



Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

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Andy Hearn
Interim Chief Fire & Rescue Officer

Our Ref: IU/ FOI 94-23-24

5 October 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.

Question1 In the past 5 years what was the total number of primary fires reported?

Between 1st January 2018 and 31st December 2022, a total number of 13,364 primary fires were reported. Additionally, between 1st January and 31st August 2023, 1,688 primary fires were reported. A total of 15, 052 primary fires were reported between 1st January 2018 and 31st August 2023.

Question 2 Please provide a breakdown of these primary fires by type (e.g. residential, commercial, industrial).

As displayed in the below table, primary fires can be categorised into:

	Type of PF Year on Year 2018-2023 YTD						
Type of Primary Fire*	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 YTD	Total
Residential Properties	1,092	971	1,012	940	941	610	5,566
Private Garages	56	47	41	50	36	29	259
Non-Residential Property	294	297	239	282	269	160	1,541
Outdoor - Non-Building	6	1	10	7	0	6	30
PF Other	395	438	424	457	428	284	2,426
Road Vehicles	1,082	1,024	881	865	779	599	5,230
Total	2,925	2,778	2,607	2,601	2,453	1,688	15,052

** This is not a standard breakdown of NIFRS Primary Fire categories but a simplified aggregation*

Question 3. The number of primary fires by location and calendar year.

Please see the table below for the number of primary fires by calendar year.

	Number of Primary Fires by Calendar Year											
Station Area	2018	% Change	2019	% Change	2020	% Change	2021	% Change	2022	% Change	2023 YTD	Grand Total
Antrim	73	-	72	-1%	63	-13%	69	10%	68	-1%	43	388
Armagh	46	-	63	37%	46	-27%	46	0%	42	-9%	33	276
Ballycastle	14	-	17	21%	24	41%	18	-25%	14	-22%	7	94
Ballyclare	21	-	32	52%	22	-31%	20	-9%	24	20%	13	132
Ballymena	84	-	88	5%	104	18%	88	-15%	72	-18%	43	479
Ballymoney	39	-	36	-8%	35	-3%	43	23%	37	-14%	23	213
Ballynahinch	21	-	17	-19%	15	-12%	22	47%	18	-18%	26	119
Ballywalter	8	-	17	113%	14	-18%	9	-36%	11	22%	14	73
Banbridge	47	-	46	-2%	31	-33%	33	6%	27	-18%	25	209
Bangor	76	-	61	-20%	57	-7%	72	26%	56	-22%	40	362
Belleek	10	-	7	-30%	10	43%	10	0%	4	-60%	6	47
Cadogan	116	-	135	16%	102	-24%	112	10%	117	4%	83	665
Carnlough	6	-	9	50%	7	-22%	7	0%	8	14%	2	39
Carrickfergus	46	-	40	-13%	39	-3%	41	5%	51	24%	20	237
Carryduff	23	-	8	-65%	16	100%	12	-25%	11	-8%	18	88
Castlederg	10	-	8	-20%	19	138%	8	-58%	11	38%	6	62
Central	150	-	110	-27%	100	-9%	103	3%	91	-12%	74	628
Clogher	16	-	20	25%	16	-20%	24	50%	21	-13%	15	112
Coleraine	55	-	59	7%	36	-39%	41	14%	60	46%	32	283
Comber	13	-	16	23%	19	19%	15	-21%	23	53%	11	97
Cookstown	54	-	43	-20%	50	16%	44	-12%	51	16%	35	277
Crescent Link	99	-	77	-22%	76	-1%	69	-9%	73	6%	52	446
Crossmaglen	12	-	17	42%	14	-18%	26	86%	13	-50%	6	88
Crumlin	27	-	44	63%	33	-25%	17	-48%	10	-41%	19	150
Cushendall	2	-	6	200%	3	-50%	0	-100%	4	0%	6	21
Donaghadee	12	-	9	-25%	5	-44%	7	40%	11	57%	10	54
Downpatrick	49	-	43	-12%	57	33%	71	25%	61	-14%	32	313
Dromore (SAC)	16	-	20	25%	16	-20%	14	-13%	14	0%	7	87
Dromore (WAC)	18	-	7	-61%	8	14%	6	-25%	3	-50%	7	49
Dungannon	65	-	73	12%	65	-11%	72	11%	64	-11%	38	377
Dungiven	21	-	14	-33%	20	43%	17	-15%	17	0%	11	100
Enniskillen	59	-	38	-36%	54	42%	37	-31%	37	0%	37	262
Fintona	8	-	9	13%	7	-22%	9	29%	5	-44%	2	40
Glengormley	87	-	83	-5%	80	-4%	88	10%	66	-25%	57	461
Holywood	18	-	10	-44%	10	0%	14	40%	14	0%	6	72
Irvinestown	15	-	16	7%	17	6%	11	-35%	15	36%	11	85
Keady	11	-	15	36%	13	-13%	11	-15%	11	0%	6	67
Kilkeel	32	-	18	-44%	22	22%	22	0%	26	18%	7	127
Kilrea	19	-	15	-21%	16	7%	14	-13%	11	-21%	12	87
Knock	110	-	128	16%	100	-22%	109	9%	96	-12%	65	608
Larne	35	-	33	-6%	52	58%	43	-17%	38	-12%	32	233
Limavady	40	-	34	-15%	30	-12%	35	17%	35	0%	25	199
Lisburn	91	-	90	-1%	68	-24%	80	18%	81	1%	67	477
Lisnaskea	22	-	21	-5%	22	5%	22	0%	20	-9%	14	121
Lurgan	92	-	104	13%	75	-28%	69	-8%	76	10%	49	465
Maghera	21	-	25	19%	22	-12%	21	-5%	28	33%	16	133
Magherafelt	33	-	30	-9%	31	3%	20	-35%	27	35%	26	167
Newcastle	32	-	26	-19%	25	-4%	22	-12%	25	14%	12	142
Newry	118	-	104	-12%	105	1%	93	-11%	84	-10%	49	553
Newtownards	52	-	42	-19%	39	-7%	43	10%	34	-21%	36	246
Newtownhamilton	17	-	11	-35%	18	64%	14	-22%	11	-21%	10	81
Newtownstewart	17	-	8	-53%	12	50%	17	42%	9	-47%	5	68
Northland Road	168	-	150	-11%	146	-3%	148	1%	138	-7%	80	830
Omagh	50	-	62	24%	49	-21%	44	-10%	45	2%	34	284
Pomeroy	17	-	11	-35%	12	9%	23	92%	19	-17%	9	91
Portadown	53	-	62	17%	65	5%	67	3%	48	-28%	34	329
Portaferry	10	-	5	-50%	10	100%	8	-20%	9	13%	1	43
Portrush	22	-	21	-5%	19	-10%	19	0%	15	-21%	19	115
Portstewart	5	-	9	80%	7	-22%	13	86%	4	-69%	3	41
Rathfriland	22	-	14	-36%	16	14%	12	-25%	26	117%	11	101
Springfield	139	-	154	11%	143	-7%	131	-8%	126	-4%	76	769
Strabane	51	-	45	-12%	42	-7%	53	26%	37	-30%	28	256
Warrenpoint	20	-	13	-35%	20	54%	18	-10%	10	-44%	7	88
Westland	99	-	87	-12%	73	-16%	71	-3%	74	4%	48	452
Whitehead	10	-	8	-20%	10	25%	10	0%	8	-20%	5	51
Whitla	81	-	63	-22%	55	-13%	54	-2%	58	7%	32	343
Grand Total	2,925	-	2,778	-5%	2,607	-6%	2,601	0%	2,453	-6%	1,688	15,052

