

Fire and Rescue Service Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2009-10



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Introduction

This Bulletin contains operational statistics relating to the Fire and Rescue Services in England for the financial year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010, focusing mainly on Personnel, Health and Safety, Fire Safety and Operational activities. 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:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/frsoperationalstats2009-10

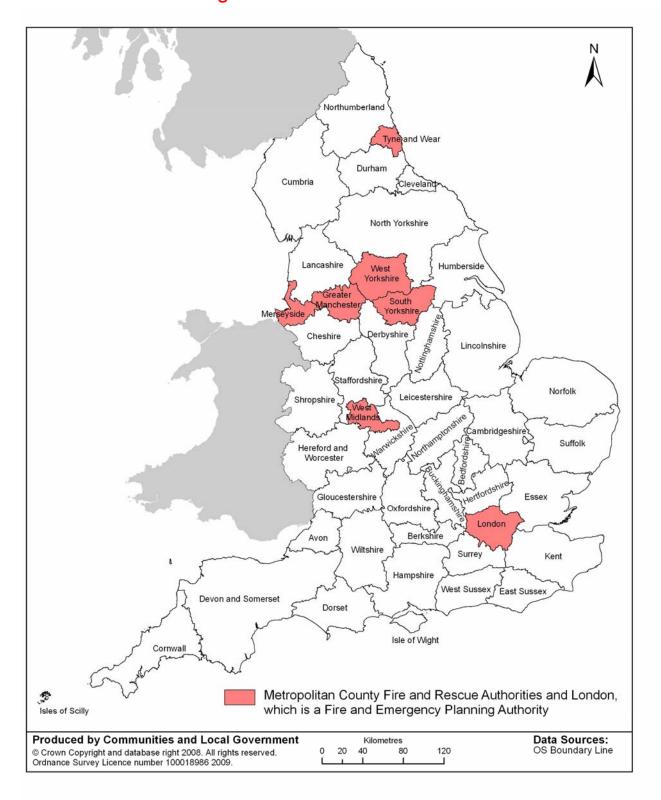
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Fire authorities in England



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Section 1

Fire and Rescue Service personnel

Number of staff in post

Table 1: Number of st	Table 1: Number of staff in post in England on 31 March, 2005-2010								
	Number of staff in post (FTE) ¹								
Year	Wholetime	Retained duty system ²	Fire control	Non-uniformed	Total				
2005	31,097	11,054	1,448	6,762	50,361				
2006	30,596	11,321	1,470	7,231	50,618				
2007	30,558	11,860	1,491	7,390	51,299				
2008	30,580	11,744	1,522	7,959	51,805				
2009	30,088	11,867	1,543	8,224	51,722				
2010	29,735	11,899	1,510	8,509	51,653				
Change 2009 to 2010 Percentage change	- 353	+ 32	- 33	+ 285	- 69				
2009 to 2010	- 1.2%	+ 0.3%	- 2.1%	+ 3.5%	- 0.1%				
Change 2005 to 2010	- 1,362	+ 845	+ 62	+ 1,747	+ 1,292				
Percentage change 2005 to 2010	- 4.4%	+ 7.6%	+ 4.3%	+ 25.8%	+ 2.6%				

Source: CLG Annual Returns

Notes:

Includes revisions since the publication of the Operational Statistical Bulletin for England 2008-09

- 1. In full time equivalents (FTEs) except retained duty system firefighters
- 2. In 24-hour units of cover
- (r) Revised
- 1.1 As at 31 March 2010, the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) fire and rescue service staff in England was 51,653, 2.6 per cent more than five years earlier.
- 1.2 The overall growth over this five year period results from the combination of increases in numbers of non-uniformed, fire control and retained duty system firefighters and a decrease of 4.4 per cent in wholetime firefighters.

