



Freedom of Information Request FOI 18 122

Cedar wood cladding

Query and response:

1. Please can you provide copies of any risk assessments that you have carried out in relation to cedar wood cladding presenting a fire risk on residential buildings.

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) has not undertaken any risk assessments in relation to cedar wood cladding.

2. Please can you provide copies of any investigations, analysis or testing you have been instructed to undertake in relation to whether cedar wood cladding poses a fire risk.

DWFRS has not been instructed to undertake any investigations, analysis or testing in regards to whether cedar wood cladding poses a fire risk.

3. Please can you provide copies of any instructions, advice or guidance that have been issued to local fire and rescue services in relation to cedar wood cladding as a potential fire risk.

DWFRS is not aware of any instructions, advice or guidance in relation to cedar wood cladding as a potential fire risk.

4. Please can you provide the number of recorded fires in your authority's area where cedar wood cladding was a major contributor in the fire starting and spreading.

Whilst we may hold the information you have requested, not all of this is easily reportable. Under the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, a request for information can be refused where the total cost of locating, collating and providing you with the information is greater than £450 (equivalent to 18 hours' work). When calculating whether or not a request exceeds the appropriate limit it is necessary to consider the time it is likely to take to establish if we hold the information, locate it, retrieve and extract it.

There is no requirement to specifically input any type of cladding material within the Incident Recording System. Therefore, in order to ascertain or not we hold any information relating to cedar wood cladding acting as a major contributor to a fire starting and spreading, we would need to do a manual search of every incident within a specified time period.

It would take approximately three hours to write the reports for a number of systems to extract the records to be interrogated. Assuming



that there were roughly 1200 dwelling and non-dwelling fires in 2017/18 and each record would take two minutes to go through, we estimate that it would take 43 hours to comply with your request. This exceeds the appropriate limit, so we are refusing this request.

If you narrow the scope of your request, we may be able to provide the information if it would not exceed the appropriate limit to do so. Any reformulated request will be treated as a fresh Freedom of Information request. If you would like any further advice or guidance on this, or to discuss the information that we hold, please do not hesitate to contact me.

5. What evidence do you have to consider cedar wood cladding to present a fire risk?

DWFRS has no evidence in relation to cedar wood cladding presenting a specific fire risk.