



## Local Government Act 1972

**A Meeting of the Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 15 December 2020 at 10.00 a.m. to consider the following business:-**

### PART A

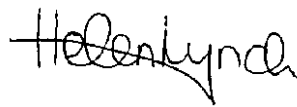
1. Declarations of interest, if any
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2020 (Pages 3 - 6)
3. Current Correspondence - Report of Assistant Chief Fire Officer - Service Support (Pages 7 - 16)
4. Notes of the Performance Committee - Report of Chair (Pages 17 - 18)
5. Performance Report Quarter Two 2020/21 - Report of Area Manager Emergency Response (Pages 19 - 26)
6. Bonfire Period Update - Presentation of Area Manager Community Risk Management (Pages 27 - 48)
7. Update on RDS Activities - Report of Member Champion for RDS presented by Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Pages 49 - 54)
8. Fire Standards Board - Report of Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Pages 55 - 58)
9. Staffing Arrangements at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe - Report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Pages 59 - 62)
10. Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics - Report of Area Manager, Community Risk Management (Pages 63 - 76)
11. Spending Review - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Pages 77 - 80)
12. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration
13. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information

## Part B

**Items during which it is considered the meeting is not likely to be open to the public (consideration of exempt or confidential information).**

14. Fire Fatality - Report of Area Manager Assets and Assurance (Pages 81 - 90)
15. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

**PURSUANT** to the provisions of the above named Act, **I HEREBY SUMMON YOU** to attend the said meeting



**H LYNCH**

Clerk to the Combined Fire Authority  
for County Durham and Darlington

County Hall  
Durham  
DH1 5UL

**TO: The Members of the Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington**

**Durham County Councillors:**

Councillors B Avery, A Batey, D Bell, J Bell, R Bell, P Brookes, C Carr, D Freeman, D Hicks, A Laing, L Maddison, R Manchester, L Marshall, C Potts, G Richardson, J Robinson, E Scott, J Shuttleworth, D Stoker, F Tinsley and J Turnbull.

**Darlington Borough Councillors:**

Councillors H Crumbie, B Jones, G Lee and A J Scott.

At a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held remotely, on **Thursday 12 November 2020** at 10.00 am.

**Present:**

**Durham County Councillors:**

Councillors B Avery, A Batey, D Bell, Bell, R Bell, D Freeman, A Laing, L Maddison, R Manchester, L Marshall, C Potts, G Richardson, J Robinson, E Scott, J Shuttleworth, D Stoker, F Tinsley and J Turnbull.

**Darlington Borough Councillors:**

Councillors H Crumbie, B Jones, and G Lee

Apologies for absence were received from C Carr, D Hicks, J Maitland, A Scott

**Independent Person:**

A Simpson and N Johnson

The Chair welcomed all to the remote live meeting.

The Chief Fire Officer gave an update on the work that had been undertaken over the bonfire period and noted that the usual report would be presented to the Fire Authority meeting in December.

The Chair and Vice Chair congratulated people for their achievements over the recent weeks. Those who have reached 20 and 30 years' service. The awards night in October had been postponed due to the current covid-19 situation. Congratulations to be those members of staff.

The Chair noted retired fire fighter and Fire Fighters Charity representative Harry Binyon had received the Fire Fighters Charity Lifetime Achievement Award, Chairman's Award from Durham County Council and British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year's Honours.

The Vice Chair informed the meeting that the service had won the "recruitment excellence award" in the North East Apprentice Awards. The award highlights employees who demonstrate innovation in their recruitment processes to ensure they have a diverse workforce.

**A1 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **A2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 September 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair (for copy see file of minutes).

## **A3 Current Correspondence**

The Authority received an update from the Assistant Chief Fire Officer in relation to current correspondence received from government and other bodies relevant to the Authority and the status of each (for copy see file of minutes).

## **A4 Notes of the Audit and Risk Committee**

The Authority considered a report of the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee which provided members with an update on the discussions and recommendations of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 28 October 2020. (for copy see file of minutes).

Cllr Turnbull passed on thanks to the Treasurer and his team for their work.

### **Resolved:**

The contents of the report were noted.

## **A5 Notes of the Finance Committee**

The Authority received an update from the Chair of the Finance Committee which provided members with an update on the discussions and recommendations of the Finance Committee held on 29 October 2020. (for copy see file of minutes).

### **Resolved:**

That the contents of the report be noted.

## **A6 Post Grenfell Tower: Actions Update**

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager, Community Risk Management which provided members with an update on actions taken within CDDFRS in response to the national recommendations following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017.

Cllr Lee queried the use of smoke hoods. The Chief Fire Officer explained the training required and how the hoods are used in a rescue.

### **Resolved:**



- a) the contents of the report be noted
- b) members agree to receive further updates as appropriate

**A7 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Action Plan Update**

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manger Assets and Assurance which gave members an update on the current position of the action plan resulting from the Service's inspection.

Cllr Lee queried the services identification of high-risk sites. The Chief Fire Officer noted that this had not been an area of improvement from HMICFRS, but the Service action plan looked at all areas that had arisen out of the inspection report.

**Resolved:**

- a) the contents of the report be noted
- b) members agree to receive further updates as appropriate

**A8 Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

**A9 Exclusion of the public**

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

**PART B**

**B10 Strategic Planning Day**

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which provided members with an overview of the discussions that took place at the CFA Strategic Planning Day on Wednesday 7 October 2020.

**Resolved:**

- a) note and discuss the outcomes of the CFA Strategic Planning Day

**B11 Service Restructure**

The Authority considered a report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer which provided members with an update on the service restructure that had been introduced.

**Resolved:**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**B12 Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

**CLOSE OF MEETING**



**Current Correspondence: November 2020 – December 2020**

Release Date	Subject	Summary	Action CFA Report	Action CFA Response	Action Info
6/11/2020	Letter from Sir Thomas Windsor ws	Letter setting out how HMICFRS intends to continue inspection activity in light of recent restrictions and a national lockdown. Appendix A			√
6/11/2020	Letter from Lord Greenhalgh	Letter thanking firefighters and staff for their continued hard work and support during the Covid-19 outbreak and requesting FRS, through the NFCC to develop a national understanding of how the FRS are supporting local partners. Appendix B			√
27/11/2020	Letter from Zoe Billingham	Letter providing an update on the COVID inspections undertaken and Round 2 Inspection programme.			√

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Promoting improvements  
in policing and fire & rescue  
services to make everyone safer

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89 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PN  
Direct Line: 020 3513 0521  
Fax: 020 3513 0650  
Email: tom.winsor@hmicfrs.gov.uk

**Sir Thomas Winsor ws**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire and  
Rescue Services

Chief Constables  
Chief Fire Officers  
Police and Crime Commissioners  
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners  
Chief Executives  
Chairs of Fire & Rescue Authorities  
Lead Fire and Rescue Authority Members  
Locally elected Mayors

6 November 2020

Dear Colleague,

**HMICFRS INSPECTION ACTIVITY 2020/21**

On 16 July 2020 I wrote to you to inform you about when and how we intended to resume inspection activity. This letter provides you with an update you on how we expect to continue our work in light of the recent announcement about further restrictions and a national lockdown in England. Of course, many of you have already been under higher tier restrictions in recent weeks.

2. I do not underestimate the difficulties you face in continuing to adapt and respond to these circumstances over such a protracted period. Thank you for your vital work to keep the public safe.

3. We expect to carry out our planned inspection activity over the coming months. This plan includes our inspection of how policing and fire and rescue services have responded to the pandemic, together with other inspections of high-risk areas. It also includes preparations for the restart of our FRS and PEEL inspections in 2021.

4. As you know, we have adapted our inspection plans and methods. We are carrying out most of our inspection work remotely. Where this is not possible, we have put in place measures to ensure our inspection teams operate in a manner that is safe both on and off-site to reduce the potential risk to them and equally to you and your staff. I am grateful for the positive feedback many of you have provided about this new way of working, and for the speed and efficiency with which your organisations have adapted to and indeed facilitated virtual inspections.

5. The HMICFRS Board will continue to discuss inspection plans against the changing operational circumstances each week to ensure they remain appropriate. Please contact your respective regional HMI if you wish to discuss any inspection activity planned in your organisation for the rest of the calendar year.

6. Thank you for your continued leadership during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,



**Sir Thomas Winsor WS**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services

Copied to: HMIs Home Office NFCC Chair NPCC Chair

DG, National Crime Agency LGA APCC

CEO, College of Policing Criminal Justice Chief Inspectors



Home Office

Lord Greenhalgh  
Minister of State for Building Safety, Fire  
and Communities

2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF  
[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

To:

Chairs of Fire and Rescue Authorities  
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners  
Chief Fire Officers  
Roy Wilsher, Chair of NFCC

**By Email Only**

06 November 2020

Dear All,

**Covid-19 – the Fire and Rescue Response**

I am writing firstly to thank you, your firefighters and all staff for your continuing hard work and support during the Covid-19 outbreak. Despite the challenges every Fire and Rescue Service has faced, you have adapted quickly to new working practices while continuing to provide a high-quality service to the public. As we enter a new period of national measures, I wanted to set out my commitment to working with you all to ensure that Fire and Rescue Services can remain resilient, and also continue to provide the wider support that has proved so valuable in many communities.

As part of this commitment, I hope that the funding that services have received from Government will enable you to maintain and strengthen these efforts. We have provided £4.6 billion to local authorities to support their response to the coronavirus pandemic. Standalone fire and rescue authorities (including Greater Manchester Fire) received £6.5 million in March and a further £28.5 million in May.

The National Fire Chiefs Council has provided a very clear framework to help all services maintain delivery of core services appropriately during the pandemic. I would encourage all services to continue to utilise this framework during this next phase. It is particularly important to maintain the delivery of Covid secure ways of working on protection and prevention alongside response in line with your local integrated risk management plan. This will include continuing to take work forward to review and inspect all high-rise buildings.

I also welcome the vital support that many Fire and Rescue Services have been able to provide to their local communities. The tripartite agreement has been an important enabling framework over the initial phase of the pandemic. I have heard many great examples of this work, with a large number of services providing support to ambulance services and vulnerable people. There are too many good examples to do justice to all the excellent work, but I would like to pay tribute to a few in particular. I have been struck by

the work carried out by Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service's driving instructors helping East England Ambulance with driver training. Warwickshire and others have helped with essential deliveries to vulnerable people. I was impressed by the response from West Midlands to a request from NHS dental staff, to help with face mask fitting based on their skills and training in this area. This demonstrates how adaptable and agile your services can be.

It is vital this approach is both extended and deepened to ensure Fire and Rescue Services are able to provide effective support during this time of national measures in England and over the winter period. It is critical that the Tripartite agreement is extended to enable services to provide support to the test and trace system and Covid-secure business checks. I know the employers and NFCC are working hard to ensure this is achieved and that you will do everything you can to help it continue.

I am confident that you will want to continue to do all you can to support your communities during these unprecedented times and support your Local Resilience Forum. Fire and Rescue Service leaders should also, of course, continue to work with all recognised employee representative bodies to ensure that the local support you are providing to communities continues to be targeted where most needed.

Finally, I would be grateful if you can work through the NFCC to help us develop a national understanding of how you are supporting local partners. This will help us understand the overall asks on services and support any case for future funding. I have asked my officials to work with NFCC to achieve this.

**Thank you again for your continued work and support.**



**Lord Greenhalgh**  
**Minister of State for Building Safety, Fire and Communities at**  
**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and Home Office**





Promoting improvements  
in policing and fire & rescue  
services to make everyone safer

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Direct Line: 020 3513 0523  
Fax: 020 3513 0650  
Email: zoe.billingham@hmicfrs.gov.uk

**Zoë Billingham BA Hons (Oxon)**  
Her Majesty's Inspector of Fire and Rescue  
Services

Chief Fire Officers  
Chairs of Fire and Rescue Authorities  
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners  
Lead Fire Authority members  
Locally elected Mayors  
Other FRS interested parties

27 November 2020

Dear colleague,

## **FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE INSPECTION UPDATE**

I hope you and your colleagues are keeping well in these challenging times. I am writing to provide an update on our FRS inspection programme.

### *Covid-19 inspections*

2. We have now finalised our evidence gathering which was conducted entirely virtually. I'm incredibly grateful to you and your teams for the way they engaged in the process. I am also very grateful to our staff for adapting to this new way of working so quickly. We are evaluating the virtual methods we used to consider how we can improve them in future inspections.
3. We are finalising our national and service level reports which we hope to publish in mid-January 2021. We will – as far as is possible - send service level reports for pre-publication factual accuracy checking to each service during w/c 7 December. These are drafted as letters from the HMI to the chief fire officer and FRA chair (or equivalents) rather than formal reports.
4. We will send these reports for pre-publication check in batches, so some services will receive theirs sooner than others. The letter is far shorter, and with less data, than the report we issued in round 1. The pre-publication check process should therefore be less onerous than before. We will send the pre-publication check to both the chief fire officer and the FRA chair (or equivalents). We would be grateful for a consolidated, single response, per service.
5. As previously discussed, we have not made any graded judgments, rather we have provided narrative comment. We have also identified '*areas for focus*' for each service which they should consider as part of their ongoing response to the pandemic and future transformation.

### *Round two*

6. We intend to re-start round two early next year, finishing approximately at the end of 2022. We will continue to inspect against the same three pillars and eleven over-arching questions as used in round one. We will clearly need to be mindful of what effect Covid-19 is – or isn't - having in each service nearer the time of each inspection and adjust our approach accordingly. We are in the process of designing this flexible approach. This might include doing some activity in person in one service and needing to do it remotely in another. We are designing both approaches and will discuss these with our external reference and technical advisory groups.

7. As I mentioned at our last chiefs and chairs virtual conference, we have looked again at the tranche allocation for round two. Our revised allocation is set out in the table at Annex A. The annex also includes anticipated inspection dates for your planning purposes. We have tried to minimise changes to the tranches. Where we have made changes, these are mainly because of the risks we identified in round one. In due course, we will ask services to provide dates to avoid for us to build the full inspection schedule.

8. Services who were in tranche one when round two began earlier this year submitted documents and their self-assessment. So not to disadvantage any service, we will give everyone the opportunity to submit new material. We will provide more information about this in due course.

9. We will hold a virtual chiefs and chairs event, as well as a virtual event for service liaison officers, in the new year to update you on our planning and approach to round two. Again, we will provide details for this event later this year.

#### *Causes of concern*

10. In round one, we gave 24 causes of concern to 14 services. We have moved a number of these services into tranche one whereby we will consider what progress has been made as part of that inspection. For services in tranches two and three who have cause(s) of concern, we will speak to you individually about what work we propose to undertake to identify what progress is being made. This may be before your formal inspection.

11. For each cause of concern, the service should have an action plan. We now ask that every service with a cause of concern send us their updated action plan by **Friday 18 December 2020** to: [FRSActionplans@hmicfrs.gov.uk](mailto:FRSActionplans@hmicfrs.gov.uk).

#### *State of Fire and Rescue 2020*

12. Work continues to draft State of Fire and Rescue 2020. Our intention is to publish this report in late February 2021. We are in discussion with the named bodies in the six national recommendations we have made so far to agree new completion dates, reflecting the impact the pandemic has on this work. We will inform the sector once these dates have been agreed.

#### *London Fire Brigade Grenfell Tower Inquiry's phase 1 recommendations inspection*

13. As you will be aware, we were commissioned by the Home Secretary to consider what progress the London Fire Brigade is making to implement the relevant recommendations in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's phase one report. Our evidence collection is nearing completion. We plan to publish this report early in the new year.

14. As ever, if you require further information in the meantime, please contact our portfolio director Laura Gibb at [lauraalice.gibb@hmicfrs.gov.uk](mailto:lauraalice.gibb@hmicfrs.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,



#### **Zoë Billingham**

HM Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services  
HM Inspector of Constabulary

## ANNEX A- ROUND 2 RE-ORDERING

Tranche 1	Tranche 2	Tranche 3
Avon FRS	Devon & Somerset FRS	Cleveland FB
Bedfordshire FRS	Gloucestershire FRS	Cumbria FRS
Buckinghamshire FRS	Hertfordshire FRS	Derbyshire FRS
Cambridgeshire FRS	Humberside FRS	Dorset & Wiltshire FRS
Cheshire FRS	Lancashire FRS	Durham & Darlington FRS
Cornwall FRS	London FB	East Sussex FRS
Essex FRS	Norfolk FRS	Hampshire and Isle of Wight FRS
Greater Manchester FRS	Northamptonshire FRS	Isles of Scilly FRS
Hereford & Worcester FRS	Nottinghamshire FRS	Kent FRS
Lincolnshire FRS	Oxfordshire FRS	Leicestershire FRS
Merseyside FRS	Shropshire FRS	North Yorkshire FRS
Northumberland FRS	Tyne & Wear FRS	Royal Berkshire FRS
Surrey FRS	West Midlands FS	South Yorkshire FRS
Warwickshire FRS	West Sussex FRS	Staffordshire FRS
	West Yorkshire FRS	Suffolk FRS

### **Anticipated timeframe (pending further discussion on possible Covid-19 impact):**

#### Tranche 1:

Document request: January 2021  
 Fieldwork: Spring to Summer 2021  
 Publication: Winter 2021

#### Tranche 2:

Document request: May/June 2021  
 Fieldwork: Autumn 2021 to Spring 2022  
 Publication: Summer 2022

#### Tranche 3:

Document request: January 2022  
 Fieldwork: Spring to Summer 2022  
 Publication: Winter 2022

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County Durham and Darlington  
Fire and Rescue Authority



**Safest People, Safest Places**

## **Combined Fire Authority**

**15 December 2020**

### **Notes of the Performance Committee 24 November 2020**

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#### **Report of the Chair of the Performance Committee**

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**Members Present:** Cllr R Manchester in the Chair  
J Bell, D Stoker, B Avery, and G Lee

**Apologies:** Cllr C Carr

#### **Purpose of the report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the discussions and recommendations of the Performance Committee held on 24 November 2020.

#### **Performance Report Quarter Two 2020/21**

2. The organisational performance for quarter two was presented to the committee. Overall, 76% of the strategic PIs met or exceeded their target level. The key areas of performance where performance was strong or where additional work is required to secure improvement were discussed with the members.

The committee **noted** the report.

#### **Sickness Absence Performance**

3. Members were given an update on sickness for 1 July 2020 – 30 September 2020. Sickness by staff group was discussed and in relation to Covid-19.

The Committee **noted** and **commented** on the report.

### **Letters of Appreciation**

4. There had been 12 letters received. The Committee considered the various letters or appreciation that had been submitted to the service

The Committee **noted** the report.

### **Part B**

#### **Formal Complaints**

5. The committee **noted** the report.

#### **Release of the Home Office Data Packs to FRS's**

6. The committee **noted** the report.



**Safest People, Safest Places**

**Combined Fire Authority**

**15 December 2020**

**Performance Report – Quarter Two 2020/21**

**Report of Area Manager, Community Risk Management**

**Purpose of report**

1. This report presents a summary of organisational performance at the end of the second quarter of the 2020/21 financial year.

**Background**

2. Both operational and corporate performance is monitored and managed internally via the monthly Performance and Programme Board (PPB) and Service Leadership Team (SLT) forums. Members of the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) consider performance on a quarterly basis at meetings of the Performance Committee and the full CFA.
3. A comprehensive suite of performance indicators (PIs) are employed to measure both operational and corporate performance. Targets are set on an annual basis against SMART criteria and take account of longer-term trends and the potential for spikes in performance.
4. This robust approach to performance management enables action to be taken at an early stage if performance is not meeting expectations and provides assurance that resources are being directed towards the areas of greatest risk.
5. In addition to setting a target level for relevant PIs, the Service also employs a system of tolerance limit triggers that allow under or over performance to be highlighted to the PPB when the PI goes beyond set tolerances, which vary depending on the indicator. Each PI has a total of four tolerance limit triggers, two each for both under and over performance.
6. Performance is presented from two perspectives, by comparison against the annual target levels, and by comparison with performance at the same point last year.

**Overview of performance across all indicator categories**

7. An overview across both operational and corporate key PIs at the end of quarter two for 2020/21 shows 76% of the strategic PIs met or exceeded their target level, while 67% of the strategic PIs either maintained or improved when compared to performance last year.

## Performance reporting by exception

8. The following sections of the report present details of specific operational and corporate indicators where performance was notably strong or where additional work is required to secure improvement. An explanatory narrative is provided for each PI group along with information about how performance compares to the annual target and the previous year.

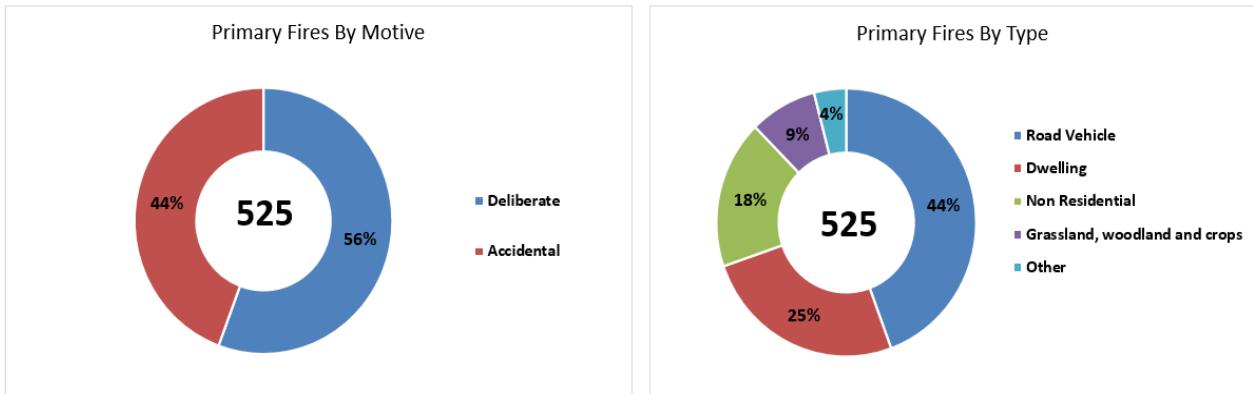
### Prevention

Performance Indicator	Objective	Q2 2020/21 Actual	Q2 Target	Actual vs Target	2019/20 Q2 Actual	Actual vs Previous Year
PI 01 - Deaths Arising from Accidental Fires in Dwellings	Down	0	0	0%	0	0%
PI 02 – Primary Fires	Down	525	527	0.4%	526	0.2%
PI 03 – Number of Accidental Dwelling Fires	Down	110	120	8.3%	124	11.3%
PI 04 - Injuries Arising from Accidental Dwelling Fires	Down	10	9	-11.1%	10	0%
PI 05 - Total Secondary Fires	Down	1435	1376	-4.3%	1448	0.9%
PI 07 – Number of Safe & Wellbeing Visits	Up	2088	2003	4.2%	10363	-79.9%
PI 42 - Proportion of Safe & Wellbeing Visits to High-Risk People/Properties	Up	52.8%	80%	-34%	82.1%	-35.7%

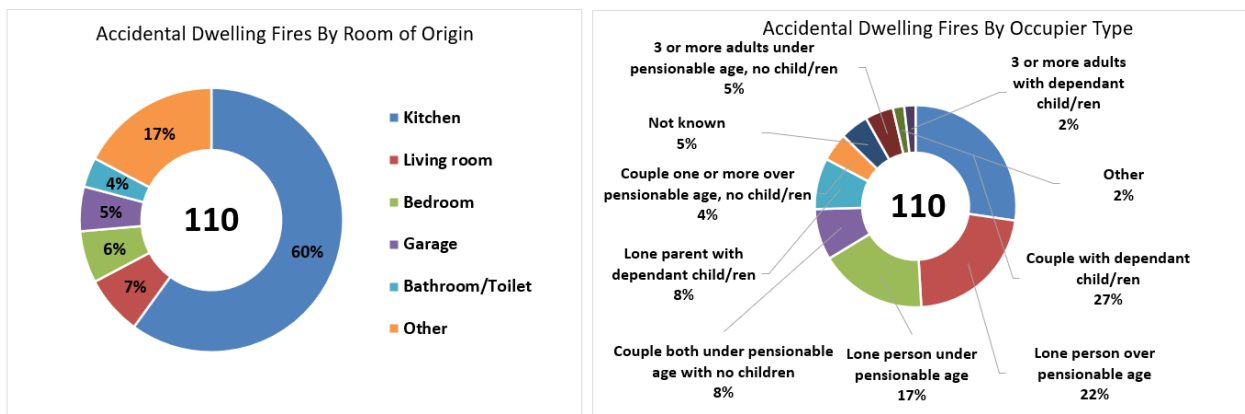
**PI01** – There have been no deaths arising from accidental dwelling fires. This performance indicator, and several others that relate to prevention and protection activities, are being included into the revised Community Risk Profile to enable a clear understanding of where the Service wide risks lie.

