

## EAST SUSSEX FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

<b>Meeting</b>	Scrutiny & Audit
<b>Date</b>	05 June 2019
<b>Title of Report</b>	Service Benchmarking Report 2017/18
<b>By</b>	Liz Ridley, Assistant Director Planning & Improvement
<b>Lead Officers</b>	Sharon Milner, Planning & Intelligence Manager Marcus Whiting, Planning & intelligence Analyst

---

<b>Background Papers</b>	Employee comparisons from the 'Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics: England, April 2017 to March 2018' Station and appliance comparisons from the 'CIPFA annual statistics for 2017-18' Health and Safety comparisons from the 'Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics: England, April 2017 to March 2018' Incident comparisons from the 'Fire Statistic Monitor: England April 2017 to March 2018' and the 'Fire Incident Response Times: England, for 2017-18' Sickness comparisons for the FG2 from the 'National Fire & Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2017 – March 2018'
--------------------------	---

---

<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A - East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Benchmarking Report 2017/18
-------------------	--

---

### Implications

<b>CORPORATE RISK</b>		<b>LEGAL</b>	
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>		<b>POLICY</b>	
<b>FINANCIAL</b>		<b>POLITICAL</b>	
<b>HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</b>		<b>OTHER (please specify)</b>	
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>		<b>CORE BRIEF</b>	

---

<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	To present the Fire Statistics for 2017/18 and comparative benchmarking of East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service against its family group in order to provide context to support the Authority's future decision making.
--------------------------	--

---

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** This report serves as an illustrative benchmark of East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service performance against other fire and rescue service performance. The report provides the Senior Leadership Team with a summary of the national context across Fire & Rescue Service performance with key findings from the Fire & Rescue Incident Statistics, followed by a more in depth comparison against the twelve fire and rescue services that make up Family Group 2. These are Services deemed to be of similar size in terms of area and population.

The report brings together a wide range of information about how East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service compares in delivering its services to local communities, including the cost of service provision, current performance measures, as well as organisational resourcing.

Benchmarking performance enables the Service to make decisions based on the results and provides a spotlight to managers for further investigation. Results of previous year's benchmarking exercises has enabled the Service to prioritise a number of areas where concentrated effort has borne positive results in the 2017/18 year-end figures.

The Panel is asked to note that the report contains information as at the 31 March 2018 as the national statistics are compiled a year in arrears.

---

**RECOMMENDATION** The Panel is asked to: consider the results of the report and direct the Service into any areas of performance not highlighted in the report that it would like to see further investigation into.

---

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report aims to provide Members with a summary of the performance across the fire and rescue service sector. The national context with key findings from the Fire & Rescue Incident Statistics, is presented first followed by the Service's annual benchmarking report that compares ESFRS against the twelve fire and rescue services that make up Family Group 2. These are Services deemed to be of similar size in terms of area and population.
- 1.2 Appendix A provides comparator information across Family Group 2, focussing on the following areas:
- Employee comparisons from the 'Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics: England, April 2017 to March 2018'
  - Station and appliance comparisons from the 'CIPFA annual statistics for 2017-18'
  - Health and Safety comparisons from the 'Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics: England, April 2017 to March 2018'
  - Incident comparisons from the 'Fire Statistic Monitor: England April 2017 to March 2018' and the 'Fire Incident Response Times: England, for 2017-18'
  - Sickness comparisons for the FG2 from the 'National Fire & Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2017 – March 2018'
- 1.3 The main purposes of the benchmarking report is to help us understand why we are achieving our performance levels, where our performance varies and help to investigate why variations may occur. This also provides us with an opportunity to see where other services are achieving better results than us and have conversations with them about any learnings and good practice that can be shared to improve our own situation. The results of previous benchmarking reports has enabled the Service to prioritise a number of areas where concentrated effort has borne positive results in the 2017/18 year-end figures.

## 2. NATIONAL/REGIONAL POSITION

### Key findings

#### 2.1 Fire & Rescue Incident Statistics

- 2.1.1 FRSs attended **564,827 incidents** in 2017/18. This was a one per cent increase compared with the previous year (560,453) but a 29 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (791,746 in 2007/08). The total number of incidents was on a downward trend for around a decade, though they have increased in recent years mainly driven by increases in non-fire incidents attended. However, the small increase this year was mainly driven by an increase in fires attended.
- 2.1.2 FRSs attended **167,150 fires** in 2017/18. This was a three per cent increase compared with the previous year (161,997) but a 43 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (293,920 in 2007/08). The increase in fires is driven by an increase in secondary fires with primary fires showing a small decrease.

- 2.1.3 FRSs attended **225,625 fire false alarms** in 2017/18. This was a one per cent increase compared with the previous year (223,896) but a 32 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (331,478 in 2007/08).
- 2.1.4 FRSs attended **172,052 non-fire incidents** in 2017/18. This was a one per cent decrease compared with the previous year (174,560). For around a decade, there had been a general decline in the number of non-fire incidents. However, recent years have shown large increases, largely due to a rise in medical incidents attended. The recent decrease in non-fire incidents is mainly due to a decline in emergency medical responding linked to many of the trials stopping in September 2017.
- 2.1.5 Of all incidents attended by FRSs in 2017/18, **fires accounted for 30 per cent and non-fire incidents 30 per cent**. The remaining 40 per cent were fire false alarms, which continued to be the largest incident type. In 2007/08 these percentages were 37 per cent (fires attended), 21 per cent (non-fire incidents) and 42 per cent (fire false alarms).
- 2.1.6 The number of fire-related fatalities had been on a general downward trend since comparable figures first became available in 1981/82, when there were 755 fire-related fatalities, though the numbers have fluctuated due to the relatively small numbers involved. In 2017/18, however, there were **334 fire-related fatalities** (including 71 from the Grenfell Tower fire) compared with 263 in the previous year (an increase of 27%).
- 2.1.7 There were **3,306 non-fatal casualties requiring hospital treatment<sup>1</sup>** in 2017/18 (including 77 from the Grenfell Tower fire). This was a six per cent increase compared with the previous year (3,128) but a 13 per cent decrease compared with five years ago (3,811 in 2012/13).

## 2.2 **Fire & Rescue workforce and pensions statistics**

### **Total workforce and leavers**

- 2.2.1 40,451 staff (FTE) were employed by FRSs on 31 March 2018. This was a one per cent decrease compared with the previous year (40,657 in 2017). Since the peak in 2009, the number of FRS staff has decreased by 22 per cent.
- 2.2.2 32,340 staff (FTE) were employed as firefighters on 31 March 2018. This was a one per cent decrease compared with the previous year (32,761 in 2017). Since 2009 the number of firefighters has decreased by 23 per cent.
- 2.2.3 During the financial year 2017/18, 3,988 staff left FRSs. This is nine per cent of staff headcount. From 2009/10 the proportion of FRS staff leaving had been on a slow upward trend from seven per cent to ten per cent in 2016/17.

### **Workforce diversity**

- 2.2.4 5.7 per cent (1,980) of firefighters were women in England in 2018. This compares with 5.2 per cent in the previous year (1,832 in 2017). Since 2010 the main cause in the increase in the proportion of women firefighters has been a decrease in the number of male firefighters.

- 2.2.5 4.1 per cent (1,293) of firefighters were from an ethnic minority group in England in 2018. This compares with 3.9 per cent in the previous year (1,255 in 2017). This has been caused by the number of white firefighters decreasing by a greater rate than the number of firefighters from an ethnic minority group. There were 85 fewer firefighters from an ethnic minority group in 2018 than in 2011. This compares with 14.6 per cent of the English population in the 2011 Census belonging to an ethnic minority group.

### **Firefighter health and safety**

- 2.2.6 There was a total of 2,588 firefighter injuries during 2017/18, three per cent greater than in the previous year (2,523 in 2016/17). The number of firefighter injuries was on a downward trend for over a decade but has plateaued since 2014/15.
- 2.2.7 There were 933 incidents involving an attack on firefighters in 2017/18, the highest recorded figure since data were first collected in 2010/11. There was a total of 2,523 firefighter injuries during 2016/17, three per cent lower than in the previous year (2,602). The number of firefighter injuries has been on a downward trend for over a decade.

### **Firefighter pensions**

- 2.2.8 The Firefighters' Pension Scheme deficit in 2017/18 was around £552 million. This was a three per cent increase compared with the previous year (£535 million in 2016/17). Expenditure was around £811 million while income was around £259 million.

### **Fire prevention and protection statistics**

#### **2.3 Fire prevention**

- 2.3.1 Overall, the number of Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs) that FRSs and their partners carry out have been on a downward trend except for a small increase between 2015/16 and 2016/17. In 2017/18, FRSs completed 576,040 HFSCs. This was a two per cent decrease compared with the previous year (590,198 in 2016/17) and 26 per cent fewer than in 2010/11 (775,019). Partners carried out 24,248 HFSCs, which was nine per cent fewer compared with 2016/17 (26,677) and 52 per cent fewer compared with 2010/11 (50,105).
- 2.3.2 Although the number of HFSCs has been declining, the number of targeted visits has fluctuated in number but steadily increased as a proportion of all HFSCs. Of the 576,040 HFSCs completed in 2017/18, 54 per cent were targeted towards the elderly and 25 per cent were targeted towards the disabled.
- 2.3.3 Overall, since 2010/11, the number of campaigns and initiatives and hours spent on campaigns and initiatives show no clear trend and appear to fluctuate year on year. In 2017/18 FRSs completed 140,560 campaigns and initiatives visits which was a four per cent decrease compared with 2016/17 (145,689) and 11 per cent fewer compared with 2010/11 (157,636).

## **Fire protection**

- 2.3.4 There has been a general decline in the number of fire safety audits that FRSs complete however this figure has fluctuated over some years. FRSs carried out 49,423 fire safety audits in 2017/18, which accounted for three per cent of premises known to the authorities and was nine per cent fewer than in 2016/17 (54,247, 4% of premises) and 42 percent fewer than in 2010/11 (84,575, 5% of premises).
- 2.3.5 Against the background of generally declining numbers of fire safety audits was a doubling of audits on purpose built flats of four or more storeys from 3,097 in 2016/17 to 6,586 in 2017/18 (an increase of 113%).
- 2.3.6 In 2017/18 the majority (68%) of fire safety audits were rated satisfactory, the same as the previous year. However, the proportion of fire safety audits on purpose built flats of four storeys or more that were deemed satisfactory fell from 78 per cent in 2016/17 to 69 percent in 2017/18.

In 2017/18 the highest proportion of fire safety audits were carried out on shop premises (16% or 7,871), followed by purpose built flats of four or more storeys (13% or 6,586) and care homes (12% or 5,890).

## **3. CURRENT POSITION FOR ESFRS**

- 3.1 The key areas of 2017/18 performance in *Operational Statistics* identified above for ESFRS are as follows:
- There were two fire fatalities in 2017/18, three less than in 2016/17, both of these fatalities occurred in accidental dwelling fires.
  - ESFRS attended 2,074 fires in 2017/18, an increase of 0.2% on the previous year but a 19.5% reduction since 2010/11. The national trend was a 3% increase.
  - In 2017/18, ESFRS attended 4,551, false alarms a decrease of 0.2% from the 4,560 false alarms recorded in 2016/17.
  - ESFRS attended 2,877, non-fire incidents in 2017/18, 10.5% more than in 2016/17. This is due to an increase in Assist other Agencies (40%, 77 incidents), Flooding (22%, 78) and Affecting Entry (14%, 49 incidents).
  - The most common types of non-fire incidents attended by ESFRS were road traffic collisions (18%), flooding (15%) lift release (12%) effecting entry (14%), and Assist other agencies (9%) Animal assistance (7%).
  - Financial comparisons - ESFRS has the third highest cost per Council Tax Band D.
- 3.2 The main purposes of the benchmarking report is to help us understand why we are achieving our performance levels, where our performance varies and help to investigate why variations may occur.

## **4. OUTCOMES FROM PREVIOUS BENCHMARKING EXERCISES**

- 4.1 This report provides the Service with an opportunity to consider its performance against those of its Peers. Over recent years this report has enabled the Service to focus on a number of areas where its performance is consistently in the bottom

quartile. During 2017/18 the Service increased the number of priority areas and undertook significant work to improve performance in those areas.

## 4.2 **Accidental Dwelling Fires**

- 4.2.1 During 2017/18 a concentrated effort to tackle accidental dwelling fires continued with the accidental dwelling fire working group and the joint funded behavioural insights project with the LGA which will run until the end of 2018/19. Our own research and that of others indicates that many fires could be prevented by the people involved – for example by paying more attention when cooking. The pilot is based in Brighton and is aiming to change people’s behaviour. The idea is that interventions aimed at encouraging people to make better choices will be more successful if they are based on insights from behavioural science, known as “nudge theory” or “behavioural insights.” The results of this concentrated effort will be demonstrated in future benchmarking reports.
- 4.2.2 Other in-house work to aid the reduction of accidental dwelling fires has been undertaken and an on-going integrated marketing campaign was launched in March 2018 by the Communications Team, entitled Be Your Own Hero. The key aim of this campaign was to drive down the number of accidental dwelling fire incidents across our Service area. The team produced a hard-hitting interview with a Crowborough businesswomen, who spoke about her distressing experience of a devastating fire in her home, to launch the campaign. As a result of this, BBC South East covered the story, alongside other mainstream local media, reaching a wide audience. Please click on this link to see the interview with Louisa Sheridan <https://www.esfrs.org/your-safety/be-your-own-hero/>
- 4.2.3 Numerous press releases have been issued subsequently, linking a variety of fires we attended since the campaign launched to the Be Your Own Hero home page, which includes the following: Candle Safety Warning Following Hove Fire, Warning Over Chip Pan Dangers, Electrical Safety Advice Following Hove Fire, Eastbourne Fire Prompts Smoke Alarm Message, Tumble Dryer Fire Sparks Electrical Safety Advice, Give Your Fuse Box Some Space, Spring Forward By Testing Your Smoke Alarm, It’s Friday The 13th – We’re Here to Keep You Safe, Fish Tank Causes Mobile Home Fire, Electrical Safety Warning Following Fridge Fire in Ticehurst #RegisterYourAppliance and Electrical Safety Reminder Following Two Fires.
- 4.2.4 This is a snapshot of just some of the media outlets who proactively promoted our safety messages, as a direct result of the news releases: Brighton & Hove News, Juice Brighton, Brighton & Hove Independent, Rye Observer, Brighton Argus, BBC South East, Eastbourne Herald, Hastings Observer, Kent & Sussex Courier, Crowborough Life, BBC Radio Sussex and Heart FM radio.
- 4.2.5 The number of Home Safety Visits undertaken by Crews and Community Safety Advisors increased with 10,982 visits undertaken against a target of 10,000. The year end result of 499 accidental dwelling fires equates to an 8% decrease on the previous year when 540 accidental dwelling fires were attended. This is the lowest number of accidental dwelling fires recorded over the last 18 years from 1999/2000. The previous lowest number being 506 in 2010/11. The intervening years since then saw 538, 558, 526, 544, 552 and 540 respectively.

4.2.6 A dedicated ADF group meet monthly and monitor and evolve the ongoing ADF action plan that seeks to deliver the ADF statement of intent.

4.2.7 Although the intention currently focusses on ongoing reduction it is acknowledged that changes in societal behaviour and public funding of other key services affect the levels of vulnerability in the community and that any increase in societal risk will need to be considered alongside this intention. It is also important that we continue to record every incident however minor as this continues to provide critical intelligence that is then used to shape future prevention activities.

#### 4.3 **Sickness absence**

4.3.1 Sickness still remains an area where we are high in comparison to our family group. We had the second level of sickness for WT and Control staff in FG2 for 2017/18 with 10.27 days lost to sickness per employee, which is above the 2017/18 average of 7.76. However, five FRS from FG2 did not provide data in 2017/18. ESFRS support staff had the highest level of sickness in FG2 (from the nine fire and rescue services in FG2 that returned data) with 12.62 days lost to sickness per employee. This is considerably above the 2017/18 average of 7.29 and the highest figure for ESFRS since the first Occupational Health Report was produced in 2012/13.

4.3.2 It should be noted that the Service has had absence management as a priority area in 2018/19. The national Cleveland Report for sickness statistics across the national FRS shows a much improved figure in 2018/19 demonstrating that the interventions being made by line managers, the HR team and the Well-being team are having an impact. Absence management remains a priority area for 2019/20 as further sustained improvements can still be made.

#### 4.4 **The number of high risk inspections**

4.4.1 This was a new priority area in 2017/18 and critically important following the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June 2017. As can be seen by the 2017/18 benchmarking report we completed the third lowest recorded number of audits per 1,000 non-domestic properties with 15.8, whereas Durham completed the most with 109.9 per 1,000 non-domestic properties. The FG2 average at 34.7 was more than double that of ESFRS. However this is an improvement on the 2016/17 report, when we were the lowest, having completed 299 audits, in 2017/18, 499 were recorded so the focus on this area is starting to see some positive progress. In 2018/19 station staff will also be trained to undertake a number of audits across the service ground so this will produce even better results in the coming years.

#### 4.5 **False Alarm Apparatus**

4.5.1 Similarly the benchmarking report has shown that the Service is high in relation to false alarms apparatus and lift rescues in recent years. This has led to the Service undertaking a demand management review.

