



Freedom of Information Request FOI 21 58

Number of fires in which hoarding has been a factor from 2017 to the most recent year available

Query and response:

Please could you provide me with the number of fires in which hoarding has been a factor from 2017 to the most recent year available? Please break the information down into separate years?

We do not specifically record where hoarding was a contributing factor to a fire within our Incident Recording System. We do record if excessive or dangerous storage was a contributing factor to the fire, however, this would not solely identify hoarding and therefore we are unable to answer this portion of your request.

If there have been any serious case reviews following a fire, please could you also provide this information? If hoarding was a factor, please mention this if the information is available.

All fires involving a fatality are subject to a case review process. From 2017/18 to present there have been 28 fire deaths recorded in our service area, none of which have been attributed to hoarding.

In addition, could you tell me what kind of information (e.g. mapping) you hold regarding properties / locations that a fire risk owing to hoarding and if you are able to quantify this then please provide that data; e.g. numbers of properties within your area known to be occupied by someone with hoarding tendencies.

We have a clutter image rating scale that we use to categorise hoarding risk, which is widely used across our partners. If a DWFRS representative identifies that the clutter level at a property is of a certain unsafe level then a flag is added to the property record. This flag notifies attending crews should there be an incident at the property. From 2017 to date we have identified 1226 such properties, at the time we carried out a safe and well visit at the property.

Information/Detail accurate on the date provided: 21, July 2021