



Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service

Please ask for: Service Information Team Leader
 Tel: 01604 797000
 Our Ref:
 Your Ref: 12 August 2021
 Date:
 If you have any difficulty in obtaining the above telephone number please email enquiries@northantsfire.gov.uk.

Re: Request for information (our ref: NFRS2021-62-69)

I am writing in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, received 15 July 2021. Our response is provided below:

Q1 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?

Hoarding is not recorded as a factor on the Home Office's Incident Recording System (IRS), so we have performed a search on our IRS free text fields for all incident notes which contained hoard/hoarding/hoarder etc.

Please note that these are only the incidents where hoarding was noted on IRS free text fields – there may have been incidents where hoarding was a factor but was not recorded (in IRS free text).

Year	Number and type of fire
2017	1 x chimney fire
2018	4 x primary fires (dwelling)
2019	1 x chimney Fire and 4 x primary fires (dwelling)
2020	1 x chimney fire and 5 x primary fires (dwelling)
2021	4 x primary fires (dwelling)

Q2 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.

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) call serious case reviews: 'Community Impact Assessment (CIA) reviews'. There is one CIA review where hoarding was recorded as a factor. We are unable to provide full details of this CIA as it would potentially identify an individual; as such we have taken the exemption under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. A copy of any redacted IRS reports are not covered under the FOI Act as it is a chargeable service. Our [chargeable service fees](#) and the procedure for [requesting a copy of an incident report](#) are available on our website.

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Q3 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 record person centred information, where we make a referral on behalf of someone due to levels of clutter/hoarding affecting their health, safety or wellbeing on our Community Fire Risk Management Information System (CFRMIS).

We also record on our mobilising system, premises information where hoarding/clutter levels represents a risk to operational firefighters via our Pre-Determined Attendance (PDA) request/change form process. This information is refreshed and reviewed so collating the number gives us a live picture of the scale of current and known hoarded properties.

We have 177 properties in Northamptonshire that we are currently aware of where hoarding is a significant risk. We only keep this information if there is a significant risk to the safety of the occupier, or to the safety of the fire crews when attempting to access the property in the event of an emergency.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me quoting reference NFRS2021-62-69.

Yours sincerely

Service Information Team Leader

If you are unhappy with the response, you can ask the Service to review it. To do this, please email enquiries@northantsfire.gov.uk or alternatively write to the address below:

Service Information Manager
Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service
Darby House
Darby Close
Park Farm Industrial Estate
Wellingborough
NN8 6GS

If our internal review does not resolve the issue to your complete satisfaction, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision at the following address:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF