



**Gofynner am/  
Please ask for:** Information Governance  
and Compliance

**Tel:** 01443232000

**E-bost/E-mail:** DataProtection@southwales-fire.gov.uk

**Our ref:** IG000441

**Dyddiad/Date:** 24.08.2020

## RE: Request for Information held by SWFRS

Your request ref: IG000441 has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked us:

I'm interested in finding out how many fires in UK homes have been caused by faulty white goods and what white goods have been the biggest cause of those house fires.

If possible could I have the following data:

1. Total number of house fires caused by faulty white goods (washing machines, tumble dryers, fridge freezers, fridges, cookers etc) in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 (to end of July) and what % each figure is of total house fires in that year.

Also, if possible could this data be broken down by month? If this would take long then perhaps I could have:

2. Total number of house fires caused by faulty white goods (washing machines, tumble dryers, fridge freezers, fridges, cookers etc) in each month during 2020 (Jan to July)
3. Total number of house fires caused by faulty white goods (washing machines, tumble dryers, fridge freezers, fridges, cookers etc) in each month during 2019 (Jan to December)
4. Would it also be possible to have question 1/ data broken down by which particular faulty white goods caused the fires?

Pencadlys Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub De Cymru,  
Parc Busnes Forest View, Llantrisant, Pont-y-clun, CF72 8LX.

Ffôn 01443 232000 • Ffacs 01443 232180  
[www.decymru-tan.gov.uk](http://www.decymru-tan.gov.uk)

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y gymraeg a'r saesneg - byddwn yn ymateb yn gyfartal i'r ddau ac yn ateb yn eich dewis iaith heb oedi.

**CODI YMWHYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL**

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters,  
Forest View Business Park, Llantrisant, Pontyclun, CF72 8LX.

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English - we will respond equally to both and will reply in your language of choice without delay.

**RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK**



#### Our Response:

Your request for dwelling fires caused by faulty white goods has been provided in the attachment **Appendix A**. The data has been broken down by year and month. A description of the goods has been used and this can be filtered to add or take off any goods that you think are classed as white goods and those that you feel are not white goods. (There is no official definition of what is classed as a white good.) Also the cause has been filtered to include fault in equipment or appliance, faulty fuel supplies – electric, faulty leads to equipment and overheating of appliance. All other causes relate to human behaviour and have therefore not been included.

Please see below the numbers of Accidental dwelling fires for all causes for the years below for you to calculate the percentages of white goods fires.

All Accidental Dwelling Fires	
2016	705
2017	603
2018	572
2019	632
2020 up to 31/07/20	476

If you have any queries regarding your Freedom of Information request, please contact us at [Dataprotection@southwales-fire.gov.uk](mailto:Dataprotection@southwales-fire.gov.uk) quoting the reference number above in any future communication.

If you are dissatisfied with the way that your information request has been handled, you can request an internal review by emailing [Dataprotection@southwales-fire.gov.uk](mailto:Dataprotection@southwales-fire.gov.uk)

#### **UPDATE COVID-19: Information Requests**

We are kindly asking that any data protection correspondence come to Information Governance & Compliance via email, as due to Government advice many of our support staff are working flexibly and we may not be in receipt of physical post as normal. SWFRS anticipates that it may take us longer than 20 working days to complete Freedom of Information Requests and Subject Access Requests. The Information Commissioner recognises that there might be delays as our services and resources may be being utilised in slightly different ways, under the current unprecedented circumstances. At current, we are no longer accepting physical postal cheques, however we can accept BACs payments for items that carry a fee (such as IRS Reports and Interviews, where appropriate following standard procedure and charges). We would like to thank you for your patience at this time.

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If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office-Wales,  
2nd Floor,  
Churchill House,  
Churchill Way,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 2HH.

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours Faithfully

**Information Governance and Compliance**

[Dataprotection@southwales-fire.gov.uk](mailto:Dataprotection@southwales-fire.gov.uk)

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