



Freedom of Information Request FOI 24 19

Electric Bus Fires

Query:

Please could you inform me of the numbers of incidents your brigade has attended for fires on:

1. electric buses (where the battery was believed to be the cause of the fire)?
2. hybrid-powered buses (those with dual power; electric and usually diesel or petrol where the battery or hybrid power supply was believed to be the cause of the fire)?

If you could break that down for the (financial or calendar) years for 2023, 2022 and 2021, if that data is available. If there have been any such incidents this year (2024), I would also like to receive that.

3) Based on the assumption that such incidents are relatively low, can you provide details of each incident, including perhaps the when, where, owner of the vehicle (i.e. is it a public transport bus, minibus, schoolbus, double-decker, single-decker etc) and any other recorded particulars about the nature of the fire i.e. was the fire localised to the battery, did it spread, was the vehicle burnt out, were any other vehicles or buildings ignited, how many appliances and firefighters were in attendance, how long did it take to extinguish the fire/make it safe and were there reports of any injuries?

4) Again, based on the assumption that such incidents are infrequent, was the fire service ever required to write a report on any of the incidents. If so, could I have a copy of any such reports? I accept that may involve some redactions.

Response:

As a Service, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue do not actively record vehicle fuel types within our Incident Recording System; a further search of the incident narrative log for incidents where an electric bus was mentioned, or the word Hybrid was used has concluded a nil return for fires involving electric or hybrid buses.

Information/Detail accurate on the date provided: 29, January 2024