

SDR 155/2015

30 September 2015

Fire and Rescue Authority Performance 2014-15

This Statistical Release presents information collected about Fire and Rescue Authority performance in Wales for the year 2014-15. It also presents comparisons with figures for earlier periods.

The Welsh Government's Performance Management Framework for measuring Fire and Rescue Authority performance was introduced in 2007. The performance indicators are grouped under two themes: 'risk reduction and community safety' and 'corporate health'.

Fire and Rescue services in Wales are provided by three Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs): North, Mid and West, and South Wales. The three FRAs cover varied geographical areas with a wide variety of risks including: fires in homes; outdoor fires; fires in business premises; road traffic collisions; rail or air crashes; chemical spills; building collapses; and trapped people or animals. More details on the three services can be found in the [Key Quality Information](#) section.

Data in this statistical release are collected annually by the Welsh Government from the three FRAs in Wales via two separate returns for Strategic Performance Indicators (SPI) and Core Performance Indicators (CPI).

Key results for 2014-15 show:

- There were 11,651 fires attended by the FRAs in Wales, equating to 38 fires per 10,000 population. This is a decrease of 12 per cent compared with 2013-14. Since responsibility for fire and rescue services was devolved to Wales in 2004-05 the number has more than halved;
- There were 6,430 deliberate fires started in Wales (21 per 10,000 population), a decrease of 15 per cent compared to 2013-14. In the last decade the number has fallen by two thirds;
- There were 20 deaths due to fires in Wales (less than 1 per 100,000 population); This is 3 more deaths than in 2013-14, but slightly lower than the annual average over the decade (around 21);
- There were 173 injuries as a result of fires attended by the FRAs in Wales. This is equivalent to 6 injuries per 100,000 population and a decrease of 23 per cent compared to 2013-14. This is the lowest figure in the time series (since 2006-07) and is part of a fluctuating series in a range of 173 to 310 injuries per year;
- In 32 per cent of dwelling fires there was no fire detection equipment, 1 percentage point higher than in 2013-14; this is the second consecutive annual rise.
- There were 1,631 malicious false alarms received (0.5 per 1,000 population) by FRAs in Wales during the year; this has dropped by 18 per cent compared with 2013-14 and by 69 per cent over the decade.
- In 2014-15 the FRAs in Wales attended 6,627 false alarms caused by automatic fire detection equipment in non-domestic premises. This equates to 61 such false alarms per 1,000 non-domestic properties, a slight increase from the 60 in the previous year, but a decrease of a third over the decade.

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Contents

1. Risk reduction.....	3
Table 1.1 Total number of fires attended per 10,000 population	3
Chart 1.1 Number of fires attended per 10,000 population by Fire and Rescue Authority	4
Table 1.2 Number of primary fires attended per 10,000 population by Fire and Rescue Authority	4
Chart 1.2 Number of deliberate fires per 10,000 population, attended by Fire and Rescue Authority in Wales	5
Chart 1.3 Number of accidental fires in dwellings, per 10,000 dwellings, attended by Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales.	6
Chart 1.4 Number of deaths caused by fires in Wales (a).....	7
Chart 1.5 Number of fire injuries attended by the Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales.....	8
Table 1.3 Number of injuries from fires per 100,000 population	8
2. Community safety.....	9
Chart 2.1 Number of fires attended in dwellings in Wales without any fire detection equipment	9
Table 2.1 Number and rates of malicious false alarms received and attended in 2014-15.....	10
Chart 2.2 Number of malicious false alarms received by Fire and Rescue Authority, per 1,000 population	10
Chart 2.3 Rate of false alarms caused by automatic fire detection and alarm systems per 1,000 non-domestic properties	11
3. Corporate health.....	12
Chart 3.1 The average number of days/shifts lost per employee due to sickness absence in Wales...	12
4. Glossary	13
5. Key Quality Information	14

FRAs are committed to reducing fire deaths and injuries. They run community fire safety initiatives to reduce the number of both deliberate and accidental fires. They are also working to reduce the number of false alarms.

Fires are classed as primary, secondary or chimney fires.

Primary fires include all fires in non-derelict buildings and vehicles or in outdoor structures, or any fire involving casualties or rescues, or fires attended by five or more appliances.

Secondary fires are mainly outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, or are attended by five or more appliances. They include fires in single derelict buildings, derelict road vehicles and derelict outdoor structures.

Chimney fires are reportable fires in occupied buildings where the fire was confined within the chimney structure and did not involve casualties or rescues, nor was attended by 5 or more appliances.

Chimney fires are not covered in this Release. For information on chimney fires please refer to the annual bulletin¹.

1. Risk reduction

In 2014-15, there were 11,651 fires (38 fires per 10,000 population) attended by the FRAs in Wales; this is a decrease of 12 per cent compared with 2013-14. The 2012-13 and the 2014-15 figures are the lowest and second lowest respectively in the time series (since 2004-05). The numbers of fires can be prone to fluctuation due to changes in numbers of secondary fires. Incident data published in July 2015¹ shows most secondary fires occur outdoors, and large numbers are refuse fires. Since a large proportion of secondary fires are outdoors they may be affected by such factors as the weather and the prevalence of litter.

Table 1.1 Total number of fires attended per 10,000 population

	Mid and West Wales	North Wales	South Wales	Wales
2004-05	83	66	104	89
2005-06	77	62	95	82
2006-07	81	68	103	89
2007-08	76	55	98	81
2008-09	61	50	74	65
2009-10	57	49	73	63
2010-11	63	48	80	68
2011-12	51	46	59	54
2012-13	36	34	39	37
2013-14	44	35	46	43
2014-15	39	32	40	38

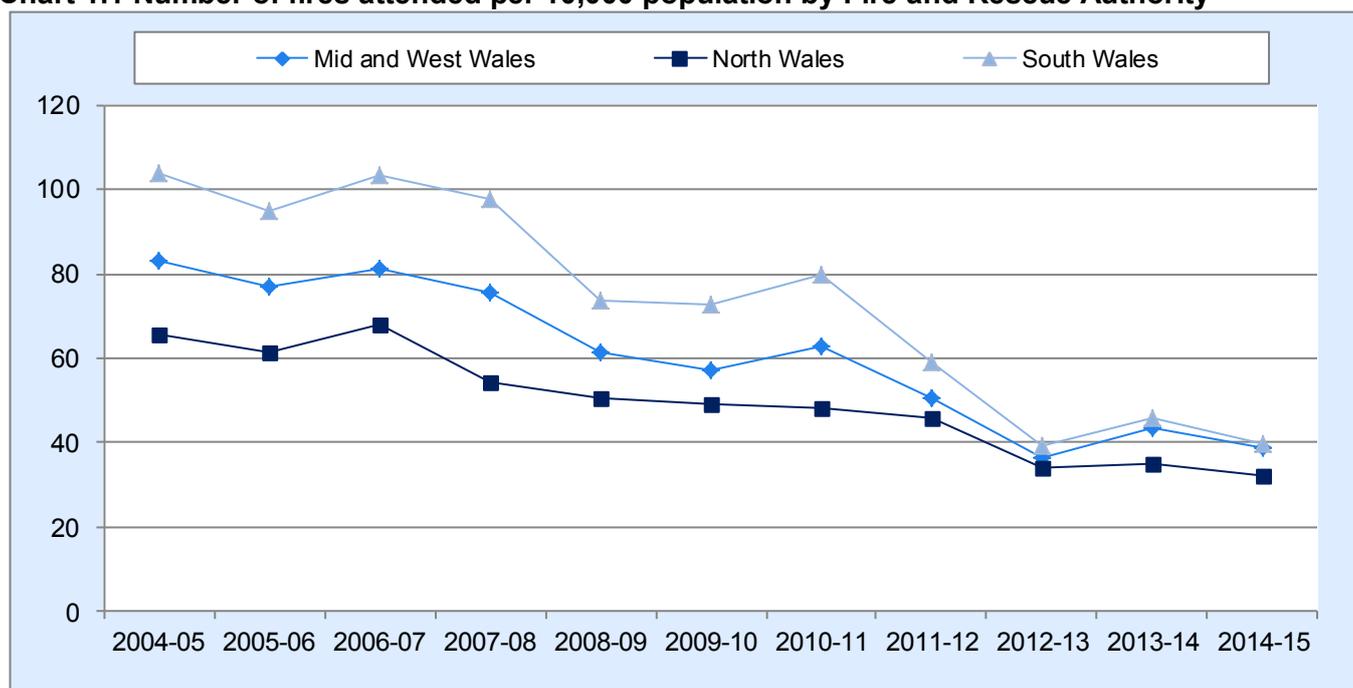
Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

