

# London Fire Brigade

Data analysis

March 2026



**LONDON**ASSEMBLY

**Research Unit**

# Overview

This data analysis, produced by the London Assembly Research Unit, provides an overview of the activity of the London Fire Brigade (LFB). This includes data on fire and non-fire incidents in London, and key indicators against which LFB measures its performance.

The information presented in the report is based on published data from a range of sources, including the London Fire Brigade's [Incident](#) and [financial and performance](#) reports. These are published on the London Datastore.

The analysis was undertaken in support of planned work by the London Assembly Fire Committee.

# About the Research Unit

The London Assembly Research Unit provides an impartial research and information service. We undertake research and analysis on key issues in London to inform the Assembly's work.

All of our publications are available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/london-assembly-research-unit-publications>

**This report was produced by Anita Zivkow and Becka Storer.**

With thanks to William Weihermüller

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# LFB Activity

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## Overview

This section gives an overview of what LFB crews do across the city – showing how many incidents LFB attends, how this has changed over time, and how activity breaks down by incident type, including fires, false alarms and special service calls such as flooding.

It also highlights specific trends in specialist incident types and differences in activity across boroughs and station areas.

## Source information

The data in this section comes from [LFB incident reports](#), which are published on the London Datastore.

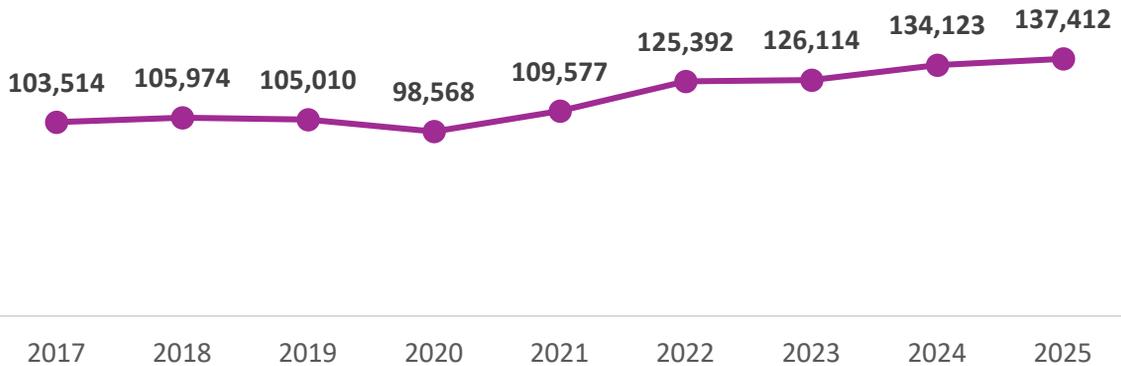
# The number of incidents attended by LFB has increased by 33 per cent since 2017

An LFB incident is any emergency event that LFB responds to, including fires, false alarms and a wide range of non-fire ‘special service’ incidents such as flooding, road traffic collisions or rescuing people trapped in lifts.

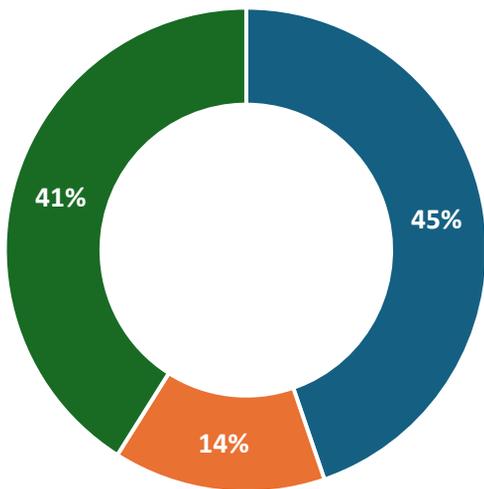
In 2025, LFB attended 137,412 incidents, equivalent to 376 incidents every day. This represented an increase of 33 per cent from the 103,514 incidents it attended in 2017.

While the number of incidents attended by LFB remained relatively stable between 2017 and 2020, since then it has climbed steadily year-on-year.

## Number of incidents attended by LFB



## Proportion of incidents attended by LFB by category, 2025



In 2025, 45 per cent of incidents attended by LFB were false alarms. 41 per cent were ‘special services’ which are non-fire incidents including for example responding to flooding or hazardous materials. Responding to fires made up the smallest proportion of incident responses in 2025 (14 per cent).

■ False alarm ■ Fire ■ Special Service

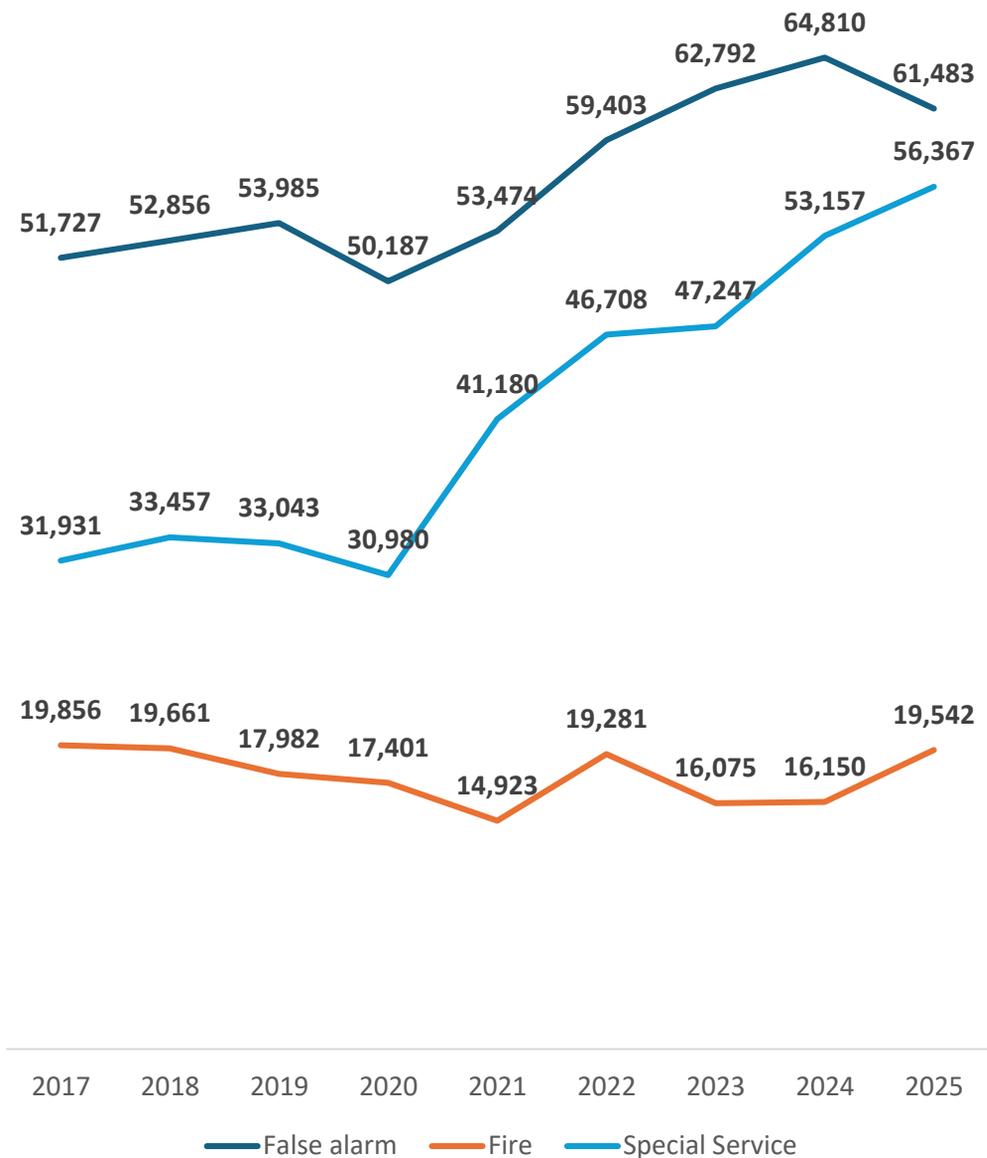
Source: LFB, [London Fire Brigade Incident Records](#), accessed 11 February 2026.

# The number of special service incidents has increased by 77 per cent from 2017 to 2025

The increase in overall incidents attended by LFB since 2017 is driven by an increase in false alarms and non-fire incidents. From 2017 to 2025, false alarm incidents attended by LFB increased by 19 per cent and special service incidents increased by 77 per cent.

The number of fire incidents attended by LFB decreased steadily from 2017 to 2021 but has generally increased since this time. Fire incidents increased by 21 per cent in the past year from 16,150 in 2024 to 19,542 in 2025.

## Number of fire, non-fire and false alarm incidents attended by LFB

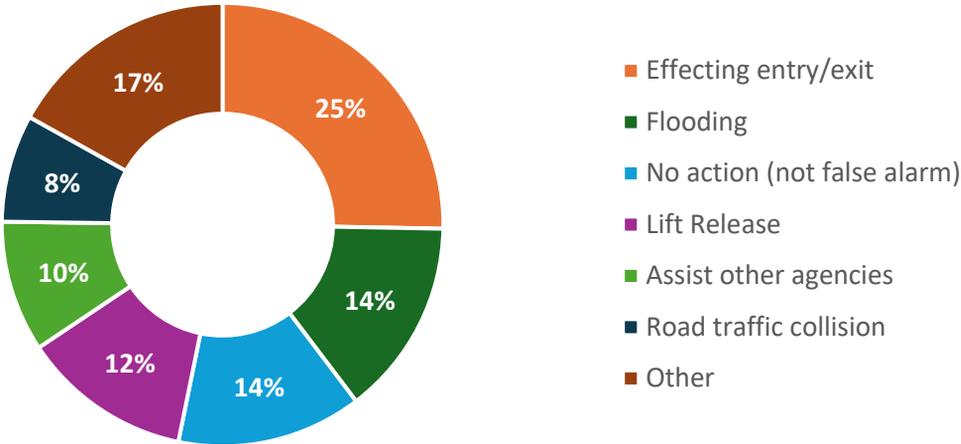


Source: LFB, [London Fire Brigade Incident Records](#), accessed 11 February 2026.

