

Fire Statistics Definitions

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General

Incident Recording System (IRS)

The source of the data used for fire statistics publications involving incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) is the online IRS. The online IRS was introduced in April 2009. Full details of the questions and categories used in the recording of incidents attended by FRSs under the IRS are available in the document 'IRS Questions and Lists'. This can be downloaded from: www.gov.uk/government/publications/incident-recording-system-for-fire-and-rescue-authorities.

The definitions within this document do not replace the [IRS manual](#) but are intended to help users of our statistics.

Operational statistics collection

The Operational Statistics data collection is the source for workforce, firefighter safety and fire prevention and protection figures. The collection asks all 45 fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) as well North West Fire Control six sections of information (Human Resources, Leavers, Health and Safety, Fire Safety, Fire Prevention and Vehicle Incidents). This is information outside the scope of the Incident Recording System.

Fire pensions collection

The Fire Pensions data collection is the source for firefighter pension figures. There are three pension schemes for firefighters; the 1992 Scheme, the 2006 Scheme and the 2015 Scheme. This is information outside the scope of the Incident Recording System.

Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) is the local service providing emergency cover. As of 31st March 2017, there are 45 FRSs in England, one in Scotland and three in Wales.

Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) is a publicly accountable body which manages its local fire and rescue service. Fire and Rescue Authorities are funded through central Government grant, locally retained business rates and council tax precept. In England, there are 45 fire and rescue authorities operating under a variety of different governance arrangements, including (but not exclusively) within the county council structure, the Mayoral combined authority structure and under a Police and Crime Commissioner.

Over the border incidents

When referring to where incidents were recorded, the FRS refers to the territory in which the incident took place, not necessarily the FRS which responded. Occasionally an FRS will

respond to an incident “**over the border**”. As such, figures for individual FRSs are not necessarily for those attended by that FRS.

Fires

Primary fires are potentially more serious fires that harm people or cause damage to property and meet at least one of the following conditions:

- any fire that occurred in a (non-derelict) building, vehicle or (some) outdoor structures
- any fire involving fatalities, casualties or rescues
- any fire attended by five or more pumping appliances.

Primary fires are split into four sub-categories:

- **Dwelling fires** are fires in properties that are a place of residence i.e. places occupied by households such as houses and flats, excluding hotels/hostels and residential institutions. Dwellings also includes non-permanent structures used solely as a dwelling, such as houseboats and caravans.
- **Other buildings fires** are fires in other residential or non-residential buildings. Other (institutional) residential buildings include properties such as hostels/hotels/B&Bs, nursing/care homes, student halls of residence etc. Non-residential buildings include properties such as offices, shops, factories, warehouses, restaurants, public buildings, religious buildings etc.
- **Road vehicle fires** are fires in vehicles used for transportation, such as cars, vans, buses/coaches, motorcycles, lorries/HGVs etc. 'Road vehicles' does not include aircraft, boats or trains, which are categorised in 'other outdoors'.
- **Other outdoors fires** are fires in either primary outdoor locations (that is, aircraft, boats, trains and outdoor structures such as post or telephone boxes, bridges, tunnels etc.), or fires in non-primary outdoor locations that have casualties or five or more pumping appliances attending.

Secondary fires are generally small outdoor fires, not involving people or property. These include refuse fires, grassland fires and fires in derelict buildings or vehicles, unless these fires involved casualties or rescues, or five or more pumping appliances attended, in which case they become primary fires.

Chimney fires are fires in buildings where the flame was contained within the chimney structure and did not involve casualties, rescues or attendance by five or more pumping appliances. Chimneys in industrial buildings are not included and are included under primary fires.

Accidental fires include those where the motive for the fire was presumed to be either accidental or not known (or unspecified).

Deliberate fires include those where the motive for the fire was 'thought to be' or 'suspected to be' deliberate. This includes fires to an individual's own property, others' property or property of an unknown owner. Despite deliberate fire records including arson, deliberate

fires are not the same as arson. Arson is defined under the Criminal Damage Act of 1971 as 'an act of attempting to destroy or damage property, and/or in doing so, to endanger life'.

