

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2026/00481

Date of request: 28th April

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information.

Please provide data for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2025 relating to fire incidents involving:

Domestic compost bins, compost heaps, or decomposing organic material.

Fires caused by sunlight reflection or concentration (for example, involving mirrors, glass objects, or magnifying effects within households).

Where possible, please can you also provide information on:

The recorded cause of fire (e.g. accidental, deliberate, electrical, or other classification used)

Incident type (primary or secondary fire)

Any available data on property damage or spread of fire

Response:

The London Fire Brigade's Data team have provided the tables below. Please note that, in relation to com-post-related fires, identification has relied on searches of 'free text' fields within the Information Management System (IMS) for references to "compost" or "waste material." As a result, the figures presented in table 1 to 6 may not fully reflect the actual number of incidents.

With regard to fires caused by sunlight reflection or concentration, the Brigade does not currently classify incidents under this specific category. Therefore, the figures provided in table 7 to 9 are based on incidents recorded as "naturally occurring" events. Between 2020 and 2025, no such incidents were identified as secondary 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/>

Domestic Primary Fire Incidents Between 01 January 2020 And 31 December 2025 Where The Incident Notes Mentioned Either "Compost" Or "Waste Material" - By Property Classification, Year, and Motive Group

Is Residential Property	Yes
Incident Type	Primary Fire

<i>Count of Incidents</i>	Motive Group			Grand Total
Year / Property Class	Accidental	Not known	Deliberate	
2020				
Residential Property	6	2	0	8
2021				
Residential Property	7	0	0	7
2022				
Residential Property	3	0	0	3
2023				
Residential Property	4	0	0	4
2024				
Residential Property	6	0	0	6
2025				
Residential Property	7	1	0	8
Grand Total	33	3	0	36

Domestic Secondary Fire Incidents Between 01 January 2020 And 31 December 2025 Where The Incident Notes Mentioned Either "Compost" Or "Waste Material" - By Property Classification, Year, and Motive Group

Is Residential Property	Yes
Incident Type	Secondary Fire

<i>Count of Incidents</i>	Motive Group			Grand Total
Year / Property Class	Accidental	Not known	Deliberate	
2020				
Residential Property	3	0	0	3
2021				
Residential Property	2	0	0	2
2022				
Residential Property	3	1	0	4
2024				
Residential Property	0	1	0	1
2025				
Residential Property	2	1	0	3
Grand Total	10	3	0	13

Domestic Primary Fire Incidents Between 01 January 2020 And 31 December 2025 Where The Incident Notes Mentioned Either "Compost" Or "Waste Material" - By Ignition Source, Year, And Motive Group

Is Residential Property	Yes
Incident Type	Primary Fire

<i>Count of Incidents</i> Year / Ignition Source	Motive Group			Grand Total
	Accidental	Not known	Deliberate	
2020	6	2	0	8
Barbecue	1	0	0	1
Cigarette	3	0	0	3
Grill/Toaster	1	0	0	1
Intentional burning - out of control	1	0	0	1
Not known	0	2	0	2
2021	7	0	0	7
Cigarette	3	0	0	3
Not known	2	0	0	2
Other	2	0	0	2
2022	3	0	0	3
Cigarette	2	0	0	2
Natural occurrence	1	0	0	1
2023	4	0	0	4
Cigarette	3	0	0	3
Natural occurrence	1	0	0	1
2024	6	0	0	6
Cigarette	1	0	0	1
Not known	2	0	0	2
Other	3	0	0	3
2025	7	1	0	8
Cigarette	2	0	0	2
Lighted paper or card, or other naked flame	1	0	0	1
Natural occurrence	2	0	0	2
Not known	1	1	0	2
Other cooking appliance	1	0	0	1
Grand Total	33	3	0	36

Domestic Secondary Fire Incidents Between 01 January 2020 And 31 December 2025 Where The Incident Notes Mentioned Either "Compost" Or "Waste Material" - By Ignition Source, Year, And Motive Group

Is Residential Property	Yes
Incident Type	Secondary Fire

<i>Count of Incidents</i>	Motive Group			Grand Total
Year / Ignition Source	Accidental	Not known	Deliberate	
2020				
(blank)	3	0	0	3
2021				
(blank)	2	0	0	2
2022				
(blank)	3	1	0	4
2024				
(blank)	0	1	0	1
2025				
(blank)	2	1	0	3
Grand Total	10	3	0	13

**Domestic Primary Fire Incidents Between 01 January 2020 And 31 December 2025
Where The Incident Notes Mentioned Either "Compost" Or "Waste Material" - By Year,
Motive Group, and Damage Group**

Is Residential Property	Yes
Incident Type	Primary Fire

<i>Count of Incidents</i> Year / Damage Group	Motive Group			Grand Total
	Accidental	Not known	Deliberate	
2020	6	2	0	8
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	1	1	0	2
Limited to item 1st ignited	1	0	0	1
Limited to room of origin	2	1	0	3
Whole building	2	0	0	2
2021	7	0	0	7
External roof only	1	0	0	1
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	3	0	0	3
Limited to room of origin	3	0	0	3
2022	3	0	0	3
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	3	0	0	3
2023	4	0	0	4
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	2	0	0	2
Limited to item 1st ignited	1	0	0	1
Whole building	1	0	0	1
2024	6	0	0	6
Limited to 2 floors (not whole building)	1	0	0	1
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	2	0	0	2
Limited to item 1st ignited	1	0	0	1
Limited to room of origin	2	0	0	2
2025	7	1	0	8
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	2	1	0	3
Limited to item 1st ignited	1	0	0	1
Limited to room of origin	1	0	0	1
NULL	1	0	0	1
Whole building	2	0	0	2
Grand Total	33	3	0	36

