



SERVICE LEADERSHIP TEAM

10 NOVEMBER 2021

HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE QUARTER TWO 2021/22

REPORT OF AREA MANAGER ASSETS AND ASSURANCE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present a summary of the Service's health and safety performance to the end of the second quarter of the 2021/22 reporting period.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Health and Safety Team are positioned within the Assets and Assurance Section and are responsible for the health and safety within County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS). The Health and Safety Team's performance is measured through four performance indicators (PI) which are outlined below:

- PI69 total number of accidents to personnel
- PI71 number of vehicle accidents classified as CDDFRS driver's fault
- PI73 number of local health and safety investigations incomplete after 28 days
- PI74 number of health and safety investigation actions overdue their specified completion date

- 2.2 A summary of performance for indicators PI69 and PI71 for the previous five years is outlined below. PI73 and PI74 are monthly indicators introduced in 20/21 and are not designed to be comparable year by year.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
PI 69 Number of Accidents to Personnel	10	11	23	17	12
PI 71 Number of Vehicle Accidents (CDDFRS Fault)	19	23	26	21	18

Table. 1 Health and safety performance for the previous 5 years

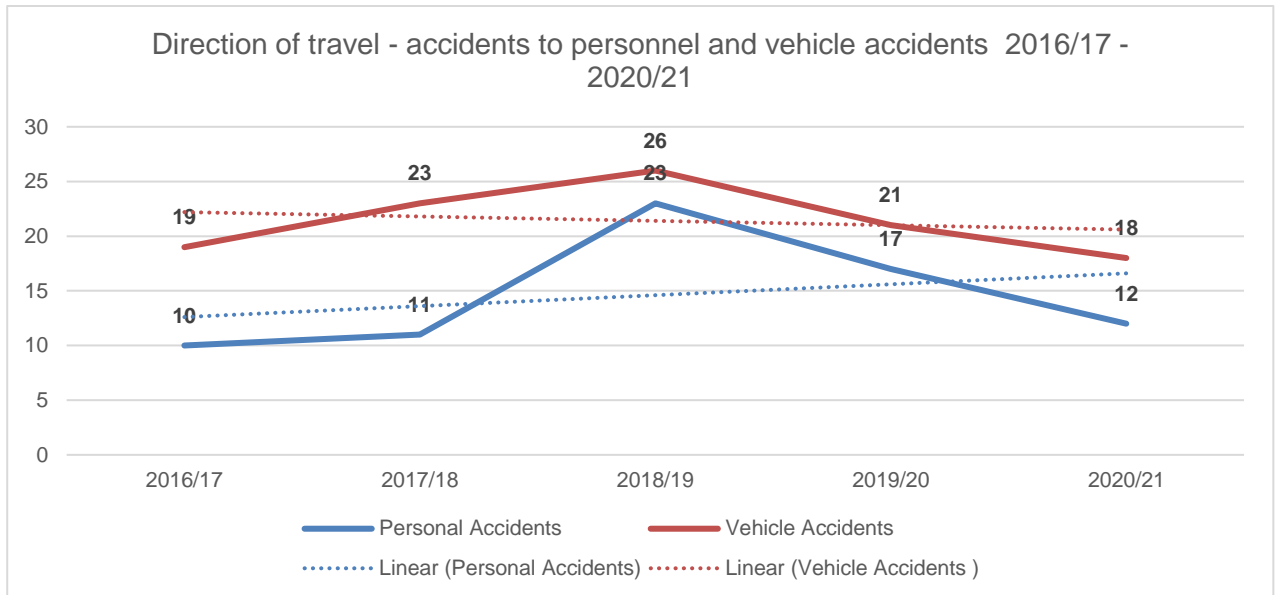


Figure. 1 Direction of travel for accidents to personnel and vehicle accidents year end totals 2016/17 – 2020/21.