Late fire calls are fires attended by an FRS which were known to be extinguished when the call was made (or to which no call was made) and the fire came to the attention of the FRS by other means (e.g. press report or inquest). Such fires are recorded if an attendance is made (even if for inspection only) but are not recorded if no attendance is made.

Cause of fire

The Incident Recording System collects information on:

- **Cause of fire** a defect (fault or flaw), act (by person/persons to cause fire) or omission (something not done which led to the fire) giving rise to ignition e.g. fault in equipment or appliance;
- **Source of ignition** appliance, installation or other source giving rise to fire e.g. smokers' materials from which the fire originates;
- **Item responsible for the fire** item responsible for any fire spread e.g. Clothing/textiles;
- **Other factors** including ignition power (e.g. gas), item mainly responsible for spread of fire (e.g. furniture/furnishings), cause of rapid fire growth (e.g. chemicals), dangerous substances involved (e.g. fireworks) and cause of explosion, if any (e.g. gases).

Fatalities, non-fatal casualties, rescues and evacuations

Fire-related fatalities are those that would not have otherwise occurred had there not been a fire.

This includes any fatal casualty which is the direct or indirect result of injuries caused by a fire incident. Even if the fatal casualty dies subsequently, any fatality whose cause is attributed to a fire is included. For the purpose of publications, published figures include the number of fatal casualties which were either recorded as 'fire-related' or 'don't know', grouped together as fire-related deaths; thus excluding only those that were recorded as 'not fire-related'.

Non-fatal casualties have, since the introduction of the IRS, been split into four sub-categories, defined as:

- **Hospital severe** – at least an overnight stay in hospital as an in-patient
- **Hospital slight** – attending hospital as an outpatient (not a precautionary check)
- **First Aid given** – first aid given at scene (by anyone), including after a precautionary check
- **Precautionary check** – a precautionary check (to attend hospital or to see a doctor) was recommended (by anyone).

A **rescue** is where a person has received physical assistance to get clear of the area involved in the incident. Figures for rescues are the actual number of rescues from the incident.

An **evacuation** is the direction of people from a dangerous place to somewhere safe. Figures for evacuations are banded as follows:

None;
1 to 5;
6 to 20;
21 to 50;
51 to 100;
101 to 250;
251 to 1,000; and
Over 1,000

As the exact number of evacuations are not known the number of incidents with an evacuation are reported on in statistical publications. For example, 6-20 means there were between 6 and 20 evacuations from the incident.

Extent of fire damage

The **average area of fire damage** is calculated from estimates of the horizontal area damaged by flame and/or/ heat in square metres. The estimates are made in the following size bands:

None;
Up to 5m²;
6 – 10 m²;
11 – 20 m²;
21 – 50 m²;
51 – 100 m²;
101 – 200 m²;
201 – 500 m²;
501 – 1,000 m²;
1,001 – 2,000 m²;
2,001 – 5,000 m²;
5,001 – 10,000 m²; and
Over 10,000 m²

Weighted means are calculated from these values to produce the figures in tables FIRE0204 and FIRE0305.

Spread of fire

The **spread of fire** is defined as the extent of flame and heat damage only at the fire's stop. This does not include smoke or other damage (such as water damage). The spread of fire is

categorised as follows:

Limited to item 1st ignited;

Limited to room of origin;

Limited to floor of origin;

Limited to 2 floors;

Affecting more than 2 floors;

Whole building;

Roofs and spaces; and

No fire damage

Fire spread '**beyond the room of origin**' is comprised of the following categories: where the spread of fire was limited to the floor of origin, where the spread of fire was limited to 2 floors, where the spread of fire was affecting more than 2 floors and where the fire spread to the whole building.

Non-fire incidents

Non-fire incidents in dwellings, other buildings, road vehicles and other outdoor areas have the same definitions as those for fires above but for non-fire incidents.

Fatalities and non-fatal casualties

All fatalities in all non-fire incidents are classed as **not** fire-related.

Non-fatal casualties in non-fire incidents are classed as **not** fire-related and are split into the same four sub-categories as for fires above.

Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)

Non-fire incidents which require the attendance of the FRS for collisions involving road vehicles (i.e. large and small vehicles, including motorbikes).

