



15 May 2026

Request:

I would like to request the following information covering the financial year 2024/25.

1. Fire door-related failures:

The number of fire safety inspections carried out under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 where the outcome recorded included non-compliance specifically due to deficiencies relating to fire doors.

For the purposes of this request, a fire door-related failure should be counted where any non-compliant building had fire doors recorded as either the primary reason for non-compliance, or a contributing factor to non-compliance.

Fire door non-compliance should be understood to include (but not be limited to): inadequate fire resistance of fire doors, damaged, poorly fitting, or incorrectly installed fire doors, missing, defective, or disabled self-closing devices, missing or defective intumescent or smoke seals, inappropriate fire door specification for the location, inadequate maintenance of fire doors.

2. Reasons for fire door failures:

Based on inspection records, enforcement records, or deficiency categories held, the five most frequently recorded reasons for fire door-related non-compliance during the timeframe above.

Please base this response only on existing recorded categories or descriptions used by your service, and not on new analysis or interpretation.

3. Building types affected

Based on inspection or enforcement records, the five most common building types in which fire door-related non-compliance was recorded during the timeframe above.

If building types are categorised by your service (for example, residential, care homes, commercial, educational, etc.), please use the categories already recorded.

If your service does not record inspection outcomes in a way that allows the above numbers to be provided exactly, please supply the closest equivalent figure held and briefly explain how it differs from the request.

Response:

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS), when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt), to provide the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption applicable to the information requested is:

Section 12(1) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

The information that you are requesting is not held by NFRS in any reasonably retrievable form. The only means of establishing information of the nature you are requesting would be by way of manual examination of each fire safety inspection job record. Our information retrieval process generally relies on a computer-run report which captures any information recorded upon the surface of a record or within specified fields. Where relevant information is held deeper in the record, or outside of a specified field, a manual assessment is usually required to retrieve that information.

By way of further explanation, NFRS do not have data fields that would allow a search to be undertaken that would identify the instances that are being asked for within this request, for example there are no existing categorisations for door failures. To answer this request would require a manual review of each individual letter within each job record, the data to be compiled from the contents of each letter and then the collation of the failure reasons would require a new analysis.

Therefore, it is our assessment that the cost of providing you with the information requested would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as set out in the Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The appropriate limit is currently £450, which is the equivalent of 18 hours at £25 per hour.

For the financial year 2024/25, there are 191 safety inspection job records that require a manual review. At 10 minutes per record review to read each letter, extract the data and collate the reasons for any failure, this equals approximately 32 hours. At £25 per hour this equals a cost of £800 to respond to your request. This exceeds the appropriate limit.

Where section 12 applies to a request, it should apply to the whole request, even where only one question would supersede the cost limit. The guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office is that the decision on what is important is a matter for the requester and it is not for a public authority to assume what information the requestor would like to receive inside the cost limit.

You may wish to refine and resubmit your request so that it reduces the costs shown above and is then within the 'appropriate limit'. However, I cannot think of a means to refine the request in order to provide the information you are seeking given that you have requested information that is not captured within standard data reporting fields.

If you would like some further information about how to proceed with your request then please contact: freedomofinformation@northants.police.uk

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 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

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