

##### Headquarters

1 Seymour Street

Lisburn BT27 4SX

##### T 028 9266 4221

##### F 028 9267 7402

enquiries@nifrs.org

[www.nifrs.org](http://www.nifrs.org)

**Chief Fire & Rescue Officer**

Michael Graham

##### Interim Chief Fire & Rescue Officer

##### Dale Ashford QFSM

Our Ref: RG/ FOI 117-20

30 March 2021

Dear

**RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST OF 24 MARCH 2021**

Please be advised of the following in relation to your request

1. How many firefighters are currently employed by your fire service?

*As at 28 February 2021 there were 1698 Wholetime and On-Call operational employees*

1. How many of your firefighters are on call?

*As at 28th February 2021 NIFRS employed 898 On-Call operational employees.*

1. How many hours are your on call firefighters (if any) contracted to per week as a minimum?

*NIFRS has a series of On-Call contracts which are outlined below;*

*Day Time Only - a minimum of 40 hours each week between 8 am – 6 pm, Monday to Friday.*

*Banded – a minimum of 100 hours each week which needs to include a minimum 48\*hours within the following Bands:*

*Band 1: Friday 1800 to Sunday 1800*

 *(must provide at least 24 hours\* availability within this Band each week)*

 *Band 2: Monday - Friday 0800 – 1800*

(it is not essential to provide availability within this Band each week if the minimum 48 hour requirement has been provided in Band 1)

120 Hour Contract – provide a minimum of 120 hours each week across a range of times. This contract is currently under review.

1. Do all your on call firefighters have an annual appraisal?

*Not currently but a pilot system is currently being developed.*

1. Are their appraisals conducted on a one to one basis?

*Not applicable currently but will be going forward.*

1. Who conducts the appraisal and do you have an example of the form used?

*Appraisals are not conducted at this time. A form is currently in development in line with the pilot system.*

1. Are there any other forms of acknowledging good performance/achievements by on call firefighters?

*NIFRS has an annual employee awards ceremony and specific achievements will be acknowledged during this ceremony.*

1. What, if any, equipment (other than clothing and pager/alerter) are your on call firefighters provided with?

*All on-call firefighters are provided with a uniform, PPE and pager.*

1. Are email bulletins/updates sent directly to all on call firefighters? If so, how regularly*?*

*Yes, these are issued centrally which are delivered on drill nights each week. Whatsapp groups are also used to communicate messaging directly when required.*

1. What is your HMI inspection rating?

*NIFRS does not have a HMI inspection rating as it does not fall under the inspection programme undertaken by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) which is currently limited to the 45 English Fire & Rescue Services.*

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](http://www.nifrs.org) for more information about NIFRS.

Yours sincerely

**Information Officer**