



## FOI RESPONSE IG000457

### Question 1 & Question 2

We believe that section 24 of the FOIA 2000 applies to your question and we are exempt from sharing such information. The exemption applies where withholding the information is “required for the purposes of safeguarding National security”

To release this information ( such as: planning assumptions, numbers and response times etc.) whilst may be useful could conversely highlight and make vulnerable our ability to respond to major incidents involving our joint USAR function and have a negative impact on National security. Although we understand a need for transparency, on balance we are unable to provide you with details of our existing MOUs as these are sensitive arrangements between us and other parties (such as Police) that if accessed publicly, could compromise such arrangements which are in place for public safety and protection ( such as anti-terrorism and murder investigation arrangements). We believe section 36 of the FOIA 2000 applies, that release of such information could prejudice the effectiveness of public affairs and in turn have the ability to negatively impact the service delivery of our public tasks, as category 1 emergency responders.

In the interest of public spend and accountability we are however happy to provide you with full cost figures for USAR.

#### Headline budget costs

Wales USAR Budget 2019/20	
Budget Heading	Total
Salary Costs	796,518
Supplies and Services	51,000
Specialist Training	44,224
<b>Total USAR Headline Costs</b>	<b>891,742</b>

Pencadlys Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub De Cymru,  
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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 YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHOU 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.

**RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK**



### Question 3

The USAR selection process.

- Personnel are invited to attend a series of awareness days. These days enable discussion around the USAR technician role in Wales.
- Personnel are invited to attend an assessment day. The day consists of various tasks to test the skills of potential candidates.
- HR attend the assessment days, this ensures transparency throughout the full process.
- The candidates are scored using a PQA scoring matrix. Supplied and reviewed by HR.
- Candidates successful at the assessment days then go forward to a role specific interview panel.
- Successful candidates are kept on a holding list for up to 2 years.
- Unsuccessful candidates are offered feedback on their performance.

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