3. Current Performance

3.1. The current performance year to date (YTD) is as follows:

2020/21	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
PI 69 Number of Accidents to Personnel	1	1	1	3	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
PI 71 Number of Vehicle Accidents (CDDFRS Driver's Fault)	2	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
PI 73 Number of local Health and Safety Investigations Incomplete after 28 days	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
PI 74 Number of Health and Safety Actions Overdue Their Specified Date	3	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3

Table. 2. Year to date performance (*note PI73 and PI74 are not cumulative indicators)

3.2. PI 69 Number of Accidents to Personnel

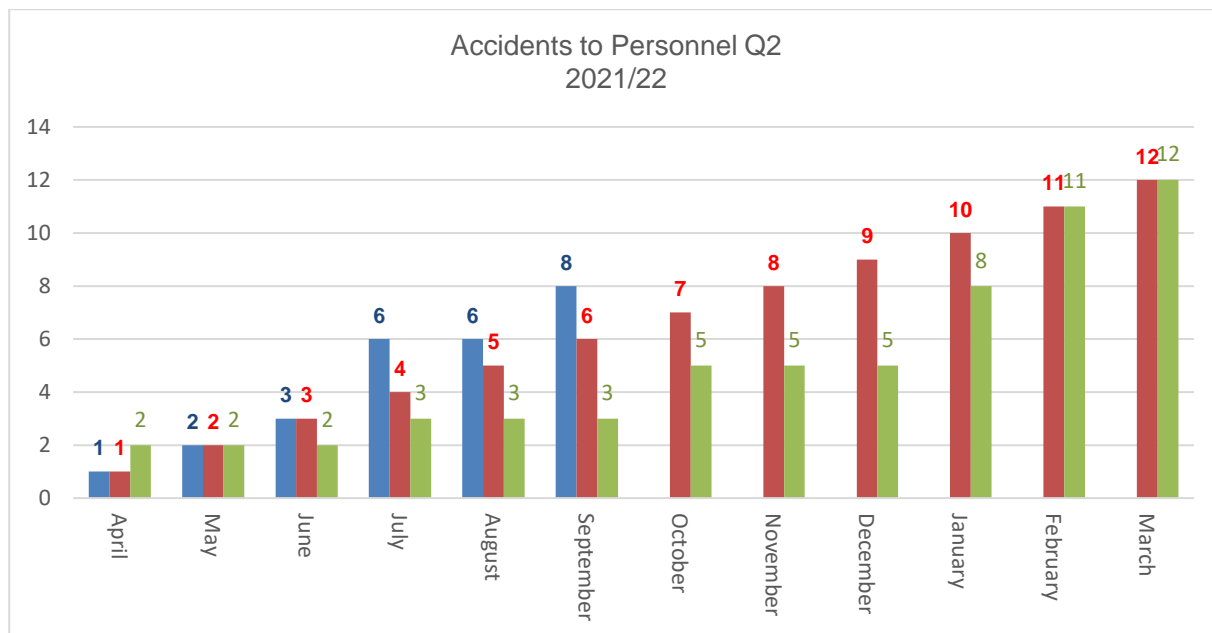


Figure. 2 Number of accidents to personnel (running total) for the current year (blue) and the target (red) previous year (green)

3.3. Five accidents to personnel have been reported during the quarter 2 reporting period, this has put the Service above the set target for personal accidents and is above last year's performance, with one of these incidents resulting in a RIDDOR reportable event.

3.4. These incidents were recorded as:

- Injury to a firefighter whilst wearing BA at STC – burn to the neck on BA initial course.
- Injury to a firefighter whilst wearing BA at STC – burn to hands on BA initial course.
- Injury to a firefighter whilst taking part in HVP training at STC – came into contact with hose when it became taught knocking them off their feet sustained cuts & bruises.
- Injury to a firefighter whilst wearing BA at STC – searching at top of stairs was knocked down 2 stairs by BA 2. Bruising caused.
- Injury to a firefighter whilst attending incident at Milburngate Durham – smoke inhalation. This has been reported as a RIDDOR Reportable event.

3.5. All incidents are investigated and the actions identified will be discussed with the relevant Sections with the aim to prevent reoccurrence of these incidents.

