

Freedom of Information request reference number: 8875.1

Date of response: 01 August 2024

Request:

I am writing to request any report(s) of investigation(s) into the cause(s) of the fire at Croydon University Hospital in March 2023 and the response(s) to the fire held by the Service.

I am also writing to request any report(s) of lessons learned as a consequence of the above and how these lessons have been implemented.

Response:

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

I am writing to request any report(s) of investigation(s) into the cause(s) of the fire at Croydon University Hospital in March 2023 and the response(s) to the fire held by the Service.

I have attached the confirmation of attendance report for the fire that took place at Croydon University Hospital on 05 March 2023 to this response.

Some further information about this fire can be found on the LFB website here: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2023/march/hospital-fire-croydon/>

In addition, the LFB publish details of every incident responded to since January 2009 through the London Datastore. These can be accessed via the following link: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-fire-brigade-incident-records>.

The LFB incident number for the fire that took place at Croydon University Hospital on 05 March 2023 is 032041-05032023.

If you download the '[LFB Incident Data from 2018](#)' spreadsheet, you can use this incident number to find the entry recorded for the fire.

Fire investigation reports are not available under the freedom of information act (FOIA) as they are considered a chargeable service and, as such, will incur a fee. As a result they are exempt via [Section 21 of the FOIA - Information accessible to applicant by other means](#).

Individuals and organisations affected by an incident that was attended by London Fire Brigade since 2007 can request a 'fire report' which, for fires that involve buildings, vehicles, or those that cause injuries, provides more details about the incident and the cause of the fire where known.

If you do want to go ahead and request a copy of a fire report, I must advise that you may not be eligible to receive a copy. However, if any eligible party (such as the owner/a tenant/local borough council/insurance firm or loss adjustor) requests the report documents, and is willing to share it with you, then we would be able to provide consent for them to do this.

Please also note that we would also require written permission from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to release any information to eligible parties about deliberate fires.

Further information about how to obtain a LFB incident report is published on our website and can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/services-and-facilities/services-we-offer/incident-reports/>

I am also writing to request any report(s) of lessons learned as a consequence of the above and how these lessons have been implemented.

The Responsible Person for fire safety at Croydon University Hospital would be in charge of making decisions about any fire safety improvements (lessons learned) and implemented following a fire.

As the enforcing authority under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order, 2005, (RRO) the Brigade has a role in enforcing fire safety legislation and a LFB Senior Fire Safety Officer (SFSO) attended Croydon University Hospital on 05 March 2023 following the fire.

I have attached a copy of the SFSO report held for incident number 032041-05032023 to this response. Please note I have made the following redactions:

Personal data has also been removed from the SFSO report under [section 40 of the FOIA – Personal Information](#).

Fire safety deficiency information has been redacted under [section 31 of the FOIA \("law enforcement" – Section 31\(1\)\(g\) combined with 31\(2\) \(a\) and 31\(2\) \(c\)\)](#). We clearly understand that there is public interest and concern about knowing about the fire safety of the buildings in which people live, work or visit however we need to maintain a balance between the public interest in safety and the LFB's ability to work with responsible persons in a safe space where honest, frank and meaningful discussions can take place. It is important that enforcing authorities are assisted in their investigations. If witnesses, and those responsible for compliance with regulations, are able to cooperate with the investigation on a voluntary basis then investigators are able to take full contemporaneous notes (that are recorded on the SFSO report) and enter in discussions with those involved to enable them to explore all aspects of the case and then arrive at a decision as to the appropriate action to take.

Information about the LFB's pre-determined attendance (PDA) to hospital incidents is redacted under [section 24 of the FOIA - National security](#). 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.

Photos have been redacted from this document as they are exempt from release under [section 21 of the FOIA - Information accessible to applicant by other means](#). Photos and videos can be requested through photosandvideos@london-fire.gov.uk. However, please do bear in mind that they are subject as the same eligibility criteria as incident reports, including Police consent to disclose (as explained in my response to your first question).

I have also removed page 7 to 9 of the SFSO report as these just provide instructions to the SFSO on how to complete the report.

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](#).



