

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

AWDURDOD TÂN AC ACHUB GOGLEDD CYMRU



NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

**A meeting of the EXECUTIVE PANEL will be held FRIDAY 29 JULY 2022.
The meeting will be held via Zoom commencing at 2.00pm.**

Yours faithfully

Gareth Owens
Clerk

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Declaration of Interests

3. Notice of Urgent Matters

Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2022

5. Matters arising

6. Broadening the role of firefighters in Wales – Fire and rescue service capacity: thematic review

7. Performance Monitoring April 2021 – March 2022

8. Urgent Matters

To consider any items which the Chair has decided are urgent (pursuant to Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972) and of which substance has been declared under item 3 above.

PART II

It is recommended pursuant to Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business because it is likely that there would be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s) 12 to 18 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

None

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority Executive Panel

Minutes of the Executive Panel meeting of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on Monday 14 February 2022 via Zoom. Meeting commenced at 10.00am.

Present

Councillors:

P Lewis (Chair)	Conwy County Borough Council
D Rees (Deputy Chair)	Anglesey County Council
R Griffiths	Anglesey County Council
R Parry	Conwy County Borough Council
M Ll Davies	Denbighshire County Council
M Bateman	Flintshire County Council
V Gay	Flintshire County Council
J B Hughes	Gwynedd Council
M Dixon	Wrexham County Borough Council
R Roberts	Wrexham County Borough Council

Also Present

D Docx (Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive); G Owens (Clerk); R Fairhead, H MacArthur and S Millington (Assistant Chief Fire Officers); S Morris (Assistant Chief Officer); T Williams (Corporate Communications Manager); A Davies (Members' Liaison Officer).

1 APOLOGIES

Cllr A Davies	Denbighshire County Council
Cllr G Williams	Gwynedd Council

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3 NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS

3.1 None.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2021

4.1 The minutes of the Executive Panel meeting held on 18 October 2021 were submitted for approval.

4.2 **RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting as a true and correct record.**

5 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 There were no matters arising.

5.2 **RESOLVED to note the update.**

6 COVID-19 UPDATE

6.1 The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) gave Members an update on the latest impact of Covid-19. It was noted that over the Christmas period there had been a high level of absenteeism and the CFO was grateful to all officers and Watch Managers who had ensured business continuity on stations during that time. It was confirmed that Covid related absenteeism has reduced significantly and that the Service is beginning to resume activities in the community on a face to face basis.

6.2 **RESOLVED to note the information, and on behalf of Members, the Chair reiterated the message of appreciation to staff for their hard work over the Christmas period.**

7 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE AUTHORITY'S CORPORATE PLAN 2021-24

7.1 ACO Morris presented the report which informed Members of the progress being made towards compiling the draft 2022/23 revision of the Authority's Corporate Plan 2021-24 for approval at the Authority's next meeting in March 2022.

7.2 Members were reminded that in March of every year, the Authority publishes a plan for the following financial year that confirms its improvement and well-being objectives and explains what it intends to do during that year to move the Authority closer to achieving them. In March 2021 the Authority published a Corporate Plan 2021-24 in which it set out its seven long-term improvement and well-being objectives and in October 2021 Members confirmed their intention to continue to pursue those same objectives in 2022/23.

7.3 In November 2021, Members' workshops were held which provided an opportunity to reflect on some key challenges that had been highlighted through the Chief Fire Officer's situational assessment, and the consequences for the Authority's budget. The revenue budget subsequently approved in December 2021 included an increase of £1.33m to address those challenges.

7.4 **RESOLVED to note the progress being made towards compiling the 2022/23 revision of the Corporate Plan 2021-24 that will be presented for approval to the full Authority in March 2022.**

8 PERFORMANCE MONITORING APRIL - DECEMBER 2021

8.1 ACO Morris presented the performance monitoring report containing incident activity during the first nine months of the 2021/22 financial year; performance in relation to the Authority's improvement and well-being objectives; and other notable incident activity.

8.2 The ACO led members through the report and highlighted the following:

- 9,906 Safe and Well Checks completed which was 960 more than during the same period in 2020;
- 314 accidental dwelling fires as a result of which 30 people sustained slight injuries, four people sustained serious injuries, and three people lost their lives;
- 22 fires at HMP Berwyn, compared with 32 in the same months in 2020.

8.3 Members were informed that there had been a sharp increase in special service incidents compared to the same period in 2020. There had been an increase in attendance at non-fire emergency incidents – from 415 to 701. This was partly due to the number of road traffic collisions (RTCs) returning to pre-pandemic levels but also the Service had adopted a different approach in favour of increasing its visibility in the community; examples include 'gaining entry', assisting other agencies, releasing people from lifts, carrying out other rescues/releasing people, making locations safe other than at RTCs and separating people from objects.

8.4 It was disappointing to note that there were still homes without smoke alarms, despite on-going campaigns, and the Chair asked Members to continue to promote Safe and Well Checks in their communities.

8.5 **RESOLVED to note the contents of the performance monitoring report.**

9 STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 ACO Morris led Members through the report which summarised the content of the Authority's strategic risk register in accordance with the Strategic Risk Management Policy.

9.2 It was noted that the Chair and Deputy Chair had met with the Corporate Planning Manager to review the strategic risk register and it was acknowledged that the register was closely monitored and regularly reviewed by officers.

9.3 **RESOLVED to note the identified strategic risks that are facing the Authority and the mitigating factors in place.**

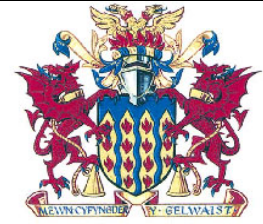
10 RESULTS OF STAFF SURVEY "FIRE FAMILY"

- 10.1 The Corporate Communications Manager delivered a presentation which gave Members an overview of a recent staff survey held within the Service. The survey was part of the action plan arising from the CFO's first one hundred days in the Service.
- 10.2 The survey questions had been created in conjunction with an external organisation and all responses were completely confidential. An action plan was currently being drawn up which will be shared with staff and will show how the Service will focus on the key findings of the survey.
- 10.3 Members welcomed the initiation of the staff survey and were pleased to hear that it will be repeated in two years' time.
- 10.4 **RESOLVED to note the information provided.**

11 EMERGENCY SERVICE MOBILE COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME (ESMCP)

- 11.1 ACFO Fairhead gave Members an update about the Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme (ESMCP).
- 11.2 Members were reminded that the aim of this project was to replace the current national radio and data communication system used by the emergency services in the UK known as Airwave. Airwave is a nationally procured contract which was due to end in December 2019. However, it was confirmed that the Airwave contract had now been extended until 2026 with a possible further two year extension if required.
- 11.3 The ESMCP was established by Her Majesty's Government and the project led by the Home Office to deliver a replacement service. The business case had now been approved, however, the project's progress was extremely slow.
- 11.4 The costs involved due to the delay were ever-increasing. It was noted that, to date, the Welsh Government had funded that cost pressure. However, the CFO confirmed that WG had now confirmed its grant contribution at a set level leaving a shortfall of £1m across the 3 FRs in Wales which will increase as the grant remains static and the cost of the current Airwave system increases.
- 11.5 Members expressed grave concerns about the situation and it was confirmed that similar concerns had been expressed to the Home Office by WG and the emergency services in Wales.
- 11.6 **RESOLVED to note the information provided and that the risks related with the this project in terms of further delays and the costs involved would be added to the strategic risk register.**

Report to	Executive Panel
Date	29 July 2022
Lead Officer	Dawn Docx, Chief Fire Officer
Contact Officer	01745 535254
Subject	Broadening the role of the Firefighter in Wales - Fire and Rescue Service capacity – Thematic Review



PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report provides an overview of the Thematic Review of the Fire and Rescue Services' capacity to assume a broader role for firefighters in Wales. This was produced by the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor to Welsh Government, Dan Stephens, and published on 5 December 2021.
- 2 It also sets out some of the considerations for North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority as a result of the publication of this review and the letters received from the Deputy Minister for Social Partnership, Hannah Blythyn.
- 3 This paper requests Members' approval to respond to the Deputy Minister's letter and seeks their views.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 4 In March 2021, the Deputy Minister for Social Partnership and the then Minister for Health and Social Services, informed the Senedd of plans to develop a broader role for firefighters in Wales, in support of the NHS in Wales.
- 5 Following that statement the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor and Inspector for Wales decided to undertake a thematic review to provide assurance that the three Welsh FRSs had the capacity to carry out any additional work arising from broadening of the firefighters' role without detriment to core services. The [completed review](#) was accepted by the Deputy Minister and published in December 2021.
- 6 In the following six months there has been on-going dialogue between the Chief Fire Officers in Wales and Welsh Government Officials. On 8 July 2022 the Deputy Minister wrote to the Chairs of the Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales to ask for written confirmation, by 31 August 2022, as to whether they accept the review's findings and how they intend to progress the recommendations (see appendix 1).

RECOMMENDATION

- 7 Members are asked to note:
- (i) the publication of "Broadening of the role of firefighters in Wales. 2021 Thematic Review report by the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor and Inspector for Wales"
 - (ii) the subsequent correspondence from the Deputy Minister to the Chair of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and authorise that a response should be written from the Chair, in consultation with the Chief Fire Officer, reflecting Members' views and sent to the Deputy Minister by 31 August 2022.

BACKGROUND

- 8 In November 2020, The Welsh Government Cabinet approved a proposal to pursue a broader role for the Welsh fire and rescue services (FRSs) in support of the National Health Service (NHS) in Wales.
- 9 A Broadening of the Role working group was convened involving representatives from the fire and rescue services, Welsh Ambulance Services Trust (WAST), Health Boards (HBs) and Welsh Government (WG) officials. North Wales Fire and Rescue Service was represented by ACFO Richard Fairhead. Discussions within the working group agreed that there was clear potential for firefighters in Wales to respond to certain medical emergencies, to people who had fallen but were uninjured and to help prevent falls in the home.
- 10 In March 2021, the Deputy Minister for Social Partnership and the then Minister for Health and Social Services informed the Senedd of plans to develop a broader role for firefighters in Wales, in support of the NHS in Wales.
- 11 To provide assurance that the three Welsh FRSs have the capacity to carry out any additional work arising from broadening of the firefighter role without detriment to core services, the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor and Inspector for Wales undertook a thematic review which was accepted by the Deputy Minister and published in December 2021.
- 12 At the same time the Deputy Minister wrote to the then Chair of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, Cllr Peter Lewis, commending the report and asking him to "consider the recommendations seriously and take all appropriate action in light of them". In this letter she also confirmed that "any changes to working practices should also be agreed with workforce representatives, in a clear spirit of social partnership."

- 13 The review made four recommendations. Two were linked to reviewing existing shift systems, one to analysing station work routines and another to consider increasing the functionality of mobilising systems.
- 14 The shift systems in scope for review are those worked by the employees on the three 24-hour shift stations at Rhyl, Wrexham and Deeside and in the Control function. They currently work a shift pattern of two day shifts of 9 hours, followed by two night shifts of 15 hours and then four days off duty. This shift system is based on the traditional shift pattern which is part of a firefighter's terms and conditions, known as the Grey book.

INFORMATION

- 15 The Chief Fire Officers meet regularly with WG officials. The Chief Fire Officers also have monthly separate one to one meetings with the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor. There has also been the opportunity for the Chair and the Chief Fire Officer to discuss the recommendations of the thematic review with the Deputy Minister and the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor, when they met at Wrexham station on 31 March 2022. The length of the night shifts was discussed and to what extent fatigue posed a health and safety risk given the ability for firefighters to take rest between midnight and 07:00hrs. The conversation also covered the other risks faced by NWFRA as identified by the Chief Fire Officer in her situational assessment.
- 16 From these conversations it would appear that although the recommendation to review and amend shift patterns initially had come from a need to increase capacity, if Welsh Government was to negotiate around broadening the role of firefighters in Wales. This now appears to be secondary to the concern around fatigue under the current working practices.
- 17 On 8 July 2022, the Chair of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, Dylan Rees, received a letter from the Deputy Minister urging him to act upon the recommendations in the thematic review. Although it does not specifically mention altering the length of shifts.
- 18 North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority is committed to the safety of all its employees and to the public of North Wales. In September 2021 it endorsed a course of action to address those concerns that were highlighted in the Chief Fire Officer's situational assessment. It has approved funding for a restructure, reviews and work to improve those risk critical areas of fire cover availability, training and corporate capacity.

- 19 Work is currently underway to procure specialist expertise to undertake an independent review into future emergency response requirements for North Wales. This will include modelling to evaluate the benefits of changes in shift systems. It will also address the Audit Wales recommendation that “the Authority should review station locations to identify opportunities to optimise emergency response arrangements.”
- 20 In the meantime, it is recommended that the Chair, in consultation with the Chief Fire Officer, writes in response to the Deputy Minister for Social Partnership letter to assure her of the Authority's commitment to safety and plans for working together towards change for the benefit of the people of North Wales.

IMPLICATIONS

Wellbeing Objectives	This report links to NWFRA's long-term well-being objectives and demonstrates the Service's commitment to providing emergency responses and prevention work well in to the future.
Budget	Not applicable
Legal	Not applicable
Staffing	Potential change to working conditions for those employees on 24-hour shift stations and Control
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	Not applicable at present.
Risks	Potential poor industrial relations balanced against a perceived health and safety risk of the current working practices.

Hannah Blythyn AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Partnership



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA HB 1921 22

Cllr Dylan Rees
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8 July 2022

Dear Cllr Rees,

Firstly I would like to offer my congratulations to you on your appointment to the Chair of North Wales FRA. I look forward to working with you in your new role across a whole range of fire and rescue issues. There is, however, one matter that I need to raise with you now.

Last December, our Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor (CFRA), Dan Stephens, published a thematic review of the scope that the Service had to undertake a broader role. He concluded that such scope existed, but that changes to working practices were necessary to realise it. Indeed, he concluded that such changes were needed in any event, in the interests of firefighter and public safety. I wrote to the previous Chair on 3 December commending the report and asking the FRA you to give it prompt and serious consideration.

This and other reports the CFRA produces contain thoroughly-developed and well-evidenced findings. The report needs to be considered carefully and implemented accordingly, unless there are clear and compelling reasons not to do so.

That is all the more so in cases like this, which raise genuine and serious safety concerns. The CFRA's report identified a significant risk of not enough training and/or fatigue under current working practices. Those concerns may be amplified in his current and more in-depth review of training provision. This should not be acceptable in any safety-critical profession, particularly one where the safety of the public is also at stake.

It is therefore concerning that progress in considering, and acting on the report's recommendations across Wales in the six months since publication has been slow. I know that some of the changes which might prove necessary may be challenging; but safety is and must always be an overriding concern.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.


We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In our previous meetings I have made clear the commitment to work together towards change but, at the same time that we have come to a point where we really need to achieve change. I am sure you will understand that when presented with the evidence that the CFRA has identified and the potential risks to both firefighter and public safety, then the Welsh Government has a duty to respond and act upon this.

