

Official

**Tyne and Wear Fire
and Rescue Service**



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

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FOI REFERENCE: 121

DATE RECEIVED: 02/03/2023

TITLE / CATEGORY: Communications / ICT systems – Corporate ICT documents

REQUEST

I would like the organisation to provide me with the following departmental documents around ICT and corporate procurement.

Many organisations within your region have different document title names:

1. 2023/24 IT Department Documents ;- these types of documents have detailed information on the department's future plans and strategies. These documents include:

ICT Strategy/Plan, ICT Department Plan, ICT Financial Plan

2. ICT Org Chart ;- with names and job titles

3. Corporate Procurement Strategy that covers 2023/24 and more.

For all the documents I have requested, please provide me with the 2023/24 documents, I only want to only receive documents that are live and valid. If the document is a strategic plan (e.g. 2020-2025) that covers a set number of years, please provide me with the 2023 version.

RESPONSE

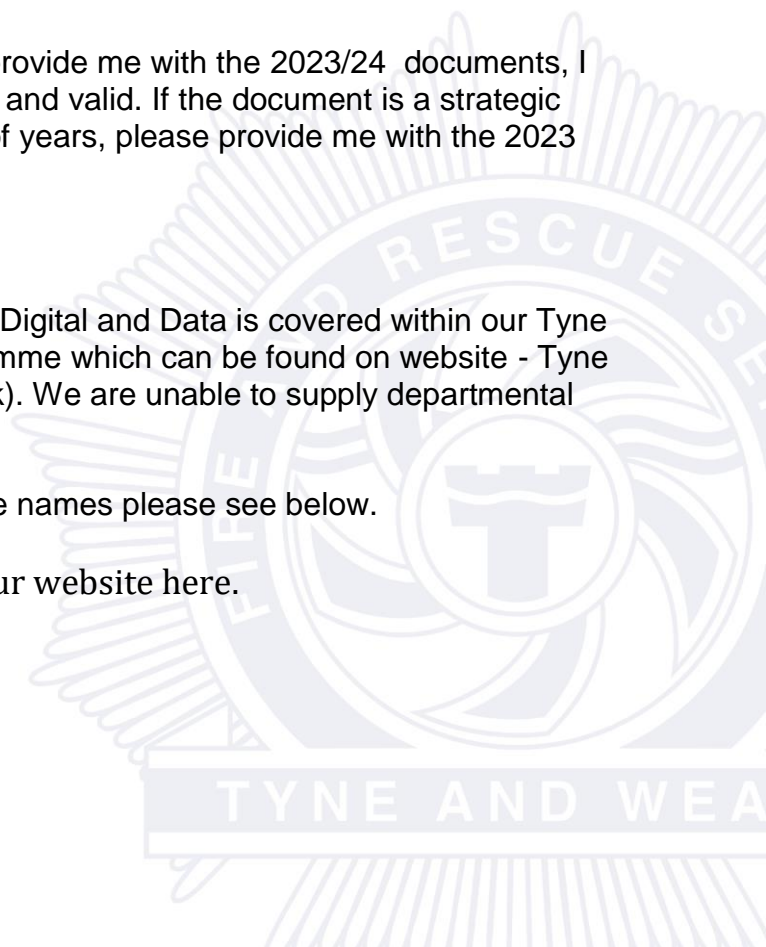
1. There are no ICT Strategic documents as Digital and Data is covered within our Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service 2025 Programme which can be found on website - Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (twfire.gov.uk). We are unable to supply departmental plans please see below.

2. Please see attached. We are unable to provide names please see below.

3. Procurement information is available on our website here.

Any printed documents are considered uncontrolled.

www.twfire.gov.uk



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RESPONSE CONT.

We are exempting the disclosure of departmental level plans requested under section 24(1) (National Security) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 24(1) provides that information is exempt if exemption from section 1(1)(b) is required for the purposes of safeguarding national security.

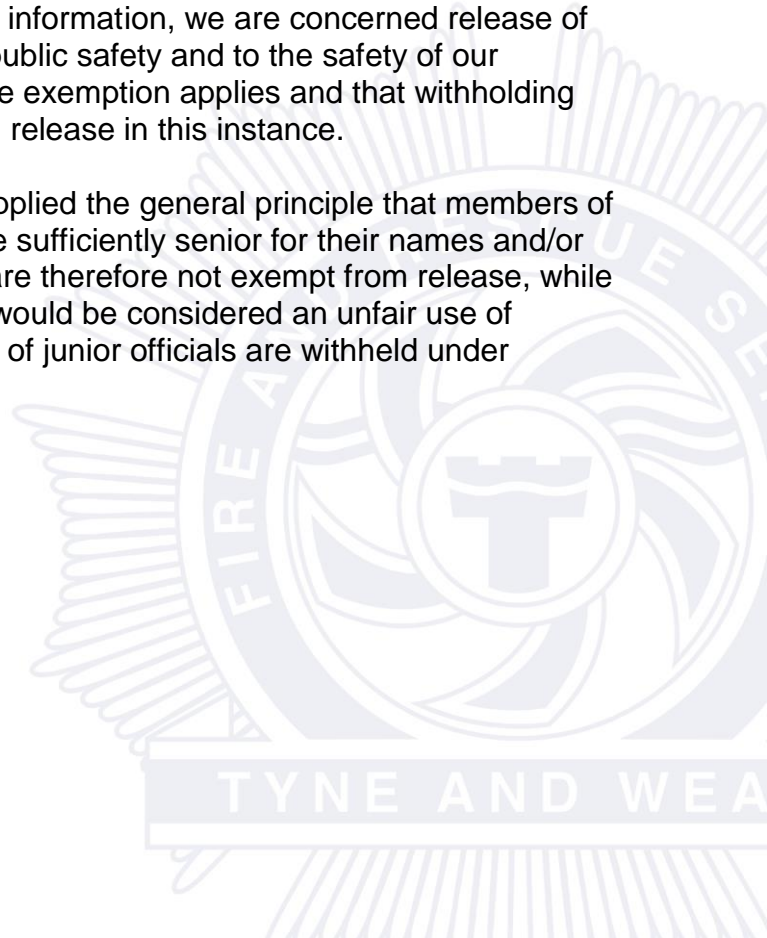
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service is considered to be a critical piece of UK national infrastructure for Emergency response. We consider under section 24 that the information you have requested regarding our IT infrastructure, our networks, our suppliers and our planned investment would provide enough details for a person with malicious intent to gain enough of an overview of our IT landscape to exploit any potential vulnerabilities and compromise our systems, for example, a cyber-attack.

Section 24(1) is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test. Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but we consider that there is also a public interest in TWFRS protecting national security. Having reviewed the requested information, we are concerned release of such information poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and to the safety of our employees. We have therefore concluded that the exemption applies and that withholding the material serves the public interest better than release in this instance.

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service have applied the general principle that members of staff at Executive Leadership level and above are sufficiently senior for their names and/or job titles to already be in the public domain and are therefore not exempt from release, while publishing the names of junior members of staff would be considered an unfair use of personal data. As such, the names and positions of junior officials are withheld under section 40(2) of the FOIA.

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RESPONSE CONT.

Section 40 exempts personal information about a 'third party' (someone other than the requester), if revealing it would breach the terms of the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998. The DPA prevents personal information from release if it would be unfair or at odds with the reason why it was collected, or where the subject had officially served notice that releasing it would cause them damage or distress. Junior members of staff would have no expectation that information about their positions would be made available in the public domain; to do so would be unfair and contravene the first data protection principle of the DPA 1998.

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