Extrications from RTCs

FRSs use different methods to extricate people from their vehicles. Some of which require further definition:

- **Roof removal**
- **Other space creation**
- **B-post rip** involves the B post, which is the dividing post between the front and rear doors of a car, being cut to remove it from the structure of the car to allow safe access to the casualty inside.
- **Roof flap (vehicle on side)**
- **Side removal (vehicle on roof)**
- **Dashboard roll**

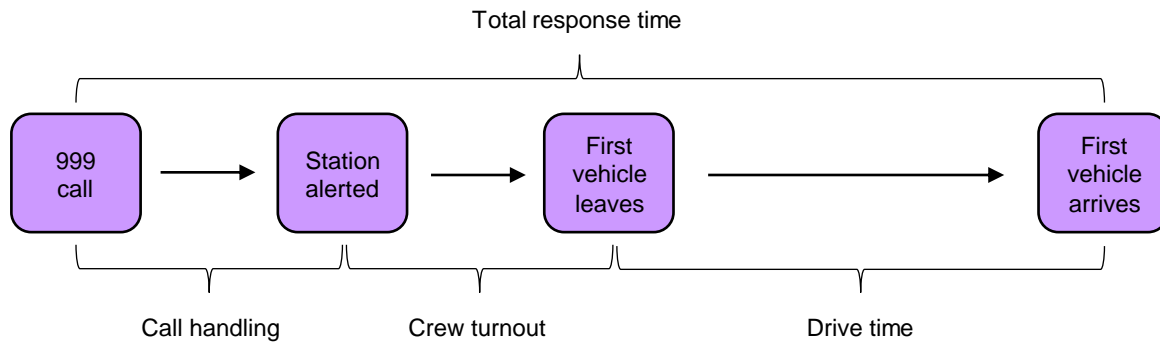
Other non-fire incidents

There are non-fire incidents which require the attendance of an appliance or officer and include:

- Flooding
- Rescue or evacuation from water
- Medical Incident - Co-responder/First responder
- Animal assistance incidents

Response Times

The 'total response time' measures the minutes and seconds taken from time of call to time of arrival at the scene of the first vehicle. This can be broken down into three component parts:



- a. **Call handling time** – defined as the minutes and seconds from the time of call to the time that a responding station is alerted. The operator may stay on the line after the station is alerted to gather additional information or provide advice and reassurance as necessary. This extra time is not included in the call handling time calculations.
- b. **Crew turnout time** – defined as the minutes and seconds from the time the station is alerted to the time the first vehicle departs.
- c. **Drive time** – defined as the minutes and seconds from the first vehicle to leave a station to the first vehicle to arrive at the scene of the incident. Note that these may not necessarily be the same vehicle.

The following incidents have been excluded from the average response time calculations:

- a. For road vehicle fires, where the road vehicle was abandoned.
- b. Where the location of the fire was a derelict property.
- c. Where an FRS learned of the fire when it was known to have already been extinguished. Such incidents are known as 'late calls';
- d. Where the total response time for an incident was over an hour or less than one minute.
- e. Where the sequence of events (time of call → mobilisation → vehicle mobile → arrival at scene) in an incident are not recorded in a logical sequence, either through recording error (e.g. a vehicle appears to have arrived before it left) or absence of data (null values).
- f. Where there was heat and/or smoke damage only (no flame).

Please see the latest [response times publication](#) for a full discussion of the rationale for these exclusions.

The [response times publication](#) focuses on primary and secondary fires only and therefore does not include chimney fires (see above).

Discontinuity of response times data before and after April 2009

There is a noticeable discontinuity in average response times between 2008/09 and 2009/10 of over half a minute for attendance to all types of fires (e.g. Dwellings, Other Buildings). While part of this increase may be genuine (the factors mentioned in [Fire and Rescue Response Times 2011/12](#) included increased traffic congestion), it appears likely that there is also a measurement discontinuity. Analysis of the change in average response times from 2008/09 to 2009/10 identified six FRSs whose reported average response time increased by 1.2 minutes or more. Discussion with these FRSs helped to identify the various factors described in [Fire and Rescue Response Times 2011/12](#). There is also the possibility of a further reason for the apparent discontinuity, namely that there may have been some inaccuracy in the largely paper-based Fire Data Report system which was in use until March 2009. Arrival times are now being recorded with more accuracy using a mobile data terminal on board the fire appliance once the appliance has arrived at the scene. Previously, arrival times were transmitted to control via radio when the appliance was in the vicinity of the incident, enabling fire-fighters to then be focussed on preparing to disembark from the vehicle. With on-board data terminals and automatic recording of the nearest second under the Incident Recording System (since April 2009), incident response times should now be recorded consistently, with higher accuracy.