I would ask to see confirmation in writing that you accept the report's findings as soon as possible, and a proposal for moving forward by 31 August. If, you believe that is not possible or necessary, then again, I would expect full details of that in writing. I and my officials would be very happy to support you in making the necessary changes in any way that we can, and I know that CFO Dawn Docx has already discussed with them the form that such support might take.

I am copying this letter to CFO Dawn Docx and writing in identical terms to Councillor Steve Bradwick and Councillor Elwyn Williams.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Blythyn AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Partnership

Report to	Executive Panel	
Date	29 July 2022	
Lead Officer	Stewart Forshaw, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, (Corporate Policy and Planning)	
Contact Officer	Pippa Hardwick, Head of Corporate Planning (01745 535297)	
Subject	Performance Monitoring April 2021 – March 2022	

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To provide information about incident activity during the 2021/22 financial year; performance in relation to the Authority's improvement and well-being objectives; and other notable incident activity.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 During the 2021/22 financial year the Service attended:
 - 5,354 emergency incidents. These have increased by 13.9% compared with the same period in 2020/21. The increase was driven primarily by a 56% increase in attendances at special services non-fire emergencies (958);
 - 399 accidental dwelling fires at which 34 people sustained slight injuries, five people sustained serious injuries, and five people lost their lives;
 - 22 fires at HMP Berwyn, compared with 47 in the previous financial year;
 - 207 road traffic collisions, 71 of which required crews to release or extricate people from vehicles;
 - 2,517 false alarms, which included a 15.2% increase in attendances to false alarms from automatic fire alarm (AFA) systems.
- 3 During this period the Service also completed 14,062 Safe and Well Checks, which was 2,721 more than in the previous financial year (11,341).

RECOMMENDATION

- 4 That Members note the contents of the performance monitoring report.

INFORMATION

5 **All incidents**

The Service attended a combined total of 5,354 emergency incidents and false alarms during 2021/21, 13.9% more than in the previous year 2020/21. Within this total there was a 97.1% increase in attendances at road traffic collisions (RTCs) compared to 2020/21, which was expected following the lifting of Covid-19 travel restrictions since the start of 2021/22.

There was also a 56.0% increase in attendances at special services non-fire emergencies. Once again this was an expected increase following a change in the Service's mobilising strategy, to increase our attendance at emergency incidents when a request from a partner agency has been received (See section 8).

6 **Fires**

The Service attended 880 primary, 879 secondary and 120 chimney fires totalling 1,879 which is an increase of 6.2% compared with 1,770 in the previous financial year.

Looking at the fire category types in more detail, the Service experienced increases in fires at both domestic and non-domestic buildings, vehicles and fires involving the outdoors.

However, a decrease in the number of chimney fires was experienced (>23.6%) and also in the number of deliberate fires at HMP Berwyn (>64%); a result of the continuous partnership work that takes place between our Business Fire Safety Team and prison staff.

Once again, the increase in fires may be the result of changes in people's behaviours following the lifting of Covid-19 restriction's, which will be closely monitored during 2022/23 to identify trends and conduct community safety interventions accordingly.

7 **False alarms**

The Service attended 2,517 false alarms, compared with 2,315 in 2020/21. Those originating from Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA) systems increased to 1,398 from 1,214, with the main contributors being those from purpose-built flats/maisonettes (from 330 to 393), and bungalow and house of single occupancy combined (from 488 to 578).

This increase is in accordance with the way that the Service responds to AFA's, with sleeping accommodation such as hospitals, care homes and sheltered housing always receiving an attendance from the Service. Each attendance is then followed up by Fire Protection members of staff to identify how future false alarms in non-domestic premises can be reduced in the future.

8 **Special service incidents**

Attendance at special service incidents increased by 56% to 958 from 614 as the Service adopted a different approach, in favour of increasing its assistance from requests by our partner agencies at emergency incidents they attend.

The lifting of pandemic and travel restrictions resulted in increased road traffic and a 97.1% increase in RTCs from 105 to 207, where 83 involved making a vehicle or scene safe (only) and 71 involved extricating or releasing people.

Attendance at other special service incidents increased by 242 (47.5%) from 509 to 751, with the main contributors being 'gaining entry' (from 71 to 113); assistance to other agencies (from 38 to 95); effecting entry/exit (from 63 to 77); releasing people from lifts (from 37 to 75); making a location safe (other than at RTC) (from 4 to 49) and separating people from objects (from 36 to 70).

This increase demonstrates success in the work that has taken place during the year, in an attempt to increase our support at incidents originating from a partner agency. Control room operators now have the autonomy to make dynamic mobilising decisions for special service call requests made by other emergency responders and partners, resulting in this noticeable increase.

9 **Accidental fires in dwellings (ADFs)**

The Service attended 399 ADFs - 39 more than in the previous financial year. These ADFs resulted in five people sustaining serious injuries and five people losing their lives (the final number of deaths will be subject to coroners' verdicts).

The main contributors to the increase in ADFs were cooking fires involving chip pans/deep fat fryers (from 13 to 26) and other cooking incidents (from 71 to 80), with 'distraction' and falling asleep being the main human factors associated with the increase. These contributing factors have been the areas of focus for Service campaigns and communications utilising social media, partnership engagement and 'hot spotting' close to where a fire has occurred following ADF incidents.

10 **Safe and Well Checks**

The Service completed 14,062 Safe and Well Checks (SAWCs) compared with 11,341 in the previous financial year. The number of high priorities SAWCs increased to 6,039, of which 3,285 (54.4%) were in response to referrals from partner agencies.

High priority SAWC's are those people living in the community who are most likely to have a fire at home resulting in injury or death, as a result of having multiple contributory vulnerable factors such as: over pensionable age, smoking, living alone, previous history of fire etc. So, an increase in the number of SAWC's for high priority households since the previous year is a success in our prevention targeting activity.

