

Environmental Information Regulations – Response - 27753

Please could you provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

This request concerns wildfires and response times.

For each question I am seeking information for each of the following time periods:

i) 2020/21

ii) 2021/22

iii) 2022/23

iv) 2023/24

v) 2024/25

vi) 2025/26 (to date)

1. How many wildfire incidents your service responded to

Financial Year	Number
2020/21	337
2021/22	189
2022/23	591
2023/24	207
2024/25	224
2025/26	338
2026/27	319

2. The average response time to any incident

In 2025/2026 our average response time of “First fire engine to all incidents within 20 minutes” was achieved within 94% of attendances. This is the same measurement that would be applied to wildfire incidents.

3. The average response time to a wildfire

From 2020/21-present, our average response time to a wildfire is 18 minutes

4. The average number of vehicles required for wildfire incidents

We can confirm that Suffolk County Council holds this information; however, it is exempt from disclosure under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half working days in determining whether the Council holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Unfortunately, our current Incident Reporting System does not allow for us to easily report on this. It would require a manual trawl of the 2205 incidents to count callsigns and then deduct specials / support appliances and officer vehicles.

It would take at least 5 mins to check each incident; this would equate to $5 \times 2205 / 60 = 183.75$ hours.

We estimate that it will take us in excess of 183 hours to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request making the total cost estimate of 183 hours $\times$ £25 = £4,575.00