

Freedom of Information Request FOI 18 90

School Incidents

Query:

Please provide me with the following information:

1. The number of fires started in school premises including in school grounds for each of the last five financial years (2017/18, 2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15, 2013/14) broken down by type (for example: 'accidental', 'deliberate', 'arson' etc).
2. The number of times your fire and rescue service has been sent to hoaxes and malicious false fire alarms in schools for each of the last five financial years (2017/18, 2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15, 2013/14). Please, can you also include the type of malicious false fire alarm if you record it (for instance, call, activation of a fire point/alarm etc)?
3. If possible, the estimated cost of attending these hoaxes and false fire alarms in schools, for each of the last five financial years (2017/18, 2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15, 2013/14).
4. the number of times your fire and rescue services attended genuine emergencies in schools for each of the last five financial years (2017/18, 2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15, 2013/14).

If/where possible, please provide me with details (for instance if your service attended the call, what happened etc) and the name of the school (for both questions).

Response:

Please note, Dorset Fire and Rescue Service and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service combined to form Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service on 1 April 2016 so this response covers both Dorset and Wiltshire.

Please see attached the Excel document called 'FOI 18 90 School incidents', which answers your questions 1, 2 and 4.

Although we have carried out a thorough search of our systems, it is worth noting that our manual searches for fires that occurred on school grounds rather than in the school building itself (identifiable in the 'Type' column as 'School Fires Using Address Search'), are reliant on the school's address being selected in fire control. Therefore, it is possible that not all incidents on school grounds have been captured within this data set.

When we attend a small fire, information relating to room of origin and source of ignition is not always recorded. This means that there are some empty fields in the data.

Regarding question 3, we do not hold information relating to the cost of each incident. We can only advise that on average a crew of 5 attending an incident for one hour, 10 mile round trip would be approximately £125. This is the average cost associated with either a wholetime crew or a retained crew attending an incident, including salary costs.