3.6. **PI 71 Number of Vehicle Accidents (CDDFRS Driver Fault)**

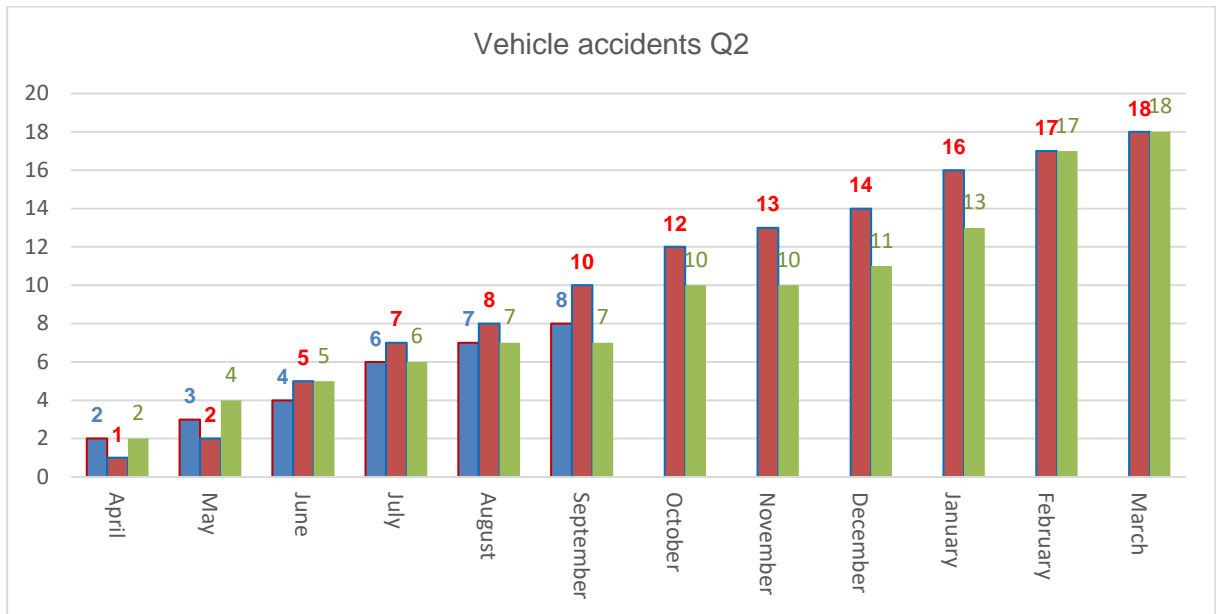


Figure. 3 Number of vehicle accidents (running total) for the current year (blue) and the target (red) previous year (green).

3.7. Four vehicle accidents have been reported during the quarter 2 reporting period and we are below the target although this is one above last year's performance. The incidents were:

- An appliance negotiating its way through school gates at slow speed made small impact with a gate post.
- An appliance leaving school made minor contact with a parked private motor vehicle.
- An appliance whilst conducting a slow speed manoeuvre had a minor impact between a wall and the dome of the CCTV camera.
- An appliance made contact with an overhanging branch causing a slight chip to the appliance wing mirror.

3.8. The Health and Safety Team have identified a trend in the amount of slow speed manoeuvre incidents last quarter and have been working with the Driver Training Team to try and reduce the occurrence of this type of incident.

3.9. The Driver Training Team are highlighting the trend on all revalidation courses including pointing out the movement of the vehicle body when manoeuvring.

