

61406

For the period 1 January 2020 to present:

The total number of playground inspections carried out per year.

The Council operates a three-tier inspection regime for its playgrounds and associated equipment. Across approximately 187 playground sites, the following inspections are undertaken:

- Annual independent inspection – approximately 187 inspections per year
- Quarterly operational / maintenance safety inspections – approximately 748 inspections per year
- Monthly visual inspections – approximately 2,244 inspections per year

Inspection frequencies may vary occasionally due to operational requirements, weather conditions, staffing resources, or site-specific circumstances.

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

- corrosion
- rust
- metal degradation

Please find attached:

- Example Annual Risk-Based Play Area Inspection
- Play Inspection Procedure Guidance

The Council's inspection regime considers the general condition, integrity, and safety of playground equipment, including deterioration associated with corrosion, rust, wear, and degradation of materials where relevant to operational safety.

In addition, inspection and maintenance guidance is also provided by individual play equipment manufacturers and suppliers. These documents are equipment specific and are available via the relevant supplier websites.

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

The requested information is not held in a single searchable format for the full period requested. Relevant information may be contained across a combination of historic manual records and electronic systems.

Where available, the number of defects specifically categorised as:

- corrosion
- rust
- structural degradation of metal components

The Council does not categorise maintenance defects using these specific classifications within its inspection and maintenance systems.

However, inspection processes are intended to identify defects or deterioration that may affect the operational safety of equipment, including corrosion, material degradation, excessive wear, or structural concerns. Where equipment is assessed as presenting a significant safety risk, appropriate action is taken, which may include repair, isolation, or removal from use.

We have been able to extract information from our system covering the period 05/09/2023 to 20/05/2026, resulting in a dataset comprising 5,660 lines of information. Further extraction and analysis to isolate and identify only the specific information required to answer your request would necessitate a substantial manual review and processing exercise. We therefore consider that undertaking this additional work would render the request manifestly unreasonable. In the interests of transparency and assistance, we have attached the full dataset in CSV format.

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

- rusty
- corroded
- damaged or unsafe

This information is not centrally categorised using these specific descriptors.

Relevant information may be held within the Council's corporate complaints management system and could potentially be identified through detailed keyword searches of complaint records. However, the information is not readily retrievable in the format requested. This information may be available in the attached job list.

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

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

The Council does not maintain a separate consolidated register of playground accidents in the format requested.

Information relating to incidents or accidents may be recorded through a combination of health and safety reporting processes, insurance records, claims handling procedures, or corporate complaints systems. This information may be available in the attached job list.

Where equipment is identified during inspections or following reports as presenting a potential safety risk, appropriate remedial action is undertaken.

Any policies or service standards relating to:

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

The Council operates a risk-based inspection and maintenance approach for playground equipment.

While there are no fixed published repair timescales specific to all categories of playground defects, issues identified through inspections or public reports are prioritised according to assessed risk.

Where equipment is considered to present an unacceptable or immediate safety risk, the equipment may be isolated, temporarily taken out of service, or removed pending repair or replacement.

Relevant operational guidance is contained within the attached inspection procedure documentation.