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Confirmation of attendance of London Fire Brigade to a fire incident

Date of report: 01 August 2024

Reference: 032041-05032023/40220

The data presented below have been derived from a computer database. The principal purpose of the database is statistical analysis and to facilitate this analysis, information has been classified into broad categories.

Incident number:	032041-05032023
Fire station ground where fire occurred:	Norbury
Time and date of call to the Brigade:	14:58 hrs 05 March 2023
Origin of call:	Person (land line)
Recorded time and date of arrival of Brigade:	15:02 hrs 05 March 2023
Recorded time and date incident under control:	17:07 hrs 05 March 2023
Time and date incident closed:	21:28 hrs 05 March 2023

(The address below may not be shown in full as it could result in the disclosure of personal data under the Data Protection Act)

Address qualifier:	Correct incident location
Building name/Number:	LONDON WING
Flat/Unit name/Number:	ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY
Street:	LONDON ROAD
Locality:	
Town:	THORNTON HEATH
County:	
Post Code:	CR7 7YE
Further description of location (where required):	
Type of property where fire started:	Hospital
Supposed motive for the fire:	Deliberate - others property

(Note that the motive for a fire can rarely be determined with certainty and is not the subject of extensive enquiry by the Brigade at fires of this type. The most likely cause that can be ascertained while at the scene of the fire is recorded for Brigade and government statistical purposes only)

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LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Senior Fire Safety Officers Report

Protective Marking Status: NO PROTECTIVE MARKING

For fatal fire reports and to protect personal or commercial data, 'Official' is likely to be required. [See policy](#) for guidance.

Part A – Data recording

SFSO details:	
Name:	Withheld under FOI act 2000 –
Call sign:	s40 Personal
Tel.no:	information.

Event details:			
Incident No:	32041	Date:	05/03/2023
Borough:	Croydon	Str. Ground	Norbury
Farynor Number (If known): 20/017285			
Address of Premises: MAYDAY HOUSE, CROYDON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, 530 LONDON ROAD, THORNTON HEATH, CR7 7YE			

Reason for notification (tick box):	
Incident	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Request by Ops crews (not at incident)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Request by FSR staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alleged Fire Risk (AFR)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were you the sole responder of the AFR	<input type="checkbox"/>
Action taken:	
Attended	Yes
Monitored only (including any remote action, e.g.: letters, phone calls)	Yes
FIT Attended (If YES, liaise and jointly agree and complete Fire Investigation Scene Contemporaneous Notes (Page 5) & Incident of Interest Notification (Fire Safety Implications section))	Yes
IMP Entry (Firefighter Safety Issue) Failing lift or DRM	No
FSIGN 423_01 sent to station (AFR)	No

AFR additional detail:			
If AFR, was response within 3 Hrs	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Time AFR received	Enter hh:mm		
Time AFR responded to	Enter hh:mm		
Time spent resolving AFR	Enter hh:mm		
Reason for attendance:			
4 PF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rescues	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 PF	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unusual Fire	<input type="checkbox"/>
Care Setting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Spread	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mass Evac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residential Flats	<input type="checkbox"/>	Escape Hoods	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fatality	<input type="checkbox"/>	SFSO Support	<input type="checkbox"/>
Injuries	<input type="checkbox"/>	Self Mobilised	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No FIU Available secure scene	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secure Information Box	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sprinklers (AFSS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire Safety Checks	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional details: (Including stop message from Boss)
STOP A AND E UNIT OF 2 FLRS 90 X 90 METRES A MENTAL HEALTH UNIT ROOM ON THE GROUND FLR 3 X 3 METRES 100 PERCENT D X F ADJACENT RECEPTION AREA REMAINS SMOKE LOGGED 100 PEOPLE EVACUATED BEFORE ARRIVAL OF BRIGADE NOW REDISTRIBUTED TO CLEAN AREA OF THE HOSPITAL [REDACTED]
Withheld under FOI act 2000 – s40 Personal information.
[REDACTED] CREWS CURRENTLY AWAITING ADVICE FROM THE DUTY NILO REGARDING THE USE OF PPV 1 45MM JET 4 BA STAGE1 BA 1 BA REPEATER MDT USED FOR ORD APAF TMO
Deliberate fire Withheld under FOI act 2000 – s40 Personal information.