Review of the impact of periods of industrial action.

Throughout 2013/14 and 2014/15 there were several periods of industrial action where operational Firefighters were out on strike. More information on the effect of this on response times is discussed in the 2014/15 [release](#).

Uses of the data

Users of response time data should bear in mind that the data may fluctuate, as the locations of fires will vary from one period to another.

The spreadsheet tables accompanying the release show the numbers of incidents on which each response time average has been calculated. Averages based on smaller numbers of incidents will naturally tend to be more prone to fluctuation.

Workforce and Firefighter Safety

Workforce

Staff

FRS staff include personnel employed directly by the FRA across all duty systems at 31 March. The returns include:

- Temporary staff who have been employed for over a year;
- Staff on fixed term contracts who have been employed for over a year;
- Secondees where the FRS is paying their salaries;

Personnel excluded are:

- Agency staff employed for less than a year;
- Casual staff employed for less than a year;
- Personnel employed by outside contractors;
- Secondees where the FRS is not paying their salaries.

Staff who are on temporary promotion on 31 March are counted in the temporary role held on that day. Personnel who are over normal retirement age are included in the annual returns. A separate note is provided for those who medically retire when over the normal retirement age. Anyone with two contracts of employment are counted twice in the returns. For example, if a member of staff is employed with an on call and wholetime contract they will be recorded in both the on call and wholetime tables.

Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Full-time officers and staff are counted as 1.0, and part-time are counted according to the proportion of full-time worked (for example, a firefighter working 60 per cent of full-time hours is counted as 0.6).

24 Hour Units of Cover

On call firefighters respond when required during their 'on call' hours, therefore it is more appropriate to calculate their employment in 24 hours of cover to determine whether their number is sufficient to fulfil operational commitments.

However, staff might not be employed for an entire hour. Units are calculated as a percentage of the time spent on call:

Full hours = 1 unit
45 minutes = 0.75 units
30 minutes = 0.5 units
15 minutes = 0.25 units

For example, if a firefighter was employed for two hours and fifteen minutes, the number of units are calculated as follows:

2 units at 100% (full hour) = 2

1 units at 0.25% (quarter of an hour) = 0.25

Headcount

Actual number of people employed by the FRS.

Brigade Manager

Includes Chief Fire Officer (CFO), Deputy Chief Fire Officer (DCFO) and Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO). Brigade managers take charge of incidents of 10 pumps or more.

Area Manager

Staff responsible for heading a directorate in the organisation. They take charge of an incident of up to 9 pumps or undertake specialist tasks as support at an incident.

Group Manager

Group managers undertake specialist duties in a number of different disciplines such as fire safety, operations and training.

Station Manager

Station Managers manage one or more fire stations and are responsible for all service delivery matters for that station(s). They can also undertake specialist duties. They will take charge of an incident of up to 6 pumps or undertake specialist tasks as support at an incident.

Watch Manager

Watch managers lead larger groups of personnel and, in the on call service, will be in charge of a fire station. They attend incidents as officer in charge of an appliance and also take command of incidents involving up to 3 pumping appliances. Amongst their duties, they also undertake specialist duties such as training or fire safety.

Crew Manager

Crew Managers lead a small team on a specific task but can take charge of incidents involving up to 3 pumping appliances.

Firefighter

Trained staff carrying out day-to-day firefighting and fire safety work.

Wholetime Firefighter

A person employed as a full-time firefighter regardless of their rank (including riders, non-operational staff and flexible duty officers, and recruits in training).

On Call Firefighter (also known as Retained Duty System (RDS))

For total On Call Firefighter strength calculated in 24-hour units, the number of On Call Firefighters in post calculated in 24-hour units of cover is recorded (See definition on [24-hour units of cover](#)) at 31 March.

