

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2025/00119

Date of request: 10th February

Request:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The main purpose of this request is to gather data from each fire service in the United Kingdom regarding vape-related fires.

Specifically, I am seeking information on the following:

The total number of vape-related fires attended by the fire service for each of the past 5 years (2020-2024).

If held, a breakdown of the causes of each vape-related fire, for example poor charging or disposal practices, or counterfeit or faulty products.

I would like you to provide the information in the following format:

Please provide the information in electronic format, preferably as an Excel spreadsheet or CSV file. Please find a template linked here for your convenience (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GUIVskBe7cWT4ntTnKVMYY7NriEh54I75NkHL78ptl/edit?usp=sharing>)

Please use this template where possible to ensure consistency and ease of data extraction. Please avoid sending PDFs or Word documents.

If you are unable to provide the specified information:

If you cannot provide the information exactly as requested, please provide any relevant data you have and explain why the other information cannot be provided.

I appreciate your assistance with this request and look forward to your response within the statutory time frame of 20 working days (by *insert date*).

Many thanks for your time,

Response:

In 2021 the London Fire Brigade updated the ignition source tab in our Incident Management System (IMS) and included a tab to select e-cigarettes (also referred to as vapes or vape pens).

You have asked for data from 2020 to 2024, before 2021 the data was based on free text fields and therefore part of the search is based on keywords associated with lithium or lithium battery linked to 'smoking' as a result the figures for 2020 and part of 2021 may not be totally accurate due to the way we previously recorded this data.

Please note that the data was collected using a combination of:

- A free text search for 'lithium' or 'lithium battery' (when related to smoking), and
- A filter on the ignition source for 'e-cigarette.'

Number of e-cigarette related fires attended by LFB from calendars year 2020 – 2024:

Number of fires attended by Ignition Source	Calendar Year				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
e-cigarette	3	4	5	15	14
Grand Total	3	4	5	15	14

Main cause of e-cigarette related fires recorded by LFB from calendar years 2020 – 2024:

Main Cause by Ignition Source	Calendar Year				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
e-cigarette	3	4	5	15	14
Heat source and combustibles brought together deliberately		3	2	12	10
Fault in equipment or appliance	1	1	1	1	
Unsafe use of equipment or appliance (heat source)				1	2
Overheating, unknown cause	2			1	
Unsafe use of heat source - due to unsafe disposal			1		
Unsafe use of heat source - due to sleep or unconsciousness			1		
Faulty leads to equipment or appliance					1
Combustible articles too close to heat source (or fire)					1
Grand Total	3	4	5	15	14

The LFB provides FOIA responses in PDF formats due to reasons such as, preserving document formatting, security, and accessibility. However, we do provide data on our London data store for all lithium incident using the excel spreadsheet. <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/lithium-and-electric-vehicle-fires>

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request on our website: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/transparency/request-information-from-us> We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request on our website:

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