

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2026/00528

Date of request: 7th May

Request:

Under the FOIA 2000, I would like to know the following:

How many fire lifts across all London Boroughs have been reported as being out of service for more than 24 hours in residential buildings in accordance with The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022?

The average length of the fire lifts being out of service?

London Fire Brigades policy on the use of fire lifts during fires in residential buildings.

Response:

Please see our response set out below

How many fire lifts across all London Boroughs have been reported as being out of service for more than 24 hours in residential buildings in accordance with The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022?

Based on the information held by our Data team - 'lifts for use by firefighters or evacuation lifts' from the High-Rise Building Portal, there are approximately 3,700 recorded fire lift faults where the lift was out of service for more than 24 hours.

This figure is based on records where duration information is available.

The average length of the fire lifts being out of service

The average time taken to rectify fire lift faults is approximately 36 days. This is based on records where both a fault report date and a rectification date are available.

London Fire Brigades policy on the use of fire lifts during fires in residential buildings

Firefighting lifts are designed to support operational firefighting activities and are managed under operational control during incidents.

In the event of a fire, such lifts are typically taken out of general use and prioritised for use by firefighters. The precise use of lifts during an incident will depend on operational conditions and risk assessment at the time.

Please see the London Fire Brigade website for an extract on Firefighting lifts here:
<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/services-and-facilities/techniques-and-procedures/firefighting-in-high-rise-buildings/>

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/>