

**Freedom of Information request:** Reference number FOI2025/00636

**Date of request:** 20th June

**Request:**

With the above points in mind, we request under FOIA that you provide, (preferably in Microsoft Excel or an equivalent machine-readable format) the following information in respect of suppliers which were not paid in within 30 days for the period starting 1 April 2023 to the date of this request:

Supplier Name  
Invoice Date  
Gross Invoice Value  
Payment Date  
Late Payment Compensation or Interest Paid (if any)  
Clarification:

**Response:**

To provide the information requested we would have to search through our manual records to obtain the data. With several records to review including historical information that would need to be retrieved from archive we consider this to be a lengthy exercise that would exceed our cost limit.

This 'fees limit' is calculated by taking the cost limit appropriate to the Brigade (i.e. £450) divided by the standard rate at which a local authority (including the Brigade) can charge for this work (£25 an hour). This equates to 18 hours.

If we used an estimated average of spending Five minutes per invoice (Around 30,000 Invoices), it will take 2500 hours (five minutes times 30,000 invoices, divided by 60 minutes equals 2500 hours) to review all of the relevant records, retrieve and extract the information.

I therefore confirm that the cost of providing the information you have requested is in the cost range of £62,500 which is greater than the "appropriate limit" of £450 as defined the FOIA fee regulations. In setting this out in full this now serves as a formal 'refusal notice' based on [section 12 of the FOIA](#).

As you may be aware, if the cost exceeds the appropriate limit to comply with a request, a public authority is not obliged to comply with it.

We do publish some information online for payments of undisputed invoices that you may find useful <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/payment-of-undisputed-invoices/> As an organisation, the London Fire Brigade always strives to pay suppliers on time.

I am sorry we have not been able to provide you with all the information you have requested. If you are able to further refine your request, please get in touch.

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/>