



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Fire and Rescue

Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2011-12

September 2012

Department for Communities and Local Government

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Introduction

This Bulletin contains operational statistics relating to the fire and rescue authorities in England for the financial year 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012, focusing mainly on Personnel, Health and Safety and Fire Safety. Unless stated, data are sourced from annual returns from the 46 fire and rescue authorities in England.

Detailed tables accompanying this bulletin, as well as data tables from the Fire Safety returns, are provided in appendices at:

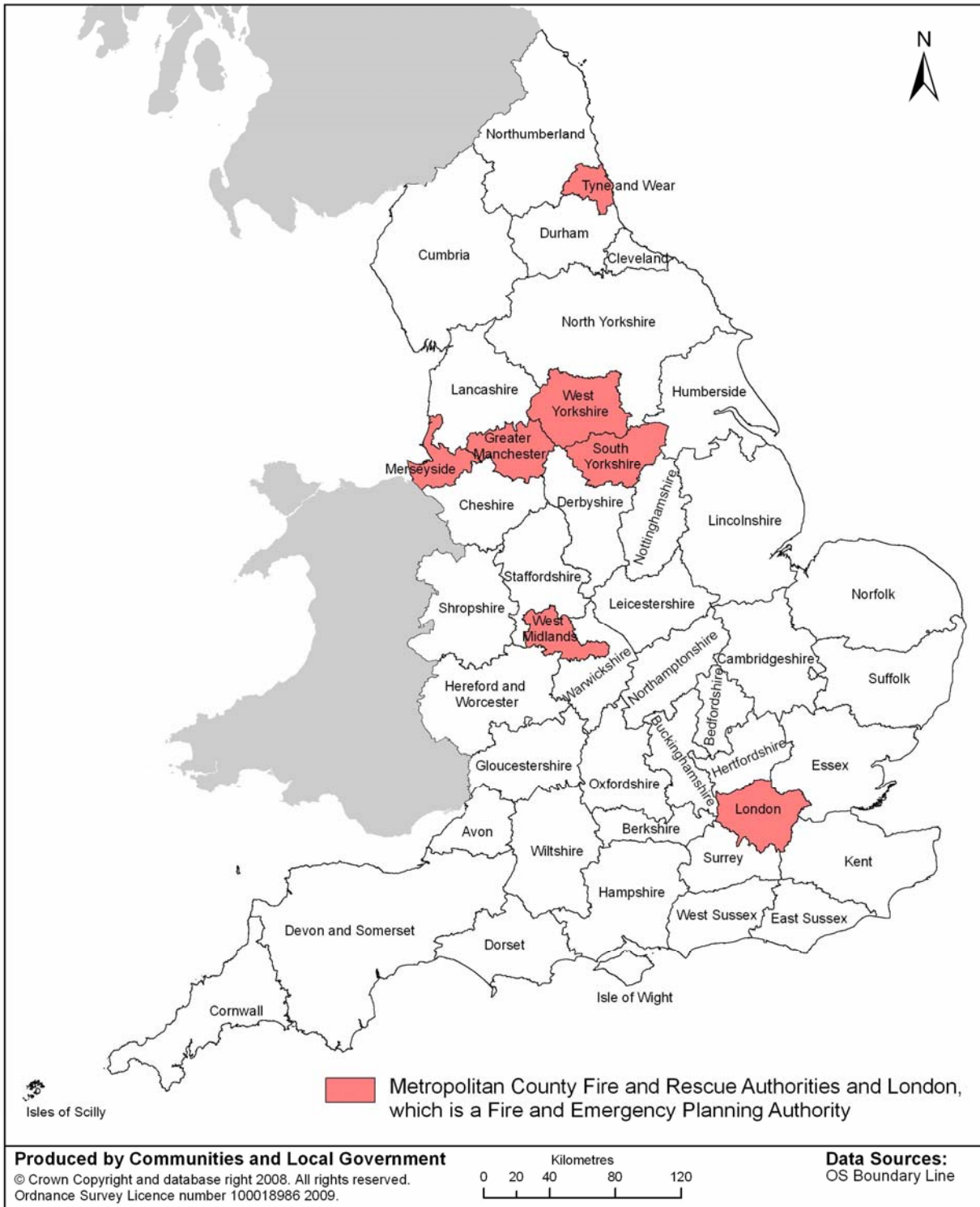
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/frsoperationalstats2011-12>

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Fire and rescue authorities in England



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Operational activities

The number of fires, false alarms and non fire incidents were shown in the section 'Operational activities' in previous editions of the Operational Statistics Bulletin. Latest incident data can be found in the Fire Statistics Monitor:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/researchandstatistics/firestatistics/firestatisticsmonitors>

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Section 1

Fire and rescue authority personnel

Strength

Table 1: Strength of fire and rescue authorities in England on 31 March, 2007-2012					
Year	Strength (FTE) ¹				
	Wholetime	Retained duty system ²	Fire control	Non-uniformed	Total*
2007	30,558	11,846	1,491	7,390	51,286
2008	30,580	11,774	1,522	7,959	51,835
2009	30,088	11,867	1,543	8,224	51,721
2010	29,735	11,899	1,510	8,509	51,652
2011 (r)	29,018	12,153	1,478	8,259	50,907
2012	28,166	11,703	1,371	7,704	48,944
Change 2011 to 2012	-852	-450	-107	-554	-1,963
Percentage change 2011 to 2012	-2.9%	-3.7%	-7.2%	-6.7%	-4.0%
Change 2007 to 2012	-2,393	-144	-120	+315	-2,341
Percentage change 2007 to 2012	-7.8%	-1.2%	-8.0%	+4.3%	-4.6%

Source: Appendix Table 2

Notes:

1. In full time equivalents (FTEs) except retained duty system firefighters
2. In 24-hour units of cover

* Figures may not add to totals due to rounding
(r) Revised (see Revisions section)

- 1.1 As at 31 March 2012, the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) fire and rescue authority staff in England was 48,944, four per cent fewer than at 31 March 2011.
- 1.2 The overall reduction from 31 March 2011 to 31 March 2012 reflects a decrease in the number of wholetime and retained duty system firefighters of around three and four per cent respectively, and a decrease in the number of fire control and uniformed staff of around seven per cent.

Table 2: Firefighter strength (FTE) by role in England at 31 March 2012

Role	Wholetime	Retained duty System ¹	Total*
Brigade Manager	143	0	143
Area Manager	187	0	187
Group Manager	601	1	602
Station Manager	1,479	41	1,520
Watch Manager	4,276	976	5,252
Crew Manager	3,862	1,965	5,827
Firefighter	17,619	8,719	26,338
All Firefighters*	28,166	11,703	39,868

Source: Appendix Table 3a and 3b

Notes:

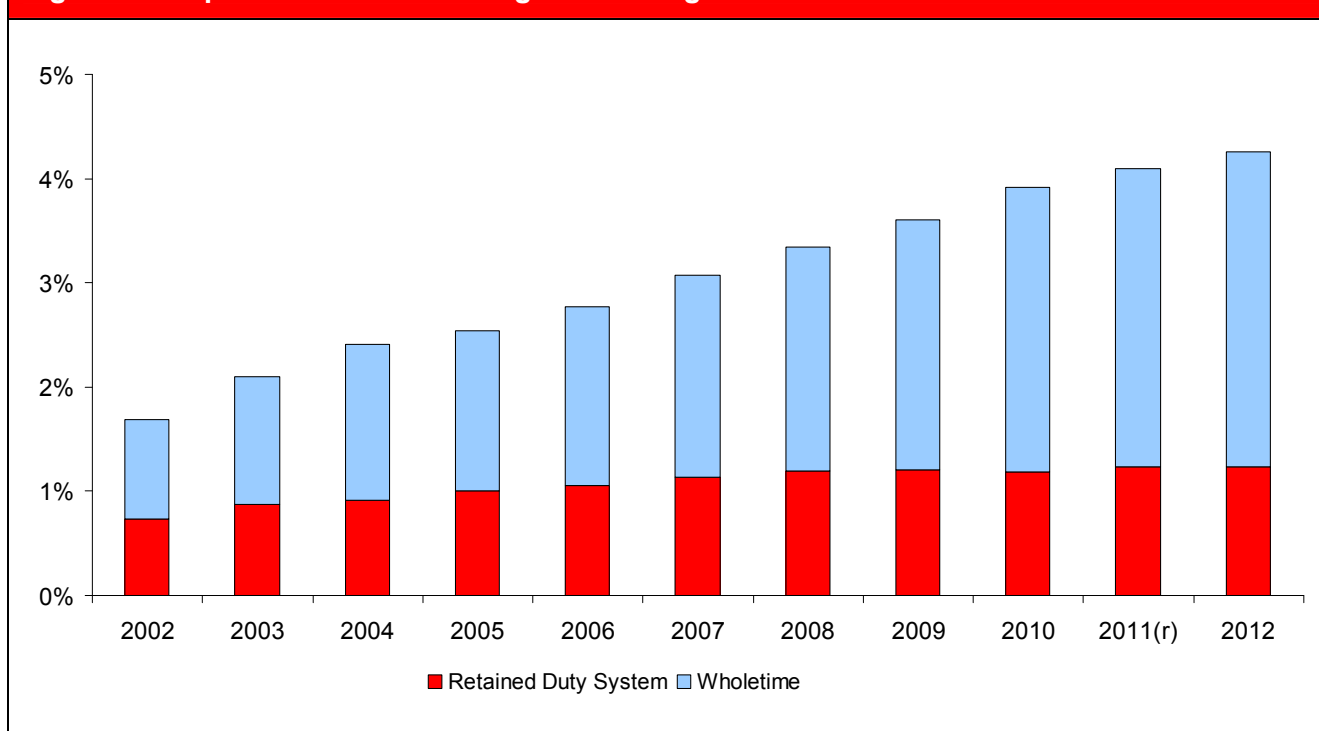
1. In 24-hour units of cover

* Figures may not add to totals due to rounding

1.3 As of 31 March 2012 in England, the total firefighters' strength (full time equivalents for wholetime and 24 hour units of cover for retained duty system) was 39,868, three per cent lower than at 31 March 2011.

Firefighter numbers by gender and ethnicity

1.4 Firefighters in England are predominantly male and white. However, the proportion of firefighters who are female has increased from 1.7 per cent at 31 March 2002 to 4.3 per cent at 31 March 2012 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Proportion of female firefighters in England at 31 March 2002–2012

Source: Appendix Table 6

(r) Revised (see Revisions section)

1.5 The percentage of firefighters from ethnic minority backgrounds has also increased steadily from 1.5 per cent at 31 March 2002 to 3.3 per cent at 31 March 2012¹.

Table 3: Firefighters¹ by gender and ethnicity in England on 31 March 2002–2012

	<i>Gender</i>		<i>Ethnicity</i>		
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>White</i> ²	<i>Ethnic minority</i>	<i>Not stated</i>
					<i>per cent</i>
2002	98.3	1.7	95.8	1.5	2.7
2003	97.9	2.1	92.7	1.9	5.4
2004	97.6	2.4	94.7	2.1	3.2
2005	97.5	2.5	94.4	2.2	3.4
2006	97.2	2.8	92.7	2.5	4.8
2007	96.9	3.1	90.7	2.6	6.7
2008	96.7	3.3	90.5	2.8	6.7
2009	96.4	3.6	88.6	2.9	8.5
2010	96.1	3.9	88.0	3.1	8.9
2011(r)	95.9	4.1	86.8	3.2	10.0
2012	95.7	4.3	89.2	3.3	7.5

Source: Appendix Tables 6 and 7

Notes:

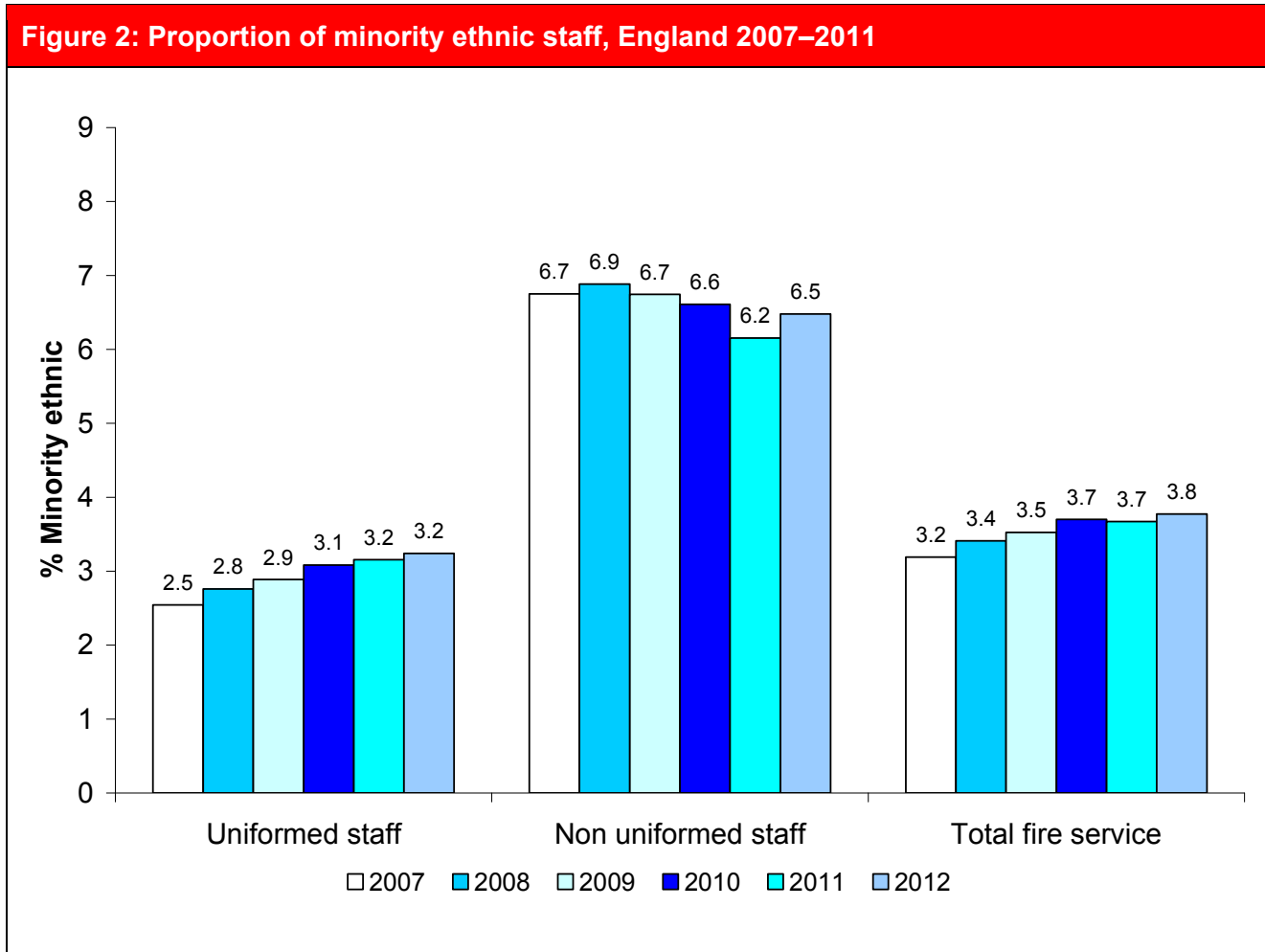
1. Wholetime and Retained duty system

2. Includes 'Other White'

(r) Revised (see Revisions section)

¹ Ethnic minority staff does not include 'other white'.

Ethnicity



Source: Appendix Table 7

Notes:

Ethnic minority staff excludes ‘Other White’

- 1.6 The proportion of ethnic minority staff in fire and rescue authorities has increased from 3.2 per cent in 2007 to 3.8 per cent in 2012.
- 1.7 The numbers of uniformed staff² from ethnic minority backgrounds has increased from just under 1,200 staff at 31 March 2007 to 1,400 in 2012 – from 2.5 to 3.2 per cent of all uniformed staff.

² Wholetime, retained and fire control

Leavers

1.8 During 2011-12, there were 4,230 staff who left fire and rescue authorities³. This equates to 8.1 per cent of all personnel, compared to 7.2 per cent of staff who left in 2010-11.

1.9 The most common reason for leaving fire and rescue authorities varied greatly by type of staff, for example:

- Of the 521 redundancies, eighty three per cent were non-uniformed staff
- Of the 579 staff who resigned to take other employment, seventy one per cent were retained duty system firefighters
- Three quarters of wholetime firefighter leavers did so on retirement, compared to ten per cent of other staff leaving fire and rescue authorities

Table 4: Staff leaving FRA employment by reasons for leaving in England in 2011-12					
Reasons for leaving	Number of staff leaving				Total
	Wholetime	Retained duty system	Fire control	Support	
Dismissal on disciplinary grounds	30	28	1	10	69
Medical discharge	51	25	1	13	90
Resignation due to harassment or discrimination	0	1	0	0	1
Poor performance/efficiency	2	29	0	4	35
Compulsory redundancy	2	21	38	182	243
Voluntary redundancy	1	20	9	248	278
Early retirement	341	24	8	51	424
Normal retirement	609	60	12	115	796
Resignation to take other employment outside the fire and rescue authority	119	413	14	33	579
Deceased	14	7	0	10	31
Other reasons ¹	107	815	30	332	1,284
Total staff leaving (excluding re-employment)	1,276	1,443	113	998	3,830
Re-employment by another fire and rescue authority	43	17	4	327	391
Re-employment as support personnel within the same fire and rescue authority	1	1	7	-	9
Total staff leaving (including re-employment)	1,320	1,461	124	1,325	4,230

Source: Appendix Table 5

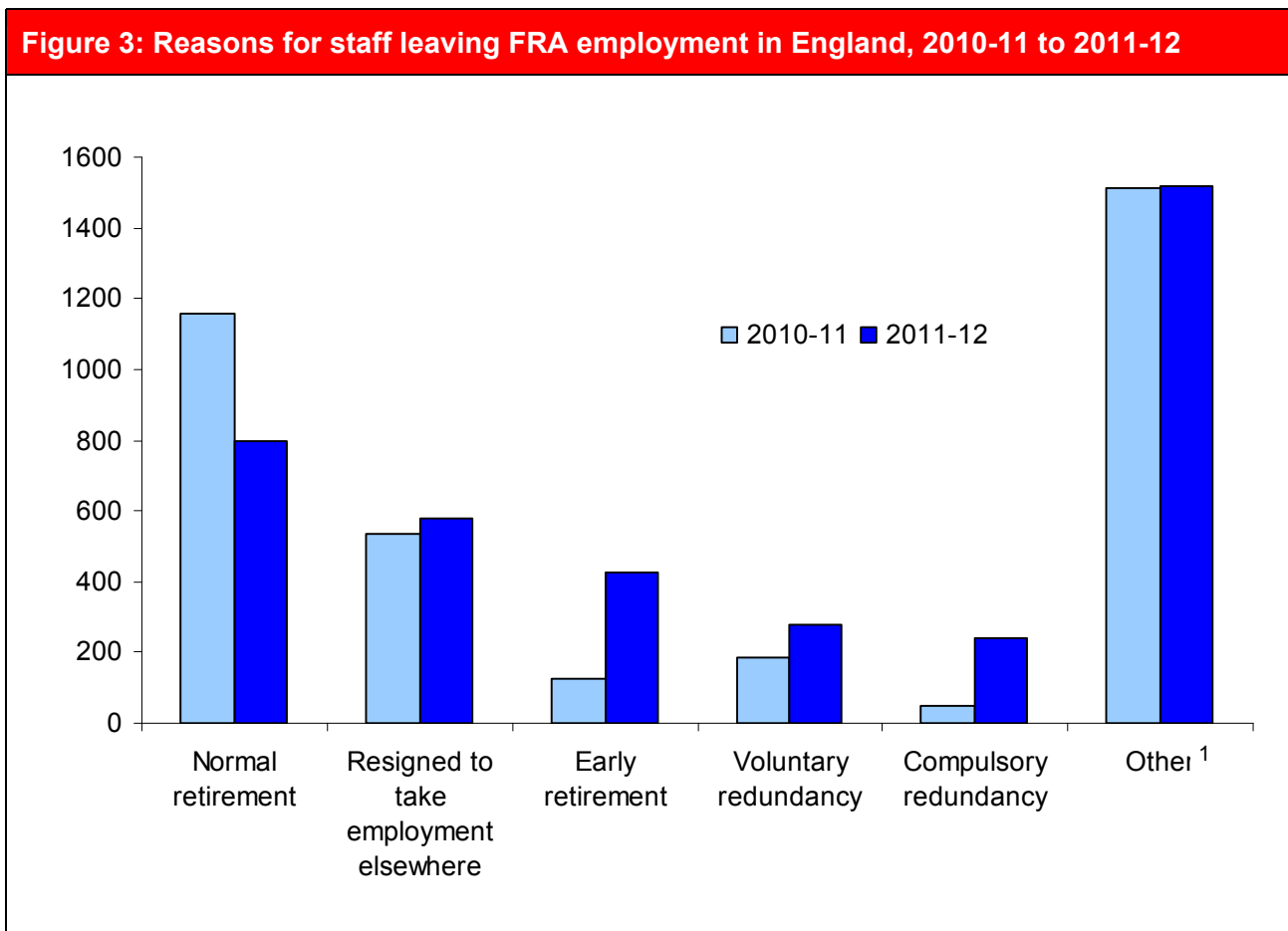
Notes:

1. Other reasons include end of fixed term contract, personal/work commitments, moving from area and

³ Includes 400 staff re-employed by another fire and rescue authority or employed as non-uniformed by the same fire and rescue authority

resignations where re-employment status is not known

1.10 The most common reason for leaving fire and rescue authorities was normal retirement (796), followed by resignation to take other employment outside the fire and rescue authority (579). The number of redundancies in 2011-12 has doubled compared to 2010-11 (see Figure 3).



Source: Appendix Table 5

Notes:

1. Includes all other reasons for leaving except re-employment by another fire and rescue authority (see Table 4)

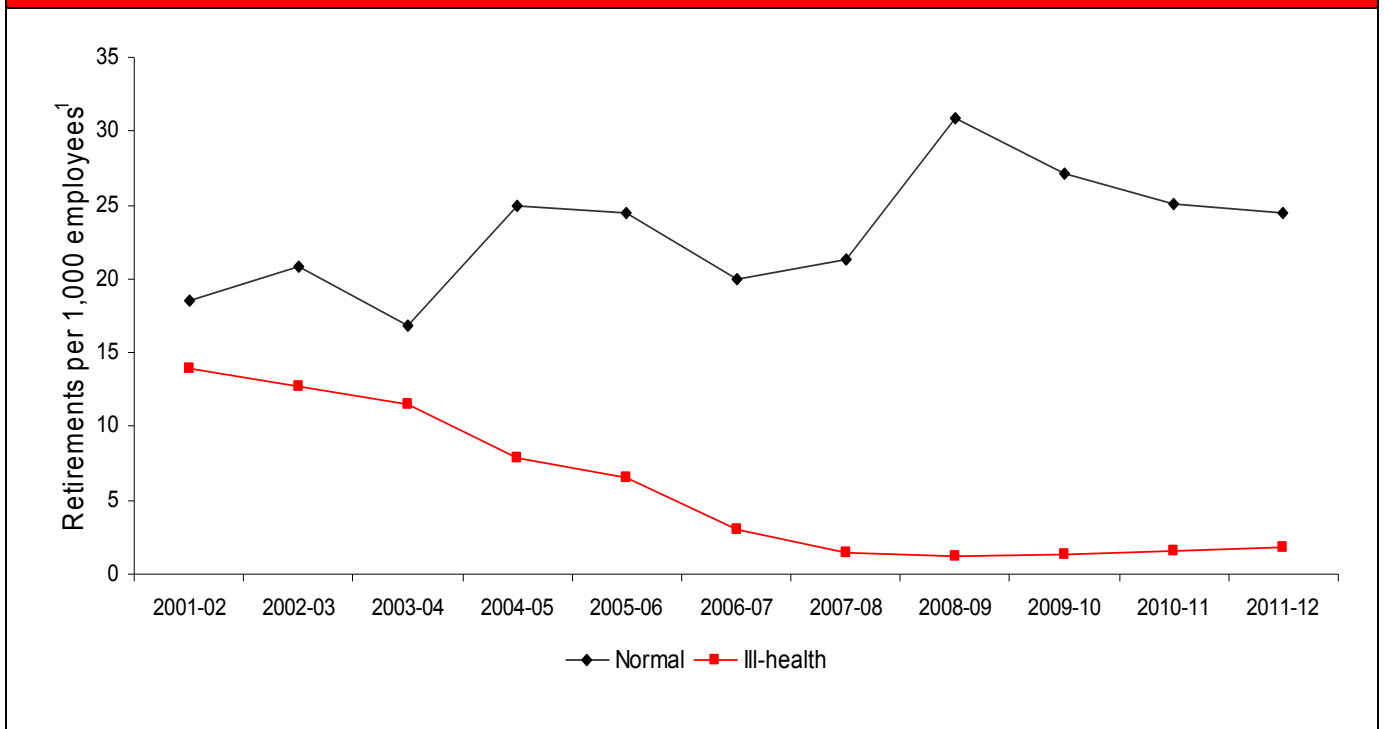
1.11 In 2011-12 Cambridgeshire and Suffolk control rooms merged to become a joint control room centre based in Cambridgeshire. Of the 38 fire control compulsory redundancies in 2011-12, 17 of these were in Cambridgeshire⁴ (Appendix Table 3c shows the numbers of fire control staff by fire and rescue authority).

⁴ All redundancies resulting from the merger of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk control rooms occurred after the merger and are recorded as leavers from Cambridgeshire fire and rescue authority.

1.12 In 2011-12, there were 1.8 ill-health retirements per 1,000 employees, slightly higher than in 2010-11 when there were 1.5 ill-health retirements per 1,000 employees. This level remains lower than prior to 2007-08 (See Figure 4).

1.13 Normal retirements⁵ in 2011-12 remained at around 25 per 1,000 employees. This follows a marked increase in normal retirements in 2008-09 which is believed to be largely due to the addition, nationally, of an extra watch at the end of the 1970s. Many of the people recruited at that time have been reaching retirement age.

Figure 4: Retirements per 1,000 employees in England, 2001-02 to 2011-12



Source: Appendix Table 8

Notes:

1. Average strength figure taken over 2 years

⁵ Includes early retirement

Section 2

Health and safety

Firefighter injuries

2.1 The numbers and types of injuries reported by each fire and rescue authority are shown in Appendix Tables 9a-d.

Table 5: Injuries sustained by wholetime and retained firefighters during training, operational incidents and routine activities in England, 2006-07 to 2011-12

Year	RIDDOR ¹		Fatal injuries	All personnel injured
	Major injuries ²	Over 3 day injuries ³		
2006-07	113	939	2	4,312
2007-08	106	910	5	4,291
2008-09	83	828	1	3,828
2009-10	78	785	3	3,840
2010-11	74	747	2	3,495
2011-12	60	665	0	3,383

Source: Appendix Tables 9a

Notes:

1. Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)
2. A list of 'major' injury types can be found at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/what-must-i-report.htm>
3. Injuries which are not classified as 'major' but as a result of which an individual was off work or unable to do their full range of normal duties for more than 3 days

2.2 In 2011-12, no firefighters died whilst on duty during operational incidents, training or routine activities⁶.

2.3 The overall recorded number of injuries sustained by firefighters (during training, operational incidents and routine activities) in 2011-12 was 3,383 – three per cent lower than in 2010-11 (3,495).

2.4 The total number of RIDDOR⁷ reportable injuries was 725 in 2011-12, 12 per cent fewer than 2010-11 (821). Overall, 60 'major' injuries were reported during 2011-12; around half the number that occurred in 2006-07. 'Over three day' injuries have also continued to decline in 2011-12 - 11 per cent fewer than in 2010-11 (See Table 5 and Appendix Table 9a).

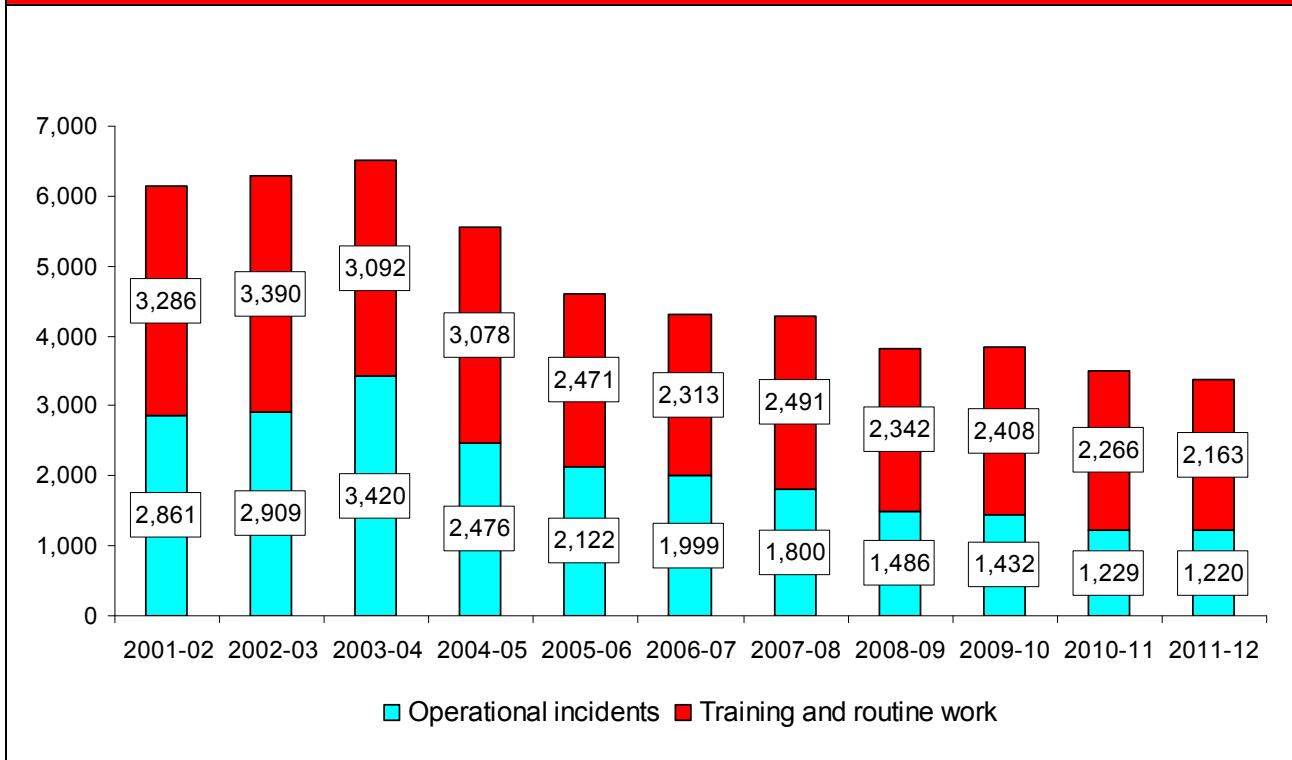
2.5 Figure 5 illustrates:

⁶ Routine activities include activities such as drills, fire safety talks, maintenance, equipment checks, yard work etc.

⁷ Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/what-must-i-report.htm>. An injury must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive if it is of a type listed by RIDDOR, or if it results in the injured person being away from work or unable to do their full range of their normal duties for more than three days (as of 6 April 2012 this has increased to seven days).

- The general downward trend over the past decade in numbers of firefighters injured during both operational incidents and training and routine work.
- That injuries during operational incidents and training and routine work were at an all time low in 2011-12.

Figure 5: Firefighters injured during operational incidents, training and routine work in England, 2001-02 to 2011-12