The number of fires attended per 10,000 population by FRAs have more than halved from 89 to 38 in the last 10 years, since responsibility for fire and rescue services was devolved to Wales in 2004-05. North Wales had the lowest rate of fires per 10,000 population (32) and South Wales had the highest (40); Mid and West Wales had 39 fires per 10,000 population in 2014-15.

¹ <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/fire-statistics/?lang=en>

Chart 1.1 shows that similar peaks and troughs in the rate of fires have been seen in each of the FRAs.

Chart 1.1 Number of fires attended per 10,000 population by Fire and Rescue Authority



Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid Year Estimates

Primary fires

Primary fires include all fires in non-derelict buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures, or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances. There was a 5 per cent fall in the number of primary fires compared with the previous year. As shown in Table 1.2 the number of primary fires attended per 10,000 population by FRAs has reduced from 33 to 15 in the last 10 years. Since 2008-09 the rates of primary fires per 10,000 population across the three Welsh FRAs have been similar, differing by 2 at most.

Table 1.2 Number of primary fires attended per 10,000 population by Fire and Rescue Authority

	Mid and West Wales	North Wales	South Wales	Wales
2004-05	32	27	35	33
2005-06	31	26	33	31
2006-07	29	26	31	29
2007-08	25	23	27	26
2008-09	24	22	24	23
2009-10	22	22	23	22
2010-11	21	20	22	21
2011-12	18	19	18	19
2012-13	15	17	15	15
2013-14	17	16	15	16
2014-15	16	15	14	15

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

Deliberate Fires

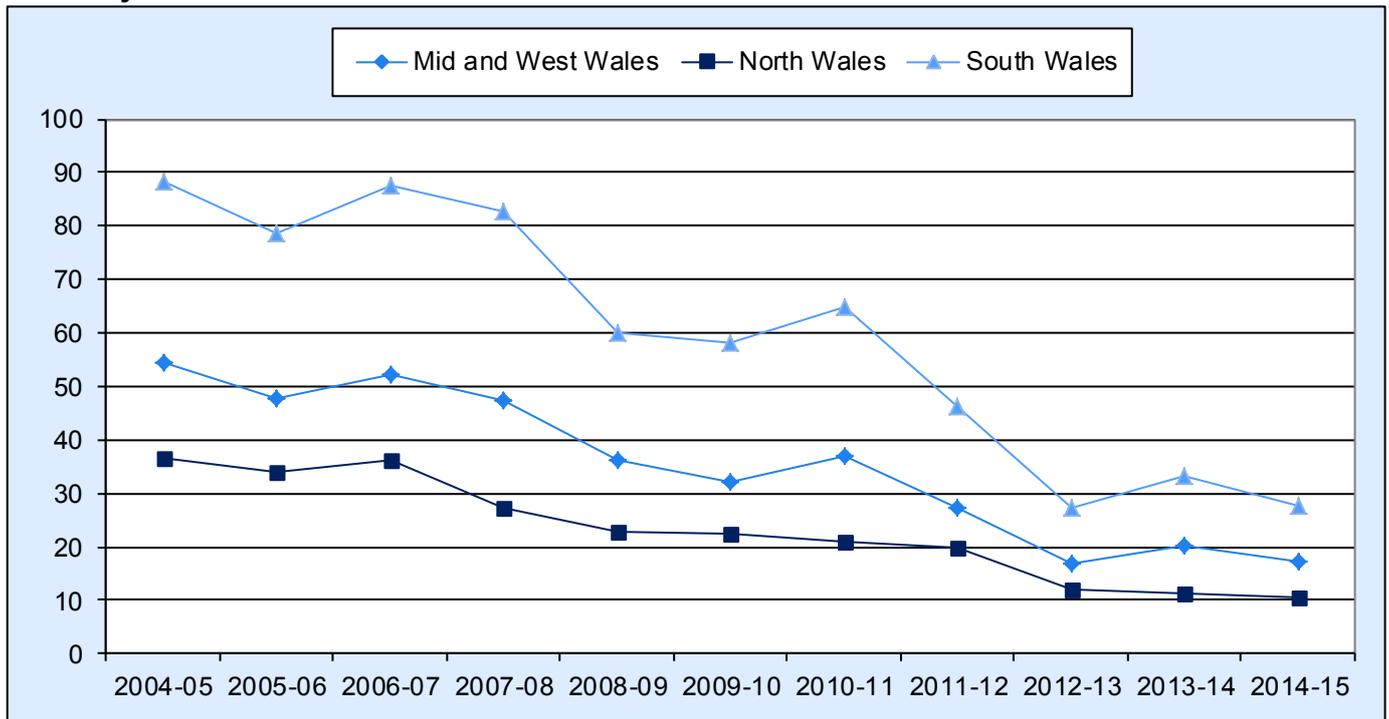
The Joint Arson Group produced the Wales Arson Reduction Strategy in 2007 (it was reviewed in 2009² with an update strategy for 2012-15³ published in 2012). The strategy states the priorities of Welsh Arson Reduction Teams (ARTs) are to reduce the numbers of wildfire incidents, deliberate fires in schools, car arson, deliberate fires associated with anti-social behaviour and the number of void and derelict buildings subject to arson.

During 2014-15, 55 per cent of fires were started deliberately. This equates to 6,430 deliberate fires and 21 fires per 10,000 population. This is a decrease of 15 per cent in the number of deliberate fires compared with 2013-14. As with the overall number of fires, this is the second lowest number in the last decade. The majority of deliberate fires are secondary (between 74 and 83 per cent since 2004-05), and therefore the trend in the overall number of deliberate fires is similar to that of secondary fires.

The weather is likely to be a factor in the number of deliberate fires since such a high proportion of them occur outside. In 2012-13, when there was a notable fall in the number of deliberate fires, there was almost 50 per cent more rain than in the previous year and it was the second wettest financial year since 1910-11. The year 2010-11 saw a rise in the number of deliberate fires and coincided with the driest year for 14 years. However, not all the peaks and troughs are mirrored by the weather data. The decreases in 2014-15 happened in a year when rain fell by 17 per cent compared with the previous year.

Chart 1.2 shows the rate of deliberate fires has fluctuated, but overall the trend since 2004-05 has been downward. Since 2004-05, South Wales have had the highest rate of deliberate fires per population, though in recent years the gap between the rates has closed.

