

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2026/00735

Date of request: 25th June 2026

Request:

This is a Freedom of Information request.

With reference to the following London Fire Brigade staff support groups: Asian Fire Service Association (LFB chapter); BAME Staff Group; and the Emerald Society (Irish heritage group). Please provide the following:

The total amount of public funding — including direct grants, budgetary allocations, use of London Fire Brigade premises or resources, staff time, administrative support, and any other financial contribution — provided to each of the above groups in each of the last three financial years, broken down by group and financial year.

Whether London Fire Brigade staff are permitted to carry out activities for any of the above groups during their normal contracted working hours and, if so, please provide a copy of any policy or guidance governing this arrangement, including any "protected time" or equivalent provision and its minimum duration.

The number of hours recorded, monitored, estimated or otherwise reported to the London Fire Brigade in relation to activities undertaken for each group during contracted working hours, broken down by group and financial year.

Response:

Further to your request, LFB HR was contacted for the information regarding LFB Support groups and public funding. The data requested is exempt from release under [section 12 of the FOIA – exceeds cost limit](#).

Under the Appropriate limit and Fees Regulations, public authorities are able to set cost thresholds as to the amount of time it would take to complete work to answer a request. Public authorities are able to re-fuse a request whereby providing a response would exceed the appropriate cost limit.

We are therefore applying exemption 12(1) to the first part of your request, which is for the total amount of funding for each support group or association. To look for the information you have requested would require a manual search as the data is not recorded centrally. The data that is available is located across LFB and some parts of the data is also not available. Therefore, there are no central records.

It has been estimated that the cost of complying with your requests aggregated under the Fees

Regulations as explained above would exceed the appropriate limit and therefore under the terms of Section 12 of the Act, we are not obliged to comply as the appropriate limit to the London Fire Brigade is £450.00. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending time to determine whether the Department holds the information and thus, locating, retrieving, and extracting it. This is at a cost of an average of £25 per hour. We currently identify this would exceed the amount to check data for each support group and check data manually for each public funding amount over a three-year period.

This response acts as a refusal notice under [Section 12 \(1\) of the FOIA](#).

With regards to the policy for LFB staff, please see below for PN551 titled *Outside employment policy*. LFB staff are permitted to carry out activities for any of the above groups. Furthermore, we do not hold the information for tracking the number of hours, recorded, monitored, estimated or otherwise reported to LFB by each group as we do not collate this data.

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/>

Outside employment policy

New policy number: 551
Old instruction number: PER:D015:a1
Issue date: 7 January 2008
Reviewed as current: 15 May 2025
Owner: Assistant Director, People Services
Responsible work team: Policy, Pay and Reward

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This policy sets out the Brigade's arrangements for staff undertaking outside employment and applies to all employees. The Brigade requires that the efficient and effective performance of your official duties shall not be impaired by you holding outside/secondary employment.
- 1.2 This policy should be applied in line with the Brigade's [values](#):
 - Service – We put the public first.
 - Courage – We step up to the challenge.
 - Learning – We listen so that we can improve.
 - Teamwork – We work together and include everyone.
 - Equity – We treat everyone fairly according to their needs.
 - Integrity – We act with honesty.
- 1.3 The Brigade has a duty, under regulation 6 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, to ensure you are provided with appropriate health surveillance. You should consider the possible impact that the nature of your outside employment may have on your overall personal health and effectiveness while carrying out your role within the organisation.
- 1.4 The Working Time Regulations 1998' (WTR) provide rules on maximum working hours and minimum breaks which the Brigade will apply to its employees including those balancing a secondary role outside of the Brigade and those on standby duty as a retained firefighter.
- 1.5 The following provisions are to ensure that employees do not exceed maximum working hours, have sufficient rest breaks and are reflected in the NFCC policy on Working Time:
 - A limit of an average of 48 hours per week (over a 17 week period).
 - A limit of an average of 8 hours' work in 24 hours for night workers if the work has any special hazards or results in physical or mental strain (although for purpose of continuity of service, staff engaged in 'civil protection services' are exempt from this provision).
 - A right to an uninterrupted 11 consecutive hours' rest per day or 24 hour period.
 - A right to a day off each week (24 hours, or 48 hours per fortnight).
 - A right to a 20 minute in-work rest break if the working day is longer than six hours.
 - A right to 90 hours of rest in a week.
- 1.6 It is your responsibility to comply with the above limits when you do undertake your permitted outside employment.
- 1.7 Operational staff on the shift or day duty system are not permitted to undertake outside employment without first obtaining the written consent of the Commissioner or the officer to whom the Commissioner has delegated the responsibility – see section 4 below. Approval is subject to the conditions contained in this policy and will not be unreasonably withheld.
- 1.8 Operational staff on the flexible duty system are not permitted to undertake outside employment without first obtaining the written consent of the Assistant Commissioner for Fire Stations. Due to the call-out commitment of the flexible duty system, consent will not normally be granted. Where consent is granted, the Brigade may apply such conditions and restrictions as it considers fit. Further, where consent is granted, this consent will be re assessed following any promotion (temporary or permanent) or on any other occasion where the applicant's role within the Brigade changes significantly.

