

**Freedom of Information request reference number:** 8329.1

**Date of response:** 30/04/2024

**Request:**

I am making the following request under the Freedom of Information Act.

1. How many Airwave/ESN radios and terminals are operated by your organisation?
2. What make(s)/models of Airwave/ESN radio terminals are used by your organisation? Please provide a breakdown of these by quantity, type and model if possible.
3. In the last 12 months, how many Airwave/ESN radio terminals have been lost/stolen or cannot be located?
4. Are Airwave/ESN radio terminal users allocated on a personal basis, and if so, what is your policy on use off duty and taking home of radio terminals and their use by staff working from home?
5. Please provide a list of Airwave/ESN radio terminal talk groups your organisation uses and any interoperability talk groups shared by other users.
6. Please provide a copy of any policy or training information provided by your organisation to support your users of Airwave/ESN radio terminals and talkgroups.
7. What organisations/groups within your organisation have been allocated or granted access to Airwave/ESN radio terminals?
8. Do you loan or otherwise provide Airwave/ESN radio terminals to any third parties, and if so, please could you provide detailed information on the arrangements and policy in this respect used by your organisation?
9. What is the annual operating cost to your organisation for access and use of Airwave/ESN radio communications networks?

**Response:**

Further to your request, please find a response below to each of your questions.

1. *How many Airwave/ESN radios and terminals are operated by your organisation?*

663

2. *What make(s)/models of Airwave/ESN radio terminals are used by your organisation? Please provide a breakdown of these by quantity, type and model if possible.*

663 Motorola MTH800 and 143 Motorola MXP600

3. *In the last 12 months, how many Airwave/ESN radio terminals have been lost/stolen or cannot be located?*

4 (2 lost and 2 stolen)

4. *Are Airwave/ESN radio terminal users allocated on a personal basis, and if so, what is your policy on use off duty and taking home of radio terminals and their use by staff working from home?*

Airwave radios are allocated to officers on a personal issue basis. The radios are taken home by officers. If staff are working from home and/or need to monitor an incident, then they will use their Airwave radio. If an officer is off duty, then their Airwave radio will be switched off.

5. *Please provide a list of Airwave/ESN radio terminal talk groups your organisation uses and any interoperability talk groups shared by other users.*

6. *Please provide a copy of any policy or training information provided by your organisation to support your users of Airwave/ESN radio terminals and talkgroups.*

For questions 5 and 6, LFB hold this information but the information is exempt from release under FOIA [Section 24 of the FOIA – 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.

7. *What organisations/groups within your organisation have been allocated or granted access to Airwave/ESN radio terminals?*

Station Commanders and above

*8. Do you loan or otherwise provide Airwave/ESN radio terminals to any third parties, and if so, please could you provide detailed information on the arrangements and policy in this respect used by your organisation?*

No, the LFB does not loan Airwave/ESN radio terminals to any third parties.

*9. What is the annual operating cost to your organisation for access and use of Airwave/ESN radio communications networks?*

The current annual charge for access to the Airwave is network is £2,075,732.76.

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/>