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**Freedom of Information request:** Reference number FOI2026/01138

**Date of request:** 14th September 2026

**Request:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information:
1) How many false calls (in which the fire brigade were deployed) were there across different London boroughs for the years: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 (as of now)
2) How much did each of these trips cost
This information should be made available to me in electronic form if possible.

**Response:**

Further to your request, the number of false call outs for 1st January 2021 to 15th September 2026, can be found in the table below:

| Borough | Incident | Sum of Column |
|---|---|---|
| Westminster | Incident | 5,201 |
| Camden | Incident | 3,143 |
| Lambeth | Incident | 3,007 |
| Southwark | Incident | 2,758 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | Incident | 2,728 |
| Tower Hamlets | Incident | 2,589 |
| Barnet | Incident | 2,500 |
| Croydon | Incident | 2,476 |
| Hackney | Incident | 2,339 |
| Lewisham | Incident | 2,251 |
| Wandsworth | Incident | 2,189 |
| Islington | Incident | 2,133 |
| Hillingdon | Incident | 2,115 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ealing | Incident | 2,110 |
| Brent | Incident | 1,947 |
| Bromley | Incident | 1,883 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | Incident | 1,870 |
| Greenwich | Incident | 1,823 |
| Newham | Incident | 1,783 |
| Haringey | Incident | 1,758 |
| Waltham Forest | Incident | 1,744 |
| Hounslow | Incident | 1,600 |
| Sutton | Incident | 1,534 |
| Havering | Incident | 1,528 |
| Enfield | Incident | 1,391 |
| Redbridge | Incident | 1,295 |
| Barking and Dagenham | Incident | 1,200 |
| Harrow | Incident | 1,153 |
| Bexley | Incident | 1,111 |
| Merton | Incident | 1,053 |
| Richmond Upon Thames | Incident | 985 |
| Kingston Upon Thames | Incident | 948 |
| City of London | Incident | 686 |

For question 2, we do not record the cost of each trip. The London Fire Brigade (LFB) is a fully funded public service and there are no direct costs to providing any of its emergency functions at individual incidents. LFB does not record an actual financial “cost” for attending individual incidents. Instead, we provide a notional cost, which is based on the time spent at an incident by pumping appliances, charged at an hourly rate set annually. Where an appliance attends for less than one hour, the duration is rounded up to the nearest hour. The calculation to determine the hourly rate; which is the total budget for the LFB, divided by the number of fire engines in service, which is 155, divided by the number of hours in the year.

Please note that notional cost figures are based on an hourly rate which is reviewed and updated
periodically and is intended to illustrate the cost of making a fire engine available to respond including all of the costs of the staff, equipment, buildings and support functions.

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/