



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

London Fire Brigade Headquarters  
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london-fire.gov.uk

**Freedom of Information request reference number:** 8053.1

**Date of response:** 24 November 2023

**Request:**

*With regards to the below FOI request on 14/2/23, please provide:*

- 1. All and any relevant information held with regards to LFB's formulation of a response. This may include email, call records, text messages and any documentation or attachments shared while drafting a response.*

----- Forwarded message -----

*Date: Tue, 14 Feb 2023 at 16:53  
Subject: FOI LFB Launder's Lane  
To: <informationaccess@london-fire.gov.uk>*

*Dear FOI team,*

*I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and/or the The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 to request the following information.*

- 1. Please provide a list of all surveys or reports of a plot of land in Rainham, London, known as Launder's Lane or Arnold's Fields, held by your authority including who commissioned the report, when it was completed, who carried it out. I am particularly interested in anything which may touch on the health risks of the landfill there or the contents of the contaminated land.*
- 2. Please provide copies of each of these reports.*

**Response:**

The request you refer to above was received on 14 February 2023. It was logged as an Environmental Information Request (EIR) by the Information Access Team (IAT) and given a LFB reference number of EIR 7245.1. To respond to this request, I emailed the requestor on 02 March 2023, directing them to access my published response to EIR 7245.1 using the following link: [https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/media/7409/72451\\_response.pdf](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/media/7409/72451_response.pdf)

On 27 February 2023 (nine working days after EIR 7245.1 was received) the LFB IAT responded to a different request for information received about Launder's Lane. This was an internal review logged as FOIA 7021.2 on the LFB IAT Case Management System. The information provided under this internal review covered the information requested in EIR 7245.1. Therefore, I used the email sent out by the IAT on 27 February 2023 (in response to this internal review 7021.2) to formulate my response to EIR 7245.1.

I have attached a copy of the internal review email issued by the IAT on 27 February 2023 in relation to FOIA 7021.2 which was used to formulate my response to 7245.1. Please note that personal data has been removed from the attached document under [section 40 of the FOIA – Personal Information](#).

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](#).

**From:** [LFB Information Access](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [LFB Information Access](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FOIA 7021.1 Arnolds Field.  
**Date:** 27 February 2023 10:10:01  
**Attachments:** [FOIA XXXX Arnolds Field Launders Lane ORD Information Redacted.pdf](#)

**Please note:** a copy of this attachment is included in this document below the email chains.

Dear [REDACTED],

[REDACTED] has passed me your email dated 29 January 2023, as you have asked for a review of our response to your Freedom of Information request (FOIA7021.1). I am acting on behalf of the Brigade's Head of Information Management (and Data Protection Officer) who is on leave. As their deputy, I am responsible for the management of requests under data protection and freedom of information law. It is my role to undertake reviews of the handling of requests when the requestor is not satisfied with the Brigade's initial response. In your email dated 29 January 2023, you say:

"Thank you for your reply. However, we find it very hard to believe that there has never been any risk assessments, air, soil, water or pollutants/particle testing carried out by LFB, Environment Agency or Havering Council seeing as this landfill site was used as an illegal dumping ground, so you have no idea what's burning. ITV news reported last week that the air pollution from this site is dangerous levels, and your staff were called out over 100 times last year alone so surely you have a duty of care towards your staff and the residents. Can you please check carefully and update on any information you hold on this site. As you know this site is continuously on fire emitting unbearable toxic smoke and fumes."

I have now had the opportunity to review your request. In [REDACTED] response to you she said that the London Fire Brigade did not hold any risk assessments or similar documents related to Arnolds Fields. This is correct in that the LFB do not have a statutory or regulatory role in the management of the site, and so we do not hold any "risk assessments that have been done over the years, and any environmental testing or testing regarding the air, soil and water quality".

However, that is not to say that the LFB do not hold any information about the site. We do hold information on our Operational Risk Database and I am disclosing a redacted copy of that information. The information in the report is a summary of information gathered following site visits. The primary purpose of the Operational Risk Database is to record information for firefighter safety and operational tactics, so it includes information about:

- (a) Significant hazards which can cause serious harm.
- (b) Hazards that may not necessarily be expected to be present in the premises e.g. unexpected biological hazards or excessive fire loading.
- (c) Unique control measures in place or required.
- (d) Tactical plans or command and control procedures.

The report contains the LFB's operational risk assessment of the area of Arnolds Field, Launders Lane and contains information from 2019 to June 2022. Please note that I have removed personal data from the document.

Our fire safety teams have also confirmed that the LFB Borough Commander for Havering is in contact with Havering local authority and there are planned meetings with the Council and LFB to discuss how they can provide some interim measures to reduce some of the fire risks at the site.

In undertaking my review, I note that we processed your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Given that the request is about environmental information, it would have been appropriate to use the provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. The provisions of both acts are broadly similar, and there would have been no material difference in the way your request was handled and has been review, other than to say the personal data I have redacted from the report relies on the Regulation 13 exception for personal data.