Firefighter strength (FTE)

Table 2: Firefighter strength (FTE) by role in England at 31 March 2010							
Role	Wholetime	Retained duty System ¹	Total				
Brigade Manager	164	0	164				
Area Manager	218	0	218				
Group Manager	666	1	667				
Station Manager	1,556	61	1,617				
Watch Manager	4,636	998	5,634				
Crew Manager	3,955	2,072	6,027				
Firefighter	18,541	8,766	27,307				
All Firefighters	29,736	11,898	41,634				

Source: CLG Annual Returns

Notes:

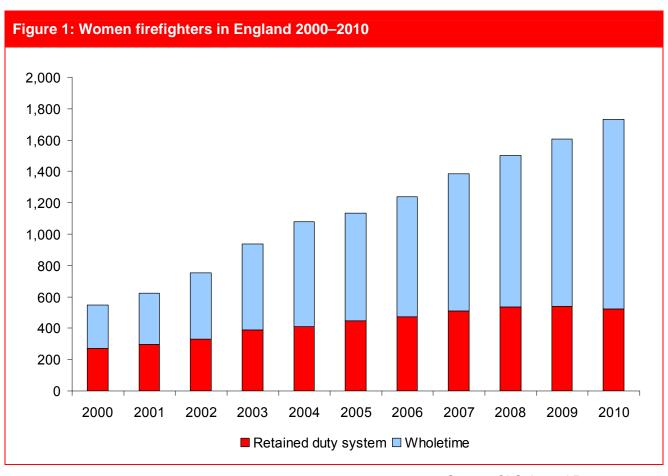
1. In 24-hour units of cover

1.3 At 31 March 2010, in England, the total firefighters' strength (full time equivalent wholetime and 24 hour units of cover retained duty system) was 41,634.

Firefighter numbers by gender and ethnicity

1.4 Firefighters in England are predominantly male and white: 3.9 per cent of firefighters are women, while 3.1 per cent of firefighters are from ethnic minority backgrounds¹.

¹ Including 'Other White'



1.5 Table 3 highlights that:

- The proportion of women firefighters has increased steadily from 1.2 per cent in 2000 to 3.9 per cent in 2010
- The percentage of firefighters from minority ethnic backgrounds has increased steadily from 1.5 per cent in 2002 to 3.1 per cent in 2010².

² Data prior to 2002 not comparable

Table 3: Firefighters by gender and ethnicity in England on 31 March 2000–2010								
	Ger	nder						
	Men	Women	White	Ethnic minority ¹	Not stated			
					per cent			
2000	98.8	1.2	**	**	**			
2001	98.6	1.4	**	**	**			
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			

Notes:

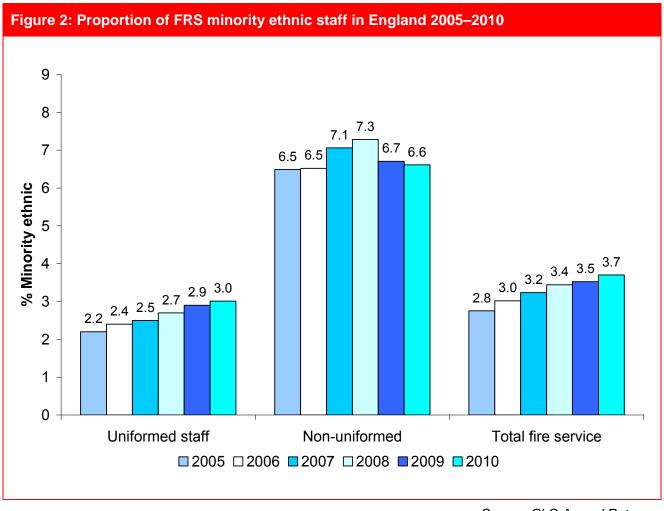
Control and support staff

- 1.6 As at 31 March 2010 there were 1,510 fire control staff (FTE), about 2 per cent less compared to the year before.
- The number of non-uniformed support staff (FTE) at 31 March 2010 was 8,509, 1.7 3.5 per cent more than the previous year. As highlighted in Table 1, this is 26 per cent higher than five years earlier.

^{**} Data prior to 2002 not comparable

^{1.} Includes 'Other White'

Ethnicity



Source: CLG Annual Returns

- 1.8 The proportion of ethnic minority staff in the Fire and Rescue Services increased from 2.8 per cent in 2004-05 to 3.7 per cent in 2009-10.
- 1.9 The number of uniformed staff³ from ethnic minority background increased from just over 1,000 staff on 31 March 2005 to 1,415 in 2010 from 2.2 to 3.0 per cent of all uniformed staff (Table 6 in the statistical appendices).

