



Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service

20 February 2024

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service FOI 0885/24 - Electric and Hybrid Bus Fires

Request:

Please could you inform me of the numbers of incidents your brigade has attended for fires on:

1. electric buses (where the battery was believed to be the cause of the fire)?
2. hybrid-powered buses (those with dual power; electric and usually diesel or petrol where the battery or hybrid power supply was believed to be the cause of the fire)?

If you could break that down for the (financial or calendar) years for 2023, 2022 and 2021, if that data is available. If there have been any such incidents this year (2024), I would also like to receive that.

3. Based on the assumption that such incidents are relatively low, can you provide details of each incident, including perhaps the when, where, owner of the vehicle (i.e. is it a public transport bus, minibus, schoolbus, double-decker, single-decker etc) and any other recorded particulars about the nature of the fire i.e. was the fire localised to the battery, did it spread, was the vehicle burnt out, were any other vehicles or buildings ignited, how many appliances and firefighters were in attendance, how long did it take to extinguish the fire/make it safe and were there reports of any injuries?
4. Again, based on the assumption that such incidents are infrequent, was the fire service ever required to write a report on any of the incidents. If so, could I have a copy of any such reports? I accept that may involve some redactions.

Response:

Searches have been conducted in relation to your request, and I can confirm that no information is held, this is because Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) do not record the fuel type of vehicles.

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service
Service Headquarters
Darby House
Darby Close
Park Farm Industrial Estate
Wellingborough
NN8 6GS
w. www.northantsfire.gov.uk
t. 01604 797000





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Please also note that NFRS do not routinely record the make or model of vehicle, or type of fuel involved, nor do NFRS record if the initial fire spread to other vehicles or buildings. The extent of a fire is measured in meters squared; on occasion, there may be information about spread to nearby buildings or another vehicle, but this is not mandatory nor is it routinely recorded.

Due to the different methods of recording information across fire services, a specific response from one service should not be seen as an indication of what information could be supplied (within cost) by another. Systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. For this reason responses between services may differ, and should not be used for comparative purposes.

If you decide to write an article / use the enclosed data we would ask you to take into consideration the factors highlighted in this document so as to not mislead members of the public or official bodies, or misrepresent the relevance of the whole or any part of this disclosed material.

APPEAL RIGHTS

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled or you do not think the decision is correct, you have the right to ask for a review of the decision.

Prior to lodging a formal appeal you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again is to telephone the case officer. That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

Appeal

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision that the Service have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information, you can lodge an appeal to have the decision reviewed.

Appeals should be made in writing within 20 days of receipt of your reply and either emailed to freedomofinformation@northants.police.uk or addressed to:

**Freedom of Information Manager
Information Unit
Northamptonshire Police Headquarters
Wootton Hall
Northampton
NN4 0JQ**

Where possible the Service will aim to respond to your appeal within 20 working days. However meeting this time scale will depend upon the circumstances and complexity of the issue.

The Information Commissioner

After lodging an appeal with the Service, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make an application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk Alternatively, telephone or write to:

**Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF**

Phone: 0303 123 1113

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