**PI02** - The performance of primary fires is consistent with the previous year and target performance. Analysis of this indicator identifies 56% of primary fires were caused by a deliberate ignition with 47% of the deliberate fires occurring across two station areas, these being Peterlee and Wheatley Hill, 73% of the deliberate fires in these two station areas involve vehicles. The Service Arson Reduction Team (ART) have allocated resource within their team specifically to Peterlee and Wheatley Hill station areas. Most vehicle fires are believed to be linked to Organised Crime Groups which are managed by the Police. Two academic studies are being commissioned to audit data sets within the Service and study the culture within Peterlee and Wheatley Hill station areas to provide independent recommendations and form the basis of a multi-agency arson reduction strategy.





**PI03** – There has been a reduction in the number of accidental dwelling fires, this is below the target performance and the performance at the same period last year. Communications continue to focus on home safety in relation to more people staying at home during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlights the causes of fire being focussed on distraction whilst cooking. Operational crews have received additional training and resources to focus home safety information on kitchen safety (e.g. best practice visits with CROs, home safety script/prompt and a kitchen safety spreadsheet).

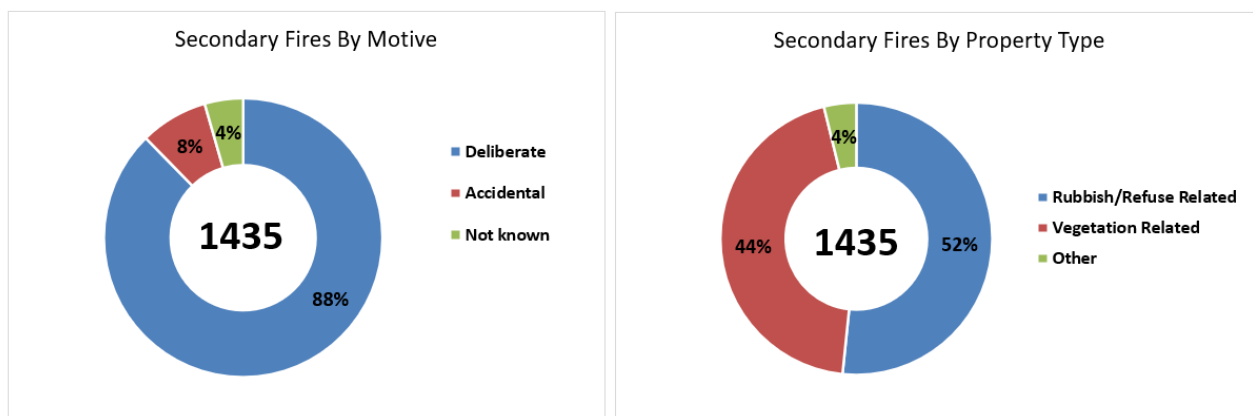


**PI04** – This indicator is consistent with the same performance last year and slightly above this year's target performance. 71% of victims suffering injuries arising from dwelling fires had mobility issues (bed/chair ridden or other mobility issue). The script/prompt provided to operational personnel for delivering home safety advice includes information regarding mobility and how this can be considered in escape plans; this links to the lifestyle element which would allow us to assist with a referral to partners.

**PI05** - This indicator is slightly above target. All crews have been encouraged to notify the local authority following environmental audits of waste material using the 'do it online' reporting tool. Loose refuse (incl. in gardens) accounts for over 50% of all secondary fires. The highest volume of these being in the Easington area. As with initiatives for reducing primary fires the focus has been on increasing partnership work with local councils, community wardens, Fly Tipping Task Force (FTTF) and housing associations. There has been an increase of operational crews carrying out environmental visual audits which also increases visibility in hotspot areas.

'Blue light routes' are being introduced, meaning that following an incident an appliance will drive through an identified hotspot area to increase visibility while returning to home station. The Fire Stopper programme is being promoted and 'hot strike' leaflet drops are conducted in the immediate location following an incident. Main areas of concern are Peterlee and East Coastal enclave,

Darlington and High Handenhold. In partnership with Believe Housing association, the ART purchased 100 Bin-Pin wheelie bin locks to secure bins to premises in the Shotton and Easington areas. However, Covid restrictions have prevented Believe Housing taking full advantage and as such, the ART is to reallocate some of this resource to Darlington 'Back Lanes' project to reduce fly tipping locally and improve waste security in the targeted 5 streets of the project. The ART have been working closely with FTTF which have 34 fly tipping investigations ongoing, (these have been hampered by Covid restrictions in relation to interviews). CCTV cameras have been located around the DCC area, 18 are in situ. These cameras now have low light infrared capability to catch tipping in the dark. New hard drives and lenses have been purchased to improve their capability. Dome cameras are in trial to be fitted to back lanes mounted on lampposts etc, (5 are on test in back lanes in the Bishop Auckland area). 6 CCTV cameras have also been purchased in Darlington and are being used for various tasks including fly tipping.



**PI07** – The number of safe and wellbeing visits (SWV) delivered in this period has been influenced by the limitations of activities during the Covid pandemic. The delivery of SWV by crews has varied between telephone visits and physical visits with appropriate controls in place but currently only telephone SWV are being provided by crews. An information sharing request has been submitted to the local authority who hold contact information on vulnerable people to enable further telephone safe and wellbeing calls to be made by crews. Community Risk Officers continue to physically deliver SWV in the home to the most vulnerable individuals.

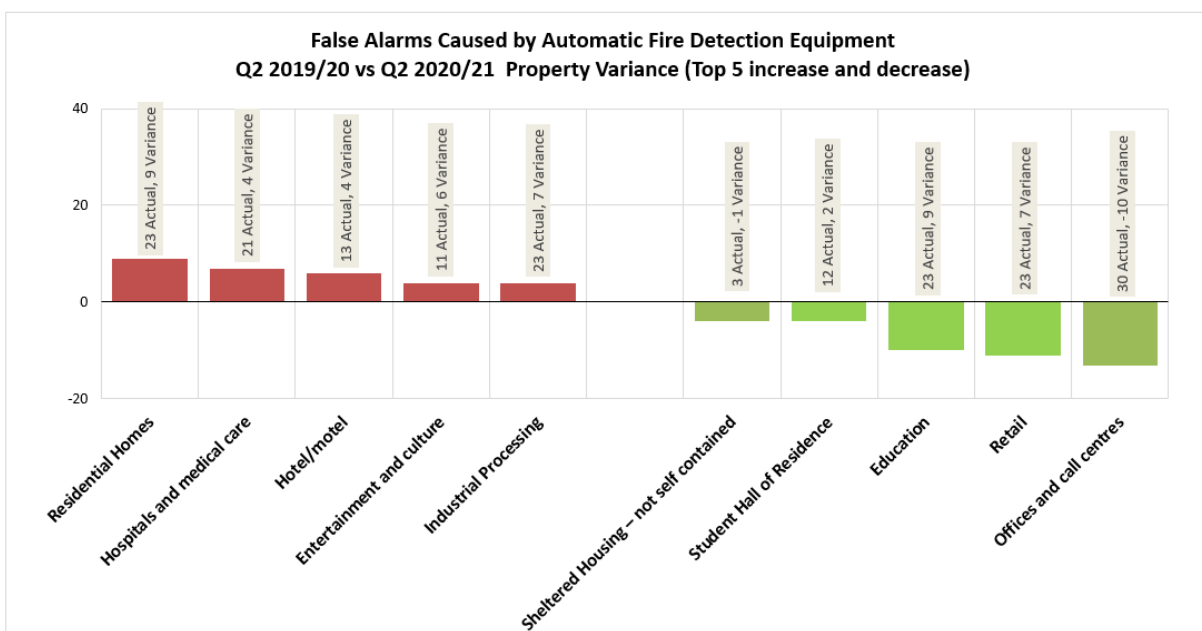
## Protection

Performance Indicator	Objective	Q2 2020/21 Actual	Q2 Target	Actual vs Target	2019/20 Q2 Actual	Actual vs Previous Year
PI 10a - Primary Fires in Non-Domestic Premises	Down	42	54	22.2%	61	31.1%
PI 14 - False Alarms Caused by Automatic Fire Detection Equipment	Down	345	361	4.4%	356	3.4%
PI 17 – Number of Fire Safety Audits	Up	482	552	-12.7%	1062	-54.6%

**PI10a** – In addition to our risk-based inspection programme, all non-domestic properties experiencing a fire, or an automatic fire alarm receive a visit by a Business Fire Safety Officer to provide support and prevention advice. Although we have no regulatory powers in Crown premises, a good practice example saw a large reduction in cell fires within Frankland prison and HMYOI

Deerbolt following recent 'good will' interventions. Additionally, primary fires in non-domestic properties have reduced, attributed partially to less businesses operating due to Covid restrictions and also to the continued work of the Business Fire Safety Team and Operational Crews in providing advice and enforcement in business premises. A large amount of telephone audits were conducted during the pandemic by the Central Fire Safety Team to care homes which saw the number of incidents more than half.

**PI14** – The number of False Alarms is still better than the predicted target although we have had an issue with a premise in Ferryhill who have now agreed to replace half of the detector heads in the premises over the coming months and complete the upgrade when money allows. 8 cost recovery letters were sent out in September and 24 in total were sent this quarter. 3 appeals were made, one of these resulted in a partial reduction of 3 charges to 2 for a premise, this decision was made following their request to invest the money in their system.

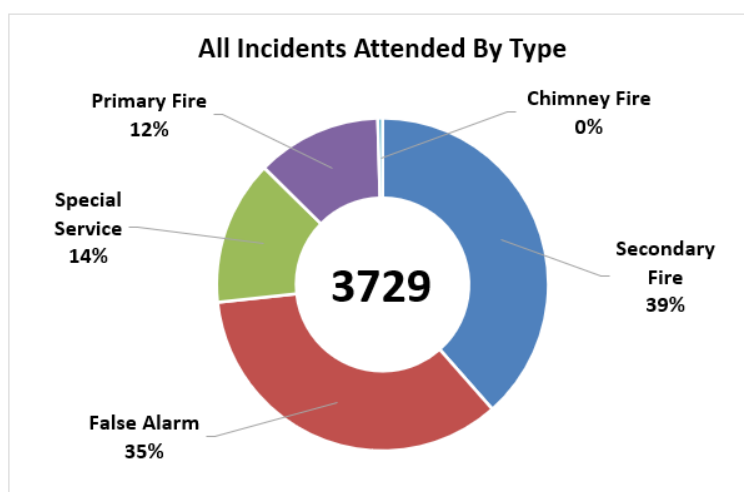


**PI17** – The Central Fire Safety Team have completed the majority of the Fire Safety Audits as they did desktop audits during the period of lockdown. Since 1 September, physical audits by the Operational Crews recommenced but a slow lead in for this has been seen due to the need to book appointments in advance due to Covid risk assessments. The Central Fire Safety Team have been offering support to the crews to ensure the targets are met in the coming months. Monthly meetings have been organised by each Fire Safety Officer with the watches they have responsibility for. The figures compared to last year are artificially low due to recalculated targets following the lockdown when crews could not do audits.

## Response

Performance Indicator	Objective	Q2 2020/21 Actual	Q2 Target	Actual vs Target	2019/20 Q2 Actual	Actual vs Previous Year
Total Emergency Calls Received (including EMR)		8476			8097	-4.7%
Total Incidents (excluding EMR)		3729			3762	0.9%
Total Fires		1977			1993	0.8%
Total False Alarms		1298			1224	-6%
Total Special Services (excluding EMR)		454			545	16.7%
Total Road Traffic Collisions		98			142	31%
Total Emergency Medical Response (EMR)		0			18	100%
PI 06 – Number of Response Standards Met	Up	5	6	-16.7%	4	25%

## Total incidents (excluding EMR)



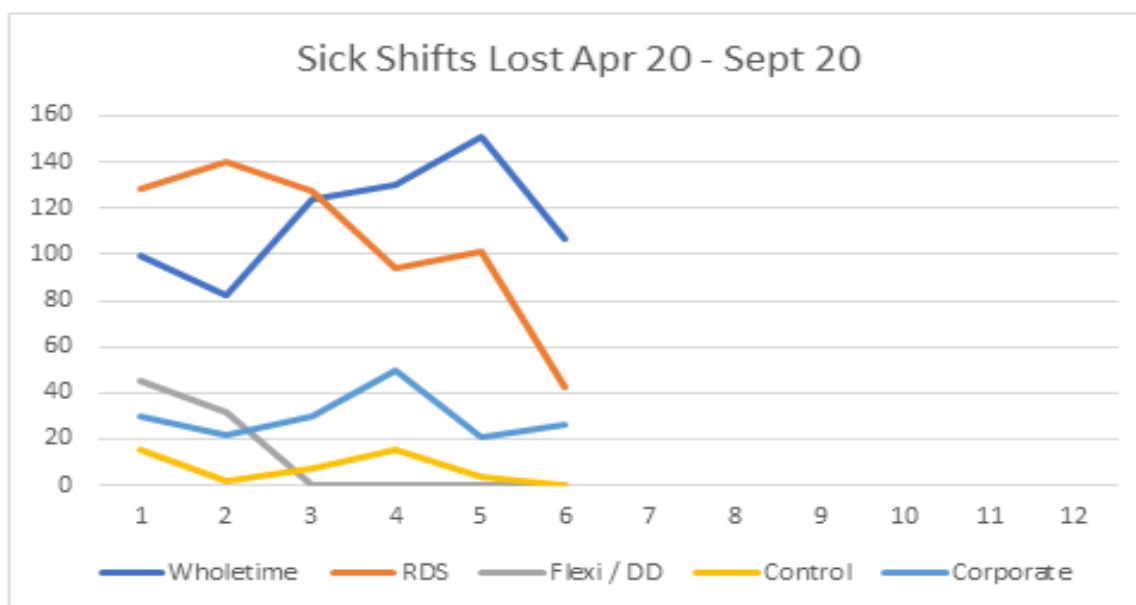
**PI06** – Five of the six response standards have been met for this reporting period with the response to non-domestic premises within eight minutes not being achieved. Non-domestic property fires continue to be the most challenging response standard to meet. On analysis, those incidents outside of the non-domestic property response tolerance have been located beyond the predicted 8-minute response isochrone and thus appliances would require more than 8 minutes to reach their locations. Divisional teams are raising awareness in the monthly performance meetings and review all response time failures to identify learning. Scrutiny recently identified a pattern of response time failures occurring while responding to road traffic collisions caused by inaccurate locations provided by the original caller. As a result, attending resources are now recording attendance on arrival at the location mobilised too. Direction of travel throughout this year is showing a general improvement in response times.

## Workforce

Performance Indicator	Objective	Q2 2020/21 Actual	Q2 Target	Actual vs Target	2019/20 Q2 Actual	Actual vs Previous Year
PI 40 - All Staff Sickness	Down	2.76	3	8%	3.47	20.5%
PI 69 – Number of Accidents to Personnel	Down	3	7	57.1%	8	62.5%

**PI40** – Overall, the number of shifts lost this year has decreased by approximately 2% from the reported figure at the same time last year. All indicators are showing improvement on last year. Whilst it is pleasing to report that Wholtime (WT), Flexible Duty Officer (FDO) / Day Duty (DD) and Control have seen a reduction in shifts lost, there have been slight increases in Non-uniformed and Retained Duty System (RDS) absence. Predominantly this has been due to long term absence. Short term absence not related to C-19 across all categories of staff has remained low.

A further 447 shifts were lost due to C-19 related absence this quarter, these in the main have been due to shielding (June & July) and self-isolation due to a household member. Year to date this figure is 1494 shifts lost. Self-isolation due to symptoms and test and trace related absence started to rise throughout September in line with the local rise in C-19 cases and subsequent regional lockdown. At the end of the reporting quarter positive test results were still low however, this is likely to change in the next reporting quarter.



**PI69** – There was one personal accident in July but none during the months of August and September. This keeps the year to date total at three in the first six months of the reporting year against a target of seven and a previous year's comparison of eight. This continues to be the best reporting year on record for CDDFRS for personal accidents.

**Finance & Governance**

<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Q2 2020/21 Actual</b>	<b>Q2 Target</b>	<b>Actual vs Target</b>	<b>2019/20 Q2 Actual</b>	<b>Actual vs Previous Year</b>
PI 34 - % of Invoices paid within 30 days	Up	98.8%	95%	3%	100%	-2%

**Recommendations**

- 9. Members are requested to:
  - a. **note** the content of the report;
  - b. **comment** on the reported performance.

AM Keith Wanley, Ext. 5630

# Combined Fire Authority

## Bonfire Period Activity 2020

AM Keith Wanley  
15 December 2020

(Produced by Information Services)



# Aim

To provide a brief analytical overview of key facts, information and activity over the annual bonfire period within County Durham and Darlington.

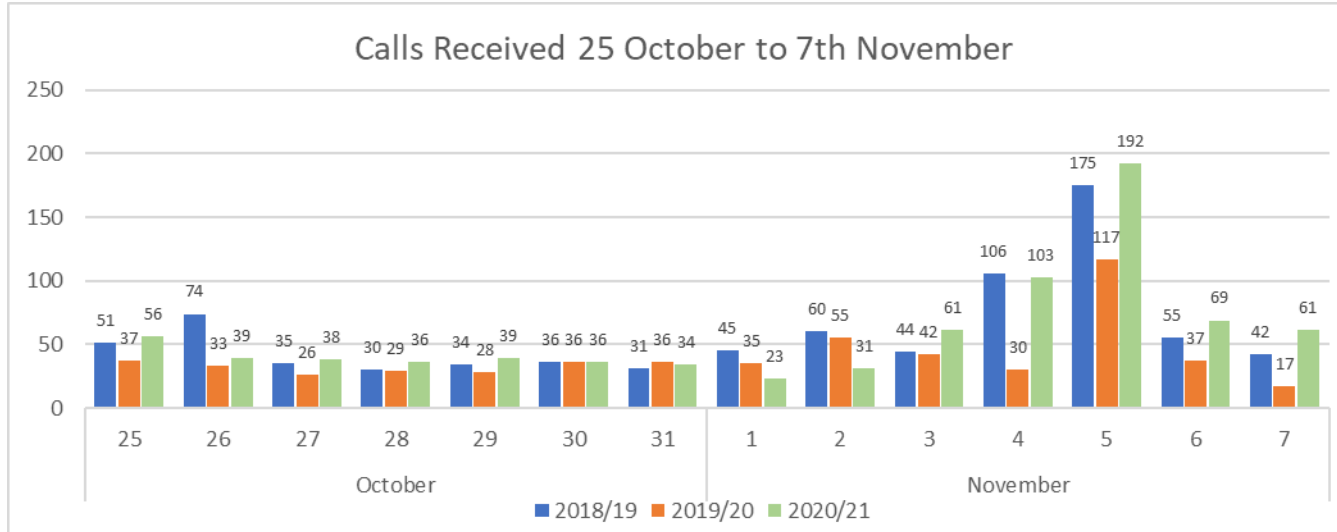
(Bonfire period is measured over 2 weeks from 25 October to 7 November)



# Factors to Consider

- 5 November in 2020 was on a Thursday
- Bonfire period in 2019 was particularly wet in comparison to 2020
- In 2020, Covid-19 restrictions resulted in most organised displays being cancelled

# Calls Received and Incidents Attended

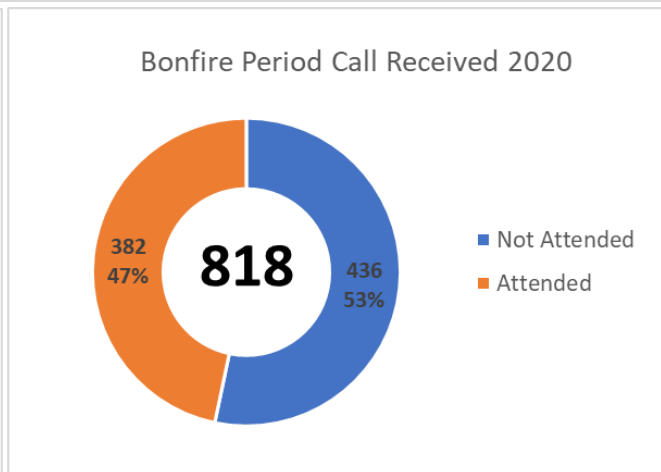
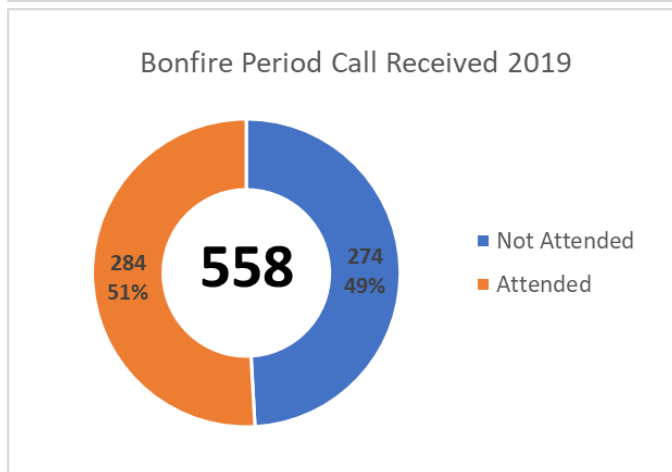


