

Freedom of Information – Response – 27618

Freedom of Information request - emergency vehicle access obstructed by parked or stored vehicles

Please treat this as a request for recorded information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, or the applicable access to information legislation for your jurisdiction.

I am trying to understand how UK fire and rescue services deal with incidents where parked, stored, abandoned, scrap, business-related, or otherwise obstructive vehicles affect or may affect access for fire appliances, brigade response vehicles (BRVs), or equivalent smaller response vehicles.

Please provide the following recorded information:

1. Any current policy, procedure, guidance, operational note, risk assessment template, or standard process used when crews or officers identify that a road, street, estate, industrial site, or similar location may be difficult or impossible to access because of parked/stored vehicles or vehicle-related obstruction.

Should Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service be made aware in advance of a planned closure, then the closure will be risk assessed and instructions promulgated in advance. If an appliance or responding Officer comes across a blocked road due to vehicle obstruction, they will attempt to make access via another route and inform Control to make oncoming appliances aware.

2. Any process for reporting such access concerns to another body, including the police, highways authority, local authority enforcement, parking enforcement, environmental health, planning, licensing, or landowner.

Should it be deemed necessary to raise a vehicle blocking the road with the Police, this will be done control room to control room via telephone, or in slow time between the Officer in charge and Police Officers on scene

3. Whether your service has, in the last three calendar years, referred any such access obstruction concern to the police or a highways/local authority team. If held, please provide the number of referrals by calendar year. I do not require personal data or exact addresses; broad categories or anonymised examples are sufficient.

No records are held of this taking place.

4. Whether your service uses or refers to the Highway Code, including Rule 243, when considering or explaining emergency access obstruction by parked vehicles. If held, please provide any recorded guidance, email template, briefing note, or standard wording that mentions this.

Social media education messaging has been used; however, Highway Code Rule 243 has not been specifically cited in this messaging

5. Any recorded examples, with personal data and precise addresses redacted if necessary, of how your service has advised residents, businesses, councils, police, or highways teams about maintaining access for fire appliances or BRVs where vehicle parking/storage was the concern.

No records are held of this taking place.