



Freedom of Information Request FOI 23 15

Non-deliberate, fatal residential fires attended in the last five years

Query:

Can I please receive a list containing the number (total) of non-deliberate, fatal residential fires attended in the last five years? Alongside this, for the aforementioned cases, can I have the following information taken from each fire investigation report:

- Service rank of fire investigation report author
- Date
- Time of first call to fire service
- Time of fire service arrival
- Approximate location (i.e town/village)
- Number of fatalities
- Age of victim (s)
- Evidence of skin burns reported on victim? (given as yes/no)
- Description of injuries reported on victim
- Any mention of flashover within the property? (given as yes/no)
- Description of evidence of flashover given* Property type
- Details of property construction
- Recorded cause of death(s)
- Location(s) of victim(s) within the property
- Location of seat of fire within the property
- Extent of fire spread beyond item first ignited
- Extent of fire spread beyond the room of fire origin
- Recorded cause of fire
- Recorded source of ignition
- Material first ignited
- Material primarily responsible for fire development

Clarification:

By non-deliberate I mean accidental fires not suspected to have been initiated by a deliberate act of arson

Response:

Please find attached the information you requested.

We have attended three further non-deliberate, fatal residential fires in 2023. Fire investigations are ongoing at the time of this report and cases are yet to be heard by the Coroner. Details of these incidents have been withheld from this disclosure under section 31(1)(c) (law enforcement – administration of justice) of the Freedom of Information Act. We are of the opinion that to disclose information about these cases would undermine coronial proceedings. We have considered whether it would be in the public interest for



us to provide you with the information, despite the exemption being applicable. In this case, we have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information.

You will notice that a description of injuries sustained has been excluded from this report. Section 41 (information provided in confidence) of the Freedom of Information Act states that information is exempt from disclosure if it was obtained from any other person and the disclosure of the information would constitute a breach of confidence. It is designed to give individuals a degree of assurance that information given to or obtained by public authorities will remain confidential should the information fall within the scope of a Freedom of Information request. We are of the opinion that this health related information is sensitive in nature and that to disclose it would constitute a breach of confidence. ICO guidance supports the view that the duty of confidence extends beyond death.

Information/Detail accurate on the date provided: 16, February 2023