

Freedom of Information request reference number: 6585.1

Date of response: 01 June 2022

Request:

"Please could you provide the number of waking watches requested to be put in place on residential and mixed residential/commercial buildings by the London Fire Brigade between 1st January 2019 to 23rd May 2022. For each case, can you please state which unit made the assessment and decision. Please can the data be broken down by the number of waking watches requested each month during the period outlined above."

Response:

The LFB have not requested any waking watches to be put in place on residential and mixed residential/commercial buildings between 1st January 2019 to 23rd May 2022.

Waking watches in unsafe buildings are not imposed by the fire service, they are put in place by the person responsible for fire safety in each building, such as the building owner or manager, based on the findings and recommendations of a competent fire safety person and should be captured as part of their Fire Risk Assessment.

While the Brigade has a role in enforcing fire safety legislation, it does not make a decision on which interim measures are put in place in a building. However, the Brigade's fire safety inspectors will not leave an unsafe building without any safety measures in place due to the significant risk to residents. The Brigade accepts that in some cases a waking watch is the only viable option until a common alarm is fitted, other than evacuating the whole building.

Further information can be found on the LFB website, here: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2022-news/january/brigade-clarifies-implementation-of-waking-watches-and-other-interim-fire-safety-measures/>

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: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/transparency/request-information-from-us/>