

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

DMFD287

Procurement of depolluted vehicles

Information may have to be disclosed in the event of a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In the event of a request for confidential facts and advice, please consult the Information Governance team for advice.

This information is not for publication until the stated date, because:

In the event the information contained in this part 2 and/or its appendix is the subject of a request for information under section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), it is considered that access can be denied on the basis that such information constitutes exempt information under:

Section 43(2) of the Act, on the basis that the information in this report includes information that is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Date at which Part 2 will cease to be confidential or when confidentiality should be reviewed: until the contract is signed, which London Fire Brigade expects to be on or around 1 June 2026.

Legal adviser recommendation on the grounds for not publishing information at this time:

At present, on balance, it is considered that the public interest is best served if the information is not disclosed at this point. Disclosure by the London Fire Commissioner (LFC) would be likely to have a detrimental effect on the LFC's position and related commercial interest regarding spend incurred for the purposes of the procurement of the depolluted vehicles contract. The eligibility of these exemptions should be reassessed in the event of an FOI request for this information, as the level of sensitivity will change over time and different circumstances may alter the arguments in favour of non-disclosure.

Legal Adviser - I make the above recommendations that this information should be considered confidential at this time

Name:

Date:

Once this form is fully authorised, it should be circulated with Part 1.

Confidential decision and/or advice:

The part 1 report sets out the background for the request to the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service to authorise the London Fire Commissioner (LFC) to commit revenue expenditure of £500,000, over five years, to re-procure and award a contract to provide depolluted vehicles.

London Fire Brigade's (LFB's) spending on depolluted vehicles varies according to mandatory training schedules, and skills gaps or risks identified by watch officers at stations. In July 2019, LFB received approval to spend up to £611,691 to award a five-year contract for depolluted vehicles and associated services; this allowed for approximately £120,000 a year (see [DMFD33](#)). LFB has since identified that, between 2019 and 2024, it spent an average of approximately £100,000 a year on depolluted vehicles

(see table 1). LFB is therefore requesting approval to spend £500,000 on a new five-year contract for depolluted vehicles, to run between 1 June 2026 and 31 May 2031.

Table 1 – LFB’s spend on depolluted vehicles, 2019-20 to 2025-26

Financial year	Expenditure on depolluted vehicles (£)
2019-20 (contract began on 1 August 2019)	105,115
2020-21	109,395
2021-22	91,025
2022-23	102,425
2023-24	99,590
Total	507,550
LFB continued to use the same supplier between 1 August 2024 and 28 February 2026	
2024-25	116,285
2025-26	64,185

Note: LFB provided information about its spending on depolluted vehicles on a financial-year basis, although its previous five-year contract ran between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2024. LFB had approval to spend up to £611,691 during that period (see DMFD33).

LFB’s previous five-year contract for depolluted vehicles ended on 31 July 2024. LFB approved a one-year extension (until 31 July 2025) with the incumbent supplier, ACE Vehicle Services Limited, to allow time to run a competitive procurement. LFB told us that the procurement process took longer than expected; and ACE Vehicle Services Limited continued to provide depolluted vehicle services, and accept payment, under an implied contract with LFB up to 28 February 2026.

LFB reports that the requirements for a new five-year contract were assessed by its Procurement and Commercial team. The route it took to market was via an open procedure conducted in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015).

Following this competitive tender process conducted in accordance with the PCR 2015, LFB reports that it has identified a preferred supplier, Redcorn Limited. The previous supplier, ACE Vehicle Services Limited, did not submit a bid. LFB is now seeking approval to spend before formalising the contract award with Redcorn Limited. In the interim, LFB entered a three-month contract with Redcorn Limited on 1 March 2026, on a single-source justification basis.

Financial comments

The spend expectation of £500,000 over five years is factored into current and future budgets. There are no incremental budgetary implications.

Legal comments

Legal comments are set out in part 1.

Confidential appendices and supporting papers

LFC-26-025 Procurement of depolluted vehicles – Part 2