

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2026/01110

Date of request: 8th September

Request:

original report/referral giving rise to London Fire Brigade involvement and proposed fire safety audit

I am writing to make a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA") concerning the London Fire Brigade's involvement with Cornwall Gardens, London, and in particular the information which caused or contributed to the Brigade initiating a fire safety audit of the premises.

I have further been informed that the information cannot be disclosed to me outside the FOI process.

I understand that a fire safety audit of the common parts of Cornwall Gardens is presently scheduled for 14 September 2026.

This request is therefore directed principally at the source, content, provenance and handling of the information which caused the Brigade to become involved.

Information requested

Please provide copies of the following information held by the London Fire Brigade:

1. The original report / complaint / referral

The complete original report, complaint, referral, notification, email, online submission, telephone record, case note or other communication by which the matter concerning Cornwall Gardens was first brought to the attention of the London Fire Brigade.

This request includes the original document or communication in the form in which it was received, together with any attachments or accompanying material.

2. Subsequent information supplied by the reporter

All documents, correspondence, emails, photographs, statements, attachments or other information subsequently supplied by the person or organisation responsible for the original report/referral.

3. The provenance of the referral

Please provide the information held by LFB concerning:

- the date and time on which the original report/referral was received;
- the means by which it was received;
- the department, team or individual who received it;
- the LFB case/reference number allocated to it;
- whether it was received directly from a member of the public, another public authority, a resident, a representative, a professional adviser or another organisation;

- whether the source was known to LFB at the time the report was received; and
- whether the source was represented to LFB as anonymous, confidential or otherwise subject to any restriction on disclosure.

4. Assessment and decision to initiate the audit

Please provide copies of all records held by LFB concerning its assessment of the original report/referral and the decision to undertake an inspection, audit, investigation or other regulatory action at Cornwall Gardens.

This includes, without limitation:

- internal emails;
- correspondence;
- case-management records;
- inspection/referral records;
- contemporaneous notes;
- risk assessments;
- triage records;
- officer notes;
- records of telephone conversations;
- meeting notes; and
- communications between LFB officers concerning whether and how to investigate the allegations.

5. The substance of the allegations

Please provide the information contained in the original report/referral describing the alleged fire-safety, building-safety or other regulatory concerns at Cornwall Gardens.

I am specifically requesting the substance of the allegations, whether or not the identity of the person making them is considered disclosable.

6. Identity of the source

If LFB holds information identifying the person who made the original report/referral, please confirm whether that information is being withheld and, if so, identify the statutory exemption relied upon.

For the avoidance of doubt, I am not asking LFB to assume that the identity of the reporter is disclosable merely because I have requested it.

If LFB considers that the identity constitutes third-party personal data which cannot lawfully be disclosed, then I request disclosure of the remainder of the report and associated records with only the relevant personal data redacted.

7. Communications with other authorities

Please provide copies of communications relating to the original referral between LFB and any other public authority, including but not limited to:

- Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea;
- London Borough or other local authority departments;
- building control;
- planning or conservation officers;
- any other fire-safety or regulatory authority.

This request is limited to communications concerning the information which triggered or contributed to LFB's involvement.

8. Records identifying the trigger for the audit

Please provide any record which identifies or describes the reason why Cornwall Gardens was selected for inspection/audit, including any risk categorisation, referral category, prioritisation or other decision-making record.

FOIA exemptions

I recognise that the FOIA contains exemptions which may, in appropriate circumstances, apply to particular information.

However, if LFB considers that any information requested above is exempt, please identify the precise statutory provision relied upon for each item or category of information withheld and explain how the exemption applies.

Where an exemption is qualified, please carry out and disclose the required public-interest assessment.

In particular, I do not accept that the mere fact that the information may relate to a regulatory or enforcement matter provides a blanket basis for withholding the entirety of the material.