Chart 1.2 Number of deliberate fires per 10,000 population, attended by Fire and Rescue Authority in Wales



Source: Annual performance indicator returns

² <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/safety/publications/arsonstrategy1/?lang=en>

³ <http://www.southwales-fire.gov.uk/English/yoursafety/arson/Documents/Wales%20Arson%20Reduction%20Strategy%202012-2015.pdf>

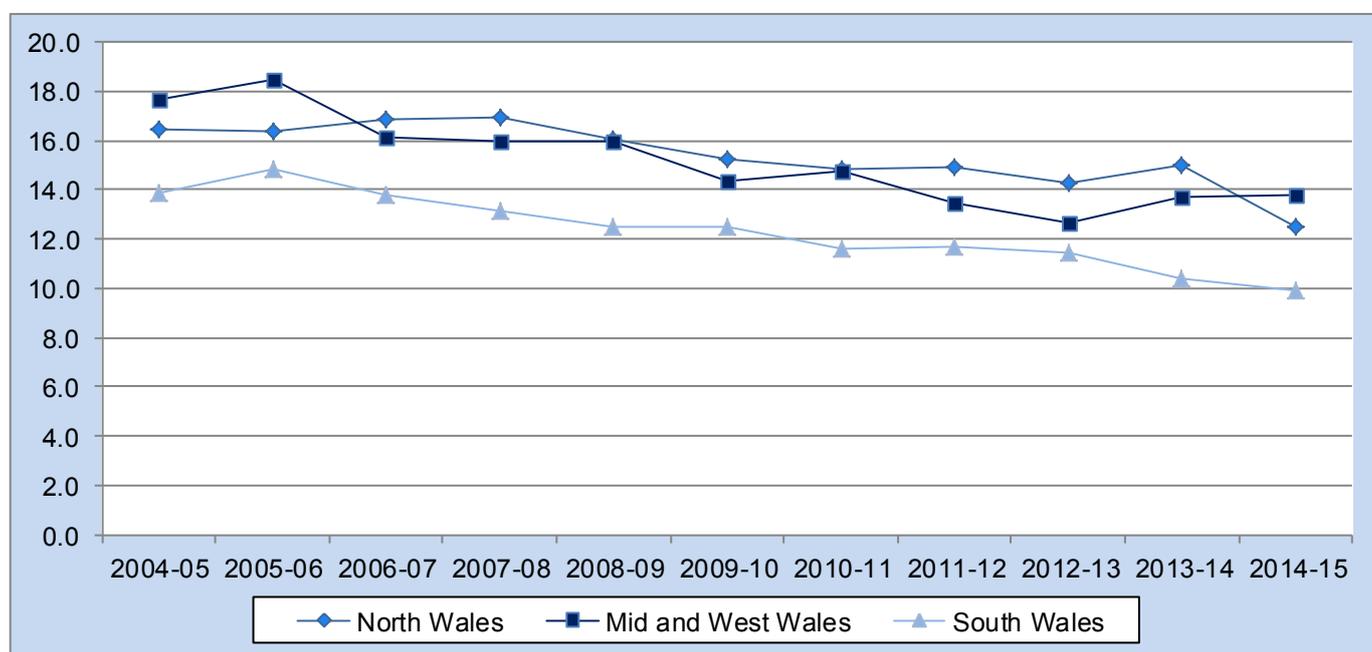
Accidental Fires

Conversely 45 per cent of fires in 2014-15 were accidental fires. Although this is 2 percentage points higher than the previous year, and the highest proportion in the time series, the number of accidental fires has fallen by 7 per cent compared with 2013-14 and by more than a fifth compared with 2004-05.

Of the 5,221 accidental fires occurring in 2014-15, 1,635 (31 per cent) were in dwellings. In 2014-15 the number of accidental dwelling fires fell by 6 per cent compared with the previous year and by 20 per cent compared with 2004-05. However the proportion of accidental fires occurring in dwellings has remained stable between 29 and 34 per cent throughout the time series.

South Wales has consistently had the highest number of accidental dwelling fires since 2004-05. However when the number of dwellings are taken into account, South Wales has the lowest rate of accidental dwelling fires (per 10,000 dwellings) of the three FRAs.

Chart 1.3 Number of accidental fires in dwellings, per 10,000 dwellings, attended by Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales.

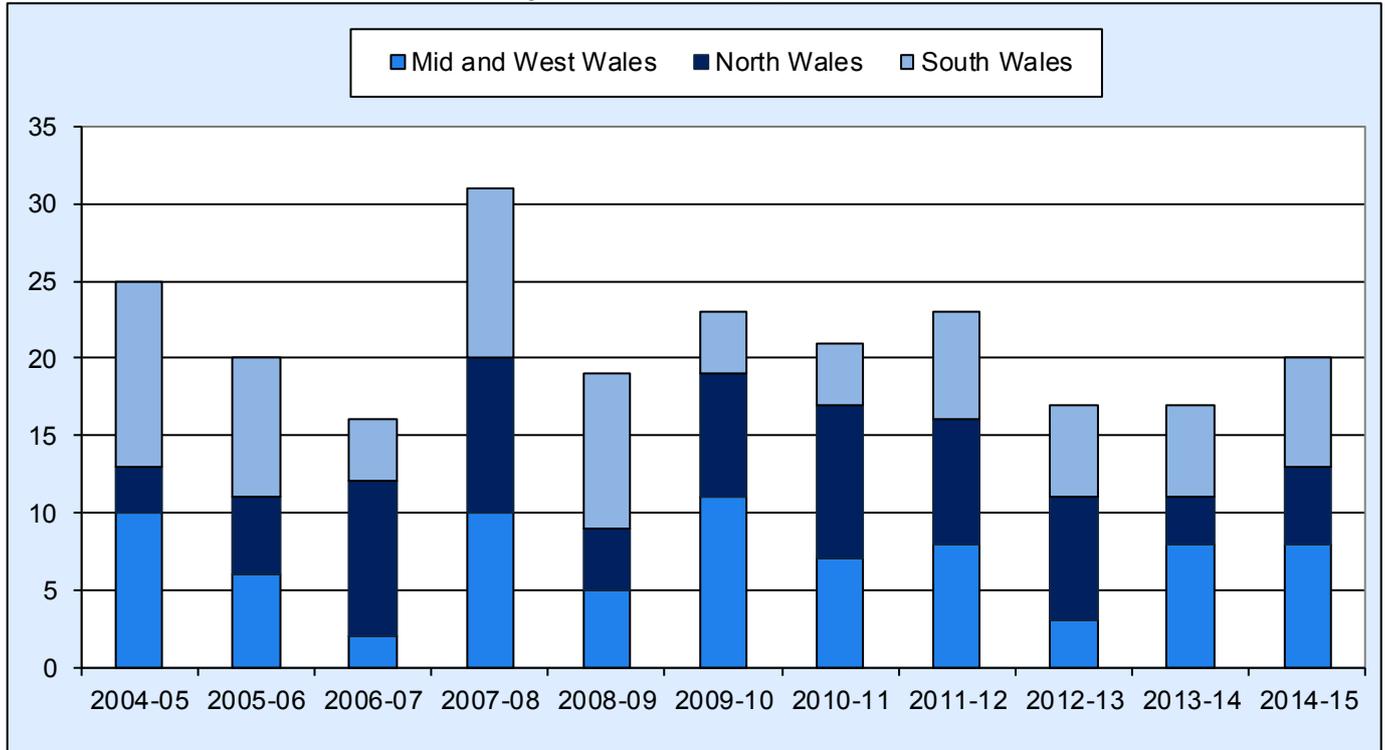


Source: Annual performance indicator returns

Deaths and Injuries from fires

During 2014-15, there were 20 deaths due to fire in Wales, 3 more than in 2013-14 but slightly lower than the average (21) since 2004-05. The total of 20 deaths is equivalent to less than 1 death per 100,000 population. The number of deaths has seen some fluctuation since 2004-05 with the lowest number (16) occurring in 2006-07 and the peak (31) occurring in the following year.

