

**Freedom of Information request reference number:** FOIA4229.1

**Date of response:** 04 March 2019

**Request and Response:**

*How many hoax 999 calls London Fire Brigade received for each of the past five years for which data is available.*

*I would also like to know how many of these hoax calls resulted in fire crews unnecessarily being scrambled.*

Thank you for your request, dated 5 February 2019 regarding hoax calls received by the London Fire Brigade (LFB).

In response the table below sets out two categories of statistics; Number of calls challenged (calls received by control where no mobilising occurred) and Number of malicious false alarms (calls received by control where a mobilisation occurred). 'Call challenge' is a process that aims to reduce the number of unnecessary mobilisations to calls which are believed to be malicious in nature (hoax calls). Control staff ask a series of predetermined questions, to establish whether or not the Brigade's attendance is genuinely required. Where any doubt exists concerning the validity of a call an attendance is mobilised.

	Calendar Year					
Call Group	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019* to date
Call Challenge	7,149	5,504	4,210	3,857	4,201	717
False alarm - Malicious	1,411	1,316	1,380	1,320	1,209	146
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,560</b>	<b>6,820</b>	<b>5,590</b>	<b>5,177</b>	<b>5,410</b>	<b>863</b>

I hope you find this response of use. Should you have any further questions do let me know.