4.5.2 Where the Service responds to AFAs which turn out to be false alarm at domestic premises, HMOs or specialised housing, these could be considered as an early indication of a potential fire or the presence of a vulnerable person(s) I.E. If the alarm

had not activated, the incident could have developed into a fire and therefore this could be considered a near hit. On the principle of Every Contact Counts, we want to use this opportunity to engage with the resident(s) to share advice and promote fire safety:

- Provide crews with training, knowledge and understanding to identify and deliver a more effective response to these incidents
- Ensure there is support for initial incident commanders when attending false alarms
- Review data to see where the AFAs are happening and what caused them



# **East Sussex** Fire & Rescue Service

---

## **East Sussex** **Fire & Rescue Service** **Benchmarking Report** **2017/18**

## Background

This document aims to provide benchmarking information for East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (ESFRS) against its other Family Group 2 (FG2) members. The UK's Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) are divided into five family groups, these groups are used to aid analysis and comparisons between similar FRS. ESFRS is grouped together with other similar sized FRS, which are deemed to have some, but by no means all of the same key characteristics.

The twelve FRS that make up FG2 are:

Bedfordshire  
Royal Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Dorset & Wiltshire  
Durham  
East Sussex  
Norfolk  
Northamptonshire  
Oxfordshire  
Suffolk  
West Sussex.

Previously FG2 reported on thirteen members, but this has now reduced to twelve since Dorset & Wiltshire have now combined as one service and their statistics are now reported as one.

This benchmarking report focuses on the following areas:

- Employee comparisons from the 'Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics: England, April 2017 to March 2018'
- Station and appliance comparisons from the 'CIPFA annual statistics for 2017-18'
- Health and Safety comparisons from the 'Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics: England, April 2017 to March 2018'
- Incident comparisons from the 'Fire Statistic Monitor: England April 2017 to March 2018' and the 'Fire Incident Response Times: England, for 2017-18'
- Sickness comparisons for the FG2 from the 'National Fire & Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2017 – March 2018'

On the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 the Home Office took over responsibility for the FRS. ESFRS previously submitted a number of datasets throughout the year to Department of Local Government and Communities (DCLG). These submissions are now being returned to the Home Office.

The most current Home Office datasets were released in January 2019. The figures in this report are based on the latest published figures and regional demographic information. The Appliance and Station numbers are based on data released by CIPFA (annual statistics for 2017-18) and the Employee and Health & Safety comparisons are based on 2017/18 Operational Statistics data collection returns. These returns reflect the positions within each organisation as of 31 March 2018. Sickness data is provided directly from Fire and Rescue Services in the 'National Fire and Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2017 – March 2018'. This report is prepared by Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service.

The Home Office collate the Annual Operational Statistics data collection returns and produce Fire and Rescue Service Operational Statistics Bulletins (Fire prevention and protection statistics: England, April 2017 to March 2018). These contain data from each UK FRS on:

- Fire Prevention and Community Fire Safety Activities
- Fire Safety Audits, Enforcement, Prohibition and Compliance Notices, and Prosecutions

The Home Office collate the Annual Operational Statistics data collection returns and produce Fire and Rescue Service Operational Statistics Bulletins (Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics: England, April 2017 to March 2018). These contain data from each UK FRS on:

- Staff strength by rank and contract
- Health and Safety – Injuries during operational incidents and training
- Vehicle Incidents and Accidents

All the Operational Statistics Bulletin datasets are in the public domain and can be accessed via the GOV.UK website or using this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-statistics-great-britain>

The Home Office also collect and collate the E-IRS data sets and produce the 'Detailed analysis of fires attended by fire and rescue services, England, April 2017 to March 2018' and the 'Response times to fires attended by fire and rescue services: England, April 2017 to March 2018'.

These contain data from each UK FRS on:

- Incident types
- Attendance times
- Fatalities and casualties

All Fire Statistics and Incident Response Times datasets are in the public domain and can be accessed via the GOV.UK website by using these links:<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables>

## Population and Geographic details

In order to create meaningful comparators across the Family Group 2 (FG2) the performance indicators are often expressed as a rate or ratio against a standard demographic or geographic value.

Table 1 sets out these main comparators. It shows, with regard to population and properties, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (ESFRS) is comparable to Cambridgeshire and West Sussex. ESFRS has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest population (840,500), the 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of dwellings (367,875) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of non-domestic properties (31,625) but it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> smallest in area among FG2.

ESFRS, with regard to full-time equivalents (FTE), has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of Wholetime (WT) and 6<sup>th</sup> highest number of On-call firefighters. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of WT and On-call combined.

	Bedfordshire	Berkshire	Buckinghamshire	Cambridgeshire	Dorset & Wiltshire	Durham	East Sussex	Norfolk	Northamptonshire	Oxfordshire	Suffolk	West Sussex
<b>Population</b>	664,600	905,900	803,400	847,100	1,487,200	630,000	<b>840,500</b>	898,400	741,200	682,400	757,000	852,400
<b>Domestic Properties (Dwellings)</b>	266,144	363,897	324,767	354,158	614,440	287,261	<b>367,875</b>	408,776	313,760	275,799	329,455	372,950
<b>Non-domestic Properties</b>	18,425	25,193	22,378	26,148	53,001	19,451	<b>31,625</b>	37,254	21,086	20,848	29,955	28,105
<b>Wholetime (Full Time Equivalents)</b>	283	381	244	250	431	307	<b>356</b>	267	235	230	200	321
<b>On-call (Full Time Equivalents)</b>	110	51	101	128	496	152	<b>196</b>	439	149	206	344	199
<b>Total</b>	393	432	345	378	927	459	<b>552</b>	706	384	436	544	520
<b>Area Sq. Km</b>	1,235	1,262	1,874	3,390	6,138	2,423	<b>1,791</b>	5,380	2,364	2,605	3,801	1,991

Table 1: Sources: i) CIPFA Fire and Rescue Service Statistics 2018 Summary ii) Fire statistics data tables 1102a:Total Staff Numbers (FTE) by role and fire and rescue authority – Wholetime Firefighters & 1102b Total Staff Numbers (FTE) by role and fire and rescue authority – On-call firefighters

# Locations of the Family Group 2 Fire and Rescue Services



## Employee comparisons

Table 2 shows that the ESFRS's senior management structure is most comparable to Oxfordshire and Cambridgeshire. Overall, ESFRS has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest numbers of operational staff in FG2.

Additionally, the figures represent the 'Strength' of each FRS. This is the actual number of operational posts filled as per contract as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. They do not include any temporary posts or posts that are fully funded by outside agencies; for example, persons seconded to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), the Home Office, HMICFRS, Fire Service College or charitable organisations. Posts such as these are not included in the FRS's 'Strength' figures. However, the figures reflect temporary promotions within the organisation.

ESFRS has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest increase in WT operational staff against the numbers stated in the 2016/17 Benchmarking Report. The 1.3% increase equates to 5 WT posts but this is still a decline of 75 WT posts since 2011. The average ratio of firefighters to Senior Managers in FG2 is 20, so with 24, ESFRS is above this and has the 3<sup>rd</sup> equal highest ratio.

Fire & Rescue Service	Brigade Manager	Area Manager	Group Manager	Station Manager	Watch Manager	Crew Manager	Firefighter	Total	% change from previous year	Ratio of Firefighters to Senior Manager*
Bedfordshire	2	4	9	13	38	45	172	283	4.8%	18 to 1
Berkshire	3	3	8	24	53	72	218	381	0.3%	26 to 1
Buckinghamshire	2	3	6	22	32	42	137	244	-3.2%	21 to 1
Cambridgeshire	2	3	9	28	44	30	134	250	-2.3%	17 to 1
Dorset & Wiltshire	4	5	10	36	77	62	237	431	3.1%	22 to 1
Durham	4	3	4	23	43	50	180	307	0.3%	27 to 1
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>24 to 1</b>
Norfolk	2	4	7	23	45	39	147	267	1.5%	20 to 1
Northamptonshire	2	5	9	17	50	30	122	235	-5.6%	14 to 1
Oxfordshire	3	3	9	26	49	37	103	230	-1.3%	14 to 1
Suffolk	2	4	7	21	39	27	101	200	-0.5%	14 to 1
West Sussex	3	3	7	24	59	50	175	321	-1.2%	24 to 1

\*Senior Manager includes Brigade Manager, Area Manager & Group Manager

Table 2 Source: Fire statistics data tables Table 1102a: Total Staff Numbers (FTE) by role and fire and rescue authority – Wholtime Firefighters

Table 3, shows the FG2 management structure at station level. ESFRS has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of Watch and Crew Managers by WT and Day crewed (DC) stations with 9.17. The FG2 average is 10.68.

Fire & Rescue Service	Watch Manager	Crew Manager	Firefighter	Crew & Watch Manager total	No. of WT & DC stations	Average no. of watch & crew managers by DC & WT station	Ranking
Bedfordshire	38	45	172	83	6	13.83	11
Berkshire	53	72	218	125	12	10.42	6
Buckinghamshire	32	42	137	74	10	7.40	1
Cambridgeshire	44	30	134	74	7	10.57	8
Dorset & Wiltshire	77	62	237	139	13	10.69	9
Durham	43	50	180	93	9	10.33	5
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9.17</b>	<b>2</b>
Norfolk	45	39	147	84	8	10.50	7
Northamptonshire	50	30	122	80	8	10.00	4
Oxfordshire	49	37	103	86	6	14.33	12
Suffolk	39	27	101	66	6	11.00	10
West Sussex	59	50	175	109	11	9.91	3

Table 3: Source - Fire statistics data tables Table 1102a: Total Staff Numbers (FTE) by role and fire and rescue authority – Wholetime Firefighters. Number of Stations: CIPFA Statistics 2017/18 Estimates and FRS Websites

Chart 1, below, shows the comparisons of WT firefighters (head count) across FG2. ESFRS is above the FG2 average of 293, with 357.

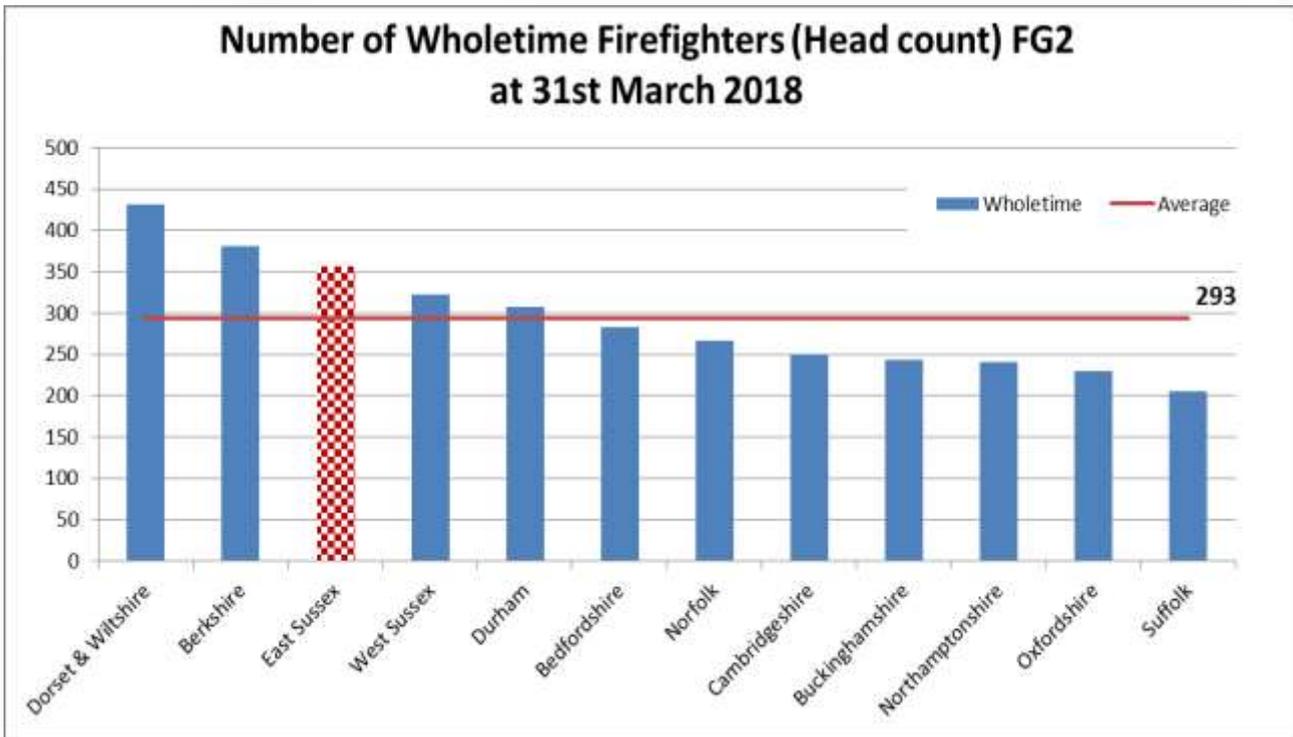


Chart 1 Number of WT Firefighters (Source: Fire statistics data tables 1101: Staff in post employed by FRA by head count – Wholetime Firefighters)

Chart 2 shows the comparisons of On-call firefighters (head count) across FG2. The average number of On-call firefighters across the group is 273, whereas for ESFRS this is 246. The On-call staffing model is often dependent on a number of factors, including geographical location, the number of incidents in an area and the levels of risk within an area.

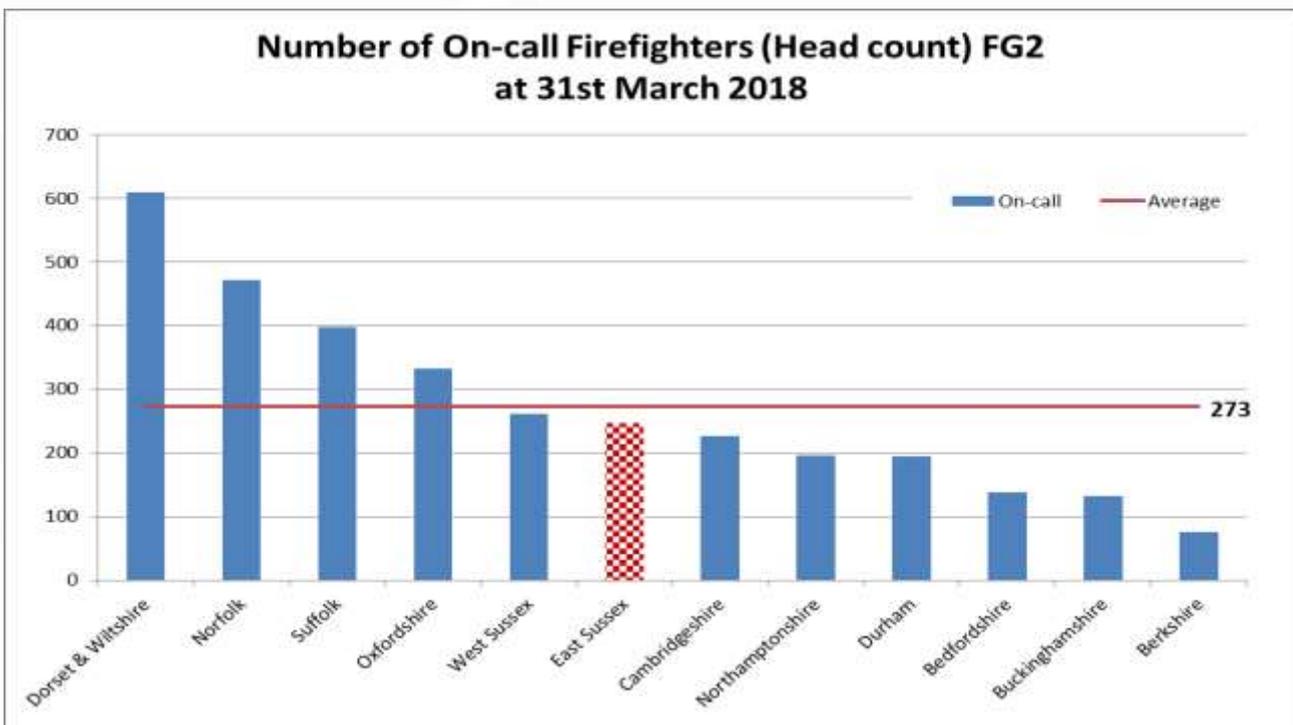


Chart 2 Number of On-call Firefighters (Source: Fire statistics data tables 1101: Staff in post employed by FRA by head count – On-call Firefighters)

## Stations and Appliances comparisons

Table 4 shows number of pumping appliances across area and population. ESFRS has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest number of pumping appliances among FG2 with 41. This is above the group average of 38.8. ESFRS's population is concentrated mostly on the coast by comparison to many other FG2 members and therefore impacts on the area per pumping appliance.

Fire & Rescue Service	Pumping Appliances	Appliances per 100,000 population	Area per Pumping Appliance (km <sup>2</sup> )	FRS Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population
Bedfordshire	22	3.31	56.2	1,235	664,600
Berkshire	21	2.32	60.1	1,262	905,900
Buckinghamshire	30	3.73	62.5	1,874	803,400
Cambridgeshire	36	4.25	94.2	3,390	847,100
Dorset & Wiltshire	80	5.38	76.7	6,138	1,487,200
Durham	27	4.29	89.8	2,423	630,000
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>4.88</b>	<b>43.7</b>	<b>1,791</b>	<b>840,500</b>
Norfolk	53	5.90	101.5	5,380	898,400
Northamptonshire	26	3.51	90.9	2,364	741,200
Oxfordshire	45	6.59	57.9	2,605	682,400
Suffolk	37	4.89	102.7	3,801	757,000
West Sussex	48	5.63	41.5	1,991	852,400

Table 4: Number of pumping appliances (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2017/18 Actuals)

Chart 3 presents the number of pumping appliances per 100,000 population. ESFRS has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest with 4.9, which is above the FG2 average of 4.6.