PPV not used ultimately due to time in getting to scene.

Fire was within 3m x 3m mental health room, however spread through majority of 90m x 90m A&E department
 Withheld under FOI act 2000 - s31 Law enforcement, cerws with hose lines.

Actions on scene by SFSO:

(Review ORD & Fire Action Plan for building, Activation of AOV's etc. What action did you take and review?)

Incident resolved by time arrived, however liaised with site staff to improve ventilation in unit including HVAC system.

Liaised with duty NILO to arrange PPV.

Spoke to site Fire Safety manager.

Advice given to IC:

(What areas did you give advice on? Was advice taken by OIC? Has firefighting action impacted on FS solutions)

Advice with regards to PPV to support ventilation and attendance of FIT.

Time spent:

Time SFSO notified (hh:mm)	15:13
Monitoring time (mins)	10 min
On site (mins)	140 min
Travelling (mins)	95 min
Office time (mins)	60 min

Incident Management System

SFSO Report uploaded to document library	Yes
Fire Safety - Organisational Observation	No

Part B – Premises Contact

Contact details:

Head of estates – Withheld under FOI act 2000 – s40 Personal information.

Fire safety manager – Withheld under FOI act 2000 – s40 Personal information.

Part C – Premises Description

Premises Description:

Type of premises	Hospital	Floor of Fire Origin	Grd	
Use of Premises	A&E	Building in use at time of fire (Y/N/Unknown)	Yes	
Building Dimensions	90 m x 90m	Number of floors (note above/below ground (i.e. Above G + 4 = 5)	Above	Below
			2	0
Number of Escape Routes	Multiple	Number of Staircases (note if above/below ground)	Above	Below
				0
Fire Safety Systems (AFD/EL/MCP/AOV/firefighting lifts)	AFD / VESDA / EL	Number of Basements	0	
Cladded Façade (Y/N)	No	Waking Watch (Y/N)	No	
Evacuation Strategy	Progressive Horizontal Evacuation	Private or Local Authority Owned	NHS	
Complied with strategy	Yes			

Fire Loading on Balcony (Y/N)	N/A	Engineered Solutions (Y/N) Sprinklers etc.	No
Fire spread beyond room of origin (Y/N)	No	Common parts affected (Y/N)	Yes
Is this premises listed?	Yes	If listed, select GRADE	Choose an item.
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the fire strategy support the building? If evacuation strategy not complied with, please explain why e.g. <i>Simultaneous evacuation, some people failed to evacuate.</i> Click or tap here to enter text.			

Part D

Fire Safety Deficiencies:		
Highlighted area	Deficiencies	Description of fire safety deficiencies
Fire Doors Self-closing, well fitting, strips & seals	Yes	Withheld under FOI act 2000 - s31 Law enforcement.
Compartmentation Walls and ceilings adequate	No	
Detection and Warning	No	
Fire Suppression	No	
AOV (Smoke Control)	Yes/No	
Emergency Escape Lighting	No	
Evacuation Escape Routes Number, exit doors, lead to place of safety	No	
Escape routes Clear, no combustibles and ignition sources	Yes	Fire was within 3m x 3m mental health room, however spread through majority of 90m x 90m A&E department [REDACTED] Withheld under FOI act 2000 - s31 Law enforcement. [REDACTED] cerws with hose lines.
DRM/WRM	Yes/No	
Fire Fighting equipment	Yes/No	
Fire Risk Assessment	Yes/No	
Fire Exit signage	Yes/No	
Article 31/Prohibition	Yes/No	
General/Management Issues	Yes	Withheld under FOI act 2000 - s31 Law enforcement.
Maintenance, training and test records	Yes/No	

Balconies	Yes/No	
Fire Lifts	Yes/No	
Construction (Roofs/Cladding)	Yes/No	
Care & assisted living (PEEPS/Telecare)	Yes/No	
Secure Information Box (plans/peeps/keys)	Yes/No	
Other	Yes/No	
Injury	█	Withheld under FOI act 2000 – s40 Personal information.
Fatality	Choose an item.	
Total (Injury &/Or Fatality)	█	

