

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2025/00334

Date of request: 3rd April 2025

Request:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the London Fire Brigade's policies and equipment concerning high-rise incidents and emergency rescue operations. Please provide the following information:

High-Rise Policy

The current LFB policy and standard operating procedures for high-rise firefighting and rescues.

Any risk assessments or reviews conducted on high-rise incidents over the past five years.

Any changes made to the policy following significant incidents (e.g., Grenfell Tower fire).

Emergency Rescue Boat Policy

The policy governing the deployment and operation of emergency rescue boats.

The number, type, and specifications of boats currently in service.

Training requirements for personnel operating these boats.

High-Rise Equipment

Details of firefighting and rescue equipment specifically designated for high-rise incidents.

Information on aerial appliances, including their specifications and deployment criteria.

Any newly acquired or planned equipment for high-rise operations.

Radio Communication Systems

A list of handheld radios used by firefighters, including their type and manufacturer.

Information on the main radio network (Mains Scheme) used by LFB.

Known issues or limitations related to radio communications, including any

reports or assessments of failures during incidents.

Communications Equipment on Fire Appliances and Command Units

A breakdown of communication equipment carried on frontline fire appliances, command units, and by senior officers.

Details of any integrated communication systems used for coordination between responding units.

Response:

High-Rise Policy

The current LFB policy and standard operating procedures for high-rise firefighting and rescues.

Any risk assessments or reviews conducted on high-rise incidents over the past five years.

Any changes made to the policy following significant incidents (e.g., Grenfell Tower fire).

Further to your request, please see below for a link to the current LFB High Rise policy. The policy can be found on the LFB website under [Our Decisions](#). The information can be found through searching for [High Rise](#) policy. The audit trail of any amendments to the policy including following significant incidents can be located towards the end of the document.

For information on the total number of risk assessments or reviews conducted on high-rise incidents over the past five years, please see the table below.

Year	Premises Risk Assessments (PRAs)
2020	20191
2021	21475
2022	16404
2023	14932
2024	19952
2025	8327
Total PRAs	101285

Emergency Rescue Boat Policy

The policy governing the deployment and operation of emergency rescue boats.

The number, type, and specifications of boats currently in service.

Training requirements for personnel operating these boats.

With regards to this part of your request, information can be found online on the [Grenfell Tower Inquiry website](#). As this information is already in the public

domain, there is no requirement to reproduce information as part of this request under [section 21 of the FOIA - Information reasonably accessible to the applicant](#). The policy can be found here [*PN412 - Mobilising policy*](#).

High-Rise Equipment

Details of firefighting and rescue equipment specifically designated for high-rise incidents.

Information on aerial appliances, including their specifications and deployment criteria.

Any newly acquired or planned equipment for high-rise operations.

Details of firefighting that takes place in High Rise buildings can be found on the LFB website and is accessible here: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/services-and-facilities/techniques-and-procedures/firefighting-in-high-rise-buildings/>.

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For the questions above from your Radio communications systems request, the information is exempt from release under [section 24 of the FOIA - National Security](#). Although, we believe this exemption applies, the Brigade is required under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to consider the public interest. This requires us to consider whether the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. Whilst we acknowledge there is a public interest in knowing that the London Fire Brigade has adequate procedures in place to deal with any emergency incident involving public safety, the disclosure of these details would, or would be likely to, provide anyone wanting to carry out acts of terrorism with a detailed plan of our pre-planned emergency response and in turn damage the Brigade's ability to respond efficiently and effectively, and placing public safety at risk. It is for this reason we conclude that the public interest in withholding the information, outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Information on the main radio network (Mains Scheme) used by LFB.

Known issues or limitations related to radio communications, including any reports or assessments of failures during incidents

For the remaining questions, the main radio network at LFB is Motorola. For

further information regarding question 3, the Home Office leads on matters related to Airwave communications. As this information is in the public domain, there is no requirement to reproduce the information in this request. This falls under [section 21 of the FOIA - information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means](#). You can access details at the following link: [Home Office Major Programmes - Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme](#).