



Freedom of Information Request FOI 26 160

Fire appliances availability

Query:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting the following information.

If the information is not available for the entire period or in the exact format requested, please provide the data in whatever form you hold it, or the earliest year available. Likewise, if your authority does not hold data for one or more of the questions, please disregard those and proceed with providing the information you do hold. I would still welcome a partial response where possible.

Please share details of the Retained/On-Call fire appliances availability over the most recent 12-month period, stipulating the amount of time these appliances were 'off the run' (unavailable) to respond to an emergency.

I would like these details to be broken down on a station-by-station basis into:

- 1. The number of hours per month that an appliance was unavailable*
- 2. The percentage of time per month that an appliance was unavailable*

Ideally, the information would be shared in an excel spreadsheet, with tabs for both, per the below:

Percentage of fire appliances unavailable between July 2025 – July 2026

<i>Call sign</i>	<i>July 2025</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan 2026 Etc</i>
<i>XX</i>	<i>%unavailable</i>	<i>%unavailable</i>	<i>%unavailable</i>	<i>Etc</i>	<i>Etc</i>	<i>Etc</i>	<i>Etc</i>

Hours fire appliances were unavailable between July 2025 – July 2026

<i>Call sign</i>	<i>July 2025</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan2026 Etc</i>
<i>XX</i>	<i>Hours unavailable</i>	<i>Hours unavailable</i>	<i>Hours unavailable</i>	<i>Etc</i>	<i>Etc</i>	<i>Etc</i>	<i>Etc</i>

Response:

Please find attached the information that you requested. (FOI 26 160 - fire appliances availability)



Call signs have been excluded from our response and replaced with station name and appliance type.

The withheld call signs are exempt from disclosure under sections 24(1) and 31(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Call signs form part of our operational communications and resource identification arrangements and are not routinely placed into the public domain. Disclosure would provide greater insight into how operational resources are identified and communicated between emergency responders. This information could be used to identify, monitor or track specific emergency service resources, or to attempt to intercept or interfere with operational communications. We consider that disclosure would be likely to prejudice law enforcement activities and increase the vulnerability of emergency response operations. These are both qualified exemptions and are therefore subject to the public interest test:

Factors favouring disclosure:

- Promotes transparency and accountability.**
- Increases public understanding of Fire and Rescue Service operations.**
- Provides greater insight into the resources used to respond to incidents.**

Factors favouring maintaining the exemptions:

- Protects information relating to emergency service communications and resource identification arrangements.**
- Reduces the risk of specific operational resources being identified, monitored or targeted.**
- Reduces the risk of operational communications being intercepted, monitored or misused.**
- Protects the effectiveness, resilience and security of emergency response arrangements.**
- Supports the prevention and detection of crime and safeguards public safety.**

Whilst we recognise the public interest in openness and transparency, we consider there is a stronger public interest in protecting information that could compromise the security and effectiveness of emergency service operations. The public interest therefore favours maintaining the exemptions and withholding the call signs.

Information/Detail accurate on the date provided: 09, September 2026