# In 2025, effecting entry / exit was the most common special service delivered by LFB

In 2025, six categories made up 83 per cent of all special service incidents, the highest being effecting entry/exit (25 per cent), followed by flooding (14 per cent).

## Special service incidents by category in 2025



Special service incidents rose by 77 per cent between 2017 and 2025, increasing from 31,931 to 56,367. This growth is dominated by three categories: effecting entry/exit; no action (not false alarm); and assist[ing] other agencies. Together they account for 74 per cent of the increase in special service activity over this time.

## Increase in selected special service incidents from 2017 to 2025



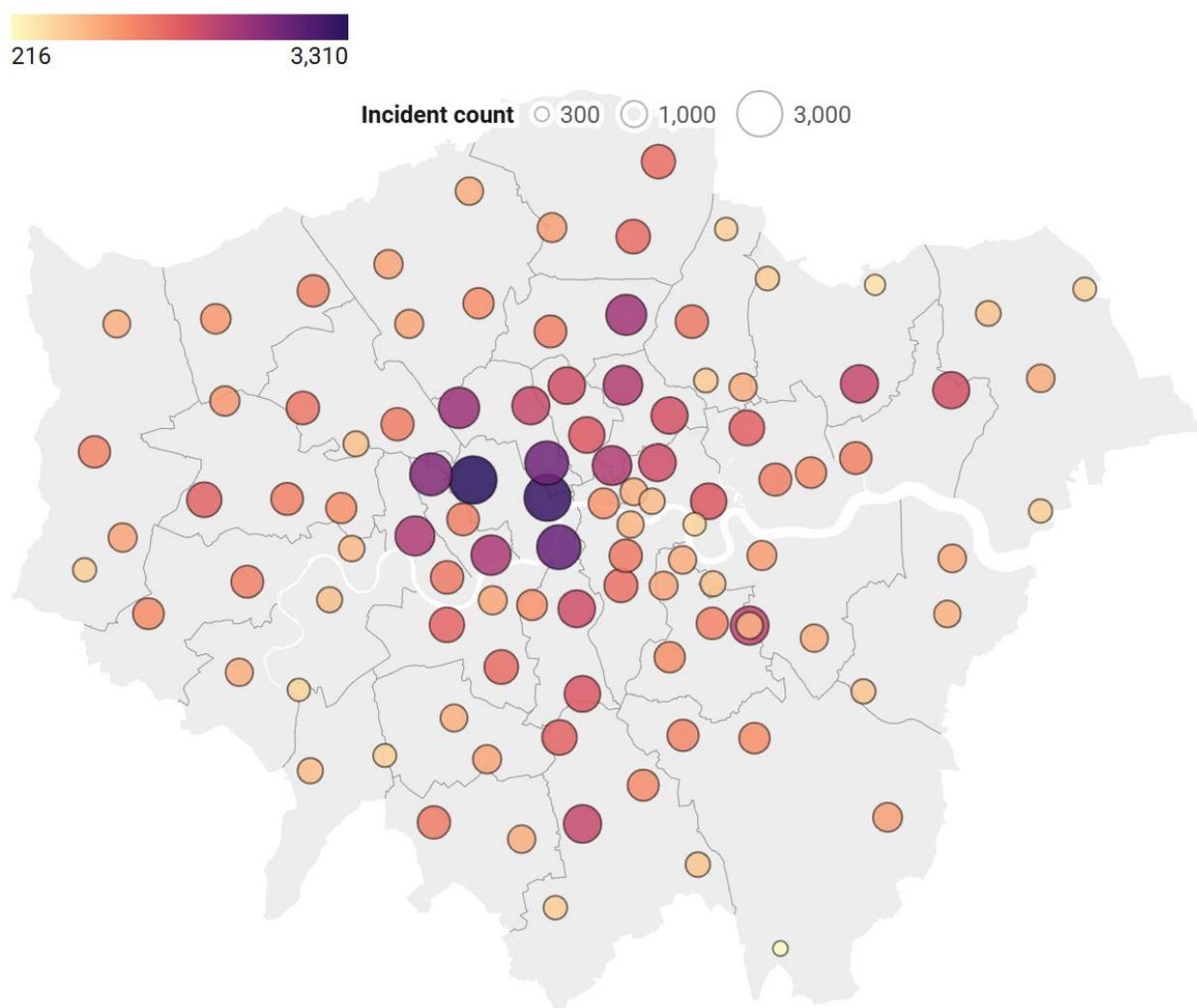
Source: LFB, [London Fire Brigade Incident Records](#), accessed 11 February 2026.

# Central London fire stations responded to the largest number of incidents in 2025

Fire stations located in central London responded to the largest number of incidents in 2025. The top three attending stations were Paddington (3,310 incidents), Soho (3,192 incidents) and Lambeth (2,813 incidents).

In contrast, outer London stations responded to a lower number of incidents in the year. For example, Biggin Hill responded to 216 incidents, Hainault to 487 incidents and Kingston to 617 incidents.

## Incidents responded to by London fire station in 2025



Source: LFB, [London Fire Brigade Incident Records](#), accessed 6 February 2026.

# 2 Fire incidents in London

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## Overview

This section provides an overview of fires attended by LFB. This includes trends in fire incidents by year, and an overview of fire incidents in London by location and type. It also includes data on the Brigade's prevention work through fire safety inspections and home fire safety visits.

## Source information

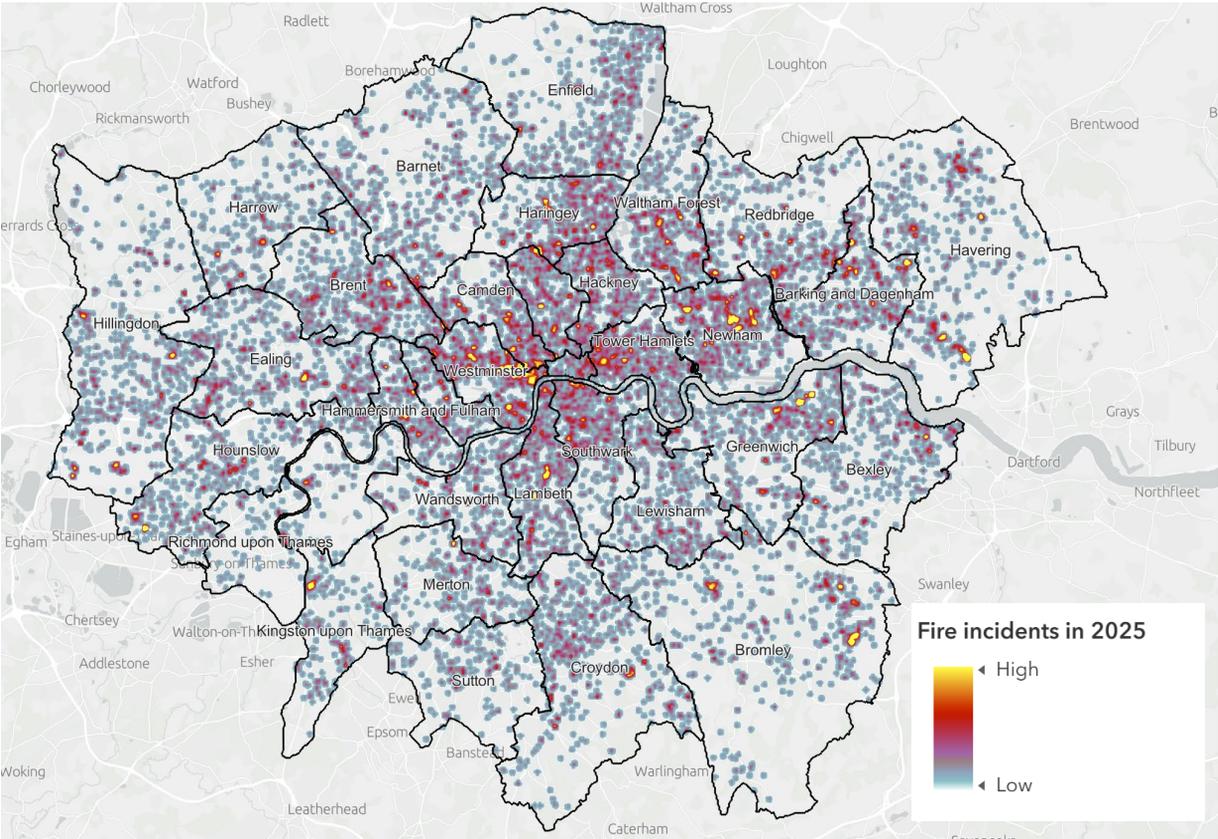
The data in this section comes from [LFB incident reports](#), and data sets on [fire safety visits](#), [regulatory inspections](#) and [lithium-ion and EV battery fires](#). These are all published on the London Datastore.

# Fires attended by LFB in 2025 were concentrated in central London

LFB attended 19,542 fire incidents in 2025. Fire incidents were spread across London, but were most concentrated in Inner London areas, with particular hotspots in areas of Westminster, Newham and Tower Hamlets.

While Outer London Boroughs generally had lower concentrations of fire incidents, there were small clusters of highly-concentrated incidents in some areas. For example, parts of Bromley, Brent, Havering, and eastern parts of Enfield and Haringey.

## Heatmap of fire incidents attended by LFB in 2025



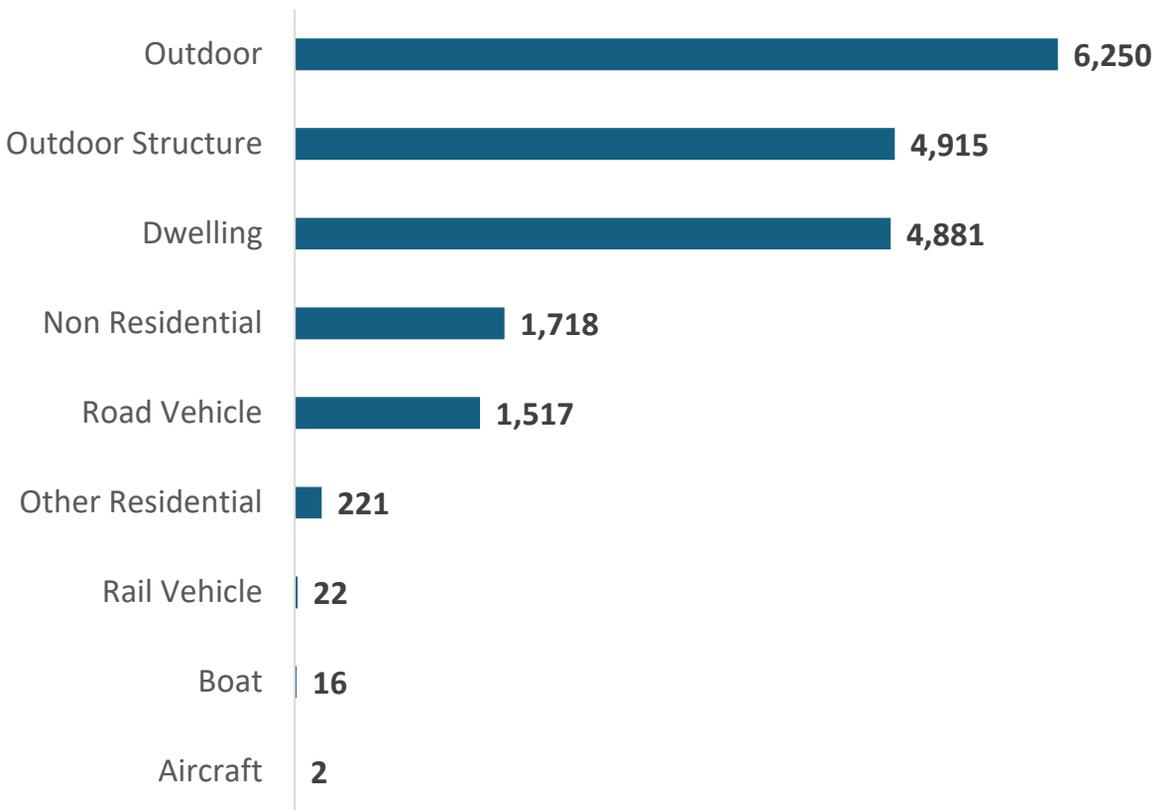
Source: LFB, [London Fire Brigade Incident Records](#), accessed 6 February 2026. Heatmap created by the Research Unit using ArcGIS.

# Outdoor fires were the most common type of fire attended by LFB in 2025

Of the 19,542 fire incidents attended by LFB in 2025, 6,250 (32 per cent) were outdoor fires and 4,915 were fires in outdoor structures (25 per cent). Outdoor structures include for example bins, skips, fences or lamp posts. 4,135 of the 4,915 fires in outdoor structures were in some form of bin or refuse container.

Fires in dwellings made up 25 per cent of all fire incidents in 2025, with non-residential locations making up a smaller proportion (9 per cent).

## Fire incidents attended by LFB in 2025 by property type



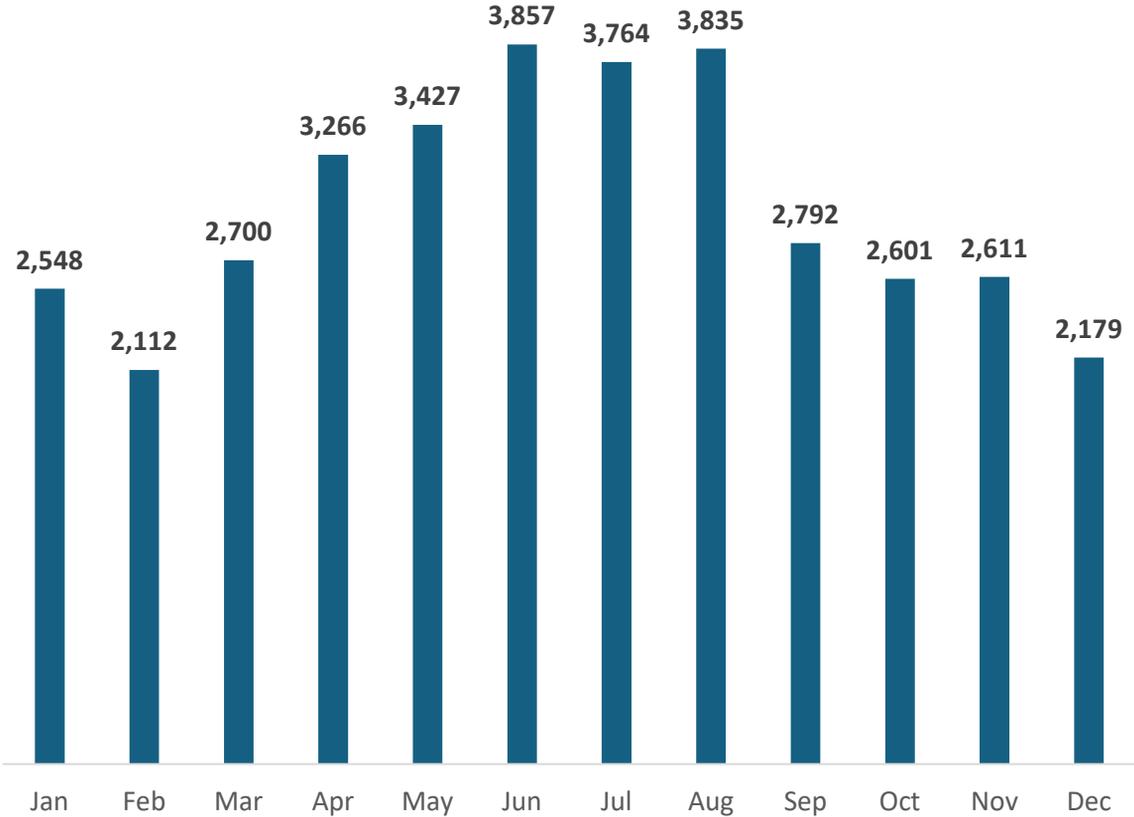
Source: LFB, [London Fire Brigade Incident Records](#), accessed 6 February 2026.

# Fire incidents peak in the summer months

Over the past two years, a much higher proportion of fire incidents have been recorded in the summer months (June to August) than during autumn or winter. Dry and hot weather during the summer months can contribute to dried-out vegetation, a source of fuel for outdoor fires.

In 2024 and 2025, the days with the highest number of recorded fire incidents were 4 July 2025 (135 incidents; US Independence Day), 1 January 2025 and 1 January 2024 (129 and 123 incidents respectively; New Year’s Day), 5 November 2025 (117 incidents; Bonfire Night) and 11 April 2025 (115 incidents). As highlighted, most of these days fell on or around public holidays or celebration days.

## Number of incidents per month in 2024 and 2025 (combined)

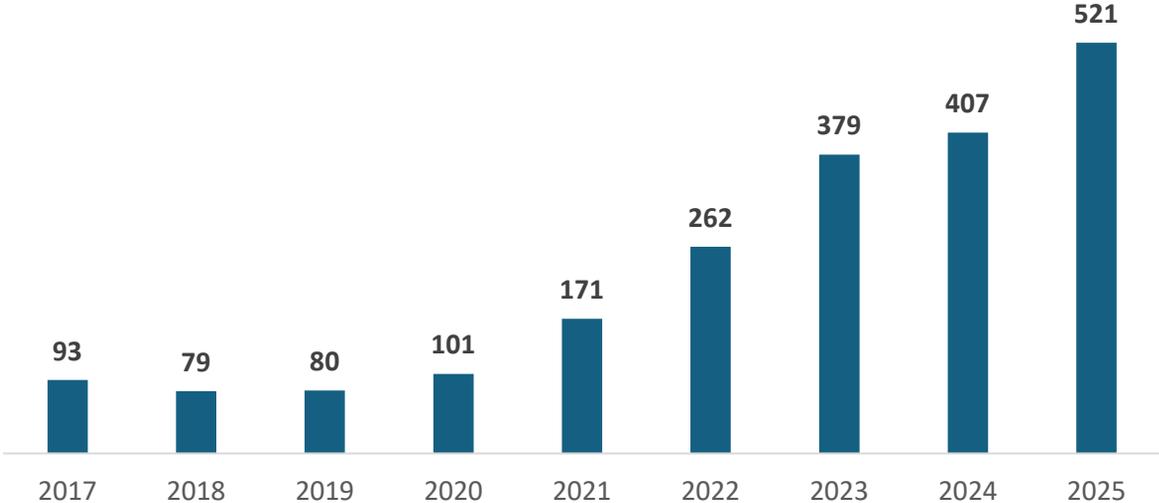


Source: LFB, [London Fire Brigade Incident Records](#), accessed 6 February 2026.