I hope this information better meets your needs and apologise that the information was not considered at the time of your initial request. This concludes my review of the Brigade's handling of your request.

Further information about your information rights (including how to raise a concern or make a complaint) is

available from the Information Commissioner's Office on their website at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk), or by writing to them at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Information Management | Corporate Services

London Fire Brigade  
169 Union Street London SE1 0LL  
T 020 8555 1200  
E [REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk  
london-fire.gov.uk

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 29 January 2023 15:35  
To: LFB Information Access <InformationAccess@london-fire.gov.uk>  
Subject: Re: FOIA 7021.1 Arnolds Field.

<font color="red"> [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Do not click links or open attachments unless you are expecting them, even if you know the sender

</font>|

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your reply. However, we find it very hard to believe that there has never been any risk assessments, air, soil, water or pollutants/particle testing carried out by LFB, Environment Agency or Havering Council seeing as this landfill site was used as an illegal dumping ground so you have no idea what's burning. ITV news reported last week that the air pollution from this site is dangerous levels and your staff were called out over 100 times last year alone so surely you have a duty of care towards your staff and the residents.

Can you please check carefully and update on any information you hold on this site.

As you know this site is continuously on fire emitting unbearable toxic smoke and fumes.

We'd appreciate a prompt reply.

Kindest regards

[REDACTED]

Current User:	<input type="text"/>	Approved By:	<input type="text"/>
Completed By:	<input type="text"/>	Watch:	Blue
Name & Address:	LAUNDERS LANE [OPEN LAND] LANDFILL SITE , STREET RECORD, LAUNDERS LANE, RM13 9ST		
Date:	<input type="text"/>		

**Comments**

New Comment:

**Current Visit Comments**

User	Date
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**Previous Visit Comments**

User	Date
PERSONNEL ARE NOT TO ENTER SITE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, FIGHT FROM BANK OR 32M LADDER WATER TOWER ammended/ changed to - Crews can enter the site via Launders Lane on the flat/ hard standing fire-fighting from there. Crews should not step on the piles. 4 hosereel lengths or 4 hose lengths should take to the first pile. DO NOT COMMIT CREWS TO THE PILES.  CODE 5 consideration ammended.	28/06/2022 10:54:31

**Earlier Visit Comments**

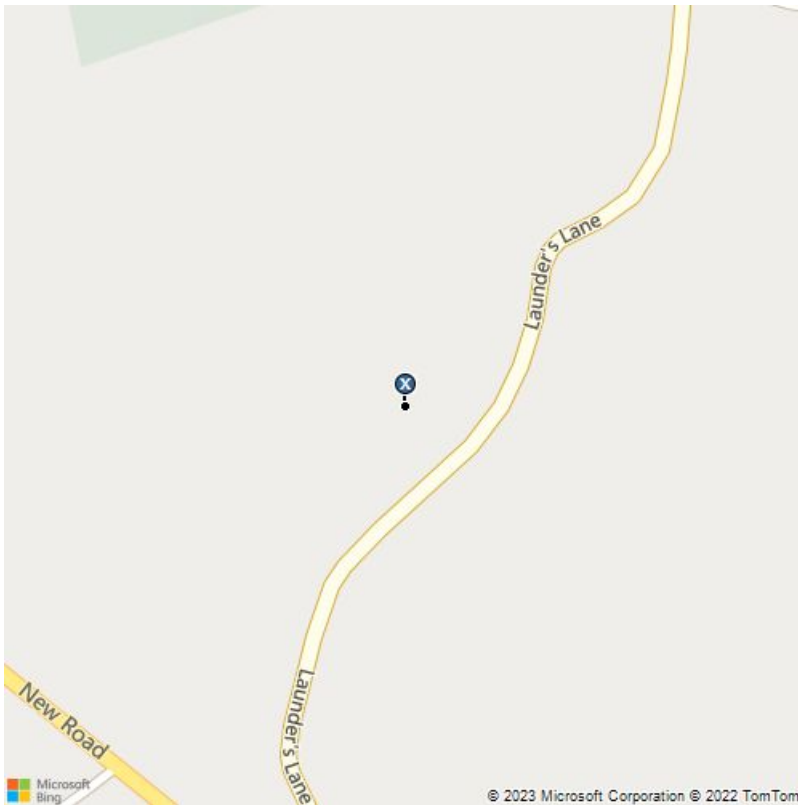
User	Date
***** data quality checks completed *****	22/06/2022 16:52:12
Plans updated to reflect crew safety as per wishes of borough commander	18/06/2022 10:01:41
***** data quality checks completed *****	31/05/2022 12:22:14
***** data quality checks completed *****	21/02/2022 12:28:49
Consider use of Aerial Appliance as site is uneven and hazardous underfoot. Attendance and action plan at night should be risk to benefit assessed by OIC.	11/01/2022 09:41:00
***** data quality checks completed *****	19/01/2021 11:46:55
On sites comms added	16/12/2020 15:58:07
***** data quality checks completed *****	22/10/2020 10:57:53
***** data quality checks completed *****	08/09/2020 15:44:43
ORD updated in hazards section with concerns about area, crew safety and voids in ground	14/08/2020 21:48:39
***** data quality checks completed *****	23/06/2020 15:01:38
***** data quality checks completed *****	16/12/2019 14:37:58