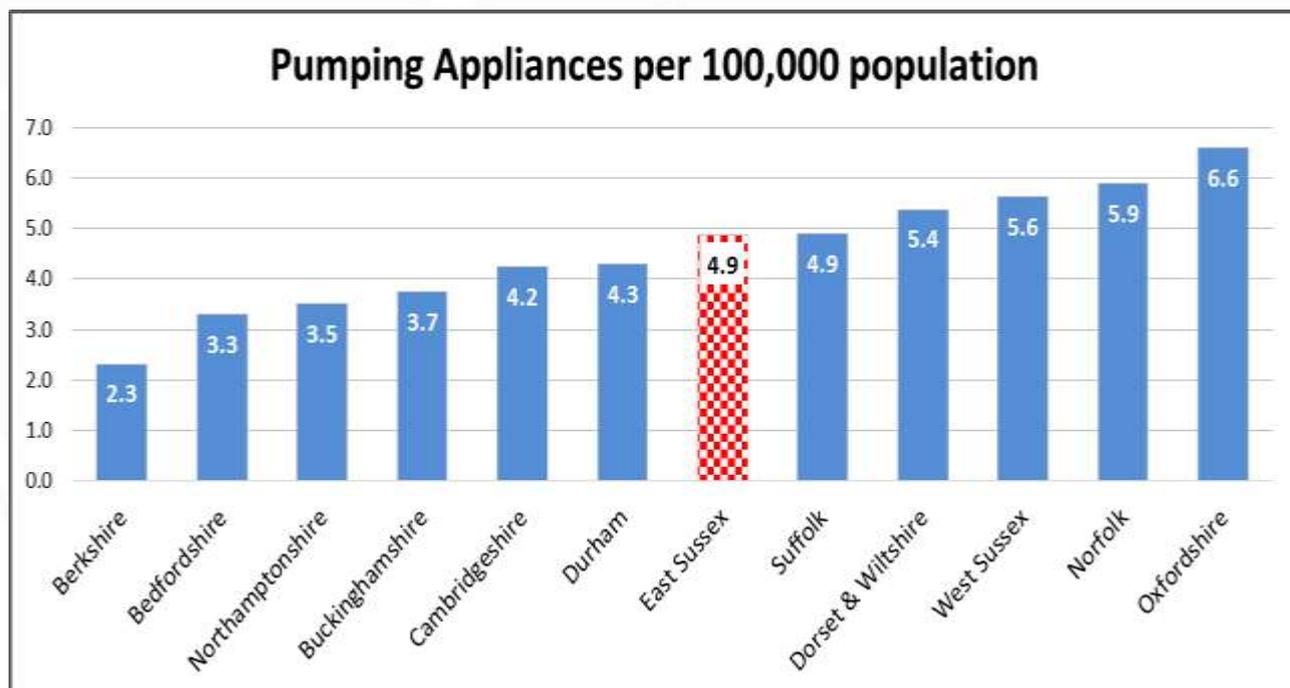


Chart 3: Pumping Appliances per 100,000 population (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2017/18 Actuals)

Chart 4 shows area per pumping appliance. ESFRS has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest pumping appliance density with one to every 43.7 km<sup>2</sup>. The FG2 average one to every 73 km<sup>2</sup>.

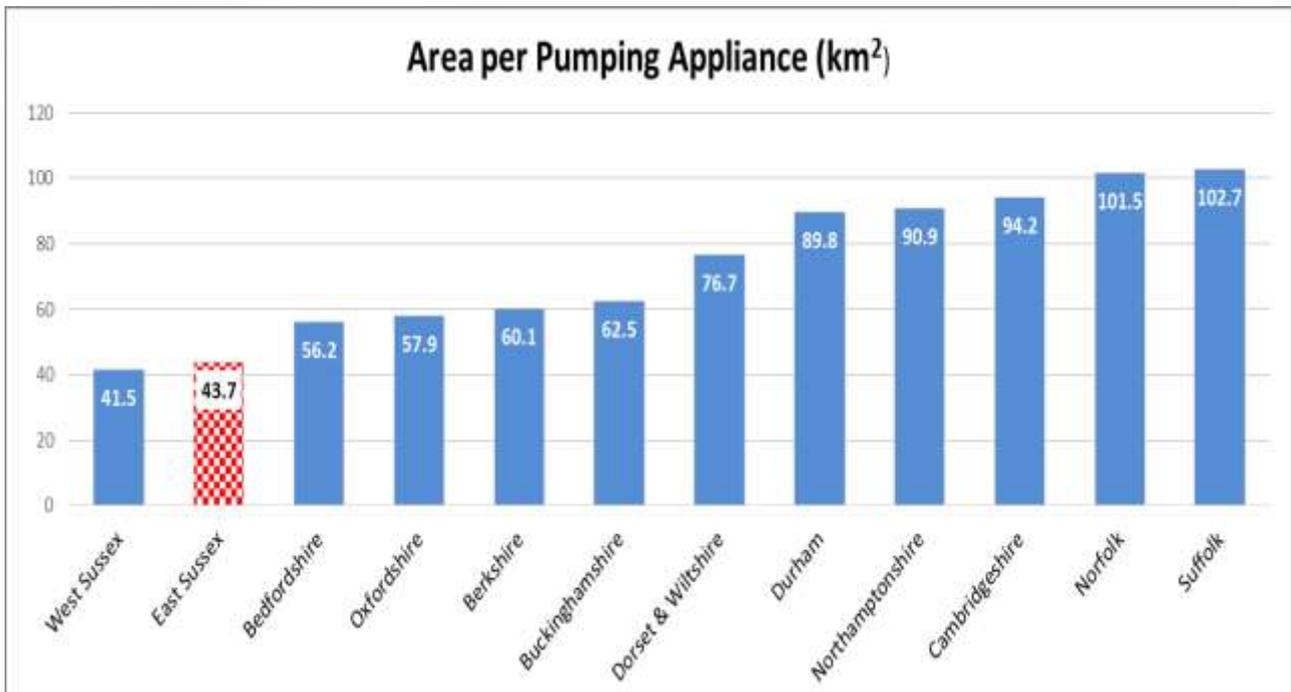


Chart 4: Square kilometers per appliance (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2017/18 Actuals)

Table 5 shows the number of stations per 100,000 population and area per station in km<sup>2</sup> for each FG2 FRS. ESFRS has 6 WT, 6 DC and 12 On-call stations, which is most comparable to West Sussex in FG2

Fire & Rescue Service	Wholetime Stations	Day crewed Stations	On-call Stations	Total Number of Fire Stations	Stations per 100,000 population	Area per Station (km <sup>2</sup> )
Bedfordshire	3	3	8	14	2.11	88.24
Berkshire	11	1	6	18	1.99	70.11
Buckinghamshire	6	4	10	20	2.49	93.68
Cambridgeshire*	3	4	20	27	3.19	125.54
Dorset & Wiltshire	3	10	37	50	3.36	122.76
Durham	2	7	6	15	2.38	161.56
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2.86</b>	<b>74.64</b>
Norfolk	3	5	34	42	4.67	128.10
Northamptonshire	3	5	14	22	2.97	107.45
Oxfordshire	2	4	18	24	3.52	108.54
Suffolk**	4	2	29	35	4.62	108.60
West Sussex***	6	5	14	25	2.93	79.64

Table 5: Number of Stations (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2017/18 Actuals and FRS Websites)

\*Cambridgeshire has 1 Volunteer Fire Station; \*\* Suffolk has 1 Nucleus Fire Station; \*\*\* West Sussex also share an additional station with Surrey FRS

Chart 5 presents number of stations per 100,000 population. ESFRS has a rate of 2.86 stations per 100,000 population, this is the 5th lowest in FG2.

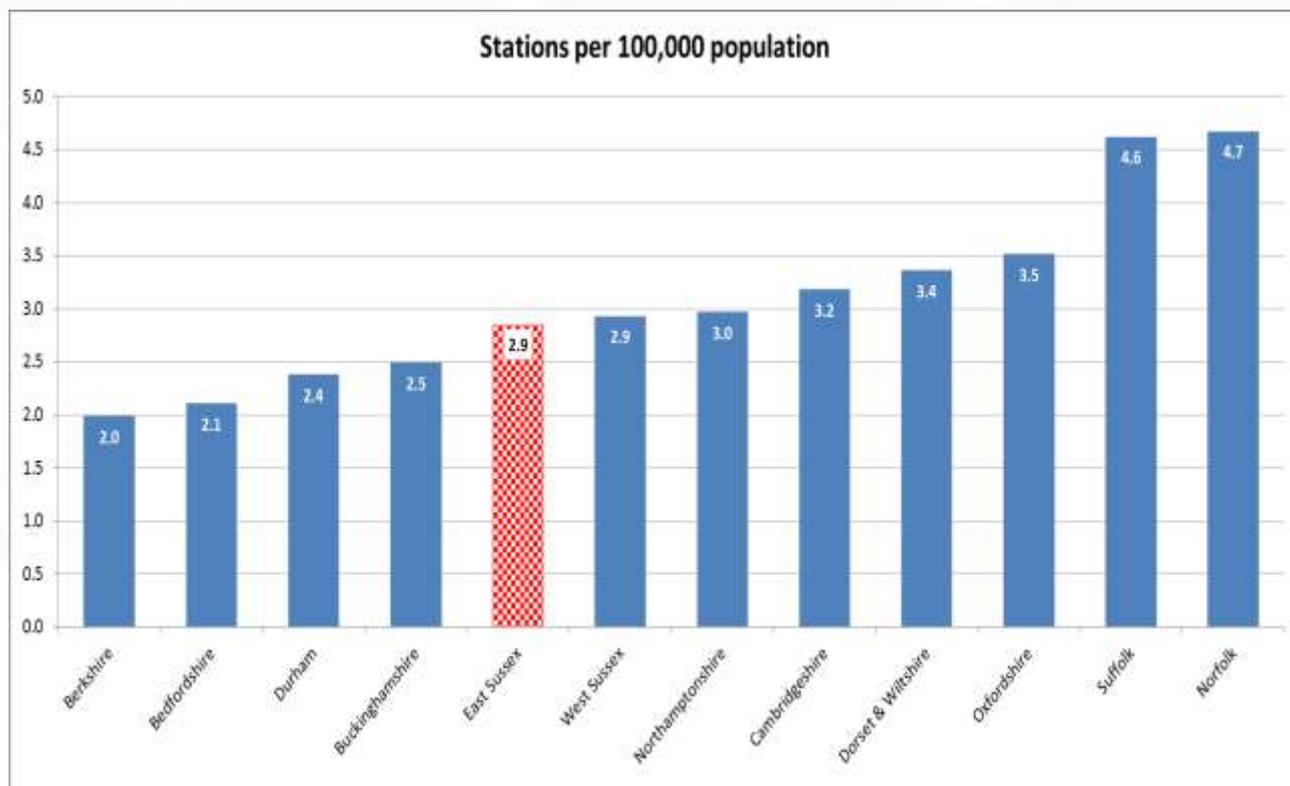


Chart 5: Stations per 100,000 pop (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2017/18 Estimates)

Chart 6 shows area per station in km<sup>2</sup>. ESFRS has one station for every 74.6 km<sup>2</sup>, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest density of stations per km<sup>2</sup> in FG2.

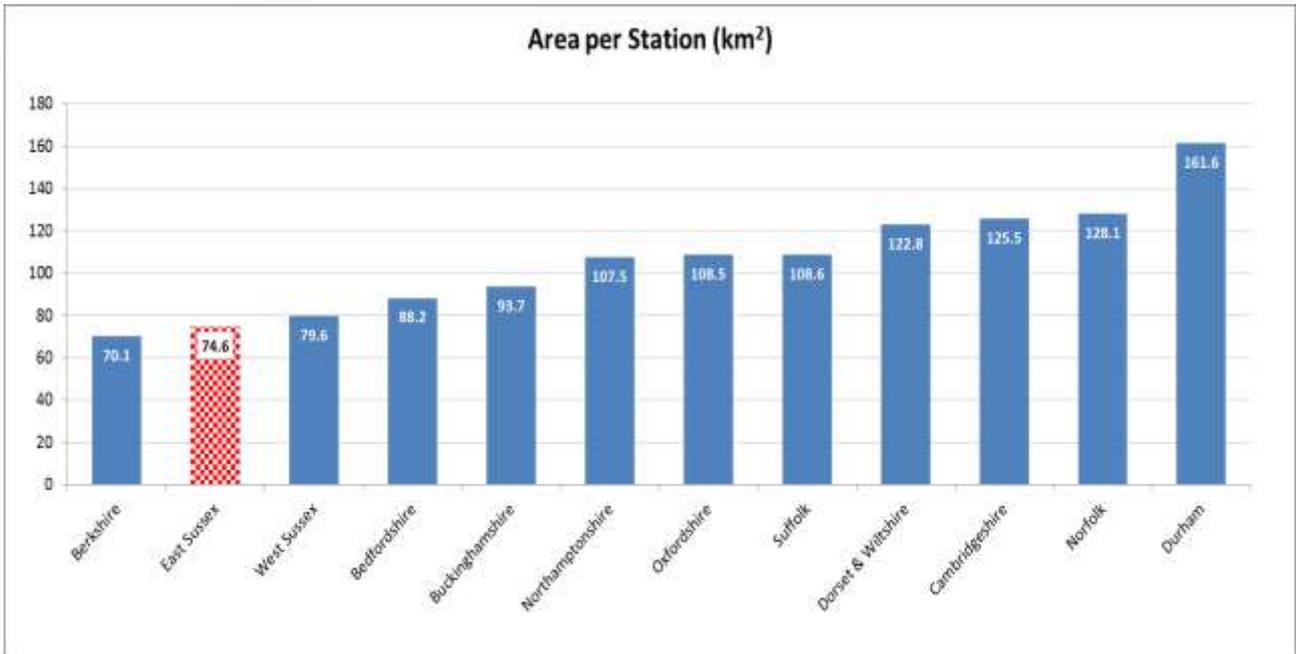


Chart 6: Stations per square km (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2017/18 Estimates)

Chart 7 highlights the number of WT, DC and On-call stations for each FG2 member. Berkshire has the highest number of WT stations, Dorset and Wiltshire has the highest number of DC and On-call stations. Dorset & Wiltshire (50) and Norfolk (47) have the most stations overall, whilst Bedfordshire (14) and Durham (15) have the least among FG2.

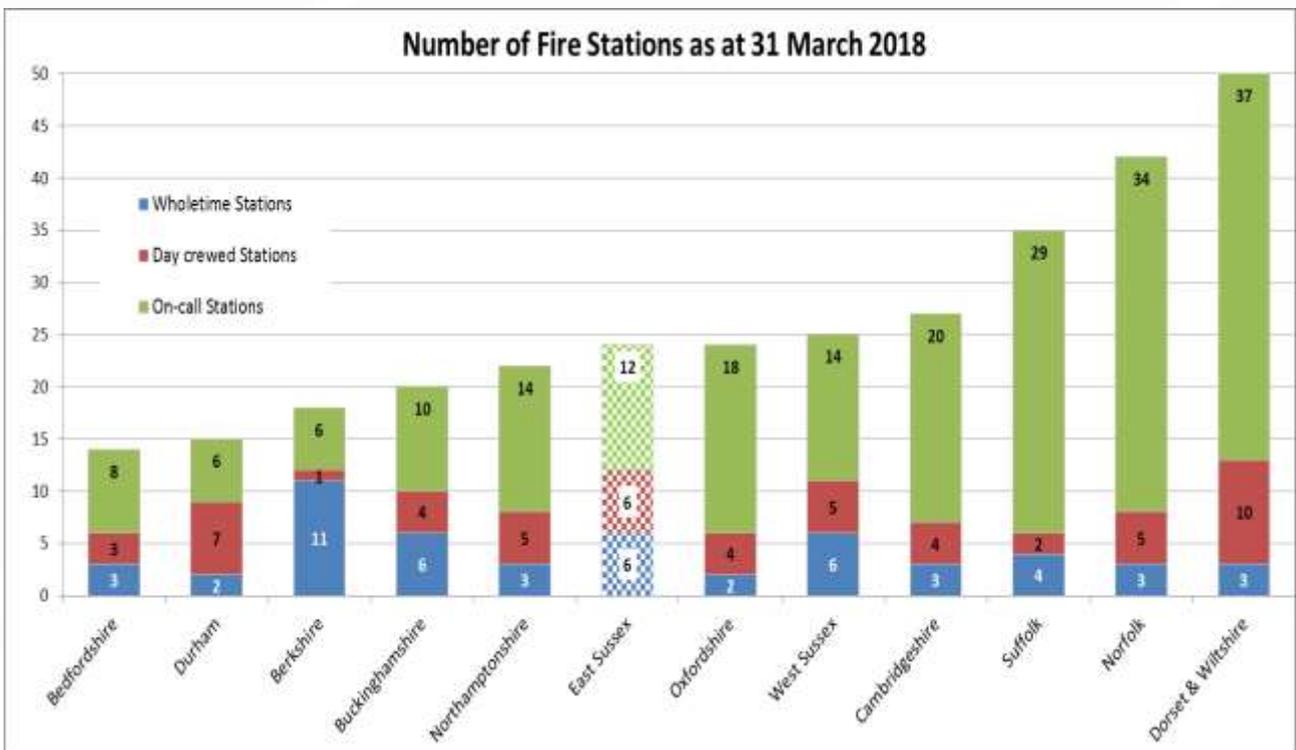


Chart 7 Number of Stations (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2017/18 Estimates & FRS Websites)

## Financial comparisons

Chart 8 shows the average net expenditure of each FRS in FG2 per domestic household and average Band D equivalent Council Tax for each FRS and for Combined Fire Authorities. (This information is not readily available for County Fire Authorities, as Fire budgets are generally combined with other departments.)