Part E

Evidence gathered:	
Sfso notes and photo below only. Not uploaded.	
Photoset Number:	

Part F

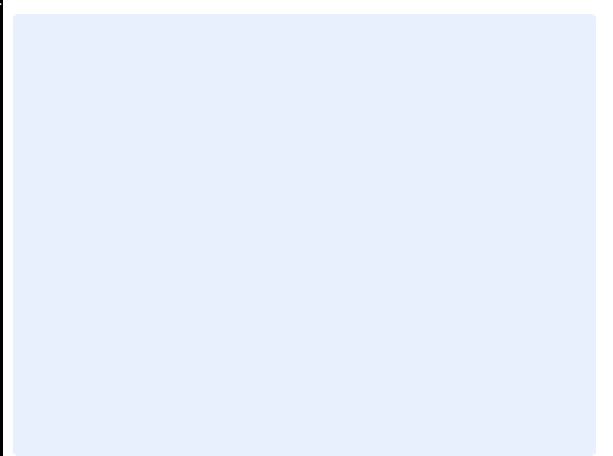
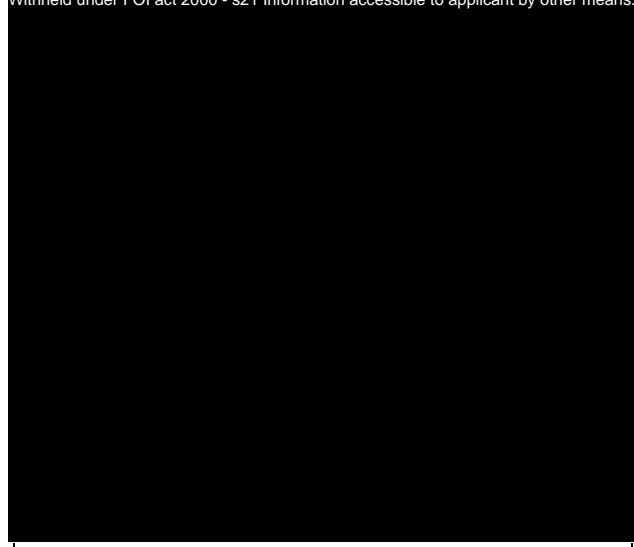
Follow-up actions:	
Intervention Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Prevention (HFSV/CFS/Visual Audit) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protection (FS Regulation)
Audit by local fire safety Team <i>(Rationale for audit and timescale)</i>	Local team / Hospital officer to carry out post fire audit due to smoke spread and subsequent lost hours due to cleaning..
Recommended Timescale for action by local team <i>(On receipt of report)</i>	5 Days
Joint partnership liaison e.g. LA/HSE	Click or tap here to enter text.
Station notification/ORD consideration	ORD to be updated by local station with regards to requirement for repeaters and Withheld under FOI act 2000 - s24 National security.
HFSV by local station	Click or tap here to enter text.
Safeguarding	Click or tap here to enter text.

PDA Section	Withheld under FOI act 2000 - s24 National security.
Fire Safety Policy & Strategy Manager (Care Settings)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Other	Click or tap here to enter text.
Article 31 Issued <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Prohibition <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Restriction <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO If Prohibition Notice served, mark Articles contravened.	<input type="checkbox"/> Article 8 - Duty to take general fire precautions. <input type="checkbox"/> Article 12 - Elimination or reduction of risks from dangerous substances. <input type="checkbox"/> Article 13 - Fire detection and warning. <input type="checkbox"/> Article 14 - Emergency routes and exits. <input type="checkbox"/> Article 15 - Procedures for serious and imminent danger and danger areas.
Prohibition/Restriction(s) imposed Describe the restrictions imposed on the building.	Click or tap here to enter text.
If answered <u>NO</u> to Article 31, provide details why criteria not met.	Whilst there was smoke spread unit was evacuated promptly and therefore no serious or imminent risk.

