

**Freedom of Information request reference number:** 9227.1

**Date of response:** 15/11/2024

**Request:**

Please advise what is the definition of an abandoned fire hydrant? What is the rationale for abandoning hydrants? How many hydrants in Greater London have been abandoned? Is there any plan to replace the hydrant being abandoned?

**Response:**

Please see answers below to each of your questions in turn.

**Please advise what is the definition of an abandoned fire hydrant?**

An abandoned hydrant, also known as an abolished hydrant, is a hydrant we deem is no longer required for firefighting purposes, sometimes these are removed completely, or the water supply is isolated with the asset being left in the ground or sometimes the relevant water company will keep them as washouts to flush their water main. Abandoned hydrants are not marked as hydrants, the signs will be removed and the FH cover changed to W or WO covers. We will no longer be responsible for these hydrants. They will no longer be showing on our hydrant database as a hydrant.

**What is the rationale for abandoning hydrants?**

We have many hydrants across London and some areas are over populated with an unnecessarily high number of hydrants. In these areas when hydrants are in need of replacing due to poor condition we will make the decision not to renew/replace the hydrant as we have adequate hydrant coverage. The hydrant is then abandoned/removed, the water company may decide to renew the asset and keep it as a washout or it may just be isolated. It will no longer be identified as a hydrant on our system and we will no longer be responsible for inspecting or maintaining the asset

**How many hydrants in Greater London have been abandoned?**

A total of 3853 hydrants have been abolished across London

**Is there any plan to replace the hydrant being abandoned?**

No, if a decision has been made to abandon a hydrant as we have adequate hydrant coverage then there is no need to replace the abandoned hydrant. We only abandon a hydrant if it is no longer required for firefighting. We will always ensure we have adequate hydrant coverage before we decide to abandon/abolish a hydrant. We always notify the water company when we make this decision and they then decide if to remove it, isolate it or keep it for their use.

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/>