



Freedom of Information Request FOI 23 157

Wildfire Statistics

Query:

Can I please request, in the form of a spreadsheet such as Excel or CSV file, information on wildfires attended by the fire and rescue service.

1. I would like the total number of wildfires recorded by the fire and rescue service, broken down by month, for the calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (to date).
2. In a separate tab I would like details of each wildfire incident. Please include:
Date of incident
Time of day incident reported
Incident duration (minutes)
Location (please include longitude and latitude and local authority if available)
Cause of wildfire (if available)
Size of area damaged by wildfire (square meters if available)
Total number of buildings affected
Total number of dwellings affected
Total number of firefighters injured, seriously injured or killed

Response:

Please see the spreadsheet attached for the information you requested.

These statistics have been collated using the National Operational Guidance (NOG) definition of a wildfire which includes all incidents which meet the following criteria:

1. The incident was classified as an outdoor fire and
2. The fire covers at least 1 hectare of damage or
3. At least 4 appliances/resources attended the incident or
4. Length of attendance at the incident was at least 6 hours

We don't record total number of buildings or dwellings affected.

We have been unable to provide the location details of each incident (longitude and latitude) as this information could constitute personal data about a third party because it allows the identification of individual areas and properties. We are applying the exemption afforded by Section 40(2) Personal Information of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which provides that a request for information is exempt if the information requested constitutes personal data about a third party. In particular, we choose to rely upon section 40(3)(a)(i) which provides that in a case where the information falls within the definition of data under Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), the information is exempt if disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles of the DPA. We have provided the Lower Super Output Area.

Information/Detail accurate on the date provided: 12, December 2023