



## Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service



**Sent by Email:**

Mr John H Large  
Large & Associates  
  
(johnhlarge@o2.co.uk)

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service HQ  
Philip Webb  
Information Compliance Officer  
(Performance Review Team)  
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Date: 2 November 2009

Enquiries To: Philip Webb

My Reference: 242009

Extension: 3942

Your Reference:

Dear Mr Large

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in respect to your recent application for the release of information held by the Authority regarding SOTONSAFE.

We note you require information regarding Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service personnel attending a possible incident involving radioactivity released from a nuclear powered submarine berthed in Southampton Docks, and would respond as follows:-

- 1) For those Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service personnel attending a radiation emergency (i.e. Reg 14 of REPPIR), that is those who have been instructed to attend the incident as distinct from those who may be subject to radiation exposure when going about their normal duties not connected with the radiation incident, is there:-
  - 1.i a local agreement between the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and its employees specifying a radiation dose limitation system:

A: Yes, as laid down by [Service Order SO/7/5/2 Appendix H](#) as recommended by the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999.
  - 1.ii If there is a local agreement, does this in any way contravene and/ or exempt the national agreement and/or guidance on limitation of incident, monthly and annual radiation exposure for males, females of reproductive age, and females in a declared term of pregnancy;

A: The above does not contravene national guidance. In fact HFRS goes further than the recognised recommendations in that female firefighters working for HFRS have a zero exposure level (13msv max dose recommendation by IRR 1999).

1.iii Please provide a copy of the ionising radiation dose limitation system (local or national) that Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service personnel will be subject to when attending any incident in a declared SOTONSAFE radiation emergency; and

A: Please see Service Order SO/7/5/2 appendix H and [FireFacts 59](#) – attached.

1.iv please state the policy and/or protocol for continuing attendance of crews of firefighters should one or more members of a crew reach and/or exceed the individual dose limit; be it the lower or zero incident limit for female firefighters (as this might apply), or where an individual firefighter has reached and/or exceeded the incident, monthly or yearly cumulative dose (or whatever applies).

A: If a male firefighter is exposed to an effective dose in excess of 20 msv in any one year, the Service will carry out an immediate investigation and ensure adequate medical surveillance. Also that individual will have no further exposure to radiation for a further 2 years minimum (SO 7/5/2 Appx H, paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 refer).

2) In respect of its possible involvement berthed nuclear powered submarine incident at Southampton, has the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service received any specific advise from the :

2.i Home Office:

A: Yes, from the Ministry of Defence via consultation for SOTONSAFE plan.

2.ii been advised by either SCC and/or the Ministry of Defence, or any agency acting on behalf thereof, on the nature of its required involvement together with the projected dose rates and exposures and, if it has, then please provide a copy of this advice.

A: Yes. Nature of involvement detailed in SOTONSAFE plan. No projected dose rates or exposures are required. We will work to levels set by our own procedures and guidance.

Any future correspondence you may have with HFRS in relation to this matter should be marked "Private & Confidential" and sent to the Information Compliance Officer at the above address.

If for whatever reason you are unhappy with our response to your application you are entitled to pursue any dissatisfaction through Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Complaints Procedure. The Service Complaints Officer can be contacted by writing to Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Headquarters, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 9SJ.

Should you still remain dissatisfied you can appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Philip S Webb  
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Information Compliance Officer  
Data Protection, Freedom of Information & Environmental Information Regulation