



DATE:	06 th November 2018	FOI REQUEST NO:	210_1819
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FOI REQUEST AND RESPONSE

Please can I request the following information under the freedom of information act.

Please can I have the following for the financial years, 2016, 2017 and 2018 to date

If you are able to detail which school it is on each occasion please do.

- **The number of call outs to schools – and whether they were false alarms or fires – and if possible why they were set off? (smoking, tampered with, deodorant spray, arson)**
- **The school which had the highest number of false alarms and call outs – please name the school for each year**
- **How many schools had fire alarms “not working” – of these which were called out to – or when checked during safety visits by officers**
- **How many schools had fire alarms which were “not fitted” or switched off**

If you require any further information or clarification please let me know

If you are minded to refuse any part of this FOI request, you are required to inform me how I may amend my request.

Description: Incidents attended by SWFRS at school premises in financial years 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 to 30/09/2018

Criteria: False alarms and Fires in school buildings
Includes special, residential/boarded and private schools, nurseries within primary schools and community facilities on school premises.
Excludes Special Service Calls; Fires with property types Outdoor and Road Vehicle; universities, colleges, FE colleges, language schools, day nurseries and disused school buildings.

Source: Data extracted from SWFRS IRS system 26/10/2018, incident time of call between 01/04/2016 – 30/09/2018 (data may be subject to change pending validation)

Incident Type	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019*	TOTAL
FalseAlarm	540	499	228	1267
Fire	16	11	4	31
TOTAL	556	510	232	1298

* To 30/09/2018

Table 1 - False Alarms and Fires attended by SWFRS at schools 01/04/2016 to 30/09/2018

False Alarms	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019*	TOTAL
Fire alarm due to Apparatus	484	456	205	1145
Good Intent false alarm	15	14	8	37
Malicious False Alarm	41	29	15	85
TOTAL	540	499	228	1267

Table 2 - False Alarms attended by SWFRS at schools 01/04/2016 - 30/09/2018 – False Alarm Reason

False Alarm Due To Apparatus Cause	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019*	TOTAL
Faulty	201	200	73	474
Dust	57	43	27	127
Accidentally / carelessly set off	49	43	23	115
Cooking / burnt toast	24	27	10	61
Testing	21	19	13	53
Chemicals/aerosols	17	22	8	47
Minute animals (e.g. Thrips and Midges)	20	9	6	35
Steam	9	15	3	27
Damaged	7	7	3	17
Other	7	4	6	17
Poor maintenance	8	4		12
Water intrusion	2	8	1	11
Smoking	3	3		6
Power surge	1	2	1	4
Storm	2	1	1	4
Smoke from elsewhere (not at location)	1		1	2
Incorrect positioning	2			2
water supplies -sprinklers only		1		1
NULL	53	48	29	130
TOTAL	484	456	205	1145

Table 3 - False Alarms attended by SWFRS at schools 01/04/2016 - 30/09/2018 - Alarm due to apparatus cause

Fire alarms are not tested during fire safety visits to schools. The following table details operation of fire alarm systems in respect of fires attended and outcome of the actuation.

ALARM SYSTEM OPERATED?	OUTCOME	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019*	TOTAL
YES	Raised alarm	10	10	3	23
YES but did not raise alarm	Alarm was raised before the system operated	1		1	2
	Alerted by other means	1			1
	Fire not close enough to detector	1	1		2
	Not known	1			1
	Other	1			1
NO	System turned off	1			1
TOTAL		16	11	4	31

Table 4 - Fires attended by SWFRS on school premises 01/04/2016 - 30/09/2018 - Alarm system operation

* To 30/09/2018

“We are unable to provide details of the incidents at each specific school. To do so would require manual interrogations of each record, which would exceed the time limits as defined by the Freedom of Information Fees Regulation. In addition, we believe of the information would be subject to exemptions under Section 38 (1) (a) and (b) (Health and Safety), Section 31 (1) (a) Law Enforcement and Section 43 (2) – Commercial Interests.”