

Freedom of Information request reference number: 8351.1

Date of response: 23/02/2024

Request:

Please could you inform me of the numbers of incidents your brigade has attended for fires on:

1. electric buses (where the battery was believed to be the cause of the fire)?
2. hybrid-powered buses (those with dual power; electric and usually diesel or petrol where the battery or hybrid power supply was believed to be the cause of the fire)?

If you could break that down for the (financial or calendar) years for 2023, 2022 and 2021, if that data is available. If there have been any such incidents this year (2024), I would also like to receive that.

3) Based on the assumption that such incidents are relatively low, can you provide details of each incident, including perhaps the when, where, owner of the vehicle (i.e. is it a public transport bus, minibus, school bus, double-decker, single-decker etc) and any other recorded particulars about the nature of the fire i.e. was the fire localised to the battery, did it spread, was the vehicle burnt out, were any other vehicles or buildings ignited, how many appliances and firefighters were in attendance, how long did it take to extinguish the fire/make it safe and were there reports of any injuries?

4) Again, based on the assumption that such incidents are infrequent, was the fire service ever required to write a report on any of the incidents. If so, could I have a copy of any such reports? I accept that may involve some redactions.

Response:

In response to questions 1 and 2 as we routinely get asked for information about the number of e-bike, e-scooter, electric vehicle, and other lithium battery fires attended by the Brigade, we have published this data on the London Datastore to assist those who require it. The dataset provides a breakdown of all Electrical Vehicle and lithium-ion related fires from Calendar Year 2017 onwards.

The information is accessible via the following link:

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/lithium-batteries/charging-electric-bike-and-electric-scooter-lithium-batteries/>

In response to questions 3 and 4, when an incident has occurred a Fire report will be produced.

Fire 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](#). Regrettably this

means we cannot provide you with a copy of the fire report (or the information held within it) without payment.

If you do want to go ahead and request a copy of any fire reports, I must also 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 primary fire report document, and is willing to share it with you, then we would be able to provide consent for them to do this.

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/>

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/>