ESFRS has the highest average net expenditure cost per domestic household and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest cost per Council Tax Band D.

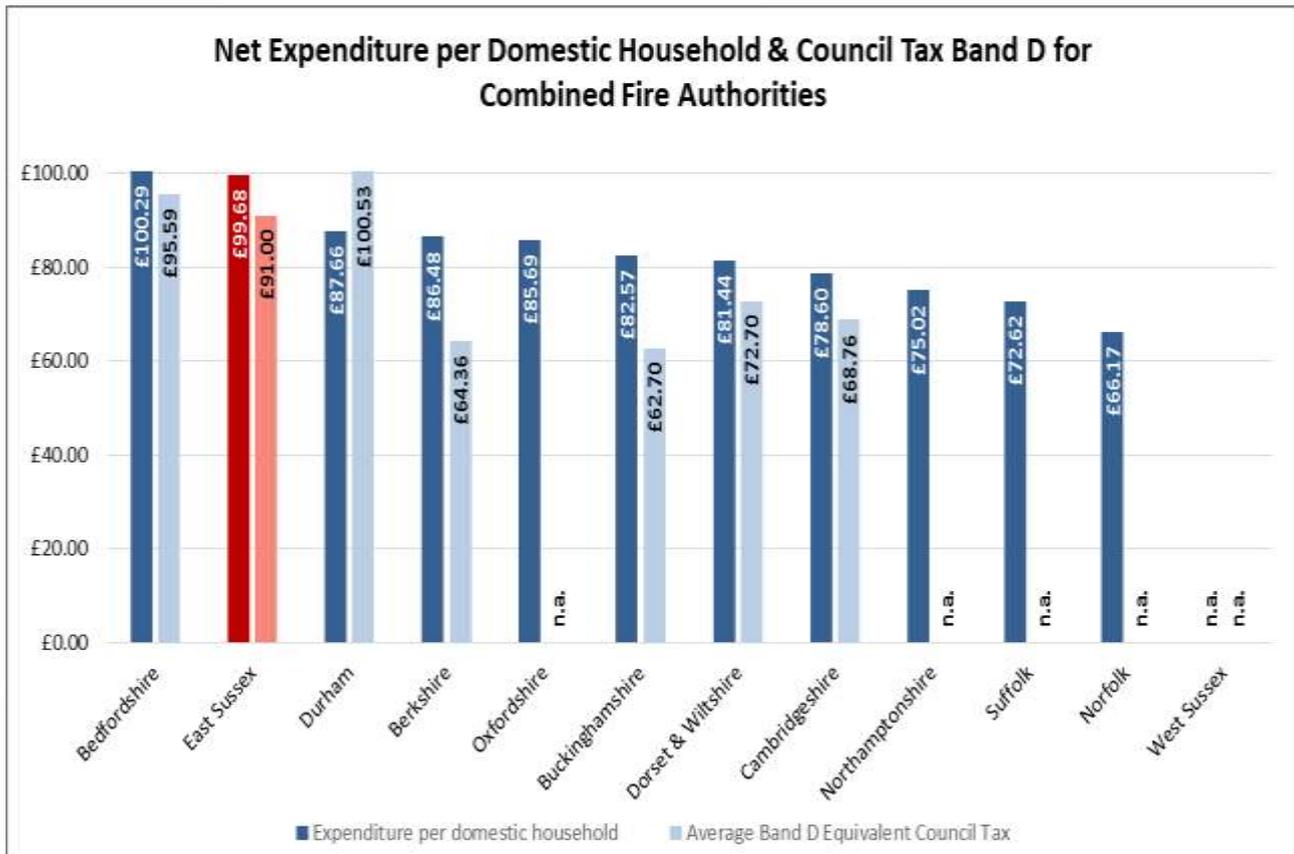
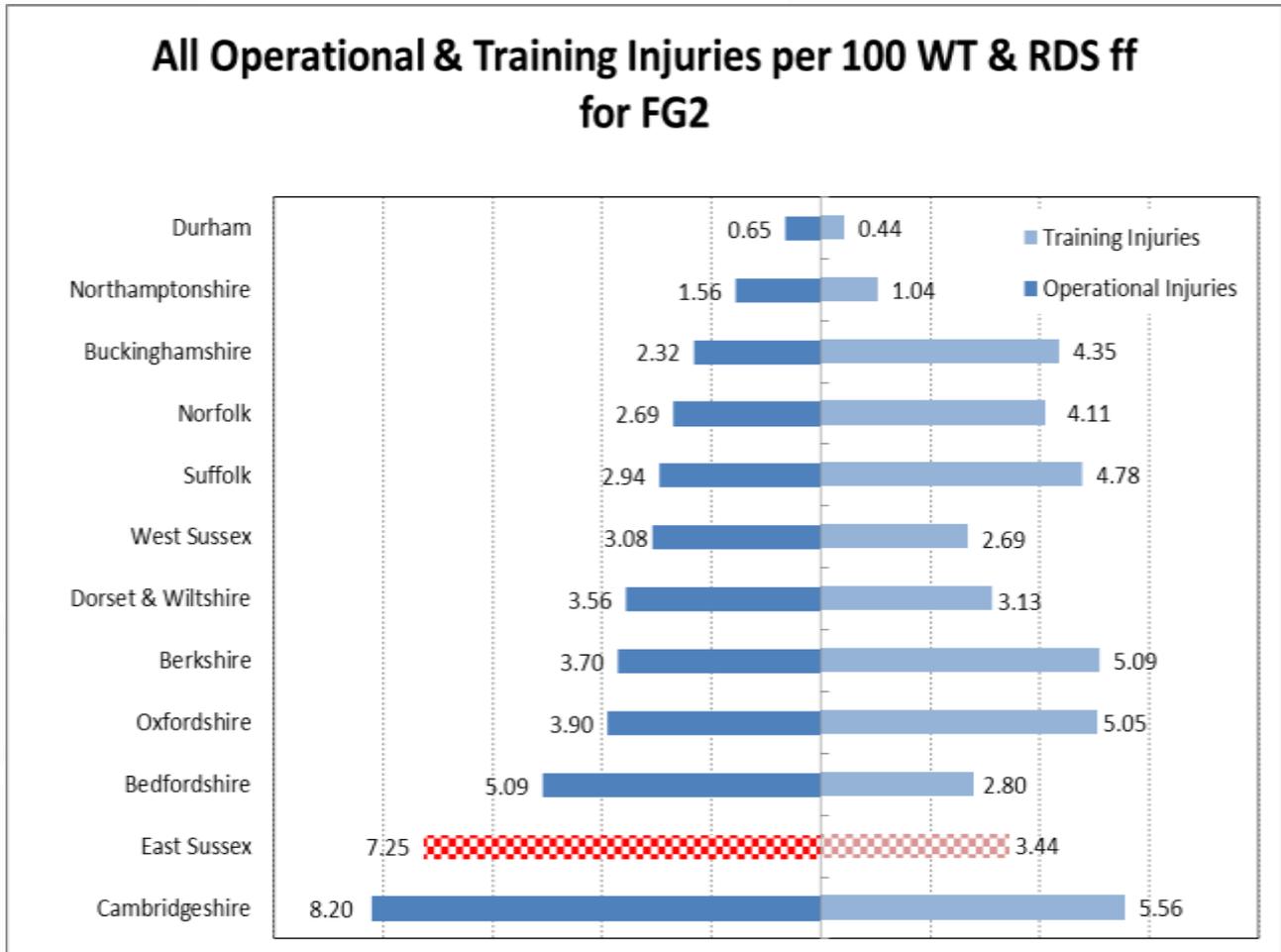


Chart 8 Average net expenditure per number of domestic properties & Council Tax Band D (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2017/18)

## Health & Safety

Chart 9, below, shows the number of injuries per 100 WT and On-call firefighters sustained during operational incidents and training for FG2. In 2017/18, ESFRS sustained 7.25 operational injuries per 100 firefighters (3.57 in 2016/17) and 3.44 training injuries per 100 firefighters (4.10 in 2016/17). The FG2 average number of operational injuries per 100 firefighters is 3.75 and the average rate for training injuries is 3.54 per 100 firefighters.

ESFRS is currently above the FG2 average in operational injuries, currently ranked 11<sup>th</sup> (6<sup>th</sup> in 2016/17) and below the average in training injuries, ranked 6<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> in 2016/17). Cambridgeshire has the most training and operational injuries per 100 firefighters, whilst Durham has the least training and operational injuries per 100 firefighters among FG2.



**Chart 9: Operational & Training Injuries per 100 firefighters** Source: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2017 to 2018 FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0508b: Injuries sustained by firefighters and firefighter fatalities, during operational incidents, by fire and rescue authority & FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0508c: Injuries sustained by firefighters and firefighter fatalities, during training incidents, by fire and rescue authority)

## Firefighters by Gender and Ethnicity comparisons

Chart 10 shows the percentage of female WT firefighters for each FG2 member over the past three years. The profile of WT firefighters in England is predominantly male and white. However, the proportion of firefighters who are female has increased from a national average of 1.3% in 2002 to a national average of 6.1% in March 2018 but it is understood that this proportional increase is owing to the larger numbers of males leaving the FRS, rather than an actual increase in the numbers of female firefighters.

ESFRS has the 8<sup>th</sup> highest proportion of female firefighters across FG2 with 5.6% of WT firefighters, which is below the national average (6.1%) and equal to the FG2 average of 5.6%.

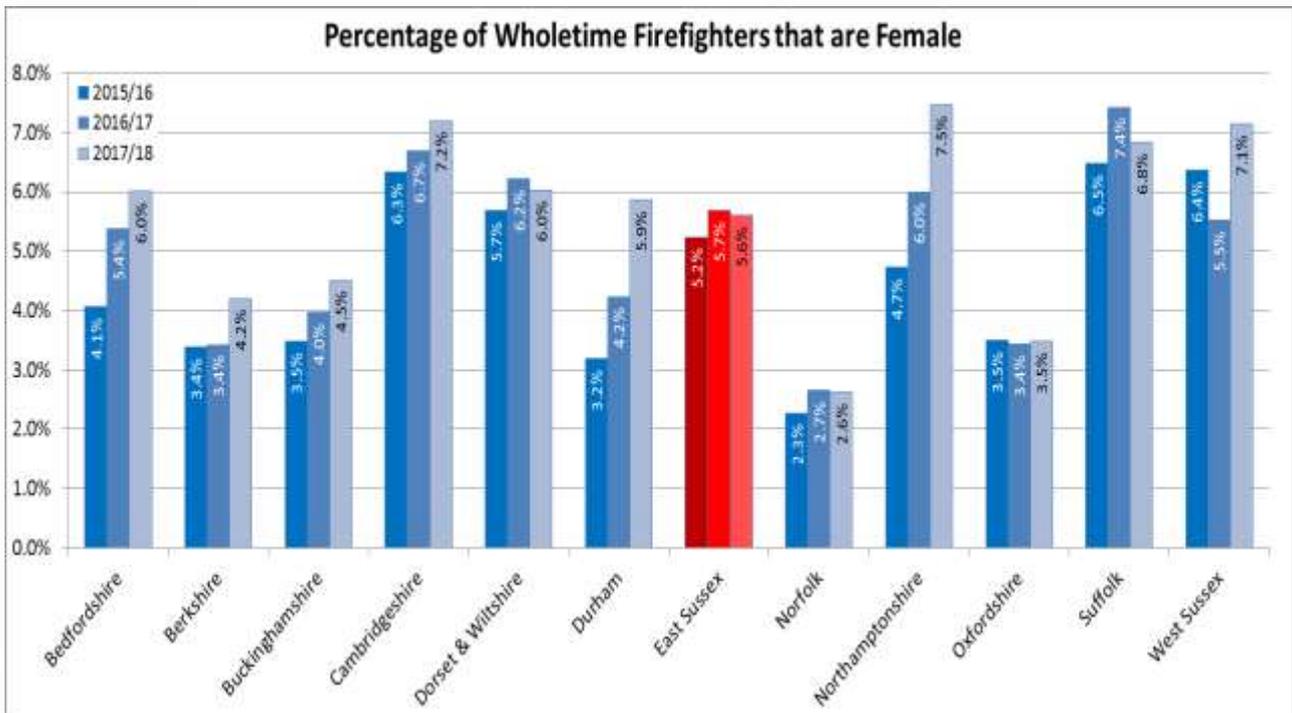


Chart 10: Percentage of WT firefighters that are female (Source: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2017 to 2017 FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 1103: Staff headcount by gender, fire and rescue authority and role)

Chart 11 shows the actual numbers of male and female firefighters at each FG2 FRS. In terms of raw numbers, ESFRS has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest numbers of female firefighters: 20; only the recently combined Dorset & Wiltshire FRS (26) and West Sussex (23) have more female WT firefighters.

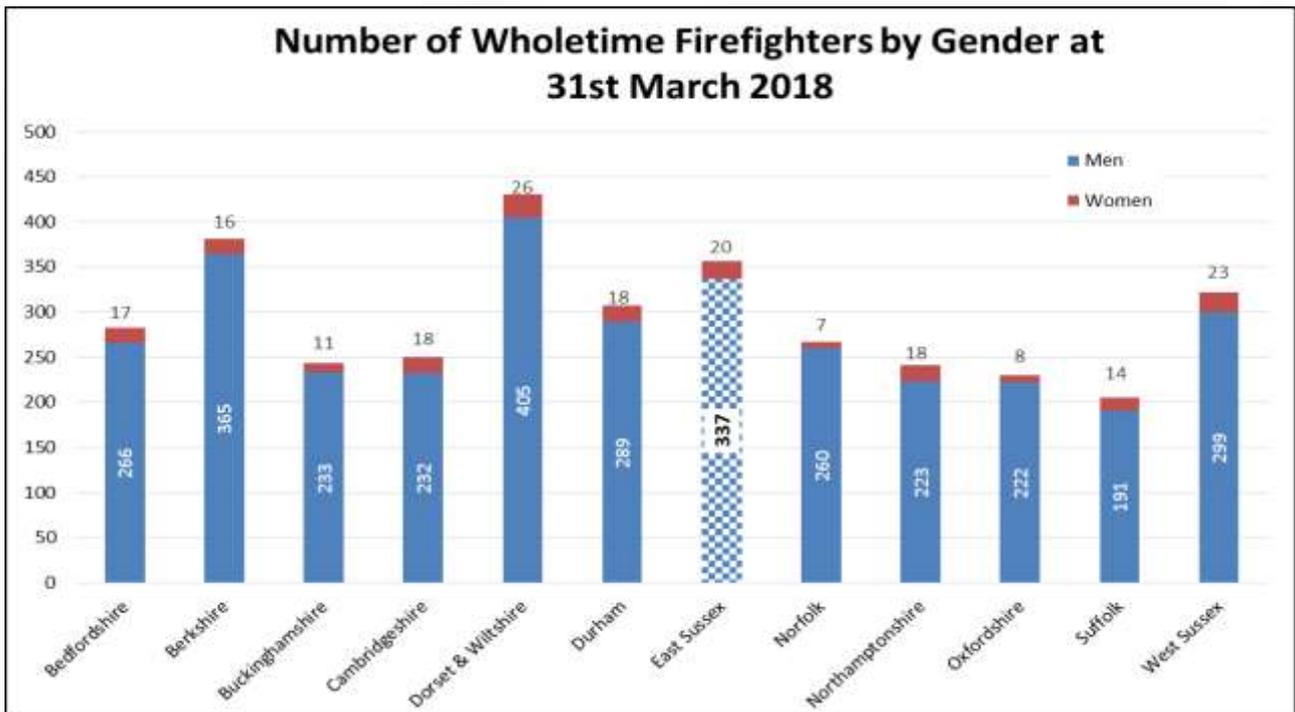


Chart 11: Numbers of WT firefighters that are female (Source: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2017 to 2018 FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 1103: Staff headcount by gender, fire and rescue authority and role)

Nationally, the percentage of WT firefighters from ethnic minority backgrounds has also increased: from an average across all FRs of 1.5% in 2002 to 5.5% in March 2018. ESFRS is currently below the national average at 3.8% as are all FG2. The highest is Bedfordshire with 5.2%.

Chart 12 illustrates the percentage of WT firefighters that are from an ethnic minority background for FG2. As of 31 March 2018, ESFRS has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest proportion of ethnic minority WT firefighters across the FG2 members.