Question 4 The number of casualties, if available.

Please see table below.

Casualties within Incident	Number of Casualties in Primary Fires Year on Year 2018-2023 YTD											Grand Total
	2018	% Change	2019	% Change	2020	% Change	2021	% Change	2022	% Change	2023 YTD	
1	239	-	226	-5%	258	14%	224	-13%	197	-12%	113	1,257
2	98	-	90	-8%	88	-2%	74	-16%	70	-5%	46	466
3	51	-	54	6%	15	-72%	21	40%	21	0%	21	183
4	8	-	24	200%	24	0%	16	-33%	16	0%	8	96
5	30	-	20	-33%	5	-75%	10	100%	0	-100%	5	70
6	6	-	0	-100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	6
7	0	-	0	0%	0	0%	7	0%	0	0%	0	7
8	8	-	0	-100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	8
12	0	-	0	0%	0	0%	12	0%	0	0%	0	12
Total	440	-	414	-6%	390	-6%	364	-7%	304	-16%	193	2,105

Fatalities within Incident	Number of Fatalities in Primary Fires Year on Year 2018-2023 YTD											Grand Total
	2018	% Change	2019	% Change	2020	% Change	2021	% Change	2022	% Change	2023 YTD	
1	9	-	5	-44%	7	40%	14	100%	10	-29%	8	53
2	2	-	0	-100%	0	0%	0	0%	2	0%	2	6
4	4	-	0	-100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	4
Total	15	-	5	-67%	7	40%	14	100%	12	-14%	10	63

Question 5 Any additional relevant information or trends related to primary fires.

Please See % change figures in the above tables for basic trend analysis.

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