

**Freedom of Information request reference number:** 9111.1

**Date of response:** 24 October 2024

**Request:**

*Galpins Road, Pollards Hill, Merton, CR7*

- 1. The dates on which a smell of gas on Galpins Road or in the surrounding areas of Galpins Road were reported to the London Fire Brigade and any gas companies, including SGN and Cadent Gas, between 8 April and 9 August 2022.*
- 2. The London Fire Brigade Incident Number for the Explosion.*
- 3. The identity of all officers at London Fire Brigade who investigated the Explosion.*
- 4. Incident logs prepared by London Fire Brigade relating to the Explosion.*
- 5. Site photographs taken by London Fire Brigade.*
- 6. Detail of any exhibits retained from Galpin Road and the surrounding area following the Explosion.*
- 7. The source of the gas that escaped and caused the Explosion.*
- 8. Any internal correspondence (text message, email, letter, memos, and/or WhatsApp messages) regarding the Explosion and the investigations that have been carried out since.*

**Response:**

Please see our response to two of your requests for information below:

- 1. The dates on which a smell of gas on Galpins Road or in the surrounding areas of Galpins Road were reported to the London Fire Brigade and any gas companies, including SGN and Cadent Gas, between 8 April and 9 August 2022.*

The table below shows the types of incidents attended by the LFB in the London Borough of Croydon, between 08 April and 09 August 2022 (broken down by month) where the final description of the incident contains the word "gas". The incidents highlighted in purple occurred within one kilometre of incident number 127880-08082022:

Month	Incident Category	Incident Type	Final Description	Number of incidents attended
April	False Alarm	False Alarm - Smell of burning - Fire elsewhere (not at location)	SMELL OF SMOKE FROM GAS METER CUPBOARD	1
April	Special Service	Class 2: Gases - No containment required	POSSIBLE GAS LEAK	1
April	Special Service	Effecting entry/exit - To person in distress	PERSON LOCKED OUT - GAS LEFT ON	1
April	Special Service	Making Safe (not RTC) - Other action	FAULTY GAS OVEN	1
May	False Alarm	False Alarm - Good Intent false alarm - Special Service - Brigade action not required	SMELL OF GAS	1
May	Special Service	Advice Only - Other advice	SMELL OF GAS	1
May	Special Service	Class 2: Gases - No containment required	GAS HOB LEFT ON	1
May	Special Service	Class 2: Gases - No containment required	GAS LEAK IN KITCHEN	1
May	Special Service	Class 2: Gases - No containment required	SMELL OF GAS - LAS IN ATTENDANCE	1
May	Special Service	No action (not false alarm) - Service not required	SMELL OF GAS	1
May	Special Service	Water Leak Within Building - Make Safe/Isolate Supply	SMELL OF GAS	1
June	False Alarm	False Alarm - Fire - Call to fire - No incident at reported location	SMELL OF GAS	1
June	False Alarm	False Alarm - Good Intent false alarm - Call to special service - No incident at reported location	SMELL OF GAS	2
June	False Alarm	False Alarm - Malicious False Alarm - Malicious call to a special service	SMELL OF GAS	1
June	Special Service	Class 2: Gases - No containment required	POSSIBLE GAS LEAK	1
June	Special Service	Evacuation (no fire) - Gas Leak	POSSIBLE SMELL OF GAS	1
June	Special Service	No action (not false alarm) - Service not required	SMELL OF GAS	1
July	False Alarm	False Alarm - Good Intent false alarm - Special Service - Brigade action not required	GAS CANNISTERS FOUND AT SCENE OF PREVIOUS FIRE	1
July	Special Service	Advice Only - Other advice	SMELL OF GAS	1
July	Special Service	Class 2: Gases - No containment required	CALOR GAS CYLINDER LEAKING	1
July	Special Service	Evacuation (no fire) - Gas Leak	POTENTIAL GAS LEAK	1
July	Special Service	No action (not false alarm) - Service not required	GAS CYLINDERS OUTSIDE	1
August	False Alarm	False Alarm - Good Intent false alarm - Special Service - Brigade action not required	SMELL OF GAS	1
August	Special Service	Advice Only - Other advice	SMELL OF GAS	1
<b>Total</b>				<b>25</b>

The table below shows any other 999 call records from the London Borough of Croydon, between 08 April and 09 August 2022 (broken down by month) where the final description of the call record contains the word "gas":

Month	Incident Category	Incident Type	Final Description	Number of calls
May	Call Record Only	Call record only	GAS AUTH QUERY ON PREVIOUS INICDENT	1
July	Call Record Only	Call record only	SMELL OF GAS	1
August	Call Record Only	Call record only	SMELL OF GAS	2
<b>Total</b>				<b>4</b>

We would not hold information on calls made by members of the public to "*any gas companies, including SGN and Cadent Gas*" as these are separate entities to the LFB. You may wish to contact these organisations directly to obtain any information they may hold.

*2. The London Fire Brigade Incident Number for the Explosion.*

127880-08082022

*3. The identity of all officers at London Fire Brigade who investigated the Explosion.*

This information is held by the LFB but exempt from disclosure under [s21 Information accessible to applicant by other means](#). Individuals and organisations affected by an incident can request to interview investigating officers and this is considered a chargeable service which will incur a fee. Interviews can be arranged through the LFB's Operational Directorate Support Group, who can be contacted using the following email address: [odsgadmin2@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:odsgadmin2@london-fire.gov.uk).

Please note, if the incident was investigated by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), we would require you to seek permission from the MPS to confirm they are happy for an interview to go ahead.

*4. Incident logs prepared by London Fire Brigade relating to the Explosion.*

*7. The source of the gas that escaped and caused the Explosion.*

*8. Any internal correspondence (text message, email, letter, memos, and/or WhatsApp messages) regarding the Explosion and the investigations that have been carried out since.*

For your questions four, seven and eight: full incident reports (including the supposed source of ignition), mobilisation reports (incident logs) and fire investigation reports (or information contained therein) are not available under the Freedom of Information Act as they are considered a chargeable service and, as such, will incur a fee. As such they are exempt via [Section 21 of the FOIA - Information accessible to applicant by other means](#).

If you do want to go ahead and request a copy of any incident reports held by the Brigade, 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.

Also, please note, if the incident was investigated by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), we would require you to seek permission from the MPS to confirm if they are happy for any fire reports to be released.

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/>

#### *5. Site photographs taken by London Fire Brigade.*

Photographs are held by the LFB for this incident but are exempt from disclosure under [s21 Information accessible to applicant by other means](#). Individuals and organisations affected by an incident can request copies of photographs held and this is considered a chargeable service which will incur a fee.

Photos can be requested through the LFB's Photos and Videos team, who can be contacted using the following email address: [photosandvideos@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:photosandvideos@london-fire.gov.uk).

Please note, if the incident was investigated by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), we would require you to seek permission from the MPS to confirm if they are happy for any photographs to be released.

#### *6. Detail of any exhibits retained from Galpin Road and the surrounding area following the Explosion*

Our Incident Management System shows that no samples were taken to the LFB's Scientific Advisor for incident number 127880-08082022.

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](#).