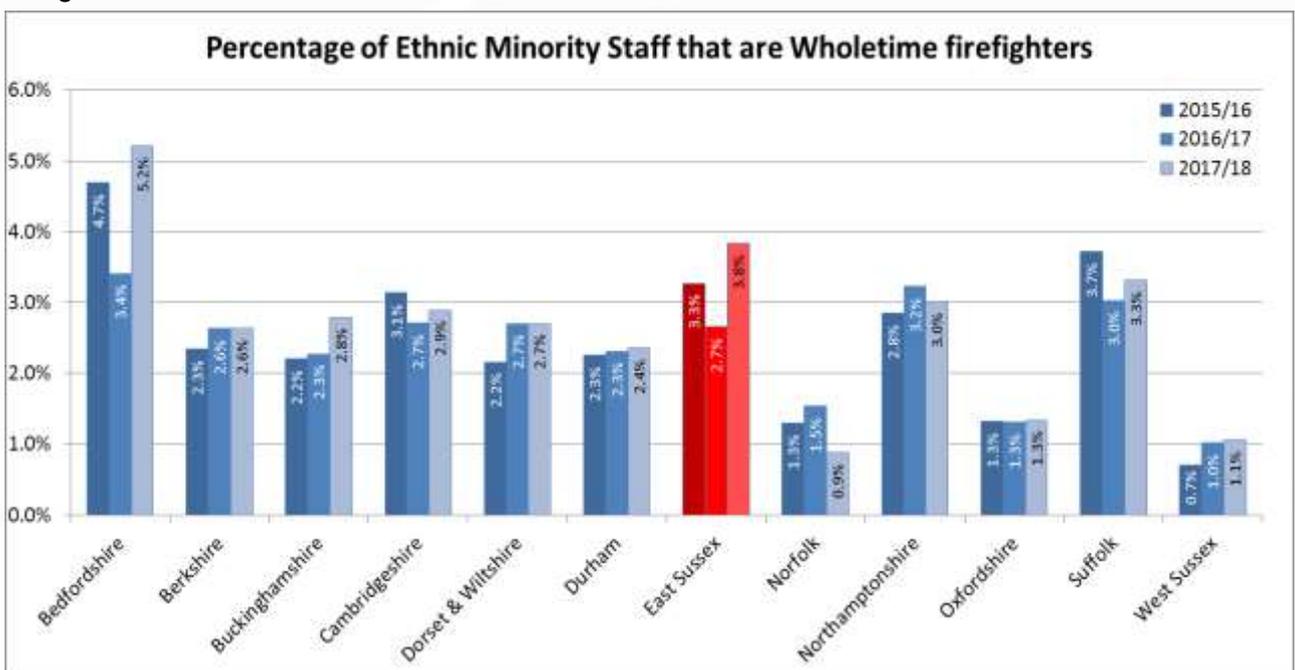


Chart 12: Percentage of WT firefighters that are from an ethnic minority (Source: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2017 to 2018 FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 1104: Staff headcount by ethnicity, fire and rescue authority and role)

N.B. Nationally, based on the 2011 Census, 14.5% of England's population were classified as being from an ethnic minority background. The corresponding figures for the East Sussex County Council area was 3.9%; the Brighton and Hove City Council area: 10.9%. This combined, and therefore covering the ESFRS area, equates to 6.4%.

Chart 13 shows the actual numbers of white and ethnic minority WT firefighters by each FG2 member. ESFRS has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest numbers of ethnic minority WT firefighters with 13. Bedfordshire was the highest with 14.

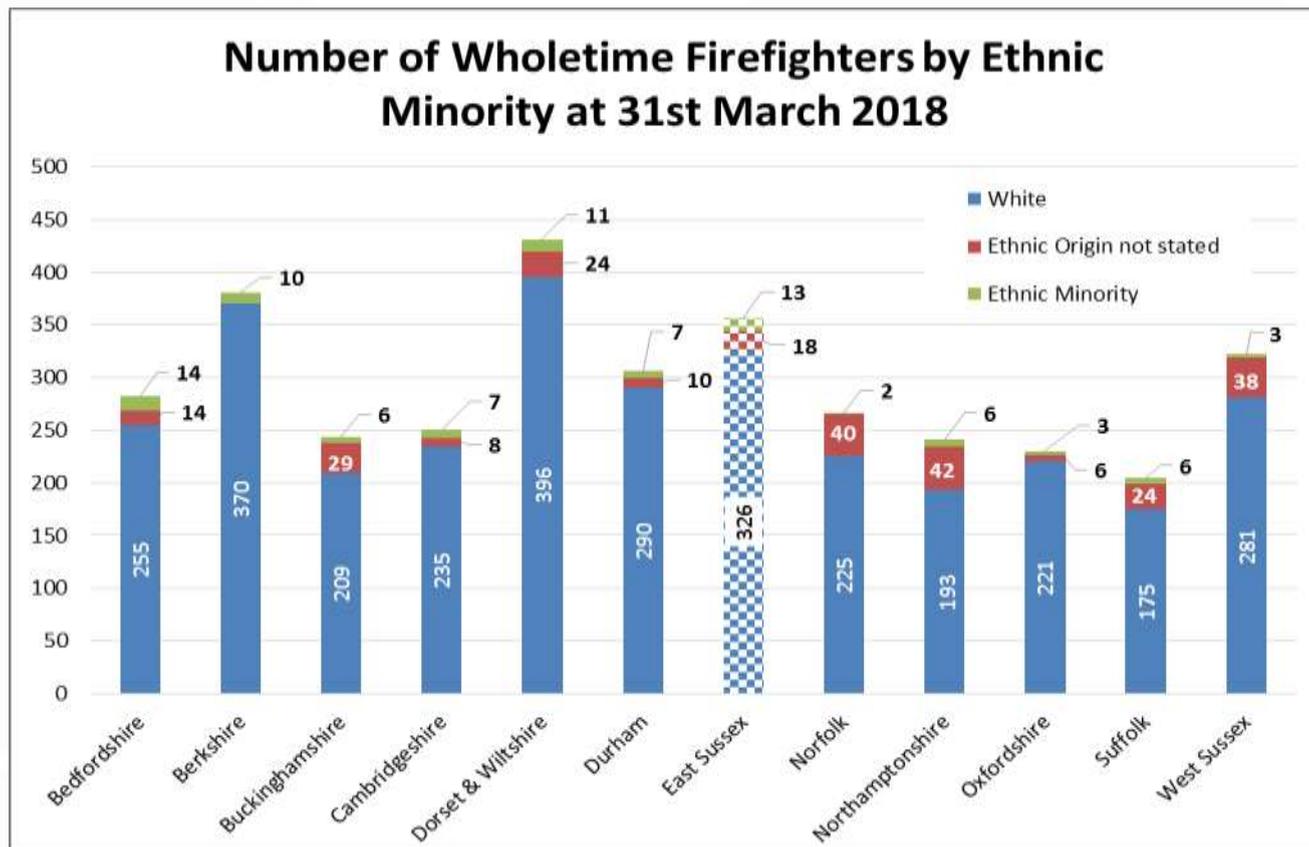


Chart 13: Number of WT firefighters that are from an ethnic minority (Source: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2017 to 2018 FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 1104: Staff headcount by ethnicity, fire and rescue authority and role)

## Sickness

Chart 14 illustrates the number of duty days lost per person for WT and Control staff due to sickness. ESFRS has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest level of sickness in FG2 for 2017/18 with 10.27 days lost to sickness per employee, which is above the 2017/18 average of 7.76. However, five FRS from FG2 did not provide data in 2017/18. These are represented as 'n/a' (not available) in the chart below where no value was returned.

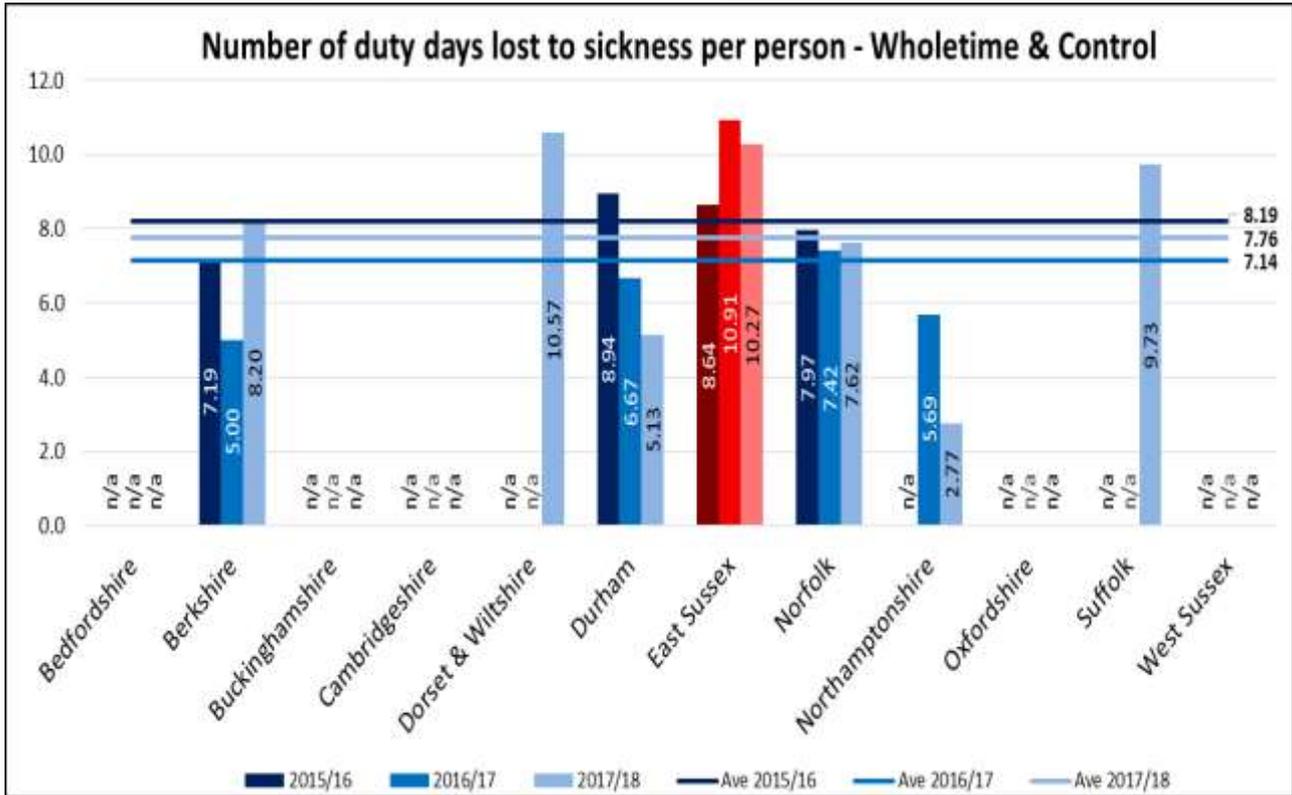


Chart 14: Number of shifts lost per person due to sickness (WT and Control) (Source: National Fire & Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2017 – March 2018)

Chart 15 illustrates the number of shifts lost per person for non-uniformed staff due to sickness. ESFRS has the highest level of sickness in FG2 from the nine FRS that provided data in 2017/18 with 12.62 days lost to sickness per employee. This is considerably above the 2017/18 average of 7.29 and the highest figure for ESFRS since the first Occupational Health Report was produced in 2012/13. (In the chart below, 'n/a' represents no value being returned.)

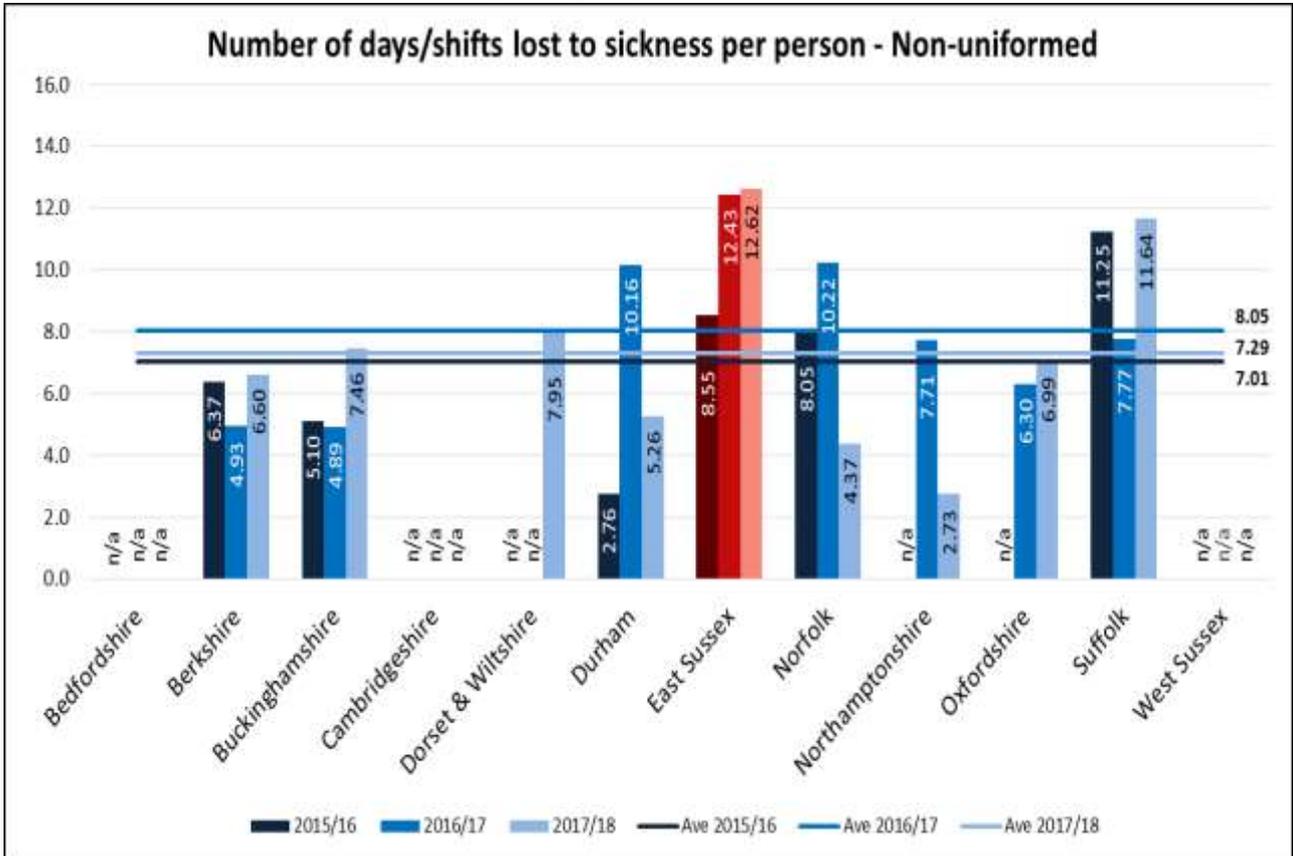


Chart 15: Number of shifts lost per person due to sickness (Support) (Source: National Fire & Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2017 – March 2018)

## Home Safety Visits completed

Chart 16 shows the numbers of Home Safety Visits (HSVs) completed from 2010/11 to 2017/18 per 1,000 domestic dwellings for each FG2 member.

ESFRS has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of HSVs completed per 1,000 domestic dwellings in 2017/18 with 29.9. However, Durham, with the highest HSVs, completed 68.0 per 1,000 domestic dwellings.

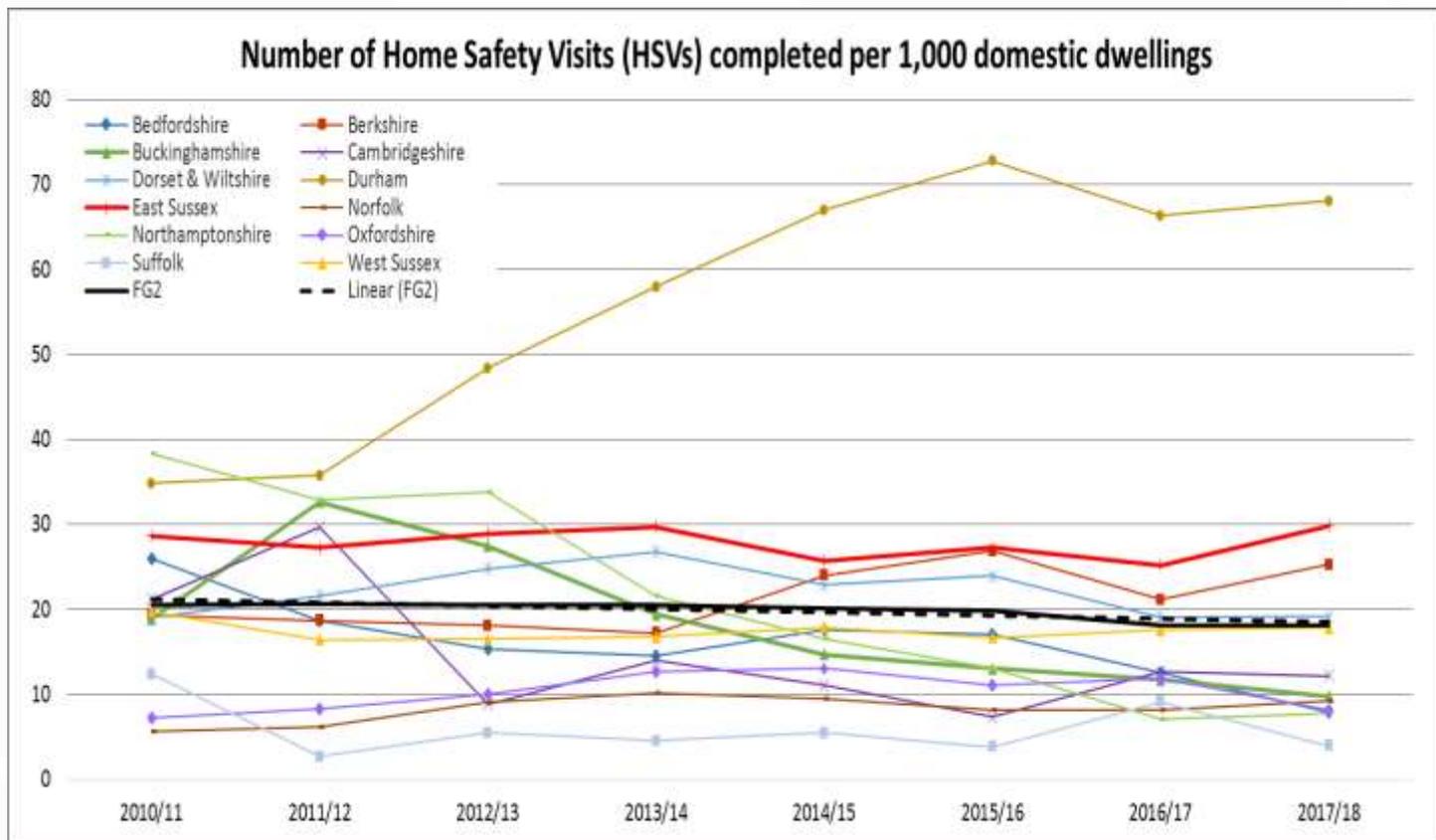


Chart 16: Number of HSVs completed per 1,000 domestic dwellings (Source: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2017 to 2018 FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 1201: Home Fire Risk Checks carried out by fire and rescue authorities and partners, by fire and rescue authority)

## Number of Fire Safety Audits completed

Chart 17 shows the total number of Fire Safety Audits completed by FG2 in 2017/18. ESFRS had the 5th lowest with 499, compared to Durham with 2,138. The FG2 average was 856.