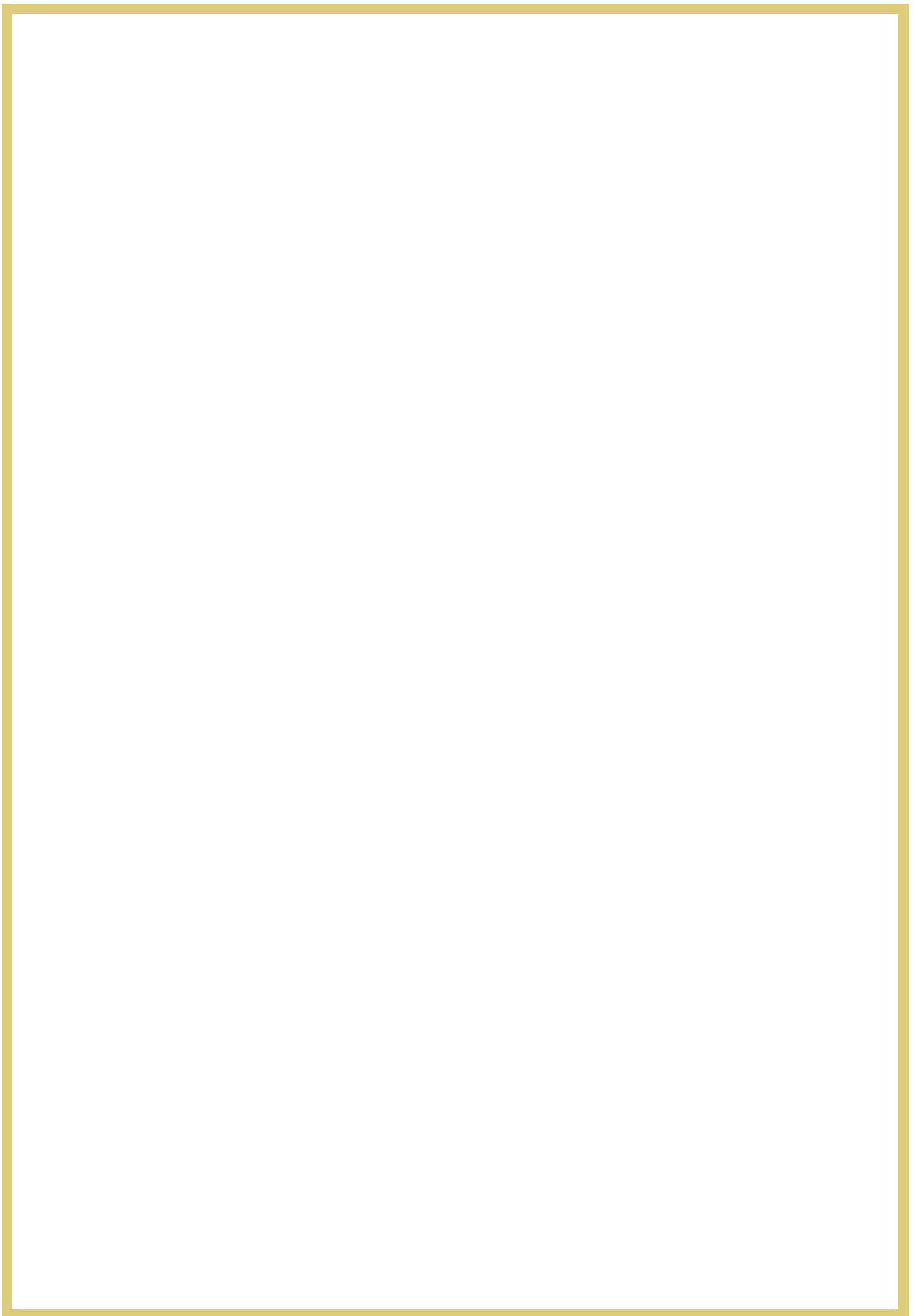
11 **Smoke/heat detectors**

At 349 (87.5%) of the 399 ADFs attended, there was already at least one smoke/heat detector fitted at the premises, whilst at 315 (78.9%) of the 399 ADFs there was a combination of both – at least one smoke/heat detector already fitted and the fire was confined to the room of origin/item first ignited or caused heat/smoke damage only.

There was an increase where the smoke/heat detector was fitted but did not raise the alarm (from 65 to 78), and at 66 of these 78 ADFs, the fire was confined to the room of origin/item first ignited, or caused heat/smoke damage only. This is likely to be the main reason why a smoke/heat detector did not raise the alarm as they are generally installed on escape routes (landings and hallways) and not the most likely room a fire will originate from, such as a lounge or bedroom.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	Helps the Authority to monitor its performance against the improvement and well-being objectives in the Corporate Plan 2021-24.
Budget	Helps to highlight any potential impacts on budget due to unanticipated incident activity.
Legal	Assists the Authority with ensuring that there are sufficient resources to meet demand.
Staffing	No implication identified.
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	No implication identified.
Risks	Not satisfying legal requirements to report on and monitor performance that may impact on the ability to ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet demand.



NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



**Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Fire and Rescue Service**

PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

For the twelve months

April 2021 – March 2022

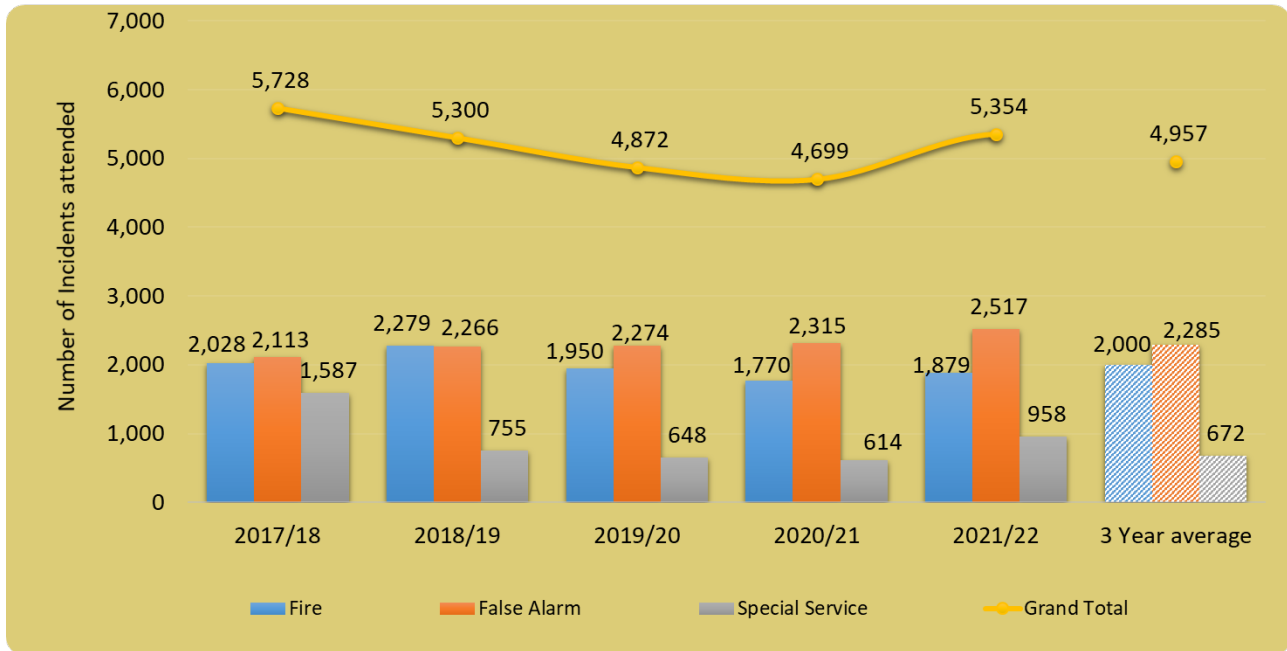
Figures are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.

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1.0 All Incidents

1.1 During the 2021/22 financial year the Service attended 5,354 emergency incidents and false alarms, an increase of 13.9% on the same period in 2020/21.



Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year-to-Date (YTD)	% change YTD	Average of 3 previous years	% change YTD / Average of 3 previous years
Total incidents attended	2021-22	1,322	1,415	1,254	1,363	5,354	↑ 13.9%	4,957	↑ 8.0%
	2020-21	1,378	1,232	998	1,091	4,699			
Total fires	2021-22	575	480	348	476	1,879	↑ 6.2%	2,000	↓ 6.0%
	2020-21	653	433	324	360	1,770			
Total special service incidents	2021-22	152	233	315	258	958	↑ 56.0%	672	↑ 42.5%
	2020-21	96	182	137	199	614			
Total false alarms	2021-22	595	702	591	629	2,517	↑ 8.7%	2,285	↑ 10.2%
	2020-21	629	617	537	532	2,315			

