



### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 - December 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 - December 31<sup>st</sup> 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

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? 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
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>119</b>

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
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2.6</b>

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.



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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 (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





## Information Requests 2024

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).***



## Information Requests 2024

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
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>93</b>

**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
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>



### 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:

Clarification was sought from the applicant in relation to their request.

No further communication/clarification was received from the applicant (by the deadline), therefore the request was closed.



**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



## Information Requests 2024

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

<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Complete Address</b>
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

- 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

		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	<b>20</b>
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	<b>2409</b>



### 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



## Information Requests 2024

**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:**

Clarification sought from the Applicant. [no response or clarification received – request cancelled]



### 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:

We are aware that you requested data from 1995 onwards. However, recorded data that RBFRS holds, is limited to 2009. No data prior to this year is available for reporting due to our retention periods.

Please note all incidents RBFRS attend require an Incident Recording System (IRS) Report to be completed. In certain circumstances, a more in-depth Fire investigation Report may also be compiled in addition to the IRS Report. These are currently charged at a rate of £125 for a copy of an IRS Report and £435.50 (+VAT) for a copy of a Fire Investigation report (please note these charges will be increased on the 1st April 2024). Therefore, in this case, you are provided with the data/figures regarding car park fires RBFRS attended, but not the reports.

Please also be aware that Fire Investigation Officers try to establish the origin, cause and give a professional opinion as to how a fire developed. The Investigator will provide reported conclusions based on the 'Most Probable Cause' i.e. with the information available, what was most likely to have happened or be the case. Fire Investigation Officers do not have to provide conclusions that meet the standards of prosecution evidence in a criminal prosecution i.e. 'Beyond Reasonable Doubt'.

[Summary of Attended Car Fires – Multi-storey Car Parks.xlsx]



### 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:

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?

The CFO utilises a Volvo XC90, T8, Plug-in Hybrid, 2023 model year.

The DCFO utilises a Toyota RAV 4, Design, AWD, Mild Hybrid Electric Vehicle, 2022 model year.

The ACFO utilises their own vehicle. This vehicle is not provided by the Service, nor via the Service lease scheme and is the personal property of the post-holder. The vehicle utilised by ACFO is not required to fulfil an emergency response role, is not fitted with emergency response systems, and is not required to adhere to the minimum specification required of FDO/PO cars.

2. Are these cars owned or leased by the Fire Authority and provided at no cost to the officers?

Only the vehicle utilised by the DCFO is owned by the Fire Authority.



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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?

The vehicle utilised by the CFO is provided via a lease scheme. Such vehicles are leased by the Fire Authority, on behalf of the vehicle user/officer. The lease is contracted in the name of the Fire Authority but responsibility for payments, along with any tax liability etc, sits with the person named on the individual lease agreement.

The capped allowance is based on a real time baseline allowance for a vehicle that meets the required specification at the time the car is requested (as outlined in the attached policy). Officers/users can pay an additional contribution above the specified amount if they choose to have lease car of such specification/value exceeds the stipulated allowance.

4. Does the Fire Authority set a specification, performance and maximum value criteria for these cars? If so please provide a copy.

See the attached policy for car specification. The Service sets a minimum specification and performance but there are no maximum value criteria.

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.

The specification for all operational staff (including Principal Officers) is the same and is outlined in the Car User Scheme (attached). The vehicle has to meet same minimum criteria as other Flexible Duty Officer (FDO) ranks/roles.

6. Has 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?

The Car User Scheme (as attached) was approved through consultation with staff and the Representative Bodies.

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?



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As of the first 01 December 2023 the CFO and DCFO only are conditioned to provide continuous duty to support the management of risk locally. This was agreed by the Fire Authority Management Committee on 16th October 2023. The Assistant Chief does not work this duty pattern as the post holder is not operational.

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:

- Date of incident, where did they respond from and where was the incident?
- What command function did they perform at the incident?
- How long were they in attendance at the incident?
- What was their response time from mobilized to in attendance?

Please see the attached document (FOI 2023-131 - Q8 Summary.xlsx).

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?

The Management Committee were made aware of the tax implication for those working the continuous duty rota.

10. If the Fire Authority didn't approve the duty system who did and when?

The Fire Authority approved the change in terms and condition in line with the scheme of delegation.

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?





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Please see the attached Equality Impact Assessment (EIA). No Risk Assessment was carried out. Note: RBFRS has only had the continuous duty system in place since 01 December 2023.



### 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:

RBFRS has not purchased any drone systems and currently has no plans to procure any.



### 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:**

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 document.

[FOI 2023-0133 – Summary.xlsx]



### 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:

1. The estimated total number of acres of land that you own.  
14.14
2. The estimated total number of acres that you own which are not in operational use.  
0.13
3. The annual spending on managing and maintaining your property estate in the financial year 2022/23. Please provide a breakdown.  
£904,670 (see attached excel document for breakdown).



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4. The number of empty homes you currently own.

2 homes (4 Hawtrey Road and 7 Aston Close)

5. The number of empty buildings you currently own that are not homes.

1 building (Denton Road)

Please provide a copy of your asset register.

I am pleased to be able to advise you that our [Land and Property Assets Register](#) is publicly available via our Website under [Transparency and Governance | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service \(rbfrs.co.uk\)](#). Some information can also be found within the [Strategic Asset Investment Framework](#) (SAIF) which is also available via our Website ([www.rbfrs.co.uk](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk)).

