



Ref: FOI / 5650

07th May 2025

Email:

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request - Smoke Nuisance Complaints

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

I request information regarding complaints about smoke nuisance within your local authority. Please could you provide the following data:

- 1. The number of complaints received about smoke nuisance in the last 10 years (please provide a year-by-year breakdown from 2015 to 2025.)**

Year	No. of Complaints
2015	0
2016	0
2017	5
2018	17
2019	10
2020	20
2021	15
2022	8
2023	13
2024	13
2025 (to 30/04/2025)	2

Derry

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98 Strand Road
Derry
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Strabane

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- 2. If recorded, the identified source of the smoke nuisance complaints (e.g., wood burners, bonfires, barbecues, grills, industrial sources, agricultural activities, or other specified sources).**

Source	No. of Complaints
Burning Waste in Garden	56
Stove/open fire/Domestic chimney	38
Alleged smell from drugs being smoked	2
Cigarette smoke	1
Burning of tyres	1
Commercial flue	1
Not specified	5

- 3. Any available data on enforcement actions or resolutions taken in response to these complaints.**

Informal actions including verbal advice and written warning letters. No formal enforcement action such as prosecutions/notices.

- 4. Whether your local authority has issued any public guidance, restrictions, or policy changes related to smoke nuisances in recent years.**

Information is available on the Council website on:

- <https://www.derrystrabane.com/services/health-communitywellbeing/health,-housing-public-conveniences/public-health-and-housing/domestic-garden-bonfires>
- www.NIDirect.gov.uk

5. Has the local authority received any complaints specifically citing health concerns (e.g., respiratory issues, aggravation of asthma, or other medical conditions) due to smoke nuisance?

- **If so, what was the cause of the smoke nuisance noted? (e.g., wood burners, bonfires, barbecues, grills, industrial sources, agricultural activities, or other specified sources).**

- 1 relating to child on ventilator – source burning waste in garden
- 1 relating to burning waste in garden exacerbating asthma
- 1 relating to asthma being affected by smoke from neighbour's fire

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Donaghy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping tail.

Seamus Donaghy
Head of Health & Community Wellbeing