

Freedom of Information request reference number: 8074.1

Date of response: 29/11/2023

Request:

1. *The number of candidate firefighters who undertook each of the physical fitness tests (Chester Treadmill Test; Ladder Climb; Ladder Lift; Casualty Drag; Enclosed Space; Equipment Assembly; Equipment Carry) for the period 2019 – present day, or the last 36-month period available.*
2. *The metrics by which success in each of these physical tests (e.g. completion within a specified time limit, threshold of equipment dropped)*
3. *For each physical fitness test, the number of candidates who did not pass the test for the period 2019 – present day, or the last 36-month period available. If possible, I would like to know the reasons specified for the failure to pass the test (e.g. claustrophobia in the enclosed space test, inability to complete an equipment carry in the specified time)*

Response:

Please see my response to each of your queries in turn below:

1. *The number of candidate firefighters who undertook each of the physical fitness tests (Chester Treadmill Test; Ladder Climb; Ladder Lift; Casualty Drag; Enclosed Space; Equipment Assembly; Equipment Carry) for the period 2019 – present day, or the last 36-month period available.*

The LFB Recruitment team have confirmed that 1,034 firefighter candidates have taken the work related physical fitness tests in the period from 2019 to the present day. Please note, the LFB do not currently include the Chester Treadmill test in the current fitness test but are planning to introduce this element from January 2024.

2. *The metrics by which success in each of these physical tests (e.g. completion within a specified time limit, threshold of equipment dropped)*

The metrics for the seven work related physical job tests are published on the LFB website and can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/careers/become-a-firefighter/fitness-tests/>

3. *For each physical fitness test, the number of candidates who did not pass the test for the period 2019 – present day, or the last 36-month period available. If possible, I would like to know the reasons specified for the failure to pass the test (e.g. claustrophobia in the enclosed space test, inability to complete an equipment carry in the specified time). If possible, I would like to know the reasons specified for the failure to pass the test (e.g. claustrophobia in the enclosed space test, inability to complete an equipment carry in the specified time)*

Out of the 1,034 firefighter candidates have taken the work related physical fitness tests in the period from 2019 to the present day:

- 11 failed the ladder climb
- Four failed the casualty drag

- 39 failed the equipment assembly
- 54 failed the ladder lift, and
- 24 Failed the confined space test.

We do not hold information on the reasons specified for the failure to pass the tests. We only record the numbers of candidates who were unsuccessful by not meeting the required standard and not the reason for the failure.

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/>