[FOI 2023-0134 - Q.3 Breakdown.xlsx]



### Request Number 2023-0135 (RBFRS 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:

1. Full list (including models) of Mercedes-Benz all-terrain vehicles and trucks you have purchased, hired or leased (including Unimogs).

Just one vehicle, Mercedes-Benz Zetros 6x6 Water Carrier Fire Appliance.

2. (If leased/hired) Lease/hire start date & end date.

N/A

3. Name of service provider for any Mercedes-Benz Vehicles you have purchased, hired or leased.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service and/or Rygor Commercials, Reading.

4. (If owned) year purchased and when are you looking to renew your fleet of Mercedes-Benz models?

Purchased in 2014, if replaced (no confirmed decision at present) this would not take place until approximately 2030.



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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.

Head of Assets contact details provided.





### **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:**

Information previously disclosed (2023-0052) modified and sent to applicant.

[FOI 2023-0136 - Statistics - Fires in Listed Buildings (2018).xlsx]



### 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



## Information Requests 2024

- 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? Area Manager Head of Corporate Services



## Information Requests 2024

### 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:

I am pleased to be able to advise you that the information you seek is already easily accessible to you as we have received previous Information Requests about this subject, that are published on our website. Under [Request Disclosure Logs](#) you will find the Information Requests for each year which are updated regularly. Please see request 2022-0005, 2022-0023 and 2022-0061 on [Jan-Dec 2022](#) and 2022-0138, 2023-0009, 2023-0021, 2023-0031, 2023-0063 on [Jan-Dec 2023](#) and Requests 2023-0102, 2023-0078, 2023-0098, 2023-0115 and 2023-0117 on [Jan-Dec 2024](#).



## Information Requests 2024

### **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:**

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.

Please note that due to the way that vehicles are assigned, a call-sign is not always assigned to the same vehicle i.e. the same vehicle registration, only a vehicle type.

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



## Information Requests 2024

### Request Number 2023-0140 (Emergency Response Times – Common Road, Langley)

Request received on 20 March 2024:

Langley Fire Station appears to be the closest hospital to Byron House, Common Road, Langley, Slough, SL3 8TS and Linden House, Common Road, Langley, Slough SL3 8TT.

Please could you confirm what the fire station's emergency response times are to these buildings? Or if that information is not available, the fire stations' average response time to an emergency?

#### Response:

Count of Incidents:	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Langley JY18P1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	4
Slough JY17P1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Slough JY17P2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2

Response Timings (seconds):	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Average
Langley JY18P1	-	-	-	-	277	326	-	-	-	327	-	1048	495
Slough JY17P1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1081	-	-	1081
Slough JY17P2	-	-	-	495	-	-	-	-	-	334	-	-	415



## Information Requests 2024

### Notes:

- This information was based off our Emergency Response measure.
- The information provided contains data on all appliances that responded to incidents at these locations.
- No fire has been recorded at this premise in the last year, only False Alarms and Special Service Incidents.
- This data is based of Stats Year 2023, as no specific timeframe was requested.
- We used a manual text search to check for any incidents at the specific addresses provided (including post code and address fields).
- The individual months use the actual response time for the incident attended, the “Average” is the overall average of the timings across the year of 2023.

Our Service uses dynamic mobilising (mobilises closest appliance to incident regardless of location), as a result of this, it doesn't necessary mean that only Langley's pump will respond to incidents at the requested address. Therefore, we have included all pumps that attended incidents at the requested address, which also includes pumps from Slough.



### April 2024

#### Request Number 2024-0001 (Flooding - Great Shefford, Pangbourne, and Lambourn - as a result of Storms Henk, Isha, and Jocelyn))

Request received on 01 April 2024:

See previous request 2023-0120

We are now also investigating the flooding that has occurred in Great Shefford, Pangbourne, and Lambourn. Therefore, please could the RBFRS provide the following information:

1. Any drone footage / photographs of the flooding that occurred as a result of Storms Henk, Isha, and Jocelyn.
2. Details of staff recounts of the flooding and events occurring as a result of Storms Henk, Isha, and Jocelyn.
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.

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.





## Information Requests 2024

We have not attended any incidents that would fall within the remit of your request (as a result of the storms within target locations specified).

Additionally, Number of flooding incidents occurring in Great Shefford, Lambourn and Pangbourne during January 2024:

Lambourn	1
Pangbourne	0
Great Shefford	0

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 2024-0002 (Staffing information)

Request received on 03 April 2024:

We are collecting information about the number of staff employed by fire and rescue services. Below is the information we would like to obtain from you under the Freedom of Information Act.

Specifically, we would like to know how many (a) wholetime firefighter, (b) retained firefighter, (c) fire control room, (d) support staff and (e) total staff there were employed in your Fire and Rescue Service, measured by headcount, on 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024.

We also request the (f) number of wholetime firefighters employed by your fire and rescue service as of 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024 (headcount) that also work a retained contract, and therefore could be described as “wholetime-retained”. To clarify, we only request the number of wholetime firefighters with an additional retained contract – we are not asking whether it is with your own or another fire and rescue service.

