those fires occurring within multi-storey car parks. I would be grateful if the information could show:

1. The type of fuel in the vehicle of origin (e.g., petrol, diesel, Hybrid or electric)
2. The number of cars affected by such fire in each year
3. The number of fires that resulted in, and the degree of, injury in each year
4. Any reports following investigation into those fires

Response:

In progress



Request Number 2023-0131 (Senior Officer Duty Systems, Cars and Tax Arrangements)

Request received on 29 February 2024:

I request the following information

1. What make, model, trim and year of cars are used by your Chief Fire Officer, Deputy Chief Fire Officer and any Assistant Chief Fire Officers?
2. Are these cars owned or leased by the Fire Authority and provided at no cost to the officers?
3. Are these cars provided through a lease scheme where the Authority pays a specified capped amount and the Officer may pay an additional personal contribution above and beyond that paid by the Authority?
4. Does the Fire Authority set a specification, performance and maximum value criteria for these cars ? if so please provide a copy.
5. Is the specification, performance and maximum value criteria of these cars the same or different to cars used by Station and Group Managers working the Flexi duty system in the service? If so please provide a copy of the Station/Group manager specification.
6. Has the the specification, performance and maximum value criteria of cars used by the Chief, Deputy and Assistant Chief Fire Officers been approved/reviewed by the Fire Authority? If so when? if not who approved it and when?
7. Do the Chief, Deputy and Assistant Chief Fire Officer work a duty system(often referred to continuous duty) which enables them to avail of the EIM23605 Car benefit: emergency vehicle tax exemption? If so has this duty system been approved/reviewed by the Fire Authority? If so when? If not who approved it and when?
8. How many times have each of the Chief, Deputy and Assistant Chief Fire Officers had to physically respond, using blue lights in the past 3 years? for the last 6 incidents each attended:
 - a. Date of incident, where did they respond from and where was the incident?
 - b. What command function did they perform at the incident?



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- c. How long were they in attendance at the incident?
 - d. What was their response time from mobilized to in attendance?
9. If a duty system, commonly known as a continuous duty system, is operated by the Chief, Deputy and Assistant Chief Officers was it approved/reviewed by the Fire Authority? If so when? If this type of duty system was approved by the Fire Authority were they explicitly made aware of the significant personal tax benefits for those working it?
10. If the Fire Authority didn't approve the duty system who did and when?
11. If a duty system, commonly known as a continuous duty system, is operated by the Chief, Deputy and Assistant Chief Officers please provide a copy of the Health and Safety Risk Assessments which shows how the Fire Authority has assured itself that the duty system, with such extensive periods of on call, meets their Employer Health and Safety responsibilities?

Response:

In progress



March 2024

Request Number 2023-0132 (Procurement of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (drones) through 2022 - 2024)

Request received on 01 March 2024:

Please provide the following information:

- The make and model of each drone system purchased.
- The quantity of each make and model purchased.
- The individual cost paid for each make and model.
- The total expenditure on the drone systems.
- Details of any training that was included as part of the purchase.

Response:

In progress



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Request Number 2023-0133 (Warehouse fires / fires caused by vapes / fires in schools)

Request received on 04 March 2024:

Under Freedom of Information Act, I would be very grateful if you could provide the following information relating to fires:

1. Warehouse fires: We are interested in the number of fire incidents in warehouses.
 - a. How many fires in warehouses have you attended in the last three calendar years (2024 - to date, 2023, 2022, 2021)?
 - b. Per year, please breakdown the above by the following:
 - c. Extent of damage
 - d. Cause of fire

2. Fires in Schools: I am seeking to understand how many schools have been impacted by fires and whether sprinklers were present.
 1. How many fires at schools have you attended in the last five full years (2023 to 2019 or nearest period, if not available). If possible, please provide a breakdown per year of:
 - a. of the school fires you attended in this period, how many had sprinklers fitted?
 - b. Please provide a breakdown of the causes of fire by year.
 - c. For each year, please also provide a breakdown of the type of school (e.g. primary, secondary), any injuries or deaths, the extent of damage to school, age of school, how many of the schools at the time the fire broke out had received a low, medium or high fire risk assessment (or alternative classification if used), how many school fire risk assessments have you carried out



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in the last five full years (2023 to 2019 or nearest period, if not available) and if possible, please provide a breakdown of the outcomes e.g. low, medium, high risk

3. 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 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 (to date)

Response:

In progress



Request Number 2023-0134 (RBFRS Property Assets)

Request received on 08 March 2024:

Please advise:

1. The estimated total number of acres of land that you own.
2. The estimated total number of acres that you own which are not in operational use.
3. The annual spending on managing and maintaining your property estate in the financial year 2022/23. Please provide a breakdown.
4. The number of empty homes you currently own.
5. The number of empty buildings you currently own that are not homes.

Please provide a copy of your asset register.

Response:

In progress



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Request Number 2023-0135 (RBFPS Mercedes-Benz Fleet)

Request received on 12 March 2024:

I would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

1. Full list (including models) of Mercedes-Benz all-terrain vehicles and trucks you have purchased, hired or leased (including Unimogs).
2. (if leased/hired) Lease/hire start date & end date.
3. Name of service provider for any Mercedes-Benz Vehicles you have purchased, hired or leased.
4. (If owned) year purchased and when are you looking to renew your fleet of Mercedes-Benz models?
5. Contact details for the person(s) responsible for managing the fleet of Mercedes-Benz all terrain and truck vehicles, including name, job title, contact number and email address.

Response:

In progress



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Request Number 2023-0136 (Listed Building Fires)

Request received on 12 March 2024:

I am looking for data on fires in listed buildings, specifically for the year 2018. If possible, could dates and addresses be provided?

Response:

In progress



Request Number 2023-0137 (Social Media Management Platforms and Tools)

Request received on 20 March 2024:

- 1) Do you use a Social Media Management platform?
- 2) If so, what tools do you use?
- 3) What is your annual spend on a Social Media Management tool?
- 4) What dates does your contract with your current supplier end (month & year)?
- 5) Do you use a tool for Social Listening and/or a Media Monitoring platform?
- 6) If so, what tools do you use?
- 7) What is your annual spend on a tool for Social Listening and/or a Media Monitoring platform?
- 8) What dates does your contract with your current supplier end (month & year)?
- 9) Who is the senior person responsible for managing these contracts?

Response:

- 1) Do you use a Social Media Management platform? Yes
- 2) If so, what tools do you use? Hootsuite
- 3) What is your annual spend on a Social Media Management tool? £1,068
- 4) What dates does your contract with your current supplier end (month & year)? Annual contract. Renewal month is February 2025.
- 5) Do you use a tool for Social Listening and/or a 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) What is your annual spend on a tool for Social Listening and/or a Media Monitoring platform? As above
- 8) What dates does your contract with your current supplier end (month & year) As above
- 9) Who is the senior person responsible for managing these contracts? Paul Bremble, Area Manager Head of Corporate Services



Request Number 2023-0138 (Lithium Battery Fires)

Request received on 25 March 2024:

How many fires caused by lithium batteries on E-bikes or E-Scooters has your fire brigade been called to?

How many people have been injured at a fire caused by lithium batteries on E-bikes or E-Scooters.

How many accidental deaths have been caused by fires caused by lithium batteries attended to by your fire brigade?

Are you able to provide the information above between the years 2020 and 2024 please.

Response:

In progress



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Request Number 2023-0139 (Fleet list)

Request received on 25 March 2024:

I would like a copy of the fleet list including the brand new Vehicles/Appliances

In the fleet list I would like the make, callsign and reg plate

Response:

In progress