**Bonfire Period**  
 818 Calls in 2018  
 558 Calls in 2019  
 818 Calls in 2020

47% (260) more calls than last year

5 Year Average = 767

**Bonfire Night**  
 Increase in the number of calls in 2020 from 2019 by 64% (75 calls)



**Bonfire Period**

Received more calls than last year and attended more incidents

35% (98) more incidents attended than last year

**Bonfire Night**

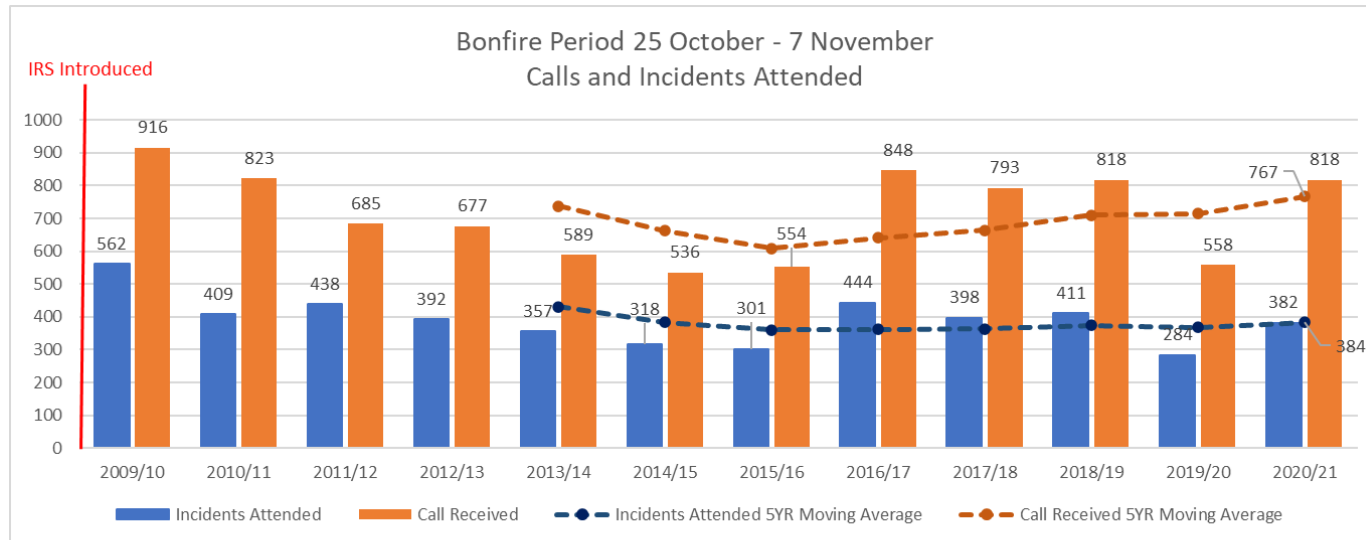
97 incidents attended

47% (31) more than last year

5 Year Average = 86



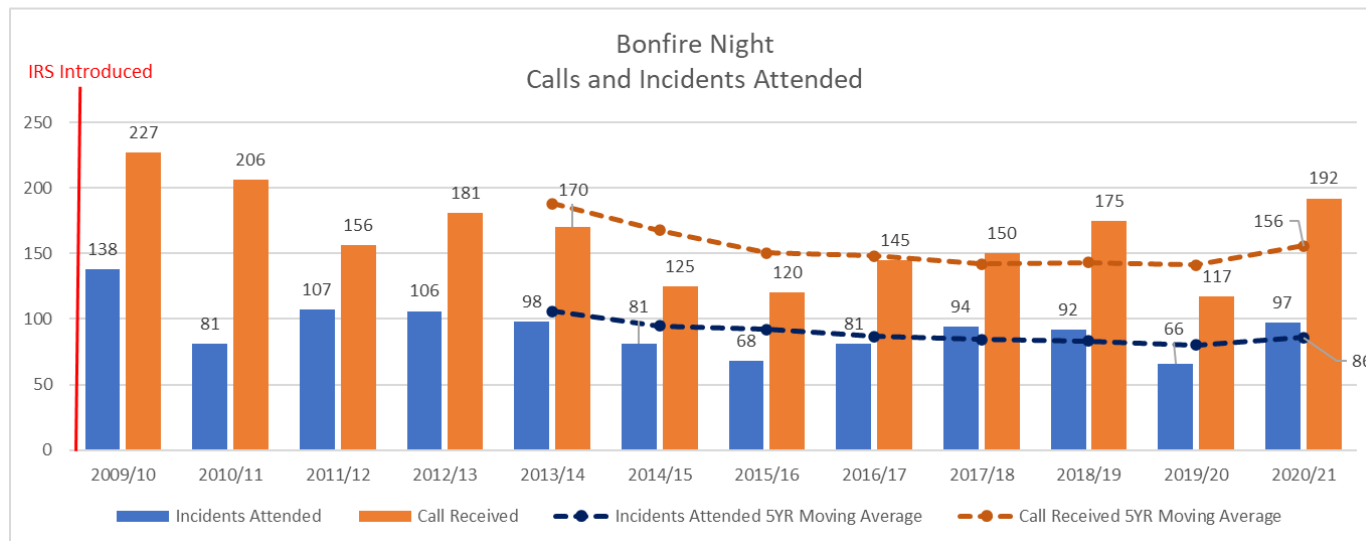
# Longer Term Trend



**Bonfire Period**

Calls only marginally up on 5 year average

Incidents attended almost exactly on average



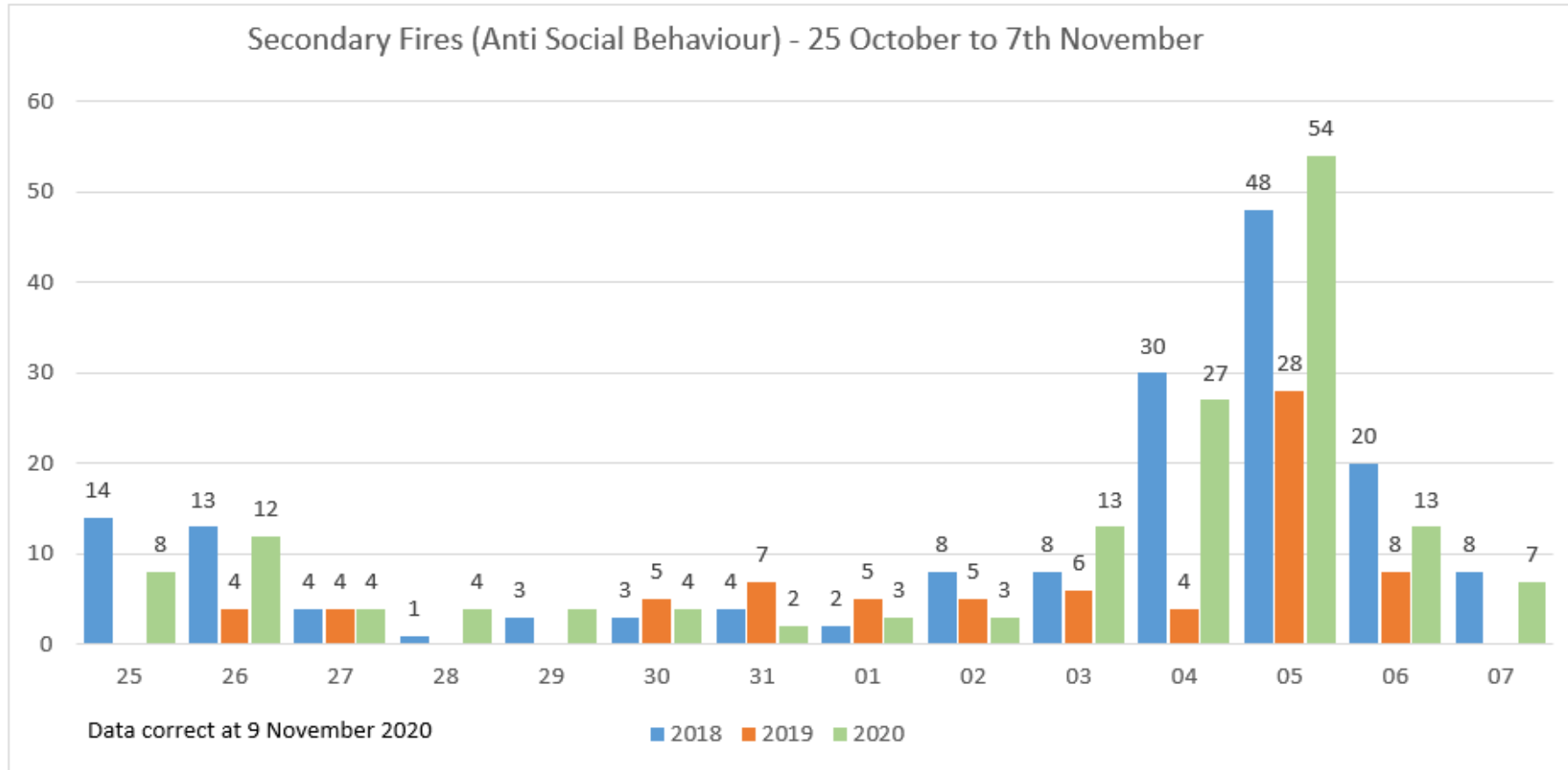
**Bonfire Night**

Calls up 23% on 5 year average

Incidents up 11% on 5 year average



# Deliberate and Not Known (DNK) Secondary Fires - Bonfire Period by Date



**Run up to bonfire night**

Increase in average of DNK secondary fires per day in 2020 at 7.6 (3.7 in 2019)

110% more incidents per day than last year on average. Rise of 44 in period.

**Bonfire night**

54 DNK secondary fires versus 28 in 2019

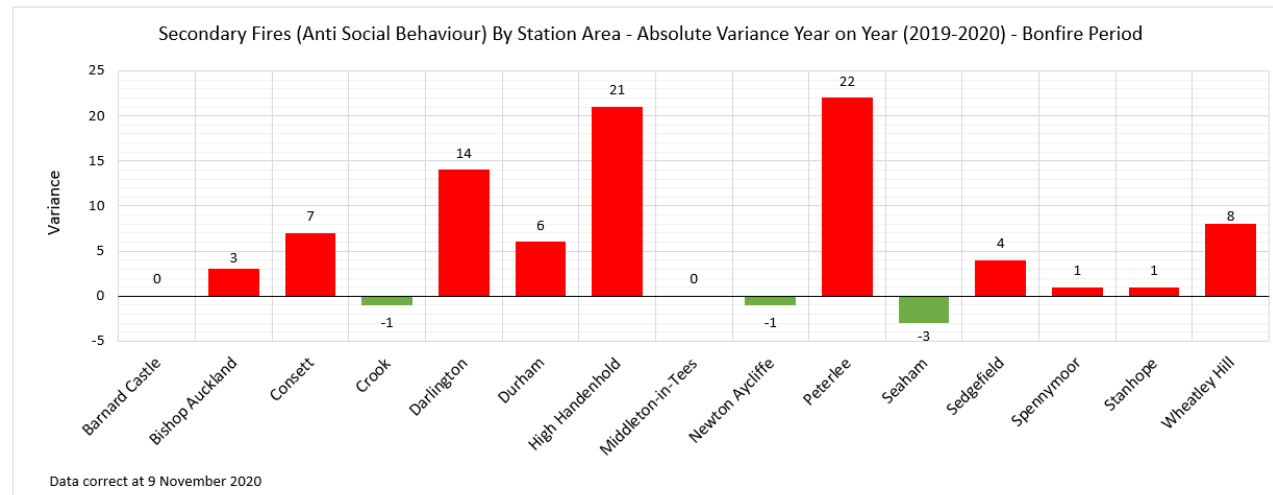
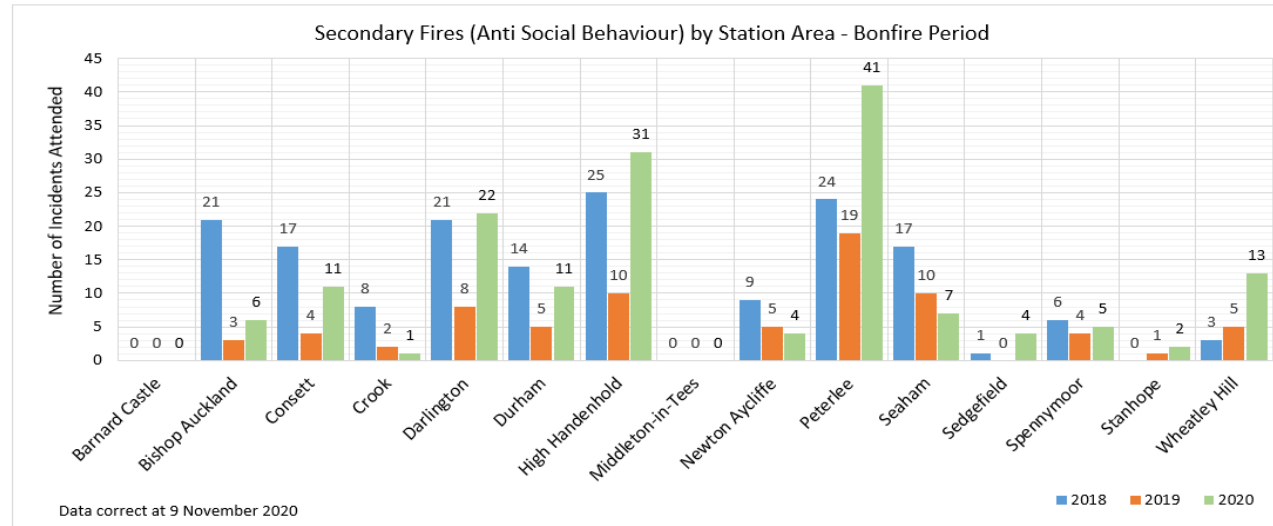
93% (26) more incidents attended than last year

**After bonfire night**

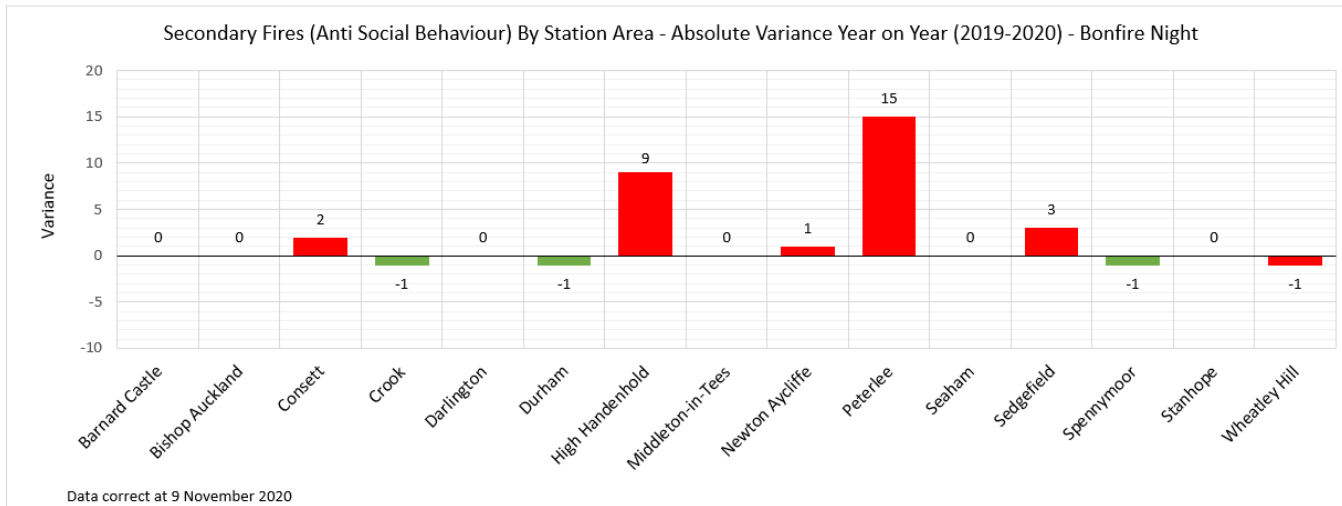
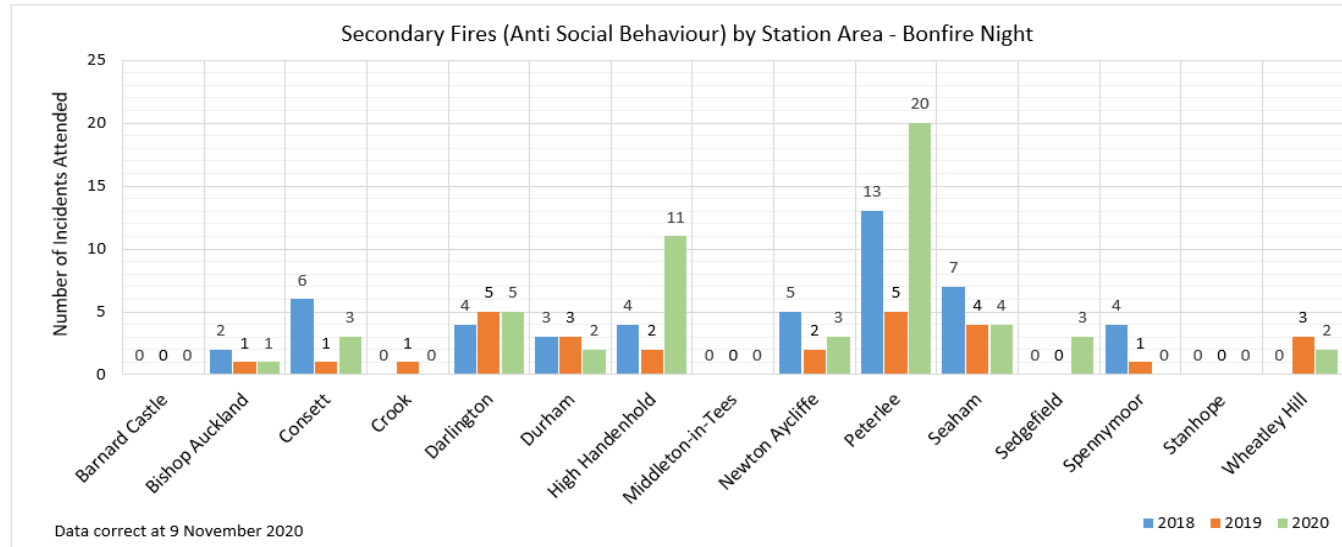
20 DNK secondary fires in 2020. An increase of 12 (150%) versus 2019



# DNK Secondary Fires Bonfire Period by Station Area



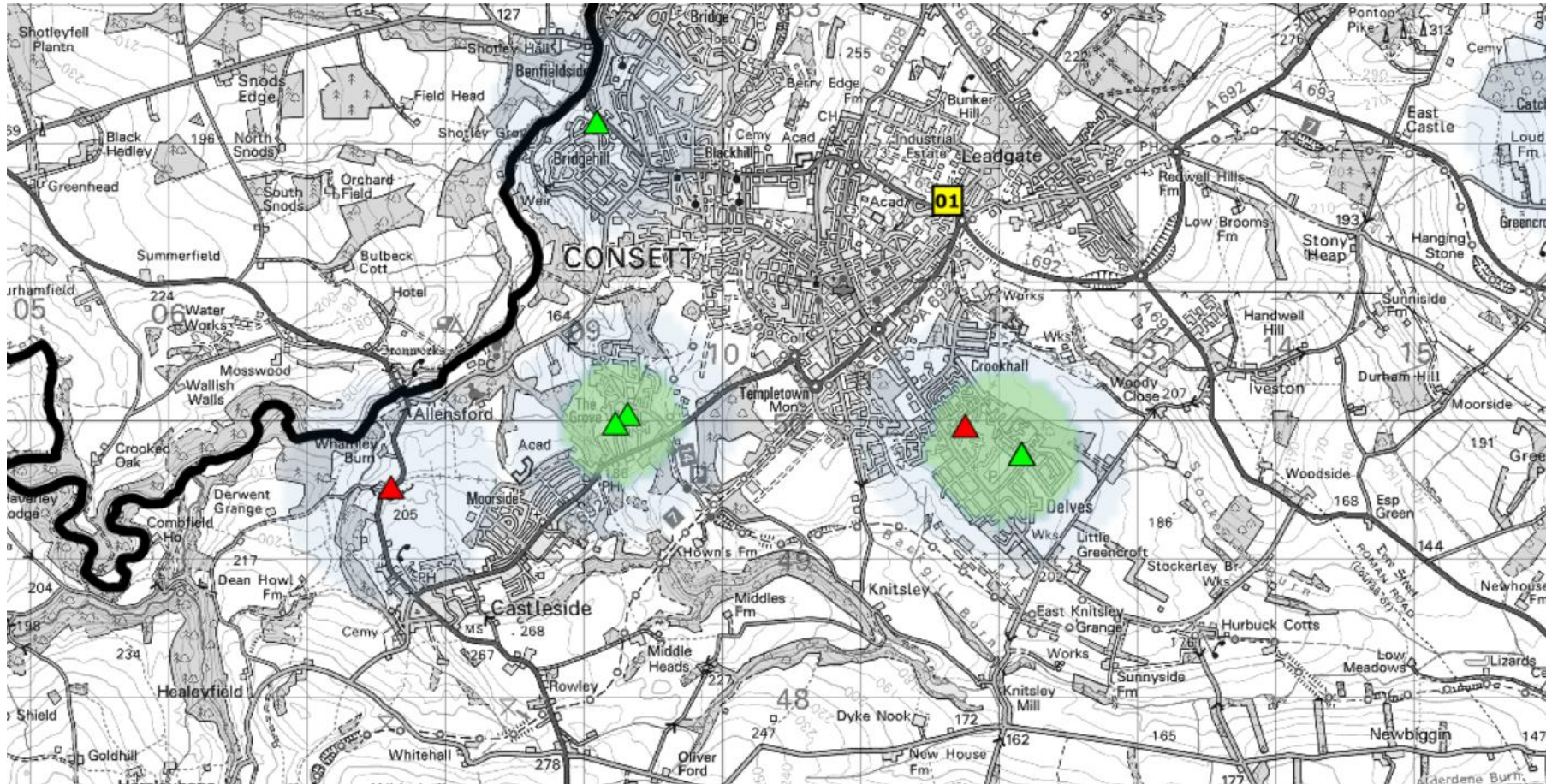
# DNK Secondary Fires on Bonfire Night





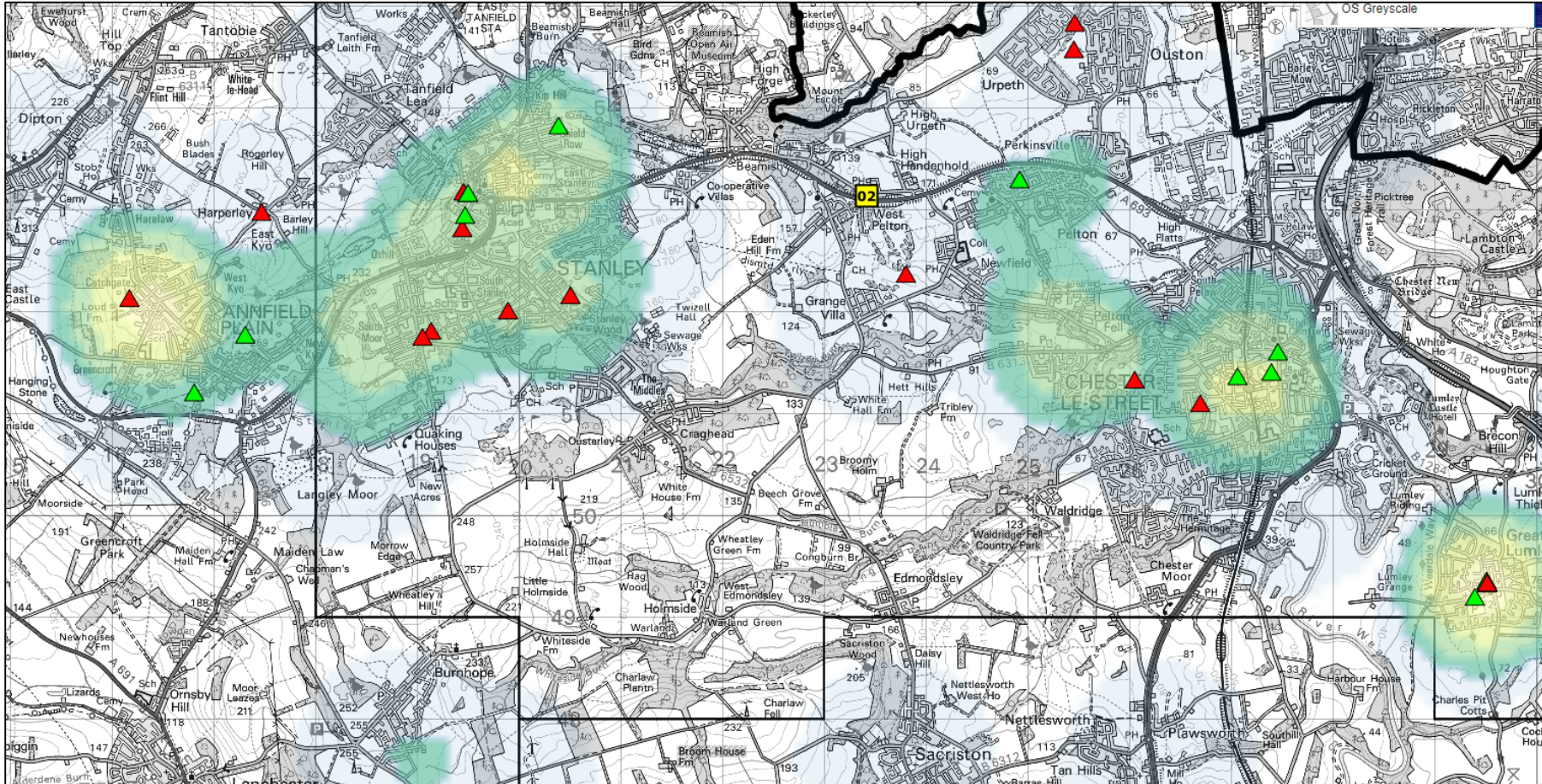
# DNK Secondary Fires (25th Oct – 7th Nov 2020) and Hotspot 2015-2020

