

**Freedom of Information request:** Reference number FOI2025/00191

**Date of request:** 26th February

**Request:**

*My foi is about minimum crewing and pay and watch room*

*1) at a 1 pump ladder station with no other appliances a watch of 1 sub officer/ 1 lead fire fighter compared/ 5 fire fighters is the standard. I would like to know what levels these numbers can drop to before reserves are bought in from other stations for example the above levels can drop to either 1 sub officer or 1 lead firefighter and 4 firefighters .*

*2) using the above example of a one pump ladder station and no other appliances say for example there is 1 sub officer / 1 lead fire fighter/ 3 firefighters on duty would both the sub officer and the lead firefighter both ride the pump ladder with the 3 firefighters instead of taking the pump ladder off the run? A pump ladder at a 1 pump station must be manned with 5 crew at all times*

*3) does a fire stations watchroom office need to be manned 24/7 by a crew member and What are the duties of the watchroom crew member?*

*4) for the station commander role ;*

- how many hours a day do they work including breaks*
- are their hours set eg 9-18*
- how many days a week do they work*
- how are their on call rota cover days and hours worked out which would cover being on call for major incidences such as a pump 5 or 6 fire.*
- how are their salary broken down eg do they get a set base salary and a off call top up if so how is the off call top up worked out eg 30% of what the base salary is*

*5). Will a station commander ever ride inside a pump ladder, pump, turnable aerial ladder, fire rescue unit, operation support unit if the station are short staffed in order to prevent one of the primary appliance's above being taken off the run. This is to say that all other options have been exhausted eg voluntary overtime, no spare crew from other stations straight away etc.*

*6) what is the maximum amount of overtime a firefighter is allowed to carry out per week and on a shift he is already working on as one of his set shifts.*

**Response:**

Please see our response to each of your questions set out below:

*1) at a 1 pump ladder station with no other appliances a watch of 1 sub officer/ 1 lead fire fighter compared/ 5 fire fighters is the standard. I would like to know what levels these numbers can drop to before reserves are bought in from other stations for example the above levels can drop to either 1 sub officer or 1 lead firefighter and 4 firefighters.*

Minimum levels are 1 officer and 4 firefighters to crew the Dual pump ladder (DPL) appliance at a one appliance station (5 staff needed to crew a DPL). Any staffing levels below this level, would require a standby (officer or Firefighter) from another fire station to ensure minimum levels are maintained.

*2) using the above example of a one pump ladder station and no other appliances say for example there is 1 sub officer / 1 lead fire fighter/ 3 firefighters on duty would both the sub officer and the lead firefighter both ride the pump ladder with the 3 firefighters instead of taking the pump ladder off the run? A pump ladder at a 1 pump station must be manned with 5 crew at all times.*

Yes, the Sub Officer would be Officer in charge (OIC) and the Leading Firefighter (LFF) would ride in the appliance with the remaining Firefighter (FF's).

*3) does a fire stations watchroom office need to be manned 24/7 by a crew member and What are the duties of the watchroom crew member?*

The watchroom does not need to be manned 24/7

*4) for the station commander role ;*

*- how many hours a day do they work including breaks*

They work either a 9 hour or 24 hour shift

*- are their hours set eg 9-18 9*

Hour shifts can be 0700-1600, 0800-1700 Or 1100-2000. The 24 hour shift is 0800-0800

*-how many days a week do they work*

In a 28 day period they work 7 x 24 hour shifts and 11 x 9 hour shifts and 10 rota leave days

*- how are their on call rota cover days and hours worked out which would cover being on call for major incidences such as a pump 5 or 6 fire.*

They are available to be mobilised whenever they are on shift 9 or 24, there are 4 rota groups and so 1 of them is always on a 24 shift

*- how are their salary broken down eg do they get a set base salary and a off call top up if so how is the off call top up worked out eg 30% of what the base salary is*

Base salary plus 20% flexible duty allowance

*5). Will a station commander ever ride inside a pump ladder, pump, turnable aerial ladder, fire rescue unit, operation support unit if the station are short staffed in order to prevent one of the primary appliance's above being taken off the run. This is to say that all other options have been exhausted eg voluntary overtime, no spare crew from other stations straight away etc.*

No

*6) what is the maximum amount of overtime a firefighter is allowed to carry out per week and on a shift he is already working on as one of his set shifts.*

144 hours in a 6 month rolling period.

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>