We would appreciate a table for the respective years detailing the data in the following format:

1) How many people were employed by the fire and rescue service (headcount) in the following roles on 31 March 2023:

	Headcount
Wholetime	
Retained	
Control	
Support	
<b>Total</b>	
Wholetime-retained	

2) How many people were employed by the fire and rescue service (headcount) in the following roles on 31 March 2024:



## Information Requests 2024

	Headcount
Wholetime	
Retained	
Control	
Support	
<b>Total</b>	
Wholetime-retained	

Please note this is the same criteria used for reporting to governments.

We would prefer to receive this information in electronic form by e-mail and preferably as tables in Word or Excel format.

### **Response:**

1) How many people were employed by the fire and rescue service (headcount) in the following roles on 31 March 2023:

	Headcount
Wholetime	373
Retained	65
Control	38
Support	168
Total	644
Wholetime-retained	23 (also included in above)



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2) How many people were employed by the fire and rescue service (headcount) in the following roles on 31 March 2024:

	Headcount
Wholetime	370
Retained	53
Control	41
Support	175
Total	639
Wholetime-retained	17 (also included in above)



### Request Number 2024-0003 (Vehicle Fires)

Request received on 04 April 2024:

Please could you detail the total number of fires caused by vehicles last year but separate it by month and what the car make was.

Could you present the information as follows:

January – XX number of fires – vehicle type:

February

March

Etc...

### Response:

[FOI 2024-0003 - Response.xlsx]

Please be aware that the vehicle make and model recorded is manually entered by our crews on-scene at an incident, and there is no requirement to record this information (in the event they cannot identify the vehicle). If a vehicle make/model cannot be identified, it will be recorded as "Unknown".



### Request Number 2024-0004 (Maintenance Management Systems and Software)

Request received on 04 April 2024:

Specifically, I would like to request the following information:

1. The name(s) of the software used for maintenance management systems (Typically known as CMMS, EAM, Asset Management, Facilities Management) within the service.
2. The number of users licensed to use the maintenance management system software.
3. The annual cost associated with the maintenance management system software.
4. The individual or department responsible for managing and overseeing the maintenance management system software.
5. The expiration date of the current contract(s) for the maintenance management system software.

Additionally, I would also like to request information regarding the following:

6. The software used to manage the allocation of equipment within the service.
7. The software used for maintaining buildings, vehicles, PPE etc.
8. The software used for registering accidents or damages within all equipment or assets owned or leased within the service.
9. How failures of equipment, machinery, vehicles, and supplies are logged within the service.
10. Name of software used to ensure equipment, machinery and any other items are fit for use for example periodic testing and calibration, for example fire extinguishers, PPE & vehicles.

### Response:

1. The name(s) of the software used for maintenance management systems (Typically known as CMMS, EAM, Asset Management, Facilities Management) within the service.



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**FireWatch - please note that this a Fire Service Management System that incorporates resource planning, response and prevention, we do not have a specific maintenance management system.**

2. The number of users licensed to use the maintenance management system software.  
**We do not have a maintenance management system software, but 650 users are licensed to use FireWatch.**
3. The annual cost associated with the maintenance management system software.  
**We do not have a maintenance management system software, but the FireWatch annual maintenance paid last year was £76.5K (includes VAT).**
4. The individual or department responsible for managing and overseeing the maintenance management system software.  
**ICT Service Delivery Manager contact details provided.**
5. The expiration date of the current contract(s) for the maintenance management system software.  
**We do not have a maintenance management system software, but the contract end date for FireWatch is 31 March 2027.**

**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](#).**

Additionally, I would also like to request information regarding the following:

6. The software used to manage the allocation of equipment within the service.  
**FireWatch**
7. The software used for maintaining buildings, vehicles, PPE etc.  
**FireWatch is used to log defects, but it is not used to manage maintenance of assets.**
8. The software used for registering accidents or damages within all equipment or assets owned or leased within the service.  
**Via FireWatch and for ICT equipment and devices reporting issues is via Alemba (vFire)**
9. How failures of equipment, machinery, vehicles, and supplies are logged within the service.  
**Via FireWatch and for ICT equipment and devices reporting issues is via Alemba (vFire)**



## Information Requests 2024

10. Name of software used to ensure equipment, machinery and any other items are fit for use for example periodic testing and calibration, for example fire extinguishers, PPE & vehicles.

**FireWatch, although the system is only used for reactive maintenance.**

**Vehicle and Fleet equipment servicing information is currently managed by our contracted maintenance providers in Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, and they use the Tranman system.**

**Alemba (vFire) is used for reporting issues with ICT equipment and devices, FireWatch is used for the asset management.**





### Request Number 2024-0005 (Flooding - Winterbourne)

Request received on 09 April 2024:

See previous request 2023-0120 & 2024-0001

Our scope has once again been increased so we are now also investigating the flooding that has occurred in Winterbourne over the week commencing the 25th March. Therefore, please could the RBFRS provide the following information if relevant:

1. Any drone footage / photographs of the flooding that occurred.
2. Details of staff recounts of the flooding and events.
3. Details of any responses undertaken by RBFRS either during or following the flooding events in Winterbourne.

### Response:

1. Any drone footage / photographs of the flooding that occurred.

We do not have any drone footage from the requested location.

2. Details of staff recounts of the flooding and events.

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 the flooding events in Winterbourne.

We have not attended any incidents that would fall within the remit of your request.