An On Call Firefighter who is filling two posts and has separate contracts of employment with the FRS is counted twice on the return.

These staff are also known as Retained Duty System (RDS) Firefighters.

On Call staff on separate contracts

It is acknowledged that a number of FRSs are now contracting individuals on a wide range of contracts to meet local circumstances. For example, this category includes wholetime operational staff providing on call cover or members of staff from technical rescue on a dual contract. However, the category for recording staff on separate contracts does not include day crewing or nucleus crewing personnel who are, in effect, providing some on call cover but do this as part of their normal single contract. For the purposes of this category only, those personnel who are wholetime in one FRS and have an on call commitment in another are only recorded on the return for the FRS in which they have that on call commitment.

Part of wholetime contract

These include on call strength for staff that are part of a wholetime contract. For example wholetime personnel who are, in effect, providing some on call cover but do this as part of their normal single contract.

Non-Operational Staff

Wholetime posts which are not deemed to require personnel to fulfil any operational commitment, i.e. not mobilised at fires, road traffic accidents or non-fire (special services) incidents.

Fire Control personnel

Uniformed personnel who are employed to work in FRS control centres to answer emergency calls and deal with mobilising, communications and related activities, regardless of rank. Fire control staff detached to staff departments or undertaking special projects are included in the fire control figures. These are recorded in full time equivalents (FTEs). Staff on temporary promotion at 31 March are counted for strength purposes only in the temporary role held on that day.

Support Staff

Support staff employed by the FRS. It includes for example administrative roles, clerical support, finance, vehicle maintenance, property management etc.

Disabled

As defined in the Equality Act 2010. A person has a disability if:

- They have a physical or mental impairment
- The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to perform normal day-to-day activities

Leavers

All personnel who ceased to be employed by the FRS. This includes personnel whose last day of employment in the fire service, regardless of any prior periods of sickness or suspension, falls within the year.

Personnel transferring to other FRSs or being seconded to Home Office, , Fire Service College etc. Are excluded. Where, at the end of the reporting year, it is known that an appeal is pending over the dismissal of an individual, be it for disciplinary, medical or proficiency reasons, then the details are not entered until the outcome of the appeal is known, which may be in the following reporting year.

Dismissal on disciplinary or poor performance grounds/efficiency

Termination of the contract of employment with FRS for disciplinary reasons such as gross misconduct or as a consequence of poor performance. This does not include failure to maintain fitness which is dealt with separately.

Medical discharge

Personnel resigning on the grounds of ill-health, including medical discharge due to harassment or discrimination

If someone is 'medically retired' beyond the normal retirement age, then he/she is included in the ill-health retirement figures.

Resignation due to harassment or discrimination

Personnel resigning as a result of harassment or discrimination, not on the grounds of ill-health.

Failure to maintain fitness

Termination of the contract of employment with FRS as a consequence of a failure to maintain the required level of fitness.

Normal retirement

Where a person leaves the FRS to take up retirement after having served their eligible length of service to receive a full pension.

Re-employment by another Fire and Rescue Service

Resignation to take employment with another FRS.

Re-employment as support personnel within the same Fire and Rescue Service

Where a person leaves to take up another type of employment within the same FRS as support staff (e.g. wholtime staff re-engaged under the FPS scheme).

Firefighter Safety

Total number of personnel injured

The number of individuals sustaining injuries during an activity. Multiple injuries to an individual sustained during a single event are counted as a single injury, e.g. a broken arm and leg = 1 injury. However, if a person was injured in more than one activity this is counted more than once. For example, if the same person was injured during three different operational activities, they will be counted three times.

RIDDOR

[The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 \(RIDDOR\)](#), place a legal duty on employers, self-employed people and people in control of premises to report:

- Work-related deaths
- Major Injuries
- Over three days injuries
- Work related diseases
- Dangerous Occurrences (near miss accidents)

The return collects all injuries that are classified as RIDDOR and not just RIDDOR reportable.

Over 3 day injuries

This category refers to actual number of injuries sustained during an activity, which were not 'major' as defined in RIDDOR, but resulted in the person being unavailable for their normal duties for a period of more than three days.

