

Environmental Information Regulations – Response - 27704

Dear Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service,

Re: Request for Information - Wildfire Incident Response Times

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and/or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please provide data regarding your service's response times to wildfire incidents, including those recorded under the Home Office Incident Recording System (IRS) or your equivalent system as fires involving heathland, moorland, forests, grass, crops, or uncultivated vegetation.

Please provide this information for the following calendar years: 2024, 2025, and so far in 2026.

Specifically, I require the following details broken down by each individual calendar year:

1. The total number of wildfire/vegetation fire incidents attended by your service.

2024 – 205

2025 – 360

2026 – 269 YTD (as of 11th August 2026)

2. The average response time for these incidents.

The response times below are from “Time of Call” to “On Scene”

2024 – 13 minutes

2025 – 12 minutes

2026 – 13 minutes

3. The single longest total response time recorded for a wildfire incident in each of the specified years.

Please note, the following times are the times to respond

Please note, question 3 was subject to our request for clarification dated 12th August. Our clarification email request asks whether the information required is the time taken to respond to an incident or the time spent at the incident.

4. Please provide details regarding the financial resources allocated to wildfire preparedness, mitigation, and response for each of the specified calendar years:

o The total annual expenditure specifically dedicated to the procurement and maintenance of specialised wildfire equipment, off-road vehicles, and specialised personal protective equipment (PPE).

o The total additional operational cost (such as firefighter overtime, mutual aid from other services, or high-volume pump deployments) specifically recorded as a result of responding to wildfire incidents.

o If your service is a host for the government's National Resilience wildfire assets, please state the specific amount of central funding received and utilised for wildfire capabilities under this programme for the relevant period.

There is not a specific budget allocated to wildfire. Although Suffolk Fire & Rescue have off-road vehicles (Unimogs) with a wildfire firefighting capability, they are also used for water rescue, animal rescue and generic off road activities.

We are unable to show the cost of overtime from specific incidents. Likewise with Mutual Aid, we have a financial figure attached to all “Over the Border” activities as part of our business as usual activities but does not show specifics mutual aid for wildfire or vegetation fire incidents.

Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service is not a host for National Resilience Wildfire Assets.