If LFB considers that section 31 FOIA applies, please identify the particular subsection relied upon and explain specifically what prejudice disclosure would be likely to cause. Please also conduct the statutory public-interest balancing exercise.

Likewise, if reliance is placed upon section 40 FOIA, please distinguish between the identity or other personal data of a third party and the underlying factual information contained in the complaint or referral. I request that any personal data capable of being redacted be redacted rather than the substantive document being withheld in its entirety.

I expressly request that LFB provide all reasonably separable non-exempt information.

Where a document contains exempt material, please redact only the exempt material and disclose the remainder.

If LFB considers that any part of this request is too broad or otherwise requires clarification, please contact me before refusing the request and identify precisely what clarification would enable the information to be provided.

Given that the requested information concerns the basis upon which a regulatory audit is being undertaken, please ensure that all relevant records are retained pending determination of this request and any subsequent internal review or Information Commissioner's Office investigation.

This includes electronic correspondence, case-management records and other electronically stored material relevant to the original referral and its subsequent handling.

Internal review

If any information is withheld, please treat this letter as also requesting a sufficiently reasoned response enabling me to understand the basis for the withholding and, where appropriate, to seek an internal review.

I reserve the right to request an internal review of any refusal or partial refusal and, thereafter, to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Finally, given that the proposed audit is scheduled for 14 September 2026, I would be grateful if you would process this request as promptly as practicable.

Please provide the response and all disclosable documents electronically.

Response:

Thank you for your request for information received on 8 September 2026. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You have requested information relating to the referral that led to a fire safety audit of 24 Cornwall Gardens, London, together with information concerning the Brigade's subsequent consideration of that referral.

The London Fire Brigade holds information within the scope of your request. However, we are unable to disclose the requested information as it is exempt under [sections 40\(2\), 41](#) and [31\(1\)\(g\)](#) of the FOIA.

The Brigade can confirm that a fire safety referral was received in relation to the premises and that it resulted in a fire safety audit being scheduled. A fire safety audit of 24 Cornwall Gardens is currently live and ongoing. The inspecting officer has three months from the date of the audit to complete the inspection and provide the outcome. As the audit commenced on 15 September 2026, the inspecting officer's period for completion runs until approximately 14 December 2026. London Fire Brigade is therefore not in a position to provide the information requested under these points until the audit has been concluded and the outcome determined. We would invite you to submit a further request once the audit has been completed, at which point the Brigade will be better placed to consider what information can be disclosed.

The information you have requested includes the referral itself, information subsequently provided in support of that referral, records of the Brigade's assessment of the concerns raised, internal communications, communications with third parties, and information relating to the decision to undertake regulatory activity.

The requested information contains personal data relating to third parties, including information that would identify, or be likely to identify, the individual who raised the concerns. Disclosure of this information would contravene the data protection principles set out in the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018 and is therefore exempt under [section 40\(2\) of the FOIA](#).

The Brigade also considers that the referral information was provided in confidence. The individual who raised the concerns expressly requested that their identity and contact details be treated as confidential. Disclosure of information provided in these circumstances would constitute an actionable breach of confidence and is therefore exempt under [section 41 of the FOIA](#).

In addition, disclosure of information relating to the receipt, assessment and investigation of the concerns raised would be likely to prejudice the Brigade's ability to carry out its statutory fire safety enforcement functions. The information is therefore exempt under [section 31\(1\)\(g\) of the FOIA by virtue of sections 31\(2\)\(a\), 31\(2\)\(c\) and 31\(2\)\(g\)](#).

Section 31 is subject to the public interest test. While the Brigade recognises the public interest in openness and transparency, there is a stronger public interest in ensuring that fire safety concerns can be reported, assessed and investigated effectively. Disclosure would be likely to discourage individuals from

providing information to the Brigade and prejudice the Brigade's ability to carry out its regulatory functions. The Brigade has therefore concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process, please see the guidance published on our website: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/transparency/request-information-from-us/>