-

³ Wholetime, retained and fire control

Joiners and leavers

- 1.10 In 2009-10, over 57,000 applications were made in England⁴ to join Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) across all duty systems, with over 6 per cent of these being successful.
- 1.11 Comparison of these numbers between years may not be valid as not all FRSs recruit every year⁵.

Table 4: Number of FRS applicants and joiners in England in 2009-10							
	Applica	ants ⁶	Joiners				
	Number	Number % of successful applicants					
Wholetime	24,464	4.6	840				
Retained duty system	5,655	19.3	1,089				
Fire control	2,556	4.0	111				
Non-uniformed	23,301	4.7	994				
Other Recruitment	1,530	17.8	174				
Total	57,506	6.4	3,208				

Source: CLG Annual Returns

- 1.12 In total, 3,208 staff joined the Fire and Rescue Service in 2009-10, 1 per cent more than in 2008-09. Of these, 1,929 were recruited in operational roles - of which 840 were wholetime duty system and 1,089 were retained duty system firefighters.
- 1.13 Women accounted for 9 per cent of operational joiners (one and a half percentage point less than in 2008-09), whilst 6.2 per cent of all joiners came from ethnic minority backgrounds (0.6 percentage points less compared to the previous year).

Table 5: FRS Joiners by gender and ethnicity in England in 2009-10							
	Operational staff ¹		Fire Contro and Oth	Total			
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	All staff
White	151	1,492	1,643	484	577	1,061	2,704
Ethnic minority ²	6	103	109	48	41	89	198
Not stated	14	163	177	69	60	129	306
Total	171	1,758	1,929	601	678	1,279	3,208

Source: CLG Annual Returns

Notes:

1. Wholetime and Retained Duty system staff

2. Including 'Other White'

⁴ Excluding London, as information on number of applicants was not available

⁵ At 31 March 2010, 17 FRSs did not recruit for wholetime duty system firefighters, five did not recruit any retained firefighter, 23 authorities did not recruit any fire control staff and eight did not recruit for any non uniformed staff

No information available for London FRA

- 1.14 During 2009-10, 3,778 staff left the Fire and Rescue Services 6.8 per cent of all personnel. The majority of wholetime duty system leavers in 2009-10 retired at compulsory age or took voluntary retirement (See Table 6).
- 1.15 In total, 1,174 retained duty system firefighters and 1,622 wholetime staff left Fire and Rescue Services in 2009-10, compared to 1,069 and 1,982 respectively in 2008-09.

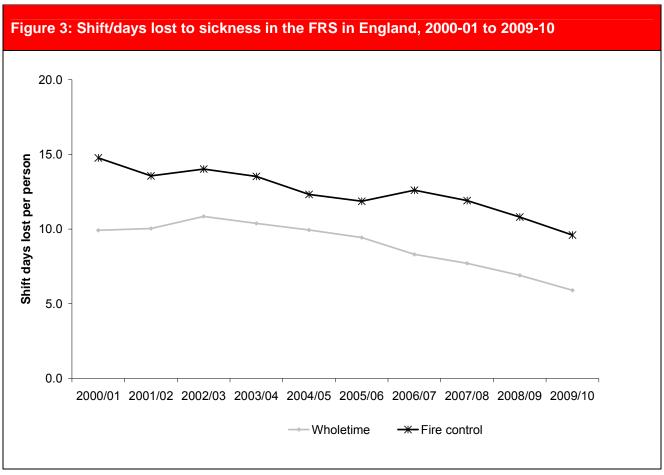
Table 6: FRS leavers by reasons for leaving in England in 2009-10								
		Number of staff leaving						
Reasons for leaving	Wholetime	Retained duty system	Fire control	Non- uniformed	Total			
Dismissal on disciplinary grounds/poor performance	28	37	7	36	108			
Medical discharge	35	12	1	17	65			
Resignation to take other employment	210	317	42	288	857			
Compulsory/voluntary age retirement	1,159	79	15	149	1,402			
Other reasons ¹	20	30	-	84	134			
Not specified	170	699	27	316	1,212			
Total	1,622	1,174	92	890	3,778			

Notes:

1. Other reasons include 'Redundancy', 'Resignation due to harassment or discrimination' and 'Deceased'

Section 2 **Health and safety**

Sickness absence

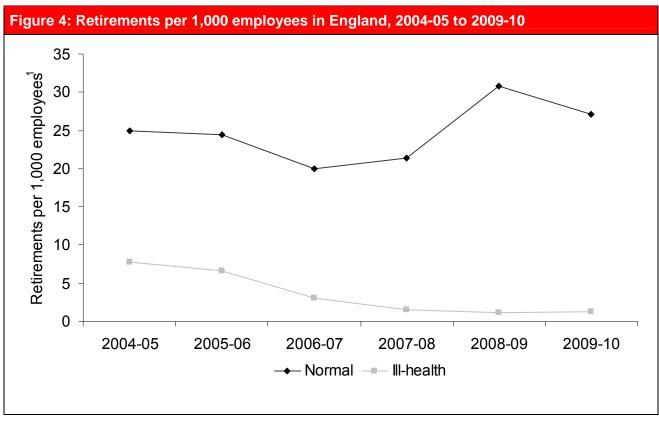


Source: CLG Annual Returns

Figure 3 illustrates that the sickness level rates for wholetime and fire control staff 2.1 continued to decrease. During 2009-10, an average of 6.3 shifts/days was lost per person by wholetime firefighters and 9.6 shifts/days by fire control staff.

Retirements

- Ill-health retirements in the Fire and Rescue Service in 2009-10 remained much lower than just a few years ago. In 2009-10, there were 1.3 ill-health retirements per 1,000 employees compared to nearly eight in 2004-05 (See Figure 4 and Appendix 10).
- 2.3 As highlighted by the figures on number of staff leaving the FRS, normal retirements in the last two years have been higher than in 2006-07 and 2007-08. The main reason for this was the addition, nationally, of an extra watch at the end of the 1970s. Many of the people recruited at that time are now reaching retirement age.



Notes:

1. Average strength figure taken over 2 years, at 31 March

Firefighters' injuries

2.4 The numbers and types of injuries reported by each Fire and Rescue Service are shown in Appendices 11a-d.

Table 7: Injuries sustained by wholetime and retained firefighters during training, operational incidents and routine activities in England, 2004-05 to 2009-10

Year <i>Major</i>	RID	DOR ¹		All personnel
	Major injuries ²	Other over 3 day injuries ³	Fatal injuries	injured
2004-05	92	1,240	4	5,699
2005-06	71	955	0	4,593
2006-07	86	939	2	4,312
2007-08	94	902	5	4,291
2008-09	83	828	1	3,828
2009-10	78	785	3	3,840

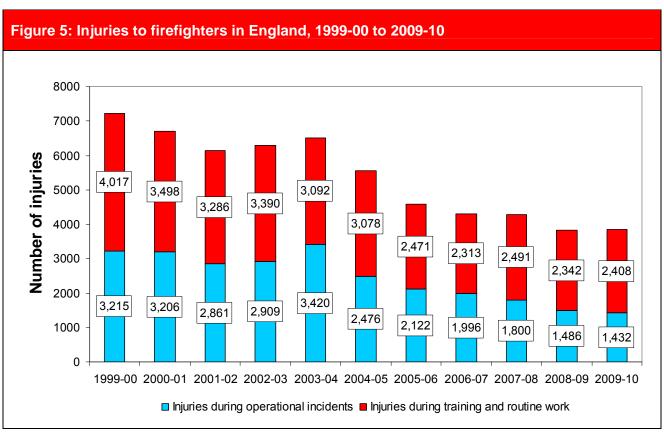
Source: CLG Annual Returns

Notes

Includes revisions since the publication of the Operational Statistical Bulletin for England 2008-09

- 1. Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)
- 2. A list of 'Major' injury types can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/guidance.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

- 2.5 In 2009-10, three fatal injuries were reported: one was a heart attack en route to an emergency, one was a heart attack whilst on duty and the other was due to a road traffic collision returning from an incident.
- The overall number of injuries sustained by firefighters (during training, operational incidents and routine activities) in 2009-10 was 3,840 – a very similar figure to that in 2008-09 (3,828).
- 2.7 The total number of RIDDOR⁷ injuries was 863 in 2009-10 compared to 911 in 2008-09. Overall, 78 "major" injuries were reported during 2009-10, which is slightly lower than average for recent years. Meanwhile "over three day injuries" were lower again and stood 37 per cent lower than five years earlier (See Table 7 and Appendix 11 for more details).
- Figure 5 illustrates the downward trend and that in 2009-10 almost two-fifths of firefighter injuries occurred during operational incidents (see Appendix 11).