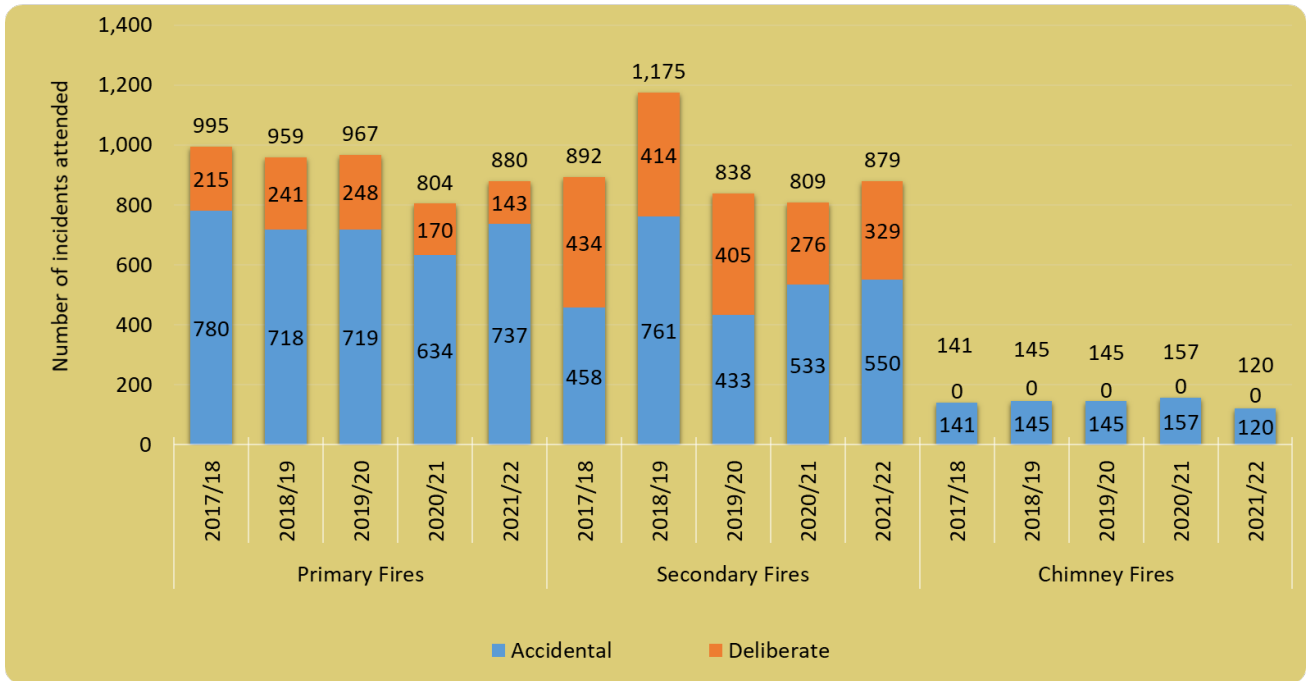
*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.



2.0 Fires, by Category and Motive

2.1 **Primary fires** – There was an increase in primary fires of 9.5% to 880 from 804 during the 2021/22 financial year.

2.2 **Secondary fires** – There was an increase in the overall number of secondary fires attended compared with the same period in 2020/21, increasing from 809 to 879 (8.7%).



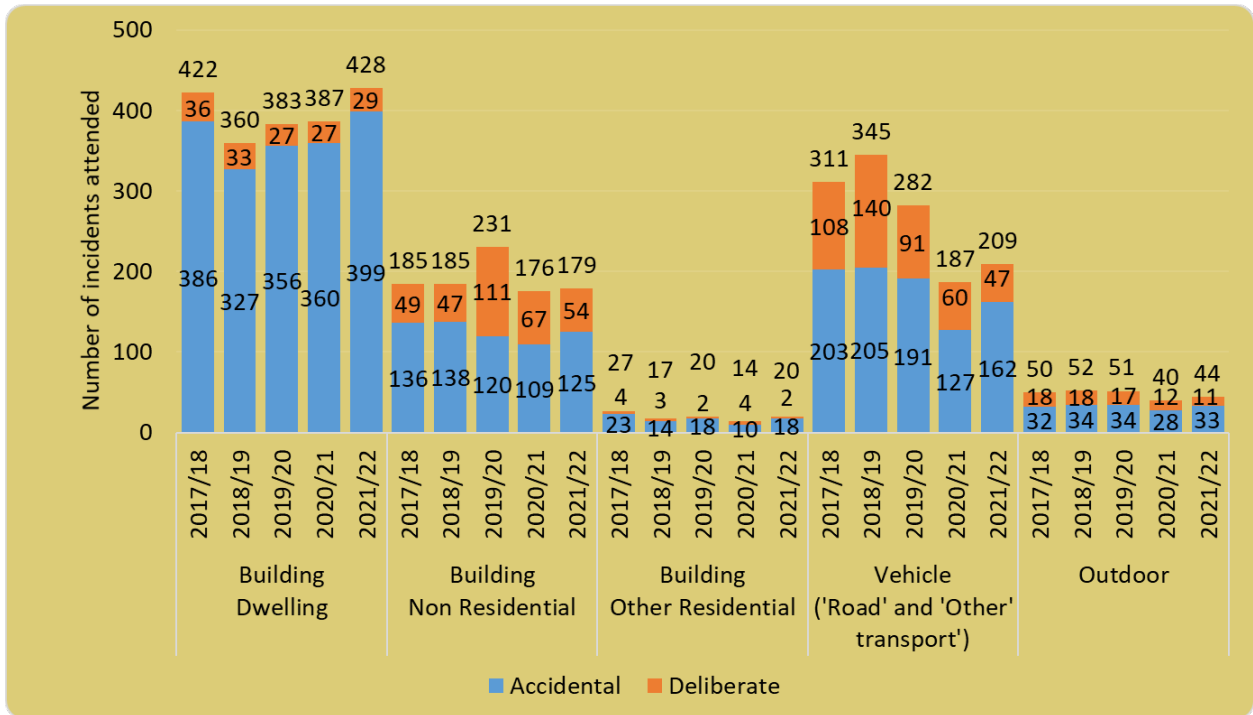
Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year-to-Date (YTD)	% change YTD	Average of 3 previous years	% change YTD / Average of 3 previous years
Primary fires	2021-22	251	229	200	200	880	↑ 9.5%	910	↓ 3.3%
	2020-21	224	217	190	173	804			
Secondary fires	2021-22	293	244	111	231	879	↑ 8.7%	941	↓ 6.6%
	2020-21	394	202	95	118	809			
Chimney fires	2021-22	31	7	37	45	120	↓ 23.6%	149	↓ 19.5%
	2020-21	35	14	39	69	157			

*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.



3.0 Primary Fires, by Property Type and Motive

- 3.1 During the reporting period 54 primary fires were started deliberately at non-residential buildings, compared with 67 during the same period in 2020/21.
- 3.2 At HMP Berwyn 22 deliberate fires occurred compared with 47 in the last financial year.



