



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**

Headquarters

1 Seymour Street
Lisburn BT27 4SX

T 028 9266 4221
F 028 9267 7402

enquiries@nifrs.org
www.nifrs.org

Chief Fire & Rescue Officer
Michael Graham

Our Ref: RG/ FOI 60-20

30 October 2020

Dear

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST DATED 2 OCTOBER 2020

Please be advised of the following in relation to your request.

The information below has been provided in financial years for the period 2018/2020.

Question 1 The number of wildfires and if there are any notable events.

Number of Wildfires

Number of Wildfire Incidents* 2018/19 and 2019/20		
2018/2019	2019/2020	Grand Total
3151	1201	4352

*major and secondary wildland incidents

Number of Wildfire incidents by Engines in Attendance			
Number of Fire Engines in Attendance	2018/2019	2019/2020	Grand Total
0-9	3137	1199	4336
10-19	9	2	11
20-29	2	0	2
30	2	0	2
40+	1	0	1
Grand Total	3151	1201	4352

2

Date

Name

Notable Events

Due to the sustained dry weather period in July 2018 NIFRS attended unprecedented numbers of gorse fires in the period 1 to 15 July 2018. During that 2 week period, NIFRS attended 1,061 incidents (92 in 2017/18) which represented a 1,053% increase on the same period in the previous year.

Question 2 Costs to NIFRS- call out to wildfire instances, number of staff, etc

The indicative cost to the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service of mobilisations to Wild Fire Related Incidents for the period 2018 to 2020 is set out in the table below.

Year	Sum of Cost
2018/2019	971,210
2019/2020	276,745
Grand Total	1,247,955

Notes:

Due to the nature of the information held in relation to the incidents, it has been necessary to apply assumptions in the calculation of the cost and therefore the cost is indicative.

The cost is calculated based on the costs that are directly attributable to attendance at an incident (direct staff time and fuel consumption), and does not therefore include overheads and other indirect costs such as administration; wear and tear of equipment; and command and control.

It should also be noted that NIFRS has recently reviewed its costing model. The costing for this request is based on that model. For this reason the costs may not be comparable to similar incident costings previously provided.

Question 3 Injuries/deaths as a result of wildfires

Please see table below.

	Fatalities	Casualties	Rescues
2018/2019	0	16	0
2019/2020	0	6	0
Grand Total	0	22	0

3

Date

Name

Question 4 Damage caused

Please note that NIFRS do not record this information .

Review Process

Under the terms of the legislation, if you are unhappy with this response you have the right to seek a review within the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service in the first instance. If you wish to do so, please write to Stuart Crawford the Governance, Information & Business Support Services Manager ,1 Seymour Street, Lisburn, BT27 4SX within two calendar months of the date of this letter.

If after such a review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner who will undertake an independent review. The Information Commissioner contact details are – 3rd Floor 14 Cromac Place Belfast BT7 2JB.

Please visit www.nifrs.org for more information about NIFRS.
Yours sincerely

**Information Officer
Information Unit**