### Request Number 2024-0006 (Registered Nurses)

Request received on 09 April 2024:

I am writing to you under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information regarding the staffing of registered nurses within your organisation:

1. The total number of Registered Nurses employed by your organization.
2. Please provide this information by headcount. However, if headcount data is unavailable, Whole-Time Equivalent (WTE) figures would suffice.

### Response:

In progress – awaiting clarification from applicant



### Request Number 2024-0007 (Electric Vehicle Fires)

Request received on 10 April 2024:

1. How many fires linked to lithium ion batteries did you record in 2022?
2. How many fires linked to lithium ion batteries did you record in 2023?
3. How many fires involved an electric bike did you record in 2022? And in 2023?
4. How many fires involving an electric scooter did you record in 2022? And in 2023?
5. How many fires involving an electric car did you record in 2022? And in 2023?
6. How many fires involving an electric truck did you record in 2022? And in 2023?
7. How many fires involving an electric bus/ coach did you record in 2022? And in 2023?

### Response:

I am pleased to be able to advise you that the information you seek is already easily accessible to you as we have received previous Information Requests about this subject, that are published on our website. Under [Request Disclosure Logs](#) you will find the Information Requests for each year which are updated regularly.

Please refer to the following Information Requests that will answer your questions, they are available on the log for Jan-Dec 2024 -

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

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

2023-0113 (Electric Bus Fires)

2023-0115 (Lithium Battery Incidents)

2023-0117 (Lithium-ion Battery Incidents)

2023-0130 (Attended Car Fires throughout 1995-2023) – [Summary of Attended Car Fires - Multi-storey Car Parks.xlsx]



### **Request Number 2024-0008 (Fires in Buildings Under Construction)**

Request received on 12 April 2024:

If you would be so kind to send me Fires in buildings under construction stats for 2021/2022

### **Response:**

Following a response from the relevant department, I have been advised that we do not have any incidents recorded (fires in buildings under construction) for stats year 2021/2022 (01-04-2021 – 31-03-2022).



### Request Number 2024-0009 (Wildfires July 2022)

Request received on DD April 2024:

I am interested in obtaining the following information for wildfire events that occurred in the UK during July 2022:

1. Location (coordinates) and timing (date and time of day) of the wildfires.
2. Fire size – ideally fire perimeters.
3. Number of resources deployed.
4. Fuel type burned (if available).
5. Impact (e.g. buildings/houses affected, personal injuries, infrastructure, fire service equipment, traffic delays, any evacuations, etc).
6. If/when a major incident was declared.

### Response:

Following a response from the relevant department, I am pleased to be able to provide you with the attached spreadsheet which details the requested information held by RBFRS [FOI 2024-0009 - Response.xlsx].



**Request Number 2024-0010 (Maternity Pay)**

Request received on 17 April 2024:

Can you confirm that your respective policy hasn't changed between the FOI date (Oct 2023) and 31/03/24:

**Q1. What pay does a firefighter receive for first 6 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?**

100% (6/16 weeks full pay)

**Q2. What pay does a firefighter receive for the next 12 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?**

100% (10/16 weeks full pay) then 50% (2/20 weeks) at of their average weekly earnings

**Q3. What pay does a firefighter receive during for the next 21 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?**

50% (18/20 weeks) +SMP their average weekly earnings then SMP (3 weeks)

**Q4. What pay does a firefighter receive during for the remaining 13 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?**

NIL

**Approx pay**

£22,080

**Response:**

The figures provided to you were correct at the time. We note the request says until 31 March 2024, so it did not change during the timeframe requested.

Our (RBFRS) policy has subsequently been updated with an effective change to enhanced maternity pay from the 01 April 2024.



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Please find updated figures for information from 01 April 2024 below, which may be of use to you.

**Q1. What pay does a firefighter receive for first 6 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?**

100% (6/45 weeks full pay)

**Q2. What pay does a firefighter receive for the next 12 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?**

100% (12/45 weeks full pay)

**Q3. What pay does a firefighter receive during for the next 21 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?**

100% (21/45 full weeks pay)

**Q4. What pay does a firefighter receive during for the remaining 13 weeks (inclusive) of maternity leave?**

100% (6/45 weeks full pay) 0% (7/52 weeks maternity leave)

**Approx pay**

£ 31,349

**Please note** the approx. pay is based on 45 weeks full pay if taking full 52 weeks maternity leave, for a competent Firefighter.



### Request Number 2024-0011 (Electrical Incidents)

Request received on 16 April 2024:

1. Number of incidences attributed to:
  - a. Solar PV
  - b. Battery Storage System
  - c. Heatpump (Airsorce)
  - d. Heatpump (ground source)
  - e. Wind turbine
  - f. Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment
2. Number of injuries caused by the incidences in question 1.
3. Number of deaths caused by the incidences in question 1.
4. What was the cause of the incidences (based on IRS categories)?
  - Faulty Appliances and Leads
  - Misuse of Equipment or Appliances
  - Careless handling of fire or hot substances
  - Deliberate
  - Faulty fuel supplies
  - Placing articles too close to heat
  - Playing with fire
  - Other (please state)





5. Can the problems be pinpointed to:
  - a. User error/lack of understanding of the item /system requirements? (please explain)
  - b. Installation error? (please explain)
    - i. Electrical
    - ii. Mechanical / fixing (note: we do need to find if there is an issue with electrical installers breaching roofing construction methods)
  - c. Design error (please explain)
  - d. Equipment failure? (please explain)
  - e. Lack of maintenance of the LCT system and wiring? (please explain)
6. Were the affiliated switchgear, and protective devices (e.g., MCB, Fuse, RCBO, RCD, etc), in the consumer unit/distribution board checked to be suitable and correctly sized for the installation, considering the potential increased current flows and bi-directional operation
7. What was the age of the installation?

### Response:

Please see the attached spreadsheet for details [FOI 2024-0011 - Response.xlsx] and note that we are unable to answer questions 6 and 7 as we do not hold this information.



### Request Number 2024-0012 (Scrumptious Consultancy)

Request received on 17 April 2024:

We have noticed that Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service are listed as a client on the website of Scrumptious Consultancy. Please can you provide under the Freedom of Information Act the following:-

1. Is Scrumptious Consultancy a supplier to Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service.
2. Please can you provide information of the work which Scrumptious Consultancy has provided for Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service.
3. Details of any/all contracts awarded to Scrumptious Consultancy.
4. A copy of the tender/s of which Scrumptious Consultancy were awarded.
5. The engagement letter for Scrumptious Consultancy for their work with Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service.
6. Details of all the work undertaken by Scrumptious Consultancy - Terms of Reference
7. A copy of any reports provided following the completion of the work by Scrumptious Consultancy.
8. If no tender or procurement process was undertaken and the work was awarded to Scrumptious Consultancy without a formal process, please can you provide the reason why a fair and transparent process was not followed to award this work.
9. Details of any work that is currently being carried out by Scrumptious Consultancy.
10. Please can you confirm that Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service have given permission for their logo to be on the website of Scrumptious Consultancy.

### Response:

1. **Is Scrumptious Consultancy a supplier to Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service.**  
Yes
2. **Please can you provide information of the work which Scrumptious Consultancy has provided for Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service.**



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The purchase orders raised with the supplier were for the CFO recruitment process and an order of prints of a picture that the Scrumptious Consultancy were managing on behalf of Fire Aid.

**3. Details of any/all contracts awarded to Scrumptious Consultancy.**

No contract awarded. It was done under one quote process on a purchase order only basis.

**4. A copy of the tender/s of which Scrumptious Consultancy were awarded.**

No formal tender released due to low value spend with the supplier – less than £10,000.

**5. The engagement letter for Scrumptious Consultancy for their work with Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service.**

There is no letter as it was based on purchase order only transaction.

**6. Details of all the work undertaken by Scrumptious Consultancy - Terms of Reference**

No formal agreement with the supplier. Supplier was set up on the system as low value under £10,000 spend.

**7. A copy of any reports provided following the completion of the work by Scrumptious Consultancy.**

For the CFO process, any reports produced are no longer held, in keeping with our retention schedule for recruitment.

No reports were created for the order of prints.

**8. If no tender or procurement process was undertaken and the work was awarded to Scrumptious Consultancy without a formal process, please can you provide the reason why a fair and transparent process was not followed to award this work.**

Based on RBFRRS contract regulation, any spend under the £10,000 can be done acquiring one quote to award the contract based on PO under Contract Regulation 9 – Threshold for seeking tenders and quotes.

**9. Details of any work that is currently being carried out by Scrumptious Consultancy.**

Scrumptious Consultancy are not currently carrying out any work for RBFRRS.

**10. Please can you confirm that Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service have given permission for their logo to be on the website of Scrumptious Consultancy.**

This will be followed up with Scrumptious Consultancy as we have not been able to ascertain if permission was granted.



**Request Number 2024-0013 (Contracts - Office Supplies)**

Request received on 18 April 2024:

1. Spend on Office Supplies and associated products for the below financial years.
  - a. 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023
  - b. 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
2. Start date & duration of Contract?
3. Is there an extension clause in the contract and, if so, the duration of the extension?
4. Has a decision been made yet on whether the contract is to be either extended or renewed?
5. Who is the senior officer (outside of procurement) responsible for the contract?
6. Name of Incumbent Supplier?
7. How long have you traded with them?
8. If you publish your register of contracts and purchasing, can you please provide a website link.
9. In addition, can you confirm if you have a contract in place for Tail End Spend.

**Response:**

1. **Spend on Office Supplies and associated products for the below financial years.**
  - a. **1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023**  
£13,798.82



**b. 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024**

£10,332.70

Please note, this spend relates to our supplier, the spend detailed below is for other office supplies purchased via procurement card.

1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023 - £6293.77

1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024 - £3587.76

**2. Start date & duration of Contract?**

1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**3. Is there an extension clause in the contract and, if so, the duration of the extension?**

Extension for two (2) further years 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

**4. Has a decision been made yet on whether the contract is to be either extended or renewed?**

Yes, the contract will be extended.

**5. Who is the senior officer (outside of procurement) responsible for the contract?**

Facilities Manager

**6. Name of Incumbent Supplier?**

Bates Office Services Ltd

**7. How long have you traded with them?**

Since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

**8. If you publish your register of contracts and purchasing, can you please provide a website link.**

Contract Register - [Selling to RBFRS | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service](#)

Purchasing - [Financial Transparency | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service](#)



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- 9. In addition, can you confirm if you have a contract in place for Tail End Spend.**  
If spend is under £10k we do not have a contract



### **Request Number 2024-0014 (Stonewall Funding)**

Request received on 19 April 2024:

1. What payments, if any, you made to Stonewall (officially Stonewall Equality Limited) in the financial year 2022/23.
2. What payments, if any, you made to Stonewall (officially Stonewall Equality Limited) in the financial year 2023/24.
3. What payments, if any, you expect to make to Stonewall (officially Stonewall Equality Limited) in the current financial year.

### **Response:**

- 1. What payments, if any, have you made to Stonewall (officially Stonewall Equality Limited) in the financial year 2022/23.**

One payment was made to Stonewall for our membership in the 2022/23 financial year for £2,500 + VAT.

- 2. What payments, if any, have you made to Stonewall (officially Stonewall Equality Limited) in the financial year 2023/24.**

No payments were made to Stonewall in the 2023/24 financial year.

- 3. What payments, if any, do you expect to make to Stonewall (officially Stonewall Equality Limited) in the current financial year.**

No payment is expected to be made to Stonewall in the 2024/25 financial year.



**Request Number 2024-0015 (Employment Tribunal September 2023)**

Request received on 24 April 2024:

How much public money was spent in defending the claims of unfair dismissal and discrimination.

And, how much money was paid to Counsel in solicitor fees?

**Response:**

Legal costs      £24,202.40  
Plus VAT        £4,847.17

Plus for counsel:

Total Fees      £10,500.00  
Total VAT        £2,100.00

Plus courier fee of £33.47

**Total £34,735.87 plus £6,947.17 VAT = £41,683.04**





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### **Request Number 2024-0016 (Statistics: Incidents in Donnington RG14 2JG - 01 April 2023-26 April 2024)**

Request received on 26 April 2024:

Please could you advise on the number of fire incidents recorded in the Donnington area RG14 2JG from April 23 until now.

### **Response:**

Following a response from the appropriate department, I am pleased to be able to advise you that we have not had any fire incidents recorded with the RG14 2JG postcode during the requested timeframe.



### **Request Number 2024-0017 (Electricity and Gas Consumption and Cost – 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024)**

Request received on 26 April 2024:

For the period 1-April-23 to 31-March 2024, we please require disclosure of: -

- The grid Electricity kwh's consumed & the £-value spent (excl-vat).
- The natural Gas kwh's consumed & the £-value spent (excl-vat).

#### **Response:**

The figures for the period 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 are:

Electricity: 1,694,346 Kwh consumption – at cost (net of VAT) £576,661.00

Gas: 1,888,396 Kwh consumption – at cost (net of VAT) of £205,280.00



### Request Number 2024-0018 (ESPO Liquid Fuels)

Request received on 28 April 2024:

For context, your organisation has been placing direct awards to suppliers under the ESPO Liquid Fuels Framework 301\_22 The Supply of Liquid Fuels. ESPO was investigated by the Public Procurement Review Service (PPRS) and was required to inform its customers that the framework operated on a direct award model because this was not clear from its user guide documents. This is evidenced on the PPRS website here : <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mystery-shopper-results-2018>. Row 541 of the spreadsheet that can be downloaded from that link provides full details.

The questions under FOI, for your organisation, are as follows:

- Did ESPO make you aware that you were placing a direct award for each order that you placed?
- Did you issue a Contracts Finder Notice for each order you placed?
- Please can you provide links to the Contracts Finder notices for the direct awards you placed under the framework in the month of November 2023?
- Please can you state your total spend under the framework in the year 2023?

### Response:

- Did ESPO make you aware that you were placing a direct award for each order that you placed? We have not used the framework to award a contract.
- Did you issue a Contracts Finder Notice for each order you placed? Not applicable (N/A) – We have not used the framework.
- Please can you provide links to the Contracts Finder notices for the direct awards you placed under the framework in the month of November 2023? N/A – We have not used the framework.
- Please can you state your total spend under the framework in the year 2023? N/A – We have not used the framework.



### Request Number 2024-0019 (Vaccinations)

Request received on 29 April 2024:

I am trying to gather information about vaccination provision across UK fire services for operational personnel. This is to help our service make decisions about specific need (alongside clinical evidence), and understand how other brigades approach protection from Hep A, Hep B and Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio.

Would you be so kind as to provide some information on:

- whether you vaccinate?
- what specific groups of operational personnel are vaccination, if any?
- What vaccinations specific groups are offered?

### Response:

- whether you vaccinate?

Staff operating as Module 3 Water Rescue personnel are encouraged to obtain a hepatitis B vaccination.

- what specific groups of operational personnel are vaccination, if any?

It is recommended that staff trained as Module 3 Water Rescue personnel received a hepatitis B vaccination. If their GP does not provide it, the Service reimburses for the cost of the vaccination. Hep A is also encouraged for water rescue and paid for if recommended by a GP.

- What vaccinations specific groups are offered?

Hepatitis B and A. We are progressing a recommendation for all station-based operational staff to be offered a hepatitis B vaccination. Whilst the risk assessment suggests risk of infection is low we are considering vaccination from a holistic wellbeing perspective. We are exploring likely take up and budget requirements.