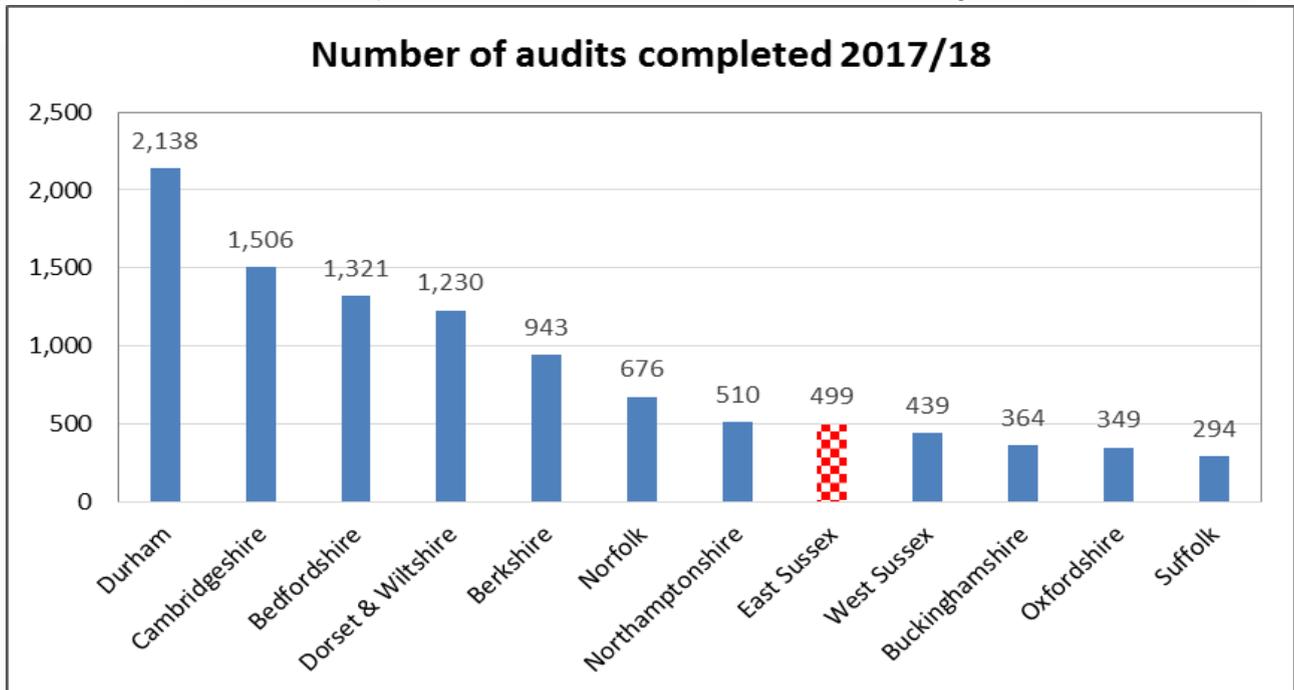
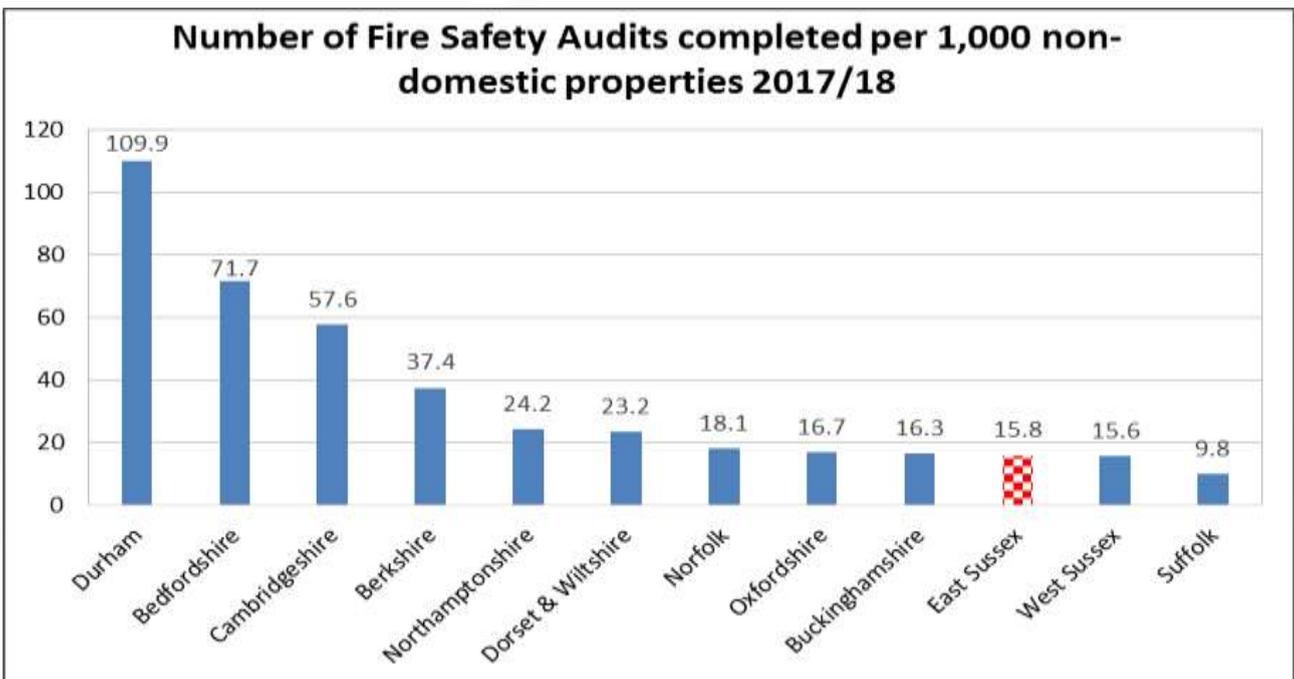


Chart 18 shows the number of Fire Safety Audits completed per 1,000 non-domestic properties in 2017/18. ESFRS completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest recorded number of audits per 1,000 non-domestic properties with 15.8, whereas Durham completed the most with 109.9 per 1,000 non-domestic properties. The FG2 average at 34.7 was more than double that of ESFRS.



Charts 17 & 18: Number of Fire Safety Audits completed. (Source: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2017 to 2018 FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 1202: Fire Safety Audits carried out by fire and rescue authorities, by fire authority)

## Incident comparisons - Benchmarking

Nationally, over the past decade, the number of incidents each FRS has had to attend has reduced, demonstrating a consistent downward trend. Since 2001/02, ESFRS has attended 61.2% less fires (5,352 in 2001/02 down to 2,074 in 2017/18). Each FRS across the country has been experiencing similar reductions.

Chart 19, below, shows the reduction of Primary Fires per 1,000 population for the FG2 members from 2001/02 to 2017/18.

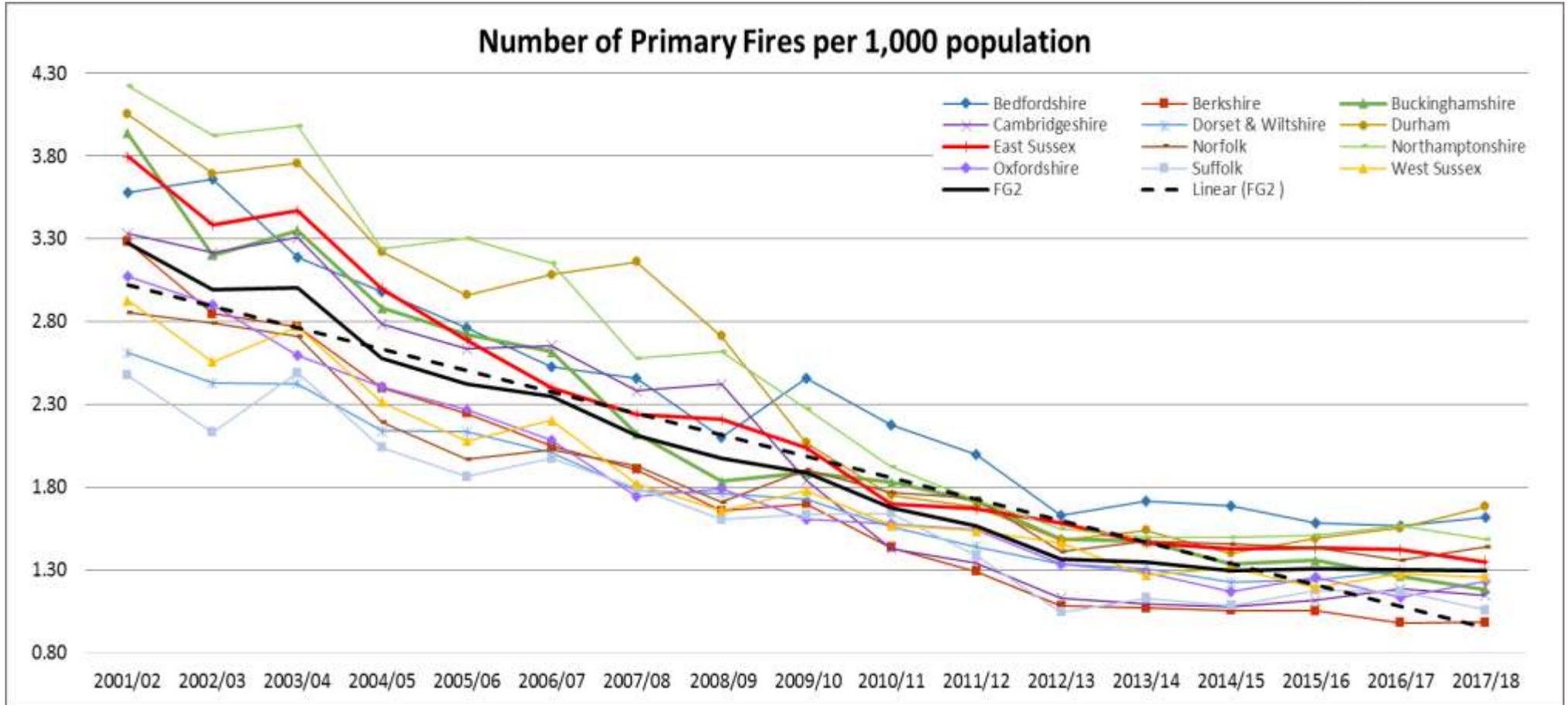


Chart 19: The number of Primary Fires per 1,000 population (source: Fire Statistics Monitor: April 2017 to March 2018, FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0102: Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority)

Chart 20, below, shows the number of Accidental Dwelling Fires per 1,000 population for each FG2 member.

As with other Primary Fires, the number of Accidental Dwelling Fires has been reducing for a significant number of years. In 2017/18, ESFRS had 0.59 Accidental Dwelling Fires per 1,000 population. This was the highest rate in FG2.

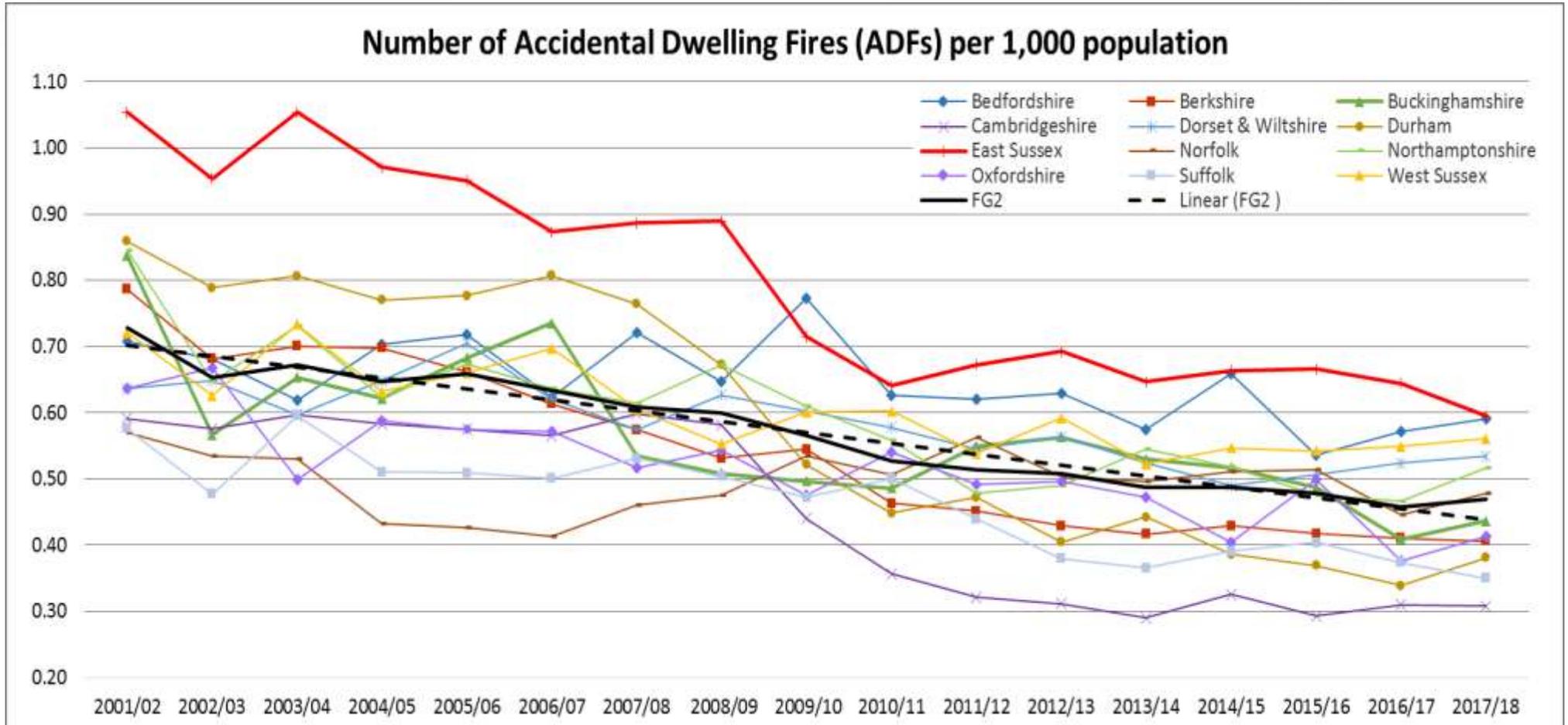


Chart 20: The number of accidental dwelling fires per 1,000 population (source: Fire Statistics Monitor: April 2017 to March 2018, FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0202: Fires, fatalities and non-fatal casualties in dwellings by motive and fire and rescue authority, England)

Chart 21, below, shows the number of Deliberate Primary Fires per 1,000 population for each FG2 member.

The number of Deliberate Primary Fires has significantly reduced since 2001/02, however, this improvement has levelled off since 2013/14 with seven FG2 members now experiencing an increase in the last five years; particularly Durham FRS.

In 2017/18, ESFRS had 0.30 Deliberate Fires per 1,000 population. This was the 6<sup>th</sup> highest in the FG2 group but below the FG2 average.

