



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2026/00474

Date of request: 27th April

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information

1. All emails by London Fire Brigade staff that mention the term "Waymo" (in reference to the driverless cars) or "Waymos" since Dec 1 2025
2. Copies of all internal reports by the London Fire Brigade that mention the term "Waymo" or "Waymos" since Dec 1 2025

In the circumstances this request is deemed to exceed the cost limit or the time limit of 20 working days, please refine point 1 to the following:

1. All emails by members of LFB's executive team that mention the term "Waymo" or "Waymos" since Dec 1 2025

Response:

I refer to your request for information, that we received on 27 April 2026, and has been processed as a Freedom of Information request.

You have requested all emails by London Fire Brigade staff mentioning the term "Waymo" or "Waymos" since 1 December 2025, together with copies of all internal reports mentioning those terms over the same period. You also indicated that, should the original email request exceed the cost or time limit, you would wish to refine it to emails from members of the LFB executive team only.

In relation to your request for all staff emails mentioning "Waymo" or "Waymos" since 1 December 2025, I must advise that London Fire Brigade is unable to comply with this part of your request under [Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000](#). Section 12 provides that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request where the estimated cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit, which in our case is £450.

To respond to this part of your request, we have identified approximately 2,999 records that would require review. Reviewing each record would take an estimated four minutes, giving a total of 11,996 minutes (approximately 199.93 hours). At the ICO-prescribed rate of £25 per hour, the estimated cost of compliance is £4,998.33 — far in excess of the £450 limit. We are therefore unable to fulfil this element of your request.

As the request was reviewed and found to exceed the permitted cost threshold, the revised approach outlined in point 1 was implemented instead. For further details and context, please refer to the email correspondence, along with the images referenced as "Waymo" below. In addition, the LFB were provided with a document from Tech Trends 2026, which includes references to "Waymo." This can be accessed here: <https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights.html>

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/>

- **The image below has been extracted from a staff newsletter that was issued to employees, containing important updates and organisational information.**

Autonomous Vehicles - Waymo

Waymo is an autonomous vehicle company that operates fully driverless taxi services in several major U.S. cities, using advanced sensors, cameras, and radar alongside machine-learning systems to safely navigate roads without a human driver.

This technology is becoming increasingly common internationally, including planned expansion into London, and represents a growing part of the transport landscape our crews may encounter in the future. Waymo plan to switch on autonomous mode, but still with a human inside, by this month. The plan is to be fully autonomous by the end of the year.

- The image below has been extracted from the minutes for the Alternative Fuel & Energy system working group on the 27th November 2025.

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| 8. | <p>Waymo Autonomous Vehicles</p> <p>█ - Waymo plan to bring 25 Jaguar i-paces to London. Until the autonomous vehicle (AV) Act becomes law, these vehicles will be driven traditionally. The i-pace will learn and gather information on London driver habits to become a smart fully AV if the Act becomes law.</p> <p>█ questioned whether we know who is behind the AV Act and if we can provide consultation.</p> <p>█ will get in touch with █ regarding the Act/legislation. <i>See action below</i></p> <p>█ - Waymo suggested they plan to recharge the vehicles at two sites, one of which may have up to 100-200 vehicles.</p> <p>█ Raised concern with regards to where charging facilities will be based (fire stations in the area may need to be aware etc.)</p> <p>█ will review the Fire Engineering guidance on charging facilities. <i>See action below</i></p> | |
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- The image below has been extracted from the L&PD Matrix.

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| 19 | 18/03/2026 | <p>Autonomous Vehicles Explore the opportunity to receive a free input by Waymo regarding autonomous vehicles. L&PD to receive input first and decide on what training delivery is best placed for operational staff</p> <p>Waymo have offered to provide free inputs (45mins each) to every crew, but LFB need to consider 408 watches, officers and MoS</p> | [REDACTED] | 01/09/2026 | Email 18/03/26 | Low | In Progress | <p>19/03/26: [REDACTED] arrange a meeting with Waymo and L&PD stakeholders.</p> <p>27/03/26: [REDACTED] Babcock re-training. [REDACTED] to extend invite to JoP for info/shared learning.</p> |
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- The image below has been extracted from page 31 of the Service Delivery Board from 25th March 2026.

