



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Fire and Rescue

Operational Statistics Bulletin for England: 2012-13

- As at 31 March 2013, the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) fire and rescue authority staff in England was 47,337, 3.2 per cent fewer than in March 2012.
- At 31 March 2013, in England, the total firefighters' strength (full time equivalent wholetime and 24 hour units of cover retained duty system) was 38,544, three per cent less compared to the year before.
- During 2012-13, 3,847 staff left Fire and Rescue Authorities – 7.9 per cent of all personnel, slightly less than the 8.1 per cent of staff who left in 2011-12.
- Time spent on community fire safety campaigns and initiatives has declined between 2006-07 and 2011-12. However In 2012-13, personnel hours spent on campaigns and initiatives increased slightly by six per cent when compared to 2011-12.
- Fire and Rescue Authorities carried out 75,500 Fire Safety audits in 2012-13 (5% of premises known to the authorities), eight per cent less compared to 2011-12 when 82,000 audits were reported.

Fire Statistics

Statistical Release

29th November 2013

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Responsible Statistician:

Gavin Sayer

Office hours:

0303 444 8218

Gavin.Sayer@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Statistical enquiries:

Daniel Shaw

Office hours:

0303 444 1071

Daniel.Shaw@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Media Enquiries:

0303 444 1201

press@communities.gsi.gov.uk

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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 2012 to 31 March 2013, and is focussed on Personnel, Health and Safety, Fire Safety and Prevention activities. Unless stated, data are sourced from annual returns from the 46 fire and rescue authorities in England.

Detailed tables accompanying this bulletin are provided in spreadsheet appendices. These can be downloaded from:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-and-rescue-authorities-in-england-operational-statistics-bulletin-for-2012-to-2013

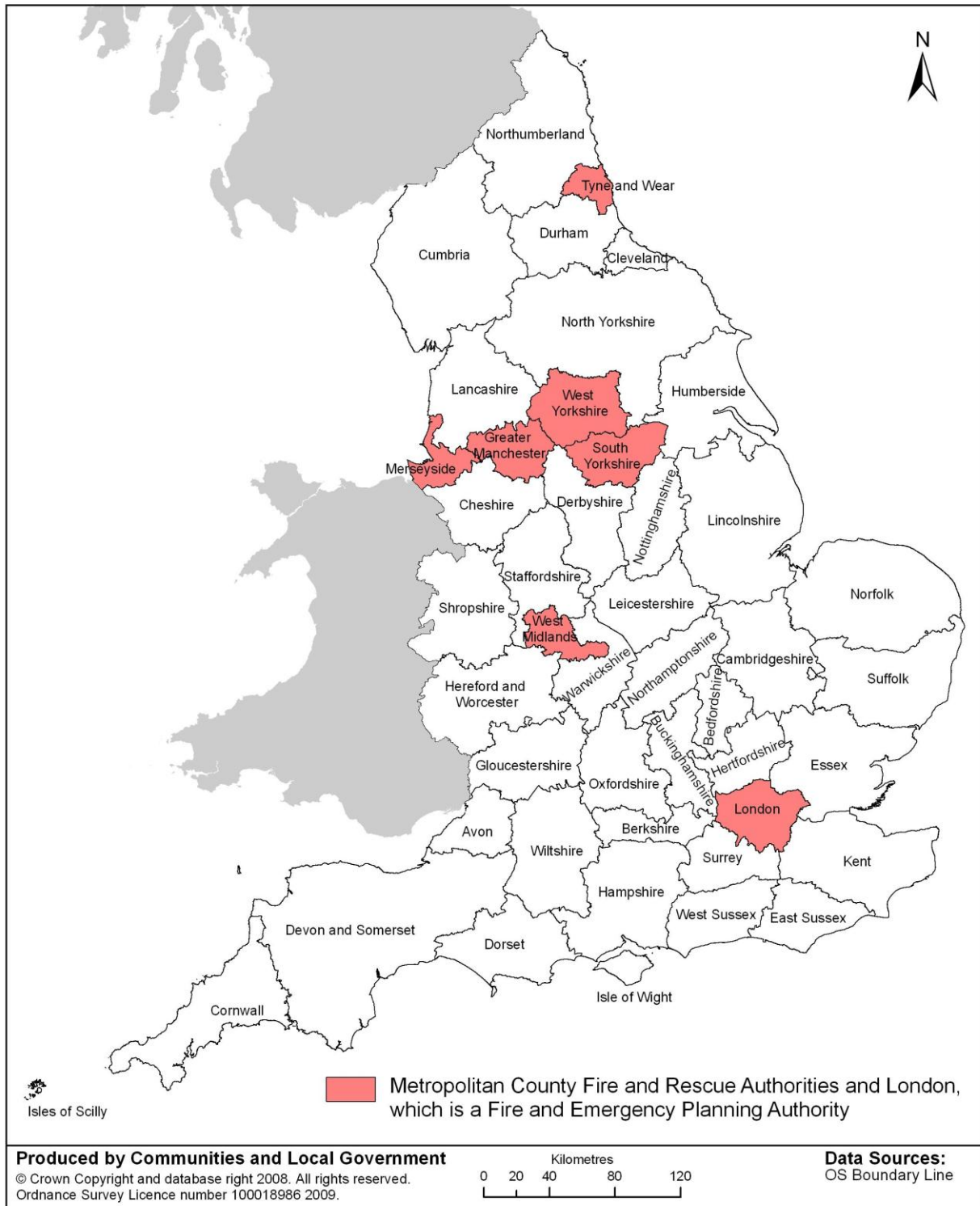
If you have any queries regarding this bulletin please contact:

Daniel Shaw
National Fire Policy and Analysis
Fire, Resilience and Emergencies Directorate
Communities and Local Government

E-mail: daniel.shaw@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Tel. 030 344 41071

Fire authorities in England



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Operational activities

The number of fires, false alarms and non fire incidents were reported previously in the section 'Operational activities' in the Operational Statistics Bulletin series. The latest incident figures can be found in the Fire Statistics Monitor at:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/fire-statistics-monitor

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Section 1

Fire and Rescue Authority personnel

Number of fire and rescue authority staff

Table 1: Number of fire and rescue authority staff England on 31 March, 2008-2013					
Year	Number of staff in post (FTE) ¹				Total*
	Wholetime	Retained duty system ²	Fire control	Non-uniformed	
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	29,018	12,153	1,478	8,259	50,907
2012 (r)	28,166	11,661	1,371	7,704	48,902
2013	27,209	11,335	1,320	7,474	47,337
Change 2012 to 2013	-957	-326	-51	-231	-1,565
Percentage change 2012 to 2013	-3.4%	-2.8%	-3.7%	-3.0%	-3.2%
Change 2008 to 2013	-3,371	-439	-202	-485	-4,497
Percentage change 2008 to 2013	-11.0%	-3.7%	-13.3%	-6.1%	-8.7%

Source: DCLG Annual Returns

Notes:

Includes revisions since the publication of the Operational Statistical Bulletin for England 2009-10

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

- 1.1 As at 31 March 2013, the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) fire and rescue authority staff in England was 47,337, 3.2 per cent fewer than in March 2012.
- 1.2 The numbers of wholetime firefighters, retained duty system, fire control and support staff were all between two and a half and four per cent lower at March 2013 compared to March 2012.