⁷ Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)

Section 3

Operational activities

Calls handled

- 3.1 In 2009-10, over 1.2 million calls were handled by Fire and Rescue authorities in England (See Appendix 13), compared to 1.3 million in 2008-09.
- 3.2 About one in five incidents attended by the Fire and Rescue Service are not related to fire. Non-fire incidents cover a wide spectrum of activity, including:
 - road traffic incidents
 - severe weather conditions such as flooding and high winds, collapsed buildings; and
 - rescue of trapped people, including those stuck in lifts
 - chemical, biological and radioactive exposures and spills.

Fires and fire false alarms

Table 8: Incidents to which Fire and Rescue Services responded in England, 2008-09 and 2009-10							
	2008-09 ¹	2009-10(p)	% change 2008-09 to 2009-10 (p)				
Fires							
Primary fires ^{2,3}	104,300	102,000	-2%				
Secondary fires ^{4,5}	136,700	132,100	-3%				
Chimney fires	8,100	7,300	-10%				
All fires	249,200	241,500	-3%				
False Alarms	312,900	285,100	-9%				
Non-fire incidents	155,700	142,500	-8%				
Total	717,800	669,100	-7%				

Source: CLG Fire Statistics Monitor (FDR and Incident Recording System)

Notes

The figures have been rounded, thus while numbers are correct, the table may nevertheless appear to give small discrepancies

- 1. Includes revisions since the publication of the Operational Statistical Bulletin for England 2008-09
- 2. The number of primary fires in 2008-09 excludes incorrectly some outdoor locations that were previously recorded as secondary fires in the old Fire Data Reporting (FDR) system. Therefore the information is not strictly comparable. See explanation on page 10. Fire Statistics Monitor August 2010
- 3. Includes fires in buildings, outdoor structure (excluding if derelict), vehicles (excluding if abandoned) or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances
- 4. As in note 1, the number of secondary fires in 2008-09 includes some outdoor locations due to some incorrect reporting in the old Fire Data Reporting (FDR) system. Therefore the figures are not strictly comparable.
- 5. Typically outdoor fires, not including property.
- (p) Provisional data

Non-fire incidents

Table 9: Non-fire incidents in England, 2007-08 to 2009-10										
Type of incident	2007	7-08 (r)	2008	3-09 (r)	2009	9-10 (p)				
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%				
Total non-fire incidents	166,300	100	155,700	100	142,500	100				
Road traffic incidents	40,200	24	37,400	24	34,000	24				
Non-road traffic incidents	126,200	76	118,300	76	108,600	76				
of which:										
Spills and leaks	7,900	5	7,400	5	6,400	4				
Water - removal/provision ¹	14,600	9	12,600	8	15,400	11				
Effecting entry	13,900	8	14,000	9	15,700	11				
Lift release	23,000	14	22,600	14	20,400	14				
Other rescue/release of people	66,900	40	61,600	40	50,800	36				

Source: CLG Annual Returns and Fire Statistics Monitor (FDR and Incident Recording System)

The figures have been rounded, thus while numbers are correct, the table may nevertheless appear to give small discrepancies

Includes revisions since the publication of the Operational Statistical Bulletin for England 2008-09

- 1. Includes 124 incidents of water provision in 2009-10. Data for previous years are also for 'Water removal and provision' as data were collected only as an aggregate of both
- (r) revised
- (p) provisional
- 3.3 Road traffic collisions (RTCs) accounted for almost a quarter of non-fire incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services.
- 3.4 While numbers of non-fire incidents have decreased further overall, incidents of both water removal and effecting entry were higher in 2009-10 than in previous years.