Source: Appendix Tables 9a-d

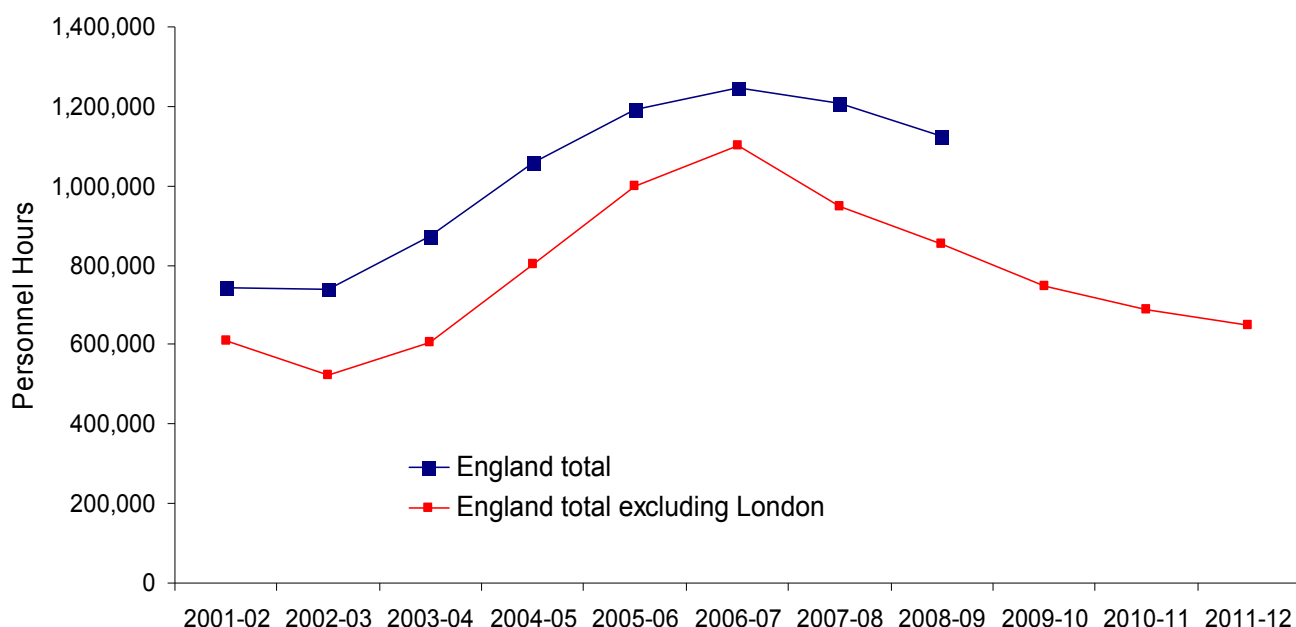
Section 3

Community fire safety

Campaigns and initiatives

- 3.1 Fire and rescue authorities have a duty to undertake community fire safety campaigns and initiatives. Typical activities include home fire safety checks, arson prevention, and community safety work with young people and other vulnerable groups.
- 3.2 Time spent on campaigns and initiatives has declined since 2006-07. In 2011-12, personnel hours spent on campaigns and initiatives were 5.5 per cent lower compared to 2010-11.

Figure 6: Total personnel hours spent on community fire safety activities in England¹, 2001-02 to 2011-12



Source: Appendix Table 11

Notes:

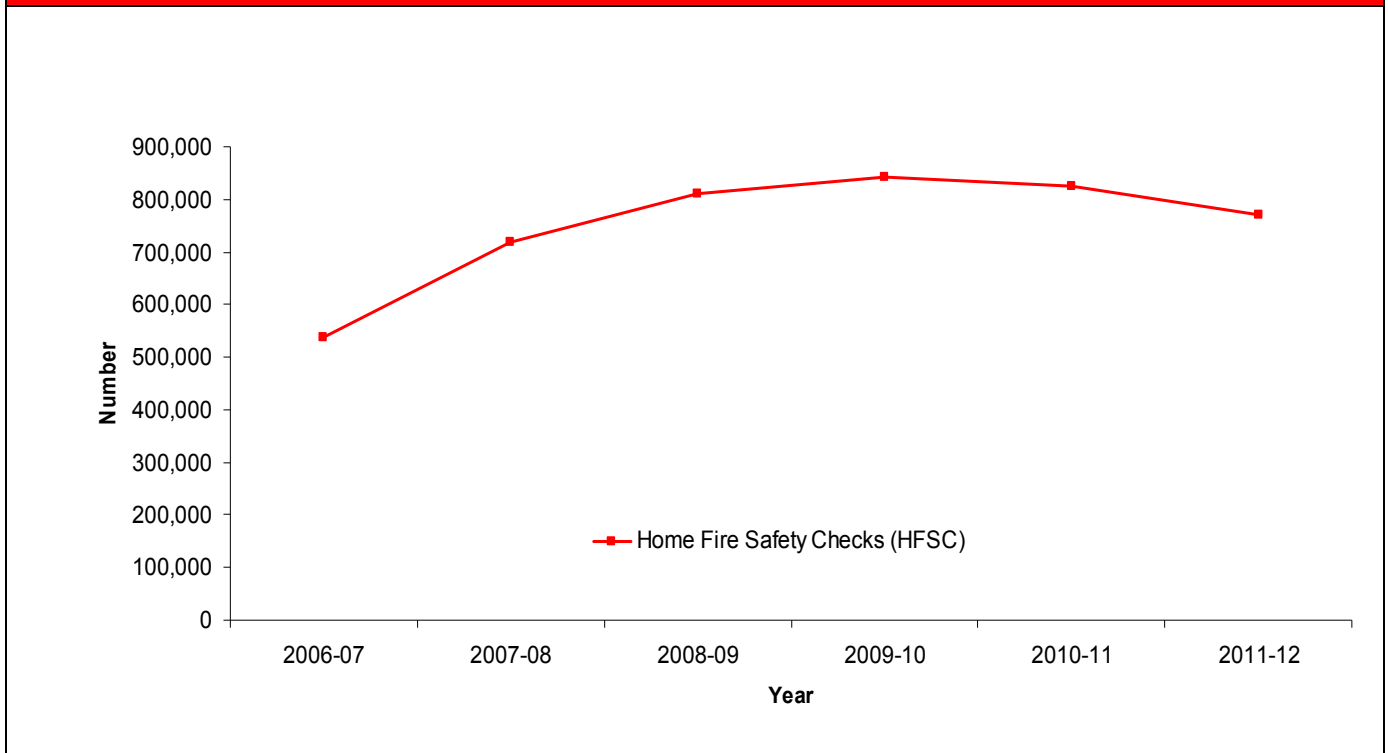
1. Full campaigns and initiatives data for London in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 is not available

Home fire safety checks

- 3.3 Home fire safety checks are carried out on a targeted basis with various members of the community, including vulnerable groups and can result in the installation of fire prevention equipment, such as smoke alarms.
- 3.4 In 2011-12 fire and rescue authorities undertook 770,000 home fire safety checks⁸, seven per cent fewer than in 2010-11 (Figure 7).

⁸ Including checks carried out by partners

Figure 7: Home Fire Safety Checks carried out by fire and rescue authorities and partners in England, 2006-07 to 2011-12



Source: Appendix Table 12

3.5 While the total number of home fire safety checks in 2011-12 was nine per cent lower than in 2009-10, the number of home fire safety checks provided to households with a disabled person has increased from 87,000 in 2010-11 to more than 118,000 in 2011-12⁹. At least 39% of home fire safety checks were targeted at elderly people¹⁰ and at least 16% were targeted at disabled people.

⁹ Nine fire and rescue authorities did not provide the number of home fire safety checks targeted at disabled people.

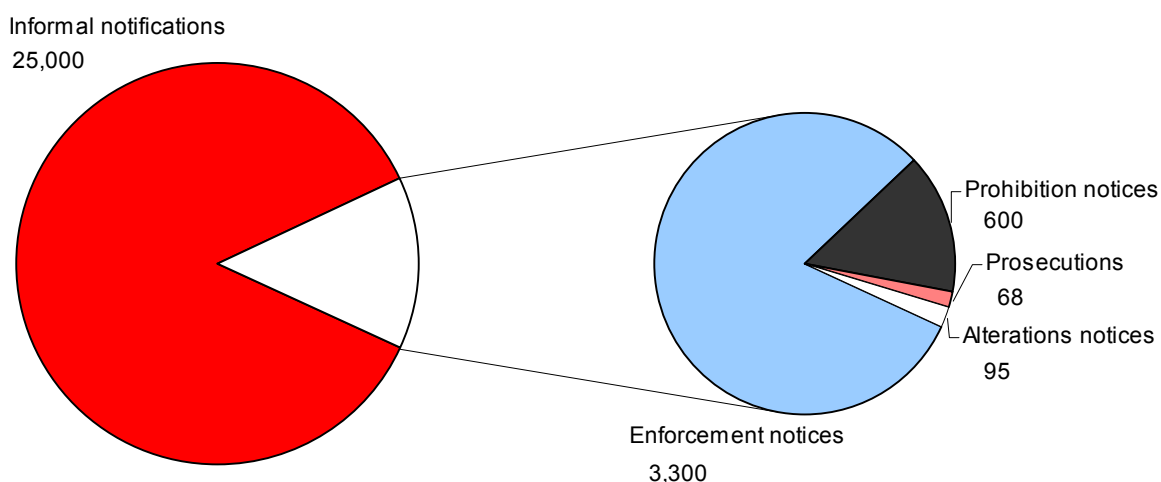
¹⁰ Three fire and rescue authorities did not provide the number of home fire safety checks targeted at elderly people.

