

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA080119-2522

4 March 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 7 January 2019, and apologies for the delay in our response to you. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please find below the information we hold within the scope of your request:

This first part of the request relates to the restriction of movement of pedestrians at the New Year's Eve fireworks show and also the New Year's celebration generally in the Westminster area. The request is restricted to 31st of December 2018 until 12pm 1st January 2019. The word entity should be read to include a person, persons or company.

The Greater London Authority is the event owner in respect of the New Year's Eve fireworks event in London and engages a professional production company to develop and coordinate the delivery of the event on its behalf. The wider celebrations in Westminster, including the London New Year's Day Parade, are outside of the GLA's control, and the GLA does not hold information relating to those wider celebrations.

1. What power(s) were used to restrict pedestrian traffic in the areas described above?

Where it was required to ensure and maintain control of safe capacities within event areas, and/or to ensure safety where congestion occurred or was likely to occur, the restriction of pedestrian traffic within the areas around the New Year's Eve fireworks event was carried out using the powers of several different public agencies. These powers were in turn drawn from the following areas of legislation:

- Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Sections 14, 16a and 22c
- Highways Act 1980
- Local Government Act 2003
- Police Reform Act 2002
- Private Security Industry Act 2001

2. Who may exercise the powers described above?

London police authorities, including Metropolitan Police, British Transport Police, and City of London Police.

Greater London Authority and the Local and Highways Authorities with responsibility for areas within the event area, including Westminster City Council, London Borough of Lambeth, London Borough of Southwark, City of London and Transport for London.

Event security and stewarding staff, licensed by the Security Industry Authority (SIA), as delegated by the Home Office.

3. Other than the answer to question (2), was such a power granted to non-publicly employed "entities"?

As answered in question 2, the non-publicly employed entity that have powers in this regard are licenced Security Industry Authority (SIA) security and stewarding staff, employed as agents of the Greater London Authority via its contracted Event Organiser.

4. What is the extent of the power that can be exercised by the entity?

5. What penalties can be issued by the entity described above?

6. Please may I have a copy of the document that granted the above power to the entity exercising the said power

The granting of powers which can be used by licensed security and stewarding staff is with the Security Industry Authority. The GLA does not hold this information.

7. Who supervises the powers that are granted to entities? What oversight is there?

The supervision and oversight of the powers which can be used by licensed security and stewarding staff is with the Security Industry Authority. The GLA does not hold this information.

8. Can I have a copy of any instructions given to the entity described above; for example - rules of engagement, operating instructions, hierarchy, alert systems and invitation to tender for such entities etc

The GLA does not hold a copy of this information. However, we should note, that the GLA would not release information of this nature that could seriously compromise the security operation of the event in future if this information was publicly available.

9. What powers of enforcement can an entity use? Specifically:

1. what level of physical force may be used?

2. Can an office of an entity issue fixed penalty notices?

The governance of the powers which can be used by licensed security and stewarding staff is with the Security Industry Authority. The GLA does not hold this information.

10. Are entities required to have public liability insurance? If yes, to what level of cover?

In delivering the New Year's Eve Fireworks event on behalf of the Greater London Authority, our Event Organiser holds £30m Public Liability Insurance in regard to the event.

11. What steps are taken to ensure persons working for entities are suitably qualified?

Staff in key roles working for security firms, specifically around enforcing access restrictions to implement the crowd management plan, for the New Year's Eve event are required to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority under the Private Security Industry Act 2001.

12. Can the above power be used to prevent a resident accessing their private dwelling or their business if to do so would involve crossing an area that fell within a controlled area?

The purpose of the access restrictions put in place for the New Year's Eve fireworks were not to prevent business or residents in the impacted area from accessing their properties, and a significant Business and Resident Engagement Plan was in place to help facilitate access to private dwellings. That said, the powers outlined in the answer to question 1 could be used to prevent a resident from crossing a controlled area if there was another viable route that was facilitated in which to access a private dwelling. If there was no other viable route, access through a controlled area could be permitted.

These questions are more general and are not time or location restricted.:

- 1. How many times has the above power been used within the last 12 months within Westminster?***
- 2. How many private law claims have arisen out of the use of such powers in Westminster?***

The Greater London Authority does not hold this information.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA080119-2522.

Yours sincerely


Senior Events Officer, Events for London

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:
<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>