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

**2025/26 069 Assaults on Firefighters**

**The request is:**

1. How many assaults against firefighters were recorded in 2024?

2. Could I have a geographic breakdown of where the assaults occurred.

3. Could I have a brief description of the nature of the assault.

**The response is:**

I can confirm that Humberside Fire and Rescue Service hold this information.

1. 17

2. The assaults occurred across Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire, and North and Northeast Lincolnshire. We are unable to disclose the breakdown by location as the figures would be too low and would be likely to identify the individuals concerned. This is therefore deemed as personal data which is exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Personal data is information that related to an identified or identifiable individual. Please see further information on Section 40(2) below.

3. Please see the table below.

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| Type of Attack | Incident Detail |
| 1. Physical abuse, verbal abuse, harassment | Youths pointed BB guns, interfered with hose reels, obstructed crews |
| 1. Verbal abuse | Occupier verbally aggressive during fire attendance |
| 1. Verbal abuse | Occupier threatened to stab anyone entering property |
| 1. Verbal abuse | Verbal abuse when crew refused request to break into padlocked gate |
| 1. Verbal abuse, other acts of aggression | Occupant’s family verbally abused crew; vehicle driven aggressively |
| 1. Verbal abuse, other acts of aggression | Threats made to damage fire station property |
| 1. Objects thrown, verbal abuse | Rock thrown at station windows; verbal abuse |
| 1. Physical abuse, verbal abuse, harassment, other acts of aggression | Off-duty firefighter threatened with physical harm |
| 1. Verbal abuse, harassment, other acts of aggression | Verbal aggression from occupants; risk of escalation |
| 1. Verbal abuse, harassment | Occupant verbally abusive and threatened to set fire to property |
| 1. Physical abuse, verbal abuse | Crew member pushed/punched while assisting person from water; verbal abuse |
| 1. Verbal abuse, harassment | Occupier verbally abusive during Home Fire Safety Visit |
| 1. Objects thrown, verbal abuse, harassment | Youths verbally abusive and throwing stones; threats to start fires |
| 1. Verbal abuse, harassment, other acts of aggression | Youths obstructed fire extinguishing efforts and verbally abused crew |
| 1. Verbal abuse, harassment, other acts of aggression | Youths hindered firefighting efforts, verbally abusive, threatening |
| 1. Verbal abuse | Shop owner verbally abusive during protection visit |
| 1. Verbal abuse | Alleged racist comments towards crew during HFSV |

**Section 40 of FOIA:**

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—

1. it constitutes personal data which does not fall within subsection (1), and
2. the first condition below is satisfied.

(3A) The first condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act—

1. would contravene any of the data protection principles

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption where if the first condition is satisfied, then a public interest test is not necessary, however, public interest must be considered when judging lawfulness under principle (3A(a)).

To judge whether disclosure would contravene principle (3A(a)), consideration must be given to whether it is it lawful, fair and transparent. The most relevant lawful basis in this case would be legitimate interest and have therefore considered the public interest on this basis:

**Public interest in favour of disclosure:**

1. There is a legitimate public interest in the number of assaults on firefighters and the location in which the assaults occur.

**Public Interest in favour of withholding:**

1. Disclosing small numbers could lead to the identification of individuals, which would be an unwarranted invasion of their personal privacy.
2. Identifying of individuals through the disclosure could expose them to harm, distress, or discrimination.
3. Ensuring that personal data is protected helps maintain public trust in public authorities and encourages individuals to engage and provide accurate meaningful information to the organisation.

We then considered whether disclosure is necessary to meet the legitimate interest.

We believe there is a legitimate interest for the requester in the information withheld, however, do not believe that the breakdown by location is required to meet this interest.

**Balancing Test:**

It is necessary to balance the factors above whilst maintaining transparency and privacy. Withholding the breakdown by location of Firefighters that have been assaulted would not wholly satisfy the request, however, would satisfy the wider legitimate interest, and disclosure of the detailed information is likely to cause harm to the individuals concerned as outlined above in the public interest reasoning. It is our belief that the legitimate interest does not outweigh the interests and rights of the individuals who have a right to personal privacy.

On balance, the public interest in withholding the requested information outweighs the public interest in disclosure and the information requested is exempt under Section 40(2) Personal Information of the Freedom of Information Act.

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.