Consider map for Consett if needed



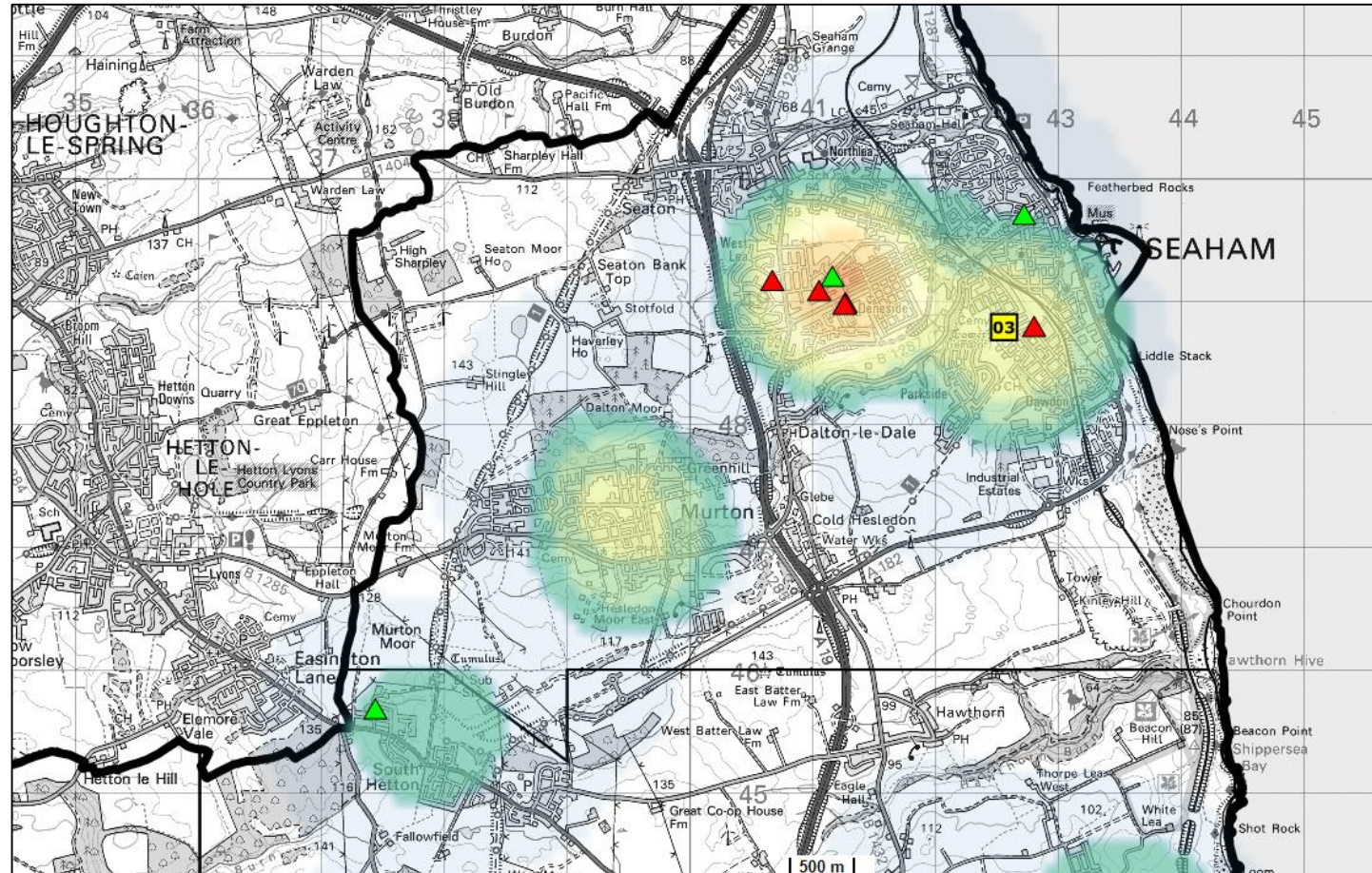


# DNK Secondary Fires (25 Oct - 7 Nov 2020) and Hotspot 2015-2020 High Handenhold



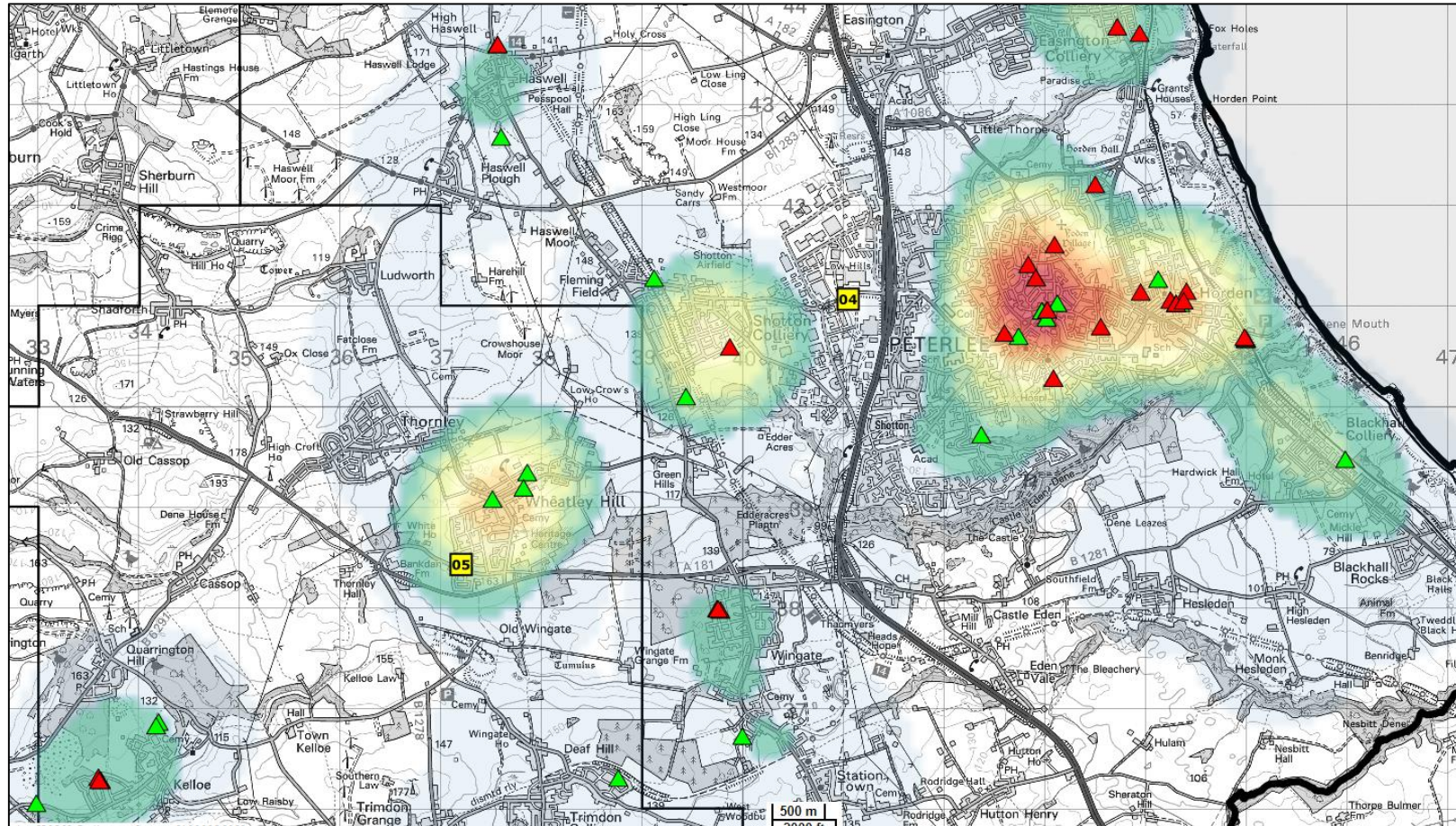


# DNK Secondary Fires (25th Oct – 7th Nov 2020) and Hotspot 2015-2020 Seaham



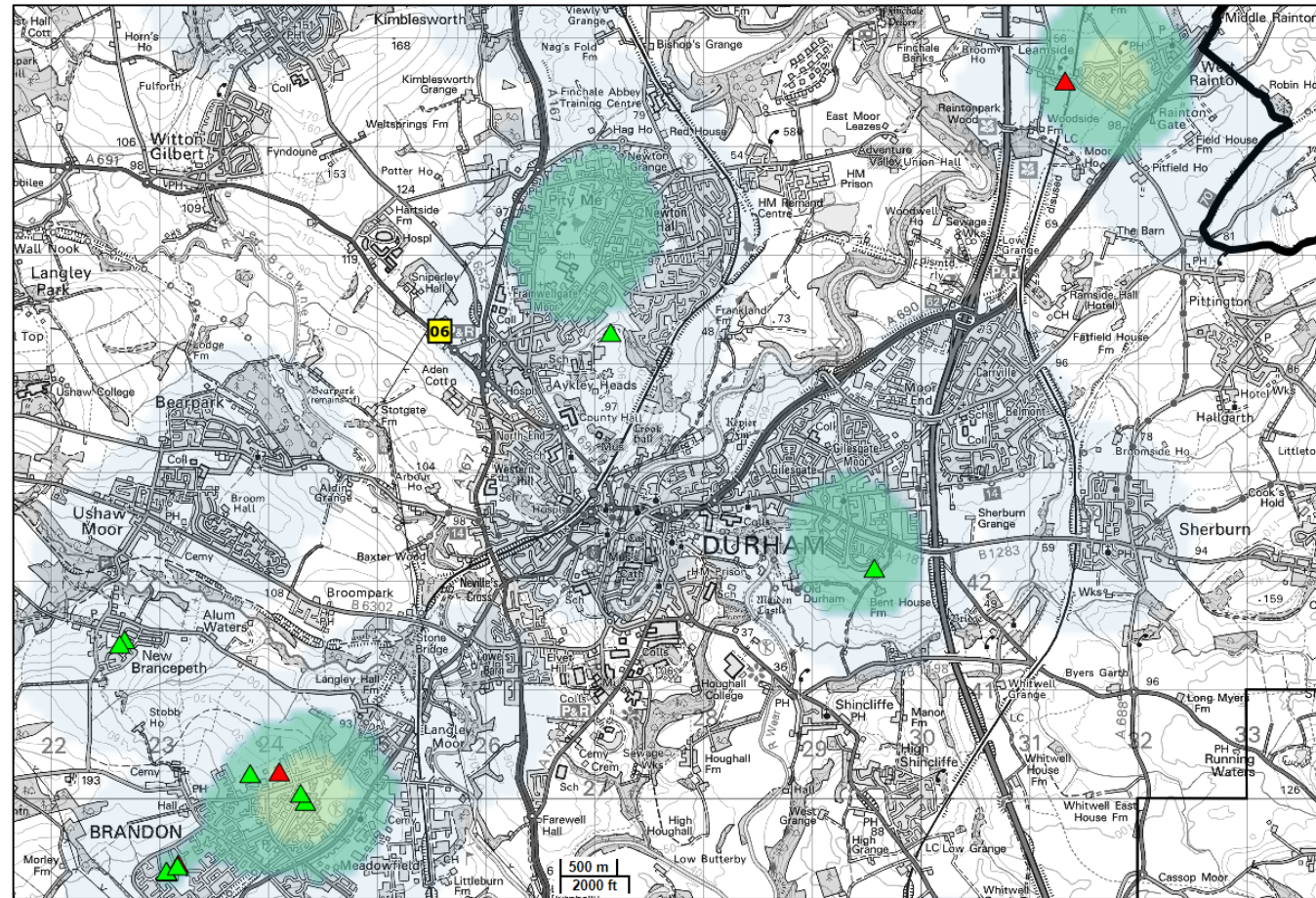


# DNK Secondary Fires (25th Oct – 7th Nov 2020) and Hotspot 2015-2020 Peterlee and Wheatley Hill





# DNK Secondary Fires (25<sup>th</sup> Oct – 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020) and Hotspot 2015-2020 Durham

