

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR DEPUTY MAYOR FOR FIRE DECISION – DMFD284

Personal injury claims 2026-27

Executive summary:

This report requests the approval of the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service (the Deputy Mayor) to authorise the London Fire Commissioner (LFC) to commit revenue expenditure of the amount set out in Part 2. This is to settle personal injury claims in 2026-27, subject to the following conditions:

- the LFC obtains and follows the advice of specialist counsel on settlement; and the advice of a costs lawyer on costs claimed
- spend is contained within the total funding for 2026-27, as identified in part 2 of this decision
- spend per claim is contained within the limit identified in part 2 of this decision
- the LFC's General Counsel notifies the Deputy Mayor when it receives a claim expected to exceed £150,000, and upon final settlement of such cases
- the LFC provides the Deputy Mayor with a year-end financial update on spend that occurred within the terms of this decision.

The London Fire Commissioner Governance Direction 2018 sets out a requirement for the LFC to seek the prior approval of the Deputy Mayor before “[a] commitment to expenditure (capital or revenue) of £150,000 or above as identified in accordance with normal accounting practices”.

Decision:

That the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service authorises the London Fire Commissioner to commit revenue expenditure, up to the amount set out in Part 2 of this decision, to settle personal injury claims in the 2026-27 financial year.

Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision.

The above request has my approval.



Signature:

Date: 17 March 2026

PART I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. Report LFC-25-097 to the London Fire Commissioner (LFC) sets out that prior approval to settle high-value personal injury claims has been sought each financial year since 2021-22. The last decision (DMFD261) was approved in February 2025.
- 1.2. Most personal injury claims made against the LFC are for less than the £150,000 scheme of delegation threshold in the London Fire Commissioner Governance Direction 2018. However, for claims involving diagnoses of mesothelioma, other asbestos-related illnesses (asbestosis, lung cancer), cancer-related claims, psychiatric injuries, and any claim that results in a medical retirement, the value is likely to exceed £150,000.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The purpose of LFB's request is to ensure that personal injury claims over £150,000, and up to the amount set out in Part 2, can be settled quickly and without the requirement for additional decision-making by the GLA.
- 2.2. The paper notes that the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service (the Deputy Mayor) will continue to be notified by the LFC's General Counsel upon receipt of claims expected to exceed £150,000; and once their final confirmed cost has been settled. The LFC will continue to provide a year-end financial update on the spend that occurs in relation to this decision.
- 2.3. LFB has submitted a report to the Deputy Mayor for 2024-25; during this year, four claims exceeded the cost-per-claim threshold.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. The LFC and the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service are required to have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) when taking decisions. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the identification and evaluation of the likely potential impacts, both positive and negative, of the decision on those with protected characteristics (see paragraph 3.4).
- 3.2. It is important to note that consideration of the Public Sector Equality Duty is not a one-off task. The duty must be fulfilled before taking a decision; at the time of taking a decision; and after the decision has been taken.
- 3.3. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership (but only in respect of the requirements to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination), race (ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality), religion or belief (including lack of belief), sex, and sexual orientation.
- 3.4. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision-takers in the exercise of all their functions, to have due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other prohibited conduct
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
 - foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 3.5. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic where those disadvantages are connected to that characteristic
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it
 - encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 3.6. The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- 3.7. Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- tackle prejudice
 - promote understanding.
- 3.8. LFB does not consider that there are any specific equality implications arising from their report.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1. LFB does not consider that there are any implications from its report relevant to sustainability, procurement or communications.
- 4.2. LFB has not undertaken any consultations with its staff but reports that it takes note of wider lessons from personal injury claims and applies the learning at an organisational level where necessary.

Conflicts of interest

- 4.3. There are no conflicts of interest to declare from those involved in the drafting or clearance of this decision.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. LFC-25-097 recommends that the LFC delegate authority to settle personal injury claims up to a maximum amount per claim, specified in Part 2 of this report.
- 5.2. The LFC's 2026-27 budget submission includes a budget to settle personal injury claims, based on the previous year's spend and future anticipated expenditure. The amount is set out in Part 2.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1. The LFC's General Counsel's Department have confirmed the following.
- 6.2. Under section 9 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, the LFC is established as a corporation sole with the Mayor appointing the occupant of that office. Under section 327D of the GLA Act 1999, as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2017, the Mayor may issue to the LFC specific or general directions as to the manner in which the holder of that office is to exercise his or her functions.

- 6.3. By direction dated 1 April 2018, the Mayor set out those matters, for which the LFC would require the prior approval of either the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor. Paragraph (b) of Part 2 of the said direction requires the LFC to seek the prior approval of the Deputy Mayor before “[a] commitment to expenditure (capital or revenue) of £150,000 or above as identified in accordance with normal accounting practices”.
- 6.4. The proposals in this report seek to provide delegated authority to General Counsel to settle personal injury claims (or in the alternative a specific personal injury claim) in excess of £150,000. Accordingly, this falls within those matters set out in the 2018 Directions; and therefore requires the prior approval of the Deputy Mayor.

Appendices and supporting papers:

LFC-25-097 Personal Injury Claims 2026-27 Part 1

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and will be made available on the GLA website within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** This form (Part 1) will be published either within one working day after approval or on the defer date.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form? YES

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to confirm the following (✓)

Drafting officer

Daisy McLachlan has drafted this report with input from the LFC and in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service

Chandru Dissanayake has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service for approval.

✓

Advice

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal.

✓

Mayoral Delivery Board:

A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Mayoral Delivery Board on 16 March 2026.

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER:

I confirm that financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this report.

Signature

Approval received via email from Elliott Ball, Director, GLA Group Finance, on behalf of Fay Hammond, Chief Finance Officer, to GLA Decisions on 16 March 2026.

Date 17 March 2026