Chart 1.4 Number of deaths caused by fires in Wales (a)



Source: Annual performance indicator returns

(a) North Wales have recorded 1 fewer fatality in their PI data collection return than is shown in the provisional data quoted in 'Fire Statistics Wales, 2014-15'. Further information is available under the heading 'Comparability' in the 'Key Quality Information' section.

15 of the deaths in 2014-15 were caused by fires started accidentally, with the remaining 5 deaths caused by deliberate fires. Typically, accidental fires have caused more than 70 per cent of the fatalities each year since 2004-05. The exception was in 2012-13 when 8 of the 17 fatalities (47 per cent) were the result of accidental fires.

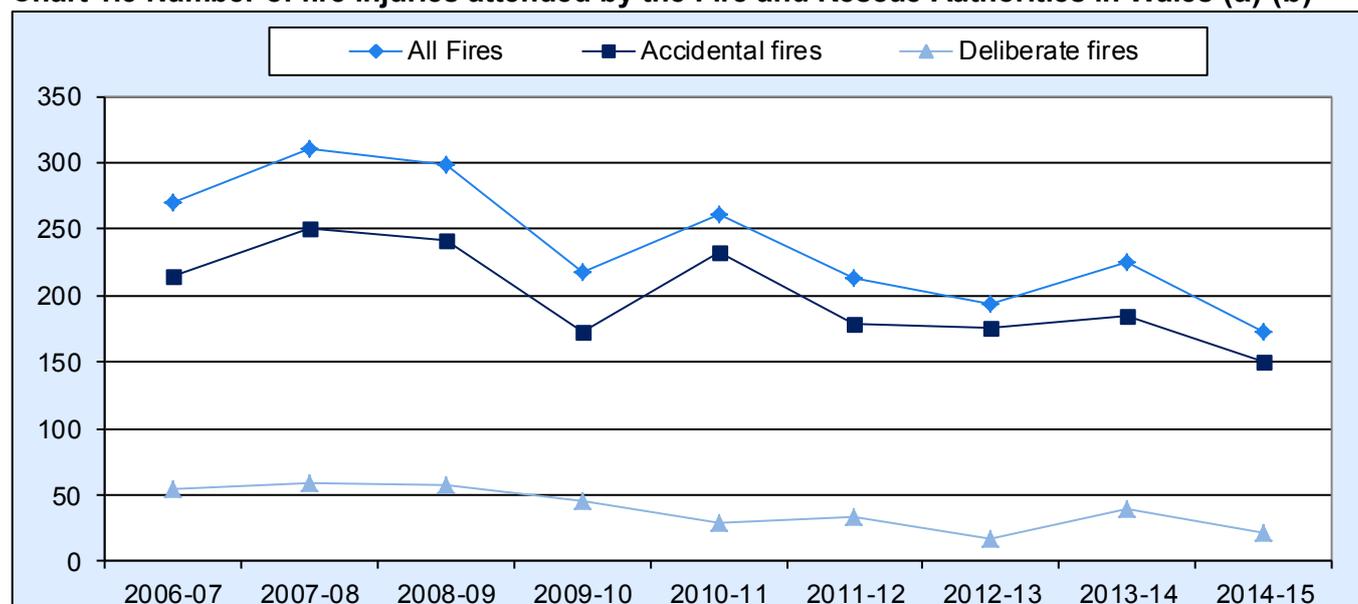
Since 2004-05, the majority (80 per cent) of fatalities have occurred in dwelling fires. There were 16 deaths from dwellings fires in 2014-15, 12 of which were from accidental dwelling fires.

During 2014-15, there were 173 fire injuries (excluding those sent for precautionary checks and those given first aid) in Wales; equivalent to 6 injuries per 100,000 population. Mid and West Wales and North Wales both had a rate of 8 injuries per 100,000 population, compared with 4 injuries per 100,000 population for South Wales.

The figure of 173 fire injuries is the lowest in the time series (since 2006-07⁴) and represents a decrease of 23 per cent over the previous year, however the time series has been prone to fluctuations and the longer term trend is less clear; the fluctuations have been mainly due to casualties resulting from accidental fires. Since 2006-07 the average number of injuries per year is 240.

⁴ The time series begins with 2006-07 data as the interpretation of the definition of fire injuries may have differed for before this time.

Chart 1.5 Number of fire injuries attended by the Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales (a) (b)



Source: Annual performance indicator returns

- (a) Excluding those who are sent to hospital for a precautionary check up or told to seek medical advice, and those receiving first aid at the scene.
 (b) This chart does not show data before 2006-07 as the interpretation of the definition of fire injuries may have differed for these years.

Most injuries occurred in accidental fires (87 per cent in 2014-15) and so the overall trend in injuries occurring in such fires is very similar to the trend across all fires. Similar proportions were seen in each of the FRAs (between 84 per cent and 91 per cent).

In 2014-15, accidental fires in dwellings accounted for more than 3 in 5 fire injuries, with the proportions in the FRAs varying from 57 per cent in Mid and West Wales to 68 per cent in South Wales. The proportion in North Wales was 66 per cent.

Overall there has been a downward trend in the number of injuries that occurred in deliberate fires falling from 55 injuries in 2006-07 (equivalent to 1.8 injuries per 100,000 population) to 22 injuries in 2014-15 (equivalent to 0.7 injuries per 100,000 population). This is second lowest in the time series and each of the FRAs saw a decrease in the number of injuries resulting from deliberate fires. In 2014-15 injury rates from deliberate fires were highest in Mid and West Wales.

Table 1.3 Number of injuries from fires per 100,000 population (a)(b)

	Mid and West Wales		North Wales		South Wales		Wales	
	Accidental	Deliberate	Accidental	Deliberate	Accidental	Deliberate	Accidental	Deliberate
2006-07	10.5	1.3	8.3	2.4	4.7	1.9	7.2	1.8
2007-08	12.2	1.0	8.5	3.2	5.9	1.9	8.3	2.0
2008-09	7.1	1.5	14.9	1.3	5.2	2.5	8.0	1.9
2009-10	6.2	0.9	8.3	1.8	4.2	1.7	5.7	1.5
2010-11	5.2	0.2	12.5	1.6	6.8	1.1	7.6	1.0
2011-12	7.4	0.8	8.1	1.2	3.8	1.3	5.8	1.1
2012-13	6.4	0.4	8.0	0.7	4.3	0.5	5.7	0.6
2013-14	5.8	1.1	11.6	3.0	3.5	0.6	6.0	1.3
2014-15	6.8	1.0	6.9	0.7	2.8	0.5	4.9	0.7