Firefighter strength by role (FTE)

Table 2: Firefighter strength (FTE) by role in England at 31 March 2013			
Role	Wholetime	Retained duty System ¹	Total*
Brigade Manager	141	0	141
Area Manager	184	0	184
Group Manager	558	0	558
Station Manager	1,454	36	1,490
Watch Manager	4,127	968	5,095
Crew Manager	3,754	1,858	5,612
Firefighter	16,991	8,473	25,464
All Firefighters*	27,209	11,335	38,544

Source: Appendix Table 3

Notes:

1. In 24-hour units of cover

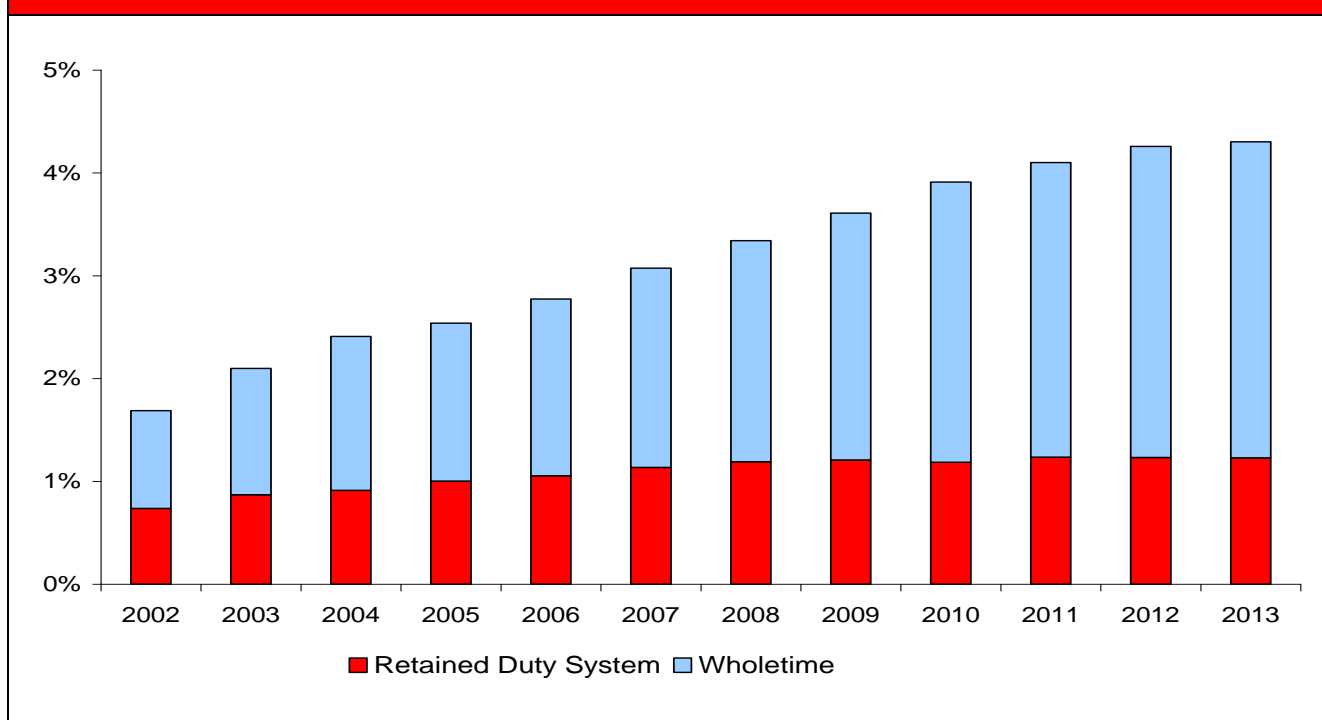
* Totals may not add up due rounding

1.3 At 31 March 2013, in England, total firefighters strength (full time equivalent for wholetime, and 24 hour units of cover for retained duty system) was 38,544, three per cent lower than the year before.

Firefighter numbers by gender and ethnicity

1.4 Firefighters in England are predominantly male and white. However, the proportion of women firefighters has increased from 1.4 per cent in 2001 to 4.3 per cent in 2013.

Figure 1: Proportion of female firefighters in England at 31 March 2002–2013



Source: Appendix Table 6

1.5 The percentage of firefighters from minority ethnic backgrounds has also increased from 1.5 per cent in 2002 to 3.8 per cent in 2013¹.

Table 3: Firefighters by gender and ethnicity in England on 31 March 2002–2013

	<u>Gender</u>		<u>Ethnicity</u>		
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>White</u> ¹	<u>Ethnic minority</u>	<u>Not stated</u> per cent
2002	98.31	1.69	95.90	1.50	2.70
2003	97.90	2.10	92.70	1.90	5.40
2004	97.59	2.41	94.70	2.10	3.20
2005	97.46	2.54	94.00	2.74	3.27
2006	97.23	2.77	92.47	3.00	4.53
2007	96.93	3.07	90.77	3.19	6.04
2008	96.66	3.34	90.80	3.43	5.77
2009	96.39	3.61	88.73	3.54	7.72
2010	96.09	3.91	87.63	3.70	8.67
2011	95.90	4.10	86.94	3.67	9.39
2012	95.74	4.26	89.02	3.77	7.20
2013	95.70	4.30	87.94	3.83	8.23

Source: Appendix Tables 6 and 7

Notes:

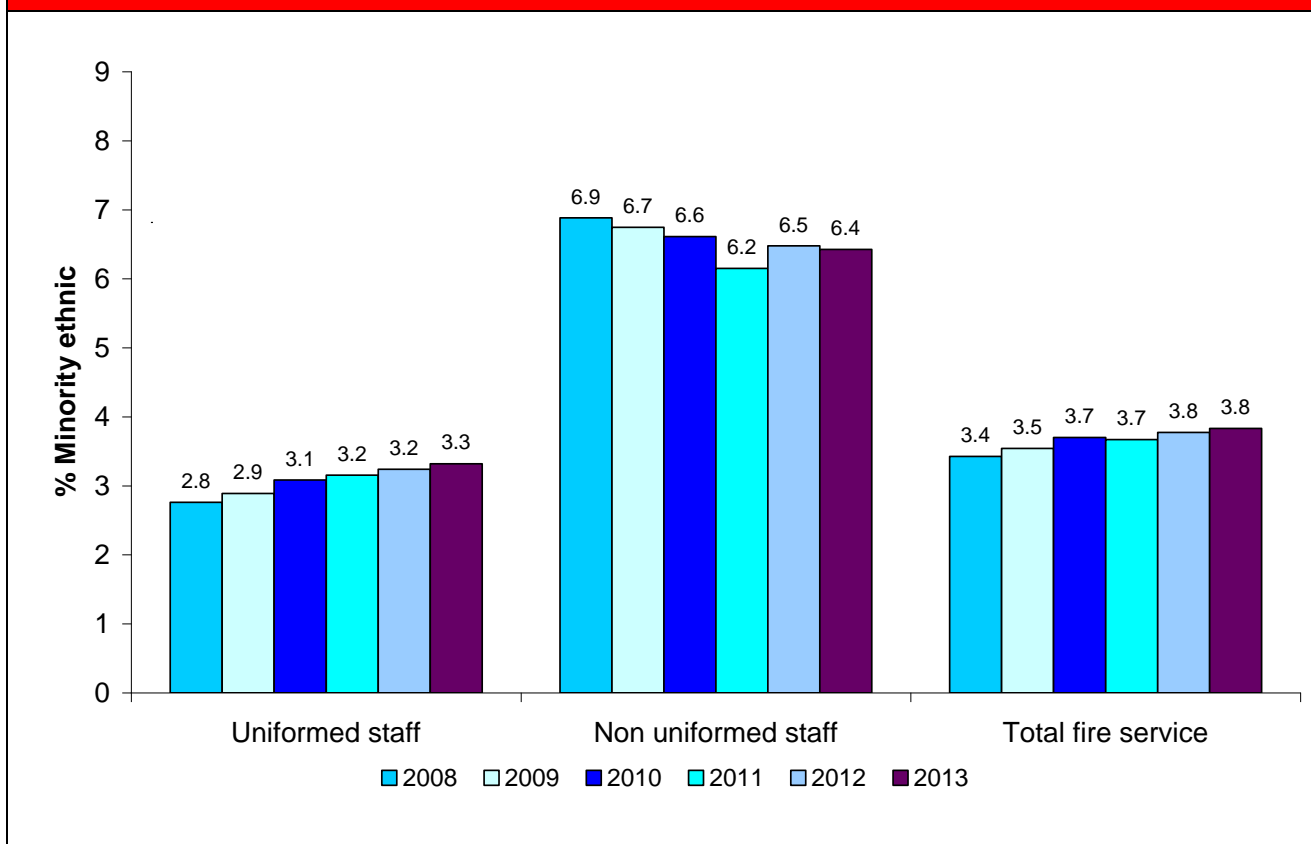
** Data prior to 2002 not comparable

1. Includes 'Other White'

¹ Data prior to 2002 was not comparable. Ethnic minority staff does not include 'other white'.

Ethnicity

Figure 2: Proportion of FRS minority ethnic staff in England 2008–2013



Source: Appendix Table 7

Notes:

Ethnic minority staff excludes 'Other White'

1.6 The proportion of ethnic minority across all staff in Fire and Rescue Authorities increased from 3.4 per cent in 2008 to 3.8 per cent in 2013.

1.7 The numbers of uniformed staff² from ethnic minority background increased from just under 1,300 staff on 31 March 2008 to 1,400 in 2013 – from 2.8 to 3.3 per cent of all uniformed staff (Table 7 in the statistical appendices).

² Wholetime, retained and fire control

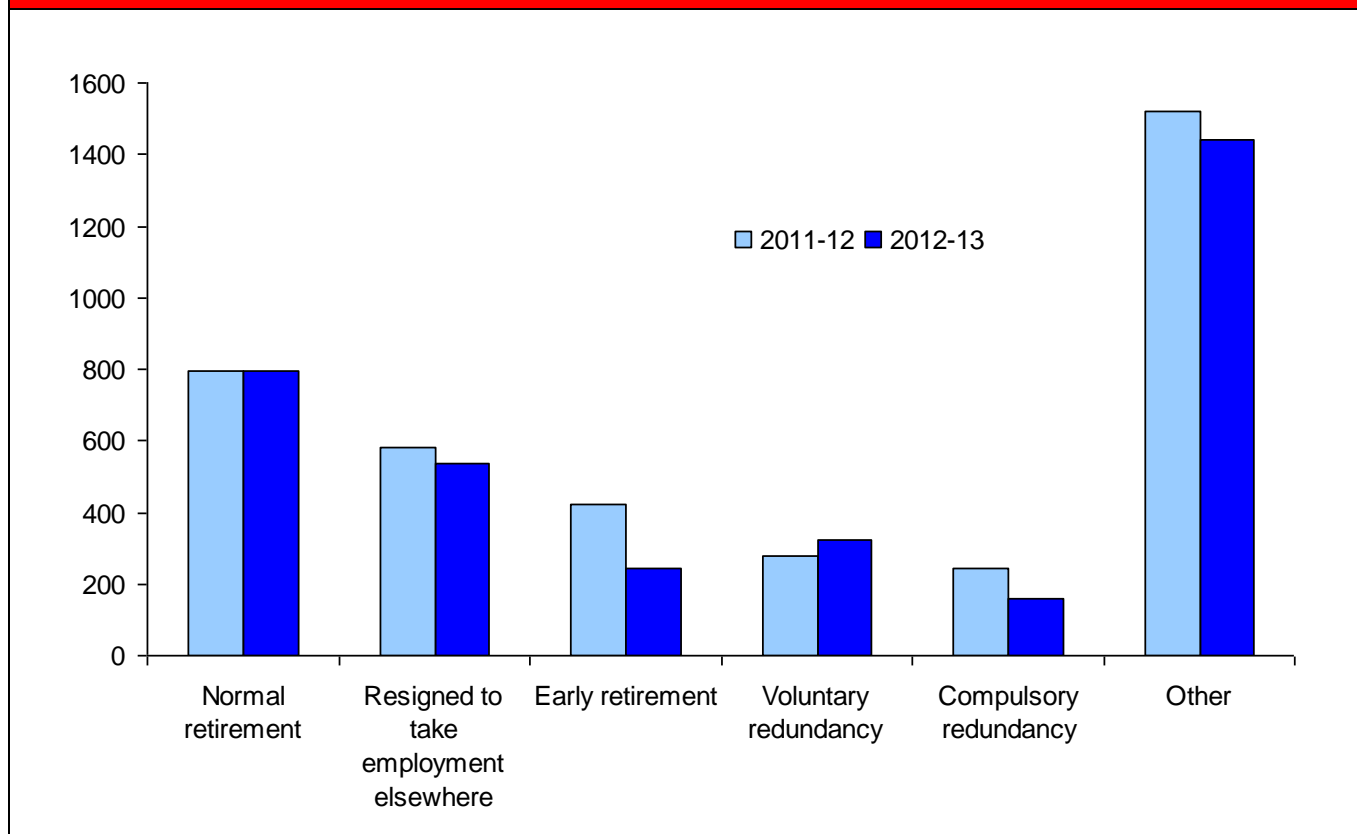
Leavers

1.8 During 2012-13, 3,847 staff left Fire and Rescue Authorities³ – 7.9 per cent of all personnel, slightly less than the 8.1 per cent of staff who left in 2011-12.

