

Freedom of Information request reference number: 8060.1

Date of response: 24/11/2023

Request:

We would like to investigate whether there has been an increase in fires caused by items that contain batteries (including lithium-ion batteries). For instance, toys, laptops, electric toothbrushes etc.

Therefore, under Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations, I would like to request the following information:

Broken down by month:

- The number of household fires caused (or thought to be caused) by lithium-ion batteries in toys, toothbrushes, phones and laptops from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021
- The number of household fires caused (or thought to be caused) by lithium-ion batteries in toys, toothbrushes, phones and laptops from 01.01.2022 to 31.12.2022
- The number of household fires caused (or thought to be caused) by lithium-ion batteries in toys, toothbrushes, phones and laptops from 01.01.2023 to 30.10.2023
- The number of fires in dustcarts and waste-processing centres fires caused (or thought to be caused) by lithium-ion batteries in toys, toothbrushes, phones and laptops from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021
- The number of fires in dustcarts and waste-processing centres fires caused (or thought to be caused) by lithium-ion batteries in toys, toothbrushes, phones and laptops from 01.01.2022 to 31.12.2022
- The number of fires in dustcarts and waste-processing centres fires caused (or thought to be caused) by lithium-ion batteries in toys, toothbrushes, phones and laptops from 01.01.2023 to 30.10.2023.

Response:

Further to your request, please see below for data showing lithium battery fires between 2021 and 2023 in three separate tables. Unfortunately, we are unable to break this down further into the subcategories above, relating to dustcarts and waste processing centres based on toys, toothbrushes, phones and laptops. We do not hold this information as we do not currently have extended data fields under lithium batteries relating to the other items mentioned in the request.

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/>

The number of household fires caused (or thought to be caused) by items containing batteries from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021

Count of Incident Number	Month												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Grand Total
Batteries, generators	1	6	3	8	10	7	4	6	8	7	8	2	70
Battery charger	1		1			3		1			1	1	8
Grand Total	2	6	4	8	10	10	4	7	8	7	9	3	78

The number of household fires caused (or thought to be caused) by items containing batteries from 01.01.2022 to 31.12.2022

Count of Incident Number	Month												
Ignition Source	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Grand Total
Batteries, generators	3	2	1	3	9	6	9	8	5	5	4	5	60
Battery charger		1		3		2		2	2	4	3		17
Grand Total	3	3	1	6	9	8	9	10	7	9	7	5	77

The number of household fires caused (or thought to be caused) by items containing batteries from 01.01.2023 to 30.10.2023

Count of Incident Number	Month										
Ignition Source	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Grand Total
Batteries, generators	8	5	5	6	2	6	13	5	5	7	62
Battery charger	2		1			1		1	1	1	7
Grand Total	10	5	6	6	2	7	13	6	6	8	69