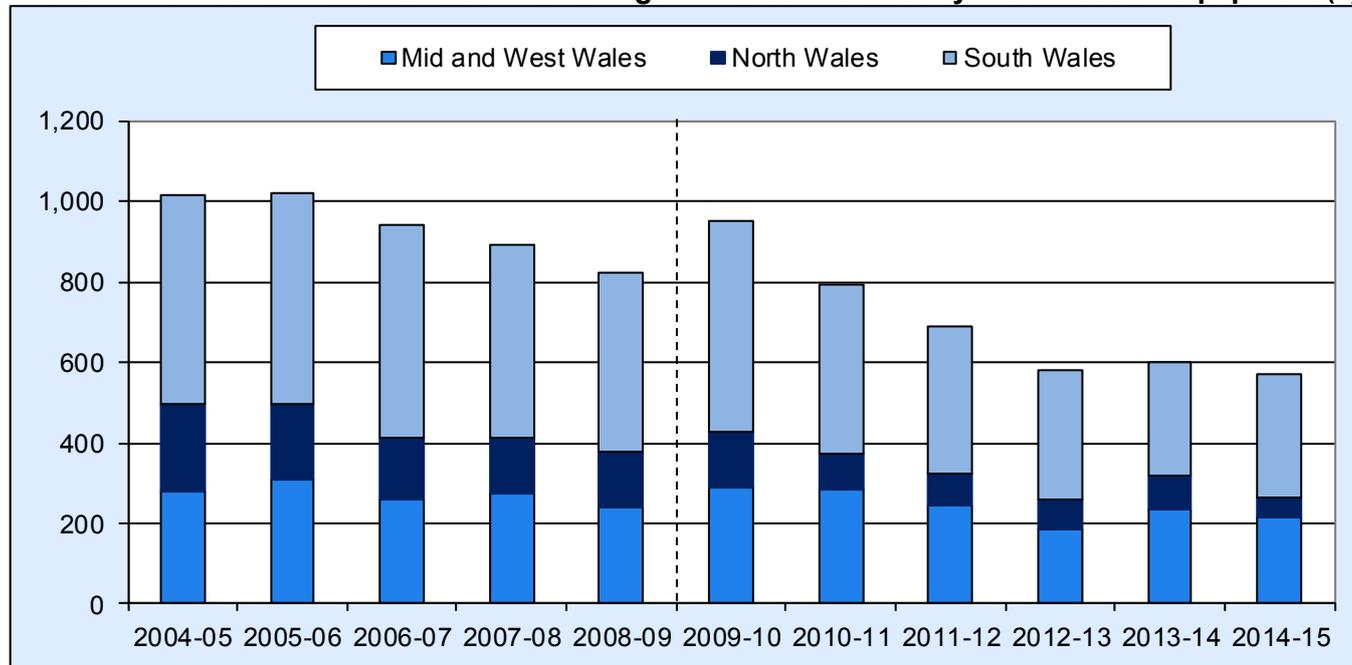
Source: Annual performance indicator returns

- (a) Excluding those who are sent to hospital for a precautionary check up or told to seek medical advice and those receiving first aid at the scene.
 (b) This table excludes data before 2006-07 as the interpretation of the definition of fire injuries may have differed for these years.

2. Community safety

During 2014-15, there was no fire detection equipment⁵ in 32 per cent of dwelling fires. This is 1 percentage point higher than in 2013-14. However, as shown in Chart 2.1, the *number* of such fires fell compared with the previous year. The increase in proportion is because of a decrease in the number of dwelling fires overall (the denominator of the rate). The rise in 2009-10 coincided with the introduction of the new Incident Recording System (IRS): see 'Key Quality Information'.

Chart 2.1 Number of fires attended in dwellings in Wales without any fire detection equipment (a)



Source: Annual performance indicator returns

(a) Incident Recording System (IRS) introduced in April 2009 and therefore comparative data in previous years may be affected.

The percentage of fires attended in dwellings where there was no fire detection equipment present was 12 per cent in North Wales, around a third of that for South Wales and Mid and West Wales (40 and 35 per cent respectively). For context, approximately 8 per cent of all households in Wales did not have a working smoke alarm (National Survey for Wales 2013-14⁶). For each FRA the proportions of households with no working smoke alarm were as follows: North Wales (6 per cent), Mid and West Wales (8 per cent) and South Wales (9 per cent).

In 2014-15 smoke alarms and/or fire detection equipment activated in more than half of the dwelling fires (a similar proportion has been seen for the last 4 years). North Wales had the highest proportion of detection equipment that was fitted and actuated (65 per cent), the percentages in South Wales and Mid and West Wales were 51 per cent and 44 per cent respectively.

However North Wales also had the highest proportion of fire detection equipment which was fitted but did not activate; this occurred in 23 per cent of all dwelling fires in North Wales. Corresponding percentages for Mid and West Wales and South Wales were 14 per cent and 15 per cent respectively.

⁵ Fire detection equipment includes smoke alarms and other fire detection equipment.

⁶ <https://stats.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/National-Survey-for-Wales/2013-14>

There were 1,631 malicious false alarm calls received by the FRA in Wales during the 2014-15, 18 per cent fewer than in the previous year, and 63 per cent fewer than in 2004-05.

618 of the malicious calls received in 2014-15 were attended by FRA. Mid and West Wales attended the highest proportion of malicious false alarms (42 per cent), South Wales attended 37 per cent and North Wales attended 40 per cent of the malicious false alarms they received. Attendances of malicious false alarms also fell in 2014-15, by 6 per cent compared with 2013-14 and by 65 per cent compared with 2004-05.

Table 2.1 Number and rates of malicious false alarms received and attended in 2014-15

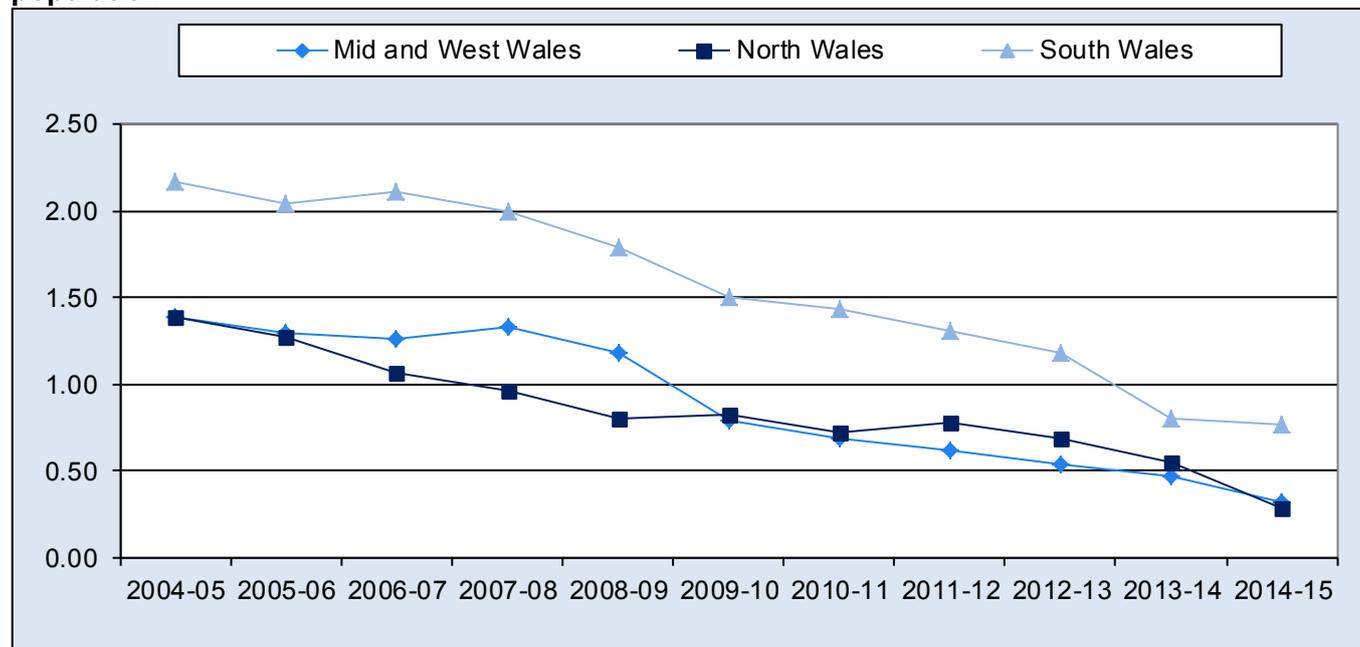
	Mid and West Wales	North Wales	South Wales	Wales
Received				
Number	290	194	1,147	1,631
Rate (per 1,000 population)	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.5
Attended				
Number	121	77	420	618
Rate (per 1,000 population)	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2
Percentage of malicious false attended	41.7	39.7	36.6	37.9

Source: Annual performance indicator returns

South Wales had the highest rate of malicious false alarms received in 2014-15 per 1,000 population, at 0.8. The corresponding rates for North Wales and Mid and West Wales were both 0.3.

