

ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS
RESPONSE TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Date response returned:	19th February 2026
Date received:	30th January 2026
Subject:	Fire Extinguishers & Servicing

Information Requested:

1. When did the last tender for the supply and service of fire extinguishers take place with Onchan District Commissioners and why has one not been done in recent years;
2. How much has been spent on new fire extinguishers over the last 5 years; and
3. How much has it cost to service them over the last 5 years.

Response provided to information requested:

1. The Authority last tendered for the supply and service of fire extinguishers in March 2019. The successful tender was effective from the 1st April 2019 to the 31st March 2021;

It is the Authority's policy to tender contracts every three years. However, the following exemptions have been applied after March 2021 in accordance with the Authority's Standing Orders, which were in place at the time:

Exemptions from Tendering Requirements

Nothing in these Standing Orders shall require tenders to be invited where:

- (a) In case of contracts for the supply of goods or materials:
 - (i) The goods or materials are proprietary articles supplied only by one person or company, and are sold only at a fixed price and no reasonably satisfactory alternative is available; or
 - (ii) The prices of the goods or materials are wholly controlled by trade organisations or government order and no reasonably satisfactory alternative is available; or
 - (iii) For other reasons, there would be no genuine competition; or
- (b) The contract constitutes an extension of an existing contract, provided such extension does not exceed £42,000 in the amount or value and is approved by the Board; or
- (c) The subject matter of the contract is considered by the appropriate Department Head as being required so urgently as not to permit the invitation of tenders; or
- (d) The estimated expenditure or value of the contract is less than £5,000, or between £5,000 and £21,000 in which latter case quotations will be sought rather than tenders; or
- (e) The contract is for the purchase or production of a work of art or museum specimen; or
- (f) The contract is for works for which specialist skills or equipment are required and it is proposed to negotiate a contract, provided that the consent of the Board to such actions is obtained.

The Authority's Standing Orders on the Making of Contracts changed in 2025. However, the following exemptions have been applied and continue to be applied:

Exemptions from Tendering Requirements

Nothing in these Standing Orders shall require tenders or quotes to be invited where:

- (a) In the case of contracts for the supply of goods or materials:
 - (i) The goods or materials are proprietary articles supplied only by one person or company, and are sold only at a fixed price and no reasonably satisfactory alternative is available; or

- (ii) The prices of the goods or materials are wholly controlled by trade organisations or government order and no reasonably satisfactory alternative is available; or
 - (iii) For other reasons, there would be no genuine competition; or
 - (b) The contract constitutes an extension of an existing contract, provided such extension is approved by the Board; or
 - (c) The subject matter of the contract is considered by the appropriate Chief Executive/Clerk as being required so urgently as not to permit the invitation of tenders, provided that the consent of the Board to such action is obtained; or
 - (d) The estimated expenditure or value of the contract is less than £10,000; or
 - (e) The contract is for the purchase or production of a work or art or similar; or
 - (f) The contract is for works for which specialist skills or equipment are required and it is proposed to negotiate a contract, provided that the consent of the Board to such action is obtained.
2. A total of £543 has been spent on new extinguishers over the last five years (30th January 2021 to 30th January 2026).
 3. The total cost of serving fire extinguishers over the last five years (30th January 2021 to the 30th January 2026) is £3,326.90.

Date Response approved for issue:	19 th February 2026	Date response returned:	19 th February 2026 – Via E-Mail
Approved by:	R Phillips – Chief Executive/Clerk		