Major Injuries

Injuries sustained during each activity for each group which resulted in an injury that is defined in RIDDOR as a 'major' injury. Those injuries are:

- Fractures, other than to fingers, thumbs and toes.
- Amputations.
- Any injury likely to lead to permanent loss of sight or reduction in sight.
- Any crush injury to the head or torso causing damage to the brain or internal organs.
- Serious burns (including scalding) which: covers more than 10% of the body.
- Causes significant damage to the eyes, respiratory system or other vital organs.
- Any scalping requiring hospital treatment.
- Any loss of consciousness caused by head injury or asphyxia.
- Any other injury arising from working in an enclosed space which: leads to hypothermia or heat-induced illness
- Requires resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours

Further guidance is available from HSE.

Shifts Lost

The actual number of working days/shifts lost to sickness by FRS personnel. 'Shift' includes any period within a 24-hour day, commencing midnight, when a work period is scheduled to start. The figures are actual working days/shifts lost and do not include any rota days that may form part of the period of absence.

For example, for on call staff, a shift may be a 24-hour duty day or an 8-hour duty day. The calculation is the number of days they were out of action when they would have been on call, regardless of the number of hours they were contracted for per day. So, if on call staff were contracted to be on call a certain number of hours (e.g. 8 hours for 6 days a week) and were out of action for three of the 8 hour shifts, the number of shifts lost would be three. If they were contracted for 24 hours and missed three shifts, three would also be recorded. In the instance of an employee reporting sick part way through a working day/shift, the information is recorded to the nearest half day/shift.

Part time staff and job share staff are recorded in full time equivalent shifts within their relevant employee category. Cumulative totals of part shifts are added together and reported as full shifts lost based on the average work pattern within the relevant employee category.

Operational incidents

This category includes incidents/injuries that occurred while responding to an emergency. The relevant categories are a fire, a road traffic collision or other non-fire (special service) incidents.

For example, injuries occurring whilst responding to fire incidents (e.g. an on call firefighter en route to the fire station) are included as operational incidents classified under 'At fires'. If an injury occurs whilst returning from an incident, this is also included under operational incidents. The incident is considered to be ongoing until such time as the person is back at the station or, if preceding other duties such as hydrant testing or training, then until

commencing that activity.

Training

Any training activity including lectures, exercises, practical training sessions and other forms of training to maintain competence levels. Training and development includes sessions delivered either locally or at one of the regional training centres. The injuries are split depending on whether they were sustained during operational training or during fitness training.

Operational Training

This includes theory and practical work covering basic rescue techniques, such as:

- Using firefighting equipment and breathing apparatus, foam and fire extinguishers, ladders, hoses and hydraulic equipment.
- Life-saving skills such as teaching fire safety and giving first aid.
- Training for Inspecting Officers and Fire Safety Officers, community fire prevention, licensing, health care, building design, fire engineering and investigation.

Fitness Training

This category refers to physical exercise sessions such as gym time, running and circuit training carried out during shifts.

Routine Activities

Routine activities include public education activities such as drills, fire safety talks, maintenance, equipment checks, yard work, tea and coffee breaks etc.

Firefighter Pensions

1992 Scheme: closed to new membership on 5 April 2006. It is a final salary scheme which provides 1/60th accrual in the first 20 years of service and double accrual (i.e. 2/60ths accrual) in the next 10 years of service, giving a maximum pension entitlement of 40/60ths. It has a normal pension age of 55, but provides for members to retire from age 50 years with 25 or more years pensionable service.

2006 Scheme: closed to new membership on 31 March 2015. It was introduced for regular and on call firefighters employed since 6 April 2006. It is a final salary scheme with 1/60th accrual for each year of service, providing a maximum pension of 45/60ths. It has a normal pension age of 60 years.

2014 Modified Scheme: was introduced in April 2014 in response to an Employment Tribunal decision in 2011 that required on call firefighters, employed during the period 1 July 2000 and 5 April 2006 inclusive, to be given access to pension arrangements that provided similar benefits as those provided by the 1992 Scheme. The Modified Scheme is a final salary scheme with 1/45th accrual rate for each year of service, providing a maximum pension of 30/45ths. It has a normal pension age of 55 years. The provisions of the Modified Scheme are incorporated within the 2006 Scheme's regulations. The data published in this release amalgamates the 2006 and Modified Scheme membership data.