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

- Of the 479 redundancies, seventy two per cent were non-uniformed staff
- Of the 535 staff who resigned to take other employment, two thirds were retained duty system firefighters
- Almost three quarters of wholetime firefighters who left, did so on retirement, compared to ten per cent of other staff.

Figure 3: Reasons for staff leaving FRA employment in England, 2011-12 to 2012-13



1.10 In total, 1,500 retained duty system firefighters and 1,190 wholetime firefighters left Fire and Rescue Authorities during 2012-13, compared to 1,461 and 1,320, respectively, during 2011-12.

³ Includes 389 staff re-employed by another Fire and Rescue Service or employed as non-uniformed by the same Fire and Rescue Service

Table 4: FRS leavers by reasons for leaving in England in 2012-13					
Reasons for leaving	Number of staff leaving				Total
	Wholetime	Retained duty system	Fire control	Non-uniformed	
Dismissal on disciplinary grounds	31	27	1	13	72
Medical discharge	55	40	4	10	109
Resignation due to harassment or discrimination	0	0	0	0	0
Poor performance/efficiency	5	20	1	9	35
Compulsory redundancy	0	46	9	103	158
Voluntary redundancy	15	29	36	241	321
Early retirement	170	20	9	42	241
Normal retirement	624	83	7	81	795
Resignation to take other employment outside the Fire and Rescue Service	119	365	22	29	535
Deceased	19	9	1	6	35
Other reasons	79	834	14	230	1,157
Total staff leaving (excluding re-employment)	1,117	1,473	104	764	3,458
Re-employment by another Fire and Rescue Service	68	4	4	280	356
Re-employment as support personnel within the same Fire and Rescue Service	5	23	5	-	33
Total staff leaving (including re-employment)	1,190	1,500	113	1,044	3,847

Source: Appendix Tables 4 and 5

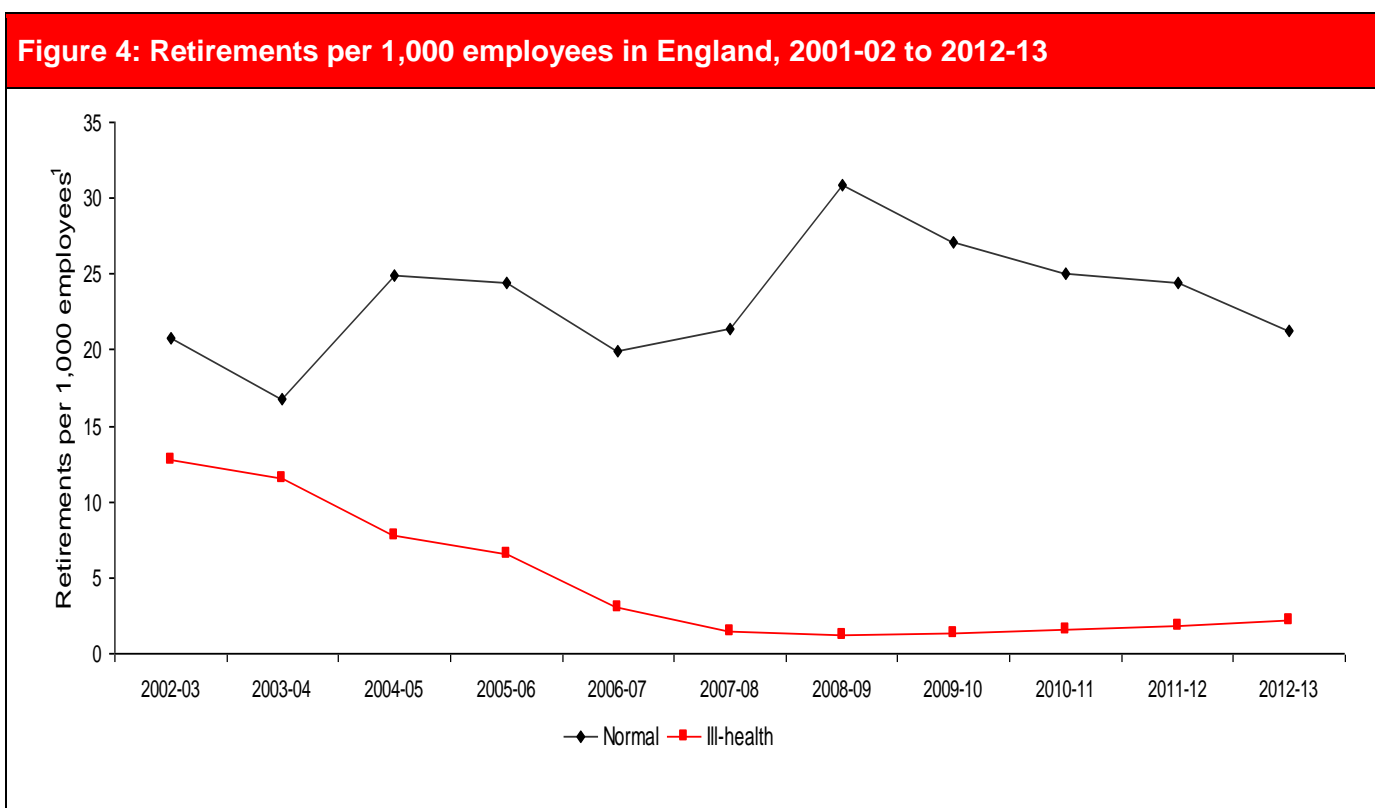
Notes:

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

Retirements

1.11 Ill-health retirements of Fire and Rescue Authority staff remained much lower than just a few years ago. In 2012-13, there were 2.2 ill-health retirements per 1,000 employees, slightly higher than in 2011-12 (when there were 1.8 ill-health retirements per 1,000 employees), but still much lower than prior to 2007-08 (See Figure 4).

1.12 Normal retirements⁴ in 2012-13 dropped slightly to around 21 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.



Source: Appendix Table 8

Notes:

1. Average strength figure taken over 2 years

⁴ Includes early retirement

Section 2

Health and safety

Firefighters' 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, 2007 to 2013

Year	RIDDOR ¹		Fatalities	All personnel injured
	Major injuries ²	Other over 3 day injuries ³		
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
2012-13	74	521	1	3,228

Source: Appendix Tables 9a-d

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/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

2.2 In 2012-13, one firefighter died during a training exercise following cardiac respiratory failure⁵.

2.3 The overall number of injuries sustained by firefighters (during training, operational incidents and routine activities) during 2012-13 was 3,228 – five per cent fewer compared to 2011-12 (3,383).

2.4 The total number of RIDDOR⁶ reportable injuries was 595 in 2012-13, eighteen per cent lower than 2011-12 (725). Overall, 74 'major' injuries were reported during 2012-13, which is a similar number to the four preceding years. 'Over three day' injuries were lower than the previous year (down 22 per cent - See Table and Appendix Table 9).