# Fires involving lithium batteries are the fastest growing fire risk in London

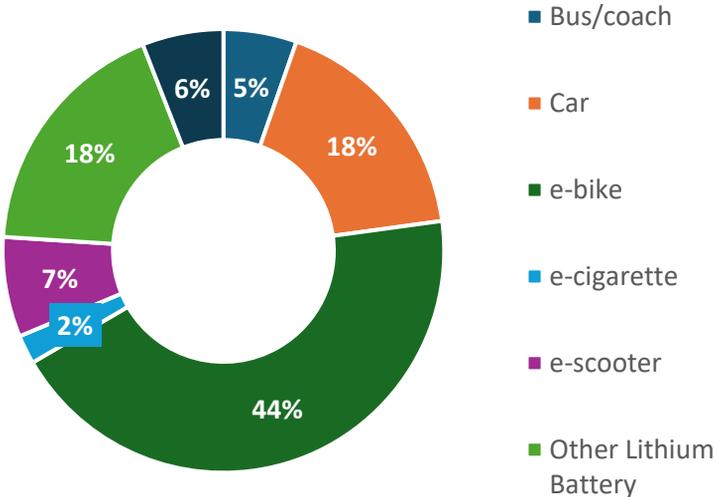
LFB reports that fires involving lithium batteries are the fastest growing fire risk in London. There were 521 fire incidents involving lithium-ion batteries in 2025, an increase of 28 per cent on the previous year. In 2025, 109 people in London were injured in fires caused by lithium-ion batteries, and three people were killed.

## Lithium-ion battery related fire incidents



## Lithium-ion fire incidents by type, 2025

Of the 521 incidents in 2025, 228 (44 per cent) were connected to e-bikes, while 91 (18 per cent) were related to electric cars and 94 (18 per cent) to other lithium batteries.



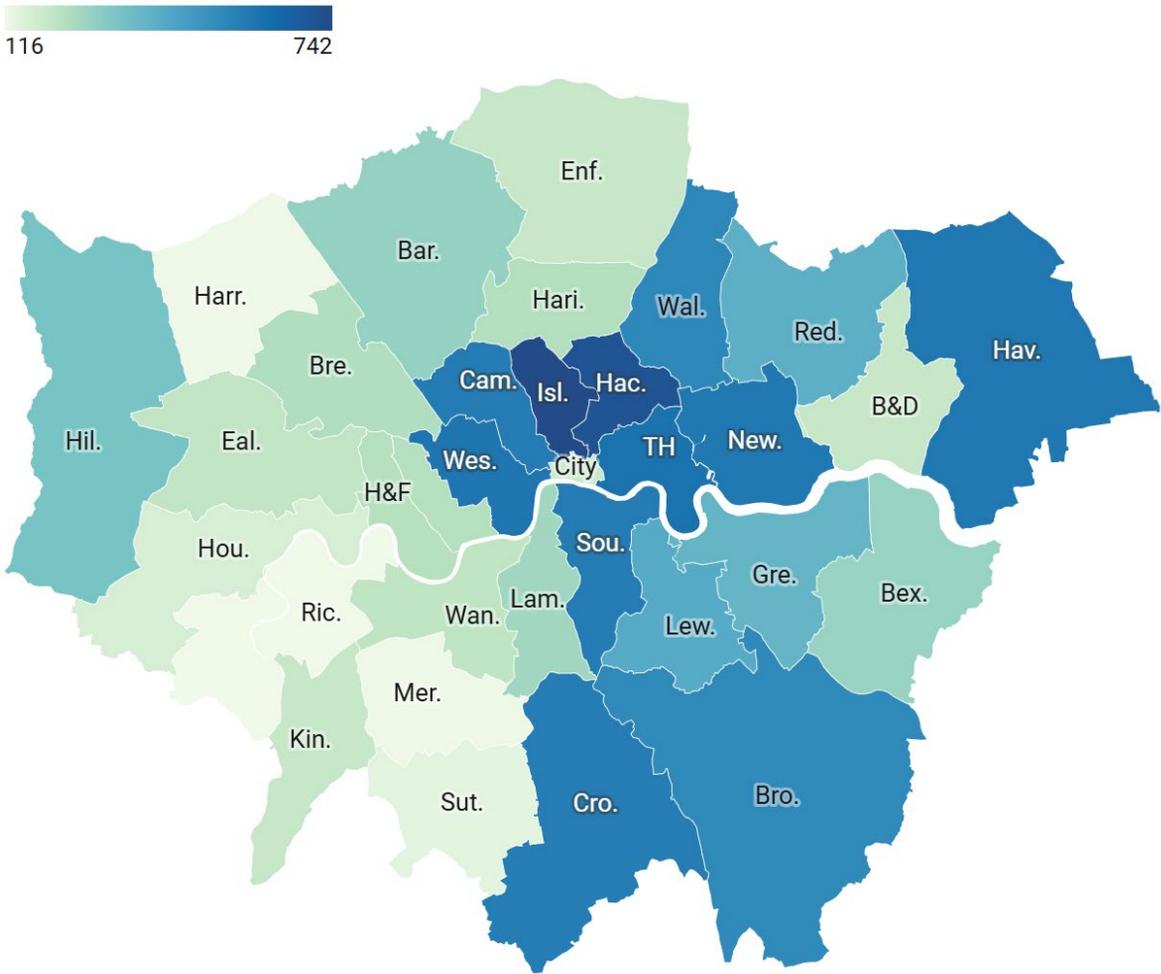
Source: LFB, [Lithium and Electric Vehicle fires](#), accessed 11 February 2026.

# LFB carried out 11,730 fire safety inspections in 2025

LFB conduct fire safety inspections as part of their preventative work. These are regulatory visits and audits carried out by Inspecting Officers, primarily to advise on and enforce the [Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005](#).

In 2025, LFB carried out 11,730 inspections and audits. A higher number of fire safety inspections were carried out by LFB in central, east and south London Boroughs compared to west London boroughs in this period. Inspections were highest in Islington (742), Hackney (711) and Croydon (605). They were lowest in Richmond upon Thames (116), Harrow (119) and Merton (121).

## Fire safety inspections in 2025



Source: LFB, [Regulatory fire safety Inspections and audits](#), accessed 26 February 2026.

# Home fire safety visits are 77 per cent lower than their pre-pandemic peak

Home Fire Safety Visits are free-appointments where LFB crews visit homes to give personalised fire safety advice and, if needed, fit smoke alarms.

The number of home fire safety visits carried out by LFB dropped sharply in 2020-21 during the COVID-19 pandemic and has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. In 2025-26, visits were 77 per cent lower than the peak level of 91,271 in 2014-15.

LFB advises that in addition to the impact of COVID, the decrease in visits since 2021 results from deliberate changes to its policy focused on producing a higher impact from fewer visits. LFB now prioritises Home Fire Safety Visits using a risk-based system, focusing its crews on residents assessed as being at higher risk – such as those who are older, live alone, smoke, have mobility or care needs, or have no working smoke alarms.\* Lower risk households are directed to online self-assessment tools.

## Home fire safety visits conducted by LFB



LFB, [Home Fire Safety Visits by London Borough](#), accessed 26 February 2026. \*In the past, safety checks were based on postcode only.

# Performance and targets

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## Overview

This section summarises how LFB is performing against some of its key operational measures. It covers response times across London, showing trends in average first-pump and second-pump attendance times and how these vary by station area. It also brings together LFB's core safety outcomes, including the latest figures on fire-related deaths, fire-related injuries, and Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) reportable incidents.

## Source information

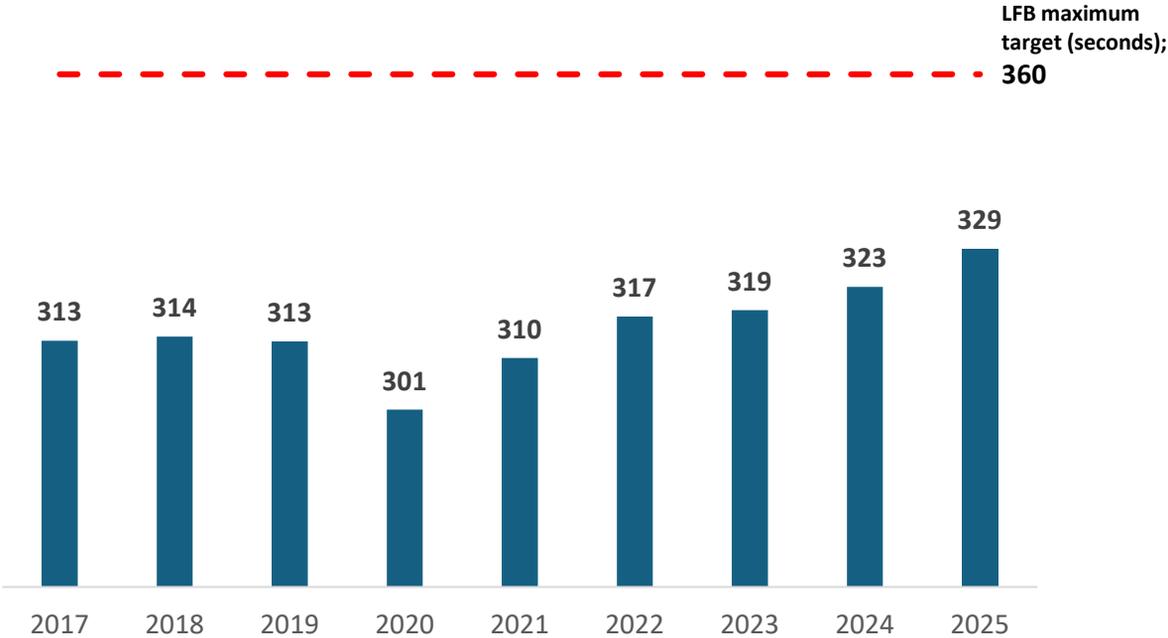
The data in this section comes from [LFB's performance and KPI reports](#), which are published on the London Datastore.

# LFB’s first-pump attendance time has risen each year since 2020

First-pump attendance time is the time it takes for the first fire engine to arrive at the scene of an incident after being mobilised by LFB. LFB sets a target for its average first pump attendance to be within six minutes.