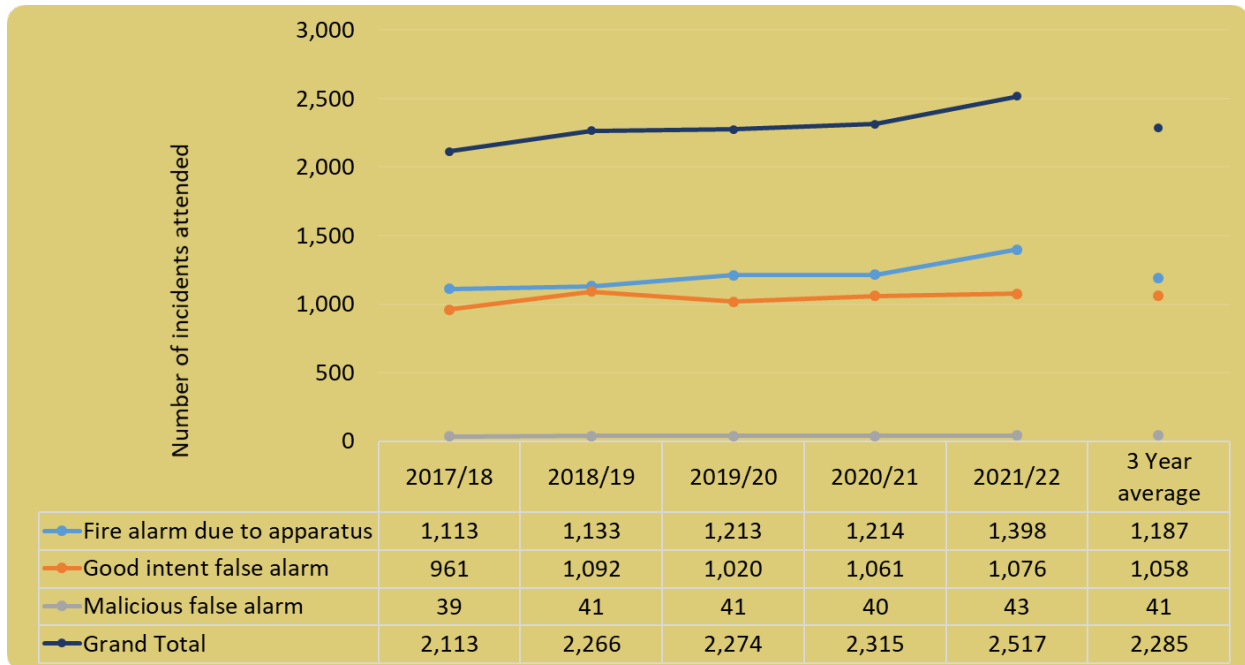
Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year-to-Date (YTD)	% change YTD	Average of 3 previous years	% change YTD / Average of 3 previous years
All deliberate primary fires	2021-22	40	42	31	30	143	↓ 15.9%	220	↓ 34.9%
	2020-21	41	47	34	48	170			
All accidental primary fires	2021-22	211	187	169	170	737	↑ 16.2%	690	↑ 6.8%
	2020-21	183	170	156	125	634			

*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.



4.0 False Alarms

4.1 In the 2021/22 financial year there were 2,517 false alarms; an 8.7% increase from 2,315 in the previous financial year. There was a 15.2% increase in AFAs from 1,214 to 1,398. False alarms made with good intent increased from 1,061 to 1,076 (1.4%).



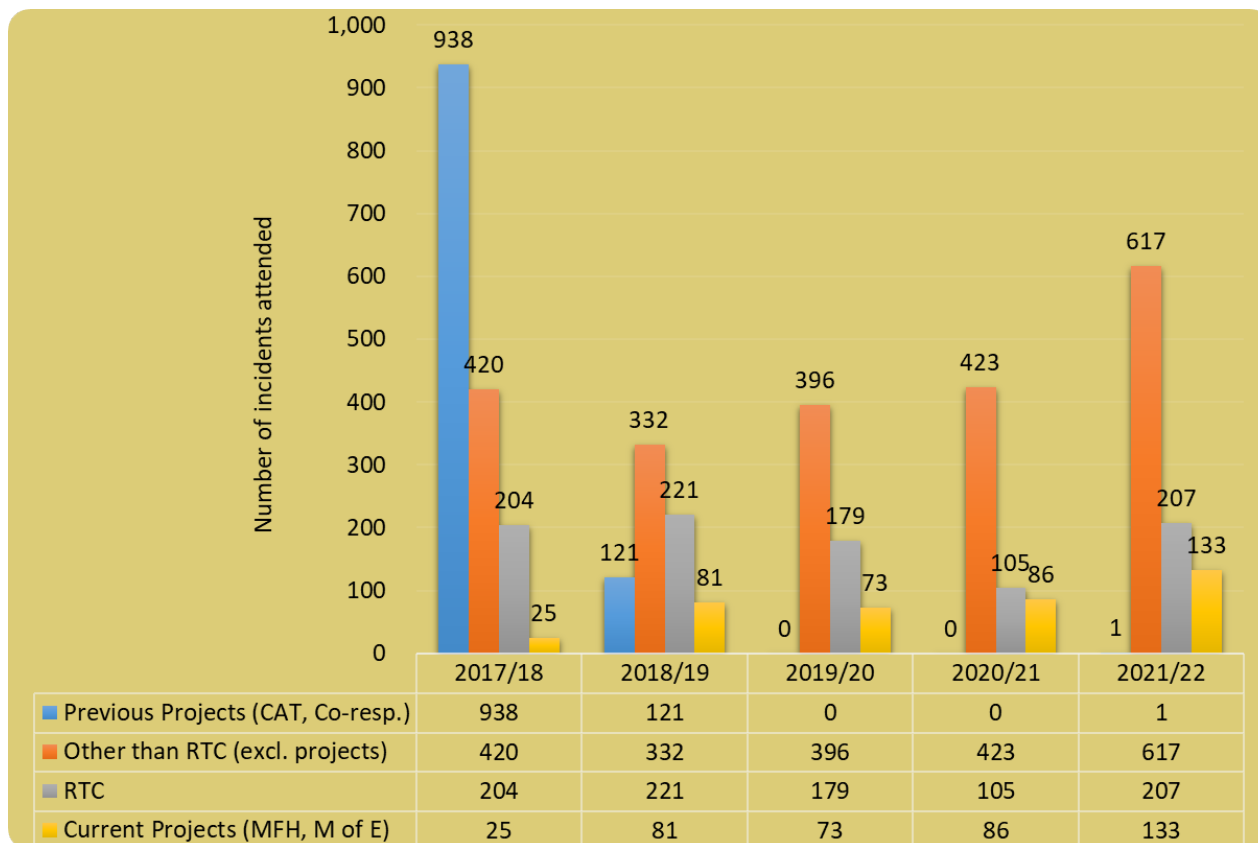
Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year-to-Date (YTD)	% change YTD	Average of 3 previous years	% change YTD / Average of 3 previous years
Total false alarm	2021-22	595	702	591	629	2,517	↑ 8.7%	2,285	↑ 10.2%
	2020-21	629	617	537	532	2,315			
AFA	2021-22	311	403	345	339	1,398	↑ 15.2%	1,187	↑ 17.8%
	2020-21	282	331	304	297	1,214			
False alarms made with good intent	2021-22	278	287	234	277	1,076	↑ 1.4%	1,058	↑ 1.7%
	2020-21	330	285	219	227	1,061			
Malicious	2021-22	6	12	12	13	43	↑ 7.5%	41	↑ 4.9%
	2020-21	17	1	14	8	40			

*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.



5.0 Special Service Incidents

- 5.1 Special service incidents increased by 56% to 958 during 2021/22, compared to 614 in the previous financial year. Road traffic collisions recorded a 97.1% increase from 105 to 207 whilst 'Other than RTC' incidents increased by 47.5%, from 509 to 751.