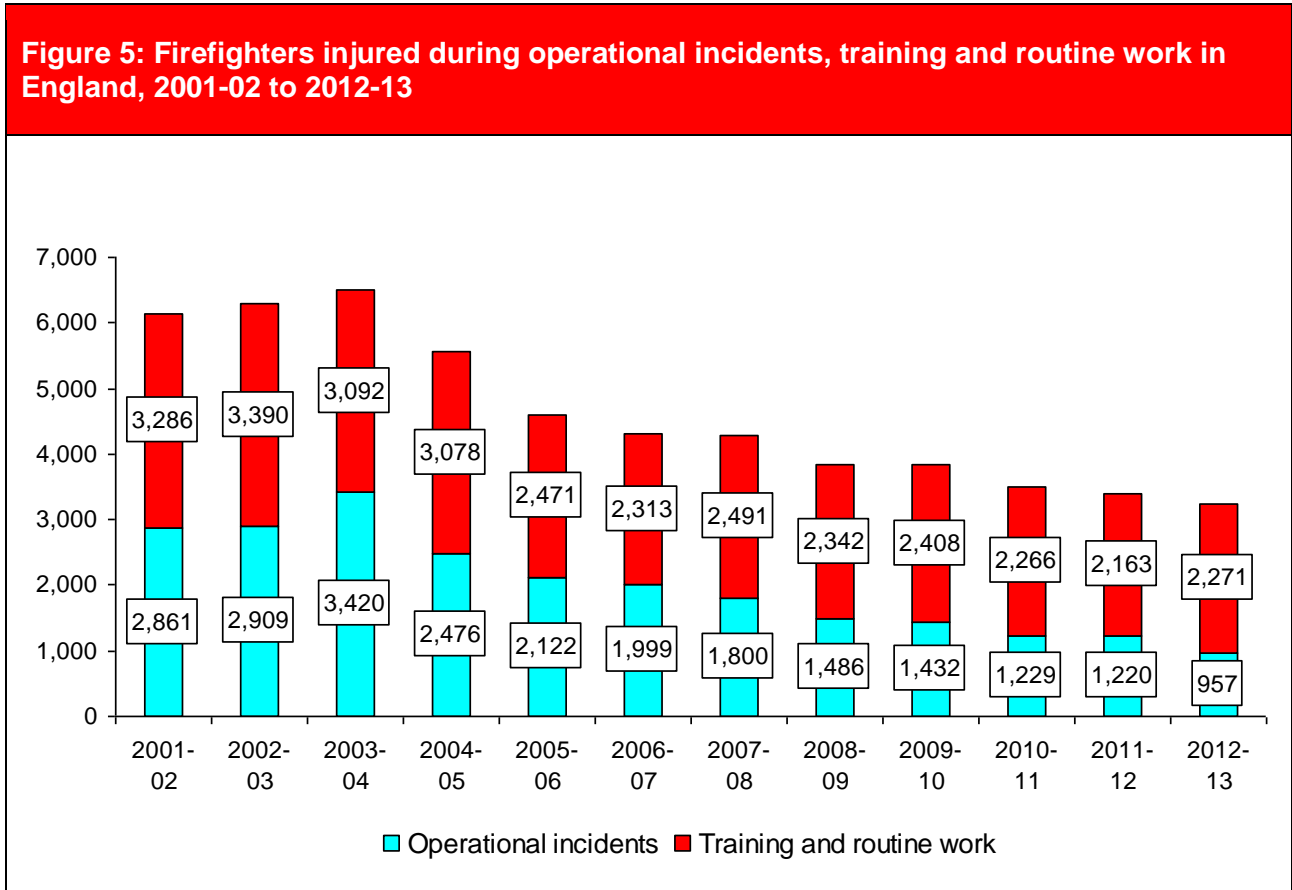
⁵<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-19812588>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-23090396>

⁶ Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/guidance.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.

2.5 Figure 5 illustrates the downward trend in numbers of firefighters injured during operational incidents, training and routine work. During 2012-13 just under one third of firefighter injuries occurred during operational incidents (see Appendix Table 9). There were 957 injuries at operational incidents. This was an all-time low and 20 per cent lower than in 2011-12.



Source: Appendix Tables 9a-d

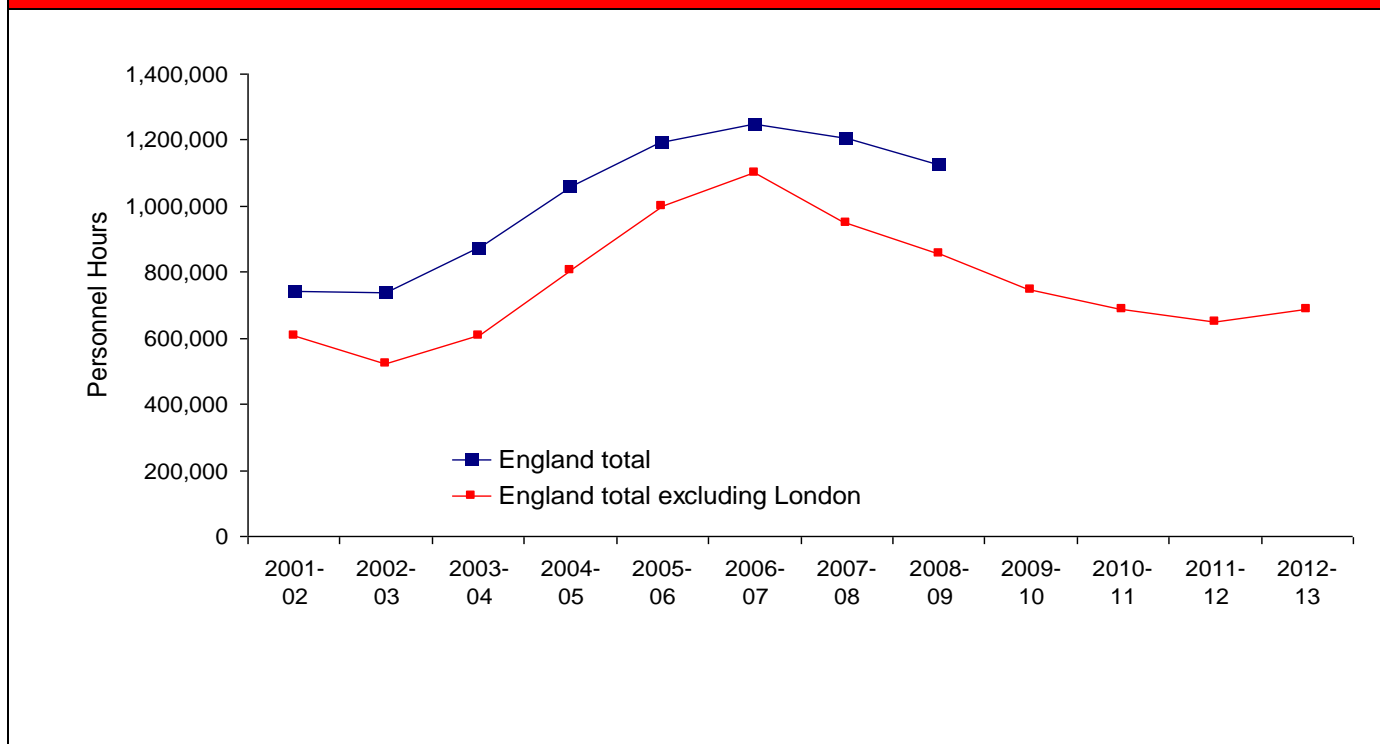
Section 3 Community fire safety

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, promotional work with young people and other vulnerable groups.

