LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

London Fire Brigade Headquarters
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london-fire.gov.uk

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2026/01149

Date of request: 15th September 2026

Request:

We are seeking a clear record of the public-authority processes surrounding St Paul's Cathedral's contemporary-music partnership with fabric through 2030, including the announced opening performance by The Cinematic Orchestra on 29 October 2026.

The Cathedral's announcement is here:
https://www.stpauls.co.uk/press-release/st-pauls-cathedral-and-fabric-announce-four-year-contemporary-music-partnership

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would be grateful for the following recorded information held by the London Fire Commissioner / London Fire Brigade, created or received between 1 January and 15 September 2026 and specifically concerning that partnership or opening performance:

1. Fire-safety consultation requests or referrals received from the Cathedral, the promoter or the City of London Corporation, and the Brigade's resulting written advice, recommendations or consultation responses. This includes any recorded conclusions about audience capacity, temporary staging or seating insofar as they concern fire safety.

2. Any event-specific fire-safety inspection or audit conclusion and any formal notice issued in connection with these proposals, including the recorded status of resulting actions. A conclusion or action-summary extract is sufficient; the full premises inspection history is not requested.

Please limit the search to the partnership and its proposed concerts. I am not seeking detailed floor plans, escape-route layouts, security arrangements, emergency deployment plans, personal contact details or unrelated Cathedral records. Where only part of a document can be supplied, the non-sensitive conclusion, date and recorded action status would be welcome. Duplicate copies are unnecessary.

This request does not assume that the Brigade has been consulted, that it must approve the events or that a fire-safety breach has occurred. Please provide existing records rather than a new assessment. If no information is held for either item, please confirm that separately.

Electronic copies in their existing format are welcome; direct links will suffice for published records. Please identify the basis for any withholding and provide disclosable portions. Please apply the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 where appropriate. If clarification or narrowing is needed, please advise; item 1 is the priority.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Response:

Please see below for a response to your request:

1. Fire-safety consultation requests or referrals received from the Cathedral, the promoter or the City of London Corporation, and the Brigade's resulting written advice, recommendations or consultation responses. This includes any recorded conclusions about audience capacity, temporary staging or seating insofar as they concern fire safety.

Correspondence available refers largely to the St Paul's Cathedral itself and any building consultation. There is correspondence regarding a Fire safety consultation for a building control services inspector dated 6 June 2016. This is regarding the Boiler House at St Paul's Cathedral. Furthermore, there is a general evacuation plan as part of a consultation dated 27th February 2026

There is also correspondence regarding a meeting dated 1st May 2026, which relates to fire safety works at St Paul's Cathedral.

Correspondence is exempt from release under section 31 of the FOIA – Law Enforcement. Other materials (including email correspondence and detailed notes), documents (such as documents provided to us by the responsible person for the building) and other fire safety information held by the Brigade are also exempt from access via the FOIA provisions. Again, we consider these to be exempt under Section 31 of the FOIA ("law enforcement" – Section 31(1)(g) combined with 31(2) (a) and 31(2) (c)).

We are of the view that the correct balance between the public interest in building safety and our ongoing regulatory involvement lies in making information about enforcement action available (formal or informal) to those that request it, but in withholding the supporting information and evidence gathered during regulation activities.

2. Any event-specific fire-safety inspection or audit conclusion and any formal notice issued in connection with these proposals, including the recorded status of resulting actions. A conclusion or action-summary extract is sufficient; the full premises inspection history is not requested.

LFB do not hold any records regarding an event specific fire safety inspection or any form of audit fire inspection for St Paul's Cathedral. Therefore, there are also no notices for these premises.

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/