

Ref: FOI / 6351

18th May 2026

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request - Playground Equipment Condition, Corrosion, and Related Incidents

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2020 to present:

1. Inspections and maintenance

a. The total number of playground inspections carried out per year.

Number of Play areas - 75

No of Annual Inspections – 75

b. Copies of any inspection guidance, checklists, or policies used, particularly those referencing:

- ☐ **corrosion**
- ☐ **rust**
- ☐ **metal degradation**

No Of Internal Team Inspection's carried out monthly on each asset
BS Standards we complete maintenance and inspect play areas conform to BS EN1176.

Play Area Inspection Template - see attached a typical play area inspection template which is completed monthly. Each item has a pass/fail drop down

option, and photos/comments/defects can be uploaded for reference and further action where appropriate.

2. Recorded defects

a. The number of recorded maintenance issues or defects relating to playground equipment, broken down by year.

- ☐ 2020 – 299
- ☐ 2021 – 275
- ☐ 2022 - 351
- ☐ 2023 - 561
- ☐ 2024 - 374

b. Where available, the number of defects specifically categorised as:

- ☐ **corrosion**
- ☐ **rust**
- ☐ **structural degradation of metal components**

(If defects are not categorised in this way, please provide any relevant keyword-searchable records or closest equivalent classification.)

475 defects raised during 2025 inspections - Defects are not categorised into the categories rust, corrosion or structural degradation of metal components, any structural defects associated with play areas, the play area is closed and play item removed and surface made good until budget is available for a replacement item.

3. Complaints from the public

a. The number of complaints received relating to playground equipment described as:

- ☐ **rusty**
- ☐ **corroded**
- ☐ **damaged or unsafe**

No complaints were made

b. Incidents and injuries

- ☐ **The number of reported incidents or accidents in council-managed playgrounds, per year**

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- ☐ **If recorded, the number of incidents where equipment condition (e.g. damage, corrosion, or wear) was noted as a contributing factor**

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4. Maintenance response

a. Any policies or service standards relating to:

- ☐ **repair timeframes for damaged or corroded equipment**
- ☐ **criteria for removing unsafe equipment from use**

Detail on the Risk Rating for Defects – High, Med & Low:

- ☐ High risk to be actioned immediately,
- ☐ Medium risk ranges from 30 days to 90 days.
- ☐ Low risk ranges from 90 to 365 days

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly, our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie
Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council
98 Strand Road
Derry BT48 7NN
Tel: 028 71253253 or email: john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely

Colin Kennedy
Natural Environment Regeneration Manager

1 Equipment

Toddler Unit	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job
Chime Play Panel	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job
Senior Multi Unit	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job
Rotating Dish	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job
Flat Swings	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job
Seesaw Rocker	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job
Cradle Swings	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job
Boundary Fencing	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job
Gates	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job
Signage	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job
Seats/Benches	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job
Bins	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job
Paths	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job
Safety Surface	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job
Other	-	Note	 Add Photo	 Add Defect	 Add Job