The number of malicious false alarms received per 1,000 population by FRAs has reduced from 1.8 to 0.5 in the last 10 years, though rates in South Wales have been consistently higher than in the other Welsh FRAs.

Chart 2.2 Number of malicious false alarms received by Fire and Rescue Authority, per 1,000 population

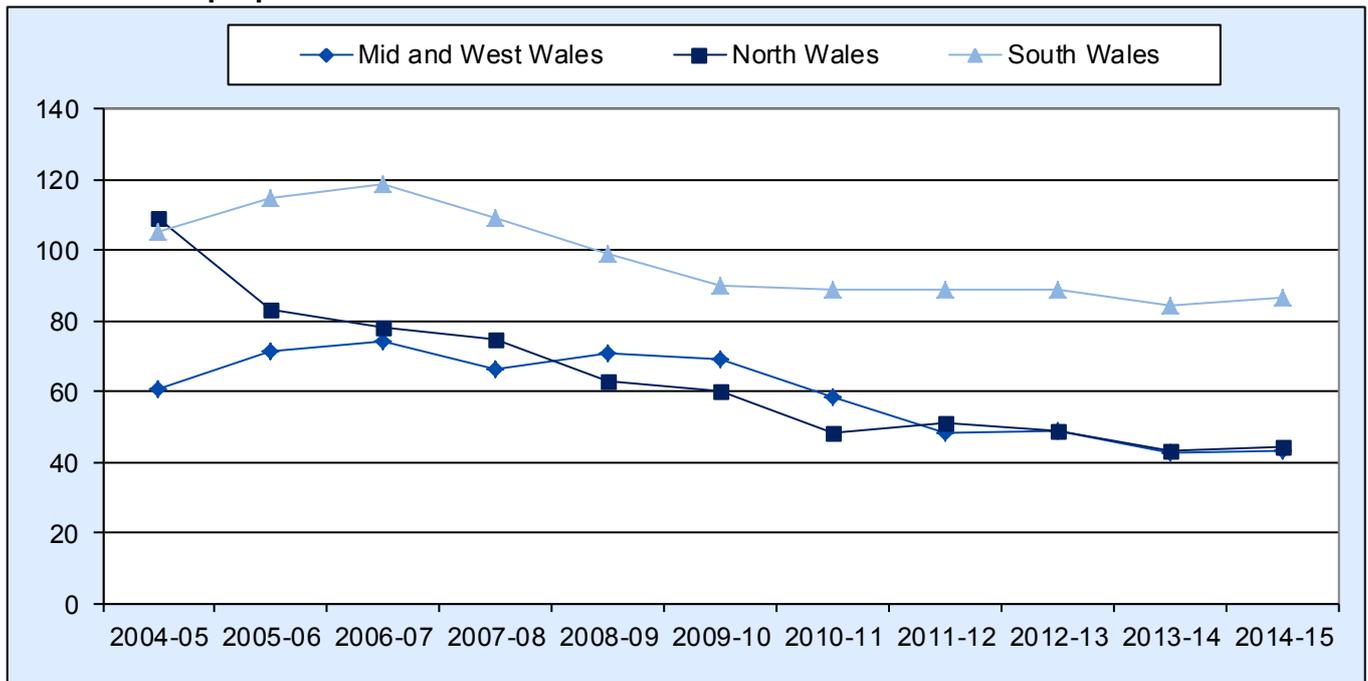


Source: Annual performance indicator returns

During 2014-15, the FRAs attended 6,627 false alarms in non-domestic properties (for example in offices), caused by faulty or badly installed automatic fire detection and alarm systems. This is an increase of 3 per cent compared with the previous year, however the number has fallen by 30 per cent since its peak in 2006-07. Almost 3 in 5 of these false alarms occurred in South Wales.

In 2014-15 South Wales reported the highest rate of false alarms caused by automatic fire detection and alarm systems per 1,000 non-domestic properties, at 86. North Wales and Mid and West Wales reported corresponding rates of 44 and 43 respectively.

Chart 2.3 Rate of false alarms caused by automatic fire detection and alarm systems per 1,000 non-domestic properties



Source: Annual performance indicator returns

3. Corporate health

Human resources

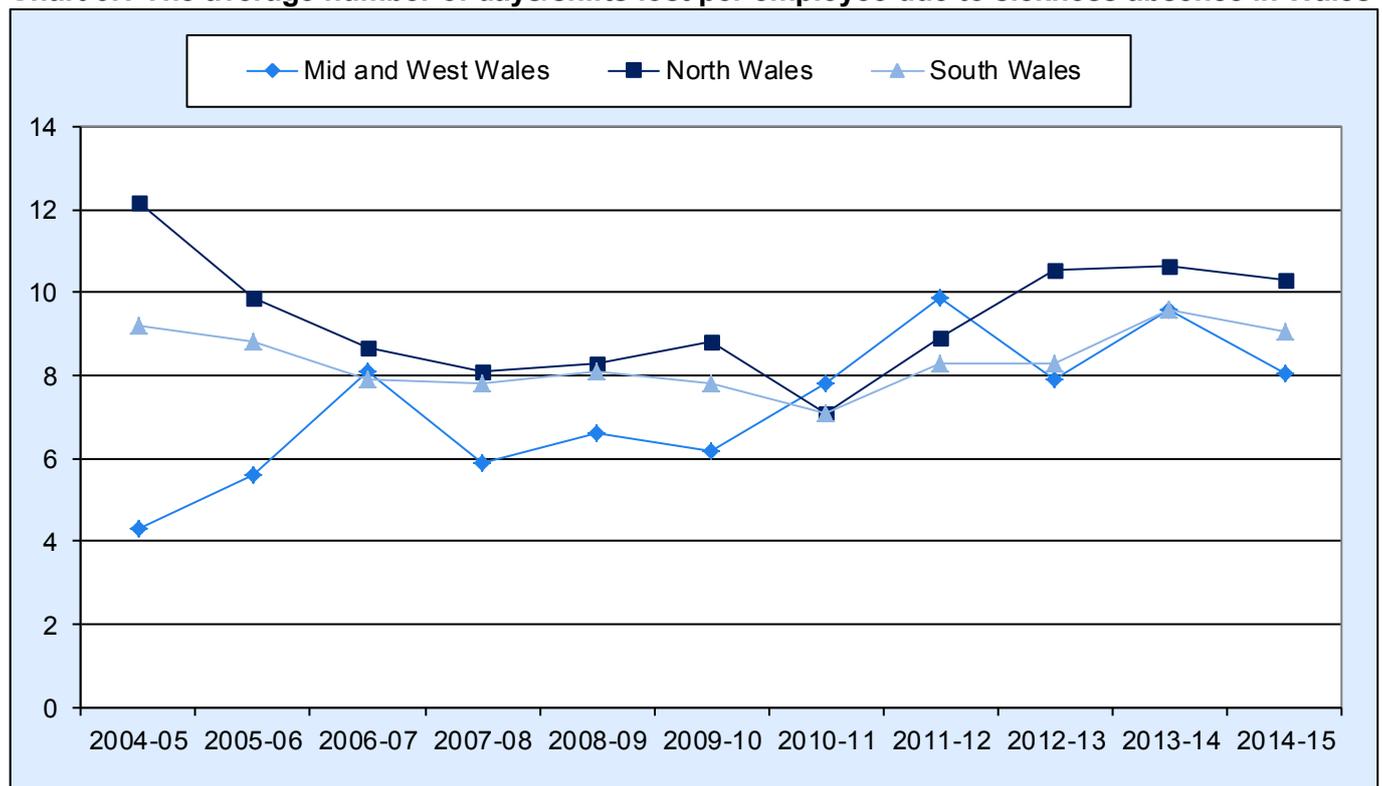
In 2014-15 some firefighters were involved in 6 distinct periods and 2 periods of discontinuous of Industrial Action. Further information is available under the heading 'Comparability' in the 'Key Quality Information' section.

