



Freedom of Information Request FOI 18 49

Physical employment standards

Query:

1. Would it be possible to provide me with the detailed physical employment standards (PES) for UK fire and rescue personnel, and confirm whether these generic PES are implemented by Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue service?
2. How do you assess your staff fitness annually?
3. What are the typical job requirements of emergency service fire and rescue staff, highlighting the estimates of physical demands necessary across each position?

Response:

1. **The physical employment standards for UK fire and rescue personnel are publicly available. Under the terms of the Act, a request for information can be refused where one or more exemptions listed in the Act apply. In this case we are claiming the following exemptions to the information that you have requested:**

“Information accessible by other means” in Section 21 of the Act. The documents requested can be found by following this link:

<https://www.fireservice.co.uk/recruitment/physical/>

DWFRS follow the national recommendations, which include a grip test and fitness test before the practical tests to determine if staff meet the required minimum standard of fitness at recruitment. Further information relating to our physical employment standards can be found on our website by following these links: <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/be-one-of-us/> and <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Wholetime-Firefighter-Recruitment-Process.pdf>

2. DWFRS test all operational staff annually using the Chester Step Test and the Chester Treadmill Walk Test. We require all staff to reach the minimum required standard of fitness of 42.3mls/kg/min, which is the national recommended limit considered to keep a firefighter safe.
3. Typical job requirements of emergency service fire and rescue staff are publicly available. We are claiming “Information accessible by other means” in Section 21 of the Act. Please use the following link to see details of national standards, which are upheld by DWFRS: <http://www.cfoa.org.uk/firefit>