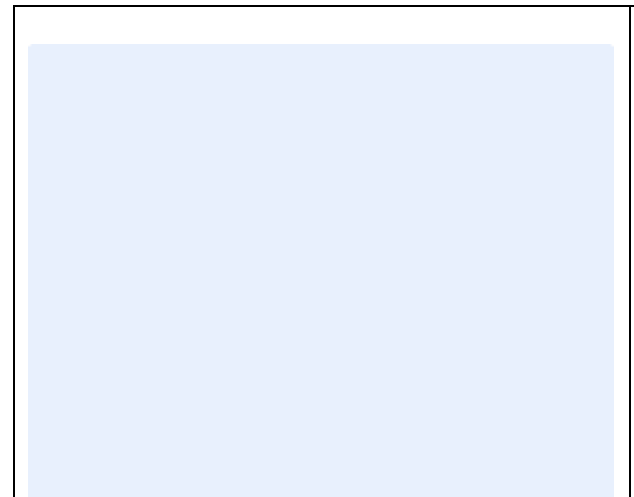
Part G

SFSO Photographs from scene:

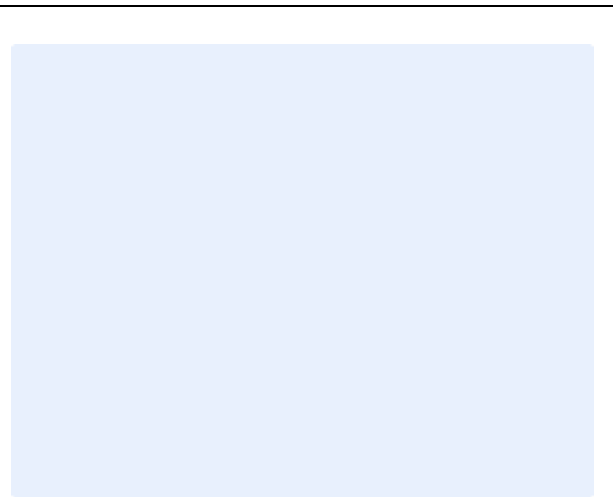
Withheld under FOI act 2000 - s21 Information accessible to applicant by other means.



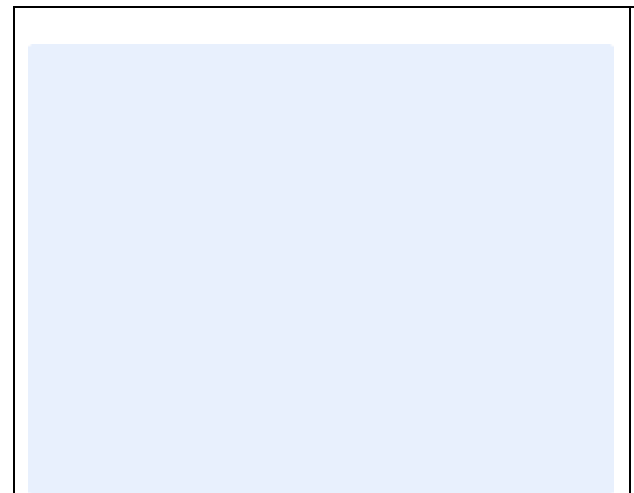
2. Click or tap here to enter brief description.



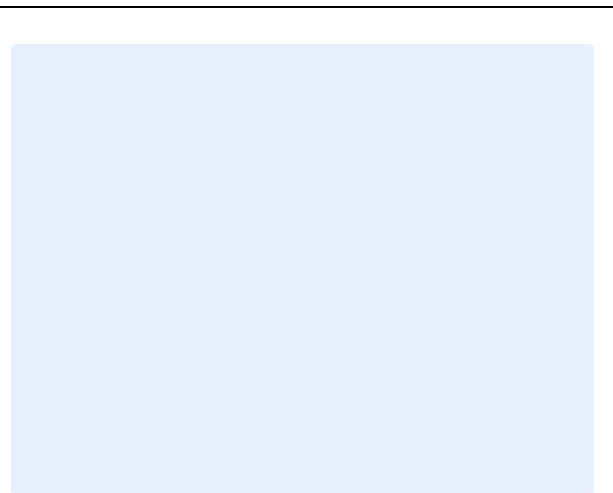
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5. Click or tap here to enter brief description.



6. Click or tap here to enter brief description.