

Policy briefing - Smoke Control in Northern Ireland

Provisions in legislation for NI on smoke control are contained in the *Clean Air (NI) Order 1981*, as updated by the *Environmental Better Regulation Act (NI) 2016*.

The purpose of smoke control legislation is to maintain good air quality and to limit smoke pollution. District councils may declare all or part of their district a smoke control area, in order to restrict the amount of smoke emitted from household chimneys in the area.

In smoke control areas, residents are required to either use "authorised fuels" or install an "exempted fireplace". These types of fuels and fireplaces/boilers/heating appliances have been officially tested to prove that they only emit very limited amounts of smoke when used according to the required instructions.

The following table shows the numbers of fuels declared as being authorised and fireplaces being declared as being exempted for each month between April 2018 and March 2019:

Month	Number of fireplaces exempted	Number of fuels authorised
April 2018	3	0
May 2018	16	0
June 2018	17	0
July 2018	22	0
August 2018	0	0
September 2018	4	2
October 2018	45	1
November 2018	119	2
December 2018	0	0
January 2019	11	0
February 2019	12	0
March 2019	16	0
Total April 2018 to March 2019	265	5

Authorised fuels and exempted fireplaces are listed for NI on two dedicated pages of the DEFRA web-site (see below).

Relevant web-sites:

DEFRA web-site showing full list of exempted fireplaces for NI:

<https://smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk/appliances.php?country=northern-ireland>

DEFRA web-site showing full list of authorised fuels for NI:

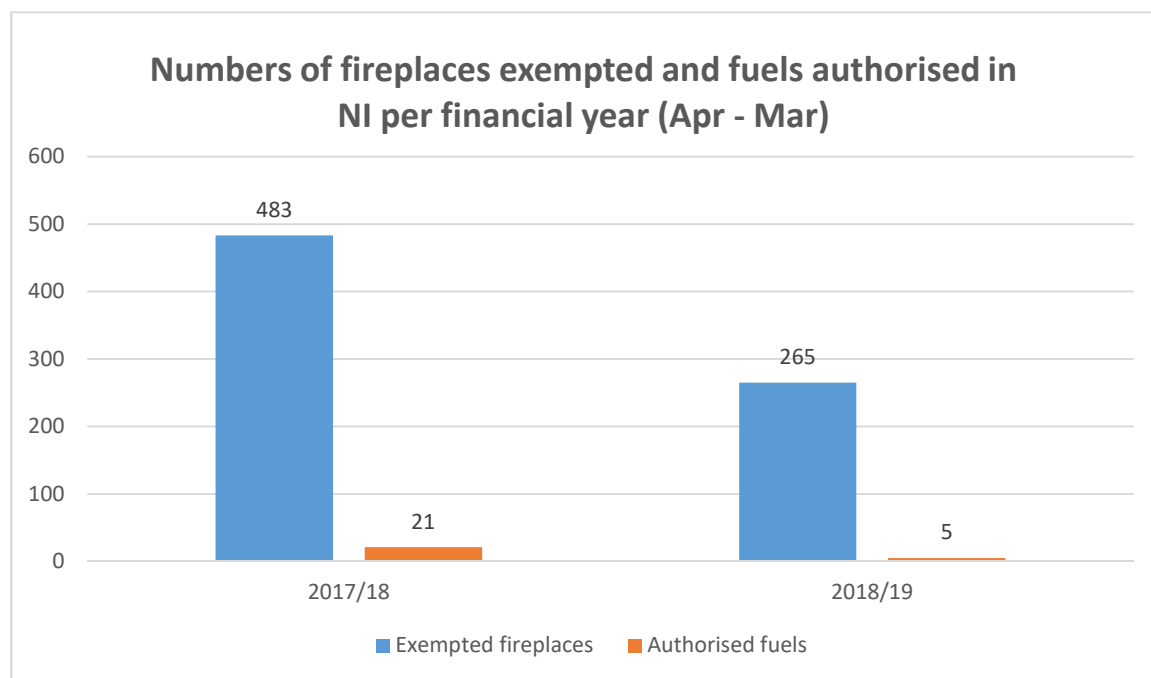
<https://smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk/fuels.php?country=northern-ireland>

DAERA(NI) smoke control web-site:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/air-pollution>

DEFRA(GB) smoke control web-site:

<https://www.gov.uk/smoke-control-area-rules>



Further information

For further information, please feel free to contact:

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Air and Environmental Issues:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/protect-environment/air-and-environmental-issues>