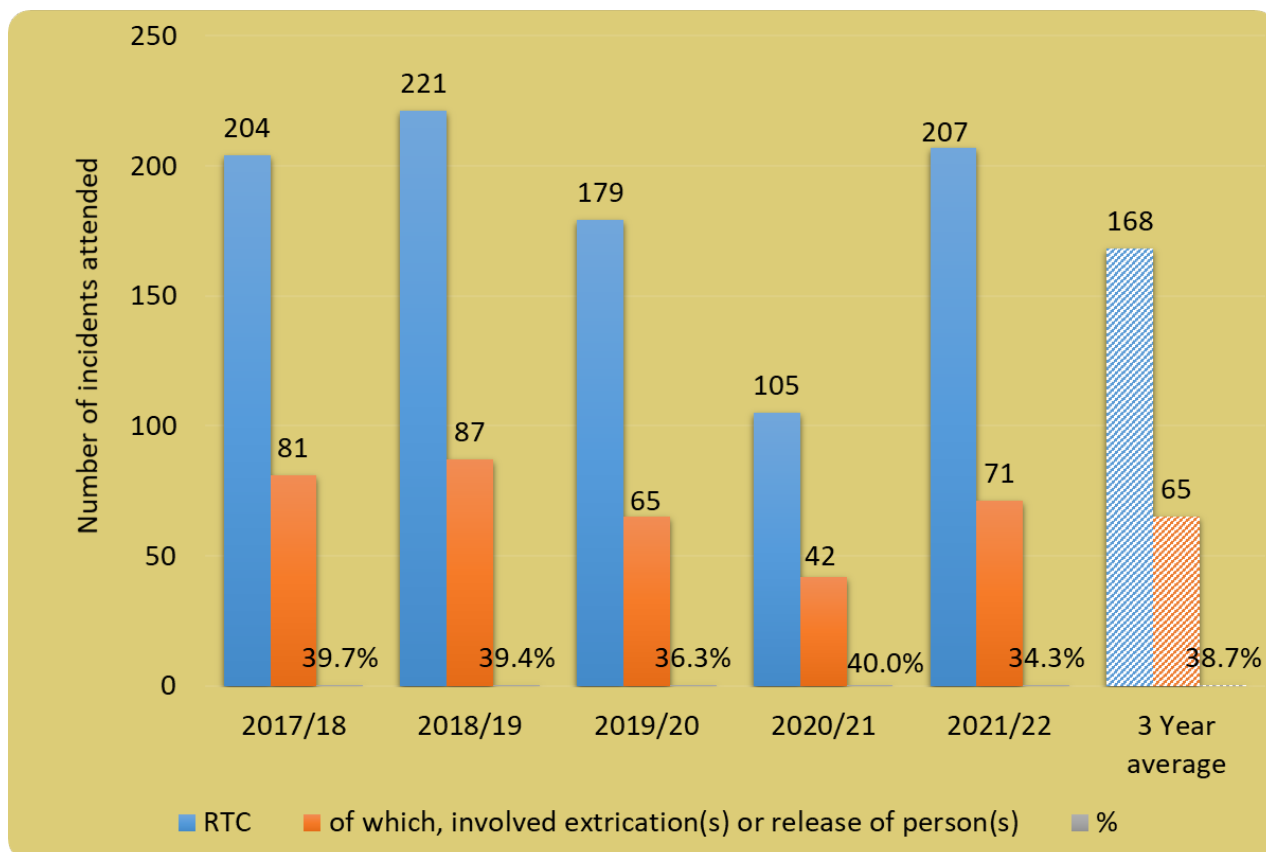
Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year-to-Date (YTD)	% change YTD	Average of 3 previous years	% change YTD/Average of 3 previous years
Total special service incidents	2021-22	152	233	315	258	958	↑ 56%	672	↑ 42.6%
	2020-21	96	182	137	199	614			
Road traffic collisions (RTC)	2021-22	31	56	68	52	207	↑ 97.1%	168	↑ 23.2%
	2020-21	17	32	32	24	105			
Other than RTC	2021-22	121	177	247	206	751	↑ 47.5%	504	↑ 49.0%
	2020-21	79	150	105	175	509			

*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.



6.0 Road Traffic Collisions and Extrications/Release

6.1 Out of the 207 road traffic collisions attended in the 2021/22 financial year, 34.3% involved the Service using equipment to extricate at least one casualty from the vehicle whilst 71 resulted in injuries, although the majority of casualties sustained only slight injuries.



207	RTC incidents attended
100	incidents where people sustained injury
71	incidents involved extrication / release

Severity of Injury *	Number of people
Precautionary check	8
First Aid	13
Injuries - Slight	67
Injuries - Serious	54
Fatalities	16

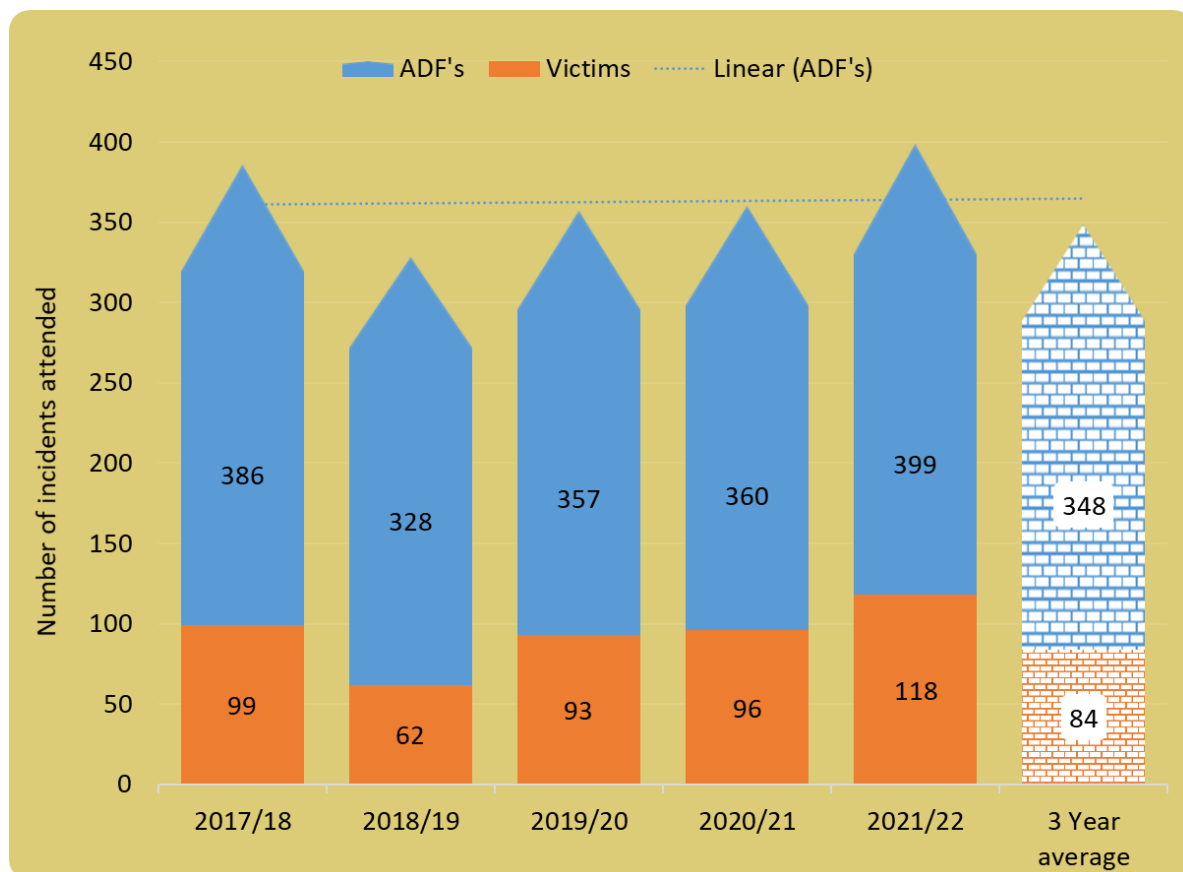
*RTC injuries - where available are recorded in the IRS in the same categorisation as fire injuries



7.0 Monitoring against Improvement and Well-being objective A: *To support people to prevent accidental dwelling fires and stay safe if they do occur.*

7.1 Accidental fires in dwellings

The Service attended 399 accidental dwelling fires during the 2021/22 financial year, 39 more than in the same period of 2020/21 and 14.7% above the three-year average of 348.



Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year-to-Date (YTD)	% change YTD	Average of 3 previous years	% change YTD / Average of 3 previous years
Accidental fires in dwellings	2021-22	113	95	106	85	399	↑ 10.8%	348	↑ 14.7%
	2020-21	104	83	96	77	360			

*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.

