

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2025/00147

Date of request: 14th February

Request:

I write to formally request access to information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act

I request disclosure of the following information on on your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Quntiy & Type of

1 Helmets

2 Fire tunics

3 Breathing Apparatus

Full details of any minute's of meetings that this PPE was discussed in the past twelve months

What is the services medium to long term plan for each of the above pieces of PPE

In accordance with the statutory provisions, I understand that a response should be provided within 20 working days from the date of receipt of this request. Should my request be deemed to exceed the cost threshold for compliance, I request that you provide guidance on how it may be refined to remain within the statutory limits.

Response:

Please see our response to your request set out below.

The Quantity & Type of

1 Helmets

2 Fire tunics

3 Breathing Apparatus

1. Helmets: 4,780 personally allocated and then 3 Station Reserve Stock (SRS) helmets per station, for a total of 5,089.

Type: (Rosenbauer Hero Titan helmet)

2. Fire tunics: 2 sets of tunic/leggings per wearer with one in the locker and one allocated on a rotating basis.

The Tunic are XF2-A_PR2YG, description is Gold PBI Titan Coat

The Leggings are TXF2-A_PR2YG, description is Gold PBI Titan Trouser

3. Breathing Apparatus (BA): We have a total of 1,450, these have been split into the following allocations but are all the same BA set:

Operational (for use at incidents) – 1,170

Babcock (for use in training) – 180

SOG (Special Operations Group) – 100

Type: MSA M1 SCBA.

Full details of any minute's of meetings that this PPE was discussed in the past twelve months

PPE and RPE have been discussed in various meetings over the past twelve months, including operational, commercial, and strategic meetings. Given the volume and scope of these discussions, it would not be feasible to review every meeting record to determine relevance. This would exceed the cost limit set under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The process of locating and reviewing the minutes where PPE may have been discussed involves:

- 5 main recurring meetings held monthly, resulting in approximately 60 sets of minutes over 12 months.
- Smaller ad-hoc meetings (daily, weekly, and monthly) that could result in over 60 additional sets of minutes.
- Each set of minutes is 3–4 pages on average, requiring significant time for review and redaction to maintain confidentiality of non-relevant or commercially sensitive information.

To put this in perspective, if each document took an average of 15 minutes to review, it would require approximately 30 hours (120 documents × 15 minutes ÷ 60) to complete the task. The estimated cost of this work is £750, which significantly exceeds the FOIA's appropriate limit of £450. 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 identified the following meetings where PPE has been discussed over the past twelve months:

- Brigade Joint Committee for Health and Safety at Work (BJCHSW) Meetings
- PPE Contract Meetings
- Clothing Board
- PPE Working Group
- Contaminants Board

Under Section 16 of the FOIA, we have a duty to offer advice and assistance to help you refine your request so that it falls within the cost limit.

To help reduce the scope of your request, you may wish to consider:

- Focusing on one of the specific meetings listed above.

What is the services medium to long term plan for each of the above pieces of PPE

The plan for the short medium and long terms to see out the current National Framework Contract. We will extend this while the current NFCC Procurement National contract is progressed.

USAR PPE: A separate procurement process will align with national specifications.

RPE (Respiratory Protective Equipment): The current contract with MSA is in its early stages and runs for 10 years. Towards the end of this period, we will initiate a review and procurement process to assess future requirements.

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/>