***** data quality checks completed *****		18/10/2019 09:59:40
This is a new entry for any calls to launders lane open land fill site 1960's landfill site recently has been used for fly tipping previous 10 and 6 pump fires to this site		09/10/2019 18:43:01

## Address

## Station

Area	North East
Borough	Havering
Station	F40 Wennington



Easting	5543069
Northing	1821164

## Hazards

Inspection Notes:	This area is a historic landfill site and most recently been used by fly tippers over years .Difficult access due to being on high ground. Entire area has unseen risks from potential sink holes , protruding sharps uneven ground and sudden drops
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## Hazards Summary

Location Code	open land
CYL - CYLINDERS	Desc High chance of buried cylinders

Code	ASB - ASBESTOS	Desc	Potential for Asbestos material buried within waste piles
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## Tactical Plan

### Operational Contingency Plan

Plan Name	launders lane
Plan No	
Version	
Date Effective From	17/10/2019
Date Documented	17/10/2019

### Site Details

Site Profile	Open area covering both low and high ground used by fly tippers, previously a landfill site. Currently owned by Active Plant. Access points on new road and Launders Lane.
Site Dimensions	Approx. 700m x 400m whole site measures 16 Hectares with elevations of approximately 7-10 M and steep inclines.
Life Risks	None
Water Supply	Water plan for site is IC request HVP to run pressure feed supply without pump from hydrant 5115 in lambs lane north to feed entrance. - base pump to feed from lambs lane to fire ground pump at launders. If Aerial is required 32m.

Number of People at Risk			
Occasion	PeopleType	No. ppl Day	No. ppl Night

Operational Hazards
Concrete security barriers stopping / preventing easy access from the road for appliances, steep bank access on new road
Traffic due to only single carriage lane and heavy site traffic due to local tips in the area. Passing traffic at high speed including HGV vehicles.
Various unknown household , domestic and commercial waste.
Various objects protruding from the ground including metal rebar and other potentially harming material

Communications
Comms good with hand held radios.

Fixed Installations		
Group	Type	Description

Premises Information Box (PIB)	
Is there a PIB at this address?	False

**Access**

**Route Access**

Launders lane via new road, opposite E hall lane. Or new road opposite Wennington Quarry.

**Site Access**

Launders lane opposite Fishery gates approx. 200m from new road entrance. Approximately 60m from access point to first elevation. Or new road.

**En Route Considerations**

- Water supplies - (Borough Water Plan in place).
- Crew safety at road side and no crews on actual site beyond berms.
- Early communication via control with Waste Fire Tactical Advisor.
- Possibility of hidden cylinders, voids and protruding objects.

**On Site Action**

**Site Staff**

**OIC**

- Early consideration of Drone to give full picture of incident.
- Consideration of the 32M ALP to be used.
- Crews can enter the site via Launders Lane on the flat/ hard standing fire-fighting from there. Crews should not step on the piles. 4 hosereel CONT.
- CONT. 4 hosereel lengths or 4 hose lengths should take to the first pile. **DO NOT COMMIT CREWS TO THE PILES.**
- Code 5 controlled burn can be considered but take into account prolonged on-going crew attendance/ call backs.

**RVP & Meeting Points**

Name	Type	Description
ingerbourne Golf course	RVP	private golf course access Via new rd/Launders lane
Access slip from new rd - Launders lane	RVP	Access slip from new rd - Launders lane

**Emergency Contacts**

Title	Surname	Forename	Position	Type	Telephone
█	█	█	█	Office	█

**OPS Planning Consideration**

- Early identification of scale of the fire - If not burning out of control send code 5, otherwise make pumps 4 for H&S
- Consider road closure or other traffic management for crews safety - Police /LA
- Consider controlled burn on advice of tactical waste advisor
- Early consideration of Drone for full picture of the incident



Policies
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206 - Environment Agency procedures
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376 - Cylinders
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Other Service Agencies
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Environmental Agency if protected incident and danger of Contaminated water run off
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Police for traffic management and road closures
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Local Authority
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## Plans and Images

Name  
Description

site Ariel view
Area highlighted is the perimeter , white arrow to bottom R/H side is the access area



Name  
Description

Entrance access
Access on approach from New road direction , Concrete barriers and high grass dirt mounds , no safe location to be remote from passing traffic



Name  
Description

water plan
water plan for site