- 1.9 Staff employed on fire and rescue service staff (FRS) and control staff terms and conditions are permitted to undertake outside employment without permission providing it does not conflict with any of the restrictions or conditions contained within this policy. If you are in any doubt as to the propriety of undertaking any proposed outside employment, then you are expected to consult the assistant director (AD) people services. If you act in accordance with this provision and follow the advice given by the AD people services, then you will be deemed to have fulfilled your obligations in this respect.

2 Outside employment

2.1 What is outside employment?

"Outside employment" means paid or unpaid work outside of the Brigade and includes, without limitation:

- Working for hire or gain for any person, firm, company or organisation other than the Brigade.
 - Carrying on a trade or business either in self-employment or as an employee of any organisation or business other than the Brigade.
 - Holding office in any firm, company, organisation or business (e.g. as a company director or licensee of licensed premises).
 - Any other undertaking of work or employment for a company or organisation which is unpaid or voluntary (e.g. cub scout leader, charity work etc).
- 2.2 "Work/working" and "employment" means activities involving mental or physical effort which involve a degree of regularity (i.e. more than once per quarter), and/or a mutuality of obligation or commitment between the employee and an external organisation/person.
- 2.3 The "appropriate manager" shall be a station commander (SC) for operational staff, FRS grade E or above for FRS staff, and control commander (CC) or above for control staff.
- 2.4 "Head of service" is either head of service, assistant director or assistant commissioner as appropriate.

3 Restrictions/conditions on outside employment

3.1 You must not undertake outside employment which:

- Impairs or might reasonably be thought by the Brigade to impair your ability to act at all times in the best interests of the Brigade.
 - May conflict with any of the Brigade's activities or interests. Please also see [Policy number 898](#) - Declaration of interests.
 - May lead to suspicion of undue favour or improper influence being exercised, for example through contracts, or any kind of consent, permission, licence, etc. which the public seek from the Brigade.
 - May bring the Brigade into disrepute.
 - May jeopardise the safety of yourself, colleagues in the Brigade or the public because it means you are not in a fit state, for example because of inadequate rest periods. Please refer to [Policy number 597](#) - Health and safety.
- 3.2 Outside employment must not have a direct or indirect connection with any matters in which the Brigade has a statutory duty or responsibility.
- 3.3 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 Part 4 section 37 states "No member of a police force may be employed by a fire and rescue authority for the purpose of discharging any of the authority's functions under this Act". The Brigade understands this does not apply to special constables.

- 3.4 The following conditions must be strictly observed:
- 3.5 Outside employment must not be undertaken for any person, firm or company which provides services provided by the Brigade, for example conducting fire safety activities within the London Fire Brigade area. If in doubt then you should consult your head of service or the AD people services and include the response in your application.
- 3.6 Outside employment must not be undertaken for any person, firm or company which provides services provided by the Brigade, for example conducting fire safety activities outside the London Fire Brigade geographical area, which may nonetheless impact upon premises inside the London Fire Brigade. It is your individual responsibility to ensure that this condition is met before undertaking employment activities. If in doubt you should consult your head of service or the AD people services.
- 3.7 Outside employment must not be undertaken for any person, firm or company whose activities are relevant in any way to the performance of the Brigade's functions within or outside the London Fire Brigade which include but are not limited to the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 Section 6, and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 Part 2 Fire Safety Duties.
- 3.8 Outside employment which conflicts with your work for the Brigade must not be undertaken. If in doubt you should consult the AD people services.
- 3.9 Outside employment must not be undertaken during your working hours for the Brigade.
- 3.10 Outside employment must not be undertaken on official premises or using Brigade equipment, computer facilities, resources or intellectual property at any time (even after working hours). This includes making or receiving telephone calls, sending or receiving e-mails or other forms of communication connected with outside employment.
- 3.11 In addition to there being no impairment of the proper execution of official duties, there must be no interference with any contractual requirement to work overtime or additional hours on such duties or to attend training courses or to work at any location or on any recognised duty system either on a temporary or permanent basis.
- 3.12 Outside employment must not be undertaken for a period of at least 11 hours before you are due to report for work, training or other official duties with or for the Brigade.
- 3.13 Outside employment must not be undertaken for any person, firm or company who is, currently or periodically, an applicant to the Brigade for a statutory consent or permission, for a discretionary licence (e.g. petroleum licence), or for any purpose where the application is or would be dealt with by the department in which the employee is serving. If you propose to undertake outside employment for, or to hold any pecuniary (financial) interest in, any person, firm or company, then you are responsible for ascertaining from them whether they are applicants to the Brigade for any statutory consents or permissions.
- 3.14 Outside employment must not be undertaken for any person, firm or company:
- (a) in a contractual relationship with the Brigade (e.g. for the provision/supply of goods, services or facilities); or
 - (b) concerned in any property (i.e. building/land) transaction with the Brigade;
- either directly or indirectly without first obtaining the written consent of the AD people services.
- If you propose to undertake outside employment for any person, firm or company then you are responsible for ascertaining from the person, firm or company whether any contractual or commission relationship with the Brigade exists or is proposed.