Section 4

Fire safety audits/inspections

- 4.1 FRAs 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. These audits must form part of each
 FRA's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).
- 4.2 FRAs carried out 77,500 ⁸ audits in 2009-10 (6% of applicable premises), slightly less than in 2008-09 when 82,000 audits were reported. Fire and Rescue Authorities reported spending more time on audits than in 2009-10 (See Appendix 15).
- 4.3 The majority of audits/inspections found a satisfactory level of compliance with the FSO (58 per cent). In 2009-10, about four in ten audits identified an unsatisfactory level of compliance, leading to 28,500 informal notifications, 3,200 enforcement notices, 520 prohibition notices, 120 alteration notices and nearly 60 prosecutions under article 32 (failure to comply with any part of the order), as illustrated in Table 11.
- 4.4 Table 10 illustrates that FRAs are focusing their audits/inspections activities on those premises which are considered to represent the highest risks (as identified by the Fire Services Emergency Cover toolkit). For example 26 per cent of care homes were audited during 2009-10, followed by hospitals (21%) and hotels (19%), compared with an average of 6 per cent across all applicable premises.
- 4.5 The number of premises satisfactory following enforcement action (including informal notifications) increased from 6,100 in 2008-09 to 9,100 in 2009-10.

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⁸ Figures were not available for Bedfordshire

Table 10: Number of fire safety audit	s carried c	out in Engla	nd, 2007-08 to	o 2009-10						
		2007-08 ¹			2008-09 ²			2009-10 ³		
Type of premises⁴	Number of audits	% of premises audited	% Satisfac- tory	Number of audits	% of premises audited	% Satisfac- tory	Number of audits	% of premises audited	% Satisfac- tory	
Hospitals	611	19	62	808	18	59	1,065	21	60	
Care homes	7,678	31	59	6,769	26	58	6,919	26	56	
Houses in multiple occupation (HMO)	1,155	4	<i>4</i> 8	1,867	6	47	1,660	4	<i>4</i> 3	
Purpose built flats >= 4 storeys	841	4	55	1,241	7	49	2,944	16	59	
Hostels	784	15	53	708	15	56	663	13	63	
Hotels	7,473	29	44	6,819	22	<i>4</i> 8	5,960	19	<i>4</i> 8	
Houses converted to flats	854	3	60	675	2	46	898	2	55	
Other sleeping accommodation	2,820	4	59	3,186	3	54	4,091	5	55	
Further education	468	11	60	575	10	63	659	10	58	
Public buildings	1,103	5	53	816	5	52	920	5	59	
Licensed premises	9,971	11	54	10,327	11	47	10,545	10	47	
Schools	3,286	8	56	4,535	10	56	4,667	10	59	
Shops	13,969	6	65	16,627	6	62	15,543	5	61	
Other premises open to public	2,547	6	63	2,886	5	60	3,288	5	62	
Factories or warehouses	6,336	5	64	10,796	8	68	6,888	4	62	
Offices	8,401	5	67	10,121	6	69	8,598	4	69	
Other ⁵	2,108	3	67	3,221	3	72	2,224	1	69	
Total	70,405	7	59	81,977	7	59	77,532	6	58	

Notes:

- 1. Information for Lincolnshire and North Yorkshire was not available in 2007-08
- 2. Information for Lincolnshire was not available in 2008-09
- 3. Information for Bedfordshire was not available in 2009-10
- 4. 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
- 5. Other includes premises such as garages, road haulage, storage depots, stores and other industrial/commercial locations

Table 11: Outcomes from unsatisfactory fire safety audits in England in 2009-10						
Type of premises ¹	Informal Notifications ²	Enforcement notices (Article 30)	Prohibition notices (Article 31)	Prosecutions (Article 32)	Alterations notices (Article 29)	Number of premises satisfactory following enforcement action
Hospitals	452	22	0	0	1	170
Care homes	2,887	157	4	1	2	968
Houses in multiple occupation (HMO)	627	187	54	14	11	265
Purpose built flats >= 4 storeys	892	96	6	1	0	201
Hostels	214	39	2	1	0	223
Hotels	2,821	514	51	6	41	1,080
Houses converted to flats	332	91	15	2	1	234
Other sleeping accommodation	1,574	115	21	1	1	439
Further education	207	22	1	1	1	97
Public buildings	321	16	1	0	1	66
Licensed premises	4,966	804	154	12	22	1,561
Schools	1,761	58	5	1	4	501
Shops	5,079	632	135	8	23	1,492
Other premises open to public	1,164	97	17	0	2	345
Factories or warehouses	2,258	205	23	4	7	680
Offices	2,313	120	16	1	6	652
Other ³	557	46	19	3	0	173
Total	28,425	3,221	524	56	123	9,147

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 This category includes instances where an audit is initially recorded as unsatisfactory and enforcement action subsequently leads to a satisfactory outcome. In these cases, the fire safety officer is 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.

