



Gofynner am/ Information Governance

Please ask and Compliance

Tel: 01443232000

E-bost/E-mail: DataProtection@southwales-fire.gov.uk

Our ref: IG000783

Dyddiad/Date 19.03.21

RE: Request for Information held by SWFRS

Your request ref: IG000783 has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

You asked us:

1.

What is the process for alerting you to when an assessment has taken place and a decision made to change a stay-put strategy to one of simultaneous evacuation? Is there a particular document or form I should ask for (i.e. the assessment itself?) or would it be better to ask for how many of these notifications relating to how many buildings you have received in a given period?

There is no set procedure regarding notifying the Fire & Rescue Service of a change to an evacuation strategy. However, this can be achieved either by contacting SWFRS to inform them or following a Fire Safety Audit.

2. Is there a particular document or form I should ask for (i.e. the assessment itself?) or would it be better to ask for how many of these notifications relating to how many buildings you have received in a given period?

There is no specific document. The total number of buildings in the South Wales Service Area that have changed their evacuation strategy since Grenfell is 20.

3. What could I ask for to find out how long a simultaneous evacuation policy remains in place? Is there a record that the fire service keeps? Does the competent person have to notify the fire service at intervals? In each case what is it that I should be asking for?

Changes to an evacuation can be either a permanent or a temporary change – this depends on the circumstances of the situation. SWFRS will keep this information on record. Any request should be made in writing.

Pencadlys Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub De Cymru,
Parc Busnes Forest View, Llantrisant, Pont-y-clun, CF72 8LX.

Ffôn 01443 232000 • Ffacs 01443 232180
www.decymru-tan.gov.uk

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y gymraeg a'r saesneg - byddwn yn ymateb yn gyfartal i'r ddau ac yn ateb yn eich dewis iaith heb oedi.

CODI YMWHYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters,
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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English - we will respond equally to both and will reply in your language of choice without delay.

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4. Related to this – are you notified if/when they revert to a stay-put policy and what documents would demonstrate this?

If a building has reverted back to the stay put policy then certification is required to ensure the building is safe. The Fire & Rescue Service will then carryout another inspection.

5. I know that a simultaneous evacuation policy will be likely to involve a waking watch but is there a document or piece of information I can request to confirm whether that is definitely the case?

There are a number of ways to achieve a temporary simultaneous evacuation. Guidance can be found in the document attached.

6. And finally, are you informed if a building has a waking watch in addition to a stay-put policy? Again, what is the documentation that I could request to show this?

South Wales Fire & Rescue Service does not recommend a waking watch in buildings which has a stay put policy. This is an overprovision.

If you have any queries regarding your Freedom of Information request, please contact us at Dataprotection@southwales-fire.gov.uk quoting the reference number above in any future communication.

If you are dissatisfied with the way that your information request has been handled, you can request an internal review by emailing Dataprotection@southwales-fire.gov.uk

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office-Wales,
2nd Floor,
Churchill House,
Churchill Way,
Cardiff,
CF10 2HH.

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours Faithfully

Information Governance and Compliance

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UPDATE COVID-19: Information Requests

We are kindly asking that any data protection correspondence come to Information Governance & Compliance via email, as due to Government advice many of our support staff are working flexibly and we may not be in receipt of physical post as normal. SWFRS anticipates that it may take us longer than 20 working days to complete Freedom of Information Requests and Subject Access Requests. The Information Commissioner recognises that there might be delays as our services and resources may be being utilised in slightly different ways, under the current unprecedented circumstances. At current, we are no longer accepting physical postal cheques, however we can accept BACs payments for items that carry a fee (such as IRS Reports and Interviews, where appropriate following standard procedure and charges).

We would like to thank you for your patience at this time.

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