

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2026/00939

Date of request: 7th August

Request:

Hello,

I am seeking information about aerial firefighting capability.

It might be useful for you to know that I am making this request following the outbreak of several wild-fires throughout the UK. I am, however, looking for information covering all fire incidents in your patch.

I am seeking information covering the first seven months of this year (01/01/2026-31/07/2026 inclusive), except in questions 6 and 7.

I would like to know:

- (1) How many firefighting aircraft you own and operate;
- (2) How many times you deployed your own firefighting aircraft;
- (3) How many times you secured firefighting aircraft from a third party;
- (4) How many times you deployed firefighting aircraft from a third party;
- (5) How much you spent in total on securing and deploying third-party firefighting aircraft;
- (6) How much you spent in total on securing and deploying third-party firefighting aircraft in the financial year 2025/26;
- (7) How much you spent in total on securing and deploying third-party firefighting aircraft in the financial year 2024/25.

I would also like – (8) a list of incidents in which you used firefighting aircraft during the first seven months of this year.

Response:

Thank you for your request for information regarding aerial firefighting capability, received on 7 August 2026.

London Fire Brigade (LFB) does not own, operate, host, secure or deploy firefighting aircraft. While LFB operates a small fleet of drones for information gathering and situational awareness, these do not have a firefighting capability.

Therefore, for questions 1 to 8, LFB held no firefighting aircraft, did not use any third-party firefighting aircraft, incurred no related expenditure, and no incidents involved the use of firefighting aircraft during the periods specified.

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/>