

FOI ref no: OPCC/FOI/43/2019

Date: 06 November 2019

Good Afternoon,

Freedom of Information request: reference OPCC/FOI/43/2019, first notified to us by email on 17 October 2019.

Thank you for your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as detailed below:

I would like to request information regarding plans to remove the Community rooms and facilities at Leek Fire Station.

- 1. What plans have been made?*
- 2. What consultations have been made or will be made with local communities?*
- 3. How does this satisfy the requirements within the PFI contract to provide community facilities?*
- 4. What plans do you have to offer alternative facilities for community groups and activities?*
- 5. What are the timescales involved?*
- 6. What is the business case for this decision?*

Staffordshire Commissioner's Office response to your enquiry is as follows:

I can confirm that the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office does hold the requested information.

1. What plans have been made about the removal of community room facilities?

Hanley is the only community fire station where community facilities will be withdrawn. This is an exceptional case, as there is operational need to base the Staffordshire Police Northern Response Team at Hanley.

2. What consultations have been made or will be made with local communities?

Whilst consultation is not formally required, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service are working with community groups in Hanley to ensure that they are re-located to alternative premises with minimum disruption and inconvenience.

3. How does this satisfy the requirements within the PFI contract to provide community facilities?

There is no contractual requirement to provide community facilities within the PFI contracts, however the contracts do include the provision for meet and greet time by the Facilities Management Company, when the facilities^[SH1] are used by community groups.^[HB2]

4. What plans do you have to offer alternative facilities for community groups and activities?

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service are working with community groups in Hanley to ensure they are re-located to alternative premises with minimum disruption and inconvenience. Following consultation a number of community groups have already accepted an alternative meeting venue offered to them.

5. What are the timescales involved?

In Tamworth, the local policing team is scheduled^[SH3] to be co-located at the current Tamworth Belgrave Community Fire Station before Christmas with arrangements for Hanley planned to follow next year.

6. What is the business case for this decision?

For both Tamworth and Hanley, a combined facility will reduce annual premises costs and provide a substantial capital receipt through disposal of both sites. This will improve the future financial position for both Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this email and should be addressed to:

Freedom of Information
Staffordshire Commissioner's Office
Block 9, Staffordshire Police HQ
Stafford
ST18 0YY

Or emailed to: FOI.OPCC@staffordshire-pfcc.pnn.gov.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Yours sincerely



Freedom of Information Decision Maker