If you undertake outside employment for any person, firm or company then you are responsible for advising the person, firm or company of your employment with the Brigade and the prohibition contained in this paragraph.

- 3.15 It is a condition in contracts entered into by the Brigade for professional work that employees of the Brigade shall not be employed by contractors without first obtaining the written consent of the AD people services.
- 3.16 Outside employment must not be undertaken by one employee for another employee, who is responsible for supervising them, or whom they supervise, in their work for the Brigade. If you are intending to employ another Brigade employee (with whom they must not be in any supervisory relationship) then you must obtain permission to do so from the appropriate manager.
- 3.17 Outside employment must not be undertaken for any person (other than a Brigade employee), firm or company with whom you deal with in the course of official duty. Outside employment must not be undertaken by you in any area of work that may reasonably be thought to bring or potentially bring the Brigade into disrepute. It is your responsibility to ensure that this condition is met before undertaking employment activities. If in doubt you should consult your head of service or the AD people services beforehand.
- 3.18 Under no circumstances must any article of Brigade uniform or equipment be worn or used for any purpose associated with outside employment. Please refer to [Policy number 320](#) - Wearing of uniform and personal appearance.
- 3.19 Under no circumstances must the name of the LFC or the Brigade or the fact that an employee is an employee of the Brigade be used in any way in connection with outside employment or any pecuniary (financial) interest, other than inclusion of such information as employment details on a CV or application form.
- 3.20 Outside employment must not be undertaken by employees absent from work on sick leave (including periods when they would not have been rostered for duty) unless the work is undertaken on the advice of the occupational health advisor and with the prior permission of the appropriate manager. Please refer to [Policy number 1005](#) - Supporting health and wellbeing policy.
- 3.21 You shall not disclose or make use of, for your private advantage, any information not available generally to the public which you may acquire in the course of your employment with the Brigade.
- 3.22 While occasional literary or artistic work is permissible, special consideration would have to be given to publication in any media on subjects relating to your individual employment with the Brigade. Permission must be gained before engaging in this type of activity.
- 3.23 In the event that you undertake outside employment for any person, firm or company, who subsequently applies to the Brigade for any statutory consent, permission, discretionary licence etc., or becomes involved in any contractual relationship or property transaction with the Brigade, you must immediately terminate the employment unless they have obtained the written consent of the AD people services. You should be aware that failure to comply with the requirements of this paragraph may, in addition to being liable to disciplinary action, also give rise to criminal liability both at common law and under statute.
- 3.24 If you are in any doubt as to the propriety of undertaking any proposed outside employment, then you are expected to consult the AD people services beforehand. If you act in accordance with this provision and follow the advice given by the AD people services, then you will be held to have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