Domestic Secondary Fire Incidents Between 01 January 2020 And 31 December 2025 Where The Incident Notes Mentioned Either "Compost" Or "Waste Material" - By Year, Motive Group, and Damage Group

Is Residential Property	Yes
Incident Type	Secondary Fire

<i>Count of Incidents</i>	Motive Group			Grand Total
Year / Damage Group	Accidental	Not known	Deliberate	
2020				
NULL	3	0	0	3
2021				
NULL	2	0	0	2
2022				
NULL	3	1	0	4
2024				
NULL	0	1	0	1
2025				
NULL	2	1	0	3
Grand Total	10	3	0	13

**Domestic Primary Fire Incidents Between 01 January 2020 And 31 December 2025
Where 'Main Cause' and 'Ignition Source' Has Been Identified As 'Natural
Occurrence' - By Year, Ignition Source and Month**

Fire Type	Primary Fire
Main Cause	Natural occurrence
Ignition Source Group	Other ignition source
Is Residential Property	Yes
Is Daylight Hours	Yes

<i>Count of Incidents</i>	Month												Grand Total
Year / Ignition Source	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
2020													
Natural occurrence	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	4	2	1	1	1	23
2021													
Natural occurrence	0	0	3	2	4	5	5	1	4	0	0	3	27
2022													
Natural occurrence	1	0	3	2	3	11	5	5	1	4	0	0	35
2023													
Natural occurrence	0	1	1	5	4	8	2	1	1	1	2	1	27
2024													
Natural occurrence	1	0	0	2	0	3	3	3	3	2	2	0	19
2025													
Natural occurrence	0	1	1	1	2	4	2	1	3	3	2	0	20
Grand Total	3	4	10	14	16	33	19	15	14	11	7	5	151

Domestic Primary Fire Incidents Between 01 January 2020 And 31 December 2025 Where 'Main Cause' and 'Ignition Source' Has Been Identified As 'Natural Occurrence' - By Year, Month, and Motive

Fire Type	Primary Fire
Main Cause	Natural occurrence
Ignition Source Group	Other ignition source
Ignition Source	Natural occurrence
Is Residential Property	Yes
Is Daylight Hours	Yes

Count of Incidents Year / Motive	Month												Grand Total
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
2020													
Accidental	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	4	2	1	1	1	23
2021													
Accidental	0	0	3	2	3	5	5	1	4	0	0	3	26
Not Known	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2022													
Accidental	1	0	3	2	3	10	4	5	1	4	0	0	33
Not Known	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
2023													
Accidental	0	1	1	4	4	8	2	1	1	1	2	1	26
Not Known	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2024													
Accidental	1	0	0	2	0	3	3	3	3	2	2	0	19
2025													
Accidental	0	1	1	1	2	4	1	1	3	3	2	0	19
Not Known	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Grand Total	3	4	10	14	16	33	19	15	14	11	7	5	151

**Domestic Primary Fire Incidents Between 01 January 2020 And 31 December 2025
Where 'Main Cause' and 'Ignition Source' Has Been Identified As 'Natural Occurrence' - By Year, Month, and Damage Group**

Fire Type	Primary Fire
Main Cause	Natural occurrence
Ignition Source Group	Other ignition source
Ignition Source	Natural occurrence
Is Residential Property	Yes
Is Daylight Hours	Yes

Count of Incidents Year / Damage Group	Month												Grand Total
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
2020	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	4	2	1	1	1	23
Limited to 2 floors (not whole building)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	5
Limited to item 1st ignited	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	7
Limited to room of origin	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	9
2021	0	0	3	2	4	5	5	1	4	0	0	3	27
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Limited to item 1st ignited	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	2	0	0	1	10
Limited to room of origin	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	2	9
NULL	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Roof space only	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Whole building	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2022	1	0	3	2	3	11	5	5	1	4	0	0	35
External roof only	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Limited to 2 floors (not whole building)	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
Limited to item 1st ignited	0	0	1	1	1	4	0	2	1	2	0	0	12
Limited to room of origin	1	0	0	1	1	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	9

NULL	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Roof space and other floors(s)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Roof space only	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Whole building	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
2023	0	1	1	5	4	8	2	1	1	1	2	1	27
Limited to 2 floors (not whole building)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
Limited to item 1st ignited	0	0	0	4	2	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	11
Limited to room of origin	0	1	1	1	2	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	11
Roof space only	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
2024	1	0	0	2	0	3	3	3	3	2	2	0	19
Limited to 2 floors (not whole building)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Limited to item 1st ignited	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	8
Limited to room of origin	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	4
NULL	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Roof space only	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2025		1	1	1	2	4	2	1	3	3	2	0	20
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Limited to item 1st ignited	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	1	0	7
Limited to room of origin	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	5
NULL	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Roof space and other floors(s)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Whole building	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Grand Total	3	4	10	14	16	33	19	15	14	11	7	5	151