LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2026/01425

Date of request: 5th November

Request:

Please provide the following information for each financial year from 2017/18 to 2025/26.
1. The number of premises on the Brigade's risk-based inspection programme classed as high-risk at the start of the year.
2. The number of those high-risk premises that received a fire safety audit during the year.
3. The number of high-risk premises with no recorded fire safety audit in the previous five years, at the end of each year.
4. The Brigade's target for the share of high-risk premises to be audited in each year, and the date and reason for any change to that target.

Response:

Question 1: Please provide the number of premises on the Brigade's Risk-Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) classed as high-risk at the start of each financial year from 2017/18 to 2025/26.

Prior to 2023/24, the Brigade's Risk-Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) did not include a numerical target for the number of high-risk premises to be audited. Instead, the target required Inspecting Officers to spend more than 50% of their audit time undertaking audits at high-risk premises. This target was routinely achieved and reported through the Brigade's returns to HMICFRS.

From 2023/24, the Brigade introduced a numerical target for the number of high-risk premises to be audited. Consequently, comparable numerical targets are not available for earlier years.

The figures below represent the annual target number of high-risk premises to be audited:

Financial Year Target Number of High-Risk Premises to be Audited

2023/24	1,986
2024/25	1,800
2025/26	1,150

Question 2: Please provide the number of those high-risk premises that received a fire safety audit during the year.

The figures below are taken from the Brigade's annual returns to HMICFRS. Relevant audit activity is also reported through the annual government fire statistics collection.

Please note that figures may vary between reporting extracts and published returns due to the date on which data was extracted. The Brigade typically submits its annual return to HMICFRS at the end of June following the relevant financial year. This allows additional time for audit records to be completed and updated, including the recording of completed actions. Consequently, figures reported to HMICFRS may be higher than those produced from earlier data extracts.

This information is also available within the Fire Safety Data Tables published by the Home Office and MHCLG. To identify the relevant figures, you should select data relating to high-risk premises, which the Brigade defines as hospitals, care homes, purpose-built flats of four or more storeys, hostels, hotels, and houses converted into flats or other sleeping accommodation.

Financial Year	Number of High-Risk Premises Audited
2017/18	5,771
2018/19	5,707
2019/20	4,812
2020/21	6,484
2021/22	5,333
2022/23	2,988
2023/24	2,333
2024/25	2,030
2025/26	2,499

Question 3: Please provide the number of high-risk premises with no recorded fire safety audit in the previous five years, at the end of each year.

Using the Brigade's definition of high-risk premises (hospitals, care homes, purpose-built flats of four or more storeys, hostels, hotels, and houses converted into flats or other sleeping accommodation), and based on the Brigade's recorded premises and audit information, there were no high-risk premises that had not received a recorded fire safety audit within the preceding five years at the end of each financial year requested.

Accordingly, the number of high-risk premises with no recorded fire safety audit in the previous five years was zero for each financial year.

Question 4: Please provide the Brigade's target for the share of high-risk premises to be audited in each year, and the date and reason for any change to that target.

Prior to 2023/24, the Brigade's RBIP target was for Inspecting Officers to spend more than 50% of their audit time undertaking audits at high-risk premises. This was a time-based performance measure rather than a target percentage of high-risk premises to be audited.

From 2023/24, the Brigade introduced a numerical target for high-risk premises to be audited. This change was made to establish a defined annual audit programme based on the Brigade's identified stock of high-risk premises.

Each year, a report is produced from the Brigade's premises database identifying high-risk premises, including hospitals, care homes, purpose-built flats of four or more storeys (subject to interim measures), hotels and hostels. The resulting annual programme of targeted premises is then allocated to Fire Safety Teams for audit throughout the year.

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/