3.2 Time spent on campaigns and initiatives declined between 2006-07 and 2011-12. In 2012-13, personnel hours spent on campaigns and initiatives increased by six per cent compared to 2011-12.

Figure 6: Total personnel hours spent on community fire safety activities in England¹, 2001-02 to 2012-13



Source: Appendix Table 11

Notes:

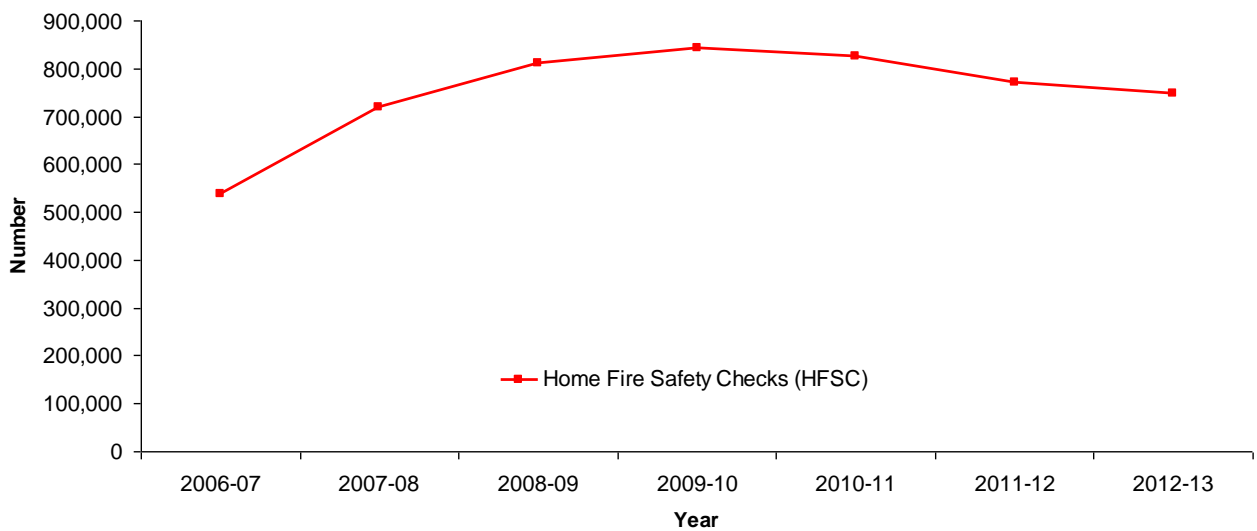
1. Full campaigns and initiatives data for London is not available for 2009-10 onwards

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 (See Appendix Table 12).

3.4 In 2012-13 Fire and Rescue Authorities and partner organisations undertook over 740,000⁷ home fire safety checks, three per cent fewer than in 2011-12.

Figure 7: Home Fire Safety Checks carried out by FRS and partners in England, 2006-07 to 2012-13



Source: Appendix Table 12

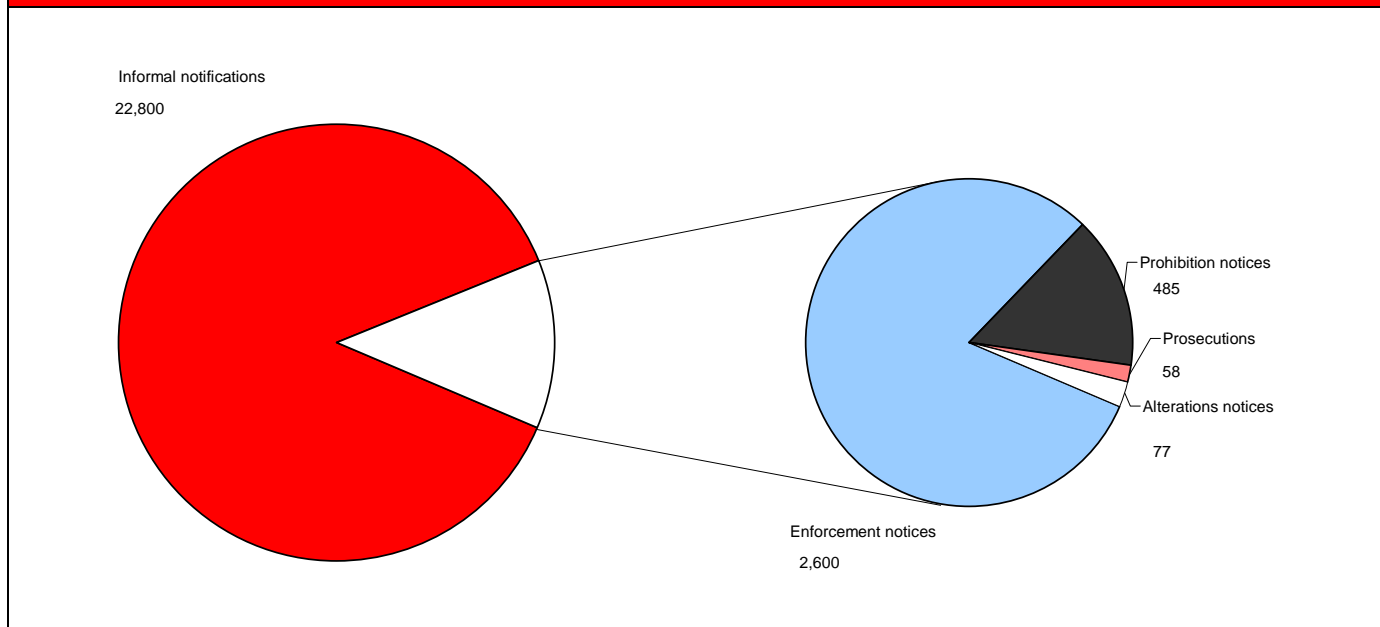
⁷ Including checks carried out by partners

Section 4

Fire safety audits

- 4.1 Fire and Rescue Authorities deliver their enforcement duties under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the FSO)⁸ through locally determined, risk-based programmes of audit/inspection visits to non-domestic premises. These audits form part of each authority’s Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP)⁹.
- 4.2 Fire and Rescue Authorities carried out 75,500 audits in 2012-13 (5% of premises known to the authorities), eight per cent fewer than in 2011-12 when 82,000 audits were conducted.
- 4.3 Fire and Rescue Authorities reported spending 344,000 personnel hours on audits in 2012-13, twelve per cent less than the 390,000 personnel hours in 2011-12 (See Appendix Tables 13 and 15).
- 4.4 The proportion of audits in residential or care buildings that were found to have a satisfactory level of compliance with the FSO was 60 per cent, up from 59 per cent in 2011-12. Meanwhile satisfactory compliance in non-residential buildings was 62 per cent, up from 60 per cent in 2011-12.

