

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

Privacy Notice for fire and rescue incidents

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority (MFRA) will process your personal information to provide an emergency response in the event of a fire or rescue incident, investigate the cause of incidents, analyse risk and incident trends and provide information to the Government.

We need to process your information to carry out tasks to help improve your safety in relation to Section 6 (Fire Safety), Section 7 (firefighting) and Section 8 (Road Traffic Accidents) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. We are carrying out these tasks in the public interest.

As well as using personal information that we have collected from you, we record all incoming and outgoing calls in our Control room and your phone number is automatically captured if we receive your emergency call via the BT 999 system. We also use data provided by other agencies for the purpose of managing and investigating incidents. The other agencies include: North West Ambulance Service, the police, landlords, carers/support workers, family members etc.

The Incident Reporting System (IRS) is a national system managed by the Home Office and used to collect post incident information. – see the Home Office IRS privacy notice attached at appendix 1. MFRA may share the information from this system securely to eligible external stakeholders, when necessary, for the reasons specified above and when processing a request for information or an incident report. All information is processed in line with Data Protection requirements and guidelines.

We will store your information securely in electronic and/or paper format for the following periods, after which it will be destroyed securely:

Recordings of phone calls – 7 years

Incident investigation reports – 40 years

Information held in the mobilising system is retained indefinitely.

You have a right to request access to the information we hold about you, or to request that we correct, erase, restrict processing or transfer your data to another organisation. You can also object to processing.

For further information about this you can contact the Information Management Officer via email dataprotection@merseyfire.gov.uk, or by phone on 0151 296 4425.

If you have any concerns about the way we process your data, you can contact the Data Protection Officer via email debbieappleton@merseyfire.gov.uk, or on 0151 296 4402.

Alternatively you have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Privacy Notice for individuals who have accessed fire and rescue services (FRSs)

Fire and rescue service

Incident Recording System

Information for individuals

HOW ARE WE USING YOUR INFORMATION?



Incident Recording System

If your household or business has accessed the fire and rescue service via an emergency call, your personal information will be shared with the Home Office for research and statistical purposes.

HOW IS THIS INFORMATION PROVIDED?



The information is provided via the IRS (Incident Recording System), a website managed by the Home Office. It collects information on the incidents attended by FRSs, for example fires, false alarms, road traffic collisions. Some of this information is personal and sensitive so the HO is responsible for ensuring that all data is processed in line with Data Protection legislation.

WHY ARE WE SHARING THIS INFORMATION

Information collected via the IRS is shared with other Government Departments and academics. Data are only shared for research and statistical purposes, with data sharing agreements in place for personal data to ensure the data share complies with data privacy legislation.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU?

It will not affect the service that you get. The information shared is handled with care in accordance with the law. We are collecting and sharing your information to help us understand better the role and demand on the fire and rescue services and inform fire policy and future service provision.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE...

IRS Data are collected by fire and rescue services on behalf of the Home Office (HO) for research and statistical purposes only. Fire and rescue services do not require the consent of individuals to provide the information but individuals have the right to know how and for what purpose the data are being collected, held and used. The processing must have a lawful basis which, in this case, is that the processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest to meet a function of the Crown, a Minister of the Crown or a government department.

Your personal information will be held and processed by the Home Office based at 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF. The Home Office is the joint controller of this information along with fire and rescue services.

You have the right to object to and restrict the use of your personal information, or to ask to have your data deleted, or corrected. You also have the right to obtain confirmation that your data are being processed, and to access your personal data. Contact details are given below.

The information collected via IRS relates to the incident attended by a fire and rescue service. Some of the information may have been provided by you at the time of the incident. Personal data collected will be held for research and statistical purposes for up to 70 years. When no longer needed, data will be destroyed in a safe manner.

We are aware that some of the data collected are particularly sensitive: for example names and addresses and ethnic group of victims of fires and non-fire incidents. Please rest assured that all the information collected via IRS is treated in accordance with Data Protection requirements and guidelines.

Data are published by HO in aggregate form on a quarterly and annual basis as part of a schedule of routine reports and complementary tables. To access the publications please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-statistics>

IRS data are shared with other public sector bodies for research and statistical purposes only. For example, data are shared with the Forestry Commission to allow them to pinpoint wildfires in their role for formulating policies to deal with them. More information on whom we share personal data with can be found on our website here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-statistics>

If you require more information on how your personal information is being processed, please email us at firestatistics@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with how any aspect of this privacy notice, or how your personal information is being processed, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO): <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>