

Freedom of Information request reference number: 7692.1

Date of response: 15/08/2023

Request:

I am looking to find out more information about the new fire boats the brigade has recently purchased. Specifically their ability to respond to fires at properties lining the inlet known as St Saviours Dock also known as River Neckinger. The dock is situated on the south side of the Thames approx 420m east of Tower Bridge. Are these new craft able to access St Saviours Dock when the tide allows? When accessing the dock do the craft require the swing footbridge at the dock entrance to be opened or can they pass under? Should the bridge need to be opened how does LFB arrange for this and what is the estimated time it takes to have the bridge opened?

Response:

Further to your request, please see below for a response to your questions. These are for the Fire Boats, Errington and Tanner.

Are these new craft able to access St Saviours Dock when the tide allows?

No. They are too big to safely enter this area. It may be possible for an FRU ERB (small boat) to access this area. The Fire boat would potentially be able to support an incident from the main river. The fire boat must have a minimum of 4 metres to be able to pass under the bridge.

When accessing the dock do the craft require the swing footbridge at the dock entrance to be opened or can they pass under?

The fire boats draw 600mm, so will require at least 1000 to 1200mm of water to make safe passage Firefighting.

The vessels have roof mounted monitors and can fight fires adjacent to the water. When fighting fires the minimum depth of water must be greater than 2 metres, otherwise the pump will draw sediment in from the bottom and potentially clog the pump filter or the monitor nozzle.

Should the bridge need to be opened how does LFB arrange for this and what is the estimated time it takes to have the bridge opened?

In answer to the previous question and the question above, due to their size they would not attempt to access this entrance regardless of the footbridge position.

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/>