Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

FOI REFERENCE: FOI 23/24 - 143

DATE RECEIVED: 11/09/2023

TITLE / CATEGORY: ENGINEERING AND FLEET – FIRE ENGINE BREAKDOWNS

REQUEST

Under the Freedom of Information Act can I please request the following data for the calendar years 2018, 2019, 2022, 2021, 2022 and 2023-present:

1) On how many occasions did a fire engine break down?
2) On how many occasions did a fire engine break down on the way to an incident?
3) In each case, what was the cause of the break down?
4) How much did it cost to fix?

RESPONSE

I can confirm that Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service holds the information that you have requested. However, the cost of your request exceeds the limits for time and cost set out in section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

Section 12 of the FOIA allows us to decline to answer FOI requests when we estimate that it would cost us more than £450 (equivalent to 18 hours, calculated at £25 per hour) to identify, extract and then provide the information that you have requested.

We do not have an electronic system that records issues within our fleet. We have based the use of this exemption upon a return of 115 job cards for one appliance. Job cards relates to maintenance, defects, breakdown and accidents.

Although not all of these results will fall within the scope of the request, due to the large number of results retrieving that information and determining which of that information falls within your request would exceed the limits for time and cost as set out above as a manual search of each of the 115 job would be required and then carried out for the remaining vehicles (we have 40 appliances/specials in our fleet).

I regret that we have not been able to fulfil your Freedom of Information request in this instance.