Figure 8: Fire Safety notices (informal and formal) issued in England, 2012-13



- 4.5 Audits identifying an unsatisfactory level of compliance led to 22,800 informal notifications, 2,600 enforcement notices, 485 prohibition notices, 77 alteration notices

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/fire-safety-law-and-guidance-documents-for-business>

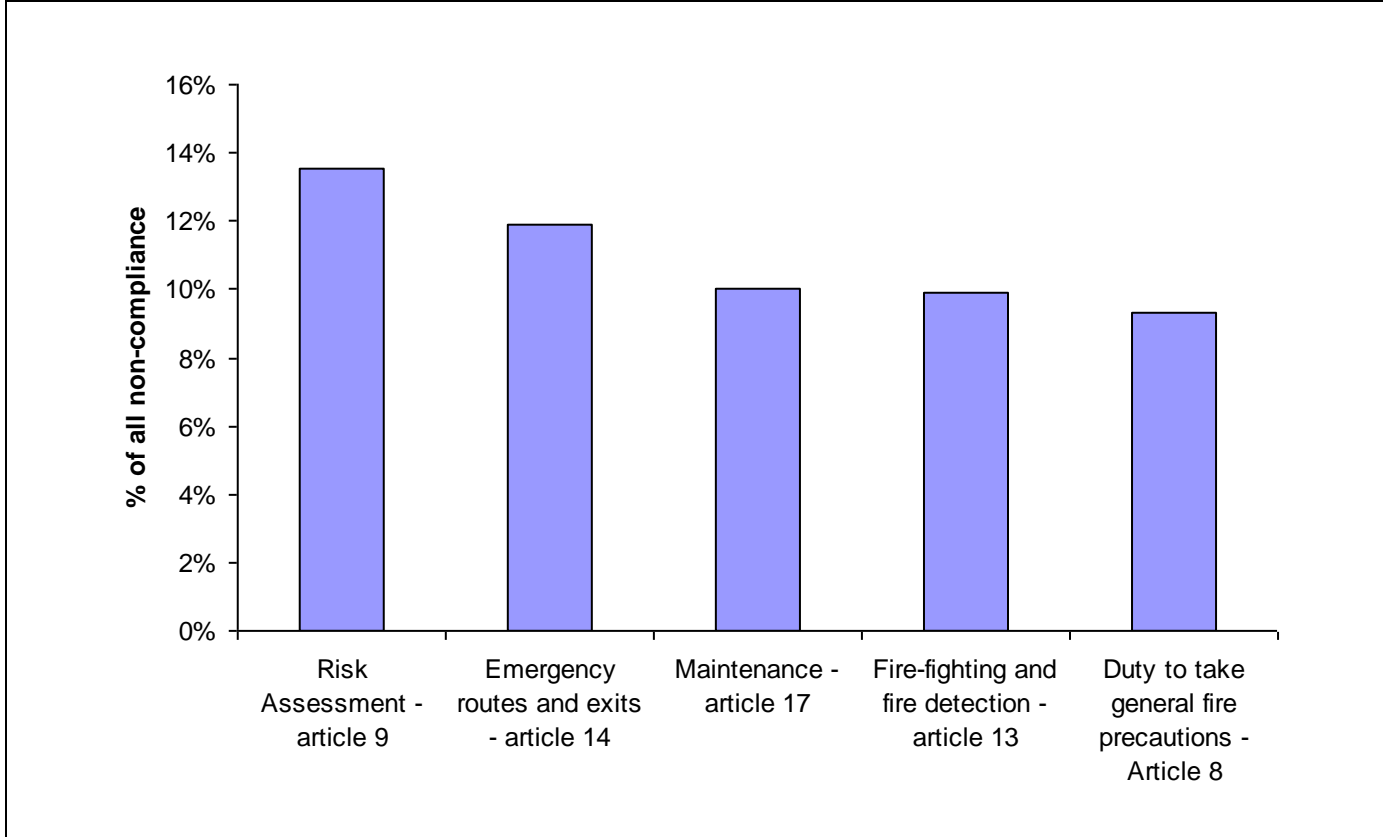
⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/integrated-risk-management-planning-guidance-for-fire-and-rescue-authorities-community-safety>

and 58 prosecutions under article 32 (failure to comply with the Order), Table 7 shows these by type of building.

4.5 Table 6 illustrates that FRAs are focusing their audit activities so that premises which are considered to represent the highest risks (as identified by the Fire Service Emergency Cover toolkit¹⁰) are more likely to be audited. The highest proportions were care homes (26 per cent were audited during 2012-13), followed by hotels (17 per cent) and hospitals (15 per cent).

4.7 The articles of the Fire Safety Order where premises were mostly non-compliant were: article 9 (Risk assessment), 14 (Emergency routes and exits) and 17 (Maintenance) (See Fire Safety Appendix Table 15).

Figure 9: Top 5 articles of non-compliance resulting in action of any type (excluding prosecutions) in England, 2012-13



¹⁰ <http://www.fsec.fire.gov.uk/>

Table 6: Number of fire safety audits carried out in England, 2010-11 to 2012-13

Type of premises ¹	2010-11			2011-12			2012-13		
	Number of audits	% of premises audited	% Satisfactory	Number of audits	% of premises audited	% Satisfactory	Number of audits	% of premises audited	% Satisfactory
Residential care	28,100	10	57	29,200	10	59	27,000	7	60
Hospitals	1,300	23	63	900	17	72	800	15	74
Care homes	7,300	25	58	8,300	28	59	7,500	26	61
Houses in multiple occupation (HMO)	2,400	6	39	2,300	5	42	2,500	6	43
Purpose built flats >= 4 storeys	4,000	13	59	3,200	10	67	3,100	9	66
Hostels	900	17	64	900	16	61	800	15	65
Hotels	6,000	19	54	6,500	21	53	5,300	17	53
Houses converted to flats	1,100	5	59	1,000	4	57	1,100	4	54
Other sleeping accommodation	5,200	5	61	6,200	5	64	5,900	3	69
Non residential	56,500	5	56	52,800	5	60	48,500	5	62
Further education	700	9	63	700	9	73	600	8	67
Public buildings	1,000	6	54	900	5	61	800	4	66
Licensed premises	10,200	10	46	10,100	10	50	10,200	10	50
Schools	4,600	10	58	4,000	9	61	3,600	8	65
Shops	17,500	6	60	15,100	4	61	14,000	4	62
Other premises open to public	3,500	5	57	3,700	5	64	3,500	5	65
Factories or warehouses	7,900	5	51	8,300	5	55	7,000	4	64
Offices	8,300	4	64	7,700	4	68	6,500	3	70
Other ²	2,900	3	50	2,200	2	67	2,300	2	70
Total	84,600	6	56	82,000	6	59	75,500	5	61

