

Chief Fire Officer Tom Capeling

Meg Crosby
Whatdotheyknow.com
(By e-mail)

This matter is being dealt with by:

Kasturi Sithembaram

E-mail: info.officer@twfire.gov.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref: KS/ 15 03 16 1

Date: 11th April 2016

Dear Mr Crosby,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000
YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

I confirm that your request for information has been considered.

The Authority does hold this information, please find the details below.

Request:

In the Minutes of the East Area committee of Sunderland City Council on 5/10/2015, your representative, Jeff Boath presented the update from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service. He is quoted as saying that "deliberate fires were still an issue with there being a 50 percent increase in deliberate fires; these were mainly rubbish fires."

In the End of Quarter 2 (April – September) Performance Report 2015/16, quoted in the minutes of the TWFR Policy and Performance committee meeting of 9/11/2015, "loose refuse" is referred to as a contributory cause in the 14.1% increase in deliberate secondary fires in the area.

1. What is your definition of loose refuse?

Response:

There isn't any guidance from Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) with regards to the definition of loose refuse. However, it is interpreted as any refuse which is not contained in a container.

Service Headquarters Nissan Way Barmston Mere Sunderland SR5 3QY
Telephone 0191 444 1500 Fax 0191 444 1512

Request:

Please give statistics for the number of rubbish fires quarterly in Sunderland for the last 5 years.

Response:

Rubbish fires include fires which are identified in our Incident Recording System (IRS) as having a motive of deliberate with a property type of either:

- Large refuse / rubbish container (e.g. skip)
- Loose refuse (including in a garden)
- Wheelie Bins
- Small refuse / rubbish / recycle container (excluding wheelie bins)
- Refuse / rubbish tip

Number of deliberate refuse fires

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2015/16	237	183	253	106* (until 16/3/16)
2014/15	197	208	248	145
2013/14	227	259	357	175
2012/13	188	186	268	145
2011/12	292	265	448	288

Request:

3. Which areas of Sunderland show the highest incidence of rubbish fires?

Response:

The table below shows number of deliberate rubbish fires in Sunderland between 01/04/2015 and 16/03/2016.

Ward	No. of incidents
Hendon Ward	93
Washington West Ward	67
Southwick Ward	61
Redhill Ward	58
Pallion Ward	54
Hetton Ward	47
Millfield Ward	45
Washington East Ward	43
St. Anne's Ward	37
Washington North Ward	32
Washington South Ward	26
Ryhope Ward	24
Castle Ward	22
Copt Hill Ward	20
Houghton Ward	18
Shiney Row Ward	18
Barnes Ward	18
Sandhill Ward	16
St. Chad's Ward	16
Silksworth Ward	16
Doxford Ward	14
Washington Central Ward	13
St. Michael's Ward	12
St. Peter's Ward	8
Fulwell Ward	1

Request:

4. Has there been an increase in fires associated with bulky rubbish items such as mattresses and furniture, over this period in Sunderland? (If you haven't statistics for this, your expert opinion will be satisfactory).

Response:

'Large refuse / rubbish container (e.g. skip)' is the closest category we have in the IRS that can match with fires associated with bulky items. Please see the information below:

2011/2012	80
2012/2013	42
2013/2014	38
2014/2015	26
2015/2016	39

Request:

5. What is the policy of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue service in regard to fly tipping and waste materials; do you notify the council to arrange for removal, when material is not on private land and an arson potential? Is this a big problem for you?

Response:

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service reports fly tipping incidences to the local authorities to arrange for removal. To identify if fly tipping is a problem in any area, you will need to contact the relevant local authority.

I hope this is satisfactory. If, however, you are dissatisfied with our response to your request for information, you can ask for a review under the Authority's Complaints Procedure in reply to this letter, or alternatively you may wish to refer to the Authority's Complaints Manager direct, addressed to Assistant Chief Officer J Baines, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, PO Box 1196, Nissan Way, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR5 3QY.

If this fails to resolve your concerns then you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Yours sincerely

Kasturi Sithembaram
Information Officer