

Chief Fire Officer Chris Lowther

Freedom of Information Request Response Ref Number: AW 23 01 17 1

Date of Response: 06 February 2017

Request:

I wish to obtain if possible statistics from the fire service regarding fires caused by electricity in the;

- a) owner occupied sector and
- b) private rented sector in the Tyne and Wear area.

Could you let me know if we could have access to these statistics from 2014/15 and 2015/16? I appreciate the data you might have on this could be in relation to investigations only, which would still be helpful

We would also be interested in knowing the number of fires during the same period caused by a gas source of ignition.

Response:

Following our email to you on 23rd January 2017 seeking clarification of the following:

1 Can you confirm that the 'owner occupied sector' and 'private rented sector' request relates to domestic and not commercial properties and that by PRS you mean Private Rented Sector?

You responded stating "We need data for domestic properties only and electrical fires caused by misuse, faulty fuel supply, electrical distribution fault and appliances. i.e. PRS xx fires caused by electricity vs owner occupied xx fires in 14/15 and 15/16.

Then the overall figures for your area in the PRS 'Private rented sector' for electrical source of ignition compared to gas (which I suspect will be a lower figure because of the annual gas checks in the PRS)."

2. For the cause of fires 'by electricity' or 'gas source of ignition' are you looking for faulty fuel supply? You mentioned appliance fires due to electrical distribution fault and comparison figures between the tenures of owner occupied and private rented, however you also required electrical source of ignition compared to gas. The only gas appliances we are aware of would be gas ovens/ stoves, gas heating and gas fires. Is

limiting the data to these types of appliances acceptable for the information you require?

3. For reporting structure purposes can you confirm this is the format for the data you are looking for:

Tenure	Owner occupied 2014-15 (fiscal year)	Owner occupied 2015-16 (fiscal year)	Private rented 2014-15 (fiscal year)	Private rented 2015-16 (fiscal year)
Cause of fire				
Faulty electrical supply				
Faulty gas supply				
Faulty electrical appliances				
Faulty gas appliances				

You responded stating that this is acceptable.

You responded stating “We are interested in gas as these would require an annual gas safety certificate. On the gas comparison I'm looking for a statement like the one provided to us by another FRS: there were 474 electrical fires over the 2 year period. In the same 24 months there were only 75 gas related fires, which is 16% of the total number of electrical fires”.

Please see the enclosed data sheet containing the full response to your enquiry.

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