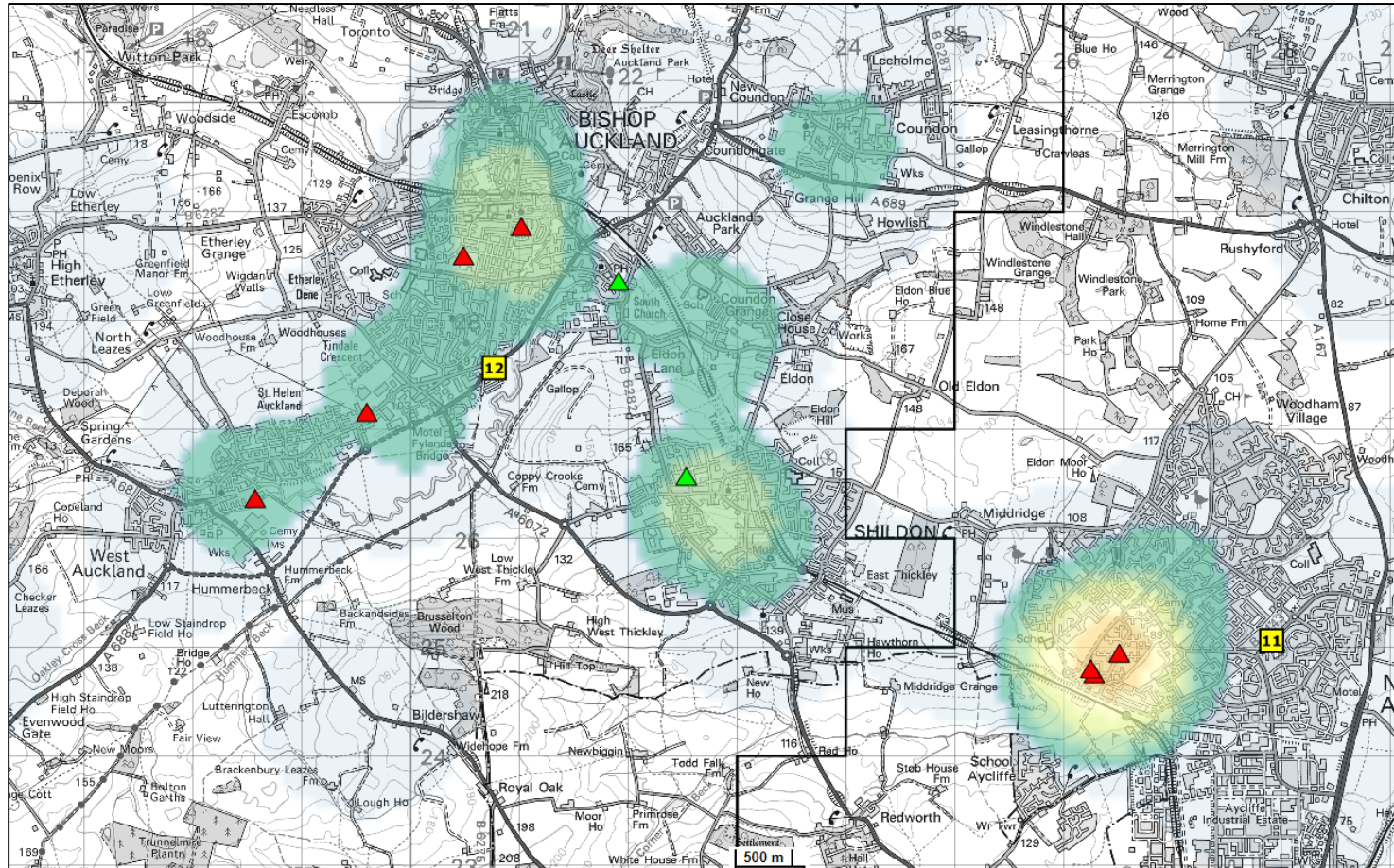


# DNK Secondary Fires (25th Oct – 7th Nov 2020) and Hotspot 2015-2020 Spennymoor and Crook



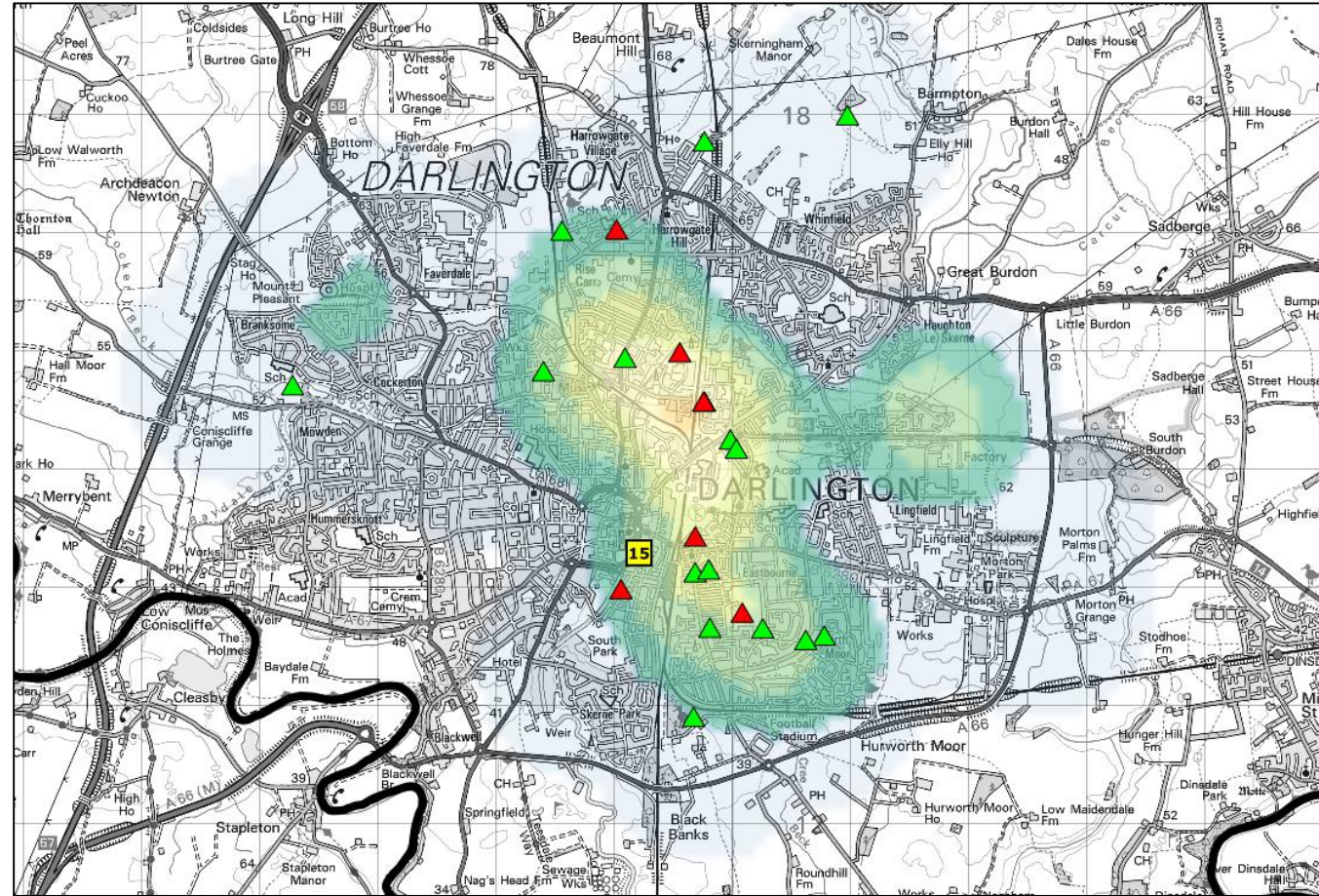


# DNK Secondary Fires (25th Oct – 7th Nov 2020) and Hotspot 2015-2020 Bishop Auckland and Newton Aycliffe

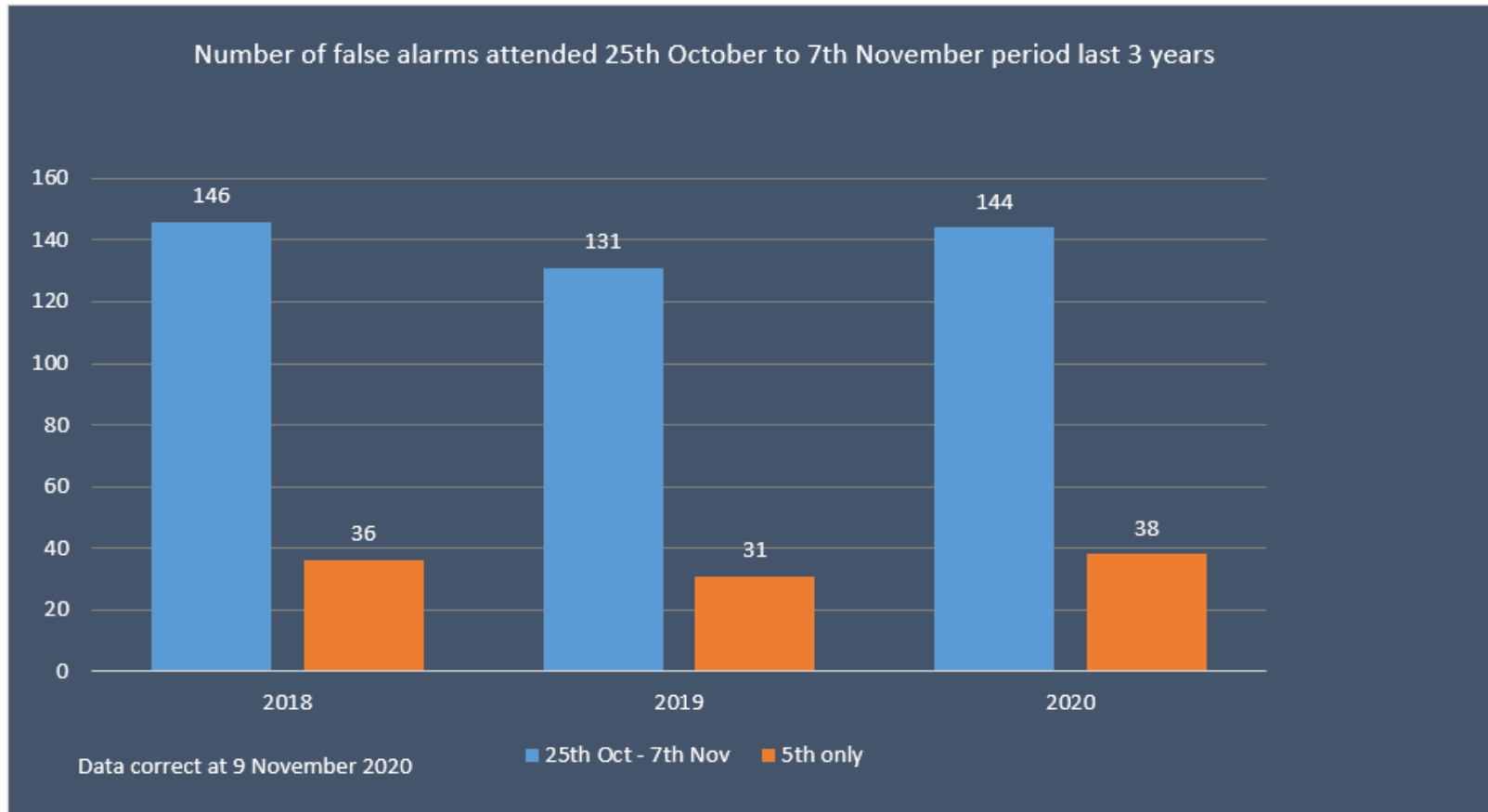




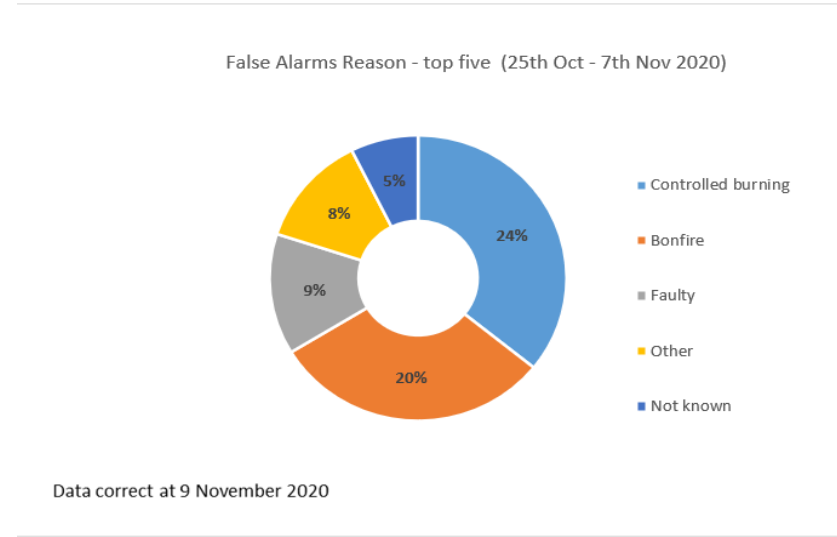
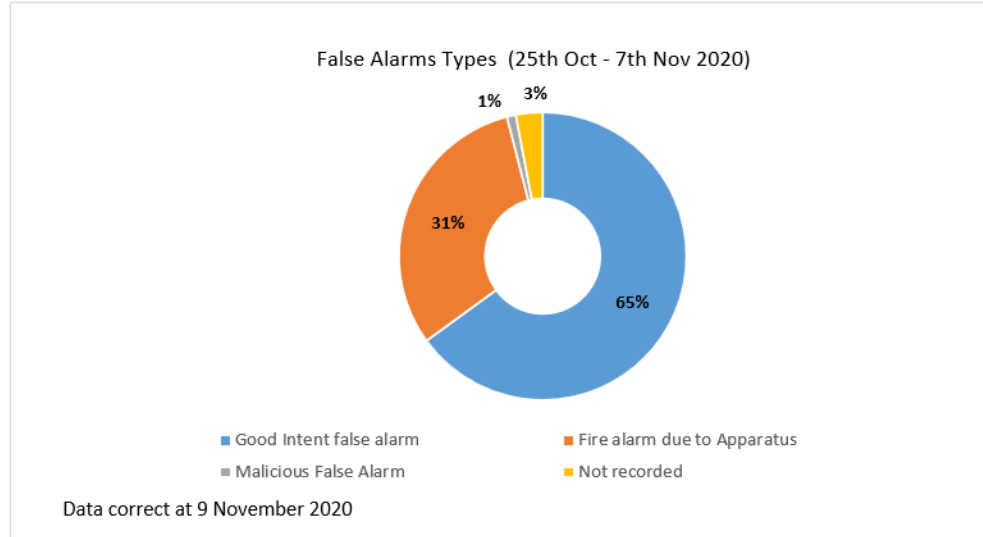
# DNK Secondary Fires (25th Oct – 7th Nov 2020) and Hotspot 2015-2020 Darlington



# Bonfire False Alarms – Bonfire Period



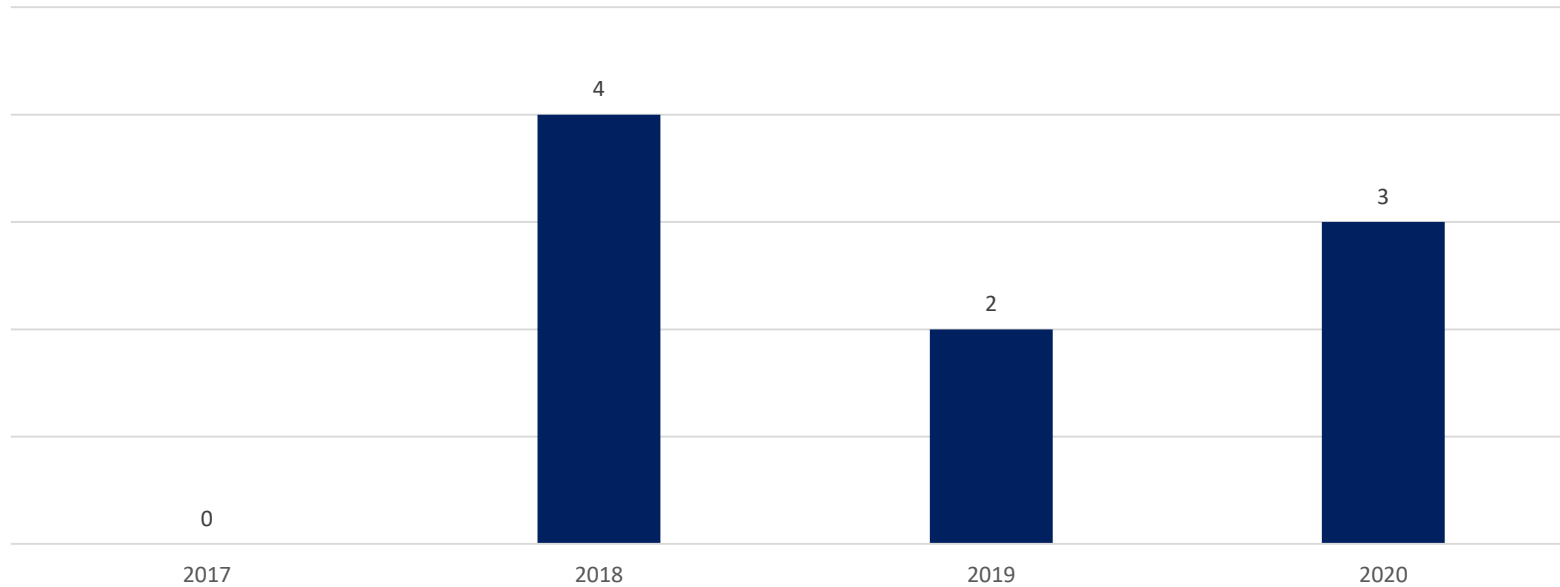
# False Alarms - Bonfire Period 2020





# Violence at work reports

Violence at work reports between 25th Oct and 7th Nov



Detail of violence at work reports 2020	
04/11/2020	Blackhall, First street youths not allowing crews to extinguish fire and threatening to set Fire appliance on fire
5/11/2020	Wheatley Hill 20 youths in area throwing objects when crews extinguished fire.
5/11/2020	Spennymoor 20 youths in area throwing objects when crews extinguished fire.



# Summary

## Total calls and incidents

- 818 calls received during bonfire period - **up by 47% (260 calls) on 2019**
- 192 calls received on bonfire night – **up by 64% (75 calls) on 2019**
- 51% of all calls on 5 November were between 4pm and 10pm
  - Interoperability talk group established with TWFRS and NFRS
- 381 incidents attended during bonfire period – **increase of 36% (100 incidents) on 2019**
- 97 incidents attended on bonfire night – **increase of 47% (31 incidents) on 2019**

## Bonfire related activity

- 158 DNK secondary fires during bonfire period – **up by 108% (82 incidents) on 2019**
- 54 DNK secondary fires on bonfire night – **up by 93% (26 incidents) on 2019**
- **Most station areas show increases in activity during the bonfire period (10 out of 15 showed increase)**





County Durham and Darlington  
**Fire and Rescue Service**

**Any Questions?**



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County Durham and Darlington  
**Fire and Rescue Authority**



**Safest People, Safest Places**

**Combined Fire Authority**

**15 December 2020**

**UPDATE ON RETAINED DUTY SYSTEM (RDS)**

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**Report of Councillor John Shuttleworth, Member Champion  
- RDS**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to give Members an update and insight into the business areas and performance of the Retained Duty System (RDS) within County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS).

**Background**

2. CDDFRS is committed to supporting those who work the RDS, they make a valued and significant contribution to their local communities and contribute to the Service vision of Safest People, Safest Places.
3. The RDS comprises of teams of firefighters and operational supervisory managers for each designated fire appliance. RDS appliances are not normally crewed by personnel present on a station, as RDS staff have a pager and respond to emergency calls when required. They also regularly train together each week, test operational equipment, conduct station administrative duties and proactive community safety work in their station areas.
4. An RDS firefighter is trained to the same standard as a wholetime firefighter and will generally have the same range of risk critical competencies. The criteria to become RDS and wholetime firefighters are the same, however RDS firefighters must be able to respond to their station within five minutes.

5. An RDS firefighter is paid a retaining fee based on the average number of hours cover they provide each week; they also receive an hourly rate when responding to emergency incidents or conducting routine duties. RDS firefighters are expected to attend a weekly training night on station and appropriate training courses to maintain their knowledge and competence.
6. The Service currently has 15 RDS crewed appliances which provide emergency cover throughout the Service area, and from September 2020, two RDS Support Officers provide assistance to the recruitment, retention and management of performance for RDS staff within the North and South divisions of the Service.

## Recruitment

7. During 2020, improvements have been made to the recruitment process which now follows a 15-week chronological pathway, where the RDS Support Officers assess the candidates and manage the steps from the initial application to the medical stage and the final appointment phase.
8. In support of the Service's commitment to the recruitment and retention of RDS firefighters, new candidates will follow a specific foundation course workbook. The RDS firefighters will attend the Service Training Centre to undergo a final assessment (these assessment days will occur every three months) enabling them to achieve the development phase on their route to competence.
9. Since September 2020, the number of RDS firefighters the Service has recruited is shown below:

Station	Number of RDS firefighters Recruited
Bishop Auckland	4
Barnard Castle	1
Durham	1
Seaham	1
Wheatley Hill	2
Stanhope	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

*Table 1 Summary of RDS Recruitment since September 2020*

10. The recruitment process now follows the key stages described below:
  - Initial applications are made through the Service website. Modifications to the RDS recruitment portal now sift out unsuitable candidates at this initial phase, making subsequent stages of the process more efficient;

- As part of the sift and suitability process, the candidate will be sent a link to a series of online tests, which includes literacy, numeracy, and mechanical judgement. These tests must be completed within a specified time frame;
- Having completed the online tests successfully, applicants are invited to take the role related tests at Crook fire station;
- Successful candidates are then invited for an interview by the RDS station's Watch Manager and Support Officer;
- Candidates are then required to pass their fitness test and a medical assessment;
- On successful completion of the fitness test and medical assessments, security checks and references are requested by Human Resources;
- Finally, accounts are created for all information technology systems, identification badges, uniform and fire kit are issued.

## Station Establishments

11. The variation of the staffing establishment from 1 November 2019 to 1 November 2020, for all RDS stations, is shown below, with significant progress evident in Stanhope, Newton Aycliffe and Barnard Castle:

Station	1 November 2019	1 November 2020	Variation
Consett	15	13	↓
High Handenhold	14	13	↓
Seaham	15	15	↔
Wheatley Hill	15	15	↔
Durham	10	10	↔
Stanhope	11	17	↑
Crook	17	16	↓
Spennymoor	17	16	↓
Sedgefield	11	12	↑
Newton Aycliffe	12	15	↑
Bishop Auckland	12	12	↔
Middleton-in-Teesdale	14	13	↓
Barnard Castle	16	19	↑
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>+6</b>

Table 2 Variation of the RDS Station Establishment from 1 November 2019 to 1 November 2020.

12. The current annual increase in the RDS establishment in comparison to previous years is shown in table 3 below. This shows that in previous years there has been a net deficit in the variation between the numbers of RDS starters and leavers during 2017 and 2018, however, within the last year there has been a net increase, showing the positive contribution of the RDS Support Officers. This analysis includes the transfer of three RDS firefighters to the wholetime duty system.

Time period	Total new RDS starters	Total RDS leavers	Variation
01/11/2017 – 01/11/2018	19	28	-9
01/11/2018 – 01/11/2019	20	27	-7
01/11/2019 – 01/11/2020	29	23	+6

*Table 3 Variation in New RDS Starters and Leavers from 1 November 2017 to 1 November 2020*

### **RDS Appliance Availability During Covid-19**

13. An assessment of the availability of RDS appliances from April 2019 to September 2019 in comparison to April 2020 to September 2020, highlights the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on RDS appliance availability. An increase in the amount of time staff had available from their primary employment saw an increase in the RDS appliances availability, as shown below:

Time period	Target availability	Overall availability	First appliance against target	Second appliance against target
2019 April to September	90%	70.7%	75.8%	37.9%
2020 April to September	90%	79.9%	85.2%	45.7%

*Table 4 Summary of RDS availability from April/September 2019 to April/September 2020.*

### **Current RDS Action Plan Areas of Focus**

14. The CDDFRS online recruitment portal has been reviewed to introduce an initial filter where candidates who are not eligible due to their home locations are sifted at the start of the process. This also ensures that those candidates who provide availability at specific times to increase the availability of RDS appliances are recommended for the selection process.

15. The RDS firefighter application information pack has been rewritten to reflect the new divisional structure and current pay scales. This is available from the RDS recruitment webpages to all candidates.



16. The Recruitment and Employer Handbook is currently being rewritten and contains revised information for RDS candidates, including testimonials from existing RDS staff. The handbook also highlights to employers the rewards and benefits of their employees becoming RDS firefighters, including leadership development, first aid, health and safety, manual handling and driver training.
17. Awareness days for potential RDS firefighters have been delivered at Barnard Castle, Middleton-in-Teesdale and Newton Aycliffe fire stations. The awareness days have specifically been targeted to attract candidates who can provide availability during the times of limited RDS cover and address a shortfall in appliance availability at these stations.
18. In response to the unforeseen circumstances from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Service implemented changes to provide RDS staff with greater flexibility around their annual leave, at the same time as optimising RDS staffing to maintain appliance availability.
19. A foundation training course has been developed and introduced to standardise the phase one initial acquisition of skills and knowledge of RDS firefighters, the course includes firefighting techniques, such as pump operating, hose, ladders and the safe person concept. This enables phase one RDS firefighters to progress to phase two of their route to competence and wear a green spot helmet marking that enables them to attend emergency operational incidents.
20. Areas of the RDS action plan being progressed are:
  - The review of the current RDS engagement and communication processes;
  - The development of enhanced flexible arrangements to improve on-call availability;
  - Engagement with local businesses to encourage their support and enhance their corporate social responsibilities;
  - Review and revise the RDS employment handbook to include changes to working arrangements.

## **Recommendations**

21. Members are requested to:
  - a) **Note** the content of the report.

Report of Cllr John Shuttleworth Member Champion for RDS

Telephone 03000 268770

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County Durham and Darlington  
Fire and Rescue Authority



**Safest People, Safest Places**

**Combined Fire Authority**

**15 December 2020**

**Fire Standards Board**

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## **Report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer**

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. The report is to update members on the Fire Standards Board's progress in developing national Fire Standards.

### **Background**

2. In 2017 the Home Office set out its agenda for fire reform which included the creation of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), an independent inspectorate for fire (HMICFRS) and a new professional standards body.
3. A Fire Standards Board was created in February 2019. Its role is to oversee the identification, organisation, development and maintenance of professional standards for fire and rescue services (FRS) in England. An independent chair and vice chair have been appointed (Suzanne McCarthy & Alison Sansome) and the remaining Board members are from local government and the fire sector. The Board has met seven times since its inception.
4. As part of the reforms for FRS in England, the Fire Standards Board is committed to the introduction of Standards. The intention being to help drive continual improvement across the services alongside the re-introduction of inspection arrangements.

### **Fire Standards**

5. National Professional Standards are a key component of continuous improvement in any sector. They form a point of focus, against which performance can be measured and further improvement or new requirements identified.

6. To help categorise the areas requiring Fire Standards an activity framework has been developed to capture the activities performed by FRS irrespective of their governance model, budget, or location and who provides those functions.
7. The Board has made progress in developing the Fire Standards included as part of phase one. The first Standard, Emergency Response Driving is complete and awaiting independent quality assurance and publication.
8. Consultation on the Operational Response Fire Standards closed on 10 September 2020 and the Board received 50 responses containing over 600 comments. Final drafts of the Standard will be shared with the NFCC Operations Committee and then with the Fire Standards Board on 9 December 2020 ahead of assurance and publication.
9. Consultation on the Code of Ethics Fire Standard closed on 2 November 2020. This Standard is dependent on the publication of underpinning guidance for FRS on a Core Code of Ethics, developed in partnership between the NFCC and the LGA.
10. Consultation on the Community Risk Management Planning Fire Standard closes on Monday 7 December 2020. It is expected that the first six Fire Standards will be published in February 2021.
11. County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) has provided consultation responses to all draft Standards and will continue to engage with the Board to support their development.
12. Scoping work for a Fire Protection and a Fire Prevention Standard is underway. The Project Board expects these Standards to be published in April 2021.
13. The Fire Standards will be applicable to all FRS in England. It is anticipated that as the Fire Standards are produced, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) will integrate those Standards into its inspection framework and judgement criteria.
14. The NFCC Central Programme Office (CPO) has established an engagement team to support FRS in working toward the Standards. Work is ongoing to design an online implementation guide and progress tracker. The CPO is in dialogue with some FRS interested in forming a working group to support this work including CDDFRS.
15. The Fire Standards may impact on the future workloads and resource requirements of CDDFRS as strategies, policies, systems and procedures are likely to need adjustments to ensure alignment with the Standards.
16. Appendix A lists the current planned Fire Standards and expected publication dates.

## **Recommendations**

17. CFA Members are requested to:
  - a. **note** the contents of this report;
  - b. **receive** further reports as appropriate.

## Appendix A

<b>Fire Standard</b>	<b>Expected publication</b>
Emergency response driving	February 2021
Operational preparedness	February 2021
Operational competence	February 2021
Operational learning	February 2021
Code of ethics	February 2021
Community risk management planning	February 2021
Leadership	April 2021
Fire protection	May 2021
Prevention interventions	May 2021
Selection and recruitment, including fitness standards	TBC
Promotion and succession planning	TBC
Fire and rescue service data requirements and management	July 2021

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County Durham and Darlington  
Fire and Rescue Authority



**Safest People, Safest Places**

**Combined Fire Authority**

**15 December 2020**

**Staffing Arrangements at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe**

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**Report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer**

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#### **Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the staffing arrangements at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe fire stations, following the Combined Fire Authorities (CFA) decision on the 21 September 2020 to introduce a Day Crewing (DC) style duty system, in line with the 2020/21 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), providing a collective agreement could be negotiated with the Fire Brigades Union (FBU).

#### **Background**

2. The Day Crewing Plus (DCP) duty system was introduced at both Seaham and Newton Aycliffe in 2013. Following notification from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) that any fire and rescue service (FRS) that had or was considering an alternative crewing system must be compliant with the Working Time Regulations 1998, unless a local collective agreement was in place the CFA agreed to replace the DCP duty system with a DC duty system for a trial period from 1 April 2019.
3. In March 2020, the CFA approved a request to extend the DC trial at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe for a further six months to enable legal advice to be sought and further consideration on the longer-term position to be made.
4. Following a comprehensive review of the trial and full consideration of the legal advice, the CFA approved a paper on the 21 September 2020 which made two recommendations:

- a. Approve the implementation of DC at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe on a permanent basis, in line with the 2020/21 IRMP recommendation, providing a collective local agreement could be negotiated with the FBU.
- b. Should a collective local agreement not be successfully negotiated with the FBU, receive a further paper outlining the additional options and recommendation for the permanent crewing arrangements at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe.

### **The Current Position**

5. Following the CFA meeting in September 2020, officers within the Service have undertaken consultation with staff at both Seaham and Newton Aycliffe and the FBU to identify a suitable replacement to DCP.
6. The Service recognised the flexibility and benefits provided to both the Service and to staff who work the DCP / DC duty system; one key aspect is the self-rostering element, which provides an efficient approach to crewing appliances whilst offering a flexible working pattern for staff.
7. Early engagement with the FBU recognised the importance of appropriately naming the new duty system at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe and agreement has been reached on the term “Self Rostering Duty System” (SRDS).
8. Following positive engagement with staff and the FBU, a formal offer has been made as part of a collective agreement which includes:
  - As per the current arrangements, a requirement to work a total of 150 shifts per annum for those with long service entitlement or alternatively 153 shifts for those without. These figures are calculated after leave and public holidays are taken into account.
  - Self-rostering in line with the Self Rostering Duty System Procedure.
  - 12-hour dayshifts operating between 07.00-19.00 hrs.
  - A pensionable enhancement to basic salary of 8%.
9. During October 2020, a survey of staff at both Seaham and Newton Aycliffe was undertaken, with most responses indicating a preference to work the SRDS. To provide resilience and fill a small number of current vacancies, the Service is also seeking expressions of interest from staff who may wish to transfer to the SRDS.
10. Consultation and formal negotiations with the FBU have been constructive and included officials from within County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service along with engagement with FBU representatives for the North East region.
11. Amendments to associated documents which support the introduction of the SRDS, namely the ‘Self Rostering Duty System Procedure’ and the Internal Transfer Procedure have been subject to consultation and agreed.