Autonomous Vehicles (AV) – Operational Familiarisation

LFB remains in active liaison with AV operators Waymo and Waive.

From April, familiarisation sessions for operational staff will take place during Borough Training Days, delivered by subject matter experts from the respective AV organisations.

These sessions aim to:

- Improve operational understanding of autonomous vehicle systems
- Share best practice and safety considerations
- Equip crews with the knowledge required to manage AV-related incidents effectively

LFB now also attends both the London AV Working Group hosted by the GLA and the First Responder Automated Vehicle Working Group hosted by the Government’s Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV).

- The image below has been extracted from page 6 of the Inside Central Teams newsletter March 2026.

Autonomous Vehicle Familiarisation for Operational Staff

Autonomous vehicles are now operating across several London boroughs. While they are currently being driven conventionally and not in fully autonomous mode, preparations are underway to ensure staff are informed and confident as this technology evolves.

Work is ongoing to deliver familiarisation sessions for crews, with engagement from companies such as Waymo and Waive. These sessions are expected to be incorporated into Borough Training Days, providing practical insight into how autonomous vehicles may impact future incident response.

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- The image below has been extracted from page 3 Principle Management Board Minutes on the 12th March 2026

Lithium Ion Policy and Training Review

Documentation has been shared which states 6 of the electric scooter suppliers have signed up to attend within an hour if the LFB has an incident with their product. Communications on this will be circulated to staff for awareness, and the policy will also be updated. The Waymo presentation, which was previously scheduled, ended up being cancelled as they were unable to provide a vehicle for the day. It has now been agreed that Waymo will attend borough training days instead.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Autonomous Vehicles
Date: 18 March 2026 20:50:10
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Outlook-A blue and.png](#)
[Outlook-A logo of .png](#)
[Outlook-A blue and.png](#)
[Outlook-haiulvd.jpg](#)
[Outlook-20g2q2t0.png](#)
[Outlook-fpcincum.png](#)
[Outlook-4pckdxbf.png](#)
[Outlook-juh0i1hq.png](#)
[Outlook-tr2xuocb.png](#)
[Outlook-5e4owf2t.png](#)
[Outlook-fqjnvowr.png](#)
[Outlook-ktnvqhjh.png](#)
[Outlook-2jmsgghxa.png](#)
[Outlook-d1fpe2nr.png](#)

FYI

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

London Fire Brigade
169 Union Street, London SE1 0LL
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] london-fire.gov.uk



london-fire.gov.uk



[REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk)>

Sent: 18 March 2026 20:49

[REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk)>

[REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk)>

Subject: Re: Autonomous Vehicles

Hi [REDACTED]

I think the starting point is arranging a team input for key staff in L&PD, with a view to considering what level of training might be appropriate for our FFs and most importantly how we assure it, record it etc for consistency.

As the head of learning I always feel a little uncomfortable with ad hoc, voluntary, fend for your self training offerings.

[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk



From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: WAYMO: Official introductory meeting with LFB Commissioner
Date: 08 April 2026 08:01:07

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@waymo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Do not click links or open attachments unless you are expecting them, even if you know the sender

[REDACTED],

I hope you are well, and had a good Easter break.

I have had an informal conversation with [REDACTED] regarding familiarisation with WAYMO autonomous vehicles, which have commenced operations in London.

WAYMO are engaging with all of London's emergency services strategic leaders to offer familiarisation sessions for first responders. They will also share the vehicle safety features more widely and offer guidance on how emergency services personnel can safely interact with the driverless vehicles if encountered at an incident.

Waymo currently operates in eleven major US cities, and the first responder outreach programme there has been very well received by all agencies.

[REDACTED] indicated he wants to set up an initial formal meeting so we can provide full details of the WAYMO operation in London, and discuss how best we can provide familiarisation to key staff groups.

We already have a strategic point of contact within MPS, and we also have a meeting / familiarisation session booked with [REDACTED] LAS.

I wondered if you would be kind enough to try to find some time in [REDACTED] diary for an initial meeting. We could also make arrangements to have one of the WAYMO vehicles on hand, should he wish to take a closer look.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[@google.com](#)