### Request Number 2024-0020 (Fire Fatalities and Hoarding Data)

Request received on 30 April 2024:

1. Total number of fire fatalities for each of the years from 2019 until 2024, split into risk groups, specifying which groups, eg. Hoarding behaviours; inappropriate smoking; people under the influence of alcohol; people who used emollient creams; people who lived alone; ex military. Please provide your response broken down by year.
2. For each of the years from 2019 until 2024, for the 31st March in each year. please provide the number of properties / premises in your area with a Clutter Image Rating (CIR) of 6 or above.

### Response:

In progress



### May 2024

#### Request Number 2024-0021 (Energy Management)

Request received on 06 May 2024:

Following [2023-0110](#)

- please share the NHH, HH, Gas and Specialist Gas/Liquid meter points of Energy Management
- please confirm when the Energy Management System will be implemented. It would be helpful if you mention the month/year.

#### Response:

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) do not have an Energy Management System in place and there are currently no plans to introduce one in the near term. EMS will be an identified technology in the RBFRS Estate Strategy to be released in 2025, with the subsequent action plan to include a competitive procurement exercise in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations at a date and year yet to be identified.



### Request Number 2024-0022 (Firefighter Recruitment)

Request received on 07 May 2024:

Could you please supply me with the following information concerning firefighter recruitment, as outlined below.

- How many females applied to be wholetime firefighters in 2023?
- How many males applied to be wholetime firefighters in 2023?
- How many female firefighters were successful in becoming wholetime firefighters in 2023 after the recruitment process?
- How many male firefighters were successful in becoming wholetime firefighters in 2023 after the recruitment process?

### Response:

- How many females applied to be wholetime firefighters in 2023?

Two recruitment campaigns started in 2023 and concluded in 2024:

Recruitment campaign 1: 28 completed applications

Recruitment campaign 2: 29 completed applications

- How many males applied to be wholetime firefighters in 2023?

Two recruitment campaigns started in 2023 and concluded in 2024:

Recruitment campaign 1: 211 completed applications

Recruitment campaign 2: 220 completed applications

- How many female firefighters were successful in becoming wholetime firefighters in 2023 after the recruitment process?



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2 cohorts:

4 employed in January 2023 (including 1 internal)

3 employed in August 2023

- How many male firefighters were successful in becoming wholetime firefighters in 2023 after the recruitment process?

2 cohorts:

25 employed in January 2023 (including 4 internals)

5 employed in August 2023





## Information Requests 2024

### **Request Number 2024-0023 (Fire Safety Visit - Whitley Local, 101 Basingstoke Road, Reading, RG2 0HA)**

Request received on 09 May 2024:

Please may I have all details of your visit to the above premises which took place on 25/04/2024 at 1040hrs.

### **Response:**

Outcome Letter - Whitley Local, 101 Basingstoke Road, Reading, RG2 0HA\_REDACTED.pdf

Inspection Audit Report - Whitley Local, 101 Basingstoke Road, Reading, RG2 0HA\_REDACTED.pdf



## Information Requests 2024

### Request Number 2024-0024 (Drones)

Request received on 14 May 2024:

Do you currently utilise drones in-house, or do you rely on third-party services for your aerial imaging and measurement needs?

#### **Response:**

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service do not own or operate drones.



### Request Number 2024-0025 Drownings

Request received on 15 May 2024:

1. How many fatal drownings and near misses were recorded in your area between April 2023 and April 2024.
2. Please provide the information electronically and broken down by month.

### Response:

In progress



### Request Number 2024-0026 E-Scooter/E-Bikes incident (House fires)

Request received on 17 May 2024:

- The number of house fires in your area involving and/or caused by an e-scooter incident in 2020
- The number of house fires in your area involving and/or caused by an e-scooter incident in 2021
- The number of house fires in your area involving and/or caused by an e-scooter incident in 2022
- The number of house fires in your area involving and/or caused by an e-scooter incident in 2023

Additionally, and only if this is categorised separately, can we also request the following:

- The number of house fires in your area involving and/or caused by an e-bike incident in 2020
- The number of house fires in your area involving and/or caused by an e-bike incident in 2021
- The number of house fires in your area involving and/or caused by an e-bike incident in 2022
- The number of house fires in your area involving and/or caused by an e-bike incident in 2023

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under your Section 16 obligations, as to how I can refine my request to be included in the scope of the Act.

- In any case, if you can identify ways that my request could be refined please provide further advice and assistance to indicate this.

### Response:

The request was relevant to a previous request (2023-0117), and so have pointed the applicant to the same.



### **Request Number 2024-0027 Assaults against Firefighters**

Request received on 17 May 2024:

1. How many assaults against firefighters were recorded in each of the last five years, 2019/2020/2021/2022/2023.
2. Could I have a geographic breakdown of where the assaults occurred.
3. Could I have a brief description of the nature of the assault.

### **Response:**

In progress



### Request Number 2024-0028 Fire Incident Report Form – Blank Copy

Request received on 19 May 2024:

Looking for blank copies or scans of any report/incident forms you may use, and if possible, guidelines as to what goes into each section. This is as part of a study into how fire service incidents are recorded worldwide. Don't need any information about incidents that have occurred or access to filled out incident records.

If possible, in the format that it would appear if printed and to be filled in by hand, but if not that is okay, anything you can provide will be helpful. Watermarked is also fine as understood that this is not to be duplicated.

Not sure if you have an equivalent to the NFIRS Guidelines that exist in the United States for filling these forms, but this guidance for the sake of understanding the sections would be very helpful.