8.0 Fatalities and casualties from accidental fires in dwellings

8.1 There were five fatalities during the 2021/22 financial year, which was the same as during the previous financial year. There were two more serious injuries in accidental dwelling fires compared with the previous financial year whilst there were five more slight injuries than during the same period in 2020/21. The number of precautionary checks decreased slightly from 33 to 31, whilst the number of people requiring first aid at the scene increased from 26 to 43.

Severity of injury	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Precautionary Check	32	13	19	33	31
First Aid	25	27	41	26	43
Injuries - Slight	39	11	26	29	34
Injuries - Serious	2	6	4	3	5
Fatality	1	5	3	5	5
Total	99	62	93	96	118

Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year-to-Date (YTD)	Change YTD	Average of 3 previous years	Change YTD / Average of 3 previous years
Injuries from accidental fires in dwellings	2021-22	43	23	30	17	113	↑ 22	79	↑ 34
	2020-21	26	15	24	26	91			
Deaths from accidental fires in dwellings	2021-22	3	0	0	2	5	→ 0		
	2020-21	3	0	1	1	5			



9.0 Safe and Well Checks

9.1 The Service completed 14,062 Safe and Well Checks during the reporting period, of which 4,896 (34.8%) were undertaken in response to a referral from a partner agency.



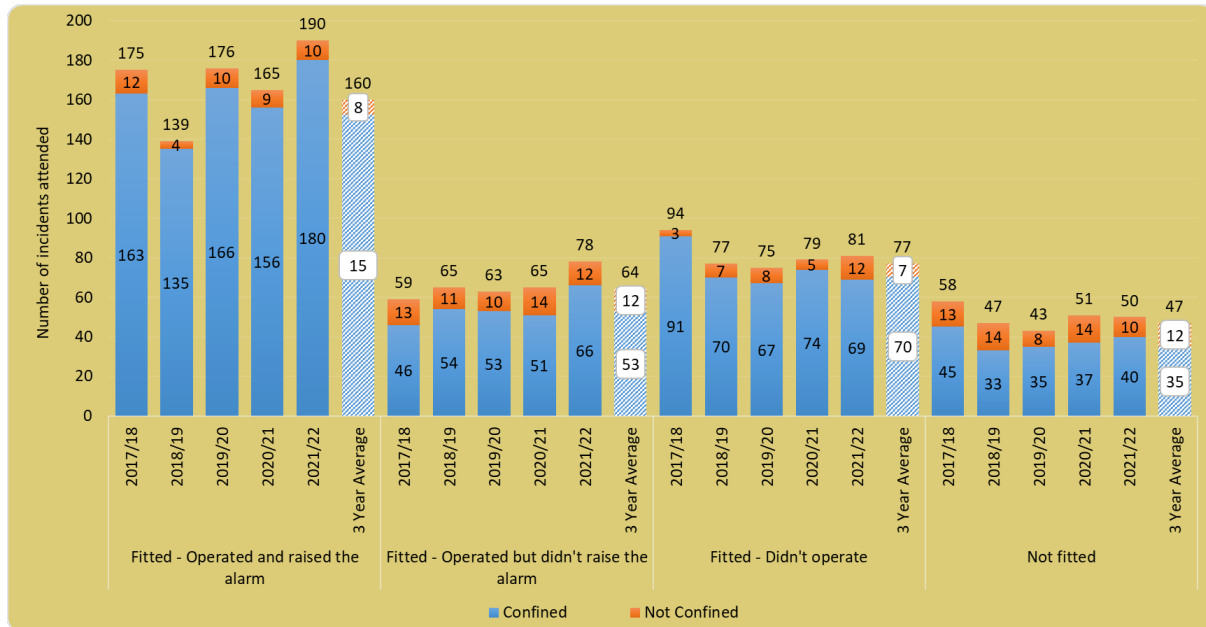
Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year-to-Date (YTD)	Change YTD	Average of 3 previous years	Change YTD / Average of 3 previous years
% of all Safe and Well Checks undertaken that originated from a referral from a partner organisation	2021-22	40%	35%	35%	32%	35%	↑ 1pp	30%	↑ 5pp
	2020-21	30%	37%	36%	36%	34%			
*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.									



10.0 Smoke Detectors – Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)

10.1 Smoke/heat detectors were present at the majority of ADF's, although not all went on to operate; at 50 of the ADFs, no detector was fitted.

10.2 Of the 399 ADFs, 355 were confined to the room of origin, the item first ignited, or there was heat/smoke damage only.



Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year-to-Date (YTD)	% change YTD	Average of 3 previous years	% change YTD / Average of 3 previous years
Smoke detector fitted which operated and raised alarm	2021-22	54	46	55	35	190	↑ 15.2%	160	↑ 18.8%
	2020-21	48	36	50	31	165			
Smoke detector fitted which operated but didn't raise the alarm	2021-22	20	20	16	22	78	↑ 20.0%	64	↑ 21.9%
	2020-21	18	15	13	19	65			
Smoke detector didn't operate	2021-22	26	16	21	18	81	↑ 2.5%	77	↑ 5.2%
	2020-21	22	21	20	16	79			
Smoke detector not fitted	2021-22	13	13	14	10	50	↓ 2.0%	47	↑ 6.4%
	2020-21	16	11	13	11	51			

*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.

Glossary

Fires	All fires fall into one of three categories – primary, secondary or chimney.
Primary Fires	<p>These are fires that are not chimney fires, and which are in any type of building (except if derelict), vehicles, caravans and trailers, outdoor storage, plant and machinery, agricultural and forestry property, and other outdoor structures such as bridges, post boxes, tunnels, etc.</p> <p>Fires in any location are categorised as primary fires if they involved casualties, rescues or escapes, as are fires in any location that were attended by five or more fire appliances.</p>
Secondary Fires	<p>Secondary fires are fires that are neither chimney fires nor primary fires.</p> <p>Secondary fires do not involve casualties, rescues or escapes, and will have been attended by four or fewer fire appliances.</p> <p>Secondary fires are those that would normally occur in locations such as open land, in single trees, fences, telegraph poles, refuse and refuse containers (but not paper banks, which would be considered - in the same way as agricultural and forestry property - to be primary fires), outdoor furniture, traffic lights, etc.</p>
Chimney Fires	<p>These are fires in occupied buildings where the fire is confined within the chimney structure, even if heat or smoke damage extends beyond the chimney itself.</p> <p>Chimney fires do not involve casualties, rescues or escapes, and will have been attended by four or fewer fire appliances.</p>
Special Service Incidents	<p>These are non-fire incidents which require the attendance of an appliance or officer and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Local emergencies e.g. flooding, road traffic incidents, rescue of persons, 'making safe' etc; b) Major disasters; c) Domestic incidents e.g. water leaks, persons locked in or out etc; d) Prior arrangements to attend incidents, which may include some provision of advice and inspections.
False Alarm (general guidance)	<p>Where the FRS attends a location believing there to be an incident, but on arrival discovers that no such incident exists, or existed.</p> <p>Note: if the appliance is 'turned around' by Control before arriving at the incident it is not classed as having been attended and does not need to be reported.</p>
False Alarms - Malicious	These are calls made with the intention of getting the FRS to attend a non-existent incident, including deliberate and suspected malicious intentions.
False Alarms – Good Intent	These are calls made in good faith in the belief that the FRS really would attend a fire or special service incident.
False Alarms - AFA	These are calls initiated by fire alarm and fire-fighting equipment. They include accidental initiation of alarm apparatus or where an alarm operates and a person then routinely calls the FRS as part of a standing arrangement, i.e. with no 'judgement' involved, for example from a security call centre or a nominated person in an organisation).