

**Freedom of Information request reference number:** 5963.1

**Date of response:** 20 September 2021

**Request:**

*REF: The Safety issues of Electric Vehicles (EV) and "EANM" (Electronic Audio Noise Maker) Devices or "AVAS" (Acoustic Vehicle Alert System) devices.*

- *We are asking the Civil Emergency Services, do you have EV's of your own*
- *Are they fitted with a "AVAS" or "EANM" devices?*
- *Are you in the process of fitting a "AVAS" or "EANM" devices, to ALL your EV's*
- *Have you taken ALL EV's, which do NOT have an a "AVAS" or "EANM" devices, OFF the road until they are accordingly fitted too?*
- *Along with from NOW ON, will you record Road Traffic Accidents involving EV's, if they were fitted with or NOT fitted with a FULLY Working and FULLY Operational a "AVAS" or "EANM" devices, YES or NO?*
- *Along with how many Accidents on UK Roads in the period 2019 to 2021, involved Silent EV's of any type too? So if Fire Rescue Services, or Ambulance Services or Police Services, has any of this data, we be grateful if they would supply it to me, as an FOI Request too?*
- *Are any Fire Rescue Services, or Ambulance Services or Police Services, aware of fire risks*

**Response:**

Our response to your request for information is below.

For your question, "*We are asking the Civil Emergency Services, do you have EV's of your own?*"

The response from the London Fire Brigade Fleet team is as follows. The London Fire Brigade do not own any purely electric vehicles. However, we do have 54 hybrid vehicles as part of our fleet.

This excludes any vehicles that London Fire Brigade staff may lease for personal or business use.

For your question, "*Are they fitted with a "AVAS" or "EANM" devices?*"

The response from the London Fire Brigade Fleet team is as follows. Nine of the 54 hybrid vehicles in the London Fire Brigade have an acoustic warning device fitted.

For your two questions, firstly "*Are you in the process of fitting a "AVAS" or "EANM" devices, to ALL your EV's*" and secondly "*Have you taken ALL EV's, which do NOT have an a "AVAS" or "EANM" devices, OFF the road until they are accordingly fitted too?*"

The response from the London Fire Brigade Fleet team is as follows. We are in the process of replacing the hybrid vehicles that do not have an acoustic warning device fitted. These vehicles were purchased prior to 2019. The new, replacement vehicles will all have acoustic warning devices fitted.

For your question, "*Also are you and have you record Road Traffic Accidents involving EV's, if they were fitted with or NOT fitted with a FULLY Working and FULLY Operational a "AVAS" or "EANM" devices, YES or NO?*"

The response from the London Fire Brigade Fleet team is yes, we keep a record of all Road Traffic Accidents that involve the Brigade fleet vehicles.

For your question, "Along with from NOW ON, will you record Road Traffic Accidents involving EV's, if they were fitted with or NOT fitted with a FULLY Working and FULLY Operational a "AVAS" or "EANM" devices, YES or NO?"

The response from the London Fire Brigade Fleet team is yes, we will continue to keep a record of all Road Traffic Accidents that involve the Brigade fleet vehicles.

For your question, "Along with how many Accidents on UK Roads in the period 2019 to 2021, involved Silent EV's of any type too? So if Fire Rescue Services, or Ambulance Services or Police Services, has any of this data, we be grateful if they would supply it to me, as an FOI Request too?"

The response from the London Fire Brigade Data team is as follows. Our Incident Management System does not specifically record whether a vehicle involved in a fire is electric, hybrid or has a combustion engine. The category only goes as far as the vehicle type such as "Car & Van" and, in the case of multiple vehicles being involved in the fire, it switches to a "Multiple vehicles" category.

We can determine how the fire started and drill down into those vehicles fires that started via electrical methods or where the ignition source is "battery". The difficulty this presents is that every combustion engine vehicle also has electronics and a battery.

Across 2019 and 2020 LFB attended 70 road vehicle fires (35 in each year) where the ignition source of the fire was identified as being a battery and the main cause was listed as an electrical fault. There is a new "Fuel Type" question being tested in the Incident Management System meaning moving forwards we will soon start collecting this data.

In relation to electric vehicle charging points, our Incident Management System does not record a specific category for these. We can search by free text so our Data team completed a search for the words "electric vehicle", "charge" or "charging point".

Unfortunately, we did not get any results that could conclusively be determined as a fire starting at an electric charging point.

For your question, "*are any Fire Rescue Services, or Ambulance Services or Police Services, aware of fire risks.*"

The response from the London Fire Brigade is yes, we have a policy called 'Incident of Roadways' (LFB policy number 754) which includes details on the additional hazards which alternate or dual fuel vehicles may present when our crews attend an incident.

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](#).