From 2017 to 2019, the average first-pump attendance time remained steady at just over five minutes. It reduced slightly in 2020, then rose each year through 2021 to 2025. In 2025, LFB’s average first-pump attendance was roughly 5 minutes 30 seconds (329 seconds), which remains inside LFB’s attendance KPI of an average six minutes (360 seconds).

## Average time of first-pump attendance (seconds)

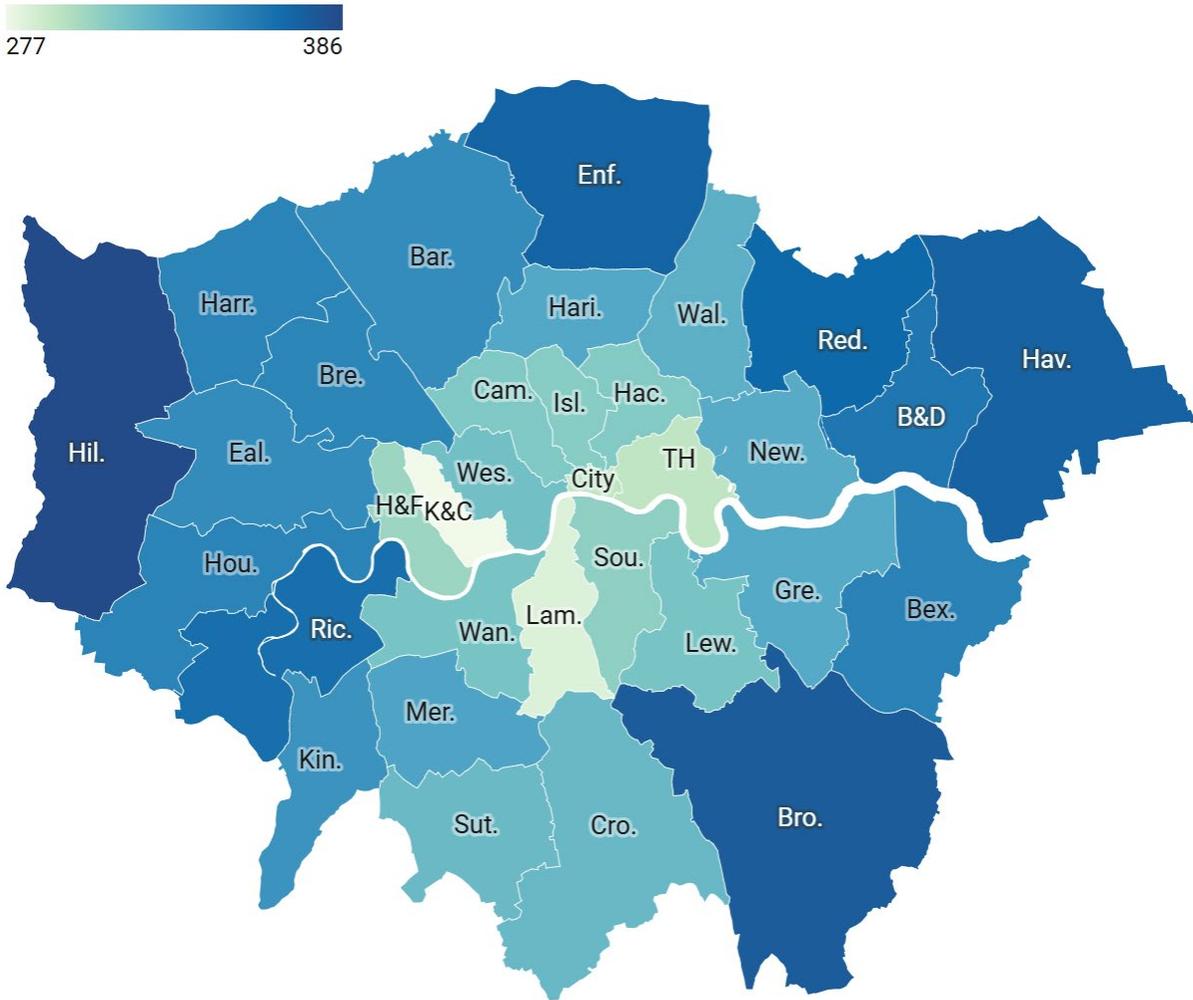


Source: LFB, [London Fire Brigade Incident Records](#), accessed 11 February 2026.

# First-pump attendance is fastest in Inner London boroughs

On average, first-pump attendance times are faster for incidents in Inner London boroughs such as Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth and Tower Hamlets. In 2025, LFB responded to incidents in Kensington and Chelsea in an average of 4 minutes 36 seconds, compared to 6 minutes 24 seconds for incidents in Hillingdon. Incidents in six boroughs - Hillingdon, Bromley, Havering, Enfield, Redbridge and Richmond upon Thames - had average first pump response times of over six minutes in 2025.

## Average first-pump attendance time by borough in 2025 (seconds)



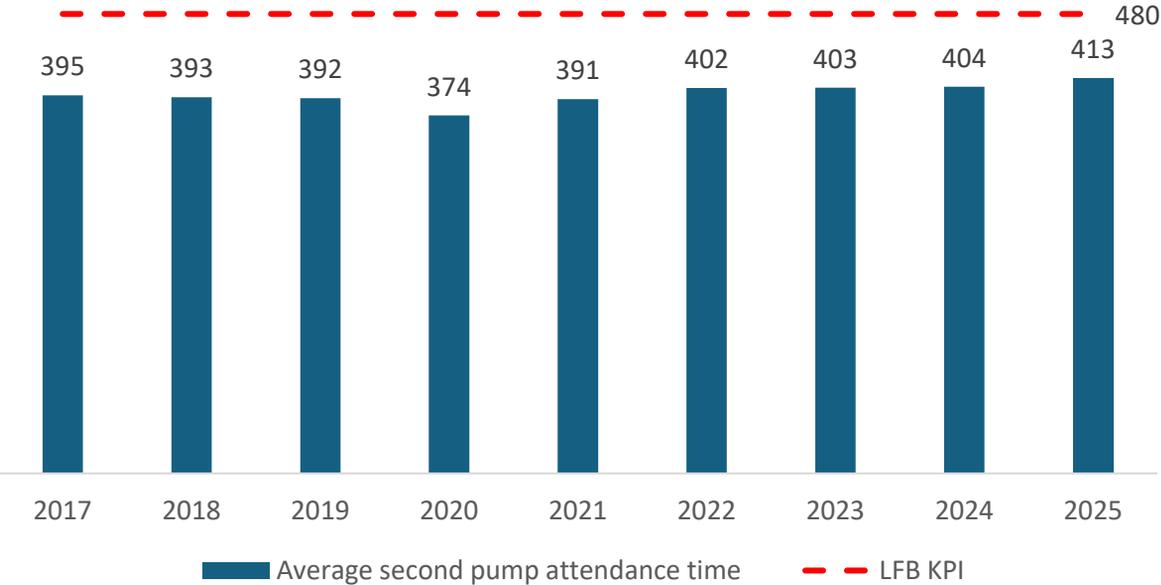
Source: LFB, [London Fire Brigade Incident Records](#), accessed 11 February 2026.

# Second-pump attendance time has increased each year since 2020

Second-pump attendance time measures the time from when LFB mobilises to when the second fire engine to arrive reaches the scene. In the majority of incidents recorded each year (around 60 per cent), only one fire engine is dispatched. On occasions where a second engine is required, LFB has a target for second pump attendance of eight minutes or less (480 seconds).

Second-pump attendance times were fastest in 2020 (374 seconds) and currently sit at their highest level, an average of 413 seconds in 2025. This represents a 38 second (ten per cent) increase but is still within LFB's eight-minute target.

## Average LFB second-pump attendance time (seconds)



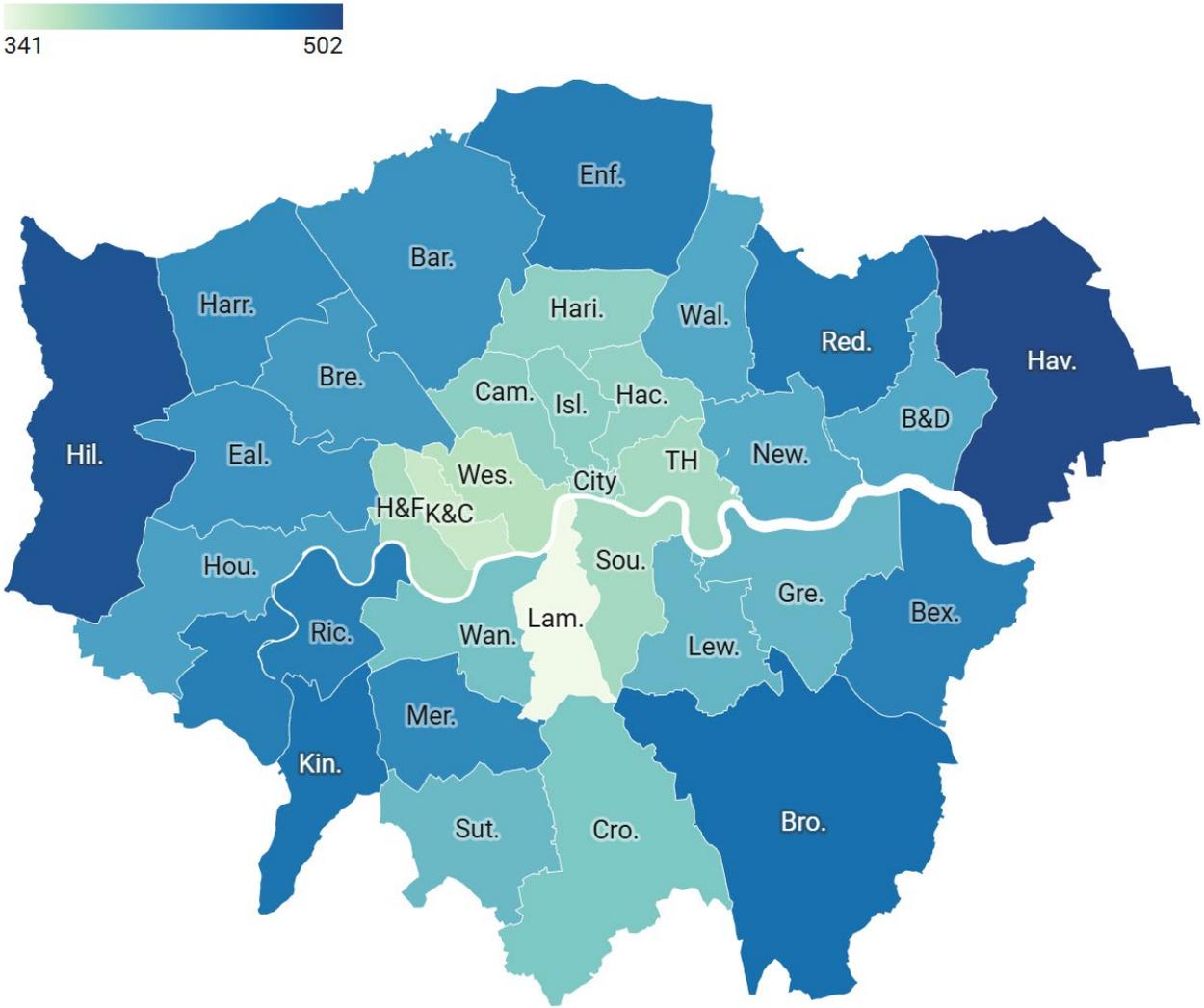
Source: LFB, [London Fire Brigade Incident Records](#), accessed 11 February 2025.