12. A local collective agreement was signed between CDDFRS and the FBU on the 01 December 2020, and Human Resources are making changes to the terms and conditions of staff located at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe.

### **Next steps**

13. The SRDS will be introduced at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe on a permanent basis on 1 January 2021.

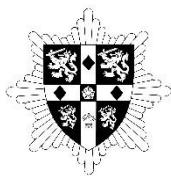
14. As part of organisational learning the Service will reflect upon and review the processes and procedures which have supported the introduction of the SRDS.

### **Recommendations**

15. Members are asked to **note** the contents of the report.

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Steve Helps (0191 375 5557)

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**Safest People, Safest Places**

## **Combined Fire Authority**

**15 December 2020**

### **Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics: England, April 2019 to March 2020**

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#### **Report of Area Manager, Community Risk Management**

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#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To present a comparative analysis of key operational performance indicators within County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) against national performance data contained within one of the national reports published annually by the Home Office.

#### **Background**

2. The report 'Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics: England, April 2019 to March 2020, published by the Home Office presents a range of statistics about the incidents attended by fire and rescue services (FRS) across England in 2019/20 including both fires and non-fire incidents and details on fatalities and non-fatal casualties arising from those incidents.
3. This report compares our strategic PIs relating to key aspects of the operational performance of the service against the national data published by the Home Office.
4. This report only covers the incident related statistics from the Home Office report but fire prevention data from the Home Office data tables released in November are also included. Comparative analysis of trends in workforce and workforce diversity will be the subject of a separate report.

#### **Comparative analysis**

5. An overview of key strategic operational performance indicators that are readily comparable to the data within the national reports are presented within the report. Some datasets are not directly comparable with our performance measures but noted where this is the case.
6. To make it easier to compare CDDFRS with other FRS, the data is expressed either as a value per head of population or number of property types.

## Total Calls and Total Incidents

7. Figure 1 shows in the past ten years the total calls and incidents attended by CDDFRS.

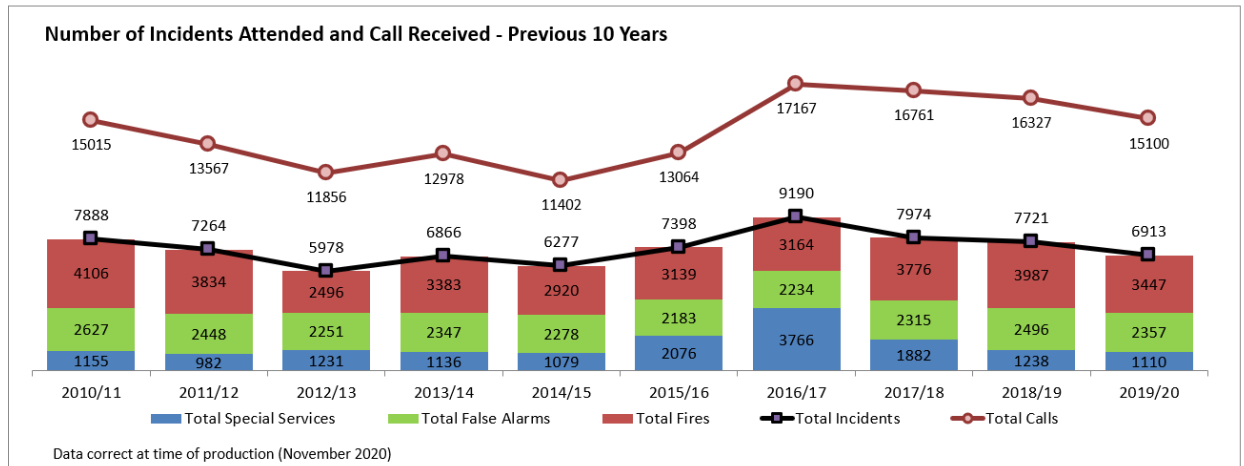


Figure 1 - Number of incidents attended and calls received - previous 10 years

8. Fire and rescue services nationally attended 557,299 incidents in England during 2019/20, this was a 3% decrease compared with the previous year (576,391). In CDDFRS, total incidents attended decreased by 10%, mainly due to a decrease in fires.
9. In terms of incident rate per 100,000 population, CDDFRS was 12% higher than the national average, placing us 10<sup>th</sup> busiest as figure 2 shows:

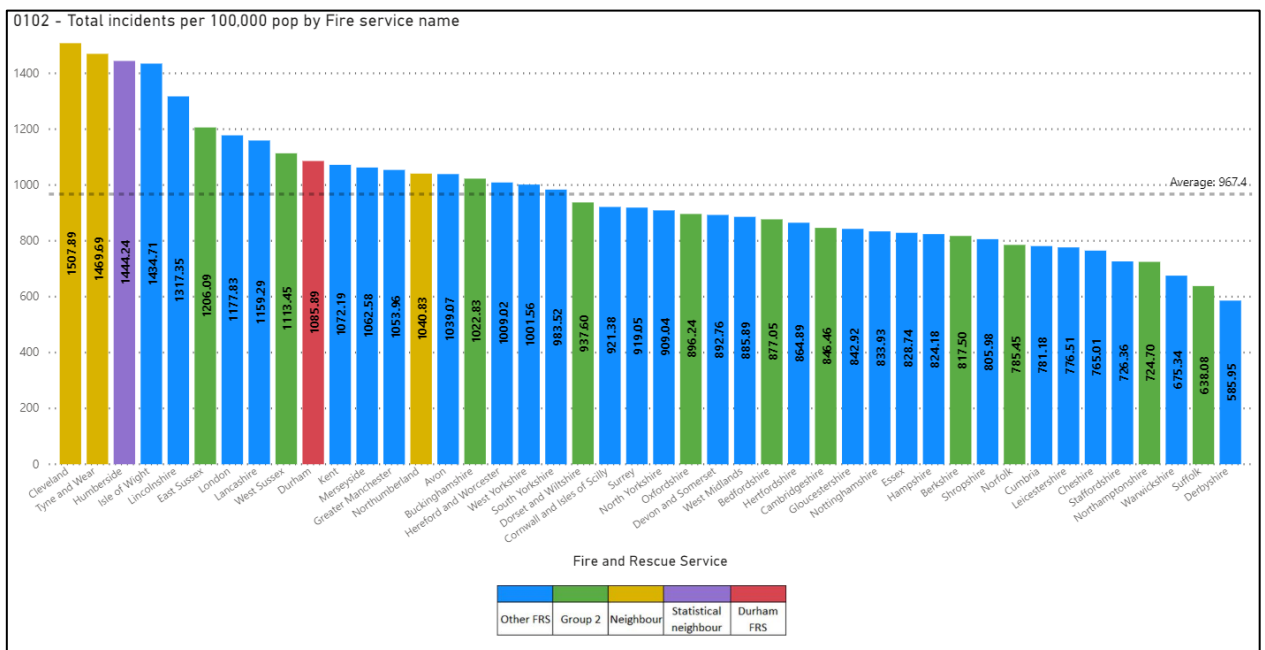


Figure 2 - Total incidents per 100,000 pop. by Fire and Rescue Service

## Total Fires Attended

10. In England, the total number of fires attended by FRSs has decreased for around a decade, falling from 474,000 in 2003/04 to 154,000 in 2012/13. Since then, the total number of fires has been slowly increasing to around 183,000 in 2018/19 but have fallen 16% in 2019/20 to 153,957.
11. In CDDFRS, as figure 3 shows, there is a similar picture with the number of fires attended reducing by 16% since 2010/11, falling to a low in 2012/13, with a slow increase to 2018/19 followed by a decrease of 13.5% in 2019/20.

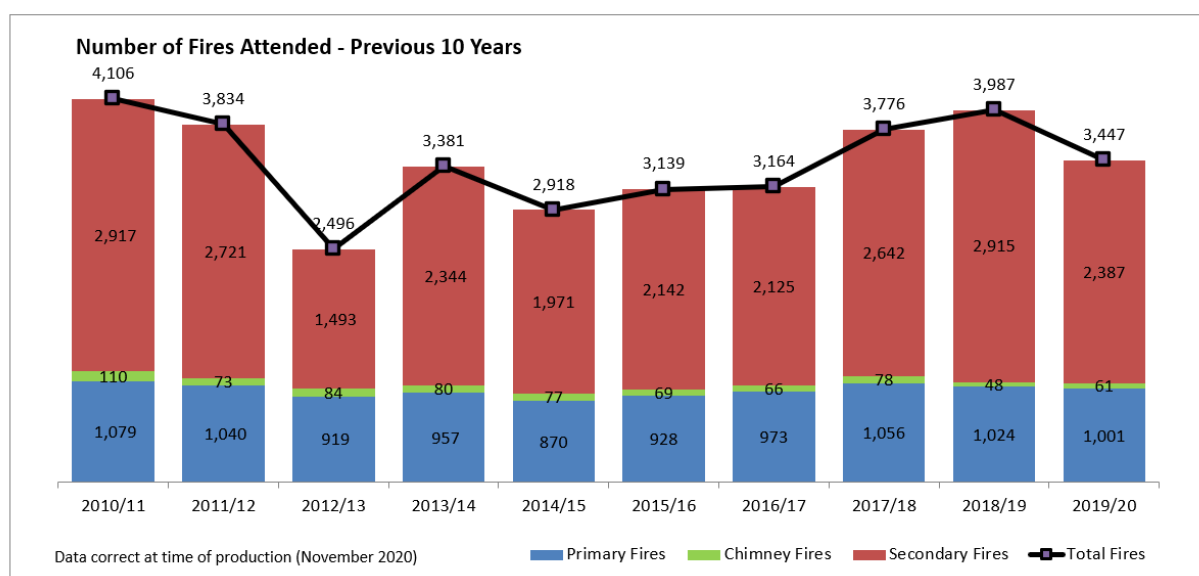


Figure 3 - Number of fires attended by CDDFRS - previous 10 years

## Primary Fires

12. Primary fires are fires with one or more of the following characteristics:
  - all fires in buildings and vehicles that are not derelict or in some outdoor structures;
  - any fire involving casualties or rescues;
  - any fire attended by five or more appliances.
13. Nationally, primary fires have also been on a long-term downward trend with a decrease of 6% in 2019/20 to 68,677 compared to the previous year of 73,278 and a 32% decrease compared to 2009/10.
14. Overall, primary fires decreased by 6% although there was some variation across primary fire types, namely: a decrease in other outdoor fires (20%), dwelling fires (4%) other building fires (5%) and road vehicle fires (6%).
15. CDDFRS have seen a 21% decrease in primary fires since 2009/10 (1265 in 2009/10 to 1001 in 2019/20).

16. The number of primary fires per 10,000 population that occurred within CDDFRS was higher than the national average of 12.3 and placed us in the bottom quartile of FRS (as figure 4 shows). These incidents decreased from 1024 in 2018/19 to 1001 in 2019/20.

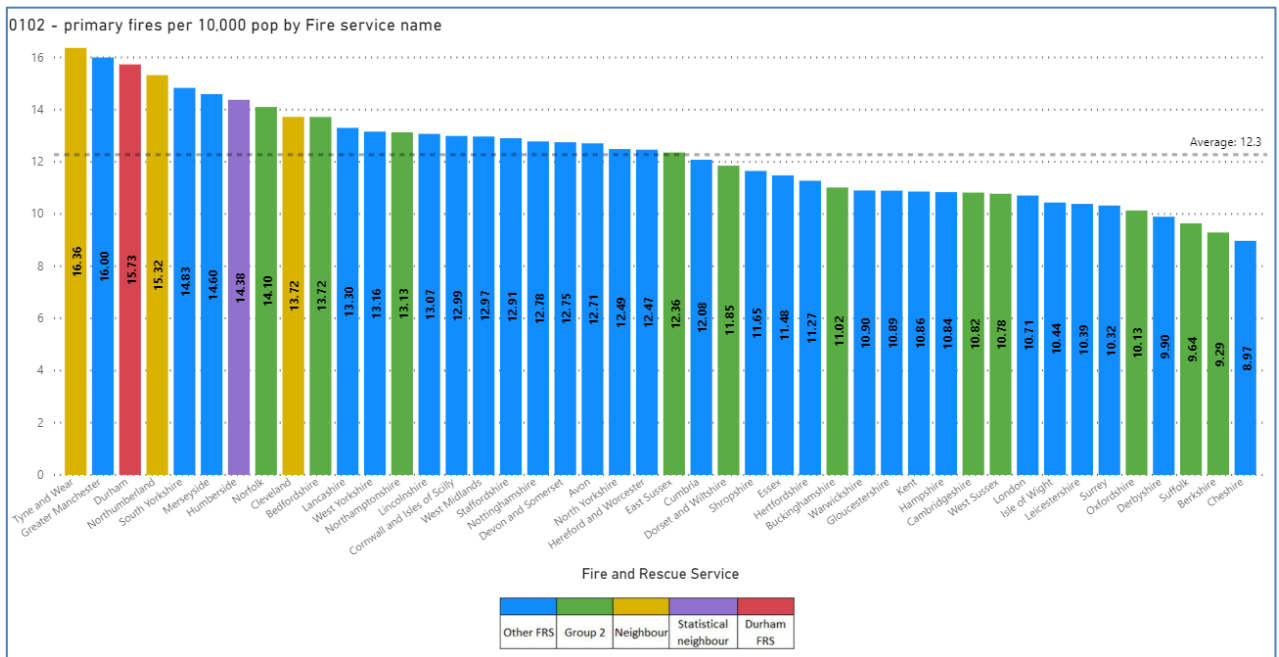


Figure 4 - Primary fires per 10,000 pop. by Fire and Rescue Service

17. The longer-term trend within CDDFRS remains downward but has risen steadily since 2014/15 with a slight decline from 2017/18 as figure 5 shows. The decline in 2019/20 was mainly due to a fall in the category of 'other' (not dwellings, road vehicles or non-domestic). Road vehicle fires accounted for 43% of all primary fires in 2019/20 within CDDFRS and of these road vehicle fires, 70% were deliberate.

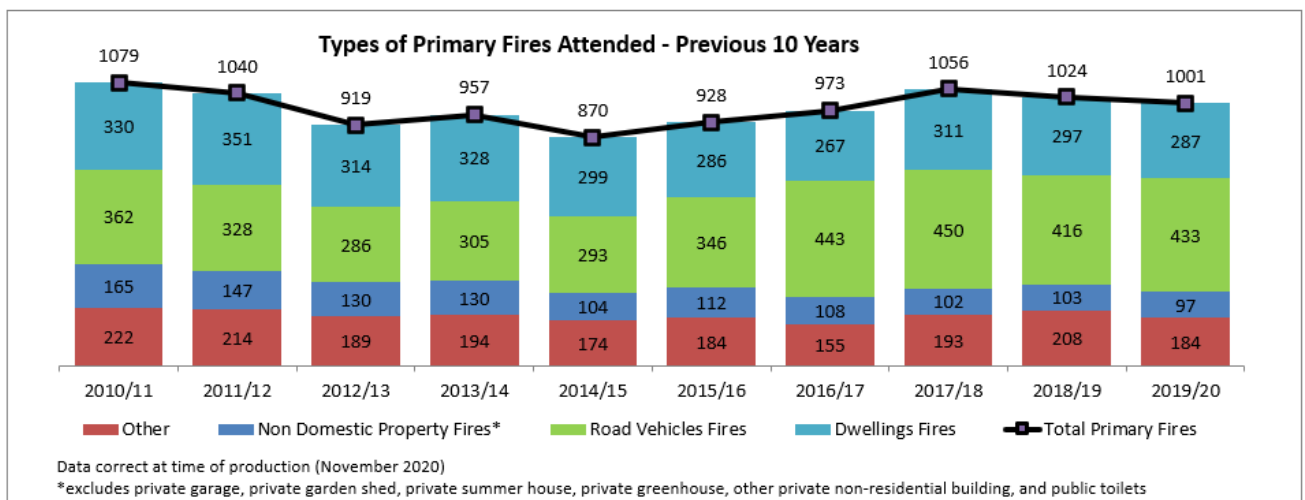


Figure 5 - types of primary fires attended by CDDFRS - previous 10 years

# Deliberate Primary Fires

18. There were 5.2% more deliberate primary fires in our area during 2019/20 than the previous year. The number recorded per head of population was 127% higher than the national average placing the service worst performing nationally, as shown in figure 6:

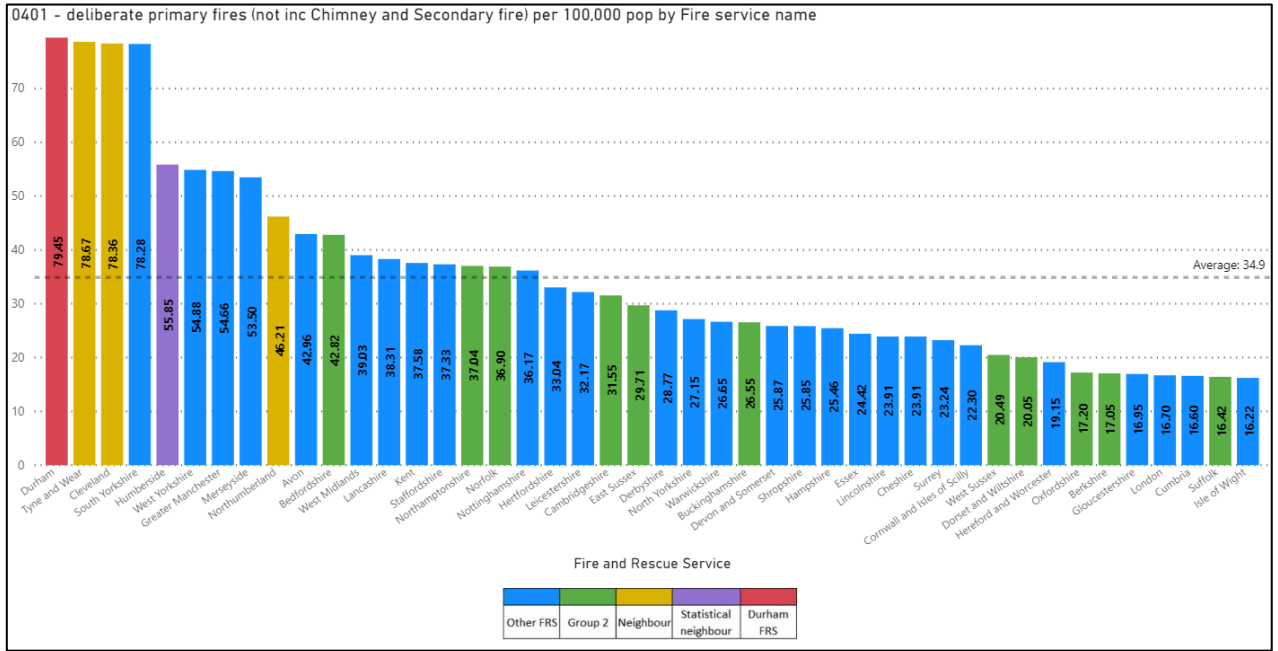


Figure 6 - Deliberate primary fires per 100,000 pop. by Fire and Rescue Service

19. When compared to 2010/11, deliberate primary fires in our area have risen by 58%, as figure 7 shows, compared to a 35% decrease seen across England (from 29,470 to 19,158). In CDDFRS a high proportion (60%) involved road vehicles (303) and are linked to anti-social behaviour and certain criminal activity in key areas of the Service area.

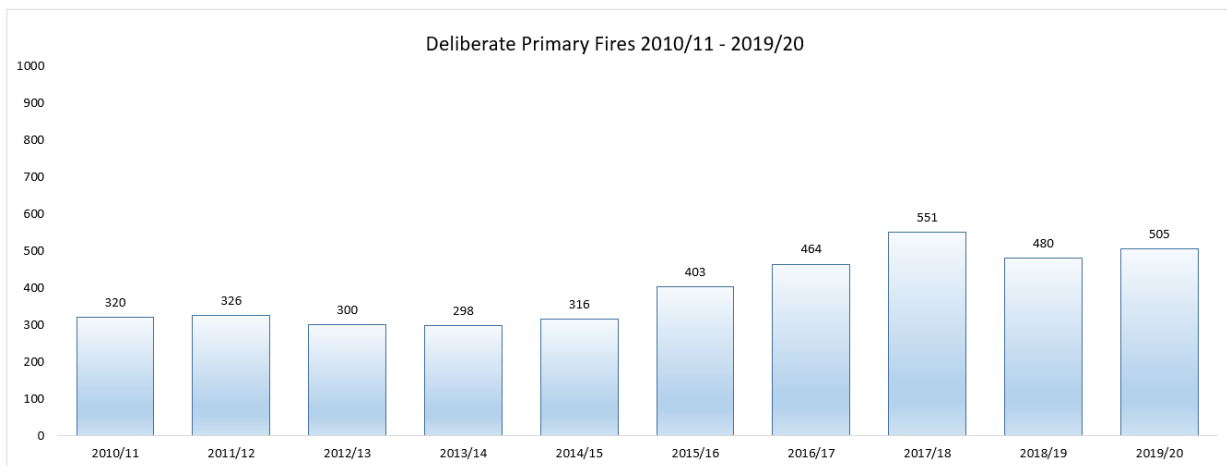


Figure 7 - Deliberate primary fires attended by CDDFRS 2010/11 - 2019/20



## Accidental Dwelling Fires, Injuries and Fatalities

20. The number of accidental dwelling fires in England decreased by 4% between 2018/19 and 2019/20 with CDDFRS showing a 7.7% decrease, placing us 10<sup>th</sup> best performing service in England, as figure 8 shows.