More than 19,000 days (or shifts) of work were lost due to sickness in 2014-15; a decrease of around 2,000 days from 2013-14. This led to a decrease in the average sickness per employee from 9.8 days in 2013-14 to 9.0 in 2014-15.

As shown in Chart 3.1, during 2014-15 all three FRAs saw decreases in the average number of days of sickness per employee and was highest at 10.3 days in North Wales; Mid and West Wales had rate of 8.1 and South Wales 9.0 sickness days per employee. The decreased rate in North Wales is the result of a fall in the rate of sickness in Fire Control and Non-operational staff (sickness levels for whole time operational staff increased slightly). The decrease in Mid and West Wales is due to a fall in sickness in all types of staff.

The average days of sickness varied between types of staffing across the Fire and Rescue Authorities, with 8.8 days per employee reported for non operational staff, 9.0 days per employee reported for whole time operational staff (fire-fighters) and 10.9 days for fire control.

Chart 3.1 The average number of days/shifts lost per employee due to sickness absence in Wales



Source: Annual performance indicator returns

4. Glossary

- **Accidental fires** are defined as fires where the fire was ignited by accident or the cause of the fire is not known or specified.
- **Deliberate fires** are defined as fires where the fire was ignited deliberately or if it is suspected or recorded as 'doubtful' by the Fire and Rescue Services.
- **Injuries** include those injured as a direct result of the fire, but not fatally injured, who required more medical treatment than could be given at the fire ground. This excludes those who are only sent to hospital for a precautionary check up, those only told to seek medical advice or those only receiving first aid at the scene.
- **Dwellings** are defined as buildings occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions. From 1988, mobile homes have been specifically included in the dwelling count. In 2000, the definition of a dwelling was widened to include any non-permanent structures used solely as a dwelling, such as houseboats.
- **False Alarms** are events in which the Fire and Rescue Service is called to what it believes is a reportable fire and then finds it does not exist.
- **Primary fires** include all fires in non-derelect buildings, vehicles or outdoor structures, or any fire involving casualties, or rescues, or fires attended by five or more appliances.
- **Secondary fires** are mainly outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, or unless five or more appliances attend. They include fires in single derelect buildings and vehicles. They are reported in less detail than other fires and consequently less information concerning them is available.

5. Key Quality Information

Policy and Operational Context

In previous years this release has been titled 'Fire and Rescue Service Performance'. The title change reflects that it is the performance of the Fire and Rescue Authorities which are being measured. Consequently the text now also refers to the authorities rather than service.

On 10 November 2004 the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, which devolved fire and rescue services to the National Assembly for Wales, was brought into effect. In Wales, these services are provided by three Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). The three FRAs cover varied geographical areas with a wide variety of risks including: fires in homes; outdoor fires; fires in business premises; road traffic collisions; rail or air crashes; chemical spills; building collapses; and trapped people or animals.

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority provides cover for a population of almost 700,000 across a geographical area of 2,400 square miles. It employs almost 900 operational and non-operational support staff from its headquarters and its 44 fire stations.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority covers over half the area of Wales and a population of almost 900,000. There are 58 fire stations and over 1,300 employees.

South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority serves a population of almost 1.5 million people covering 1,085 square miles. It employs over 1,800 staff including nearly 1,500 fire-fighters who operate from 50 fire stations throughout South Wales.

There is a performance management framework within the Wales Programme for Improvement for fire and rescue services. This includes two sets of performance indicators that are collected annually. The data in this release and the accompanying web tables provide information to monitor the framework. You can find out more about the framework on the Welsh Government website (including a full list of the performance indicators in the annex):

[http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/safety/fire/circulars/fire-circulars-2015/wfrsc\(2015\)09/?lang=en](http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/safety/fire/circulars/fire-circulars-2015/wfrsc(2015)09/?lang=en)

Prior to 2004-05 the Fire and Rescue Service in England and Wales came under the portfolio of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now the Department for Communities and Local Government). The performance indicator data collections and publications were undertaken by the Welsh Government from 2005-06 and for subsequent years. In 2006-07 the Welsh Government introduced a new performance framework and associated indicators to replace the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs).

Data used in this release is taken from the Strategic Performance Indicators (SPI) and Core Performance Indicators (CPI) from Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales. Strategic Performance indicators reflect key priorities identified by the Welsh Government and Fire and Rescue Services in Wales. Core Performance Indicators provide more detailed performance information.

Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, all existing statutory performance indicators for Fire and Rescue Services were annulled on 1 April 2010. The 2010-11 collection took place under interim arrangements whilst new indicators were consulted on and put in place for 2011-12. In addition a consultation was undertaken for all Fire Operational Statistics data collections and outputs. The consultation processes resulted in a large reduction in the amount of fire data collected, which reduced the burden on data providers. Work is continuing to further improve data collections in conjunction with the three Fire and Rescue Services.

Further details of the consultations and results can be found at:

<http://gov.wales/consultations/statistics/fire/?status=closed&lang=en>

Data Source and Scope

- Data in this statistical release are collected annually by the Welsh Government from all three Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales. The most recent statistics cover the 2014-15 financial year. The data shown in this release are collected via two separate returns for:
 - Strategic Performance Indicators (SPI); and
 - Core Performance Indicators (CPI).
- Since 2009-10 the three Fire and Rescue Services have recorded all their fire incidents using the Incident Recording System (IRS). This may affect some of the performance indicators especially when data are compared with years prior to 2009-10.
- The majority of Performance Indicator denominators are pre-populated to data providers as part of the data collection process. The data are obtained from other data collection sources, specifically the Office for National Statistics for population data and from other Welsh Government collections relating to non-domestic rates and council tax, in providing counts of non-domestic and domestic dwellings by local authority.
- At the time of publication, the rates in this release will be based on the most recently published population and dwellings data for the relevant years. In time, some of these rates may become out of date. As these changes have only a very minor effect on the results, this release will not be revised, and the latest data will be reflected only in the rates shown on our StatsWales website (see "Further Information"), and, if relevant, in future versions of this release. Similarly previous first releases in this series have not been updated to reflect changes to population and the data within those may differ from the figures for earlier years included in this release. For the same reasons, some of the rates published might also differ very marginally from the rates that were actually subject to audit by the Wales Audit Office.
- Forms and guidance used to collect data are available for download from the Statistics and Research page on the Welsh Government website, <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/?topic=Housing+and+community&lang=en#/statistics-and-research/?topics=Housing+and+community&subtopics=Fire&view=Search+results&types=Data+collection&lang=en>
- The Welsh Government with agreement from data providers will impute data if validation errors cannot be resolved. Any such occurrences will be highlighted in the 'quality information' section of the first release. Since data collections have been undertaken by the Welsh Government, no imputation of data has been necessary.
- The data shown was originally collected under the Fire and Rescue Authorities (Best Value Performance Indicators) (Wales) Order 2008 (SI 2008/450). The elements relating to specific performance indicators were annulled by Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and non-statutory interim arrangements covered the 2010-11 collection. The Fire and Rescue Authorities (Performance Indicators) (Wales) Order 2011 (No 558) specified the new indicator set for the Fire and Rescue Service in Wales as measured from April 2011.