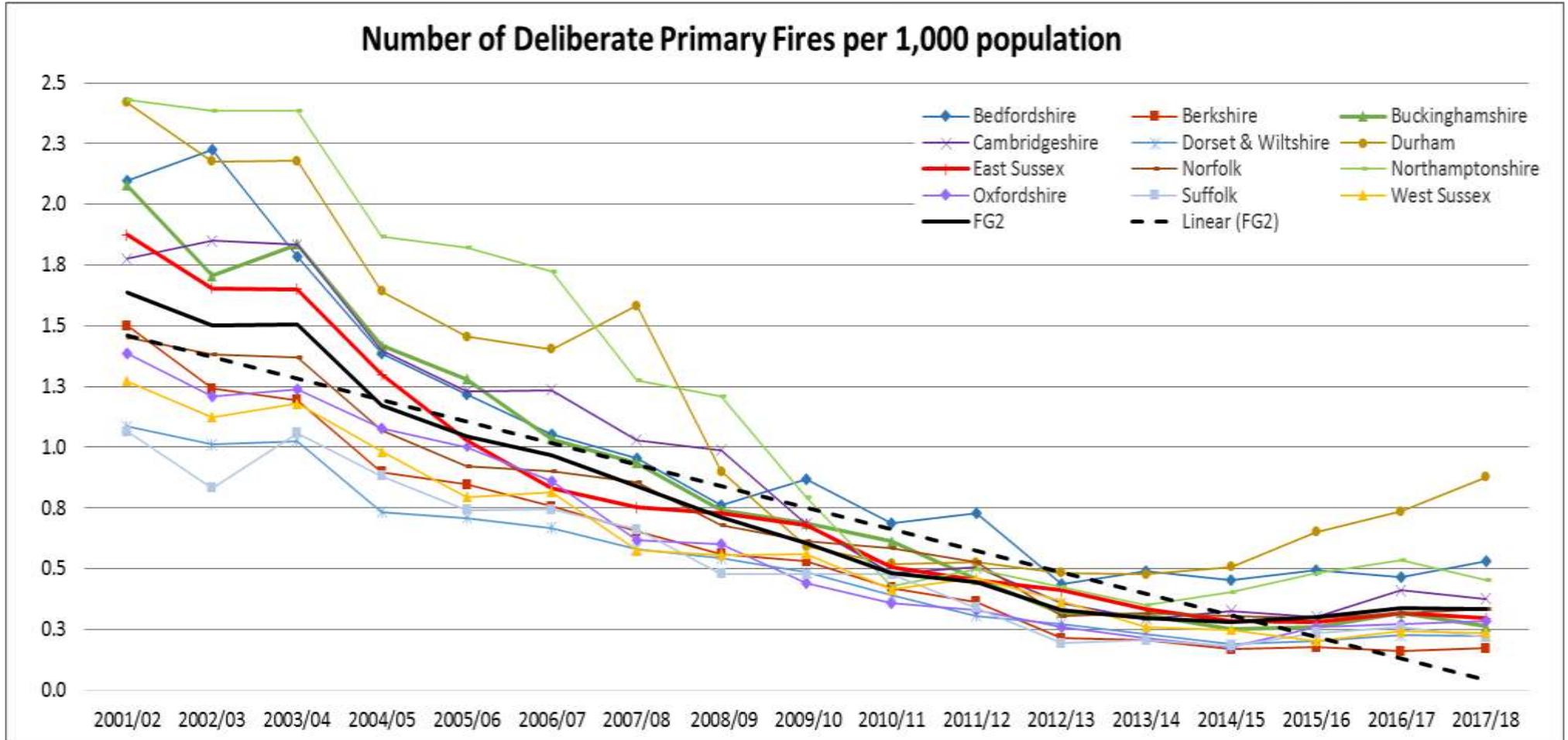


Chart 21: The number of Deliberate Primary Fires per 1,000 population (source: Fire Statistics Monitor: April 2017 to March 2018, FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0401: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority)

Traditionally, Deliberate Secondary Fires can be difficult to predict but it is clear that the level of these incidents has been reducing over recent years, along with all main incident types.

Chart 22, below, clearly shows that the rate of Deliberate Secondary Fires per 1,000 population has reduced. The FG2 average has halved since 2006/7.

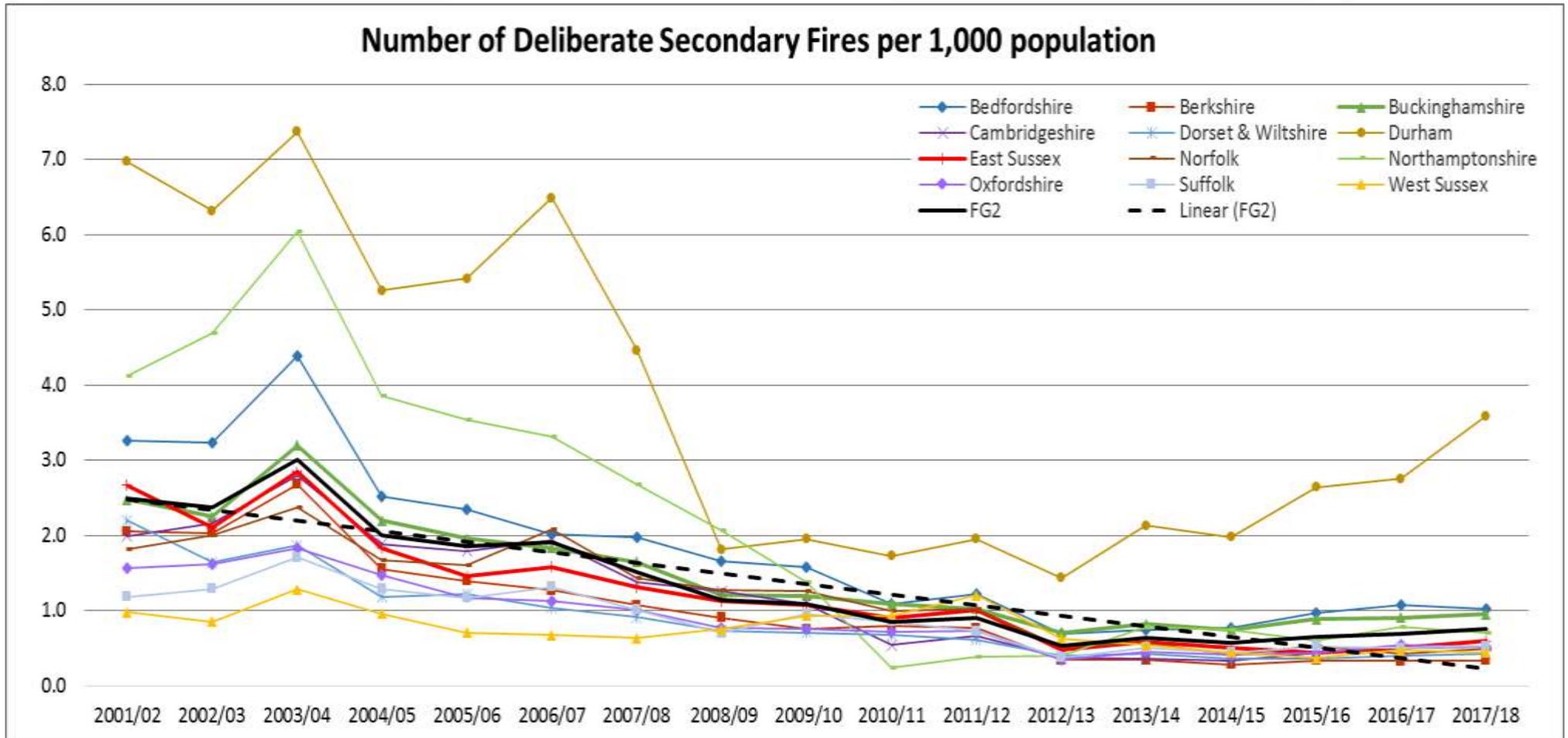


Chart 22: The number of Deliberate Secondary Fires per 1,000 population (source: Fire Statistics Monitor: April 2017 to March 2018, FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0401: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority)

Chart 23 shows that FG2 average attendances at Automatic Fire Alarms have been steadily reducing since 2001/02. The introduction and implementation of the Automatic Fire Alarms Reduction Policy at ESFRS in 2010 can clearly be seen with a reduction in numbers from 2010/11 onwards. However, since 2012, this decline has levelled off. Consequently, the ESFRS still has a high number of Automatic Fire Alarms incidents compared to the other FG2 members with the exception of West Sussex.

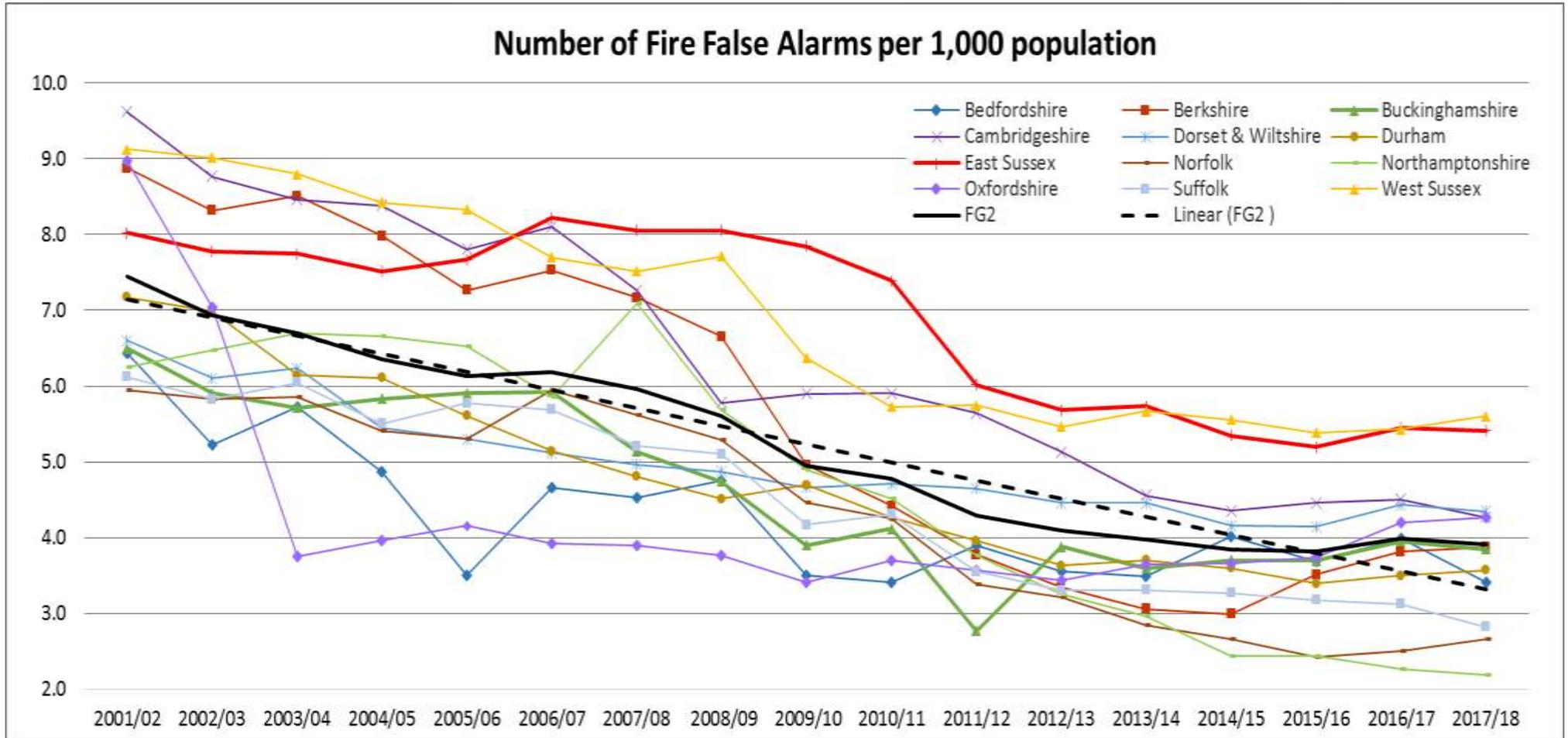


Chart 23: The number of Fire False Alarms per 1,000 population. (Total of false alarm good intent, false alarm malicious and false alarm due to apparatus calls) (Source: Fire Statistics Monitor: April 2017 to March 2018, FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0102: Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority)

Chart 24 shows the number of Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) per 1,000 population attended by FG2 fire services since 2009/10. Based on data supplied by the Sussex Safer Road Partnership, ESFRS attends approximately a quarter of all RTCs in its service area, notably this figure could vary among the other FG2 members. Overall, RTCs have remained uniform among the FG2 group with the exception to Norfolk, which has experienced considerable variation during this period.

In 2017/18, ESFRS attended 0.6 RTCs per 1,000 population. This was the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest among the FG2 members and equal to the FG2 average.

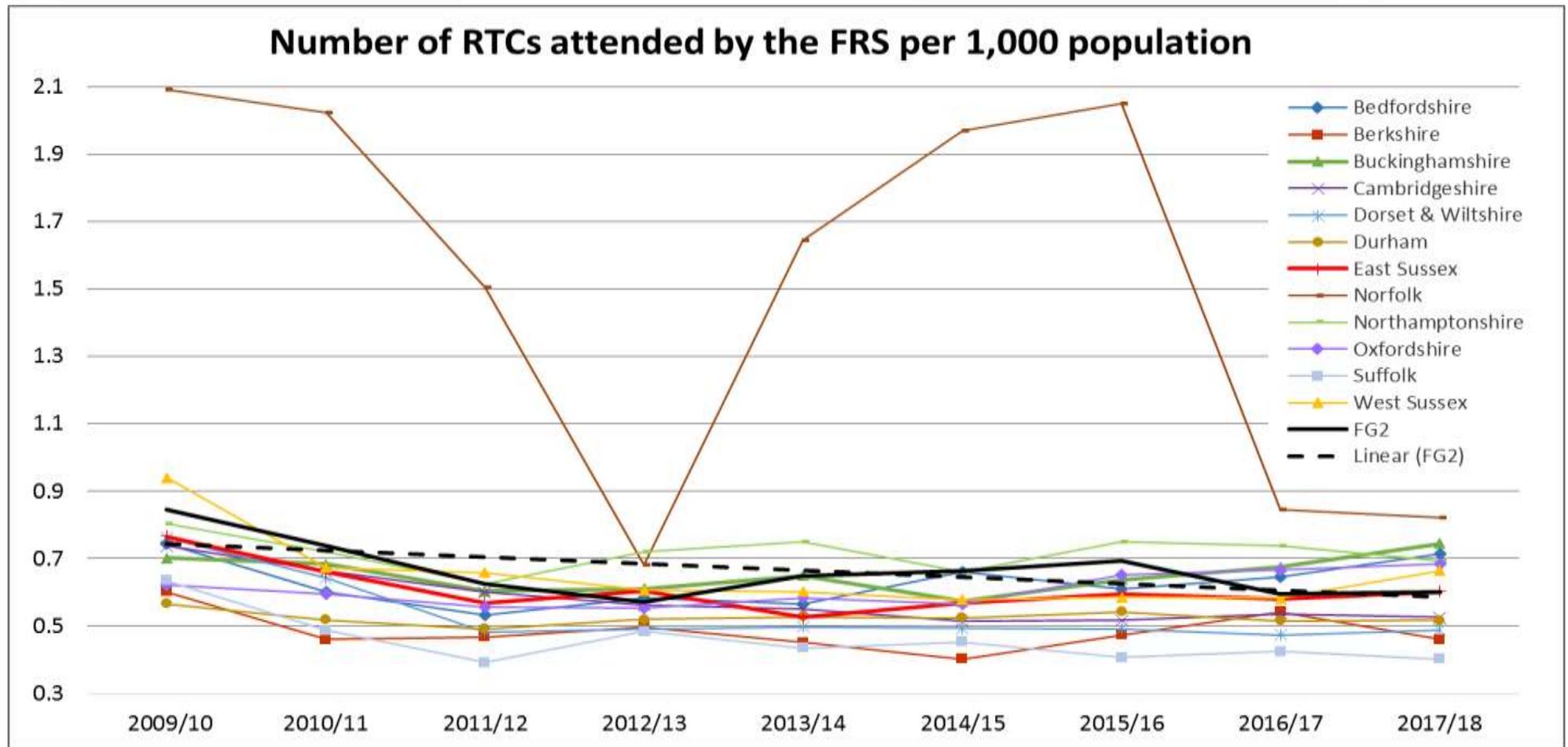


Chart 24: The number of Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) per 1,000 population. (Source: Fire Statistics Monitor: April 2017 to March 2018, FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0901: Non-fire Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority)

Chart 25 shows the number of Rescue or evacuation from water and Flooding incidents (which include, making safe, pumping out, advice only, standby and other) combined per 1,000 population since 2009/10. Overall, this data is varied, however, West Sussex, Durham and Norfolk have experienced the greatest variation during this period.

In 2017/18, ESFRS had the highest number of incidents with 0.53 per 1,000 population. This was more than twice the FG2 average. This was also the case for the whole period where ESFRS averaged 0.49 compared to the FG2 group average of 0.24.

