



## Freedom of Information Request FOI 20 45

### Automatic fire alarms

#### Query and response:

I am writing to you to ask more about your automatic fire alarms policy. The survey that was conducted approximately eight years ago on FRS's response to AFAs is now being conducted again, with updated data. I have read through your fire alarm policy and I have a few questions regarding your FRS' response to AFAs. These are as follows:

1. Do you attend a fire signal from a high integrity detection system (e.g. multi-detector system or sprinklers)?

**Yes, if this falls into the premises type or timescale for attendance of an AFA.**

2. Do you have a Call Back procedure?

**No**

3. Which premises does this apply to and is that at specific times?

**Not applicable**

4. Do you Call Challenge specific premises? If so, which premises and at what times?

**Call challenge is applied to lower risk commercial premises or places of public assembly, such as factories and warehouses, offices, shops and public buildings between 0800-1800hrs every day.**

5. Do you send out a 'Full PDA' or 'at least one' appliance to the unspecified premises?

**Response of at least one appliance is sent to all premises not identified as lower risk commercial premises or places of public assembly, such as factories and warehouses, offices, shops and public buildings. We don't use investigation vehicles prior to the response.**

6. If so, is this as an emergency response (i.e. blue lights)?

**Yes**

7. Are there any premises exempt from call back / reduced attendance?

**Yes, exemptions apply to the following at all times of day:**

- Dwellings/domestic property
- Specific premises identified as COMAH sites or other specific premises identified as higher risk
- Hospitals, day care centres, doctors/dental practices, medical/health centres
- Boarding house/bed and breakfast accommodation
- Hostels (e.g. homeless)
- Nursing/care/retirement/residential/children's homes



- Sheltered housing
- Student halls of residence and other student accommodation
- Youth hostels

8. Are there reduced AFA attendance levels in place?

**No, should we attend an AFA our attendance remains unchanged.**

9. Do you apply reduced levels of attendance to unconfirmed AFAs based on the number of UwFS?

**No, there is no correlation between the level of attendance and the number of AFA's for a specific premises.**

10. Is the attendance reduction procedure adopted from the CFOA / NFCC guidance?

**Our attendance procedure follows the principals of the NFCC guidance.**

11. Is there a reinstatement procedure

**We do not have a reinstatement procedure, however we do have a review period where the Commercial AFA reduction programme is formally reviewed by the ACFO for Community Safety at 6 and 12 months. In addition, we have monthly meetings where upon HOD's meet regularly to review recent fire calls/trends to determine if any changes need to be made to the system or process. We also take this opportunity to review our educational messages to ensure we work closely with the business community to reduce the burden of unwanted fire signals.**

**Information/Detail accurate on the date provided: 29, June 2020**