3.10. **PI 73 Investigations Incomplete after 28 Days**

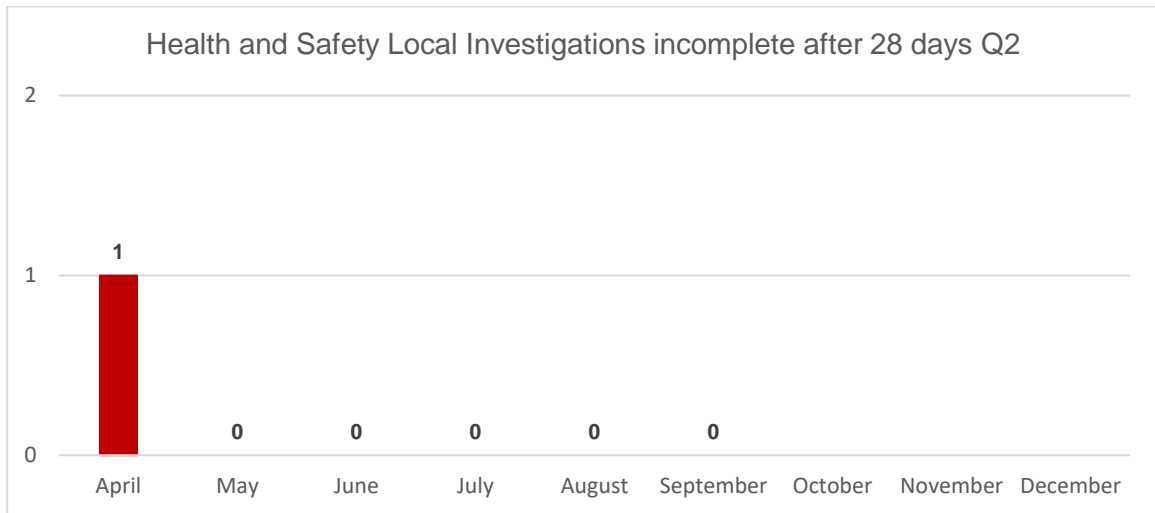


Figure. 4 Number of investigations incomplete after 28 days.

3.11. A total of 19 investigations have been conducted in this quarter.

3.12. From the previous quarter and to date the Health and Safety Team have continued to work with all investigating officers to ensure all local investigations have been conducted within the 28 days.

3.13. **PI 74 Number of Health and Safety Actions Overdue their Specific Completion Date**

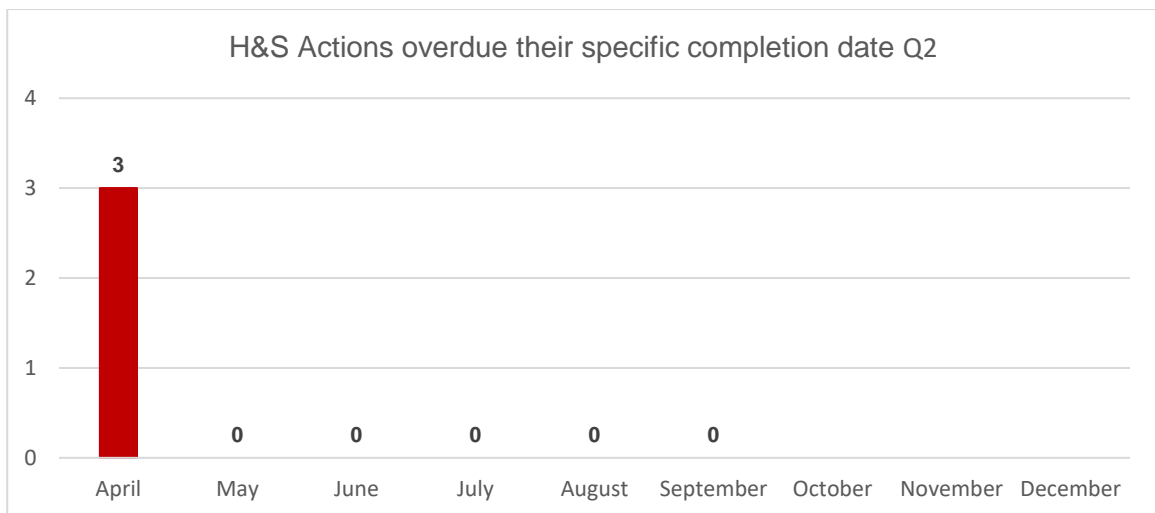


Figure. 5 Health and Safety actions overdue their specific completion date.

3.14. This has been a very good quarter that has showed the Health and Safety Team along with the action owners have managed to complete all actions within the specified time frame. The Health and Safety Team will continue to work with action owners to maintain this performance.

