

Freedom of Information request reference number: 8892.1

Date of response: 01 August 2024

Request:

Please provide information on the number of LFB staff receiving SERT supplementary allowances for years 2017 to present.

Please provide:

- *Information on the number of staff during this period deemed ineligible for their SERT allowances to be continued due to failure to comply with the criteria required for these allowances.*
- *Information on where staff deemed ineligible had the allowances removed due to being unavailable to attend fire calls in London due to distance.*
- *Of this number, please provide information on how many SERT recipients had allowances removed by being unable to attend the Grenfell fire incident.*

Response:

In response, and by way of background, individuals in the Specialist Entry Rescue Team (SERT) do not receive a supplementary allowance to deliver this capability. Instead, the individuals are part of an on-call rota and get an additional percentage payment of their basic pay.

Further information about the additional pay for specific LFB roles can be found in this answer to 'Questions to the Mayor' here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/questions-mayor/find-an-answer/lfb-extra-pay>.

The number of LFB staff with an additional percentage payment of their basic pay to deliver the SERT capability since 2017 are provided in the table below:

Financial Year	Number of SERT individuals receiving an additional percentage payment of their basic pay
2017/18	6
2018/19	13
2019/20	16
2020/21	15
2021/22	20
2022/23	25
2023/24	26
2024/25 (PY)	25

In response to your further three questions:

Please provide information on the number of staff during this period deemed ineligible for their SERT allowances to be continued due to failure to comply with the criteria required for these allowances.

None

Please provide information on where staff deemed ineligible had the allowances removed due to being unavailable to attend fire calls in London due to distance.

None.

Of this number, please provide information on how many SERT recipients had allowances removed by being unable to attend the Grenfell fire incident.

None

Please note: The SERT additional percentage payment has been removed in cases where the SERT operators do not meet the absence requirements noted below (taken from an example employee contract):

"You will continue to receive the on-call payment during any period sickness absence or any period of light duties up to a maximum of 3 months. After a 3-month period of absence or light duties, your NILO/SERT/MCR on call allowance will be reviewed and will normally cease."

They payment can also be removed when an officer undertakes the staff officer role moving them to a different shift pattern or, where a Group Commander performs the role of temporary Deputy Assistant Commissioner (DAC) which leads to a change in rota. In both these scenarios, the change to the rota does not support the SERT recall contract rota requirement.

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](#).