



Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

Headquarters

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Chief Fire & Rescue Officer(Interim)
Michael Graham

Our Ref: RG/ FOI 83-19

4 October 2019

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST DATED 20 SEPTEMBER 2019

Please be advised of the following in relation to your request.

Question 1 On average how many hours does an On-Call firefighter provide availability to support emergency response within Enniskillen Fire Station (Information broke down to a monthly basis from 1 Sept 18 – 31 August 19)?

The information we hold for On-Call firefighter availability is measured on a weekly basis. As our system cannot automatically calculate this information by the month, we have provided the average weekly availability of a fire-fighter for the period of time denoted.

**The contractual hours include time when personnel are on annual leave, training, other duties etc.*

*** The actual response hours are the times provided that personnel are available to crew a fire appliance.*

| On Call Personnel | *Contractual hours per week | **Actual response hours per week |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Total station average | 121.91 hours | 88.27 hrs |
| Lowest average hours provided | 98.58 | 60.77 |
| Highest average hours provided | 148.99 | 130.42 |

Note - Long term sick figures, former employees and personnel on unpaid special leave are not included in the availability report.

Question 2 How many On-Call firefighters are employed at Enniskillen Fire Station (Information broke down to a monthly basis from 1 Sept 18 – 31 August 19)?

2

Date

Name

Detailed in the table below are the numbers of On-Call Firefighters employed for each month during the times requested. The current figure for September 2019 is 17 On-Call Firefighters.

| SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|
| 18 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 18 | 18 | 17 | 17 | 16 |

Question 3 How many FF's are required to crew appliances based at Enniskillen Fire station?

The normal crewing levels for appliances within NIFRS is 5 personnel on the first appliance and 4 personnel on the second appliance.

However appliances may be crewed with a maximum of 6 personnel or a minimum of 4 personnel depending on the type of response required and the number of available personnel.

Question 4 How many times has a fire appliance been unable to respond to an emergency due to sickness/unavailability, etc?

See below.

Question 5 Please tell me when an appliance was unable to attend a call due to a lack of availability of part-time fire-fighters?

Please note that we have amalgamated the response to questions 4 & 5.

*During the 12 months period requested we can confirm that there was **3** occasions when NIFRS were unable to provide a response from Enniskillen Fire Station. The reason for the non-mobilisation of an appliance is:*

- First appliance off station providing a response to another incident*
- Only min crew available and On-Call FF had an accident while responding to station which resulted in insufficient crewing numbers to mobilise appliance.*
- Insufficient number of On-Call firefighters available to mobilise appliances.*

In each of the occasions above NIFRS sent an appliance from the next available station to ensure the incident was effectively dealt with.

3

Date

Name

During this 12 month period there has also been 19 other occasions where the first appliance has been mobilised to an incident from Enniskillen Fire Station and there has been insufficient crewing to mobilise the second appliance. In all these occasions an appliance from the next available station to support the initial response. There was only 3 occasions when the second appliance was required to attend the incident.

The reasons for fire appliances having insufficient crewing levels are due to On-Call fire-fighters at their primary employment, off due to sickness, off duty, unavailable due to training etc.

Question 6 How many hours are On-Call firefighters contracted to work each month and how are these hours recorded?

The majority of On-Call Firefighters at Enniskillen Fire Station must provide a minimum of 84 contracted hours per week. The average contracted availability is 121.91 hours within this station which is 37.9 hours above the minimum requirement requested.

All new contracts issued within the last year at this station have a minimum requirement of 100 hours.

Review Process

Under the terms of the legislation, if you are unhappy with this response you have the right to seek a review within the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service in the first instance. If you wish to do so, please write to Stuart Crawford the Governance, Information & Business Support Services Manager, 1 Seymour Street, Lisburn, BT27 4SX within two calendar months of the date of this letter.

If after such a review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner who will undertake an independent review. The Information Commissioner contact details are – 3rd Floor 14 Cromac Place Belfast BT7 2JB.

Please visit www.nifrs.org for more information about NIFRS.
Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer