



16th October 2025

Request:

1. Fire incidents by year

How many fires involving commercial properties (i.e., office buildings, retail locations, warehouses, etc.) and civic properties (publicly owned or operated buildings such as schools, libraries, leisure centres, council offices, etc.) have you recorded for the following years:

- 2022
- 2023
- 2024
- 2025 (to date)

2. Fires involving solar panel systems

Of the incidents above, how many fires have/are suspected to have been triggered by solar panel systems and related equipment? Please break this down by year:

- 2022
- 2023
- 2024
- 2025 (to date)

(If possible, please clarify how many of these are confirmed and how many are suspected.)

In your response, please confirm whether we may reuse the information provided for

- Reporting and publication (e.g. in news media)
- Research purposes
- Stakeholder communications (e.g. policy engagement, briefings)

Response:

Search for fires taking place from 2022 to 30th June 2025. Search using the keyword “solar” to identify fires where solar panels were involved.

Building types represented in the data are:

- Animal boarding/breeding/kennels (not farm)/animal shelter
- Car parks

- Education
- Entertainment and culture
- Food and drink
- Hospitals and medical care
- Industrial manufacturing
- Industrial processing
- Mines and quarries – buildings above ground
- Offices and call centres
- Permanent agricultural
- Public utilities
- Public admin, security and safety
- Public toilets
- Retail
- Sporting venues
- Transport buildings
- Vehicle repair
- Warehouses and bulk storage

Question 1:

2022 – 114

2023 – 143

2024 – 150

2025 – 69

Question 2 –

2022 – 0

2023 – 0

2024 – 1 (main cause identified as solar panels)

2025 – 0

Question 3 – Freedom of Information responses are released into the public domain and can be used for the purposes outlined above.

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service systems are designed primarily for the management of individual cases and not for the production of statistical information for Freedom of Information responses.

The figures provided therefore are our best interpretation of relevance of data to your request, but you should be aware that the collation of figures for ad hoc requests may have limitations and this should be taken into account when the data is used.

If you decide to write an article/use the enclosed data, we ask you to take into consideration the factors highlighted in this document so as to not mislead members of the public or



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official bodies or misrepresent the relevance of the whole or any part of this disclosed material.



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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

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 with the Service 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

Darby House

Darby Close

Park Farm Industrial Estate

Wellingborough

NN8 6GS

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