

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2026/00283

Date of request: 11th March

Request:

I am requesting the following information relating to the use of the new London 'Fireboats' which operate on the River Thames.

Please only include information on the current boats which entered service in 2022 and exclude any training/training operations from your answer.

- 1. Please provide any documents, memos, briefings or information that list the total number of times the 'Fireboat' has been deployed solely for the purpose of extinguishing a fire.*
- 2. Please provide any documents, memos, briefings or information that list the total number of times the 'Fireboat' has been deployed for any emergency purpose.*
- 3. If within costs, please provide any documents, memos, briefings or information that detail the reason for deployment of the 'Fireboat' in relation to point 2.*
- 4. Please provide the average yearly cost of the operation of the 'Fireboat', including staff costs, maintenance, upkeep and any other costs related to its operation.*

Response:

Please see our response to your questions set out below.

1. Please provide any documents, memos, briefings or information that list the total number of times the 'Fireboat' has been deployed solely for the purpose of extinguishing a fire.

From 1st January 2022 to the 28th February 2026 fire boats were mobilised 56 times to fire incidents.

2. Please provide any documents, memos, briefings or information that list the total number of times the 'Fireboat' has been deployed for any emergency purpose.

In total, from 1st January 2022 to the 28th February 2026, fire boats were mobilised 992 times to incidents.

3. If within costs, please provide any documents, memos, briefings or information that detail the reason for deployment of the 'Fireboat' in relation to point 2.

The table below provides a summary breakdown of the type of incident attended during the period specified.

Incident Type	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
Primary Fire	15	10	8	14	3	50
Secondary Fire	2	1	1	2		6
Special Service	151	148	183	310	47	839
AFA	4		1	1		6
False alarm - Good intent	13	17	27	21	4	82
False alarm - Malicious		2	2	1		5
Flood call attended - Batch mobilised	1		1	1		3
NULL					1	1
Grand Total	186	178	223	350	55	992

4. Please provide the average yearly cost of the operation of the 'Fireboat', including staff costs, maintenance, upkeep and any other costs related to its operation.

The London Fire Brigade does not hold a single recorded figure for the overall average yearly cost of operating a fireboat.

Fireboats are operated under a long-term contract. Routine maintenance and upkeep are provided through an annual indexed "slot price", which is reviewed each year. The current slot price is approximately £42,000 per vessel per year.

This figure covers maintenance and contractual availability requirements only and does not represent the full cost of operation. It excludes costs such as staffing, fuel, training, and wider operational overheads.

Fireboat staffing arrangements are structured in a similar way to a one pump fire station, meaning staffing costs are broadly comparable. However, the Brigade does not hold a separate breakdown of fireboat specific staffing or fuel costs.

More detailed cost information forms part of commercially sensitive contractual arrangements. Disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the London Fire Brigade and its suppliers and is therefore withheld under [section 43\(2\) \(Commercial interests\) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000](#).

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/>