



## Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

### Headquarters

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**Chief Fire & Rescue Officer**  
Michael Graham

Our Ref: RG/ FOI 84-20

22 December 2020

### RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST OF 8 DECEMBER 2020

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

*The data has been extracted with incidents defined and recorded as accidental major dwelling fires. Where ignition information has been recorded, data has been extracted. Additional incidents may have occurred but a lack of detail within the recorded data would render these incidents unable to be extracted.*

*For the purposes of this enquiry, data is reported in financial years. The most up to date data reported is up to the 30/11/2020, therefore 2020/21 financial year data is from 01/04/2020 until 30/11/2020.*

Question 1 Your website link below accesses the NIFRS report published in July 2019. Has a more recent report been published for 2019/20? If so, how can I access it? If not, when will it become available?

<https://www.nifrs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Annual-Report-Statement-of-Accounts-NIFRS-2018-19-no-signatures.pdf>

*The 2019/20 is on the website - please see link below:*

[Annual-Report-Statement-of-Accounts-19-20-website.pdf \(nifrs.org\)](#)

Question 2 The link below provides details of deaths, injuries and fires in Northern Ireland in 2018/19 that have a connection with electrical safety in 2018/19. The data was previously provided by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service as a result of a freedom of information request submitted.

<https://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/what-we-do/our-policies/northern-ireland/statistics-northern-ireland/>

Please provide myself with the same detail of information for 2019/20.

*NIFRS responded to 782 accidental dwelling fires between the dates of 01 April 2019 and 31 March 2020.*

2

Date

Name

*Of these, 481 were fires that were caused by electrical appliances.*

*After removing human contributing factors to the fires such as: person falling asleep, mobility, illness, alcohol, distracted, forgot appliance was on/left unattended, the number of incidents was reduced to 265.*

*These were fires exclusively caused by appliances as they were attributed to ignition source (Cooking Appliance, Electric Lighting, Electricity Supply, Heating Equipment and Other Domestic Style Appliances).*

<b>2019/20 Accidental Dwelling Fires</b>			
	<i>Accidental Dwelling Fires</i>	<i>Fatalities</i>	<i>Injuries</i>
All Causes	782	3	259
Electrical Cause	265	0	56
Percentage by Electrical Cause	34%	0%	22%

Question 3 The same link as mentioned above under point 2 contains causes of accidental dwelling fires for 2017/18 in Northern Ireland linked to electricity. Please provide the same level of detail for 2019/20. If 2019/20 data is not available, 2018/19 data would be appreciated.

*NIFRS responded to 1,591 accidental house fires between the dates of 01 April 2018 and 31 March 2020. Of these, 989 were fires that were caused by electrical appliances.*

*After removing human contributing factors to the fires such as: person falling asleep, mobility, illness, alcohol, distracted, forgot appliance was on/left unattended, the number of incidents was reduced to 546.*

Ignition Source and Sub Ignition Source	2018/19	2019/20	Grand Total
Cooking Appliance	89	89	178
Deep Fat Fryer	4	2	6

3

Date

Name

Grill / Toaster	27	23	50
Microwave Oven	3	2	5
Other Cooking Appliance	19	27	46
Ring / Hot Plate (separate appliance)	36	35	71
Electric Lighting	12	8	20
Fairy Lights	1	0	1
Other Incandescent Light Bulbs	1	2	3
Other Lights	2	1	3
Spot Lights	8	5	13
Electricity Supply	126	125	251
Apparatus - Batteries, Generators	13	8	21
Wiring, Cabling, Plugs	113	117	230
Heating Equipment	25	24	49
Central Heating / Hot Water	5	5	10
Heater/Fire	11	11	22
Other Heating Equipment	8	6	14
Patio Equipment	0	1	1
Power Source	1	1	2
Office Equipment	1	0	1
PC	1	0	1
Other Domestic Style Appliance	28	19	47
Dishwasher	4	4	8
Extractor Fan	0	2	2
Fridge/Freezer	0	1	1
Other Domestic Style Appliance	9	3	12
Spin Dryer	0	1	1
Tumble Dryer	9	7	16
TV	1	0	1
Vacuum Cleaner	1	0	1
Washer/Dryer Combined	0	1	1
Washing Machine	4	0	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>546</b>

Question 4 Please provide your most up to date data that identifies the main causes of accidental fires in dwellings in Northern Ireland, for example cooking appliances, smoking related, electrical equipment and supply. Please indicate the time period the data has been collected over. Percentages would be helpful.