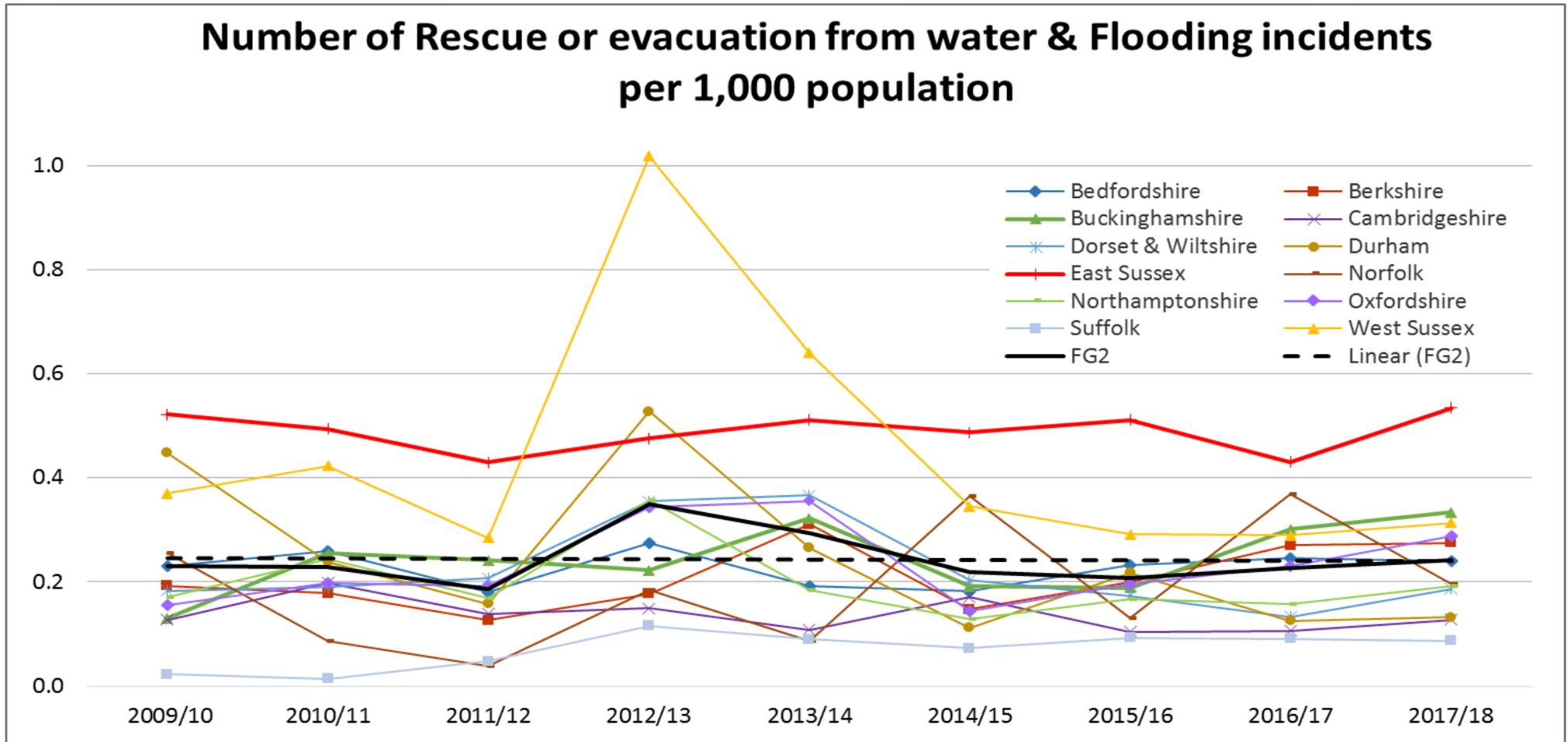


Chart 25: The number of Rescue or evacuation from water and Flooding incidents per 1,000 population (Source: Fire Statistics Monitor: April 2017 to March 2018, FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0901: Non-fire Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority)

## Actual incidents: % reduction from 2001/02 to 2017/18 and FG2 rank

The following tables show the percentage reduction in actual incident numbers across all the members of FG2 from the charts provided above. The second column shows where ESFRS ranks in terms of improvement in reducing incidents over that period.

Primary Fires by Fire and Rescue Service: 2001/02 - 2017/18			All False Alarms by Fire and Rescue Service: 2001/02 - 2017/18		
FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2017/18	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2017/18	FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2017/18	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2017/18
Bedfordshire	-47.0%	10	Bedfordshire	-38.0%	8
Berkshire	-66.2%	1	Berkshire	-50.8%	2
Buckinghamshire	-65.2%	2	Buckinghamshire	-31.3%	9
Cambridgeshire	-59.1%	4	Cambridgeshire	-47.3%	5
Dorset & Wiltshire	-43.7%	11	Dorset & Wiltshire	-25.3%	11
Durham	-55.8%	6	Durham	-46.8%	7
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>-59.8%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>-23.8%</b>	<b>12</b>
Norfolk	-43.4%	12	Norfolk	-49.7%	3
Northamptonshire	-58.6%	5	Northamptonshire	-59.0%	1
Oxfordshire	-55.0%	7	Oxfordshire	-47.0%	6
Suffolk	-51.7%	8	Suffolk	-48.0%	4
West Sussex	-51.5%	9	West Sussex	-30.7%	10

Accidental Dwelling Fires by Fire and Rescue Service: 2001/02 - 2017/18			Deliberate Secondary Fires by Fire and Rescue Service: 2001/02 - 2017/18		
FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2017/18	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2017/18	FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2017/18	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2017/18
Bedfordshire	-2.2%	12	Bedfordshire	-63.6%	7
Berkshire	-41.8%	2	Berkshire	-81.7%	1
Buckinghamshire	-39.4%	3	Buckinghamshire	-55.4%	9
Cambridgeshire	-38.0%	4	Cambridgeshire	-69.0%	6
Dorset & Wiltshire	-4.6%	11	Dorset & Wiltshire	-77.8%	3
Durham	-52.8%	1	Durham	-45.2%	12
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>-36.1%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>-74.7%</b>	<b>4</b>
Norfolk	-5.5%	10	Norfolk	-69.3%	5
Northamptonshire	-28.1%	7	Northamptonshire	-79.8%	2
Oxfordshire	-27.1%	8	Oxfordshire	-63.2%	8
Suffolk	-31.3%	6	Suffolk	-49.5%	10
West Sussex	-12.1%	9	West Sussex	-49.1%	11

## Average Response Times for all FG2 Fire and Rescue Services

Chart 26 shows the Average Response Times to dwelling fires for each FG2 member from 2009/10 to 2017/18. In 2017/18, ESFRS is ranked 1<sup>st</sup>.

In England, the Average Response Time to fires in dwellings for 2012/13 was 7.4 minutes. ESFRS's Average Response Time for the same year was 7.1. In 2017/18, England's response rate increased to 7.7 minutes, whereas ESFRS increased to 7.6 minutes, therefore, still below the national average. The chart below shows that there is a slight increasing trend in Average Response Times for FG2.

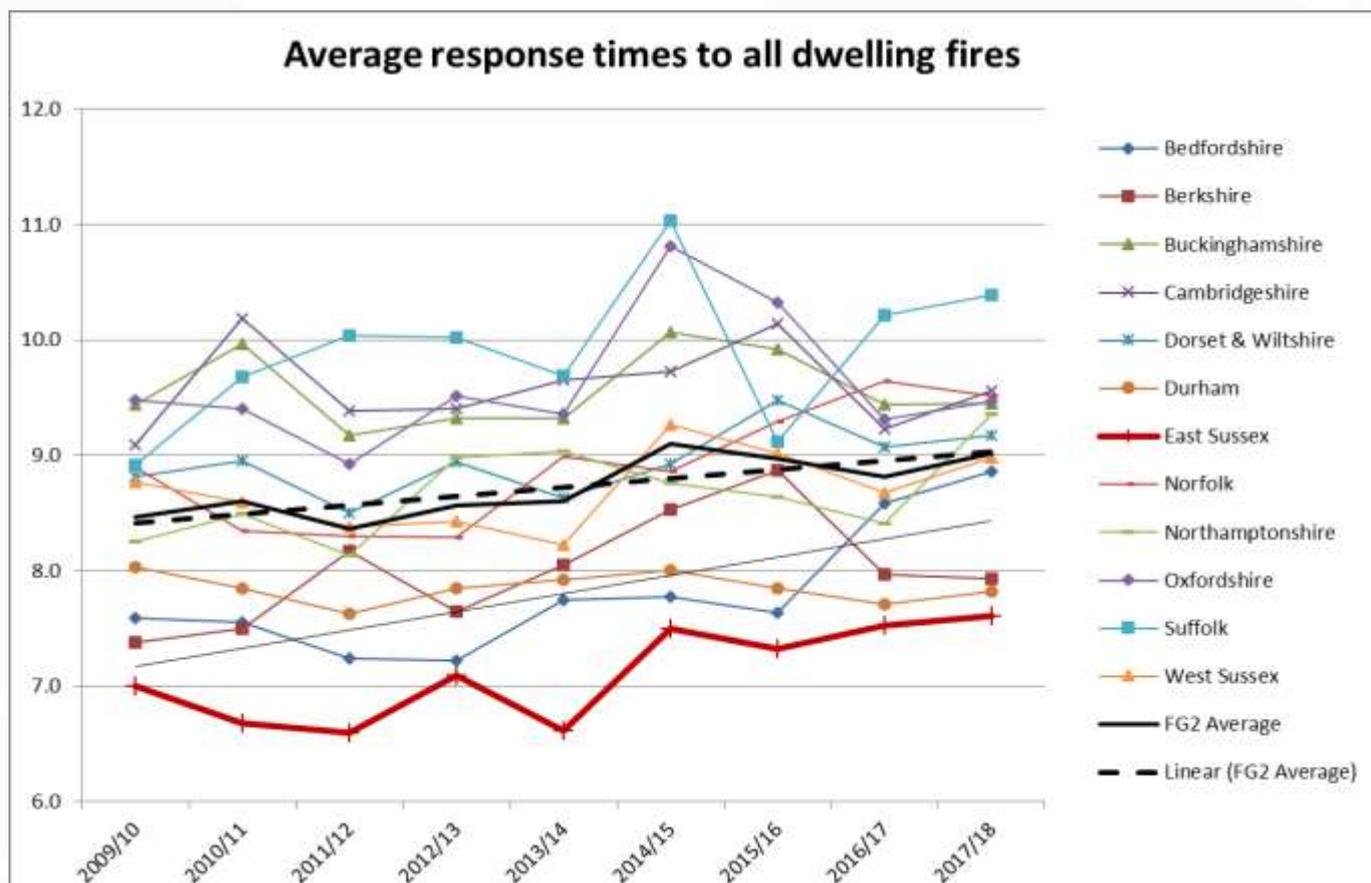


Chart 26– Average Response Times to dwelling fires (Source: Fire Incidents Response Times: April 2017 to March 2018, England. FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 1001: Average response times for dwelling fires by fire and rescue authority, England)

## Summary

- ESFRS, compared to the other FRS in FG2 in terms of population and properties, is most similar to Cambridgeshire and West Sussex.
- ESFRS covers the 3<sup>rd</sup> smallest area in FG2.
- ESFRS has a senior management structure similar in size, distribution and overall numbers to Oxfordshire and Cambridgeshire.
- ESFRS shows the 4<sup>th</sup> highest annual increase in WT firefighters, this 1.3% increase equates to 5 WT operational posts.
- ESFRS is 21.8% above the average number of WT firefighters with 357 (average 293) as of 31 March 2018 and has 10.9% less than the average On-call firefighters.
- ESFRS is above the FG2 average (20:1) for the ratio of firefighters to senior managers with 24:1. This is the joint 3<sup>rd</sup> highest ratio of the group.
- ESFRS has a rate of 4.88 operational appliances per 100,000 population, this is just above the average for FG2 with a rate of 4.56
- ESFRS has a rate of 2.86 stations per 100,000 population this is the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest in FG2.
- ESFRS has one station for every 74.6 km<sup>2</sup>, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest density of stations per km<sup>2</sup> in FG2.
- ESFRS has the highest average net expenditure cost per domestic household and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest cost per Council Tax Band D.
- ESFRS is currently (per 100 firefighters) above the FG2 average in operational injuries, currently ranked 11<sup>th</sup> (6<sup>th</sup> in 2016/17) and below the average in training injuries, ranked 6<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> in 2016/17).
- ESFRS has the 8<sup>th</sup> highest proportion of female firefighters across FG2, with 5.6% of WT firefighters. This figure is equal to the FG2 average but below the national average of 6.1%. In terms of actual numbers, ESFRS has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of female WT firefighters with 20 among FG2.
- ESFRS has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest proportion of ethnic minority staff across the FG2 with 3.8%. However, this is below the proportion of ethnic minority residents in the ESFRS service area of 6.4%.
- ESFRS has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of ethnic minority WT firefighters with 13.
- ESFRS lost 10.27 duty days per employee among WT and Control staff due to sickness in 2017/18, down from 10.91 in 2016/17. The FG2 average for 2017/18 is 7.76 duty days lost per employee.
- ESFRS lost 12.62 shifts per employee among non-uniformed staff due to sickness in 2017/18, which is above the FG2 average of 7.29. This an increase from 2016/17 when 12.43 shifts were lost per employee.
- ESFRS completed 29.9 Homes Safety Visits per 1,000 domestic dwellings in 2016/17, second highest among FG2.
- ESFRS completed 15.8 Fire Safety Audits per 1,000 non-domestic properties. This is 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest among FG2.
- ESFRS has attended to 61.2% less fires (5,352 in 2001/02 down to 2,074 in 2017/18). Each FRS across the country has experienced similar reductions.
- ESFRS in 2017/18 had 0.59 Accidental Dwelling Fires per 1,000 population, which was the highest rate among FG2.
- ESFRS attends the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest numbers of incidents overall among FG2. The incidents most attended by ESFRS involve Fire False Alarms, accounting for 47.9% of all incidents (see table 6 overleaf for total incidents attended by FG2).
- ESFRS ranks 1<sup>st</sup> for average response times and is below the national average.

**Table 6 – Total Incidents attended per FRS in Family Group 2**

FRA	Primary Fires	Secondary Fires	Chimney Fires	False Alarm Apparatus	False Alarm Malicious	False Alarm Good Intent	Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	Other Transport incident	Medical Incident - First responder	Medical Incident - Co-responder	Flooding	Rescue or evacuation from water	Effecting entry / exit	Lift Release	Other rescue / release of persons
Bedfordshire	1,077	970	29	1,539	103	626	475	16	50	9	149	10	313	61	39
Berkshire	891	881	54	1,999	119	1,392	417	12	16	374	229	20	551	167	62
Buckinghamshire	949	989	72	2,200	108	782	598	32	19	684	250	18	326	136	44
Cambridgeshire	971	1,018	58	2,393	90	1,132	445	11	22	68	87	21	166	31	57
Dorset & Wiltshire	1,921	1,193	216	4,823	146	1,492	726	40	59	6	251	27	630	209	115
Durham	1,060	2,644	78	1,071	98	1,081	326	4	44	707	74	9	126	40	38
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>3,216</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>1,227</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>118</b>
Norfolk	1,292	779	113	1,307	76	1,006	737	33	279	71	124	52	364	54	98
Northamptonshire	1,102	822	52	662	58	898	514	23	20	568	133	9	95	56	63
Oxfordshire	840	573	113	2,175	81	651	467	12	79	330	173	23	306	86	28
Suffolk	801	753	98	1,447	51	637	305	24	19	74	55	11	75	19	69
West Sussex	1,072	758	129	3,287	143	1,344	567	16	60	79	261	6	381	219	79
<b>FG2 Average</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>2,177</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>National results - England</b>	<b>74,187</b>	<b>89,038</b>	<b>4,032</b>	<b>151,627</b>	<b>7,290</b>	<b>67,050</b>	<b>30,016</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>6,692</b>	<b>26,136</b>	<b>15,666</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>24,061</b>	<b>11,253</b>	<b>4,127</b>

FRA	Animal assistance incidents	Removal of objects from people	Hazardous Materials incident	Spills and Leaks (not RTC)	Making Safe (not RTC)	Suicide/ attempts	Evacuation (no fire)	Water provision	Assist other agencies	Advice Only	Stand By	No action (not false alarm)	Malicious False Alarm	Good Intent false alarm	Total
Bedfordshire	53	32	30	24	13	14	3	0	225	15	2	43	2	86	6,008
Berkshire	67	36	63	34	52	21	2	0	107	31	1	76	2	117	7,793
Buckinghamshire	77	77	70	35	34	30	8	0	84	18	0	85	2	109	7,836
Cambridgeshire	137	58	31	20	21	30	10	0	183	10	9	69	0	2	7,150
Dorset & Wiltshire	154	101	56	84	86	25	10	2	575	55	16	106	2	160	13,286
Durham	59	86	24	42	19	29	5	0	141	18	3	93	0	70	7,989
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>9,502</b>
Norfolk	139	65	52	92	69	41	2	0	436	24	2	37	2	85	7,431
Northamptonshire	61	42	53	66	22	19	11	0	151	29	2	23	1	96	5,651
Oxfordshire	62	43	71	40	38	20	4	0	86	4	0	99	2	78	6,484
Suffolk	81	29	29	2	16	8	2	0	95	12	3	30	0	26	4,771
West Sussex	73	73	15	55	82	22	5	1	267	48	11	75	1	138	9,267
<b>FG2 Average</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>7,764</b>
<b>National results - England</b>	<b>4,631</b>	<b>4,847</b>	<b>2,739</b>	<b>3,370</b>	<b>3,550</b>	<b>1,621</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>13,510</b>	<b>2,122</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>8,258</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>6,590</b>	<b>565,717</b>