



Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

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Andy Hearn
Interim Chief Fire & Rescue Officer

Our Ref: IU/ FOI 58-23-24

1 August 2023

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST OF 11 JULY 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 & Response

1. Number of EV battery fires that have been tackled by Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue from June 2019 - June 2023

During this period NIFRS mobilised to 9 battery related electric vehicle fires.

Please note: with the exception of hover boards, e-scooters and e-bikes, there were around 5,000 fires that involved road vehicles. However, NIFRS recording systems are unable to distinguish whether the vehicle's fuel type was electric at this time. One lithium battery car fire incident was captured within the data.

2. Please include a breakdown of types of vehicle in the data (car, bus/coach, e-bike/e-scooter, etc)

Please see Table 1 for breakdown by electric vehicle type.

Calendar Year & Month	Table 1 - Electric Vehicle Type				Grand Total
	Car	E-bike	E-Scooter	Hover board	
2019					
Aug				1	1
2021					
Mar				1	1
Sep			1		1
Nov		1			1
2022					
May			1		1
Jul	1				1
Oct				1	1
2023					
Jan		1			1
May			1		1
Grand Total	1	2	3	3	9

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

3. Please include details on month, year, cause of fire, fire spread and injuries/fatalities as a result of the fire

The cause of fire is due to battery.

Please refer to the following for further details:

- > Table 1 for breakdown by month and year.
- > Table 2 for fire spread
- > Table 3 for fatalities, casualties & rescues.

Table 2 – Fire Spread					
Fire Spread	Car	E-bike	E-Scooter	Hoverboard	Grand Total
Engine Compartment	1			1	2
Fuel Tank			1		1
Limited to 2 Floors (Not Whole Building)				1	1
Limited to Floor of Origin (Not Whole Building)		1			1
Limited to Item 1st Ignited		1			1
Limited to Room of Origin				1	1
Not Recorded			1		1
Wheels/Tyres/Brakes/Axles/Bearings			1		1
Grand Total	1	2	3	3	9

Table 3 – Fatalities, Casualties and Rescues				
Electric Vehicle Type	Incidents	Fatalities	Casualties	Rescues
Car	1	0	0	0
E-bike	2	0	5	0
E-Scooter	3	0	0	0
Hoverboard	3	0	4	0
Grand Total	9	0	9	0

4. If possible, can you provide any details on how many of the batteries were certified by the vehicle OEM, or if the batteries had a battery management system or state of health monitoring?

NIFRS do not hold 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 Unit