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Andy Hearn

Interim Chief Fire & Rescue Officer

Our Ref: IU/ FOI 51-23-24

6 July 2023

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST OF 23 JUNE 2023

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

How many lithium battery fires involving e-bikes and e-scooters have been attended in your fire service area/country in the last five years for which data is available? If possible, please provide data broken down by year.

Response

From 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2023 there were 4 battery related e-bike and e-scooter fires. NIFRS is unable to confirm whether it was a lithium battery. A category for `hover boards' has been included in our response as there were 5 incidents which were caused by their battery during this period.

See breakdown in Table 1 by electric item and financial year.

Table 1







Electric Item	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
E-Bike	0	0	0	1	1	2
E-Scooter	0	0	0	1	1	2
Hover board	2	1	1	0	1	5
Grand Total	2	1	1	2	3	9

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