

Data Request Reference:	2417
FOI:	318 11 24
Request Theme:	Dwelling Fires
Reporting Period:	Month of December (2019-2023)

### Question 1.

Number of House Fires in December: The total number of house fires that fire services attended in December for each of the past five years (i.e., December 2023, December 2022, December 2021, December 2020, December 2019):

Year (Month of December)	Number of Dwelling / Residential Fires
2019	36
2020	36
2021	32
2022	36
2023	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>

N.B. This is a count of primary fires at dwellings or other residential buildings. Chimney fires have been excluded. The Home Office's Incident Recording System (IRS) defines chimney fires as *fires in buildings where the flame was contained within the chimney structure and did not involve casualties, rescues or attendance by five or more pumping appliances.*

### Question 2.

Number of House Fires on Christmas Day: The number of house fires that fire services attended on Christmas Day specifically for each of the past five years:

Year (25 <sup>th</sup> December)	Number of Dwelling / Residential Fires
2019	2
2020	2
2021	0
2022	0
2023	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

### Question 3.

Causes of Fires: The primary causes cited for each of these fires, if available (e.g., electrical fires, cooking-related incidents, etc.):

<b>Main Cause</b>	<b>Number of Dwelling/ Residential Fires</b>
Accumulation of flammable material	3
Careless handling - due to careless disposal	5
Careless handling - due to knocking over	5
Careless handling - due to sleep or unconsciousness	3
Chimney fire*	9
Combustible articles too close to heat source (or fire)	30
Cooking - chip pan/deep fat fryer	9
Cooking - other cooking	45
Fault in equipment or appliance	17
Faulty fuel supply - electricity	17
Faulty fuel supply - gas	1
Faulty leads to equipment or appliance	2
Heat source and combustibles brought together deliberately	10
Negligent use of equipment or appliance (heat source)	10
Other	3
Overheating, unknown cause	6
Playing with fire (or heat source)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>

\*At these incidents the Chimney Fire definition didn't apply i.e. the flame was NOT contained within the chimney structure; or the incident involved casualties, rescues, or was attended by five or more pumping appliances.