Source: Appendix Tables 13 and 19

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

Table 7: Outcomes from unsatisfactory fire safety audits in England in 2012-13

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
Residential care	8,119	1,060	148	27	30	3,075
Hospitals	172	10	0	0	0	55
Care homes	2,250	191	2	1	1	935
Houses in multiple occupation (HMO)	956	273	57	11	8	340
Purpose built flats >= 4 storeys	772	98	1	1	2	234
Hostels	198	39	2	0	0	86
Hotels	2,074	236	39	9	19	852
Houses converted to flats	332	109	13	1	0	162
Other sleeping accommodation	1,365	104	34	4	0	411
Non residential	14,643	1,577	337	31	47	3,969
Further education	160	9	0	0	0	43
Public buildings	230	11	3	0	3	62
Licensed premises	4,126	643	101	8	16	1,487
Schools	1,030	23	3	0	1	207
Shops	4,019	498	162	18	20	1,028
Other premises open to public	1,021	69	16	1	3	263
Factories or warehouses	2,025	168	27	2	1	496
Offices	1,561	107	9	1	3	274
Other ³	471	49	16	1	0	109
Total	22,762	2,637	485	58	77	7,044

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

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 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

Revisions

Revisions to 2011-12 Data

In accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy, the following revisions have been made to the 2011-12 release of the bulletin. Copies of the revised appendices are included in the Revisions appendix.

1. **Humberside Retained Duty System strength (FTE) and headcount for March 2012** were revised after a review of figures by Humberside fire and rescue authority.

This affects the following tables, figures and appendices in the 2011-12 release:

- Tables 1 and 2
- Appendices 1, 2, 3(b), 7(b), 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:

	Before revision		After revision		Difference	
	England	Humberside	England	Humberside	England	Humberside
March 2012						
Total staff (FTE)	48,944	1,221	48,902	1,179	-42	-42
Retained Duty System	11,703	394	11,661	352	-42	-42
Total staff headcount	52,071	1,278	52,029	1,236	-42	-42
Retained Duty System	13,817	394	13,775	352	-42	-42

Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release. These are:

Appendices 1-13

Appendix 1: Headcount of uniformed personnel, number of stations, number of appliances

Appendix 2: Number of full time equivalent staff in fire and rescue authorities

Appendix 3a: Number of wholetime full time equivalent firefighters by role

Appendix 3b: Number of retained duty system firefighters in 24 units of cover by role

Appendix 3c: Number of fire control full time equivalent personnel by role

Appendix 4: Personnel (headcount) leaving the fire and rescue authority by duty system

Appendix 5: Personnel leaving the fire and rescue authority by duty system and reason

Appendix 6: Staff by gender and duty system

Appendix 7: Ethnic origin of fire service by personnel by duty system

Appendix 7a: Ethnic origin of wholetime firefighters

Appendix 7b: Ethnic origin of retained duty system firefighters

Appendix 7c: Ethnic origin of fire control staff

Appendix 7d: Ethnic origin of non uniformed staff

Appendix 8: Retirements (normal and ill health)

Appendix 9a: Injuries sustained by wholetime and retained duty system firefighters during operational, training and routine activities

Appendix 9b: Injuries sustained by wholetime and retained duty system firefighters during operational activities

Appendix 9c: Injuries sustained by wholetime and retained duty system firefighters during training for operational incidents

Appendix 9d: Injuries sustained by wholetime and retained duty system firefighters during routine activities

Appendix 10: Incidents to fire and rescue authority vehicles

Appendix 11: Personnel hours spent on campaigns and initiatives

Appendix 12: Home fire safety checks carried out by fire and rescue authority personnel

Appendix 13: Fire safety audits

Appendix 14

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

Appendix 15

Fire safety return for each fire and rescue authority

Appendix 16

Health and safety return for each fire and rescue authority

Appendix 17

HR return for each fire and rescue authority

Appendix 18

Vehicle incidents return for each fire and rescue authority

Appendices 19 to 23

Appendix 19: Staff numbers (FTE and headcount) in England 2001-02 to 2011-12

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

Appendix 21: Headcount of staff leaving the fire and rescue authority in England, 2001-02 to 2011-12

Appendix 22: Injuries sustained by wholetime and retained duty system firefighters at fires, special service incidents, training and routine activities in England 2001-02 to 2011-12

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

These tables can be accessed at

www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-and-rescue-authorities-in-england-operational-statistics-bulletin-for-2012-to-2013

Other Department for Communities and Local Government fire and rescue statistical releases are available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-statistics

Definitions

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 service 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 (FRA).

Operational personnel

Wholetime and retained firefighters irrespective of role.

Technical notes

Data collection

This Fire and Rescue Operational Statistics Bulletin has been produced annually since the 2002/03 edition. The coverage of the publication has been for England since 2005/06 edition.

For the three years of 2002/03 to 2004/05 the publication included data for both England and Wales, with the accompanying spreadsheets showing data for each and for their constituent fire and rescue authorities separately.

Prior to 2002-03, similar data were collected by Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate and published in the statistical annex to the HM Chief Inspector's Annual Report.

The data collected has been chosen to provide useful and relevant information on the level and trends in the fire and rescue service.

Data is provided to DCLG by the 46 Fire and Rescue Authorities in England who each complete six individual forms covering separate areas of the statistics. The analysis carried out by DCLG aggregates the raw data and calculates percentages so as to allow comparison between authorities and between different years.

Data quality

All returns submitted by Fire and Rescue Authorities undergo thorough validation and checks. Inconsistent data highlighted during validation and checks are verified by contacting the relevant FRA. Validation checks are done at the point of data entry when the FRA are filling in the returns and further validation checks done once the data are received.

Late returns are pursued to ensure the overall response rate is as high as possible. Where a response rate of 100% is not achieved estimates are imputed for non-responding Fire and Rescue Authorities. In the year 2012-13 all 46 FRAs provided the returns

Revisions policy

There are no scheduled revisions for this data. Where a substantial inaccuracy is discovered the statistical release, live tables and other accompanying releases will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical. Minor inaccuracies will be corrected at the time of the next issue of this publication.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official statistics and the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy (found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-revisions-policy>).

User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to the "Public enquiries" contact given in the "Enquiries" section below.

The Department's engagement strategy to meet the needs of statistics users is published here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/engagement-strategy-to-meet-the-needs-of-statistics-users>

Devolved administration statistics

Scotland: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/08/3869>

Wales: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/fire2013>

Northern Ireland: <http://www.nifrs.org/statistics/>

Enquiries

Media enquiries:

Office hours: 0303 444 1157

0303 444 1159

Out of hours: 0303 444 1201

Email: press@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Public enquiries and Responsible Statistician:

Daniel Shaw

0303 444 1071

Email: daniel.shaw@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:

www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/browse-by-theme/index.html

Information about statistics at DCLG is available via the Department's website:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics

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If you have any enquiries regarding this document/publication, email contactus@communities.gov.uk or write to us at:

Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU
Telephone: 030 3444 0000

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