

**Freedom of Information request reference number:** 6070.1

**Date of response:** 27 October 2021

**Request:**

- *Details of new built hospitals that have had sprinklers included in the design and build*
- *Details of hospital fires*

**Response:**

Please see our response to your queries in turn below:

- *Details of new built hospitals that have had sprinklers included in the design and build (for the period of 2019/20, 2020/21);*

The LFB would only hold this information if we have been consulted as part of planning or building regulations. Between 01/04/2019 and 31/03/2021, the LFB have a record of 18,418 building control consultations:

Date is on or after 01/04/2019 and is before 01/04/2021	Count of Consultations
D Building Control Consultation	18,418
E03 Goodwill Advice - Other Authorities	8,086
C08 Licensing Acts 2003	5,519
E01 Goodwill Advice -General Public	1,556
E02 Goodwill Advice - Architects	603
C11 Gambling Act 2005	84
C10 Lic. Acts 2003 - Review led by other authority	3

There is no automated way to search if any of these 18,418 building control consultations were for new built hospitals. A manual search of the Fire Safety record for each of these consultations would have to be performed to see if the information you have requested to retrieve and extract the information. It is not unreasonable to expect that this would exceed the relevant time limit set out under the FOIA. This 'fees limit' is calculated by taking the cost limit appropriate to the Brigade (i.e. £450) divided by the standard rate at which a local authority (including the Brigade) can charge for this work (£25 an hour). This equates to 18 hours.

We also looked to see how many Fire Safety records are held for property types listed as 'hospital' to see if the information could be looked up that way. There are 432 Fire Safety (Farynor) records held for hospital premises. Although this is considerably less than the 18,000+ plus building control records, our Fire Safety team still think that it would take over 18 hours to manually review these 432 records to see if the record contained details of whether the hospital was building between 01/04/2019 and

31/03/2021 and if so, if we had a received a record of any building control consultations that mention sprinkler installation in the design and build.

Even if they used an average of five minutes for each fire safety record (432 cases), it will take 36 hours (five minutes times 432 records, divided by 60 minutes equals 36 hours) to review all of the relevant records, retrieve and extract the information. I therefore confirm that the cost of providing the information you have requested is in the cost range of £900 which is greater than the "appropriate limit" of £450 as defined the FOIA fee regulations. In setting this out in full this now serves as a formal 'refusal notice' based on section 12 of the FOIA. As you may be aware, if the cost exceeds the appropriate limit to comply with a request, a public authority is not obliged to comply with it.

If you are able to further refine your request, for example provide the names of any new built hospitals you require this information for, then please do let me know and I will ask our Fire Safety team to check these records to see if any information is held.

Alternatively the NHS or local authorities may hold this information more readily as they would likely be the primary holder of the information.

- *Details of hospital fires (for the period of 2019/20, 2020/21)*

Details of every incident details of every incident the LFB responded to since January 2009 is published online via the London Datastore. The information can be accessed via the following link:

<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-fire-brigade-incident-records?q=incide>

Details for fires in 2019/20 and 2020/21 are on the '[LFB Incident data from January 2017](#)' spreadsheet [which can be](#) downloaded here:

<https://data.london.gov.uk/download/london-fire-brigade-incident-records/b8f76a50-c7a0-4ff4-b3e4-7a42c5d0e8e3/LFB%20Incident%20data%20from%20January%202017.xlsx>.

You can filter to '*hospital*' using the property types in column 'J' and sort by date using columns 'B' and 'C'.

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](#).