

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2024/00152

Date of request: 16th December

Request:

In accordance with the FOI please provide the following information:

- 1.) How many LFB fire fighters have been retired early to pension due to ill health, broken down by year for the period 2018-2024?*
- 2.) How many of these have had their pension entitlement reassessed.*
- 3.) How many LFB fire fighters have been granted early access to their deferred pension on the grounds of ill health, broken down by year for the period 2018-2024?*
- 4.) How many of these have had their pension entitlement reassessed.*

Response:

Please see the answers set out below:

- 1.) How many LFB fire fighters have been retired early to pension due to ill health, broken down by year for the period 2018-2024?*

This data is based on staff at the rank Firefighter (FF) retired early to pension due to Ill health.

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
8	13	7	3	7	12	12

- 2.) How many of these have had their pension entitlement reassessed.*

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- 3.) How many LFB fire fighters have been granted early access to their deferred pension on the grounds of ill health, broken down by year for the period 2018-2024?*
- 4.) How many of these have had their pension entitlement reassessed.*

In response to Q3 & 4

The LFB can confirm that requests for early access to deferred pension due to ill health are logged, but the system does not allow automated breakdowns by rank or approval status.

Determining how many firefighters were granted early access to their deferred pension due to ill health would require a manual review of approximately 150 personnel files.

This would involve: Extracting payroll numbers, searching personnel records (PRFs) electronically or retrieving paper files from archives, Verifying the individual's rank and the outcome of their early pension request.

The system tracks when a review or reassessment is required but does not provide a consolidated report on how many cases have been reassessed. Identifying cases that have been reassessed would require manually searching individual personnel files to confirm whether a reassessment occurred.

The LFB uses a system to log pension requests, but it is primarily for tracking the progress of requests and scheduling reviews. It does not store historical rank information or outcomes of reviews in a way that can be easily reported.

The Local Pension Partnership (LPP), is the organisation responsible for pension payments, they may hold more comprehensive data on deferred pensions and their reassessments.

To manually review each file using an average of 10 minutes (150 files), it will take 25 hours (ten minutes times 150 records, divided by 60 minutes equals 25 hours) to review all the relevant records. I therefore confirm that the cost of providing the information you have requested is in the cost range of £625 which is greater than the "appropriate limit" of £450 as defined the FOIA fee regulations.

Therefore, under [section 12 of the FOIA](#), we are issuing this as a formal refusal notice. As you may know, public authorities are not obliged to comply with requests when the cost exceeds the set limit.

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/>