



Freedom of Information Request FOI 26 151

Response times to wildfire incidents

Query and response:

Please provide data regarding your service's response times to wildfire incidents, including those recorded under the Home Office Incident Recording System (IRS) or your equivalent system as fires involving heathland, moorland, forests, grass, crops, or uncultivated vegetation.

Please provide this information for the following calendar years: 2024, 2025, and so far in 2026.

Specifically, I require the following details broken down by each individual calendar year:

1. *The total number of wildfire/vegetation fire incidents attended by your service.*

Calendar year	Number of grassland, heathland and crop fires attended
2024	418
2025	1043
2026 (1 January to 30 June)	273

2. *The average response time for these incidents.*

Calendar year	Average response time
2024	00:12:31
2025	00:13:52
2026 (1 January to 30 June)	00:12:19

3. *The single longest total response time recorded for a wildfire incident in each of the specified years.*

Calendar year	Longest response time
2024	01:18:25
2025	04:24:06 (this incident related to a fire on a military site, we were originally informed for information only but later sent an officer)
2026 (1 January to 30 June)	00:35:11

4. *Please provide details regarding the financial resources allocated to wildfire preparedness, mitigation, and response for each of the specified calendar years:*



- *The total annual expenditure specifically dedicated to the procurement and maintenance of specialised wildfire equipment, off-road vehicles, and specialised personal protective equipment (PPE).*

We do not maintain a specific budget or expenditure category for specialised wildfire items.

- *The total additional operational cost (such as firefighter overtime, mutual aid from other services, or high-volume pump deployments) specifically recorded as a result of responding to wildfire incidents.*

Calendar year	Additional estimated incident costs
2024	£113,660.01
2025	£534,122.28
2026 (1 January to 30 June)	£72,964.34

Please note that wholetime staff costs have been excluded from our incident calculations as these would be paid regardless.

The costs shown in 2025 reflect the costs incurred directly by us. We did declare a major incident in 2025 and received support from 17 other Fire and Rescue Services. This cost us £254,107, although this was subsequently reimbursed by central Government.

- *If your service is a host for the government's National Resilience wildfire assets, please state the specific amount of central funding received and utilised for wildfire capabilities under this programme for the relevant period.*

Not applicable

Information accurate on the date provided: 1 September 2026