

Freedom of Information request reference number: 6647.1

Date of response: 29/06/2022

Request:

1. *Are Technical Rescue Advisors (TRAs) assigned to fire stations?*
2. *Can you provide one or more callsigns for a TRA?*
3. *Can you provide a brief summary of their job whilst on the scene?*
4. *When does a TRA get mobilised; is it via control or an incident commander?*

Response:

Technical Rescue Advisors (TRAs) are not assigned to fire stations. The callsign is assigned to an officer who is TRA trained so there is no specific callsign for a TRA.

The TRA will be clearly identified by with a surcoat marked "*Technical Rescue Advisor*", a red/white check yoke with orange lower body and will attend incidents to:

- (a) Provide advice and guidance regarding all operational aspects of:
 - Deployment of specialist teams for line operations, water rescue/flood operations and large animal rescue.
 - Ensuring safe systems of work are in operation and maintained.
 - Providing information on asset availability.
 - Providing additional specialist information to assist with the safe resolution of an incident.
- (b) Perform a number of functions which may include:
 - Undertaking the role of functional sector commander at incidents requiring technical rescue advice.
 - Providing support and guidance to incident commanders at incidents requiring technical rescue advice.
 - Providing advice on technical rescue capabilities to principal officers as part of the Gold function.
 - Providing expertise as a member of a national flood support team during out of area flood operations for extended periods of time (up to 7 days).

We do hold information regarding the mobilisation of TRAs, however, we consider the information you are seeking exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), via Section 24 – 'Safeguarding National Security.' Although we believe this exemption applies, the Brigade is required, under the FOIA, to consider the public interest. This requires us to consider whether the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

Whilst we acknowledge there is a public interest in knowing that the LFB has adequate procedures in place to deal with any emergency incident involving public safety, the disclosure of how resources are mobilised would, or would be likely to, provide anyone wanting to carry out acts of terrorism with a

detailed plan of our pre-planned emergency response and in turn damage the Brigade's ability to respond efficiently and effectively, and placing public safety at risk.

It is for this reason we conclude that the public interest in withholding the information, outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

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/>