# Second-pump attendance is fastest in central boroughs and slower in outer London

Second pump attendance time across London follows a very similar pattern to first pump attendance. Incidents in Inner London boroughs have the fastest response times, with slower response times for incidents in Outer London boroughs.

Lambeth recorded the fastest average second pump response time in 2025 (5 minutes 41 seconds). Incidents in two boroughs had average second pump response times that were slower than LFB’s pan-London 8-minute target in 2025: Havering (8 minutes 21 seconds) and Hillingdon (8 minutes 13 seconds).

**Average LFB second pump attendance time by borough in 2025 (seconds)**



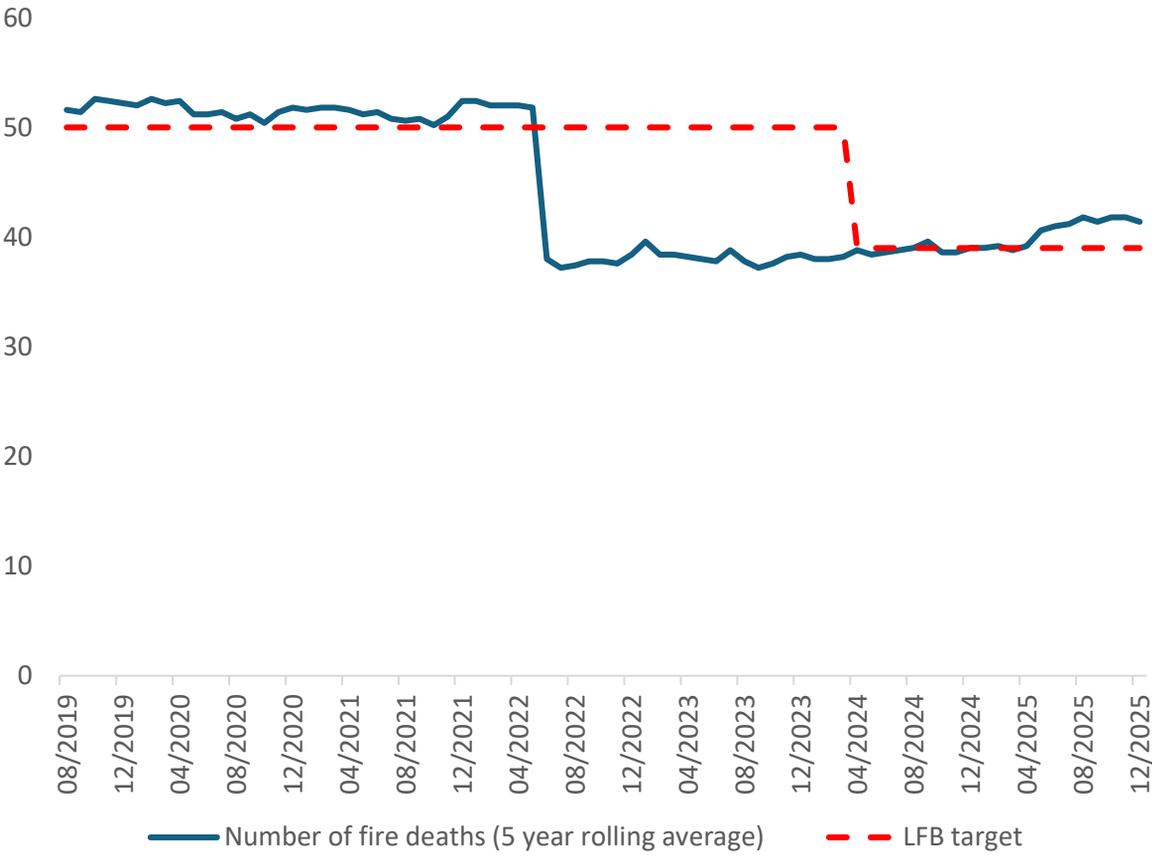
Source: LFB, [London Fire Brigade Incident Records](#), accessed 11 February 2026.

# Fire deaths have fallen steadily since their peak in 2020-21

A fire death is a fatality that occurs as a result of a fire. This includes any person who dies from injuries caused by fire, heat or smoke in an incident recorded by the London Fire Brigade. Since 2024-25, LFB has a target for the five-year rolling average of fire deaths per year in London to be below 39.\*

The five-year rolling average of fire deaths in London was around 50 per year in the period from August 2019 to May 2022. In June 2022, the five-year average fell to 38 per year and has remained around this level. This sudden drop marks the five-year anniversary of the Grenfell tower fire, which killed 72 people. After this point, these deaths are no longer reflected in the five-year rolling average figure. Since June 2024, the rolling average has been above LFB’s target of 39 per year; as of December 2025 it is 41.

## Five-year rolling average of annual fire deaths in London



Source: LFB, [LFB financial and performance reporting](#), accessed 26 February 2026.

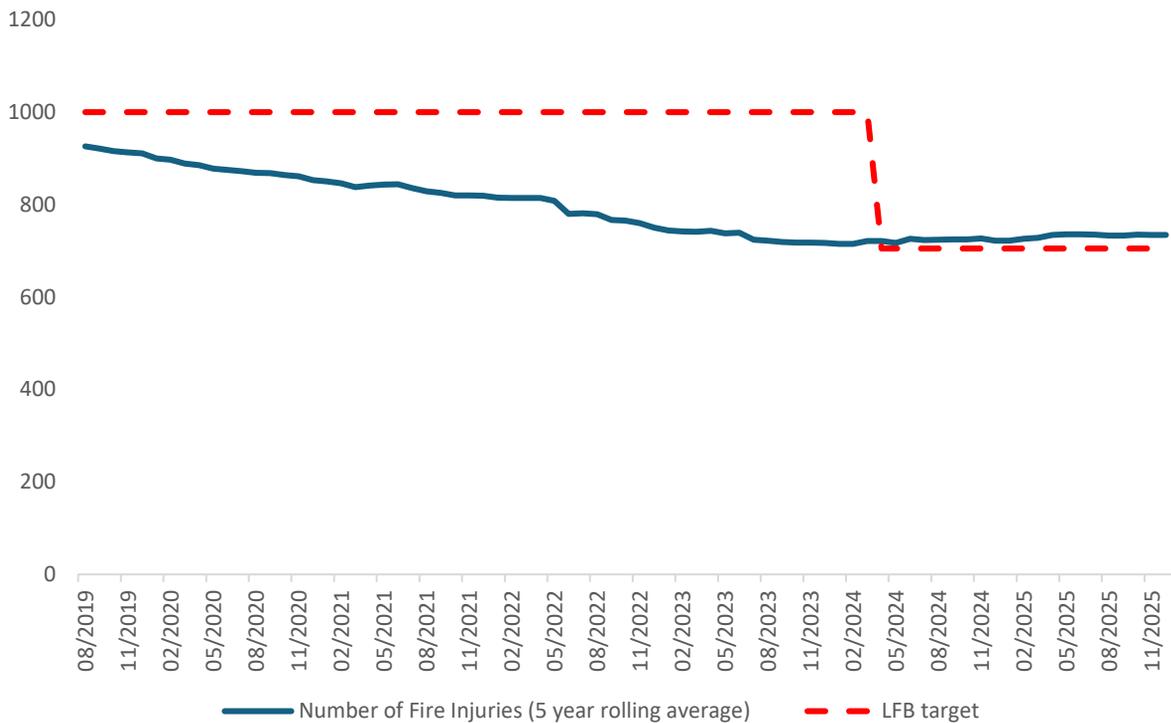
\*This target was reduced from 50 in 2024-25. [LFB KPI report - Target proposals for 2025-26](#)

# The number of people sustaining fire injuries in London has fallen since 2021

LFB records the number of people who are hurt in a fire incident, including those suffering from burns, smoke inhalation or other fire-related harm, on its Incident Recording System. Since 2024-25, LFB has a target for the five-year rolling average of fire injuries to be below 705.\*

The five-year rolling average of fire injuries declined from 926 in August 2019 to 717 in May 2024. Since May 2024, it has slightly risen to 734 in December 2025. Since the target was lowered in 2024-25, the five-year rolling average has consistently remained above target.

