

Appendix 2: NATIONAL/REGIONAL POSITION

Fire & Rescue Incident Statistics

Key results

- FRSs attended 153,957 fires. This was a 16 per cent decrease compared with the previous year (182,915).
- There were 68,677 primary fires (45% of the 153,957 fires attended). This was a six per cent decrease compared with the previous year (73,278).
- FRSs attended 231,431 fire false alarms. This was unchanged compared with the previous year (231,225).
- FRSs attended 18,304 medical incidents. This was an eight per cent decrease compared with the previous year (19,906).
- When excluding medical incidents, FRSs attended 153,607 other non-fire incidents, an eight per cent increase compared with the previous year (142,345).

Fire & Rescue workforce and pensions statistics

Total workforce and leavers

- 40,408 staff (FTE) were employed by Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs), similar to 2019 (40,424).
- 32,171 staff (FTE) were employed by FRAs as firefighters, virtually unchanged compared with the previous year (32,232 in 2019)
- 1,078 staff (FTE) were employed by FRAs as fire control. This was virtually unchanged compared with 2019 (1,063).
- 7,159 staff (FTE) were employed by FRAs as support staff again similar to 2019 (7,128).
- During the year ending March 2020, 4,194 staff left FRAs and 4,048 joined (around 9% of headcount).

Workforce diversity

- 7.0 per cent (2,461) of all firefighters employed by FRAs were women compared with 6.4 per cent (2,231) in the previous year and 4.7 per cent (1,783) five years ago. Continuing the trend identified in 2018-19, for the first time since 2006, the main reason for the increase in the proportion of firefighters who are female is due to the increase in female firefighters, as opposed to a decrease in male firefighters.
- 4.4 per cent (1,410) of firefighters employed by FRAs who stated their ethnicity were from an ethnic minority, compared with 4.3 per cent (1,368) in the previous year
- The average age of firefighters employed by FRAs was 41, the same as the previous year and five years ago.
- 3.3 per cent (872) of all staff employed by FRAs were Lesbian/Gay or Bisexual. This compared with 3.2 per cent (788) in the previous year.

Firefighter health and safety

- There was a total of 2,466 firefighter injuries, seven per cent fewer than in the previous year (2,646).
- 963 firefighter injuries were sustained during operational incidents, 15 per cent fewer than in the previous year (1,129)
- 54 were classed as major injuries, the same number as in the previous year.
- There were no firefighter fatalities recorded.

Firefighter pensions

- Firefighters' Pension Scheme expenditure in 2019-20 was around £908 million, a six per cent increase compared with the previous year (£858 million in 2018-19)
- In 2019-20, 80 per cent of expenditure was "recurring outgoing payments", 19 per cent was "commutation payments", and "transfers" and "miscellaneous expenditure" together total less than one per cent.
- Firefighters' Pension Scheme income in 2019-20 was around £387.5 million, a 51 per cent increase compared with the previous year (£257 million in 2018-19).
- Employer contributions nearly doubling from £135 million in 2018-19 to £260 million in 2019-20 as a result of changes to the discount rate set by Her Majesty's Treasury from April 2019.
- The Firefighters' Pension Scheme deficit in 2019-20 was around £520 million, a 13 per cent decrease compared with the previous year (£600 million in 2018-19).
- As at 31 March 20, the total number of pensioner members was 46,228 and of these, 94 per cent (43,473) were members who have retired and were in receipt of benefits from the 1992 Scheme, down from 95 per cent on 31 March 2019.

Fire prevention and protection statistics

Fire prevention

- In 2019/20, FRSs and their partners completed 581,917 HFSCs. This was three per cent fewer than the previous year (597,656 in 2018/19).
- In 2019/20, FRSs and their partners completed 321,437 HFSCs targeted at people aged 65 and over. This was eight per cent fewer than the previous year (349,792 in 2018/19).
- In 2019/20, FRSs and their partners completed 168,485 HFSCs targeted at disabled people. This was two per cent fewer than the previous year (172,087 in 2018/19).

Fire protection:

- In 2019/20 FRSs carried out 48,414 Fire Safety Audits. This was two per cent fewer than the previous year (49,327 in 2018/19).
- 31,978 (66%) of audits in 2019/20 were deemed satisfactory. This percentage was one percentage point fewer than the previous year 33,265 (67%) in 2018/19.
- The 48,414 audits were carried out in three per cent of premises known to FRSs. This percentage was unchanged from the previous year (3% in 2018/19)
- The most common type of premises to be audited was "shops". There were 7,880 shops audited in 2019/20, 16 per cent of all fire safety audits. In 2019/20, the second most common type of premises audited was "care homes", 13 per cent of all Fire Safety Audits.
- There were 2,295 formal notices issued in 2019/20 (compared with 2,390 in 2018/19) comprising 1,347 enforcement notices, 788 prohibition notices, 108 alteration notices and 52 prosecutions.

Fire & Rescue service Sickness statistics

- During this period (2019/20), from the Fire Services who submitted data, there have been 34,491 separate occurrences of sickness absence.
- 42 FRS' (including North West Fire Control) submitted data for the period April 2019 December 2020 and the total shifts lost per member of staff for all staff

groups equates to 9.35 shifts per member of staff (9.17 shifts lost in the previous year).