**Freedom of Information - Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS)**

**2024-25/006 – Station Blueprints**

**The request is:**

Is it possible to get the blueprints of every station in HFRS please; this can be through PDF or image download.

**The response is:**

The FOIA allows a public authority not to disclose information if it considers that releasing the information would make the UK or its citizens more vulnerable to a national security threat. The Information Commissioner’s guidance confirms that 'national security' can include risk that is not a direct or immediate threat.

HFRS believes that the release of the information requested into the wider public domain would cause a risk to HFRS staff and the wider community. Information relating to the location of both equipment and staff on fire stations would provide the means for potential terrorist and/or malicious activities to be more accurately targeted to the relevant areas, thereby causing harm to HFRS staff who may be at the station or prevent us from responding to an incident or attack, which would increase the severity, impact, and risk to lives.

Fire stations are also targets for crime; release of station blueprints would provide the means for potential thieves to target their activities to the relevant areas. The loss of equipment from stations and appliances would prevent HFRS from carrying out its public safety duties in responding to an incident or attack, increasing the severity, impact, and risk to lives.

I confirm that HFRS hold the information requested but I deem this to be exempt from disclosure under Sections 24(1) National Security, 31(1)(a) Law Enforcement and 38(1) Health and Safety.

**Section 24(1) National Security**

### Information which does not fall within section 23(1) is exempt information if exemption from section 1(1)(b) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

**Section 31(1) Law enforcement.**

### Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 (Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities) is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice (a)the prevention or detection of crime.

**Section 38((1)(b) Health and Safety**

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would or would be likely to (b)endanger the safety of any individual.

In making my decision I have undertaken a prejudice (harm) and public interest test to determine whether the need to release the information outweighs the requirement to withhold it.

**Prejudice (Harm)**

Terrorist or malicious activities would result in harm being caused to HFRS staff with the additional consequence of us being unable to respond to an incident or threat. The opportunity for such attacks would be increased by the disclosure of blueprints of our station premises thereby providing detailed information of the location of staff and equipment.

Theft of equipment would prevent HFRS from carrying out its duties in responding to an incident or attack. Release of the blueprints would enable potential culprits to target specific areas of the stations by providing detailed information of the location of equipment.

**Public Interest**

Whilst the Service acknowledges there may be a public interest in releasing blueprints in terms of greater transparency and accountability as to the building assets we possess and their use, some information relating to each station is available on our website. We do not believe that the release of this detailed information would contribute anything additional to the public good.

Conversely, it is our belief that the release of this information would be likely to perpetuate the risk to national security, law enforcement and health & safety. Such information provided in the public domain may enable harm to be caused as detailed above, thereby increasing the severity, impact, and risk to lives. Fire and Rescue Services are part of the Critical National Infrastructure network and have a legal responsibility to provide appropriate security measures to protect the safety of our staff and communities.

The public interest in providing the information has been carefully weighed against any prejudice to the public interest that might arise from withholding the information and it is my view that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure and I am unable to release this detailed information.

As part of my duty to advise and assist may I suggest that you check for information already in the public domain such as past planning applications etc. which may assist you.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. A request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this email. If you are not happy with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply direct to the Information Commissioner. The address is: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

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