

Freedom of Information request reference number:7315.1

Date of response: 11th March 2023

Request:

1. The number of low, medium and high-rise residential buildings in your area (or your current/best estimate of them) covered by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
2. The total number of deficiency and/or enforcement notices served to the owners of these buildings relating to means of escape (Articles 14(2)(b) & 15 (1)(b)), since July 2021 to the date of this FOI
3. The number of deficiency and/or enforcement notices served to the owners of these buildings specifically relating to the identification of vulnerable and disabled residents, and planning for their escape (Articles 14(2)(b) & 15 (1)(b)), since July 2021 to the date of this FOI
4. Copies of the notices referred to in (3)
5. The fire authority's current policy covering the evacuation of disabled people from multi-occupancy buildings during a fire?

Response:

Our Fire Safety Regulatory and Data Team have provided the following response:

Please look at Appendix 1 & 2 regarding question 1,2 and 3.

Question 4:

The only way to identify any case where 'unauthorised deduction of wages' was the subject of the discipline 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.

Using an average of 3 minutes for each Enforcement/NODs record (1284 cases), it will take 64.2 hours (3 minutes times 1284 Enforcement/NODs cases, divided by 60 minutes equals 64.2 hours) to review all of the relevant records. I therefore confirm that the cost of providing the information you have requested is in the cost range of £1,605 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' under section 12 of the FOIA. If the cost exceeds the appropriate limit to comply with a request, a public authority is not obliged to comply with it.

I am sorry we have not been able to provide you with the information you have requested. If you are able to further refine your request, please let us know. Bear in mind, of course, that little of the data you are seeking (especially for questions 3 is held in a structured way (e.g. in a single database) so a manual search of relevant records is likely to be required.

Appendix 1

The number of houses converted to flats and purpose built flats we've audited (FS01 and FS14) since 2019:

Floor Count Group	House converted to flat	Purpose Built Flats >=4 floors	Grand Total
Unknown		20	206
1-3 storeys		282	568
4-5 storeys		296	3354
6-9 storeys		109	3377
>=10 storeys		1	1669
Grand Total		708	9174

Appendix 2

	Informal notification	Enforcement notices	Prohibition notices	Prosecutions	Outcome from enforcement
	Number of informal notifications	Number of enforcement notices served under Article 30	Number of prohibition notices served under Article 31	Number of prosecutions for offences under Article 32	Number of premises satisfactory following enforcement action
Purpose Built Flats >=4 floors (unknown)	30	2	2	0	1
Purpose Built Flats >=4 floors (1-3 storeys)	62	4	0	0	3
Purpose Built Flats >=4 floors (4-5 storeys)	287	33	3	1	28
Purpose Built Flats >=4 floors (6-9 storeys)	464	84	0	0	43
Purpose Built Flats >=4 floors (>=10 storeys)	207	32	0	0	18
House converted to flat	63	16	9	0	32

5. The fire authority's current policy covering the evacuation of disabled people from multi-occupancy buildings during a fire - https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/media/5069/9446_means_of_escape_v2_.pdf

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/>