4 Permission to undertake outside employment by operational staff

- 4.1 Operational staff on the shift or day duty system must seek permission to undertake outside employment. A new permission must be sought on any occasion when you propose a change in the identity of the outside employer or in the nature of the outside employment undertaken, or for each individual instance/type of outside employment. Requests should be submitted to the appropriate line manager along with confirmation (and record where appropriate) of any AD people services approval or not. Applications may be submitted via the app, a link to which can be found on the Outside Employment page of Hotwire [here](https://londonfire.sharepoint.com/sites/HW-WorkingHere/SitePages/Outside-Employment.aspx):
<https://londonfire.sharepoint.com/sites/HW-WorkingHere/SitePages/Outside-Employment.aspx>.
- 4.2 Staff must not accept an offer of employment with an outside employer until express permission has been given under the terms of this policy.
- 4.3 Permission to undertake reservist service in the Armed Forces will be approved by the assistant commissioner/head of service. The application must be submitted to the appropriate line manager. Please refer to [Policy number 947](#) - Outside employment in the reserve forces policy.
- 4.4 Applications to undertake outside employment where you will be externally employed (whether paid or voluntary) must detail the hours worked per week and should include with the application a full job description of the role applied for on official or company letterhead or headed e-mail. Where it is not possible to provide the job description with the application, this must be provided within 28 days of a granted permission. Failure to do so will normally result in the refusal or withdrawal of permission.
- 4.5 Applications to undertake outside employment where you will be self-employed must detail the hours worked per week and include a full description of the duties to be undertaken to include as much detail as required by the Brigade. These details should include specific reference and response to any part of the policy where it might reasonably be considered that a contravention may arise e.g. fire safety, disrepute, conflict of interest etc.
- 4.6 In all cases where permission is granted, it must be clearly understood that the Brigade reserves the right to withdraw or otherwise amend the terms of that permission, at any time, on one month's notice (or sooner in some cases as set out at 7.1 and 7.3).
- 4.7 Permission will not be granted for any outside employment that, in the opinion of the Brigade, is dangerous or otherwise poses a risk of serious injury or illness to you or which conflicts or may reasonably be thought to conflict in any other way with the stipulations set out in this policy. The Brigade may require you or your outside employer to indemnify the Brigade against potential liabilities and losses arising from any injury sustained by you during the course of outside employment.
- 4.8 Trainee firefighters (TFFs) will be advised at their 'Welcome Day' of the procedures to follow and the expectation of not undertaking outside employment during initial training. Other than in exceptional cases to be approved by AC fire stations, an application to undertake new outside employment for TFFs can only be made following posting to a station and submitted to their station commander. Where a TFF joins the Brigade already holding outside employment and does not wish to relinquish this pending posting to a station (which may be agreed, for example, in respect of outside employment as a retained firefighter or a reservist) they should contact their course lead in the first instance who will forward the request to an appropriate manager. In this situation the TFF is not expected to undertake outside employment activities during initial training. On completion of initial training, receiving stations will be notified of TFFs' outside

employment status, e.g. a pending application, or existing outside employment having been approved if appropriate.

- 4.9 Operational staff who temporarily move from the shift or day duty system to the flexible duty system (e.g. because of temporary promotion or acting up) will normally be required to cease outside employment for the duration of the temporary move (in line with paragraph 1.6 above).
- 4.10 A confidential record containing details of permitted outside employment will be maintained by Central Operations Business Support (COBS) and copies of permissions will be kept on each individual's personal record file (e-PRF).
- 4.11 Permission is subject to you providing details of the weekly hours worked for your outside employment and re-applying for permission should these weekly hours notably change. This is to ensure that both the Brigade and you comply with the Brigade's and your health and safety responsibilities and the working time regulations. The Brigade will regularly confirm the status of your outside employment, and hours, it is your responsibility to ensure they are accurate.

5 Processing applications

- 5.1 An application to undertake or change outside employment should be submitted initially to the appropriate manager (see paragraphs 1.6 and 4.1 above). This manager should consider the application and all the appropriate factors (including the hours to be worked and any other approved applications) and make a recommendation on whether the application should be granted or refused within 14 days.
- 5.2 The manager (station commander/FRS E/control commander) should meet with you to discuss your application and to confirm that you understand the provisions within this policy and your responsibilities to comply with them. In addition, the manager may discuss your welfare with you because it is recognised that there may be financial challenges which mean staff have to undertake additional paid employment. Such challenges may affect wellbeing, so managers should refer to [Policy number 1005](#) - Supporting health and wellbeing policy.
- 5.3 The application should then be sent for consideration and processing by selecting a recommendation within the app, adding any appropriate notes in support of the decision and then using the 'submit' option.
- 5.4 The final decision on whether or not a request for permission will be granted, and whether any restrictions will be applied, will be made within 14 days following consideration by officers in Central Ops. This consideration will include the appropriate manager's recommendation and any policy implications where appropriate.
- 5.5 Once a final decision has been made, the applicant and appropriate manager will be notified of the outcome and, if agreed, provided with an approval reference number. It is not until this point that permission to undertake (or change) outside employment should be considered granted. Applicants whose permission has been refused will be notified in the same way, including, where appropriate, the reasons for a refusal, but without a reference number.

6 Sickness

- 6.1 Working whilst on sick leave (unless undertaken on the advice of the occupational health advisor and with the prior permission of the appropriate manager), whether paid or unpaid, will be regarded as working without permission and this will be regarded as a serious breach of discipline, which could lead to dismissal for a first offence. Please refer to [Policy number 392](#) - Discipline conduct procedure.