Section 4

Fire safety audits

- 4.1 Fire and rescue authorities deliver their enforcement duties under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005¹¹ through locally determined, risk-based programmes of audit or inspection visits to non-domestic premises. These audits form part of each authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP)¹².
- 4.2 Fire and rescue authorities carried out 82,000 audits in 2011-12 (6% of premises known to the authorities), three per cent fewer than 2010-11 when 84,600 audits were conducted. Fire and rescue authorities spent 390,000 personnel hours on audits in 2011-12, five per cent lower than hours spent in 2010-11 (See Appendix Table 15).
- 4.3 The proportion of audits in residential or care buildings that were found to have a satisfactory level of compliance with the Fire Safety Order (FSO) was 59 per cent, up from 57 percent in 2010-11. Meanwhile satisfactory compliance in other buildings was 60 per cent, up from 56 per cent in 2010-11 (see Table 6).
- 4.4 Audits identifying an unsatisfactory level of compliance led to 25,000 informal notifications, 3,300 enforcement notices under article 30, 600 prohibition notices under article 31, ninety five alteration notices under article 29 and sixty eight prosecutions under article 32 (failure to comply with the Order) – see Figure 8 and Table 7.

Figure 8: Fire Safety notices (informal and formal) issued in England, 2011-12



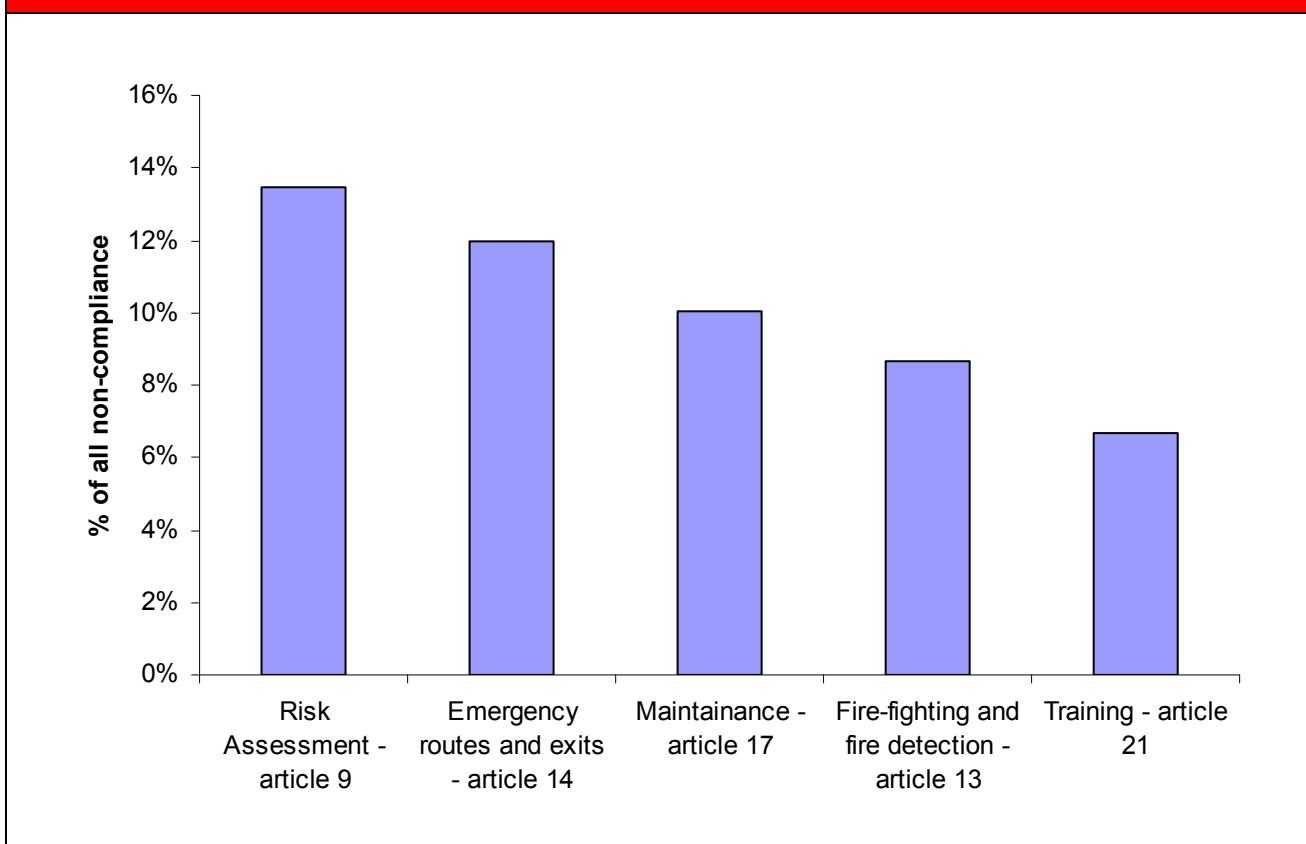
Source: Appendix table 13

¹¹ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/firesafety/firesafetylaw/>

¹² <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/irmpcommunitysafety>

- 4.5 Table 6 illustrates that fire and rescue authorities are focusing their audit activities so that premises that are considered to represent the highest risks (as identified by the Fire Services Emergency Cover toolkit¹³) are more likely to be audited. The highest proportions of audits against number of known premises were care homes (28 per cent were audited during 2011-12), followed by hotels (21 per cent) and hospitals (17 per cent).
- 4.6 The articles of the Fire Safety Order where premises were most commonly non-compliant were: article 9 (Risk assessment), 14 (Emergency routes and exits) and 17 (maintenance) (See Figure 9).

