

**Freedom of Information request reference number:** 6258.1

**Date of response:** 04 January 2022

**Request:**

*I write with reference to the topic of E-Scooters and bike and the apparent growing number of fires linked to or directly caused by same.*

*As the underwriting manager responsible for Property Insurances (both commercial and residential) within the market, I am trying to better understand the extent of risk these may present as a fire risk to both large scale storage points or indeed home charging whether in the UK or elsewhere around the globe and what guidance the market might need to be giving to raise any awareness with both its underwriters and end customers.*

*It has been suggested to me that the London Fire Brigade may have more experience than most in dealing with and tackling said fires and that as such, I was hoping you may be in a position to share any credible data on numbers of fires and where available scale of damage along with any recommended risk management guidance or advice that we may promote as "best practice" where such devices are being charged/stored.*

*I am aware that recent changes to terms and conditions of carriage in London demonstrate a growing concern to public safety for these devices in confined area and risk from not just the fire aspect, but also the harmful gasses that may be produced during such a fire outbreak.*

*I look forward to hearing back from you regarding what information you are able to share on this topic with me.*

**Response:**

Our Data team have provided a summarised table below which shows the number of lithium battery related fires from calendar year 2016 to the 20 December 2021. This includes information for e-bike and e-scooter related fires:

| Number of lithium related fires<br>Lithium battery device | Calendar Year |           |           |           |           |           |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|   | 2016          | 2017      | 2018      | 2019      | 2020      | 2021      |
| Other Lithium Battery                                     | 16            | 11        | 11        | 13        | 22        | 29        |
| e-bike  | 1             | 2         | 2         | 6         | 10        | 37        |
| e-scooter   | 4             |           | 1         | 2         | 14        | 28        |
| e-cigarette   | 5             | 4         | 2         | 2         | 3         | 4         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  | <b>26</b>     | <b>17</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>49</b> | <b>98</b> |

Please note, the data in the table above includes incidents that were recorded under the new Ignition Sources for 'e-bike' and 'e-scooter' as well as a free text search (for historical data) on e-bikes, e-scooters, e-cigarettes and other lithium battery devices. As a result of using the free text search, the historical data may not be 100% accurate.

Information on total numbers of fires attended in London is also published online via the London Datastore. A yearly review is published here: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/lfb-fires-in-london-1966-2019---fire-facts>. Specific incident data is published here: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-fire-brigade-incident-records>

The LFB have started to publish news articles about fires involving e-bike/scooter batteries on our website, this one offers some advice on what people can do to keep safe:

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2021-news/july/fire-investigators-issue-urgent-warning-over-fires-involving-e-bike-batteries/>

This one provides more detail about the LFB backing of TfL's ban on dangerous private e-scooters on London's transport network:

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2021-news/december/london-fire-brigade-backs-tfl-ban-on-dangerous-private-e-scooters-on-london-s-transport-network/>

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/>