



Freedom of Information Request FOI 19 93

Appliance callsigns

Query:

I would like to request the callsigns (if stored) for all fire appliances within Dorset and Wiltshire. If this is indeed possible, please could I have it in the following format:

Station / Vehicle type (e.g. Scania) / Vehicle callsign / Vehicle purpose (e.g. WrL)

Response:

Please see attached a Microsoft Excel document called “FOI 19 93 Appliance callsigns”, which provides some of the information you have requested.

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a request for information can be refused where one or more exemptions listed in the Act apply. Callsigns have been withheld under section 24 of the Act, which exempts the disclosure of information for the purpose of safeguarding national security. It is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test.

We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but we consider that there is also a strong public interest in us protecting national security. As an emergency service, we must ensure that operationally sensitive intelligence is appropriately protected. Releasing detailed information such as callsigns may prejudice our ability to maintain both our own and national security. For this reason, we consider that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.