

**Freedom of Information request reference number: 8590.3**

**Date of response: 29/07/2024**

**Request:**

1. The appointment dates of previous station commanders for all stations in LFB. I would like this data for appointments made from January 2000 to December 2019. I only need information on appointment dates, and anonymised station commander IDs (consistent IDs when they move across stations).

I would like the information to be in excel (xlsx) format. For instance, for one station, commander A was appointed in January 2nd 2001, followed by commander B who was appointed in April 1st 2003. When there is a closure of the station, I would like the date of closure for the station to be provided.

The information would follow the same structure as the previous FOI request here:[https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/tenure\\_of\\_borough\\_commanders#incoming-2677477](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/tenure_of_borough_commanders#incoming-2677477).

If this request exceeds the relevant cost limit, I request the information be supplied from January 2008 to December 2019.

Thank you for sending this! I want to seek clarification regarding the sheet sent.

In page 2, for the Barking team, both managers 14 and 104 had their last date being the 31st of December 2000. Is this because of a typo, or does this mean both managers were responsible for the team during this period? The exact information in the table was:

Group Manager 14 2000 31/12/2000

Group Manager 104 2000 31/12/2000

Also in page 2 for Barking, there were records that manager 14 worked in Barking in 2003, 2004, but in the years 2001, 2002, there was no information about which manager was in charge of the team.

Could you double check why there are the gaps in appointment records, and if you could fill up these gaps in appointments?

## Response:

I refer you to your previous requests on the same subject submitted 5 April 2024 and 10 May 2024.

On 3 April 2024 we issued a fees notice under [Section 12 of the FOIA - exceeds cost limit](#). On the 5 April 2024 you refined your request and in our response FOIA 8590.2 dated 10 June 2024 we explained that to look for the information you have requested would require a manual search of individual personnel files to search for information related to individual staff who were appointed to the function of 'Borough Commander' we were able to provide some information without going over the estimated costs.

Under the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations public authorities are able to aggregate two or more requests where they relate to any extent, to the same or similar information. provided certain conditions are met.

These are where the FOI requests:

- are made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign.
- are received within any period of 60 consecutive working days; and

Under Section 12(4) of the FOI Act, provided these conditions are met, the Department is permitted to regard the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them for the purpose of considering whether complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

We are therefore applying exemption 12(4) to all your requests for information about appointments dates of previous Station Commanders for all stations in the London Fire Brigade from January 2000 to December 2019 including your refined request for the same information from January 2008 to December 2019 as they were all received since 5 April 2024.

It has been estimated that the cost of complying with your requests aggregated under the Fees Regulations as explained above would exceed the appropriate limit and therefore under the terms of Section 12 of the Act, we are not obliged to comply the appropriate limit to the London Fire Brigade is £450.00. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending determining whether the Department holds the information, locating, retrieving, and extracting it. We currently identify 149 individuals that hold the rank of Station Commander; in total that would include a total of 234 individuals who are currently working at the rank of Group Commander and above who may or would have held this rank at some point during their career progression; this does not include those individuals who have left the organisation, transferred etc.

Even if we used an average of ten minutes to review each record (234 records), it will take 39 hours (ten minutes times 234 records, divided by 60 minutes equals 39 hours) to review all the relevant records. I therefore confirm that the cost of providing the information you have requested is in the cost range of £975 which is greater than the "appropriate limit" of £450 as defined by the FOIA fee regulations. In setting this out in full this now serves as a formal 'refusal notice' based on section 12 of the FOIA. As you may be aware, if the cost exceeds the appropriate limit to comply with a request, a public authority is not obliged to comply with it.

This response acts as a refusal notice under [Section 12 \(4\) of the FOIA](#).

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/>