



24 November 2025

Request:

I would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information relating to the fire on the 5th August 2025 on a canal boat moored by Gayton Marina.

1. What were the exact chemistries of all the batteries on the boat?
2. What particular functions did each of the chemistries perform in the boat?
3. Where was each chemistry located in the boat?
4. What indications were there that each of the exact chemistries had or had not released flammable or explosive vapour during or immediately before the fire?
5. What indications were there that each of the exact chemistries had or had not contributed to starting the fire?
6. What indications were there that anything other than a battery had or had not released vapour or contributed to starting the fire?

Response:

I have to advise you that Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service is not obliged to provide the information requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please take this email as a refusal notice to this request.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt within the provisions of the Act) to provide you, the requester, with a notice which:

- a) states the fact that an exemption has been applied;
- b) specifies the exemption in question; and
- c) states why the exemption applies (if that would not otherwise be apparent).

The statutory exemption applicable to the information not disclosed is as follows:

Section 30(1) - Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities

Section 30 is a class based, qualified exemption and requires a public interest test. This covers information held at any time for the purposes of a specific investigation, criminal or otherwise. The information is collected and collated as part of an investigation carried out by Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service. Legislators, therefore, have accepted that the release of any information in this class may be harmful. However, since the exemption is qualified, I am required to apply the public interest test.

S.30 Factors favouring disclosure

Incidents attract public interest and national disclosure of the information requested would give the public the satisfaction of knowing that these fires are investigated properly, and that the use of public funds is being spent wisely.

S.30 Factors favouring non-disclosure

Information relating to an investigation will rarely be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act and only where there is a strong public interest consideration favouring disclosure. If details were to be released this may hinder the progress of an investigation and any proceedings arising from it.

Balancing Test

The public interest test is centred on whether the information you have requested should be disclosed to the world, not just to you the applicant.

By disclosing the requested information in this case would mean that investigations would be less effective and the small benefit in increased public awareness would not be adequate compensation for such an impact on society. It is therefore my opinion that the balance lies in favour of non-disclosure of the data requested.

In some instances, Incident Reports can be obtained directly from Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service. Further information can be found on their website:

[Incident and Investigation reports – Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service](#)

APPEAL RIGHTS

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled or you do not think the decision is correct, you have the right to ask for a review of the decision.

Prior to lodging a formal appeal you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again is to telephone the case officer. That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

Appeal

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision that the Service have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information, you can lodge an appeal with the Service to have the decision reviewed.

Appeals should be made in writing within 20 days of receipt of your reply and either emailed to freedomofinformation@northants.police.uk or addressed to:

Freedom of Information Manager

Information Unit

Darby House

Darby Close

Park Farm Industrial Estate

Wellingborough

NN8 6GS

Where possible the Service will aim to respond to your appeal within 20 working days.

However, meeting this time scale will depend upon the circumstances and complexity of the issue.

The Information Commissioner

After lodging an appeal with the Service, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make an application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk Alternatively, telephone or write to:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF Phone: 0303 123 1113



Northamptonshire
Police



Northamptonshire
Police, Fire & Crime
Commissioner



Northamptonshire
Fire & Rescue Service