2015 Scheme: was introduced in England on 1 April 2015. It is a career average scheme, as opposed to final salary, where members effectively accrue an annual pension pot for each year of service based on the pensionable pay they received. It provides a 1/59.7th accrual rate and has no pension limit. It has a normal pension age of 60. Unless covered by transitional protection arrangements introduced as part of the new scheme, existing members of the 1992 and 2006 Schemes were required to transition into the 2015 Scheme on 1 April 2015.

Commutation Payment: This is a lump sum payable by the employer where a retiring member makes an election to convert a proportion of his/her future annual pension for a lump sum.

Deferred Pension: A person becomes entitled to a deferred pension if they leave employment, or make an election to cease paying pension contributions, prior to becoming entitled to receive the immediate payment of their pension. Deferred pensions come into payment when the member attains age 60 years in the 1992 Scheme; and 65 years in the 2006 Scheme; and State Pension Age in the 2015 Scheme.

Deferred Members: A member who elects to leave the scheme's membership, either by virtue of leaving employment or opting out of the scheme's membership, prior to becoming entitled to an immediate payment of their pension will become a deferred member and become entitled to a deferred pension at the ages mentioned above.

Ill-Health Charge: This is a cash sum payable by the employer to their Firefighters' Pension Fund each time they medically retire a scheme member on ill-health grounds. The ill-health

charge equates to a payment of twice pensionable pay for a lower-tier ill-health retirement and four times pensionable pay for a higher-tier ill-health retirement.

Ill-Health Retirement: Ill-health retirement occurs when a member becomes entitled to immediate payment of their pension benefits as a consequence of becoming permanently disabled for undertaking their roles as a firefighter. There are two levels of ill-health retirement, lower-tier and higher tier awards. The lower tier award entitles any member who becomes permanently disabled for undertaking their role as a firefighter to the immediate payment of the pension benefits that they have accrued (i.e. a lower tier pension); the higher tier award entitles any member who becomes permanently disabled for undertaking their role as a firefighter and any other regular employment (defined as a minimum of 30 hours per week over a period of at least 12 months) to the immediate payment of a lower tier pension and also an additional enhanced higher tier pension.

Opting out: Members of the scheme may elect to opt out, thereby ceasing to pay pension contributions while remaining in employment as a firefighter with the FRA. Members who opt out prior to becoming entitled to payment of their pension will become entitled to a deferred pension.

Pensioner: A scheme member who has retired from their employment as a firefighter and is receiving an immediate entitlement to the payment of their pension benefits.

Recurring Pension Payments: These are the monthly (post-commutation) pension payments made to retired members of the pension schemes.

Transfers In and Out: A cash value representing a person's pension pot may be transferred with them when they move from one pension scheme to another.

Milne Vs GAD case: In May 2015, the Pensions Ombudsman issued his Final Determination in a case brought by a retired Scottish firefighter, Mr Milne, against the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). The Ombudsman determined that there was maladministration by GAD as the Scheme factors should have been revised for firefighters who retired between 2001 and 2006. Effectively, this meant that FRAs were required to pay redress to affected members of the 1992 Scheme who retired during the same period.

Fire Prevention

Fire prevention campaigns and initiatives

“Fire Prevention campaigns and initiatives” includes:

- Youth diversion
- Young Firesetter schemes
- Schools education activity (nursery to key stage 5)
- Arson prevention initiatives
- Other fire prevention campaigns/initiatives (Road safety campaigns etc.)

Home Fire Risk Checks (HFRCs)

These checks must include:

- Identifying and advising of the potential fire risks within the home.
- Advising householders what to do in order to reduce or prevent these risks.
- Putting together an escape plan in case a fire does break out and ensuring the householder has working smoke alarms. The HFRC can include installing a smoke alarm(s) where appropriate.

If more than one check has been carried out on the same location, they are counted separately.