### Response:

In progress



### Request Number 2024-0029 E-Bike Fires

Request received on 20 May 2024:

- Between January 2022 and January 2023, how many fires relating to E-Bikes was the service called out to?
- Between January 2023 and January 2024, how many fires relating to E-Bikes was the service called out to?
- Of these call outs, how many related to serious injury?
- Of these call outs, how many led to a fatality?

### Response:

The request was relevant to a previous request (2023-0115), and so have pointed the applicant to the same.



### Request Number 2024-0030 ICT Contract – Server Related

Request received on 20 May 2024:

This is a request for information that relates to the organisation's contracts around ICT contract(s) for Server Hardware Maintenance, Server Virtualisation Licenses and Maintenance and Storage Area Network (SAN) Maintenance/Support, which may include:

- Server Hardware Maintenance- contracts relating to the support and maintenance of the organisation's physical servers.
- Virtualisation Maintenance/Support/ Licensing (VMware, Solaris, Unix, Linux, Windows Server)
- Storage Area Network Maintenance/Support (EMC, NetApp etc)

For each of the types of contract described above, please can you provide me with the following data. If there is more than one contract please split the information for each separate supplier this includes annual spend

1. Contract Title: Please provide me with the contract title.
2. Type of Contracts (ABOVE): Please can you provide me with one or more contract types the contract relates to: Server Hardware, Virtualisation, SAN (Storage Area Network)
3. Existing/Current Supplier: Please provide me with the supplier name for each contract.
4. Brand: Please state the brand of hardware or software
5. Operating System / Software (Platform): (Windows, Linux, Unix, Vsphere, AIX, Solaris etc.) Please state the operating system used by the organisation.
6. Annual Average Spend: Please provide me with the most recent annual spend for this contract?
7. Contract Duration: (Please can you also include notes if the contract includes any contract Extension periods.)
8. Contract Expiry Date: Please can you provide me with the date of when the contract expires.





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9. Contract Review Date: (An approximate date of when the organisation is planning to review this particular contract.)
10. Purchase of Servers: Could you please provide me with the month and year in which most/bulk of servers were purchased.
11. Number of Physical Server: Please can you provide me with the number of physical servers.
12. Number of Virtual Servers: Please can you provide me with the number of Virtual servers
13. Brief Contract Description: I require a brief description of the service provided under this contract. Please do not just put maintenance. I need at least a sentence.
14. Contract Owner: (The person from within the organisation that is responsible for reviewing and renewing this particular contract. Please include their full name, job title, direct contact number and direct email address.)

### **Response:**

In progress



### Request Number 2024-0031 Recruitment Information (Disabled Candidates)

Request received on 24 May 2024:

What is the current recruiting policy for recruiting employees who are autistic applicants?

Does the service actively employ autistic individuals

What is current recruitment policies for making adjustments for employees with autism / adverse learning difficulties/ disabilities?

What is the recruitment policy for employing individuals on the ground of age, disability such as youth?

What is the recruitment policy for offering interview by work trial for autistic applicants who struggle with formal question by question style interviews?

What is the current IT policy for applicants who have difficulty accessing application forms due the forms being locked for applying for employment or volunteering positions.

What is the email address for the IT department of RBFRS? to resolve IT issues such as not able access applications forms due forms being locked.

How many autistic employees does the service actively recruit in volunteering positions or paid positions.

### Response:

In progress



### Request Number 2024-0032 Legal Organization Information

Request received on 24 May 2024:

- What is your spend with external law firms (please provide for the last 4 financial years)
- Do you use eBilling technology to manage your law firms billing (e.g. systems such as Legal Tracker, Brightflag, Apperio, CT Tymatrix, Mitrates etc.)
- Who is your Head of Legal or General Counsel (please provide email address)?
- Who is your Head of Procurement (please provide email address)
- Do you have a law firm panel / preferred supplier list / use a framework to buy your external law firm services. Please provide details where possible.

### Response:

In progress



### Request Number 2024-0033 Employment Information

Request received on 27 May 2024:

- Total No. of uniformed employees as at 1 April 2023
- Total No. of non-uniformed employees as at 1 April 2023
- Total No of Near Misses 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024
- Total number of accident/injuries (including RIDDOR but not Covid) 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024
- Number of injuries (not RIDDOR reportable) 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024
- Number of injuries (RIDDOR reportable but not Covid related) 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024
- No of operational incidents 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024
- Total number of vehicle accidents reported in relation to service vehicles 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024
- Number associated with attendance at incidents 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

### Response:

In progress



### Request Number 2024-0034 (Fire Safety: Skylark House, Drake Way, Reading, RG2 0PA)

Request received on 28 May 2024:

Could you provide an update on whether these buildings do or do not have unsafe ACM that require remediating? (also whether they are over 18m).

If the building does contain ACM -

1. Testing confirming the Category of the ACM
2. Information such as façade reports, intrusive surveys, images, drawings etc., confirming the location and extent of the ACM and whether there are other combustible material present in conjunction with the ACM (such as combustible insulation).

### Response:

In progress



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### Request Number 2024-0035 (Fire Incidents at Hayling Close, Slough)

Request received on 29 May 2024:

Could you please provide me with details of any incidents or fire that have been attended within the last 10 years at Hayling Close, Slough.

### Response:

In progress