### Five-year rolling average of fire injuries in London



Source: LFB, [LFB financial and performance reporting](#), accessed 16 January 2026.

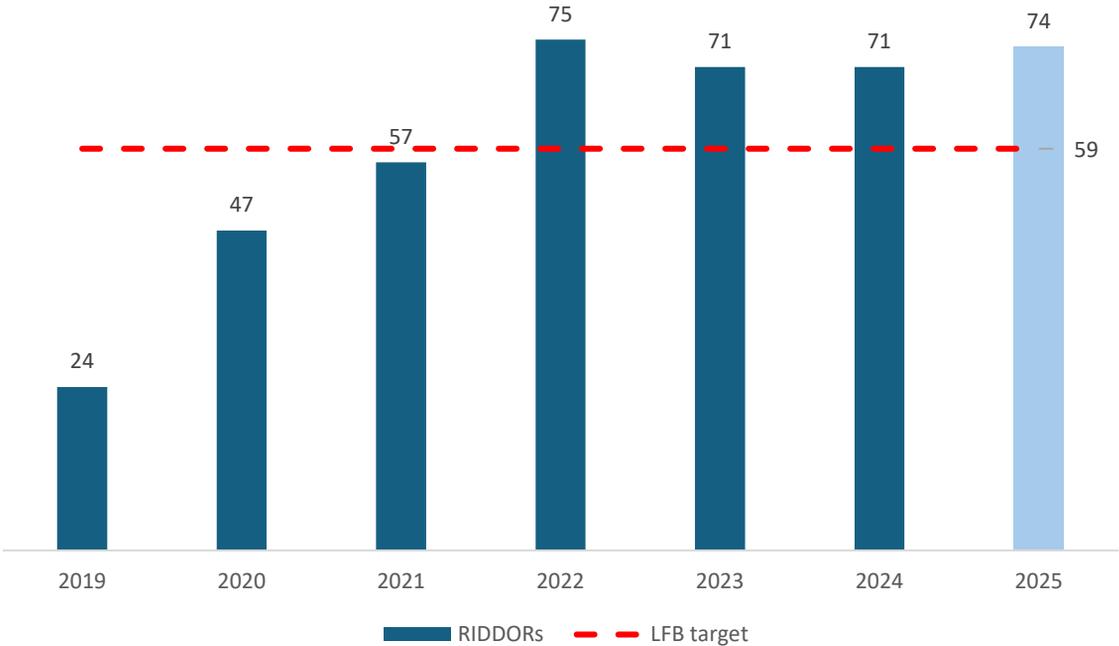
\* This target was reduced from 1000 in 2024-25. [LFB KPI report - Target proposals for 2025-26](#)

# LFB staff injuries have increased since 2019

Under the [Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013](#) (RIDDOR), LFB must report serious work-related injuries, diseases or dangerous occurrences that happen to its staff during duty. LFB currently has a target of less than 59 RIDDORs per year.\*

Between 2019 to 2022 RIDDOR cases increased each year, rising from around 25 to a high point of 75 in 2022. In 2025, there were 74 RIDDOR cases, higher than LFB's current target of 59.

## Number of RIDDOR-reported injuries



Source: LFB, [LFB financial and performance reporting](#), accessed 16 January 2026. Injury data records total injuries reported to the Health and Safety Executive where there is a specific injury which has affected a person's ability to work 7 days after the injury had occurred.

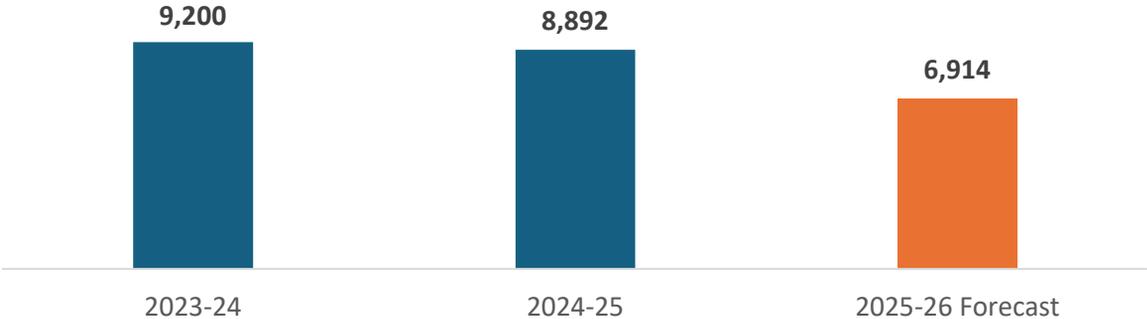
\* This target has been reduced by 5 per cent year-on-year for a number of years. It remained the same from 2024 to 2025.

# CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from LFB activities are forecast to reduce

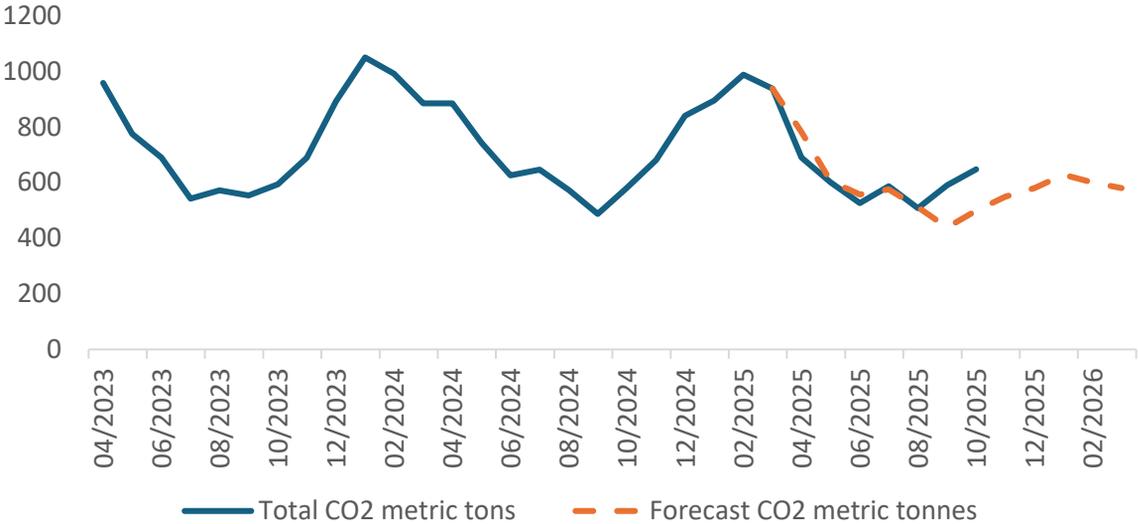
LFB has committed to be net zero carbon by 2030. It reports data on total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (metric tonnes) from its operations. This includes both direct (scope 1) and indirect (scope 2) emissions from its activities and activities under its control. It has set a target to achieve a continuous reduction year-on-year in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

From 2023-24 to 2024-25, there was a marginal 3 per cent reduction in LFB's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 9,200 to 8,892 metric tonnes. LFB has forecast CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 6,914 in 2025-26, which would require a 22 per cent reduction from the previous year to achieve. Currently, LFB's emissions for the first seven months of 2025-26 are 4,154 metric tonnes against a forecast of 3,972 metric tonnes. LFB's forecast figures predict a similar level of emissions in summer 2025 to previous years, but a much lower peak of emissions in winter 2025-26 compared to previous winters.

## Carbon emissions from LFB activities by financial year (metric tonnes)



## Carbon emissions from LFB activities by month (metric tonnes)\*



Source: LFB, [LFB financial and performance reporting](#), accessed 26 February 2026. Data includes all direct (scope 1) and indirect (scope 2) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from activities of the London Fire Brigade or under its control, collated in accordance with the methodologies laid out in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. \*Carbon emissions over the past two years follow a cyclical pattern, with higher levels reported in winter months.

# Relationship with Londoners

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## Overview

This section highlights how Londoners feel about their fire and rescue service, showing levels of community satisfaction and the proportion of people who say they trust LFB to protect and serve the city. It brings together these key public-confidence measures to show how perceptions have changed over time.

## Source information

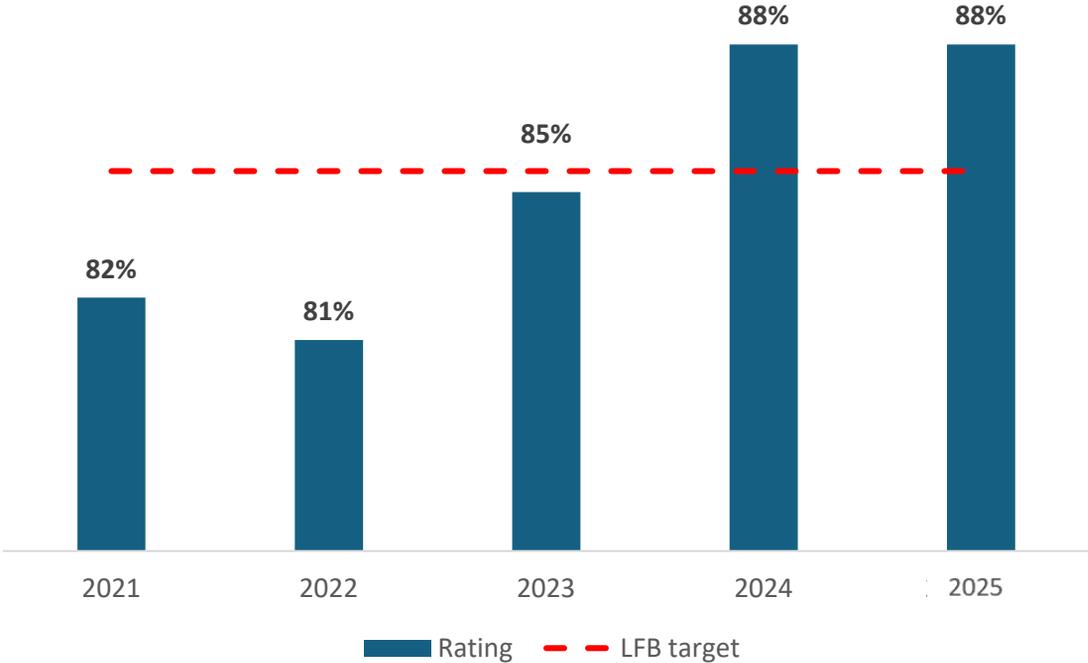
The data in this section comes from LFB's [performance and KPI reports](#), which are published on the London Datastore.