3.15. Near Misses

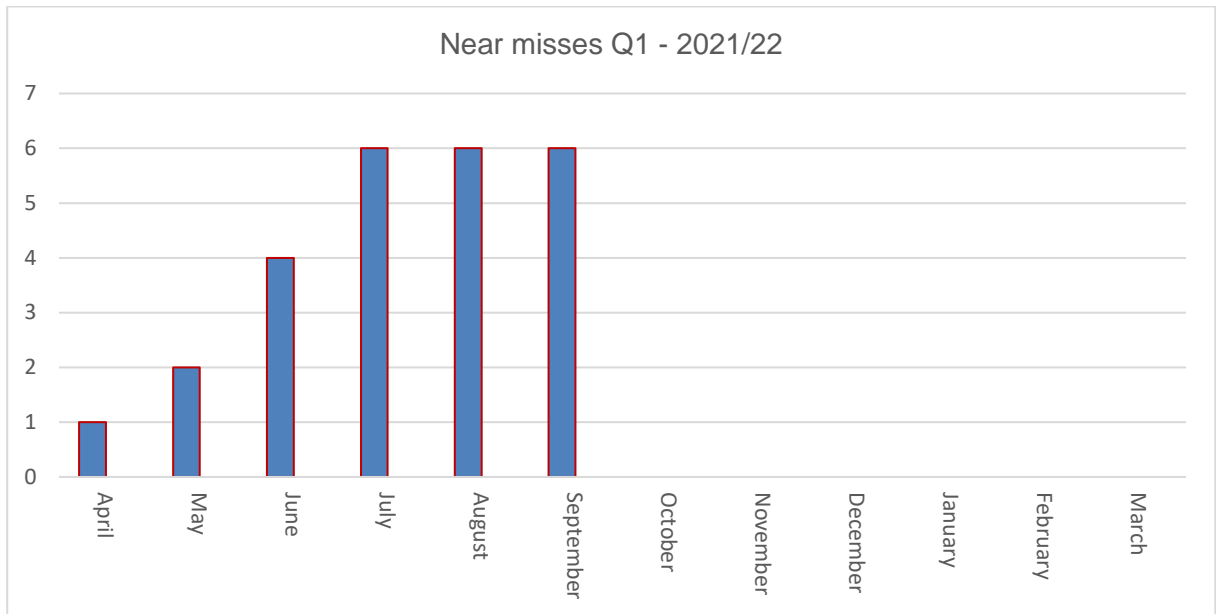


Figure. 6 Cumulative near misses

3.16. We had two near misses in quarter 2 that were associated with appliances, these have both been investigated. The incidents were:

- An appliance attending a building fire, when trying to use the hose reel this failed to work. Workshops have conducted tests with no issue to be found.
- An appliance window was lowered using the electric opener, the window dropped and broke within the door, this was investigated, and the cause was a faulty mechanism (now repaired).

