



Freedom of Information Request FOI 21 63

Appliance availability

Query:

I would like the service to provide me with 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 into the number of hours per month that an appliance has been unavailable on a station-by-station basis and expressed as a percentage figure.

In addition, and if possible, could the reason why the appliances were unavailable be included: i.e., lack of crew; lack of Officer in Charge; lack of driver etc?

Response:

Please find attached the information you have requested.

Please note that where there is a station with two appliances, the periods of unavailability are recorded in blocks for each appliance. The first block will denote where the first appliance was unavailable and the second block will denote where the second appliance was unavailable.

The following abbreviations are used to indicate the reason for each period of unavailability:

BA = Breathing Apparatus - three required per appliance

IC = Incident Commander - one required per appliance

ERD/HOR = Emergency Response Driver - one required per appliance

Crew = number of people on appliance - four required per appliance

Competent FF = Competent Firefighter - three required per appliance

The availability of special second appliances (for responding to off-road incidents) in Bridport, Sturminster Newton, Shaftesbury, Swanage and Wimborne is not accurately recorded automatically within our rostering system. Instead, it is produced by manually evaluating the availability to provide the hours the appliance is unavailable. Due to the labour intensive method of gathering this information, this process was automated from June 2021 and no longer provides the hourly breakdown that is shown in the months prior.

Any drops in availability have not detrimentally affected our response times and we maintain robust resilience plans, developed to ensure we are able to maintain effective operational cover across all our areas.

FOI 21 63 Appliance availability.xlsx

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Information/Detail accurate on the date provided: 02, September 2021