

Freedom of Information Request FOI 18 65

Co-responder Scheme

Query and response:

1. Does your Service operate a co-responder scheme with any ambulance service?

Yes

2. If so, please state what your co-responder scheme is and who it is operated with.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service run a Fire Co-Responder scheme with South West Ambulance Services Foundation Trust at 13 retained stations across Dorset and Wiltshire.

The National Health Service Litigation Authority (NHSLA) defines a responder scheme as:

“A co-responder scheme is made up of groups of volunteers who within the community in which they live or work have been trained to attend emergency calls received by the NHS Ambulance Service, providing basic life support until the arrival of the statutory emergency ambulance”.

3. How many times in each of the past five years, or since the scheme was introduced, has a fire engine been sent out as a co-responder?

Please see below the number of times that Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service have been called out to co-responder incidents, by calendar year:

**2018 – 135 (year to date)
2017 – 302
2016 – 339
2015 – 667
2014 – 626**

4. For each of the past five years, please also state the fire incident response times.

The incident data you have requested is 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 information requested can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-incidents-response-times>