# Community satisfaction with LFB has risen steadily since 2022 and is now at its highest recorded level

LFB commissions independent YouGov polling to measure community satisfaction with its service. Community satisfaction is measured by the percentage of Londoners who agree with the statement “I think the services provided by London Fire Brigade to protect and serve London are the right services”.

LFB’s target is for 85 per cent of polling respondents to be satisfied with LFB. Satisfaction dipped slightly in 2022 but has increased each year since, rising through 2023 and reaching around 88 per cent in 2024, where it remains in 2025.

## LFB community satisfaction ratings



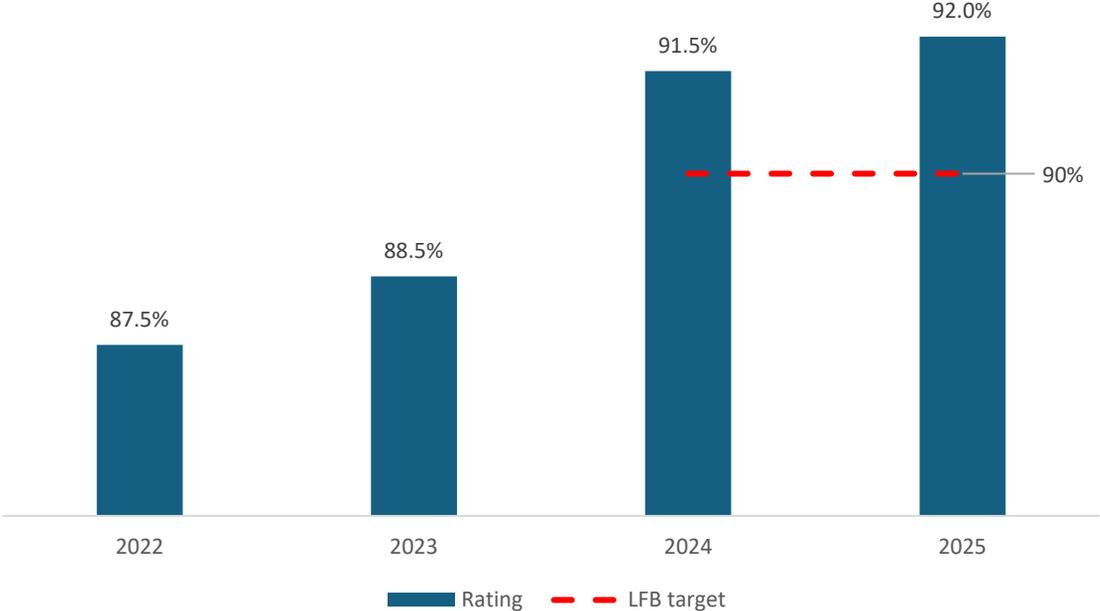
Source: LFB, [LFB financial and performance reporting](#), accessed 26 February 2026.

# Trust in LFB to protect and serve London has increased each year since 2022 and is now at its highest level

YouGov conducts independent polling of Londoners’ levels of trust in LFB, measured as the percentage of respondents who agree with the statement "LFB is trusted to serve and protect London". In 2024-25, LFB introduced a new target for trust levels to be greater than 90 per cent.

Trust has risen from an average of 88 per cent in 2022 to an average of 92 per cent in 2025.

## Percentage of respondents that agreed LFB are “trusted to protect and serve”



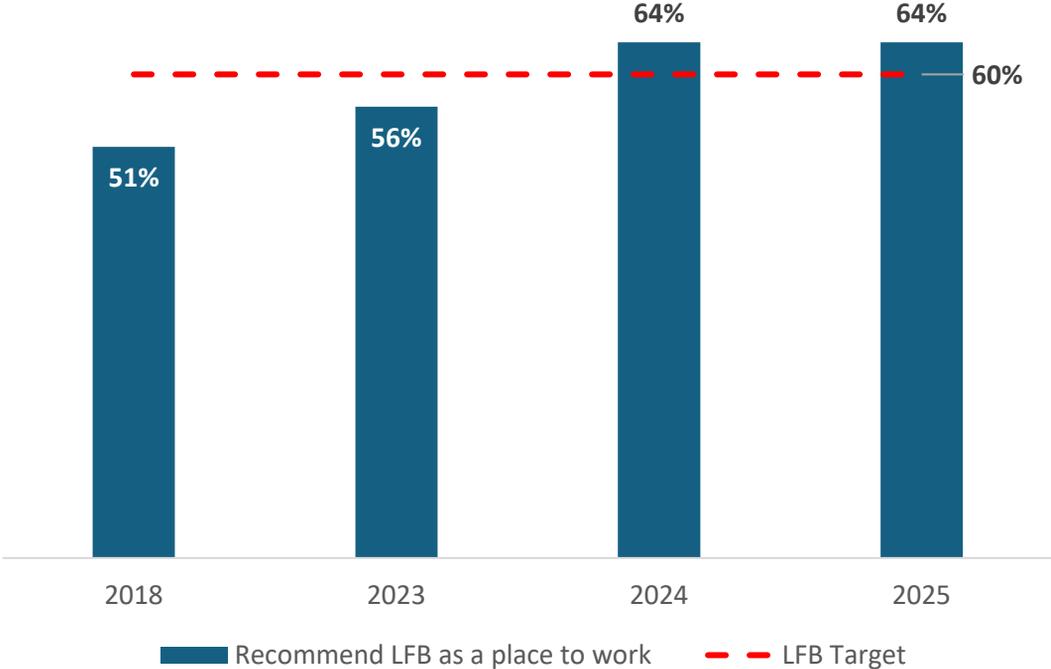
Source: LFB, [LFB financial and performance reporting](#), accessed 16 January 2026.

# 64 per cent of staff recommend LFB as a place to work

LFB has conducted surveys of its staff in 2018, 2023, 2024 and 2025. As part of this, it asks whether they would recommend LFB as a place to work. In 2024-25, LFB introduced a target for at least 60 per cent of staff to agree with this statement.

In the most recently reported results from 2025, 64 per cent of staff recommended LFB as a place to work. This represented no change from the previous year. Prior to this, there has been a consistent increase in staff satisfaction levels from 2018. LFB does not publish a further breakdown of staff satisfaction levels by role or demographic group.

Percentage of staff who recommend LFB as a place to work



Source: LFB, [LFB financial and performance reporting](#), accessed 26 February 2026.

# Other formats and languages

If you, or someone you know needs this report in large print or braille, or a copy of the summary and main findings in another language, then please call us on: 020 7983 4100 or email [assembly.translations@london.gov.uk](mailto:assembly.translations@london.gov.uk)

## Chinese

如您需要这份文件的简介的翻译本，  
请电话联系或按上面所提供的邮寄地址或  
Email 与我们联系。

## Vietnamese

Nếu ông (bà) muốn nội dung văn bản này được dịch sang tiếng Việt, xin vui lòng liên hệ với chúng tôi bằng điện thoại, thư hoặc thư điện tử theo địa chỉ ở trên.

## Greek

*Εάν επιθυμείτε περίληψη αυτού του κειμένου στην γλώσσα σας, παρακαλώ καλέστε τον αριθμό ή επικοινωνήστε μαζί μας στην ανωτέρω ταχυδρομική ή την ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση.*

## Turkish

Bu belgenin kendi dilinize çevrilmiş bir özetini okumak isterseniz, lütfen yukarıdaki telefon numarasını arayın, veya posta ya da e-posta adresi aracılığıyla bizimle temasa geçin.

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਅਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਉਪਰ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਡਾਕ ਜਾਂ ਈਮੇਲ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

## Hindi

यदि आपको इस दस्तावेज का सारांश अपनी भाषा में चाहिए तो उपर दिये हुए नंबर पर फोन करें या उपर दिये गये डाक पते या ई मेल पते पर हम से संपर्क करें।

## Bengali

আপনি যদি এই দপিলের একটা সারাংশ নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে ফো করবেন অথবা উল্লেখিত ডাক ঠিকানায় বা ই-মেইল ঠিকানায় আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করবেন।

## Urdu

اگر آپ کو اس دستاویز کا خلاصہ اپنی زبان میں درکار ہو تو، براہ کرم نمبر پر فون کریں یا منکورہ بالا ڈاک کے پتے یا ای میل پتے پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

## Arabic

إذا كنت أنت أو أحد معارفك بحاجة إلى هذا التقرير مطبوعاً بخط كبير أو بطريقة برايل، أو ترغب في الحصول على الملخص والنتائج الرئيسية بلغة أخرى، فيرجى التواصل معنا على: 020 7983 4100 أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني [assembly.translations@london.gov.uk](mailto:assembly.translations@london.gov.uk)

## Gujarati

જો તમારે આ દસ્તાવેજનો સાર તમારી ભાષામાં જોઈતો હોય તો ઉપર આપેલ નંબર પર ફોન કરો અથવા ઉપર આપેલ ટપાલ અથવા ઈ-મેઈલ સરનામા પર અમારો સંપર્ક કરો.

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