

Freedom of Information request reference number: 6441.1

Date of response: 22 April 2022

Request:

Q1. We request statistics on the following for the years 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018:

- 1.1 The number of operational firefighters employed
- 1.2 The number of operational firefighters off work due to mental health in each year
- 1.3 The average length of sickness absence per year attributed to mental health
- 1.4 The number of operational firefighters off work due to musculoskeletal (MSK)[1] injury in each year
- 1.5 The average length of sickness absence per year attributed to musculoskeletal (MSK) injury
- 1.6 How many operational firefighters accessed physiotherapy/rehabilitation per year

Q2. How many operational firefighters are currently off work due to an MSK-related injury?

Q3. How many operational firefighters have applied for ill health retirement on the grounds of MSK injury for the following years: 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018.

Response:

1.1 The number of operational firefighters employed

This information is published online via the London Datastore: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/hr-statistical-abstract>

1.2 The number of operational firefighters off work due to mental health in each year

Year	Number of staff with a sickness absence commencing in each year for Stress / anxiety / depression
2018	211
2019	215
2020	226
2021	257
Total	909

1.3 The average length of sickness absence per year attributed to mental health

Year	Average length of sickness absence (days) ending in each year for Stress / anxiety / depression
2018	84
2019	95
2020	79
2021	84

Total	86
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1.4 The number of operational firefighters off work due to musculoskeletal (MSK)[1] injury in each year

Year	Number of staff with a sickness absence commencing in each year for Musculoskeletal
2018	1,338
2019	1,354
2020	1,151
2021	1,435
Total	5,278

1.5 The average length of sickness absence per year attributed to musculoskeletal (MSK) injury

Year	Average length of sickness absence (days) ending in each year for Musculoskeletal
2018	25
2019	25
2020	28
2021	22
Total	25

1.6 How many operational firefighters accessed physiotherapy/rehabilitation per year

The London Fire Brigade do not hold this information. The Brigade's Occupational Health Unit: Health Management Limited (HML) hold this data. To request this information, you will need to submit a request to HML directly. HML can be contacted at the following address: Floor 3, 115 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AX.

Q2. How many operational firefighters are currently off work due to an MSK-related injury

96 (as at 31/03/2022)

Q3. How many operational firefighters have applied for ill health retirement on the grounds of MSK injury for the following years: 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018.

Year	Number of applications for ill health retirement on the grounds of MSK injury
2018	7
2019	3
2020	6
2021	6
Total	22

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](#).