

**Freedom of Information request reference number:** 8994.1

**Date of response:** 29 August 2024

**Request:**

*Please supply me with data relating to fires on balconies on residential buildings in your area, as follows;*

- *How many fires involving balconies occurred in total between 1st August 2023 and 31st July 2024?*
- *In the same period, how many fires occurred where balconies were found to have contributed to the spread of the fire across the external walls?*
- *Please provide data on the causes of any fires that started on balconies in the period (ie; barbecue, discarded cigarette, electrical appliance fault, etc) and please provide the number of occurrences for each cause.*

**Response:**

Please see my response to each of your requests in turn below:

*How many fires involving balconies occurred in total between 1st August 2023 and 31st July 2024?*

The table below shows the number of dwelling fires recorded between 1st August 2023 and 31st July 2024 where the location of the fire start has been recorded as a type of balcony:

Location of fire start	Number of fires recorded between 01/08/2023 and 31/12/2023	Number of fires recorded between 01/01/2024 and 31/07/2024	Total
Communal balcony/Elevated walkway	12	17	29
Private balcony	38	61	99
Other - Balcony	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>130</b>

*In the same period, how many fires occurred where balconies were found to have contributed to the spread of the fire across the external walls*

We have a category for 'Ignited item responsible for spread' in our Incident Management System (IMS) however, "balcony" is not an option to select in the category. The three tables below show the information recorded for 'Ignited item responsible for spread' the 130 fires in the table above. I have also included if any rapid fire growth was recorded at the fires and the total damaged area at stop in metres squared:

Location of fire start: Communal balcony/Elevated walkway			
Was there rapid fire growth?	Damaged area (metres squared)	Ignited item responsible for spread	Number of incidents recorded
No rapid fire growth	6 - 10	External fittings	1
No rapid fire growth	None	Clothing	1
No rapid fire growth	None	Foam - raw material only	1
No rapid fire growth	None	Household paper/Cardboard	1

No rapid fire growth	None	Leaves	1
No rapid fire growth	None	None	5
No rapid fire growth	None	Other	1
No rapid fire growth	None	Rubbish/Waste material	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Bedding	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Clothing	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Household paper/Cardboard	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	None	2
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Not known	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Other	2
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Other furniture	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Other textiles	2
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Petrol/Oil products	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Plastic - raw material only	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Rubbish/Waste material	2
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Wiring insulation	1
Yes, petrol/oil products	6 - 10	Petrol/Oil products	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>29</b>

<b>Location of fire start: Other - Private balcony</b>			
<b>Was there rapid fire growth?</b>	<b>Damaged area (metres squared)</b>	<b>Ignited item responsible for spread</b>	<b>Number of incidents recorded</b>
No rapid fire growth	11 - 20	Not known	1
No rapid fire growth	11 - 20	Other textiles	1
No rapid fire growth	11 - 20	Rubbish/Waste material	1
No rapid fire growth	51 - 100	Not known	2
No rapid fire growth	6 - 10	Clothing	2
No rapid fire growth	6 - 10	External fittings	2
No rapid fire growth	6 - 10	Other	1
No rapid fire growth	6 - 10	Other textiles	3
No rapid fire growth	6 - 10	Other wooden	4
No rapid fire growth	6 - 10	Other/Unspecified furnishings	1
No rapid fire growth	6 - 10	Roof	1
No rapid fire growth	None	Household paper/Cardboard	2
No rapid fire growth	None	None	4
No rapid fire growth	None	Not known	2
No rapid fire growth	None	Other	2
No rapid fire growth	None	Other textiles	1
No rapid fire growth	None	Other vegetation	1
No rapid fire growth	None	Other wooden	3
No rapid fire growth	None	Other/Unspecified furnishings	1
No rapid fire growth	None	Plastic - raw material only	2
No rapid fire growth	None	Rubbish/Waste material	3
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Bedding	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Clothing	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	External fittings	2
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Floor coverings	1

No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Foam - raw material only	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Household paper/Cardboard	8
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	None	2
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Not known	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Other	7
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Other textiles	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Other vegetation	2
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Other wooden	10
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Other/Unspecified furnishings	2
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Plastic - raw material only	4
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Roof	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Rubbish/Waste material	3
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Trees	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Upholstered furniture	1
Other	11 - 20	Other	1
Other	501 - 1,000	Other	1
Other	6 - 10	Other wooden	1
Yes, fireworks	21 - 50	Other/Unspecified furnishings	1
Yes, gases	None	Other	1
Yes, paint, varnish, resins, creosote	Up to 5	Paint, varnish, resins, creosote	1
Yes, strong wind	11 - 20	Plastic - raw material only	1
Yes, strong wind	501 - 1,000	Petrol/Oil products	1
Yes, strong wind	6 - 10	Other textiles	1
Yes, strong wind	Up to 5	Household paper/Cardboard	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>99</b>

<b>Location of fire start: Other - Balcony</b>			
<b>Was there rapid fire growth?</b>	<b>Damaged area (metres squared)</b>	<b>Ignited item responsible for spread</b>	<b>Number of incidents recorded</b>
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Other furniture	1
No rapid fire growth	Up to 5	Other wooden	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>2</b>

*Please provide data on the causes of any fires that started on balconies in the period (ie; barbecue, discarded cigarette, electrical appliance fault, etc) and please provide the number of occurrences for each cause.*

The table below shows the ignition source recorded for the 130 dwelling fires recorded between 1st August 2023 and 31st July 2024 where the location of the fire start has been recorded as a type of balcony:

<b>Ignition Source</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Number of incidents recorded</b>
Barbecue	-	5	5
Batteries, generators	-	3	3
Camping stove	1	-	1
Candles/Tea lights - Social use	1	1	2
Central heating/Hot water	-	1	1
Cigarette	25	39	64
Cigarette lighter	2	3	5

E-Bike	-	1	1
E-Scooter	-	1	1
Fireworks	7		7
Fuse board/Consumer unit	-	1	1
Lighted paper or card, or other naked flame	2	1	3
Matches	2	2	4
Natural occurrence	-	1	1
Not known	3	11	14
Oil/Incense burners	1	2	3
Other	3	2	5
Other appliance or equipment	1	-	1
Panel heater (electric)	-	1	1
Smoking materials (not cigarette)	1	2	3
Solids; coal, coke, wood, card	-	1	1
Vacuum cleaner	-	1	1
Welding/Cutting equipment	1	-	1
Wiring, cabling, plugs	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>130</b>

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](#).