



Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

NIFRS | Headquarters
1 Seymour Street | Lisburn | BT27 4SX

T 028 9266 4221
E enquiries@nifrs.org

F & T @NIFRSOFFICIAL
W www.nifrs.org

Aidan Jennings BSSc MSSc AIFireE MILM
Chief Fire & Rescue Officer

Our Ref: IU/ FOI 121-23-24

15 January 2024

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Dear

Please be advised when you write to us asking for information the Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives you two rights of access. You have the right to know whether we hold recorded information falling in scope of your request, and you have the right to receive this recorded information subject to cost limit or exemption. NIFRS has considered your request in line with these obligations, and your response is outlined below.

To note the data is from 01 January 2019 to 31 December 2023.

Q1 Could you please tell me how many call outs you received to move Bariatric or obese people from their homes or to rescue them during the following calendar years: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019?

From 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2023 there were 561 incidents involving bariatric individuals. See Table 1 below for an annual breakdown.

Table 1

Year	Incidents
2019	78
2020	78
2021	119
2022	137
2023	149
Total	561

Q2 Would it be possible to reveal whether you were called to assist the ambulance service or the police, or whether you received a call directly from the person's home?

NIFRS cannot confirm whether a phone number, landline or mobile, came from the person's home. Table 2 below gives a breakdown of calls received by NIFRS from NIAS or PSNI. All other sources of calls are recorded under Other.

Table 2

Year	Source of Call			Incidents
	NIAS	PSNI	Other	
2019	50	1	27	78
2020	49	3	26	78
2021	76	5	38	119
2022	99	0	38	137
2023	112	7	30	149
Total	386	16	159	561

NIAS – Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

PSNI – Police Service of Northern Ireland

Q3 Would you be able to list the gender of the people you moved?

See table 3 below which gives a breakdown by gender of bariatric patients assisted by NIFRS.

Table 3

Year	Female	Male	Not identified at time of incident	Incidents
2019	33	42	3	78
2020	44	34	0	78
2021	64	52	3	119
2022	67	62	8	137
2023	81	59	9	149
Total	289	249	23	561

Q3 Where possible – could you please reveal the age of the youngest and oldest person that you were called to assist?

It is not always possible to verify ages however using the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) 5 year age bands the youngest Bariatric person was between 15-19 years old and the oldest was over 90 years old.

Additional incidents may have occurred however limited detail within the recorded data would render these incidents unable to be extracted.

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 Unit