



## Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

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**Andy Hearn**  
Interim Chief Fire & Rescue Officer

Our Ref: IU/ FOI 204-22-23

5 April 2023

### 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.

#### Request

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: 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013?

*Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) mobilised to 685 incidents that involved a Bariatric person. NIFRS cannot readily identify whether the incident involved moving or rescuing the Bariatric person therefore can only state that a Bariatric person was involved in the incident. See Table 1 for Bariatric incidents by calendar year.*

Year	Bariatric Incidents
2013	45
2014	52
2015	38
2016	41
2017	74
2018	63
2019	70
2020	65
2021	111
2022	126
Total	685

Table 1: Number of incidents received that include a Bariatric person

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. See table 2 below Call Methods of Bariatric incidents.*

Call Method	Number of Incidents
Ambulance Service	500
Police	23
Other	162
Grand Total	685

Table 2: Call method of all incidents that involved a Bariatric Person

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

*Of the persons recorded please see Table 3 below.*

Gender	Percentage
Female	49.73%
Male	50.09%
Not Known	0.18%
Grand Total	100%

Table 3: Gender % of Bariatric Persons at incident

Q4 Where possible – could you please reveal the age of the youngest and oldest person that you would called to assist?

*As it's not always possible to verify ages, 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.*

## 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 Unit