

Freedom of Information request reference number: 9138.1

Date of response: 29 October 2024

Request:

1. *LFB's testing and Exercising policy/procedure for major incident's (or the relevant procedural document that covers this),*
2. *How LFB came to plan and conduct major incident exercises overnight on the 6/7/24 (to include the early morning of the 7/7/24 the 19th anniversary the 7/7 bombings) and on 5/10/2024 (the 25th anniversary of the Ladbroke Grove rail disaster).*
3. *Who (if the name can't be disclosed role and organisation worked for will suffice) proposed those dates and who the decision maker who decided on those dates (if not the same person). Additionally who from the LFB chief officer team signed off on those dates (if no sign off from the chief officer team why not?),*
4. *Were any concerns raised about holding major incident exercises on the London transport network on dates coinciding with the anniversaries of incidents that resulted in significant loss of life involving the London transport network?*
5. *If so what were the nature of the concerns raised, and who raised them (role and organisation will suffice here).*
6. *Did any partner organisations withdraw from either/or the exercise planning or active participation of either exercise?*
7. *Any emails, MS teams messages or meeting notes/minutes where these exercises and any specifically any concerns or issues relating to them such as the "go/no go meeting" held on MS teams on the 5th October at 2130*

Response:

Please see our response to your queries in turn below which were provided by the LFB's Operational Policy and Assurance department:

1. *LFB's testing and Exercising policy/procedure for major incident's (or the relevant procedural document that covers this),*

The LFB publish copies of the Major Incident Procedure and Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP) policies online, these can be accessed using the following links:

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/media/5623/lfc-0459-major-incident-procedure-pn263-signed.pdf>

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/media/5614/lfc-0468-d-joint-emergency-services-interoperability-principles-jesip-fin.pdf>

Please note, the exercises on the 06 July 2024 and 05 October 2024 were not planned to test major incident procedure or the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP). The exercise was a joint venture between LFB and Transport for London (TfL) to mass/stress test the communication infrastructure on the sub surface section of Elizabeth Line.

2. *How LFB came to plan and conduct major incident exercises overnight on the 6/7/24 (to include the early morning of the 7/7/24 the 19th anniversary the 7/7 bombings) and on 5/10/2024 (the 25th anniversary of the Ladbroke Grove rail disaster)*

The LFB are granted access to the network on dates identified by TfL to align with their ongoing and extensive maintenance programme. LFB senior management were consulted and they were content that the 06 July 2024 date would go ahead and, should any concerns be raised externally, the LFB would address them at the time. The LFB External Communications team published exercise notification on social media platforms. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) shared an anniversary calendar and the 05 October 2024 date was discussed and agreed with all partners before being confirmed.

- 3. Who (if the name can't be disclosed role and organisation worked for will suffice) proposed those dates and who the decision maker who decided on those dates (if not the same person). Additionally who from the LFB chief officer team signed off on those dates (if no sign off from the chief officer team why not?),*

The dates were proposed by TfL in conjunction with an anniversary calendar shared by the MPS. All representative partners agreed the dates proposed collectively.

- 4. Were any concerns raised about holding major incident exercises on the London transport network on dates coinciding with the anniversaries of incidents that resulted in significant loss of life involving the London transport network?*

This is partly covered by our response to question two above. In addition, the London Ambulance Service (LAS) and the British Transport Police (BTP) did not attend the 06 July 2024 exercise due to a combination of staffing cover over the weekend and the anniversary. However, both the LAS and BTP were able to send representatives to observe the exercise that took place on 05 October 2024.

- 5. If so what were the nature of the concerns raised, and who raised them (role and organisation will suffice here).*

This is covered by our response to question four above.

- 6. Did any partner organisations withdraw from either/or the exercise planning or active participation of either exercise?*

This is covered by our response to question four above.

- 7. Any emails, MS teams messages or meeting notes/minutes where these exercises and any specifically any concerns or issues relating to them such as the "go/no go meeting" held on MS teams on the 5th October at 2130.*

We do not hold any meeting notes or minutes. The LFB were part of a meeting WhatsApp arranged by TfL, the content of which is summarised below:

Meeting was to discuss the resources that had confirmed their attendance in a voluntary capacity for the exercise and for the LFB Resource Management Centre (RMC) to place the remaining appliances that had not volunteered back 'on the run' to provide fire cover within their respective communities. Officers that had been assigned to attend to support the exercise in an operational capacity were also stood down.

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](#).