

Public consultation: Fire Response Times

Date: 17 January 2019

The Home Office Fire Statistics team are looking for user feedback on one area of the statistics produced in '[Response times to fires attended by fire and rescue services](#)', but would also welcome other feedback on the release generally. The consultation is open to everyone, including members of the public.

The questions below cover whether fire incidents with 'heat and/or smoke damage only' should be included in the calculation of response times.

Consultation process

Responses to this consultation should be sent to FireStatistics@homeoffice.gov.uk by 17 April 2019.

We plan to publish a summary of responses to the consultation, and decisions made, in due course. Please indicate if you do not wish for your replies to be made public.

'Heat and/or Smoke Damage only' exclusion

As discussed in chapter 2 of '[Response times to fires attended by fire and rescue services: England, April 2017 to March 2018](#)', when the first fire incidents response times statistical release was published in 2012 it was decided to exclude incidents where there was 'heat and/or smoke damage only'. This was mainly to keep the release consistent with previous ad hoc requests (such as Parliamentary Questions) where this approach had been used. It should also be noted that this (2012) release only had 3 years' worth of data based on the online Incident Recording System. Home Office statisticians have been reviewing the response times release and are considering whether to include incidents marked as 'heat and/or smoke damage only' in future publications.

Including these fires (over two thirds of which are dwelling fires) would increase the number of fires included in the response times calculation (for example this would add 12,833 incidents to the 2017/18 total fires figure) although the trend in response times would remain broadly similar. Examples of these fires include smouldering wires and cooking appliances producing smoke damage but not producing a flame. If we include 'heat and/or smoke damage only' incidents in future publications, we will include a consistent back series to 2009/10, as is currently the case, and a section showing the effect of the changes.

Questions

1. Do you think fires involving 'heat and/or smoke damage only' should be included in the calculation of response times to fires? [this would add 12,833 incidents to the 2017/18 total fire figure]

Include heat and/or smoke damage fires => 1a

Exclude heat and/or smoke damage fires => 1b

1a. Why do you think they should be included?

1b. Why do you think they should continue to be excluded?

2. Do you have any other comments on the fire response times statistical release and tables? (please specify)

3. Is your response your view as an individual user or on behalf of an organisation?

Own views/ Organisation (please specify)

4. What sector do you work in? (Please select 1 answer only)

Central government department or public body

Local authority

Other public sector

Academic or research

Charity and voluntary

Commercial or private sector

Media

International organisation

Other (please specify)

5. May we contact you to discuss your response to this consultation? This may be to follow up on any specific points we need to clarify.

Name:

Role or occupation:

Organisation:

Email:

Telephone: