



22 June 2026

**Request:**

We are undertaking analysis of fire incidents across the UK, with a particular interest in emerging fire risks such as solar photovoltaic systems, battery energy storage systems, lithium-ion batteries, electric vehicles, e-bikes, e-scooters, and related technologies. However, we would also like to understand these incidents in the broader context of all recorded fire incidents.

Please provide the following information for all fire incidents attended by Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service between: 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2025

If 2025 data is incomplete or not yet finalised, please provide the latest available data and indicate the date range covered.

*REQUESTED DATASET*

*Please provide one row per incident, where held, with the following fields:*

*Incident\_ID\_Pseudonymised*  
*Related\_Primary\_Incident\_ID*  
*Incident\_Link\_Type*  
*Incident\_Date\_Time*  
*Fire\_Category*  
*Primary\_Fire\_Subcategory*  
*Property\_Type*  
*Premises\_Type*  
*Domestic\_or\_NonDomestic*  
*Motive*  
*Cause\_Category*  
*Source\_of\_Ignition*  
*Item\_First\_Ignited*  
*Main\_Item\_Responsible\_For\_Spread*  
*Relevant\_Technology*  
*Subcategory*  
*Confirmed\_or\_Suspected*  
*Cause\_Role*

*Postcode\_Unit*  
*LAD\_Code*  
*Easting\_Rounded\_1km*  
*Northing\_Rounded\_1km*  
*Injuries*  
*Fatalities*  
*Rescues*  
*Evacuations*  
*Damage\_Extent*  
*Number\_of\_Appliances\_Attending*  
*Incident\_Duration\_Minutes*

#### **FIELD DESCRIPTIONS**

*Please interpret these fields as follows, or provide the closest equivalent fields held in your incident recording system.*

*Incident\_ID\_Pseudonymised:*

*A non-identifying incident reference. Please do not provide original incident numbers if these are considered sensitive.*

*Related\_Primary\_Incident\_ID:*

*Where held, a pseudonymised identifier linking a secondary fire, reignition, duplicate, or related incident to a primary fire or wider incident.*

*Incident\_Link\_Type:*

*The relationship between linked incidents, for example secondary linked to primary fire, reignition/repeat attendance, duplicate/merged incident, same event/multi-incident scene, exposure fire/spread from another incident, or not linked.*

*Incident\_Date\_Time:*

*Date and time of the incident, where disclosable. If exact time is too granular, please provide incident date only, month/year, or a broad time band.*

*Fire\_Category:*

*Primary fire, secondary fire, chimney fire, or closest equivalent.*

*Primary\_Fire\_Subcategory:*

*Dwelling, other building, road vehicle, other outdoor, not applicable, or closest equivalent.*

*Property\_Type:*

*Broad property or location type.*

*Premises\_Type:*

*More specific premises description, where held.*

*Domestic\_or\_NonDomestic:*

*Domestic, non-domestic, vehicle, outdoor, or unknown.*

*Motive:*

*Accidental, deliberate, unknown, or closest equivalent.*

*Cause\_Category:*

*Broad cause category, as recorded.*

*Source\_of\_Ignition:*

*Recorded source of ignition, where held.*



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*Item\_First\_Ignited:*

*First item or material ignited, where held.*

*Main\_Item\_Responsible\_For\_Spread:*

*Main item responsible for fire spread, where held.*

*Relevant\_Technology:*

*Any recorded involvement of solar PV, battery storage, lithium-ion batteries, electric vehicles, e-bikes, e-scooters, mobility scooters, vapes, power banks, power tools, waste/recycling batteries, or other relevant emerging technologies. If none is identified, please mark as "None identified".*

*Subcategory:*

*More specific technology/product/component involved, where relevant.*

*Confirmed\_or\_Suspected:*

*Whether the technology involvement was confirmed, suspected, mentioned only, not applicable, or unknown.*

*Cause\_Role:*

*Whether the technology was the cause of fire, suspected cause, item first ignited, source of ignition, contributing factor, present but not causal, exposed to fire, not applicable, or unknown.*

*Postcode\_Unit:*

*Full postcode unit, where disclosure is permitted.*

*LAD\_Code:*

*Local Authority District code for the incident location.*

*Easting\_Rounded\_1km:*

*British National Grid easting rounded to the nearest 1km.*

*Northing\_Rounded\_1km:*

*British National Grid northing rounded to the nearest 1km.*

*Injuries:*

*Number of recorded injuries.*

*Fatalities:*

*Number of recorded fatalities.*

*Rescues:*

*Number of recorded rescues, where held.*

*Evacuations:*

*Number of people evacuated, where held.*

*Damage\_Extent:*

*Recorded extent of fire damage or spread, where held.*

*Number\_of\_Appliances\_Attending:*

*Number of fire appliances attending, where held.*

*Incident\_Duration\_Minutes:*

*Incident duration in minutes, where held.*

## **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

*For each incident, please provide the most granular geographic identifier that can be disclosed.*