Figure 9: Top 5 articles of non-compliance resulting in action of any type (excluding prosecutions) in England, 2011-12



Source: Appendix 15, Tables 6a and 6b

¹³ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/fire/doc/fsectoolkit012008.doc>

Table 6: Number of fire safety audits carried out in England, 2009-10 to 2011-12

Type of premises ¹	2009-10			2010-11			2011-12		
	Number of audits	% of premises audited	% Satisfactory	Number of audits	% of premises audited	% Satisfactory	Number of audits	% of premises audited	% Satisfactory
Residential care	25,100	11	53	28,100	10	57	29,200	10	59
Hospitals	1,100	22	60	1,300	23	63	900	17	72
Care homes	7,400	27	56	7,300	25	58	8,300	28	59
Houses in multiple occupation (HMO) *	1,700	4*	42	2,400	6*	39	2,300	5*	42
Purpose built flats >= 4 storeys	2,900	16	56	4,000	13	59	3,200	10	67
Hostels	700	14	61	900	17	64	900	16	61
Hotels	6,200	20	48	6,000	19	54	6,500	21	53
Houses converted to flats *	900	3*	56	1,100	5*	59	1,000	4*	57
Other sleeping accommodation	4,300	6	56	5,200	5	61	6,200	5	64
Non residential	53,700	5	58	56,500	5	56	52,800	5	60
Further education	700	10	59	700	9	63	700	9	73
Public buildings	800	5	50	1000	6	54	900	5	61
Licensed premises	10,900	11	46	10,200	10	46	10,100	10	50
Schools	4,200	9	51	4,600	10	58	4,000	9	61
Shops	15,800	5	61	17,500	6	60	15,100	4	61
Other premises open to public	3,300	5	61	3,500	5	57	3,700	5	64
Factories or warehouses	6,900	4	59	7,900	5	51	8,300	5	55
Offices	8,700	4	68	8,300	4	64	7,700	4	68
Other ²	2,400	2	65	2,900	3	50	2,200	2	67
Total	78,800	6	57	84,600	6	56	82,000	6	59

Source: Appendix Tables 13 and 19

Notes:

The figures for number of audits have been rounded to the nearest 100. This means that figures may not add to totals.

* Properties known to fire and rescue authorities are an underestimate of the total number of properties of this type, resulting in an overestimation of the percentage of premises audited:

a) The Building Research Establishment (2010)¹⁴ estimated between 236,000 and 379,000 houses in multiple occupation (HMO) in England. By contrast, 92,000 HMOs were known to fire and rescue authorities in 2011-12.

b) The English Housing Survey estimated that there were 950,000 flats in 2010 which had been converted from houses flats¹⁵, compared to 48,000 known to fire and rescue authorities in 2011-12.

1. Houses in multiple occupation (HMO), purpose built flats and houses converted to flats may also be audited by the local authority under different legislation.

¹⁴ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/hmoimpactevaluation>

¹⁵ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/ehs2010homesreport>

2. Other includes premises such as garages, road haulage, storage depots, stores and other industrial/commercial locations

Table 7: Outcomes from unsatisfactory Fire Safety audits in England, 2011-12					
Type of premises¹	Informal notifications	Enforcement notices (article 30)	Prohibition notices (article 31)	Prosecutions (article 32)	Alterations Notices (article 29)
Residential care	9,662	1,175	168	33	35
Hospitals	216	6	0	0	0
Care homes	2,966	267	1	1	0
Houses in multiple occupation (HMO)	837	237	57	14	6
Purpose built flats >= 4 storeys	717	143	6	0	2
Hostels	277	28	10	0	0
Hotels	2,603	264	41	7	21
Houses converted to flats	290	93	17	6	0
Other sleeping accommodation	1,756	137	36	5	6
Non residential	15,526	2,117	435	35	60
Further education	145	10	1	0	0
Public buildings	267	16	6	0	3
Licensed premises	3,985	727	152	19	22
Schools	1,199	41	1	0	0
Shops	4,134	669	200	9	26
Other premises open to public	1,014	125	17	0	3
Factories or warehouses	2,359	298	23	6	3
Offices	1,939	157	14	0	2
Other ²	484	74	21	1	1
Total	25,188	3,292	603	68	95

Source: Appendix Tables 13 and 19

Notes:

This information refers to the outcome from Fire Safety audits reported by Fire and Rescue Authorities in England.

¹ Houses in multiple occupation (HMO), purpose built flats and houses converted to flats may also be audited by the local authority under different legislation. Those audits do not appear here.

² Other includes premises such as garages, road haulage, storage depots, stores and other industrial/commercial locations

Revisions

In accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy¹⁶, the following revisions have been made to the 2010-11 release of the bulletin. Copies of the revised appendices are included in the Revisions appendix¹⁷.

1. **Greater Manchester strength (FTE) and headcount for 2010-11** were revised after a review of figures by Greater Manchester fire and rescue authority.

This affects the following tables, figures and appendices in the 2010-11 release:

- Tables 1 and 2
- Figure 1
- Appendices 1, 2, 3a-c, 7(a-d), 17, 19, 20.

All updated appendices can be found in the Revisions appendix.

The overall difference in figures for strength and headcount is as follows:

2010-11	Before revisions		After revisions		Difference	
	England	Greater Manchester	England	Greater Manchester	England	Greater Manchester
Number of staff in post (FTE)	50,943	2,341	50,907	2,304	-36	-36
Wholetime	29,062	1,813	29,018	1,769	-44	-44
Retained Duty System	12,140	27	12,153	40	13	13
Fire control	1,477	58	1,478	59	1	1
Non-uniform	8,264	443	8,259	437	-6	-6
Staff Headcount	54,314	2,462	54,264	2,412	-50	-50
Wholetime	29,178	1,815	29,136	1,773	-42	-42
Retained Duty System	14,224	40	14,224	40	0	0
Fire control	1,555	65	1,556	66	1	1
Non-uniform	9,357	542	9,348	533	-9	-9

2. **Hereford and Worcester number of home fire safety checks in 2010-11** were revised down from 3,868 to 3,399 (difference of -469) by Hereford and Worcester fire and rescue authority.

This affects the following tables, figures and appendices in the 2010-11 release:

- Figure 7
- Appendices 12, 14 and 23.

All updated appendices can be found in the Revisions appendix.

¹⁶ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statisticalnoticerevisionspolicy>

¹⁷ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/frsoperationalstats2011-12>

Glossary of terms

Wholetime firefighter

Staff whose main employment is a firefighter regardless of their role

Retained duty system (RDS) firefighter

Personnel contracted to be available for agreed periods of time for fire-fighting purposes, but who could have an alternative full-time employment.

Fire control staff

Uniformed personnel who are employed to work in fire and rescue authority control centres to answer emergency calls and deal with mobilising, communications, and related activities, regardless of rank.

Support/Non-uniformed staff

Generally support/administrative staff employed by a fire and rescue authority.

Operational personnel

Wholetime and retained firefighters irrespective of role.

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Fire prevention return (campaigns and initiatives; home fire safety checks) for each fire and rescue authority

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Fire safety return for each fire and rescue authority

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Appendix 20: Headcount of women firefighters and minority ethnic staff in England, 2001-02 to 2011-12

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Appendix 23: Community Fire Safety campaigns and initiatives and Home Fire Safety Checks in England 2001-02 to 2011-12

Revisions

Shows the revised appendices for 2010-11

