

NORTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY REPORT

DATE:	19 th September 2005
REPORT BY:	ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (SERVICE DELIVERY)
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To update Members on the review of the new shift times worked at day crewing stations.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At the Authority's meeting of the 15th March 2004 Members resolved that in order to match risk and resources in a more effective manner, a later start and finish time for wholetime firefighters on day crewed stations should be introduced. This had been identified as part of the Integrated Risk Management Plan process.
- 1.2 On the 6th January 2005 day crewing stations changed start and finish times from 08:00hrs until 18:00hrs to 12:00hrs until 22:00hrs.

2. **REVIEW**

- 2.1 A meeting was held at Llandudno Fire Station on the 12th July to review local arrangements at day crewing stations since the implementation of the new start and finish times. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer with the provision for two representatives from each of the five day crewing stations and the Brigade's FBU Secretary. Nine representatives and Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Delivery) attended the meeting with apologies being received from the FBU Secretary.
- 2.2 The meeting proved productive in giving representatives the opportunity to raise and discuss issues relating to the impact of the time changes. The Deputy, subsequent to the meeting, has confirmed in writing the issues raised, with some of the solutions suggested and discussed, and a programme of further work and investigation to resolve the more complex issues.
- 2.3 It was suggested that further periodic meetings may prove beneficial in discussing and dealing with issues related to the time change. This was agreed and the next meeting will take place on 6th January 2006, a year since implementation of the change.

3. **OPERATIONAL IMPACT**

3.1 The following table shows the operational incidents encountered in the evening under the new start and finish times in comparison to the former morning times.

3.2

Station	08:00 to 12:00 Former Morning Cover	18:00 to 22:00 New Evening Cover
Llandudno	47 (29)	75 (18)
Colwyn Bay	43 (19)	73 (12)
Caernarfon	35 (20)	93 (8)
Bangor	71 (57)	149 (57)
Holyhead	41 (20)	108 (26)
TOTAL	237 (145)	498 (121)

NB. The figures in brackets are the number of Automatic False Alarms as part of the total incidents for the stations.

3.3 Since implementing the change in operating times there has been 1 rescue carried out in the evening period covered while no rescues have been carried out in the morning.

3.4 Once notified of the intention to change start and finish times there was one request for transfer to another duty system. This request was withdrawn on being granted. There have been no requests from personnel on the day crewing system to transfer to another duty system since the new times came in and 1 request to transfer onto the day crewing system from the 24 hour shift system.

3.5 There has been a small reduction in the rate of sickness absence from personnel on the day crewing system.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 Members note the contents of the report.