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*My preference order is:*

- 1. postcode unit;*
- 2. Local Authority District code;*
- 3. rounded easting and northing coordinates to the nearest 1km.*

*I do not require full addresses, house numbers, street names, occupier names, exact coordinates, names of individuals, original incident numbers, or any other directly identifying personal information.*

*If postcode unit is considered too granular for disclosure, please provide LAD\_Code and Easting\_Rounded\_1km / Northing\_Rounded\_1km instead.*

#### **RELEVANT TECHNOLOGY CLASSIFICATION**

*Where your records identify or mention relevant technologies, please classify them using your own recorded categories where available. Technologies of interest include, but are not limited to:*

*Solar PV*

*Battery energy storage system*

*Lithium-ion battery*

*Electric vehicle*

*E-bike*

*E-scooter*

*Mobility scooter*

*Power tool battery*

*Mobile phone / tablet / laptop battery*

*Vape / e-cigarette battery*

*Power bank*

*Waste / recycling battery*

*Industrial battery system*

*Unknown rechargeable battery*

*Other technology*

*None identified*

*Unknown*

*Relevant subcategories may include, where held:*

*Domestic rooftop solar PV*

*Commercial rooftop solar PV*

*Ground-mounted solar PV*

*Solar farm*

*Solar inverter*

*Solar panel / module*

*DC isolator*

*DC cabling / connector*

*Solar PV battery storage*

*Domestic battery energy storage system*

*Commercial battery energy storage system*

*Grid-scale battery energy storage system*

*E-bike battery*  
*E-bike charger*  
*E-bike conversion kit*  
*E-scooter battery*  
*E-scooter charger*  
*Electric vehicle battery*  
*Mobility scooter battery*  
*Power tool battery*  
*Garden tool battery*  
*Laptop battery*  
*Mobile phone battery*  
*Tablet battery*  
*Vape / disposable vape*  
*Power bank*  
*Battery charger*  
*Loose battery cells*  
*Battery in waste bin*  
*Battery in refuse vehicle*  
*Battery at recycling centre*  
*Unknown battery product*  
*Other*  
*Unknown*

*If these are not held as structured fields, please do not manually classify every incident. Instead, please provide any relevant structured cause, source of ignition, item first ignited, and free-text-search-derived indicators that are reasonably retrievable within the statutory cost limit.*

#### **LINKED INCIDENTS**

*Where an incident is recorded as linked to another incident, please provide a pseudonymised linked incident identifier.*

*In particular, where a secondary fire is recorded as associated with, caused by, or linked to a primary fire, please provide the pseudonymised primary fire incident ID in `Related_Primary_Incident_ID`.*

*If this linkage is not held in a structured format, please mark the field as "Not held" rather than manually deriving it.*

#### **Response:**

Your request has now been considered, and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) are not obliged to provide the information that you have requested by virtue of the following exemption:

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

Although the information may be held for 26-37975, there is no facility to determine the scope of information held, locate and retrieve it. To access and retrieve accurate data would require a manual review of each fire incident 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, the NFRS incident recording system does not categorise many of the technology classifications that you have listed in your request. A manual review of the free text of each fire incident record would be required to determine whether those technologies were the source of ignition or involved in the fire incidents.

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.

NFRS incident records only go back as far as 1 October 2018. For the period 1 October 2018-31 December 2025 there are 13,117 fire incident records that require a manual review. At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record review, this equals approximately 1093 hours. At £25 per hour this equals a cost of £27,325 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.

To fulfil the NFRS's Section 16 obligations, a public authority is obliged to provide advice and assistance to requesters in relation to making an FOI request. By refining and narrowing the scope of your request, it may be possible to bring it within the appropriate cost limit and enable disclosure of information most relevant to your interests. This could be achieved by requesting a reduced timeframe, such as 6 months, or requesting a more limited number of cases, to a maximum of 15 randomly selected records, which may be reviewed to determine whether any relevant information is contained within. However, until a refined request is received and considered, we are unable to confirm whether or not that request would also be an over cost.

You should also note that had Section 12 – Requests where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit not been applicable, other exemptions would have been considered and applied where relevant and this may also be the case if a resubmission is made.

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

## **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](mailto: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](http://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