

Freedom of Information – Response – 26986

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information covering the financial year 2024/25. Please provide the data in an Excel or Google Sheets document, if possible.

Please provide the following information for your Fire and Rescue Service area.

1. Fire door-related failures

The number of fire safety inspections carried out under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 where the outcome recorded included non-compliance specifically due to deficiencies relating to fire doors.

For the purposes of this request, a fire door-related failure should be counted where any non-compliant building had fire doors recorded as either the primary reason for non-compliance, or a contributing factor to non-compliance.

Fire door non-compliance should be understood to include (but not be limited to): inadequate fire resistance of fire doors, damaged, poorly fitting, or incorrectly installed fire doors, missing, defective, or disabled self-closing devices, missing or defective intumescent or smoke seals, inappropriate fire door specification for the location, inadequate maintenance of fire doors.

2. Reasons for fire door failures

Based on inspection records, enforcement records, or deficiency categories held, the five most frequently recorded reasons for fire door-related non-compliance during the timeframe above.

Please base this response only on existing recorded categories or descriptions used by your service, and not on new analysis or interpretation.

3. Building types affected

Based on inspection or enforcement records, the five most common building types in which fire door-related non-compliance was recorded during the timeframe above.

If building types are categorised by your service (for example, residential, care homes, commercial, educational, etc.), please use the categories already recorded.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) can confirm that this information is held however, it is being withheld under s.12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). s.12 states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request where it estimates that the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit which, for SCC, is £450 equating to 18 hours of staff time at £25 per hour.

As the information you requested is not centrally recorded in a reportable format in order to provide it Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) would need to manually review 432 audits to locate and extract the relevant information. A sampling exercise has shown that on average this would take 4 minutes per audit which works out at approximately 28 hours.

The ICO guidance requires public authorities to consider whether meaningful advice and assistance can be given to help requesters refine or narrow their request where possible. Unfortunately, in this case SFRS is unable to find a reportable format for the information you are seeking and as a result there is no meaningful refinement that would bring the request within the cost limit.

