**Freedom of Information - Humberside Fire and Rescue Service**

**2025/26 057 Training and Exercising for Retained Firefighters**

**The request is:**

**Staffing and Roles**

1. What is the total number of retained firefighting staff in your brigade, including ranks?
2. Do you have a designated training and exercising manager for retained firefighting crews (or a general operational firefighting training and exercising manager)?
a. If yes, what are their relevant training qualifications?
b. When was this role established?
c. Is this a permanent, full-time position?
3. Is there a designated budget for training and exercising for retained crews?
a. If yes, what percentage of the overall department budget does this represent?

**Training Policy**

1. Are there policies or procedures to ensure uninterrupted practical training for retained crews (e.g., operational cover during exercises)?
A. If yes, please provide a copy of the relevant policy if possible.
b. If not, is training generally conducted during on-call periods with potential for interruptions?
2. Has your service piloted or implemented any digital/simulation-based tools for retained firefighter training or exercising, including virtual reality technologies? Please give details if yes.

**Practical Training Participation**

Between 31st July 2023 to 31st July 2025:

1. How many times have retained crews participated in practical training involving only their own station?
2. How many times have retained crews participated in practical training involving other teams/departments within your brigade?
3. How many times have retained crews participated in practical training with other fire brigades?
4. How many times have retained crews participated in practical training with other agencies, such as Police or Ambulance services?

**The response is:**

1. In total, there are 335 retained firefighting staff at Humberside Fire and Rescue Service which can be broken down into:

Watch Managers: 21

Crew Managers: 67

Firefighters: 247

2. We have a central operational training team.

a) The group manager and station managers have varied qualifications to aid in running the department such as Hazmat qualifications and Institute of fire exams.

The central training team have qualifications in:

* Breathing apparatus instructor exams
* Road traffic collision exams
* Working at height instructor exams
* Water rescue
* Swift water rescue

b)These have been long standing operational roles within the service structure**.**

c) These are permanent and full-time positions.

3. There is a dedicated budget for the delivery of training across the service for wholetime firefighters.

a) 100%

**Training Policy**

4. We have an Exercises Policy which can be found on our website [here.](https://humbersidefire.gov.uk/about-us/our-policies)

On-call staff are required to attend a weekly drill night (minimum of 2 hours) which is predominantly used for training.

5. We have a number of tools that we use which range from virtual reality to an articulate package which uses 360 vista and 360 media.

**Practical Training Participation**

Our crews train and exercise regularly however we do not record each occurrence, so this is information that we do not hold.

Training that is organised centrally is below which is available to on-call firefighters.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year  | Breathing Apparatus | Road Traffic collision | Working at Heights | Water Rescue  | Total  |
| 2023 | 16 | 21 | 5 | 15 | 57 |
| 2024 | 45 | 84 | 56 | 125 | 315 |
| 2025 | 106 | 41 | 50 | 52 | 249 |

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. A request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this email. If you are not happy with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply direct to the Information Commissioner at [www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints](https://newsletter.ico.org.uk/c/1lULiJldYNwfIFlCf3c4BKJdO). The postal address is: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.