3.17. Cause for Concerns

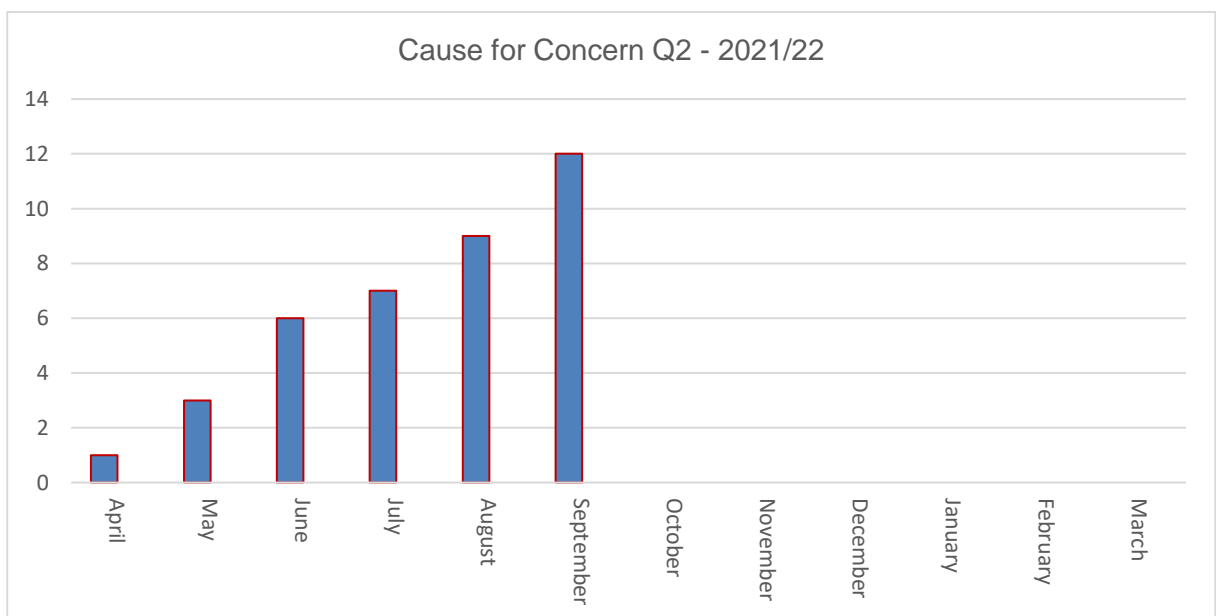


Figure. 7 Cumulative cause for concerns

3.13 There has been six cause for concerns reported in quarter 2:

- Special appliances not being available due to staffing numbers. This has been explained to crews concerned so they understand the degradation plan process used by Emergency Response when staffing doesn't enable all appliances to be available.
- Temperature too high within an office at the Technical Services Centre (TSC). This has been addressed.
- Travellers being parked on an access road to Bishop Auckland Station with animals and children causing obstruction to appliances. Dealt with by Divisional Management Team.
- Service vehicles attending the TSC for Service. Two were found to have poor tyre tread depth. This has been addresses by contact with vehicle owners. The Service supported Tyre Safe month in October and the Transport Manager is to produce a video detailing how to complete a full driver's check.
- Pigeons gaining access into Darlington station appliance room. Durham County Council have attended and fitted deterrents to the canopy.
- Door sensor protruding on appliance room doors at Aycliffe Station, this was changed by the Estates Team.

4. COVID-19 (C-19) Update

- 4.1. All risk assessments for all sites were updated to reflect the current ways of working based on the new Government guidance and relaxation of social distancing. Restrictions on room numbers have been removed, although additional cleaning and sanitising has remained.
- 4.2 The need for visitors to sites wearing masks was removed so that they are now optional.
- 4.3 The wearing of masks when travelling more than two in a Service vehicle has been retained.

5. Business as usual for Health and Safety Team

- 5.1 With the relaxation of C-19 guidelines the Health and Safety Team have been able to focus on normal activities, including delivery of IOSH initial and refreshers courses on stations.
- 5.2 'Investigation' CPD has been delivered to Flexible Duty Officers who are required to conduct investigations as part of their role.
- 5.3 All stations have received a proactive health and safety visit and Headquarters, TSC and the Service Training Centre will be visited in quarter 3. The team are also planning to focus on health and safety visits to sites to ensure they are prepared for the winter weather period.
- 5.4 There has been a number of health and safety inductions for personnel recently employed by the Service. To support this an online induction package has been produced and will be available on LearnPro. This approach will especially assist Divisional Managers to deliver health and safety inductions for our On Call staff.
- 5.5 LearnPro packages for Display Screen Equipment (DSE), manual handling and COSHH have been produced and will be uploaded during the upcoming quarter.

6. Contamination Working Group

- 6.1 From the last update the Health and Safety Team / Contamination Working Group (CWG) are continuing to explore options for the cleaning of fire helmets. Contact has been made with suppliers and other services to identify viable options.
- 6.2 The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Health and Safety Group is reviewing the work of services with regard to Contaminants and have a single item meeting in December to discuss this. This includes looking at medicals especially those for instructors. Medicals for our instructors are still following current good practice. Any new ideas or good practice from the NFCC meeting will be considered by the CWG.
- 6.3 The station trial for Breathing Apparatus (BA) set and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) cleaning has worked well, with the first four stations providing feedback and proposing improvements to the system. During November the entire Service will be operating the new system with clean cabs and contaminated BA sets and PPE bagged and sent for washing. The cross Service CWG has worked well to help improve our staff's welfare.

7 Summary

- 7.1. It is pleasing to see that vehicle accidents have remained within our target, however accidents to personal are above target.

8 Recommendations

- 8.1 SLT members are requested to:
 - Consider and comment on the content of this report;
 - Continue to support a positive health and safety culture in CDDFRS.