



**National Headquarters**  
Fire and Emergency New Zealand  
National Headquarters  
Spark Central, Level 7  
42-52 Willis Street  
Wellington Central  
Wellington 6011  
  
Phone +64 4 496 3600

2 February 2023

Nigel Gray  
By email: [fyi-request-21441-04bca5b2@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-21441-04bca5b2@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Nigel

**Information Request** – Statistics relating to a Fire and Emergency advertisement

I refer to your official information request dated 17 December 2022 asking for the following information.

*“Your recent advertisement claims that 1 in 4 housefires start in the kitchen and that 50% of all fatal housefires involves drugs or alcohol. Can you please provide the statistics and source for these claims.”*

In accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), please find enclosed the data you have requested. The data used in the advertisement, and in this response, was pulled from Fire and Emergency New Zealand’s residential property fire statistics 2016-2020.

**Appendix 1 – data on unattended cooking**

Over the 5-year period the percentage of residential fires caused by unattended cooking was 24.93%. Please note, this is a subset of the fires started in the kitchen, so the percent of house fires starting in the kitchen is at least 25%.

**Appendix 2 – data on fatal house fires involving drugs and alcohol**

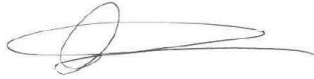
Over the 5-year period the percentage of fatal fires was 50%. Please note, not all reporting and investigations state alcohol involvement even in instances when there may had been. The data provided was from all recorded information.

Drugs are only reported where a drug analysis was undertaken as part of an autopsy however Fire and Emergency do not readily hold this data. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

*Note also that this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Fire and Emergency website.*

Nāku noa nā



Julia McCook-Weir  
Manager, Information Requests

encl

