

London Fire Brigade



Naming and Numbering of Streets and Buildings

Introduction

The following note has been prepared for the guidance of officers when giving advice on the naming and numbering of streets and buildings within the London Fire Brigade area.

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1. Legislation

There are four principal pieces of legislation that apply to the Naming and Numbering of Streets and Buildings in London.

1. London Building Acts (Amendment) Act 1939 Part II
2. London Government Act 1963 Section 43(1) (a) & (2)
3. London Government Order 1965 Article 3 (11)
4. Local Government Act 1985 Schedule 8 Section 14 (1) (a)

2. Background

The present powers which control street naming and numbering matters in the Greater London area derived from Part II of the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act 1939, which was subsequently amended by Section 43(1) of the London Government Act 1963. The original Act referred to only the inner London area and the amendment extended its application to the whole of Greater London.

The main consideration which led to this amendment was that a consistent application across the enlarged area of London was needed to ensure the continuation of a policy, which over many years, had enabled the duplication of street names to be materially reduced and, where practicable, eliminated. This benefits not only the public and postal authorities, but also the emergency services. It also determined that there was a need for a comprehensive register of all streets in Greater London.

During its existence the Greater London Council adopted varying practices of applying the legislation involving partial delegation to the outer-London Boroughs.

With the abolition of the GLC in 1985 the functions were wholly devolved to the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London.

3. The Present Position

All London Boroughs are now responsible in law for the functions of naming and numbering streets and buildings throughout London.

This includes responsibility for:

- (a) erecting the names of public streets and for ensuring that the names and/or numbers of buildings are displayed by the owners in accordance with the Regulations made by the Boroughs and,
- (b) informing all owners / occupiers of naming and numbering orders.

It is the function of the Brigade's Pre-Determined Attendance (PDA) Section to act as liaison to all of the London Boroughs in respect of all street naming and numbering applications. The policy guidelines that follow are to be used when making observations on naming and numbering applications. The agreed names and number ranges are used by PDA to update the Authority's mobilising database.

4. Naming Streets and Buildings

The following policy guidelines have been established and followed over many years:-

- 1) New street or building names should not duplicate any similar name already in use in a borough or neighbouring boroughs. A variation in the suffix, e.g., 'street', 'road', 'avenue', etc., should not be accepted as sufficient reason to duplicate a name.
- 2) Names of more than three syllables should be avoided and this precludes the use of two words except in special cases.
- 3) Subsidiary names, such as a row of buildings within an already named road being called '.....Terrace/Parade', should only be used in roads of short length.
- 4) All new street names should end with one of the following suffixes:

- Street
- Avenue
- Boulevard
- Broadway
- Circus
- Close
- Crescent
- Dene
- Drive
- Gardens
- Grove
- Hill
- Lane
- Mead
- Mews
- Place
- Reach
- Rise
- Road
- Row
- Square
- Vale
- View
- Way
- Wharf
- Yard

Not acceptable suffixes:

End, Court, Cross, Side, Path, Walk, Park, Meadow, Gate or Common.

5) All new pedestrian walkways should end with one of the following suffixes:

Walk
Path

6) No street or building name to start with, 'The'.

7) All new building names should end with one of the following suffixes:

Apartments
Building(s)
Centre
Court
Heights
House
Lodge
Mansions
Point
Studio(s)
Tower
Villas

8) For private houses the name should not repeat the name of any other road or any other house or building in the surrounding area.

9) The use of North, East, South or West (as in Alfred Road North and Alfred Road South, or East or West) is only acceptable where the road is continuous and passes over a major junction.

10) Avoid having two phonetically similar sounding names within a postal area or within a borough, e.g. Churchill Road and Birch Hill Road.

11) Avoid misleading or unsuitable names such as Tip House, Access Way, or names open to misinterpretation like Tennis Court, Dead End Road etc.

5. The Numbering of Streets and Buildings

- 1)** A new street should be numbered with even numbers on one side and odd numbers on the other, with the exception that for a cul-de-sac consecutive numbering in a clockwise direction is preferred.
- 2)** Private garages and similar buildings used for housing cars, etc., should not be numbered.
- 3)** There should be no sanction given to the avoidance of any numbers e.g. 13, and a proper sequence should be maintained.
- 4)** Buildings (including those on corner sites) are to be numbered according to the street in which the main entrance is to be found and the manipulation of numbering in order to secure a 'prestige' address or to avoid an address which is thought to have undesired associations should not be sanctioned.
- 5)** If a commercial building has entrances in more than one street but is a multiple occupancy building and each entrance leads to a separate occupier, then each entrance should be numbered in the appropriate road. Exceptions may be made, depending on the circumstances, for a house divided into flats.
- 6)** A newly named building may not have more than one number allocated within the same road.
- 7)** New residential buildings will be allocated one sequential number within the road. Our preferred option is for flats to be numbered internally from number 1 upwards using all numbers. (e.g., Flat 2,13 Smith Street, not Flat A, 13 Smith Street and not 13A Smith Street which might already be used by an adjoining infill building.).
- 8)** The Act permits the use of numbers followed by letters or fractions (Section 11(2)). These are needed, for instance, when one large old house in a road is demolished and replaced by (say) four smaller houses. To include the new houses in the numbered sequence would involve renumbering all the higher numbered houses on that side of the road. If a considerable number of other houses would be affected, then to avoid this each new house should be given the number of the old house with either A, B, C or D added.

6. Renaming or Renumbering of Streets and Buildings

Renaming / renumbering existing streets and buildings is normally only considered when changes occur which give rise (or are likely to give rise) to problems for the occupiers, Post Office, Emergency Services, etc.