



Freedom of Information Request FOI 26 153

Wildfires

Query and response:

1. What was the total number of incidents classified as wildfires, grassland fires, heathland fires, moorland fires or forest fires the service attended in each year between 2021 – 2026?

Year	Number of wildfires attended
2021	494
2022	912
2023	510
2024	418
2025	1043
2026 (so far)	273

Please note the following in relation to these figures: We have searched our incident recording system and used all the following categories to provide these figures:

Grassland, Woodland and Crop fires not just Wildfires.

2. What is the total number of the following items the service currently has in its inventory?

Item	Number currently in inventory
Terrain support vehicles	29
Wildfire beaters	362
Backpack blowers	Nil
Backpack water units	105
Specialist wildfire PPE	Not held
Water bowzers	4
Portable pumps suitable for use at remote water sources	105
Drones	Nil Drones

3. What is the service's target response time for fire incidents? (data requested specifically for wildfires) **We do not have a specific target response time for wildfire incidents.**



4. Please fill in the following table relating to incident response times: (data requested specifically for wildfires) **See our response above.**

	Average response time for attending fire incidents	Longest response time recorded to attend fire incident	Percentage of incidents responded to in target response time
2024	N/A	N/A	N/A
2025	N/A	N/A	N/A
2026 (so far)	N/A	N/A	N/A

5. How many times did the service request mutual aid from another fire and rescue service for a wildfire between 1st January 2024 to 1st July 2026?
National Mutual Aid has been requested for wildfires once between 1st Jan 2024 to 1st July 2026.

6. How many operational personnel currently hold in-date wildfire-specific training or competence? Please express this as a number and as a percentage.
795 staff 94.31% includes FF to Flexi FF14 Knowledge of fires in the open-wildfire and FFF14 Knowledge of incidents involving Large fire in the open (Wildfire)

7. Please provide:

a) the number and percentage of operational firefighters trained to undertake wildfire operations; and

Operational firefighters excluding flexi officers 741 staff 93.92% in date with FF14 Knowledge of fires in the open – wildfire

b) the number of officers currently qualified to command, provide tactical advice at, or otherwise manage a wildfire incident.

29 staff 78.38% This is flexi officers with Flexi Specialist role Wildfire Support Officer competence

7. Please provide:

a) the number and percentage of operational firefighters trained to undertake wildfire operations; and

All our firefighters are trained to undertake wildfire operations. Please see answer to Q6.

b) the number of officers currently qualified to command, provide tactical advice at, or otherwise manage a wildfire incident.

18x Level 2 Officers (Station Managers), 16x Level 3 Officers (Group/Area Managers), 7x Level 3 / 4 Officers (Area / Brigade Managers).

Please use the service's own training or competence categories and provide the names of the relevant courses or qualifications.

We currently recognise 4 levels of Wildfire Training.

L1 - All operational Staff are required to view the material on the learning hub which is NOG compliant.



L2 - Practical Training - Some Crews have had additional practical training however not all staff due to lack of resources to do this. As part of the wildfire review I am hopeful we can expand to all crews.

L3 - Wildfire Support Officers.

WSO Courses for all SM Flexi Officers either delivered in house or at Fire Service College delivered by a L4 Wildfire Tactical Advisor - WSOs have the following competencies:

- **Establish Situational Awareness**
- **Formulate an Incident Management Plan**
- **Implement an Incident Management Plan.**

L4 - Wildfire Tactical Advisor - We have 1 Tac Ad who is now trained as a Wildfire Fire Investigator having attending courses on Portugal, USA and Fire Service College.

The new NFCC Framework proposes 7 levels which I am reviewing as part of a wider review and will require investment to implement.

Information/Detail accurate on the date provided: 01, September 2026