

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2026/00815

Date of request: 14th July 2026

Request:

1. Any current policy, procedure, guidance, operational note, risk assessment template, or standard process used when crews or officers identify that a road, street, estate, industrial site, or similar location may be difficult or impossible to access because of parked/stored vehicles or vehicle-related obstruction.
2. Any process for reporting such access concerns to another body, including the police, highways authority, local authority enforcement, parking enforcement, environmental health, planning, licensing, or landowner.
3. Whether your service has, in the last three calendar years, referred any such access obstruction concern to the police or a highways/local authority team. If held, please provide the number of referrals by calendar year. I do not require personal data or exact addresses; broad categories or anonymised examples are sufficient.
4. Whether your service uses or refers to the Highway Code, including Rule 243, when considering or explaining emergency access obstruction by parked vehicles. If held, please provide any recorded guidance, email template, briefing note, or standard wording that mentions this.
5. Any recorded examples, with personal data and precise addresses redacted if necessary, of how your service has advised residents, businesses, councils, police, or highways teams about maintaining access for fire appliances or BRVs where vehicle parking/storage was the concern.

If answering all parts would exceed the cost limit, please prioritise questions 1, 2 and 4, and provide advice and assistance on how the remaining parts could be refined.

I would prefer the response by email. Please redact personal data where required; I am seeking policy/process information rather than information about identifiable individuals.

Response:

Please see below for a response to your request:

- 1. Any current policy, procedure, guidance, operational note, risk assessment template, or standard process used when crews or officers identify that a road,*

street, estate, industrial site, or similar location may be difficult or impossible to access because of parked/stored vehicles or vehicle-related obstruction.

This policy is withheld under [section 21 of the FOIA – information accessible by other means](#). This policy is accessible online on the LFB website using the following link: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/services-and-facilities/vehicles-and-equipment/fire-service-access-and-facilities/>.

2. Any process for reporting such access concerns to another body, including the police, highways authority, local authority enforcement, parking enforcement, environmental health, planning, licensing, or landowner.

3. Whether your service has, in the last three calendar years, referred any such access obstruction concern to the police or a highways/local authority team. If held, please provide the number of referrals by calendar year. I do not require personal data or exact addresses; broad categories or anonymised examples are sufficient.

The Operational and Resilience team were contacted for the above information.

We are unable to provide the data for questions 2 and 3 as this is exempt under [section 12 of the FOIA – exceeds cost limit](#).

Under the Appropriate limit and Fees Regulations, public authorities are able to set cost thresholds as to the amount of time it would take to complete work to answer a request. Public authorities are able to refuse a request whereby providing a response would exceed the appropriate cost limit.

We are therefore applying exemption 12(1) to questions 2 and 3 of your request, which is for the number of referrals over the last three calendar years for access obstructions to the police or local authority. To look for the information you have requested would require a manual search as the data is not recorded centrally. For example, some will be in the personal email accounts under the Borough Commander.

It has been estimated that the cost of complying with your requests aggregated under the Fees

Regulations as explained above would exceed the appropriate limit and therefore under the terms of Section 12 of the Act, we are not obliged to comply as the appropriate limit to the London Fire Brigade is £450.00. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending time to determine whether the Department holds the information and thus, locating, retrieving, and extracting it. This is at a cost of an average of £25 per hour.

I therefore confirm that the cost of providing the information you have requested is in the cost range which is greater than the “appropriate limit” of £450 as defined by 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.

This response acts as a refusal notice under [Section 12 \(1\) of the FOIA](#).

4. Whether your service uses or refers to the Highway Code, including Rule 243, when considering or explaining emergency access obstruction by parked vehicles. If held, please provide any recorded guidance, email template, briefing note, or standard wording that mentions this.

All authorised drivers are required to adhere to the DVLA Driving Standards relating to the Highway Code as part of the requirement of holding a license to drive. Additional interpretations are contained in the [Traffic Signs and General Directions Act 2016 Schedules 1 - 18](#).

5. Any recorded examples, with personal data and precise addresses redacted if necessary, of how your service has advised residents, businesses, councils, police, or highways teams about maintaining access for fire appliances or BRVs where vehicle parking/storage was the concern.

Local Authorities are required to consult with the Fire Authority on traffic management issues. We deal at two levels based on the issue. It can be via the Borough Teams or the Transport Group at a strategic level.

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/>