

Freedom of Information request reference number: 8014.1

Date of response: 14 November 2023

Request:

Why do you send 4 appliances as a PDA on nearly all fire calls, there appears to be no difference between a,b,c or other risks as there used to be. What is the PDA for fires in A B and C risks? In the incident section on your website it appears that it is four appliances on fire calls.

Response:

Please see my response to each of your queries in turn below:

Why do you send 4 appliances as a PDA on nearly all fire calls, there appears to be no difference between a,b,c or other risks as there used to be.

The LFB would not necessarily send four appliances as the Pre-Determined Attendance (PDA) to a fire incident. Pre-determined attendances (PDA) are the determined minimum level of response that the Brigade mobilises to certain incident types. The PDA gives us a starting point when it comes to allocating resources, but we can still adapt our response depending on the requirements of a particular incident. The PDA only sets out the minimum level of response, so more resources will be mobilised in some circumstances (for example if lots of calls are being received, or if there are reports of people involved). We publish information on how we mobilise when an incident occurs on our website here: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/services-and-facilities/techniques-and-procedures/pre-determined-attendance/>

What is the PDA for fires in A B and C risks?

We do hold the PDA for all incident types attended by the LFB. However, we consider the information you are seeking exempt from disclosure under the [FOIA via Section 24 – National Security](#). Although we believe this exemption applies, the Brigade is required, under the Freedom of Information Act (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 London Fire Brigade has adequate procedures in place to deal with any emergency incident involving public safety, the disclosure of these details 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.

In the incident section on your website it appears that it is four appliances on fire calls

The Brigade attends hundreds of incidents across London every day and it is not possible for every incident to be written as a statement and uploaded to our website. Typically, the incidents that are posted on our [website](#) are either incidents where four fire engines or more were in attendance, incidents which have generated significant media interest, or incidents that contain a public safety message.

The full list of incidents attended by the LFB is published via the London DataStore and can be accessed via this link: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-fire-brigade-incident-records>. If you download the '*LFB Incident data - last three years*' spreadsheet you look up the number of pumps in attendance at each incident using the '*NumPumpsAttending*' column.

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](#)