- 6.2 You are not precluded from maintaining your status as a landlord or from holding a position in a company whilst you are off sick. However, you must not undertake work in this regard whilst on sick leave.
- 6.3 Operational staff who are absent sick as a result of an injury or infirmity (physical or mental impairment), which may be attributable to outside employment, must inform the appropriate manager in writing. You also need to inform the Brigade of any exposure to hazardous substances whilst undertaking outside employment whether you are absent sick or not.
- 6.4 Operational staff absent from duty because of sickness or injury, which in the opinion of the appropriate manager, acting as necessary on medical advice, is wholly attributable to outside employment, will be entitled to only such sick pay, if any, as the AD people services may determine.
- 6.5 If you wish to provide insurance to cover loss of sick pay, then you will meet any costs incurred. You will be required to notify your line manager if you know or should reasonably know that the reason for your absence is attributable to your outside employment.

7 Withdrawal of permission for outside employment

- 7.1 The Brigade reserves the right to withdraw permission for outside employment where it is reasonably deemed necessary to do so. This might include for example concerns for the staff members current health and wellbeing. In such instances you will be provided details of why your permission for outside employment is being withdrawn and your manager will be notified.
- 7.2 If you are seeking restoration of permission for outside employment, then you must submit a new application via the app for initial consideration by your line manager in accordance with paragraph 4.1. Such applications will be processed without delay.
- 7.3 Where, in the opinion of the Brigade, continuation of the outside employment;
- poses a risk of serious injury or illness to you, your colleagues, or a member of the public,
 - may hamper your return to work from sickness absence, or
 - conflicts or may reasonably be thought to conflict in any other way with the stipulations set out in this policy.

Then permission may be withdrawn with less notice, including summary withdrawal.

8 Disciplinary action

- 8.1 If you are found to be in breach of the terms of this policy, you may face disciplinary action. Undertaking outside employment without permission or breaching any of the conditions will be regarded as a serious breach of discipline and in certain circumstances could lead to dismissal for a first offence. Please refer to [Policy number 392](#) - Disciplinary conduct policy.
- 8.2 It is the duty of all managers to bring to the notice of the head of service/assistant commissioner, as a disciplinary matter, any reasonably suspected breach of this policy.

9 Review procedure

- 9.1 You have the right to appeal against any decision made under this policy through the Brigade grievance procedure.

10 Records

- 10.1 Please send records by email to RecordsServices@london-fire.gov.uk. Records will be kept on your electronic personal record file (e-PRF) and retained in accordance with [Policy number 788](#) – Electronic personal record files (e-PRF). Personal data shall be processed in accordance with [Policy number 351](#) – Data protection and privacy policy.

11 Help and support

- 11.1 Please contact the HR Helpdesk on extension 89100 (option 3) and by email to IT.HR@london-fire.gov.uk or contact Central Operations Business Support (COBS) by email to ODSGAdmin@london-fire.gov.uk. Please contact a Professional Standards Adviser in the Professional Standards Unit (PSU) on extension 31880 and by email to PSU@london-fire.gov.uk regarding any alleged breaches of conduct.
- 11.2 This policy may also be available on request in other alternative accessible formats as set out in [Policy number 290](#) – Guidance note on translation and interpretation. Please contact Communications on extension 30753 and by email to communications.team@london-fire.gov.uk to discuss your needs and options.
- 11.3 The Brigade invites your engagement so that it can learn so if you have a suggestion that can improve this policy then please submit your idea via the [Staff Suggestion Scheme on Hotwire](#) as set out in [Policy number 887](#) – Staff suggestion scheme. Any changes do need to go through the agreed engagement, consultation, negotiation or governance requirements

Document history

Assessments

An equality or sustainability impact assessment and/or a risk assessment was last completed on:

EIA	13/03/26	SDIA	L - 25/02/26	HSWIA	02/03/26	RA	N/A
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Audit trail

Listed below is a brief audit trail, detailing amendments made to this policy/procedure.

Page/para nos.	Brief description of change	Date
Throughout	Reviewed against the 2025 Grey Book 7 th edition.	15/05/2025
Page 10	SDIA and HSWIA updated.	04/03/2026
Page 10	EIA date updated.	17/03/2026
Page 8, para 7.1	Re-drafted to reflect process followed as advised by Ops.	19/06/2026

Subject list

You can find this policy under the following subjects.

Employment	Outside employment

Freedom of Information Act exemptions

This policy/procedure has been securely marked due to:

Considered by: (responsible work team)	FOIA exemption	Security marking classification