LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

London Fire Brigade Headquarters
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london-fire.gov.uk

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2026/00905

Date of request: 1st August 2026

Request:

Specifically, I would like to request:

1. A list of all operational and specialist training courses or qualifications available to operational staff beyond initial firefighter training (for example RTC rescue, medical response, Fire Investigation, USAR and Turntable Ladder training).
2. A list of all specialist departments, teams, units and operational functions within the London Fire Brigade, including a brief description of each team's role and responsibilities.
3. For each specialist department, team or unit, please provide:
    * The specialist training or qualifications required.
    * The specialist equipment issued or commonly used.
    * The operational vehicles or appliances assigned to or regularly used by that team or unit.
4. A list of any specialist operational advisor or incident roles and the qualifications or training required to undertake them.
5. If available, copies of any organisational charts, capability lists, training matrices or similar documents that outline the Brigade's specialist operational capabilities.

Response:

The London Fire Brigade has considered your request and is unable to comply with it under Section 12 of the FOIA – cost limit. Section 12 provides that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information where the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit. For public authorities such as the London Fire Brigade, that limit is £450, equivalent to 18 hours of work calculated at £25 per hour, as set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

We've considered your request and estimate that complying with it would exceed the appropriate limit of £450, calculated at £25 per hour (18 hours), as set out in section 12(1) of the Act and regulation 4 of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. We are therefore not obliged to comply with it, and this letter serves as our refusal notice under section 17.

The information requested is not maintained within a single dataset, document, or department. To identify, locate and extract the material, enquiries would need to be made across numerous teams and functions that hold information relating to specialist roles, training and equipment.

In particular:

- There is no single master list of all specialist departments, teams, operational functions, qualifications, training requirements, equipment and vehicles.

- Much of the information is held within separate departmental records, guidance documents, training materials, capability documents and local management records.

- Some information would require manual interpretation and collation rather than simple extraction from existing records.

- Elements of the request seek information that is not routinely recorded in the format requested and would therefore require significant consultation with multiple departments to create a response.

Given the number of departments involved and the amount of manual work required to identify, retrieve, review and collate the information, my assessment is that complying with the request is likely to exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours under Section 12.

Separately, should information be identified that relates to your request, part of the information may fall under exemptions relating to operational security and national security.

However, in accordance with its duty to advise and assist under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Brigade would encourage you to consider submitting a narrower request focused on a specific area of interest. For example, to a particular type of training, would be more likely to fall within the cost limit. We could then review and see what information we hold and if it can be provided.

If you're dissatisfied with this response, you're entitled to request an internal review, and subsequently to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office if you remain dissatisfied.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request on our website: https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/transparency/request-information-from-us/