³ Other includes premises such as garages, road haulage, storage depots, stores and other industrial/commercial locations

Errata and revisions

The following revisions have been made to the previous editions of the bulletin. Copies of the revised tables are included in the revisions appendix⁹.

- 1. Figures for number of retained staff for Leicestershire in 2004-05 (Appendix 2) were missing. The data for retained firefighters should read: 216 for posts and 154 for strength in 24 hour units of cover.
- 2. Fire Safety figures in FS1 in 2008-09 were revised for London, which will affect the totals in table 12 of last year's Operational Statistics Bulletin:

Outcomes from	unsatisfacto	ry fire safety a	udits in 200	8-09 Revised		
Type of prem- ises	Informal no- tifications	Enforcement notices (Arti- cle 30)	Prohibition notices (Article 31)	Prosecutions (Article 32)	Alterations notices (Article 29)	Number of premises satisfactory following enforcement action
Hospitals	395	17	0	0	0	45
Care homes	3,201	199	4	3	5	532
Houses in multi- ple occupation (HMO)	1,033	164	75	4	2	152
Purpose built flats >= 4 storeys	612	51	1	0	2	65
Hostels	337	24	4	0	1	52
Hotels	3,439	728	49	10	28	1,014
Houses converted to flats	320	47	12	2	0	65
Other sleeping accommodation	1,616	149	19	2	2	219
Further education	222	16	0	0	1	36
Public buildings	411	17	3	0	0	41
Licensed prem- ises	5,475	579	92	11	10	1,033
Schools	2,078	66	7	0	2	245
Shops	6,292	619	117	13	15	1,116
Other premises open to public	1,242	74	14	0	6	199
Factories or ware- houses	3,489	262	37	7	7	601
Offices	3,467	134	2	0	3	515
Other	888	52	6	1	0	146
Total	34,517	3,198	442	53	84	6,076

⁹ www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/frsoperationalstats2009-10

3. The figures for number of joiners in Devon and Somerset in 2008-09 should read:

Joiners in Devon and Somerset by gender and ethnicity in 2008-09							
By gender	Joiners						
	Me	n	Women	Total			
Wholetime FF	1	1	20				
Retained	10	3	104				
By ethnicity	White	Ethnic Minority	Not Stated	Total			
Wholetime FF	19	0	1	20			
Retained	100	1	3	104			

Therefore the total number of joiners should be revised to 3,174.

- 4. The correct number of fire stations in Avon in 2008-09 should have been: 11 wholetime and 12 retained.
- 5. Total number of firefighter injuries in table 7 in the Operational Statistical Bulletin 2008-09 has been revised (see revised Appendices). In particular, the number of fatal injuries in 2008-09 in table 4 should read one and not zero as reported. This fatality related to a heart attack en route back from an emergency.
- 6. The average number of shifts/days lost to sickness should have been 6.8 and not 6.9 as quoted in section 2 (page 13).

Glossary of terms

Wholetime firefighter

A person whose main employment is a firefighter regardless of their role.

Retained duty system (RDS) firefighter

A person who contracts 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 service control centres to answer emergency calls and deal with mobilising, communications, and related activities, regardless of rank.

Non-uniformed staff

Generally support/administrative staff employed by a Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA).

Operational personnel

Wholetime and retained firefighters irrespective of role.

24 hour units of cover

The number of staff required, under a particular duty system adopted to provide continuous cover over a 24-hour period.

Attendance

Predetermined resources mobilised to an incident, based upon risk analysis.

Primary fires

All fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances.

Secondary Fires

Fire incidents that did not occur at a primary location, were not a chimney fire in an occupied building, did not involve casualties (otherwise categorised as a Primary incident) and were attended by four or fewer appliances.