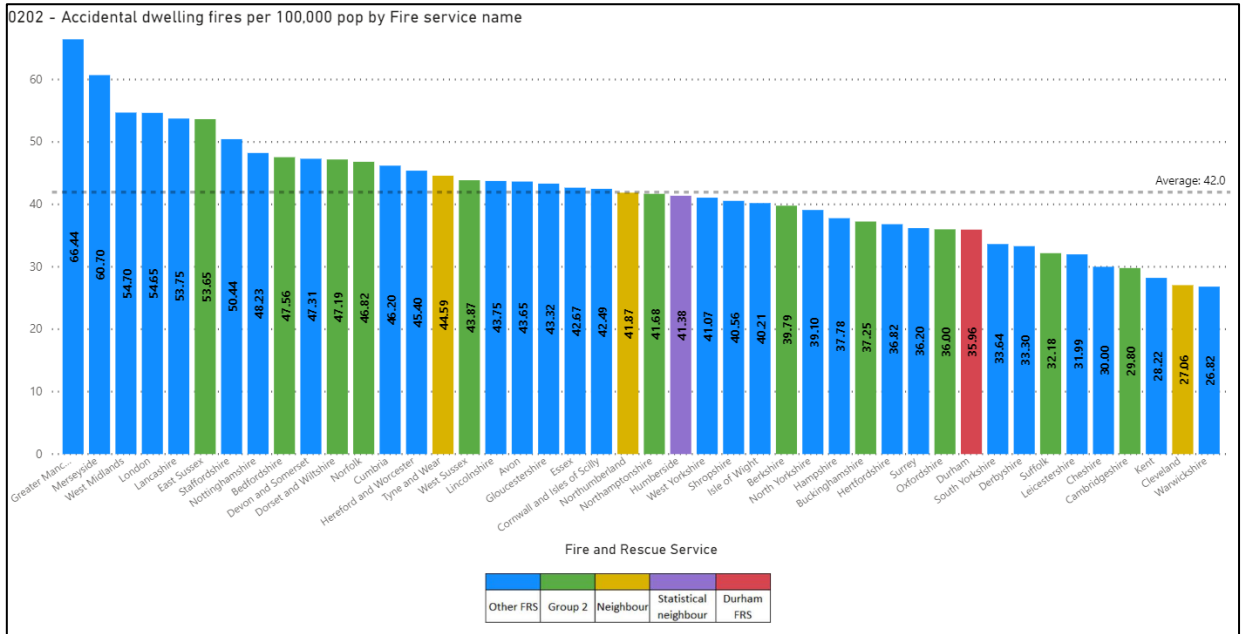


Figure 8 - Accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 pop. by Fire and Rescue Service

21. Nationally, accidental dwelling fires decreased from 2014/15 to 2019/20 by 10%, with a 4.6% reduction in CDDFRS as shown in figure 9 below.

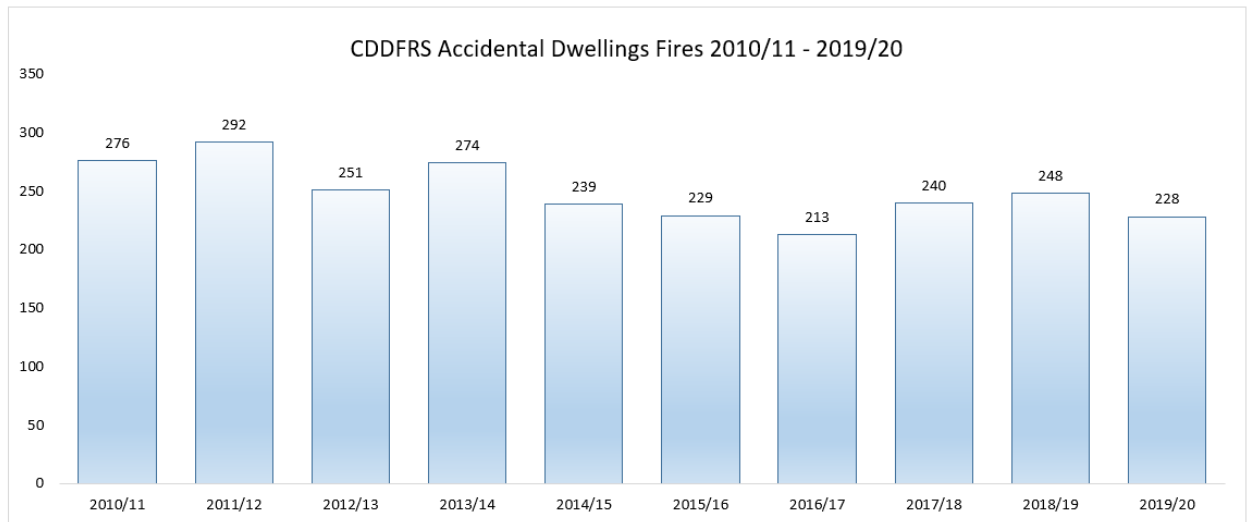


Figure 9 - CDDFRS Accidental dwelling fires 2010/11 - 2019/20

22. The accidental dwelling fire injury rate compared to head of population for CDDFRS is just above the national average, as shown in figure 10 below:

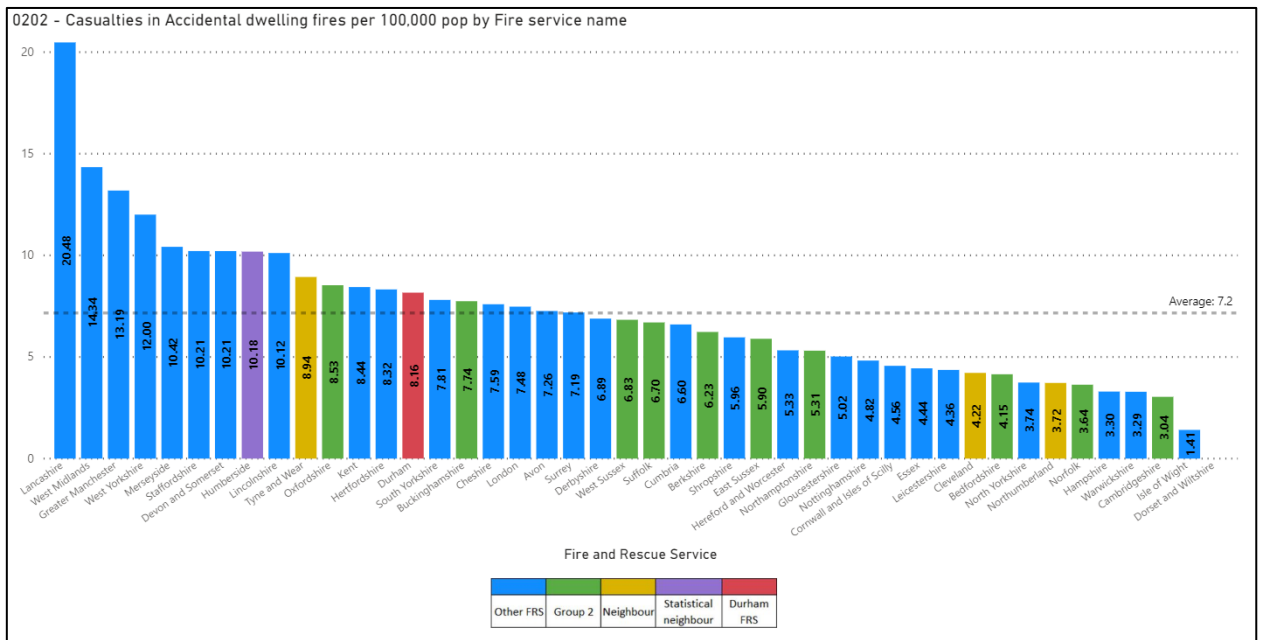


Figure 10 - Casualties in accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 pop. by Fire and Rescue Service

23. Compared to ten years ago there has been a 22% reduction in injuries arising from accidental dwelling fires nationally and a 34% reduction in our area as shown in figure 11 below.

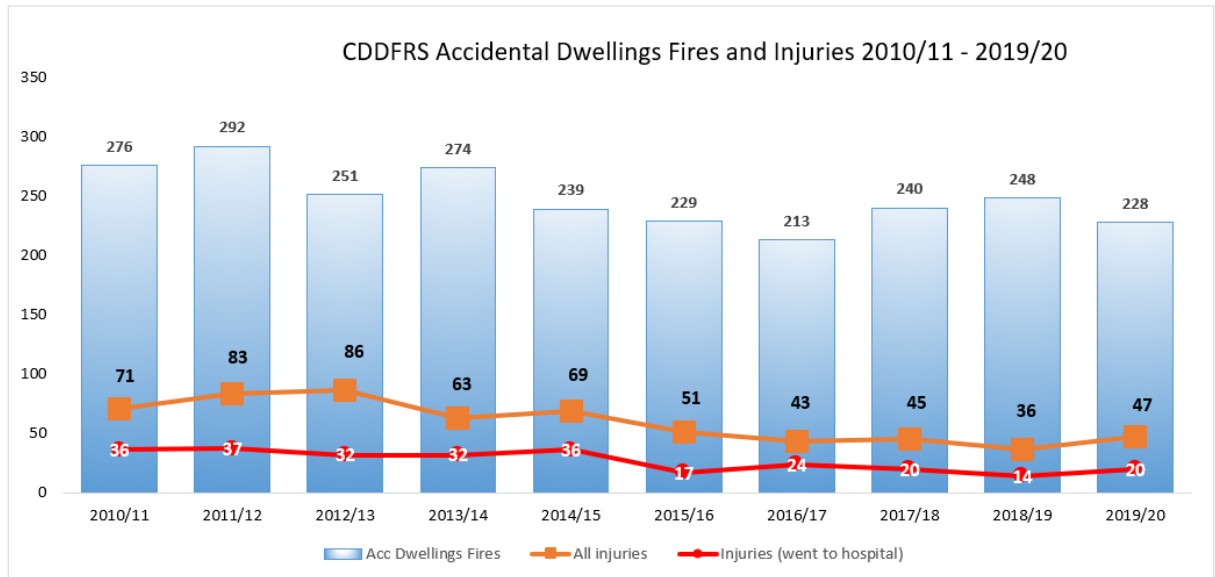


Figure 11 - CDDFRS accidental dwelling fires and injuries 2010/11 - 2019/20

24. The number of accidental dwelling fires nationally decreased by 4% in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19. There were 10 fewer fire-related fatalities in accidental dwelling fires in 2019/20 (243) than the previous year (253). Within CDDFRS, there were 0 accidental fire fatalities in 2019/20, a decrease of 200%. The ten-year trend is shown in figure 12 below:

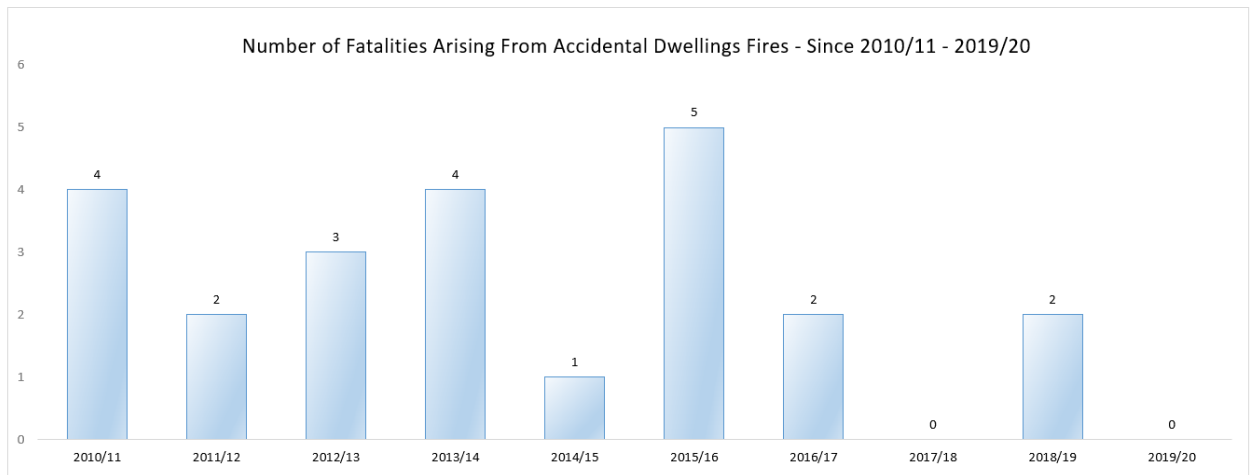


Figure 12 - Number of fatalities arising from accidental dwelling fires within CDDFRS - since 2010/11 - 2019/20

25. The fatality rate in accidental dwelling fires, per head of population, in our area is 0 with the national average at 0.3 as the chart below shows:

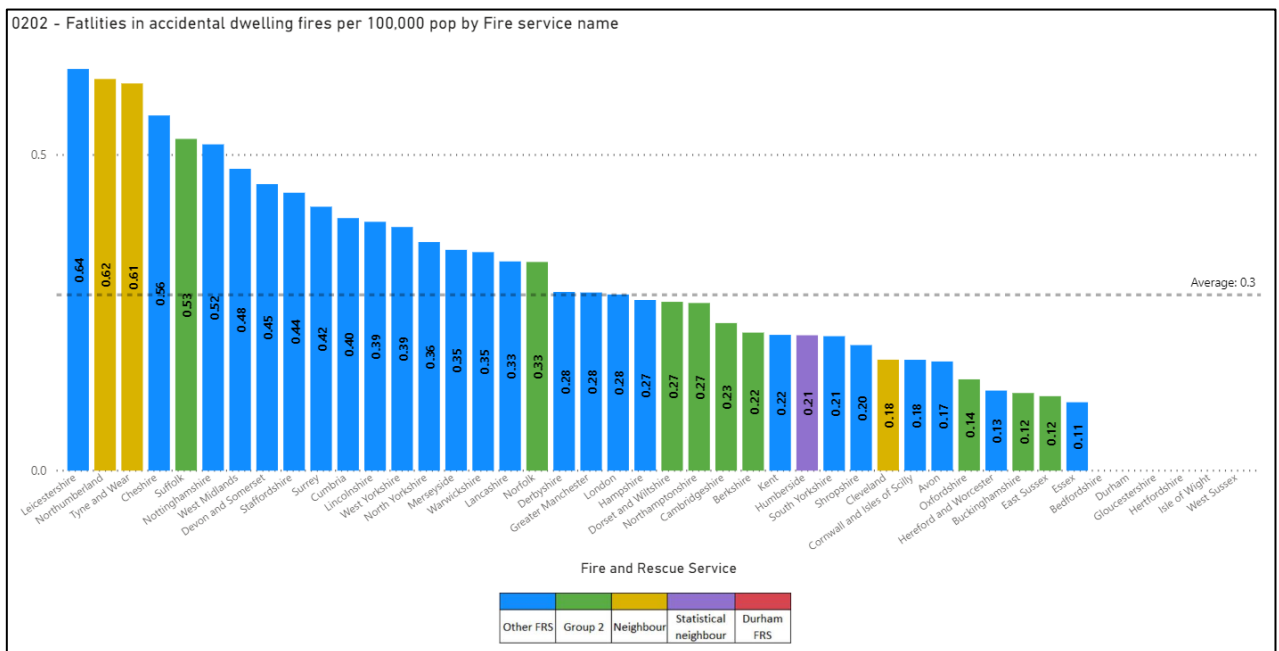


Figure 13 - Fatalities in accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 pop. by Fire and Rescue Service

### Primary Fires in Non-Domestic Properties

26. In CDDFRS, there was a 6% reduction in primary fires in non-domestic properties, compared to a 5% reduction nationally. The fire rate per 100,000 population is below the national average as shown in figure 14 below:

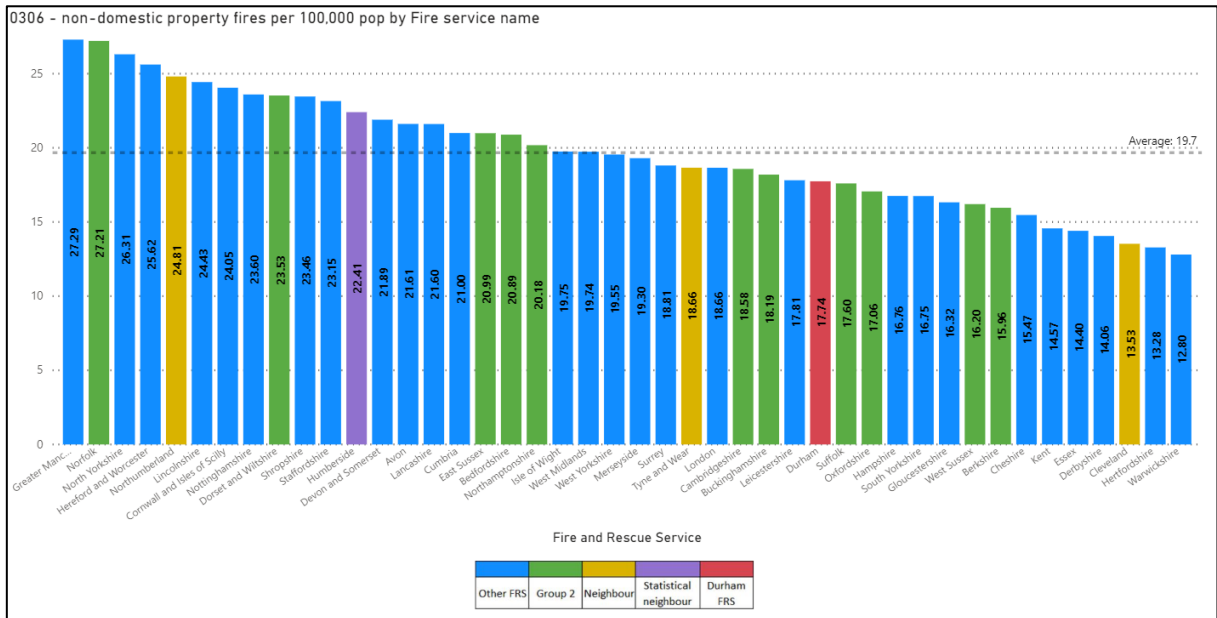


Figure 14 - Non-domestic property fires per 100,000 pop. by Fire and Rescue Service

## Secondary Fires

27. Secondary fires can broadly be thought of as smaller outdoor fires, not involving people or property. Of the 153,957 fires attended nationally in 2019/20, there were 82,150 secondary fires. For England, this was a 23% decrease on last year compared to an 18% decrease in our area. Nationally, secondary fires have reduced by 36% since 2010/11 and within CDDFRS an 18% reduction for the same period. In CDDFRS, secondary fires have increased annually since 2012/13 with a decrease in 2019/20 as figure 15 shows:

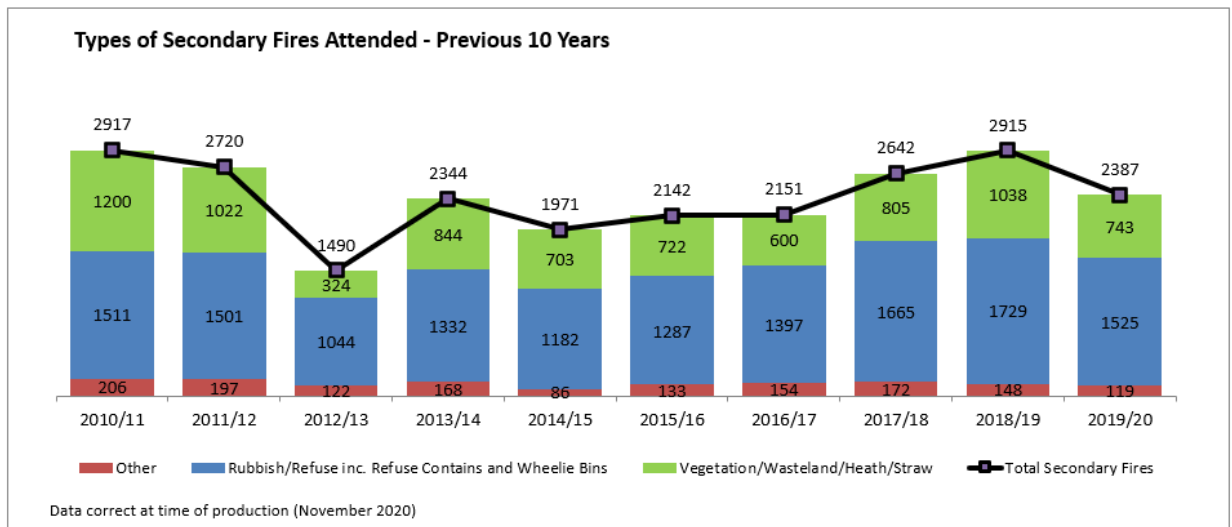


Figure 15 - Types of secondary fires attended by CDDFRS - previous 10 years

28. Secondary fires are an issue for all FRS in the North East, with CDDFRS the 3rd worst performing in England, behind Cleveland and Tyne & Wear, as shown in figure 16 below:

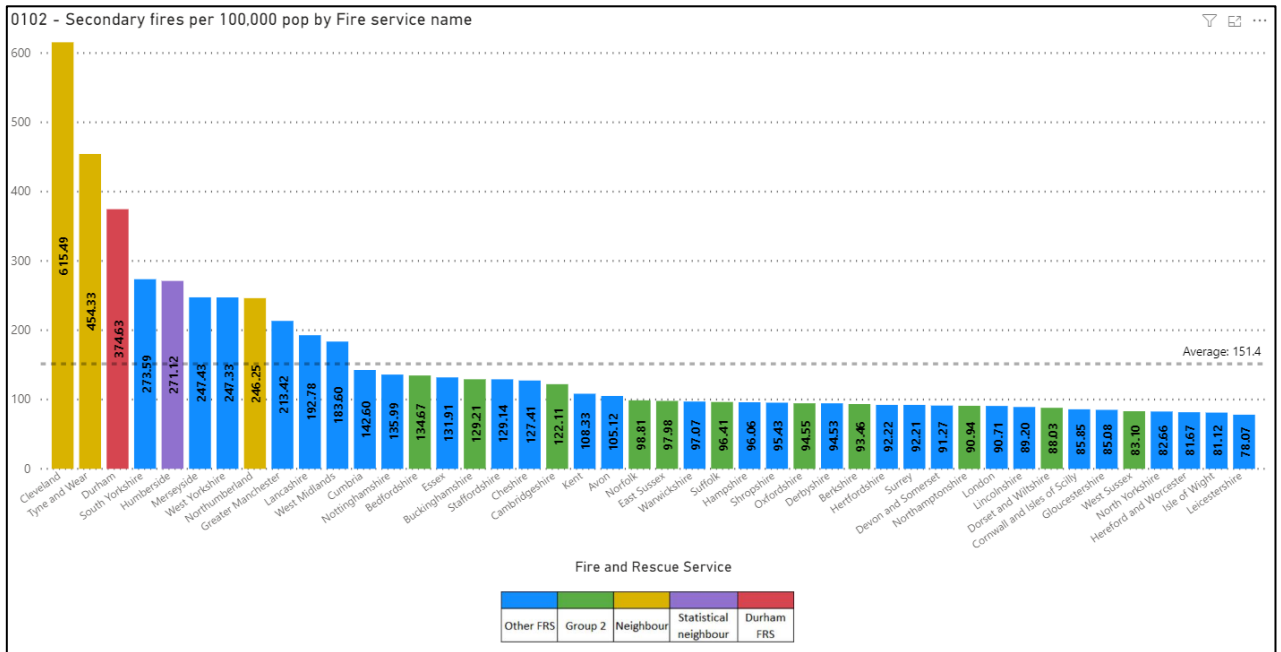


Figure 16 - Secondary fires per 100,000 pop. by Fire and Rescue Service

## Deliberate Secondary Fires

29. There were 16% more deliberate secondary fires in our area during 2019/20 than the previous year, compared to an annual decrease of 20% nationally. The number recorded per head of population was 230% higher than the national average placing the Service 3<sup>rd</sup> worst performing nationally as shown in figure 17.