Personnel Hours are number of hours spent by FRS personnel on completed community fire safety campaigns and initiatives (for example, 2 personnel spending 2 hours on a single activity count as 4 hours). This category includes:

- Persons actively involved in the activity, for instance, if an appliance has four staff and only two participate, only two are counted.
- Personnel hours spent on preparations (including administration time), travel and carrying out the campaigns and initiatives.
- The total number of hours spent on campaigns/initiatives that are still ‘open’ are not recorded but fully included in the following year. This prevents ‘double counting’ these initiatives.

Number of visits is the number of visits to individual types of premises. If a programme of visits has been arranged then each visit is counted separately, e.g. if there were four programmes, and each programme constituted four visits, then the number of visits would be recorded as 16. A repeat visit from a delivery program is counted twice.

FRS Personnel are staff employed directly by the FRSs across all duty systems. They include:

- All temporary staff
- Staff on fixed term contracts

- Secondees where the FRS is paying their salaries

Personnel excluded are:

- Personnel employed by outside contractors
- Secondees where the FRS is not paying their salaries

Partners include organisations such as:

- Home Improvement Services
- Education Services
- Social Services
- Voluntary Sector
- Housing Associations
- Primary Care Trusts

Elderly people: HFRCs are defined as having attended an elderly person when the household is occupied by a person 65 years of age or over.

Disabled: HFRCs are defined as having attended a disabled person when the household is occupied by a disabled person, as defined in the Equality Act 2010:

- The individual has a physical or mental impairment.
- The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to perform normal day-to-day activities.

If a HFRC is carried out with a person that is both elderly and disabled, the information is recorded twice, as both an elderly and a disabled check.

Firesetter schemes are youth initiatives designed to tackle and prevent firesetting behaviour, involving a one-to-one intervention or targeting groups of young people.

Youth diversion schemes are initiatives designed to divert young people (aged 18 and under) from offending or those at risk of offending. This category includes Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE) and Cadets schemes.

Other youth fire safety schemes include information on FRS involvement with schools, including visits to fire stations or school talks.

Fire Protection

Fire safety audit is defined as a scheduled or planned visit by an appropriately skilled fire safety officer to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the level of compliance with the requirements of The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO) by a responsible person.

Satisfactory fire safety audit is when an audit is deemed as satisfactory if the premises broadly complies with the Fire Safety Order and no further action is necessary.

Unsatisfactory fire safety audit is when an audit is deemed unsatisfactory if further action is necessary to bring the premises up to compliance with the Fire Safety Order.

Informal notification is when an informal notification includes any non-legally binding action, resulting from an unsatisfactory audit e.g. informal notification or agreed action plan.

Enforcement notices (Article 30) are served - under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (2005) - Article 30 - if the enforcing authority is of the opinion that the responsible person has failed to comply with any provision of the Fire Safety Order or of any regulations made under it.

Prohibition notices (Article 31) are served - under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (2005) - Article 31 - on the responsible person or any other person, if the enforcing authority is of the opinion that use of premises involves or will involve a risk to relevant persons so serious that use of the premises ought to be prohibited or restricted.

Prosecutions (Article 32) are the number of convictions for failure to comply with an alteration, enforcement or prohibition notice, or any other matter for which it is an offence under Article 32.

Alteration notices (Article 29) are served - under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (2005) - Article 29 - on the responsible person if the enforcing authority is of the opinion that the premises constitutes a serious risk to relevant persons (whether due to the features of the premises, their use, any hazard present, or any other circumstances); or may constitute such a risk if a change is made to them or the use to which they are put.

Premises satisfactory following enforcement is where a premises receives an audit that is initially recorded as unsatisfactory and enforcement action subsequently leads to a satisfactory outcome. In these cases, the fire safety officer will be expected to carry out a new audit to reflect the reduced risk. This activity is not counted as a separate audit, but as part of the time accumulated against the initial audit.

Premises known to FRAs are the FRA's knowledge, as far as possible, of all relevant premises; for the enforcing authority to establish a risk profile for premises in its area. These refer to all premises except single private dwellings.

Short audits are a simpler audit process using the Chief Fire Officers Association's short

audit form when visiting smaller and less complex premises and those managed as part of a multi-national chain where management policies and arrangements are in place and also for follow-up visits on premises.

Building regulation consultations are statutory consultations with FRAs by building control bodies under articles 45 and 46 of the FSO and ensure that property comply with building regulation where the FSO applies.