4

Date

Name

Ignition Source	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Grand Total	Percentage of All Accidental Dwelling Fires 2018/19 to 2020/21 by ignition source
Bombs and Explosives	0	1	0	1	0%
Chimney	22	25	4	51	3%
Cooking Appliance	277	280	195	752	37%
Electric Lighting	14	8	10	32	2%
Electricity Supply	140	138	69	347	17%
Fireworks	1	0	1	2	0%
Fuel/Chemical Related	7	10	6	23	1%
Heating Equipment	40	32	15	87	4%
Matches and Candles	31	34	19	84	4%
Naked Flame	39	48	24	111	5%
Natural Occurrence	5	3	3	11	1%
Not Known	30	30	14	74	4%
Office Equipment	1	0	1	2	0%
Other	51	41	29	121	6%
Other Appliance or Equipment	53	28	25	106	5%
Other Domestic Style Appliance	36	23	17	76	4%
Not recorded	3	10	2	15	1%
Smoking Related	51	45	24	120	6%
Spread from Secondary Fire	7	5	0	12	1%
Vehicles Only	1	2	0	3	0%
Wet Hay	0	0	1	1	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>2031</b>	

Question 5 Your most up to date data would be appreciated that identifies the causes of fatalities connected with accidental fires in dwellings in Northern Ireland, for example cooking appliances, smoking related, electrical equipment and supply. Please indicate the time period the data has been collected over. Percentages would be helpful.

Date

Name

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2018/19 -2020/21 Total	
Bombs and Explosives	0	0	0	0	0%
Chimney	0	0	0	0	0%
Cooking Appliance	1	0	0	1	9%
Electric Lighting	0	0	0	0	0%
Electricity Supply	3	0	0	3	27%
Fireworks	0	0	0	0	0%
Fuel/Chemical Related	0	0	0	0	0%
Heating Equipment	0	0	0	0	0%
Matches and Candles	0	0	0	0	0%
Naked Flame	0	1	0	1	9%
Natural Occurrence	0	0	0	0	0%
Not Known	1	0	0	1	9%
Office Equipment	0	0	0	0	0%
Other	0	0	0	0	0%
Other Appliance or Equipment	0	0	0	0	0%
Other Domestic Style Appliance	0	0	0	0	0%
Not recorded	0	0	0	0	0%
Smoking Related	1	2	2	5	45%
Spread from Secondary Fire	0	0	0	0	0%
Vehicles Only	0	0	0	0	0%
Wet Hay	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	

Question 6 Please provide data regarding the percentage of accidental dwelling fires in NI that were caused by:

- candles,
- plug in air fresheners
- charging of phones, laptops and similar technology

Please indicate the time period the data has been collected over.

*Incidents were human contributing factors to fires such as: person falling asleep, mobility, illness, alcohol, distracted, forgot appliance was on/left unattended are not included in the figures below.*

*The data collected regarding wiring, plugs and cables cannot distinguish between the source appliances. The figures regarding wiring, plugs and cables includes domestic appliances, charging of phones, laptops and similar technology where the wiring, plugs and cables were recorded as the sub source of the electric supply ignition source.*

6

Date

Name

Ignition Source	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Grand Total	Percentage of All Accidental Dwelling fires 2018/19-2020/21 by Ignition Source
Wiring, Cabling, Plugs	113	117	51	281	14%
Candles	9	10	8	27	1%
Plug in air freshener	0	1	0	1	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>309</b>	

### 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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor 14 Cromac Place Belfast BT7 2JB.

Please visit [www.nifrs.org](http://www.nifrs.org) for more information about NIFRS.

Yours sincerely

**Information Officer**  
**Information Unit**