



## MEMBER QUESTIONS



**Question No. 481**

**London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority - Meeting: 5 October 2017**

**Question by Cllr Martin Whelton (Labour Group) to the Commissioner of LFB (Dany Cotton)**

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### **Total recalls**

Can the Commissioner update the Authority on the Total Recalls campaign and whether any response has been received from Government following recent correspondence to the Prime Minister on implementing safety recommendations following the fire in Shepherds Bush last year?

### **Reply**

Since we launched the Total Recalls campaign in 2016, we have taken a number of steps to raise the issue of white goods safety, focusing our campaigning on seeking improvements in the product recall system in the UK, which is underpinned by a drive to improve manufacturing standards.

Following the Shepherd's Bush fire in August 2016, which was caused by a faulty Indesit tumble dryer that was subject to corrective action, a new working group was established by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). This group published its recommendations in July 2017.

In August 2017 I wrote to the Prime Minister, which was jointly signed by a number of others including the Mayor of London, LFEPA Chair and Conservative lead on LFEPA, Fire Brigades Union and the National Fire Chiefs' Council. The letter warned that thousands of dangerous white goods are still being used in homes across the UK and called for decisive action from Government.

We have since received a positive response from the Prime Minister, which explained that although a formal response to the BEIS working group's report will be issued in the autumn, the Government also recognises the need to act swiftly and is considering the framework for a national body to support consumers on product safety. On the safety of fridges which we also

raised in the letter, the response said that the government will work with colleagues including LFB to ensure that the European standard is updated and addresses any issues.

We will continue to have conversations with the Government and others to press for action to be taken as soon as possible.

## **Question No. 482**

**London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority - Meeting: 5 October 2017**

**Question by Andrew Dismore AM (Labour Group) to the Commissioner of LFB (Dany Cotton)**

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### **Backstreet garages and car repairers**

There are many 'backstreet' garages and car repairers across the capital, often with gas cylinders that present particular hazards, especially when there is a fire as occurred recently in Watling Avenue, Burnt Oak, in a garage that was unknown to LFB. What can be done to make sure the Brigade is made aware of these premises and the risks they pose, and to ensure appropriate advice is given to business owners re fire protection, especially involving the use and storage of cylinders?

### **Reply**

Firefighters carry out visits to premises within their station area to familiarise themselves with any risks. These may be as part of their statutory 7(2)d visits or by way of a visual audit. The outcomes of these visits/audits are recorded on the operational risk database where significant risk has been identified, including the presence of gas cylinders.

Our fire safety teams also undertake active risk targeting to identify buildings that may be 'unregulated' which can, for example, include businesses in railway arches and 'pop up' churches. Where appropriate, enforcement action under fire safety legislation will be taken to ensure that the premises are safe. If they identify risks (such as the use of cylinders) they will also notify the local fire station of these risks for them to record and be aware of in the event of future incidents. Where cylinders are being used our officers will, where necessary, provide robust advice on the use and safe storage of them.

Officers maintain liaison arrangements with local agencies including the local authority, transport authorities and business groups to try and ensure that we are notified of premises that pose a fire safety risk. Unfortunately, despite these arrangements, there will be some 'backstreet' operators that do not come to our attention.

## Question No. 483

London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority - Meeting: 5 October 2017

Question by Unmesh Desai AM (Labour Group) to the Commissioner of LFB (Dany Cotton)

### Support for Heathrow Airport

How often in the last 6 months has the Brigade been called upon to attend fires or other incidents at Heathrow Airport to support the airport's own firefighting team; in what circumstances will the Brigade be called upon to attend and is there a protocol with the airport for this; and how many of these incidents involved fires in aircraft?

### Reply

The fires and other incidents attended by the London Fire Brigade at Heathrow airport, including incidents involving aircraft, are set out in the table below. The data covers the six month period from February to August 2017.

March-August 2017 incidents in or around Heathrow Airport (terminals, runways, gates, etc.)	Fires	Special Services	False Alarm – good intent	False Alarm – Automatic Fire Alarm	Total
<b>Aircraft</b>					
Passenger plane		4	2		6
<b>Buildings (Non-residential)</b>					
Airport - terminal	27		37	14	78
Airport building (not terminal or hangar)	1			1	2
Airport - hangar				1	1
Train station - platform (below ground)				1	1
Train station - concourse			1	1	2
Bus/coach station/garage	2				2
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>92</b>

The circumstances that would attract a LFB attendance at Heathrow Airport are determined by our statutory duties. How Heathrow Airport supports the LFB response is contained within the

Heathrow Airport's 'Emergency Orders' which detail the categories of emergency, the means of alerting emergency services and airport units, and the procedures to co-ordinate the initial response to any incident. LFB support the airport's management in developing the emergency orders, who in turn act in accordance with civil aviation policy. There was a review of the Heathrow Emergency Orders in 2014. There has just been a further rewrite of Emergency Orders that are due to be published shortly.