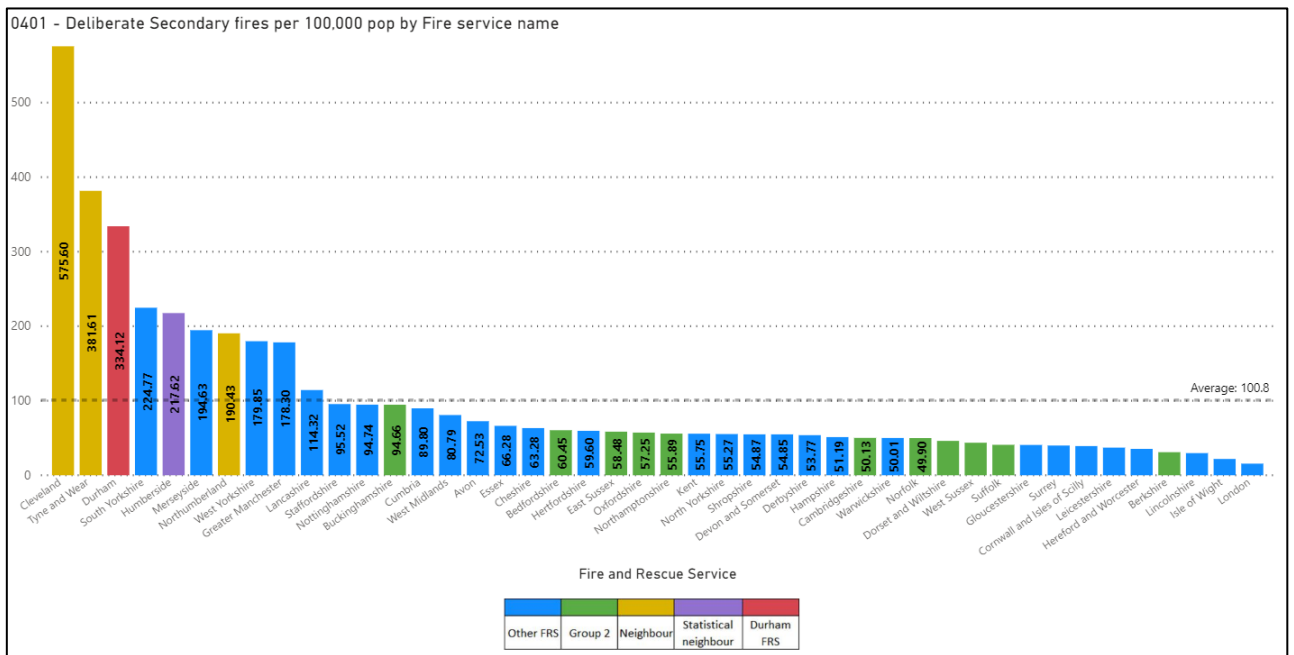


Figure 17 - Deliberate secondary fires per 100,000 pop. by Fire and Rescue Service

30. When compared to 2018/19, deliberate secondary fires in our area have decreased by 16% as figure 18 below shows.

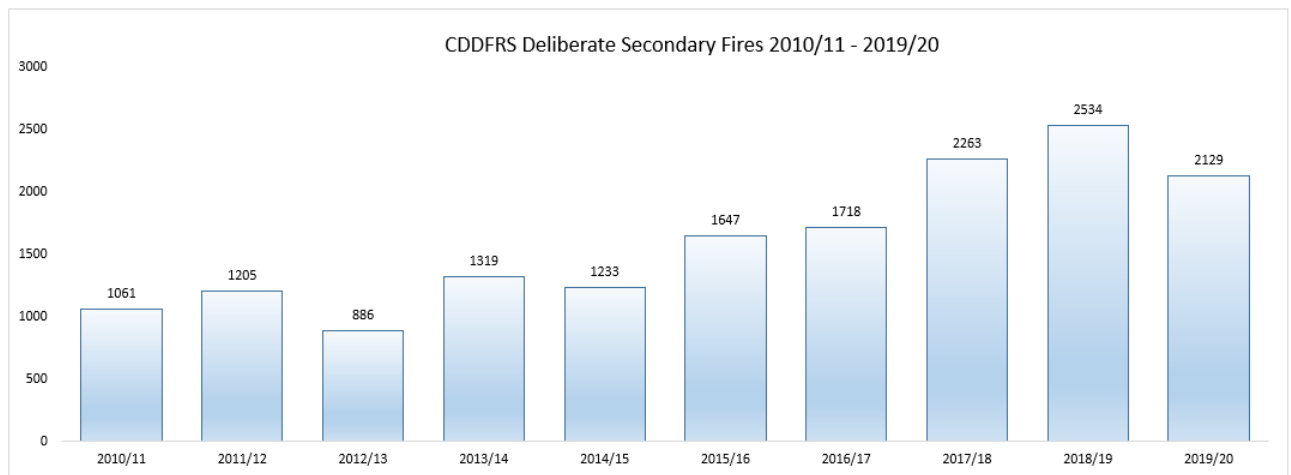


Figure 18 - CDDFRS deliberate secondary fires - 2010/11 - 2019/20

## Home Fire Safety Checks/Safe & Wellbeing Visits

31. FRSs completed 581,917 Safe & Wellbeing Visits (SWV) in 2019/20, 2.2% less than the previous year.
32. In contrast, CDDFRS completed 19,310 SWV in 2019/20, a 4% decrease on 2018/19 but 20.7% more than 2013/14 (15,993). In 2016/17, to reflect the move from HFSCs to the broader, more comprehensive safe and wellbeing visits which take longer to complete, the annual target was reduced from 20,000 to 18,000, accounting for the small 7.9% decrease on 2015/16. Despite this lower target, this still placed us as the 5<sup>th</sup> best performing FRS in the country, in terms of SWV per 1,000 dwellings as figure 19 shows.

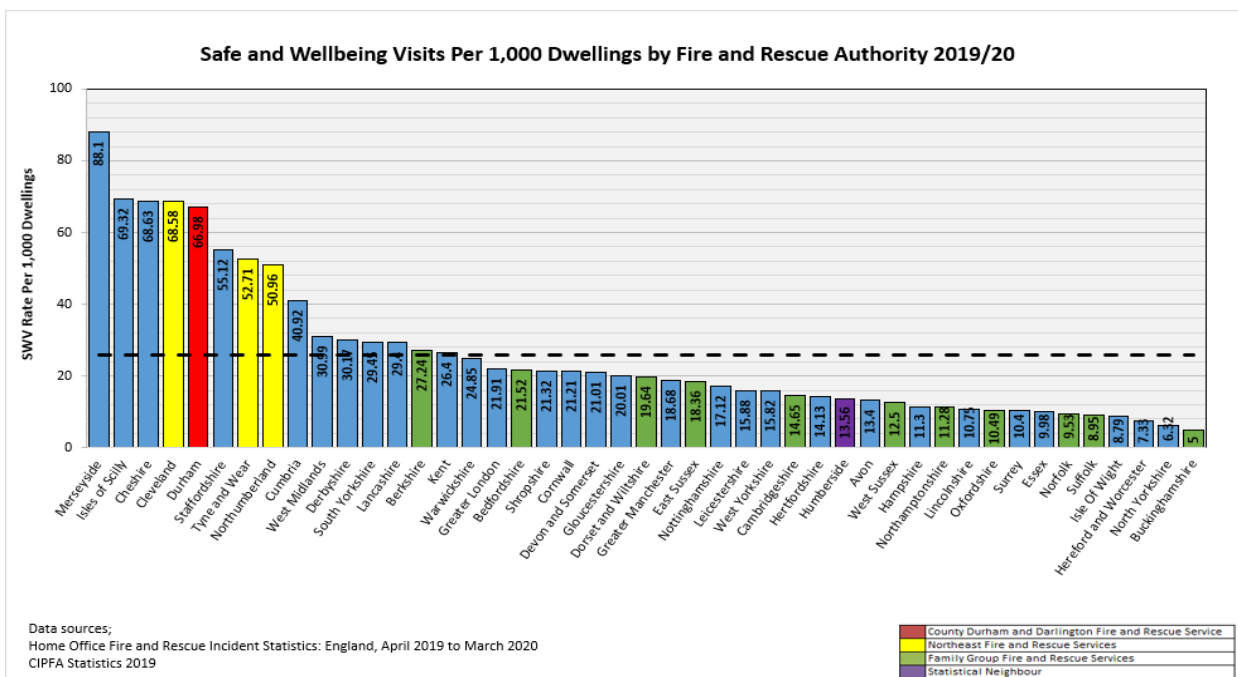


Figure 19 - Safe and wellbeing visits per 1,000 dwellings by Fire and Rescue Authority 2019/20

## Fire Safety Audits

33. Fire and Rescue Authorities deliver their enforcement duties under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the FSO) through locally determined, risk-based programmes of audit/inspection visits to non-domestic premises.
34. Nationally, FRSs carried out 48,414 Fire Safety Audits (FSA) in 2019/20, slightly less than the 49,327 in 2018/19 and 40.9% lower than 2011/12. CDDFRS staff undertook 2,003 FSAs in 2019/20, 8.1% lower than the previous year but 136% more than 2011/12 (846 FSAs).
35. This rise is because in previous years, the volume of fire safety audits undertaken in CDDFRS was limited by the capacity of staff working in the Fire Safety Team. The strategy to utilise operational crews to undertake fire safety audits has proved successful contributing to CDDFRS becoming the best performing service in the country with regard to the number of FSAs carried out on non-domestic properties, as shown by figure 20 below:

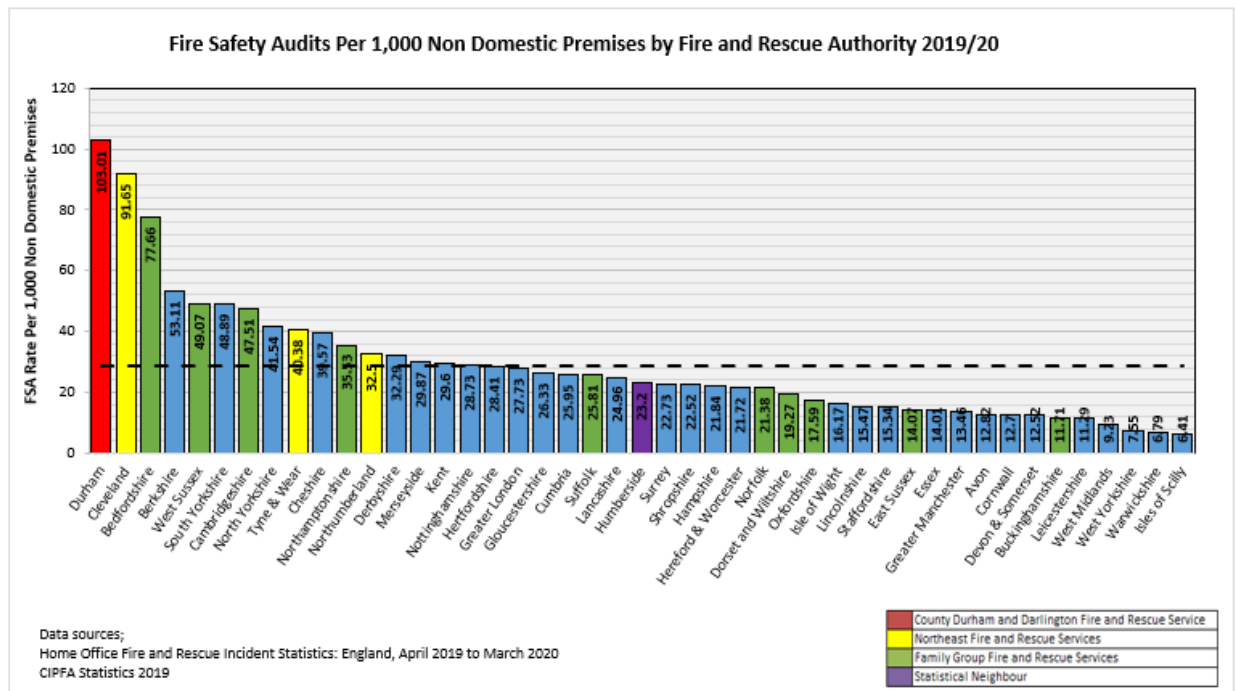


Figure 20 - Fire safety audits per 1,000 non-domestic premises by Fire and Rescue Authority

36. This achievement reflects the Service's extensive work with businesses and organisations to help keep people safe at work or when visiting a workplace such as a hotel or shop. CDDFRS does this by offering fire safety advice to businesses and conducting an audit programme on workplace fire safety risk assessments.

## Non-Fire Incidents

37. FRSs attend many types of incidents that are not fires, for example flooding incidents, road traffic collisions, rescuing animals and effecting entry/exit. For the first time, in 2016/17 FRSs attended more non-fire incidents than fires. There has



been a 6% increase in the number of non-fire (also known as Special Service) incidents attended by FRSs from 162,251 in 2018/19 to 171,911 in 2019/20.

38. The national increase demonstrates a mixed picture with a decrease in medical incidents but an increase for assisting other agencies and effecting entry/exit, with smaller decreases or increases in other non-fire incident types. Between 2017/18 and 2019/20 however, there was a 45% decrease in the number of medical incidents attended falling from around 33,000 to around 18,000. In CDDFRS, non-fire incidents have decreased by 71% from 2016/17 to 2019/20, predominantly due to the reduction in emergency medical response incidents, as shown in figure 21 below:

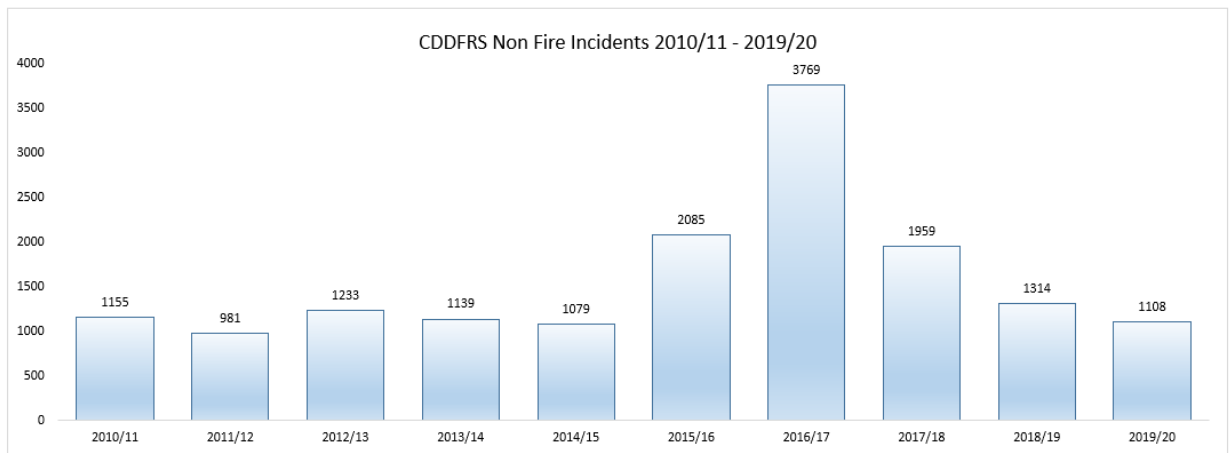


Figure 21 - CDDFRS non fire incidents - 2010/11 - 2019/20

39. In terms of non-fire incidents per 10,000 population, CDDFRS lies at 20.63 per 10,000 population as figure 22 shows:

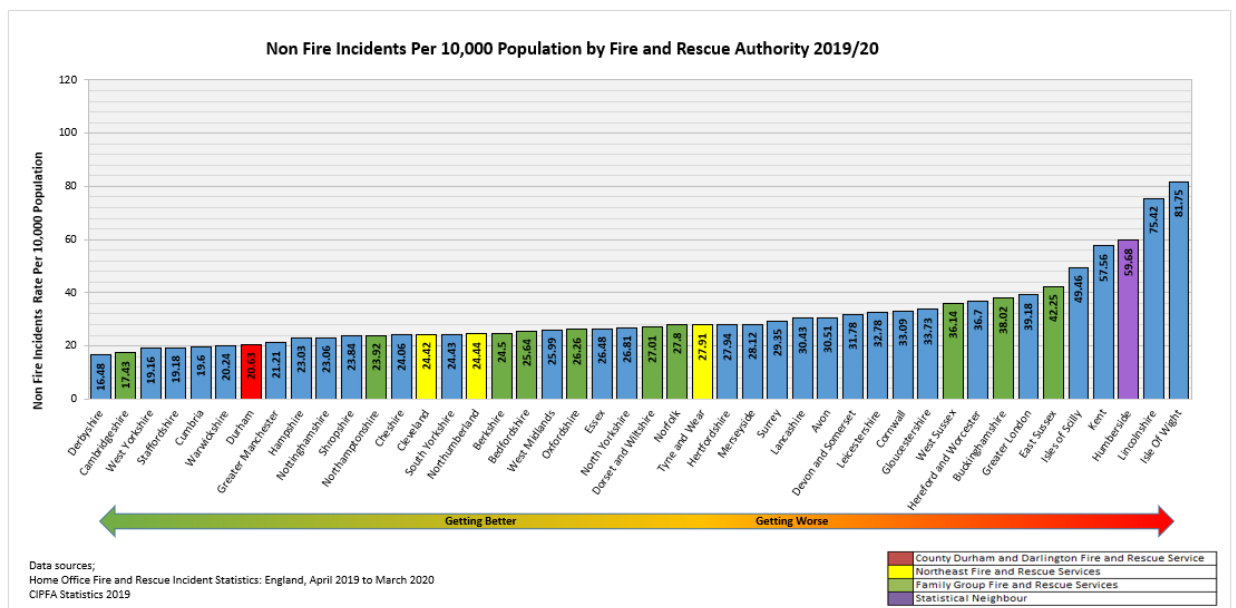


Figure 22 - Non fire incidents per 10,000 pop. by Fire and Rescue Authority

## Summary

40. The comparative analysis presented in this report highlights the advantages of considering performance compared to other FRS as well as against our own targets or against previous years.
41. The analysis has reinforced where we know we are performing strongly, such as being the best performing FRS for Fire Safety Audits and 5<sup>th</sup> best performing in terms of SWV per head of population, an investment we believe has contributed to the reduction in accidental dwelling fires, making us the 10<sup>th</sup> best performing FRS in England and better than the national average for fires in non-domestic properties.
42. However, it also highlights the challenges we face in terms of deliberate primary and secondary fires, where we sit 3<sup>rd</sup> from the bottom nationally for deliberate secondary fires and at the bottom nationally for deliberate primary fires. The increase in deliberate fires in our area is something the Service has been aware of, and we are working hard to better understand the root causes and working with partners through the Safe Durham Partnership to address the problem.
43. CDDFRS have the 10<sup>th</sup> highest incident rate in England (per head of population). In CDDFRS, total incidents attended decreased by 11%, mainly due to a decrease in fire incidents.
44. Consequently, the outcomes from this analysis helps us to better understand the risks in our communities and how we are performing, it also informs us where best to invest our limited resources to improve performance going forward and supports our efforts to measure and improve staff productivity.

## Recommendations

45. CFA members are requested to:
  - a. **Note** and discuss the content of the report.

County Durham and Darlington  
Fire and Rescue Authority



**Safest People, Safest Places**

**Combined Fire Authority**

**15 December 2020**

**Spending Review 2020**

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**Report of Deputy Chief Executive**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the outcome of the Spending Review 2020 and possible implications for the Authority.

**Background**

2. On Wednesday 25 November 2020, the government announced the high-level outcomes of the Spending Review for 2020 (SR20). SR20 sets out the government's spending plans for 2021-22 at departmental level. Details of individual fire and rescue authorities spending allocations will be set out in the Provisional Settlement which is expected to be announced on 17 December 2020.
3. The Spending Review is for a single year (2021/22) only and this makes longer term planning more challenging. Originally, it was expected that government would undertake a three-year spending review however, the impact of Covid-19 has created far greater uncertainty than expected. Normally spending reviews are for a minimum of two years and in 2015, the last comprehensive spending review was for a four-year period.

**Spending Review Headlines**

4. Some of the key issues affecting the Authority are set out below:
  - Core spending power for local authorities in 2021/22 is expected to increase by 4.5% overall in real terms.

- The government expects to provide over £3 billion of additional support for Covid-19 pressures in 2021/22.
- A freeze on public sector pay to include local government will be introduced in 2021/22 with the exception of employees earning below £24,000 who will receive a minimum £250 increase.
- The council tax referendum limit for fire and rescue authorities will be set at 2% for 2021/22.
- The business rates multiplier is to be frozen in 2021/22 and no reset of baselines in 2021/22.
- The Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) lending rates are to be reduced.
- Additional funding will be made available for building fire safety.

### **Additional Government Support for Covid-19**

5. To support local authorities in England with Covid-19 pressures in 2020/21, the government expects to provide over £3 billion in additional support by:
  - Providing an additional £1.55 billion of grant funding to meet additional expenditure pressures as a result of Covid-19.
  - Providing £670 million of additional grant funding to help local authorities support more than 4 million households that are least able to afford council tax payments.
  - Providing an estimated £762 million to compensate local authorities for 75 per cent of irrecoverable loss of council tax and business rates revenues in 2020-21.
  - Extending the Covid-19 sales, fees and charges reimbursement scheme for a further 3 months until the end of June 2021.

### **Business Rates**

6. The government is currently undertaking a fundamental review of the business rates system and a final report setting out the full conclusions of the review will be published in Spring 2021. To support businesses in the near-term, the government has decided to freeze the business rates multiplier in 2021/22 and local authorities will be fully compensated for this decision.
7. In order to provide further stability, the government has decided not to proceed with a reset of business rates baselines in 2021/22 and will maintain the existing 100 per cent business rates pilots for a further year.

### **Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) Lending Rates**

8. The government has announced that it will reduce the PWLB lending rate by 100 basis points (1%) which reverses the increase in lending rates which was implemented in October 2019.

### **Business Fire Safety**

9. SR20 provides an additional £30 million to help deliver the new building safety regime and includes funding for a new building safety regulator to oversee a more stringent regime for higher-risk buildings. SR20 also confirms £1.6 billion of capital funding to remove unsafe cladding from high rise buildings.

## **Implications for the Authority**

10. Overall, the Spending Review is being viewed with cautious optimism by the fire and rescue sector. Whilst it is too early to understand the financial implications at a local level, an inflationary increase in government funding together with a continuation of the pensions grant is anticipated. Funding allocations for each fire and rescue service will be published as part of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement which is expected to be announced on 17 December 2020.
11. It is pleasing to note that the government has committed to providing further funding to help mitigate the impact of Covid-19 particularly in relation to lost council tax revenue. Whilst the announcement that local authorities will receive 75% compensation for lost council tax was a welcome surprise, the council tax referendum limit for fire and rescue authorities will remain at 2% for 2021/22.
12. The reduction in the PWLB lending rate is welcome, particularly as the Authority will be looking to fund the majority of future capital spending from borrowing.
13. The pay freeze for all employees earning over £24,000 which will apply to the majority of our staff including firefighters, is likely to present some challenges particularly as we look to further reform the Service going forward.
14. The position beyond 2021/22 remains very uncertain and future years of the spending forecasts do contain real term cuts compared to the original March 2020 budget figures. In view of this uncertainty the Authority will need to continue to prepare for further reductions in funding going forward.

## **Recommendation**

15. Members are requested to **note** the outcome of the SR20 and the possible implications for the Authority.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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