



4 March 2026

Request:

Provide (preferably in Microsoft Excel or another machine-readable format) the following information in respect of supplier invoices paid later than 30 days, for the period from the earliest available date above to 4 February 2026:

1. Supplier name
2. Invoice date
3. Gross invoice value
4. Payment date
5. Any additional fields that add context to late payment and are already held in a structured or readily extractable form, including (but not limited to):
 - invoice due date
 - invoice received date
 - invoice approval date
 - invoice payment terms
 - invoice number
 - query or dispute flag
 - reason for query, dispute, or delay

These additional fields are optional and should only be included where they can be provided without additional manual effort.

Response:

The current financial system used by Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service went live in April 2022, therefore this date was the earliest that data could be retrieved from.

Please see enclosed document which lists the following information:

1. Supplier name (except where redacted)
2. Invoice date
3. Gross invoice value
4. Payment date

The following exemption has been applied to redacted supplier names – s.40(2) Personal Information.

5. We can confirm that Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service does not hold the information relating to your request. By way of further explanation, this data is not specifically entered into our system and is therefore not reportable. However, for context, some of the common reasons for late payment of invoices are that we could have received the invoices late; there could be commercial or contract issues that require the supplier to be put on hold until resolved; we could be waiting for confirmation of receipt of goods or services; or there could be a credit on the supplier account which is larger than the current invoices due.

Exemptions where information has been redacted:

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires that, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) is to provide you the requester with a notice which:

- (a) States that fact;
- (b) Specifies the exemption(s) in question; and
- (c) States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

Some of the information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 40(2) – Personal Information

This is an absolute, class-based exemption and, as such, there is no requirement to consider the Public Interest Test.

Section 40 pertains to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. This is because any release would breach the Principles contained within Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Part 2 of the Data Protection Act 2018.

One of the main differences between the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act is that any information released under Freedom of Information is released into the public domain, not just to the individual requesting the information. As such, any release that identifies an individual through releasing their personal data, even third party personal data, is exempted unless there is a strong public interest in its release. The public interest is not what interests the public but what benefits the community as a whole.

Personal data is defined under the Data Protection Act as data that is biographical in nature, has the requester as its focus and/or affects the data subject's privacy in his or her personal, professional or business life.

Principle A of Article 5(1) states that information must be processed fairly, lawfully and in a transparent manner. In this case the individuals would have a reasonable expectation that information would not be processed if it resulted in their identification, or equally led an individual to be wrongfully identified as a consequence.

Disclosures which appear harmless, pieced together with other disclosures can be used in a 'mosaic effect' by third parties who may have access to additional information that would enable them to link the requested information to an individual.

Freedom Of Information Act disclosures are to the world at large and will remain in the public domain indefinitely. Therefore, provision of this information would exceed the original Policing requirement for the processing of the information and would not be lawful or fair to the individuals in question.

It is for the reasons outlined above that we feel that Principle A would be breached by this disclosure and the Section 40 exemption remains in place. We are not obliged to consider any further principles in our arguments.

Caveats:

The numerical data presented in this response is an unaudited snapshot of unpublished data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service systems are designed primarily for the management of individual cases and not for the production of statistical information for Freedom of Information responses.

The figures provided therefore are our best interpretation of relevance of data to your request, but you should be aware that the collation of figures for ad hoc requests may have limitations and this should be taken into account when the data is used.

If you decide to write an article/use the enclosed data, we ask you to take into consideration the factors highlighted in this document so as to not mislead members of the public or official bodies or misrepresent the relevance of the whole or any part of this disclosed material.

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