Best Value Performance Indicators (Wales) Order 2008 (SI 2008/450)
http://cedrec.com/health-and-safety/summary/regulation/si/3315/index_s.htm

Performance Indicators (Wales) Order 2011 (No 558)
www.assemblywales.org/sub-ld8440-e.pdf (pdf)

Uses of the Data

- The Welsh Government uses the information in this release to monitor the performance of FRAs in Wales. It is used to look at trends in activity undertaken by Fire and Rescue Authorities and indicators which FRAs may be able to influence such as, for example for the number of days of sickness per employee and the number of dwelling fires without fire detection equipment. This helps to monitor the effectiveness of current policy, and for future policy development.
- The performance indicator data is used by Fire and Rescue Authorities for comparisons and within their own publications. Data are also made available for the general public to assess the performance of the Fire and Rescue Authorities each year.
- We judge that the quality and reliability of the data is appropriate for these uses. The only exception to this is where the auditors have qualified the data as being unreliable. Where this is the case we have provided a note indicating that the data item has been qualified.

National Statistics

- This output is designated as National Statistics. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
- In November 2008, the UK Statistics Authority began an Assessment Programme to formally re-assess current National Statistics outputs for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. As a result of this assessment, this output has been designated National Statistics. The UKSA's assessment report of the Welsh Government's Fire statistics publications was published in June 2012 (report 208). <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html>

Data Quality

- Some data are taken from the Incident Recording System (IRS) by the Fire and Rescue Authorities. Whilst the data are accurate at the time of extraction, numbers may subsequently change as IRS is an administrative database which is updated throughout the year. Consequently the data published here may not match numbers appearing in other publications. Data from IRS will not be revised in subsequent editions of this release unless an error in the previously published figures has been detected (i.e. data in this publication is not marked as provisional).
- Performance Indicator denominators (e.g. population and number of dwellings) are provided to data providers as part of the data collection process. Data providers input all numerator data including fire related data from IRS and Human resource data from internal systems on sickness / shifts lost and ill health retirements. Please see the comments under "Data Source and Scope" in respect of the use of denominator data that has been updated since the data were initially supplied and audited.
- Data on casualties and incidents published in this release may not match that published elsewhere. Please see next section under 'Comparability' for further information.
- Please see the comments under "Data Source and Scope" in respect of the use of more recent data for population and dwellings data that may lead to very minor differences in data shown here and that shown on StatsWales (which is always based on the most recently published denominators), or in previous releases.
- The Fire Statistics Quality Report covers the general principles and processes leading up to the production of our fire statistics. The report covers various topics including definitions, coverage, timeliness, relevance and comparability. You can see a copy of the report on the Welsh Government website here: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/fire-rescue-service-performance/?lang=en#/statistics-and-research/fire-rescue-service-performance/fire-statistics-quality-report/?lang=en>

- Disclosure control procedures have not been applied to this dataset. This has been decided following a disclosure risk assessment. This assesses the risk that potentially sensitive information about individuals could be accidentally disclosed due to presence of small numbers in some of the categories analysed.

Comparability

- Data for 2009-10 onwards were collected by the Welsh Government. Between 2005-06 and 2008-09 the data were collected by the Local Government Data Unit Wales (Data Unit) on behalf of the then Welsh Assembly Government. Prior to the 2005-06 collection, data were collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). Whilst the organisation collecting the data has changed over time we do not judge that this factor in isolation has affected the comparability of data over time.
- Since 01 April 2009 the three Welsh Fire and Rescue Authorities have recorded all their fire incidents using the Incident Recording System (IRS). Incidents attended by the FRAs are recorded on an electronic form which replaced the previous Fire Data Report (FDR) paper forms. The move to a new system may have caused a change in the reporting of some categories of fire. As a result care is needed when comparing data from 2009-10 onwards in the risk reduction and community safety section with previous years. Given the live nature of IRS, data extracted from the system at a different time are not likely to match figures published here. For this reason data in other Fire Statistics bulletins may not match the figures in this release.
- Data on casualties and incidents published in this release may not match that published elsewhere. This is in part due to the nature of the Performance Indicator data collection which is a 'snapshot in time' and these data are not routinely revised. However the introduction of IRS in 2009-10 has improved recording methods and lead to the PI data and the annual data published in Fire Statistics Wales becoming more closely matched.
- In order to assist with comparability between Fire and Rescue Services, all data providers are issued with the same data collection form and guidance.
- In 2014-15 firefighters who are members of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) were involved in 6 distinct periods and 2 periods of discontinuous of strike action. The strike periods in 2014-15 were as follows:
 - 2nd May 2014 (12:00 - 17:00)
 - 3rd May 2014 (14:00 -02:00 4th May)
 - 4th May 2014 (10:00 - 15:00)
 - 12th Jun 2014 (9:00 - 9:00 13th June)
 - 21st Jun 2014 (10:00-17:00)
 - 10th Jul 2014 (10:00-19:00)
 - 14th Jul to 21st Jul 2014 - discontinuous strike action (various short periods of time (usually 2 x2 hour slots each day)
 - 9th Aug to 16th Aug 2014 - discontinuous strike action (various short periods of time each day)
- FBU members also took industrial action short of a strike throughout 2014-15. This included a refusal to work overtime in some circumstances, or to participate in certain forms of training.
- In 2013-14 firefighters were involved in 9 periods of strike action. The strike periods in 2013-14 were as follows:
 - 25th September 2013 (12:00-16:00)
 - 1st November 2013 (18:30-23:00)
 - 4th November 2013 (06:00-08:00)
 - 13th November 2013 (10:00-14:00)
 - 13th December 2013 (18:00-22:00)
 - 14th December 2013 (18:00-22:00)
 - 24th December 2013 (19:00-00:00)
 - 31st December 2013 (18:30-00:30 1st Jan 2014)
 - 3rd January 2014 (06:30-08:30)

Related Statistics for Other UK Countries

Fire performance indicator data for other UK countries are available at the following links:

- **England:** The Audit Commission collected Best Value Performance Indicators for England up until 2007-08. These were replaced with a smaller set of National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships. These included indicators on arson, primary fires, fatalities and casualties. These indicators are similar to Wales but have been developed separately so care should be taken in comparing the data. Performance indicator data are not collected centrally in England however similar data is available in Fire Statistics Monitor publications here:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/researchandstatistics/firestatistics/firerescue/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-statistics-great-britain>
- **Scotland:** The Scottish Fire and Rescue service has published their first an Annual Performance Review (relating to 2014-15).
<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/access-to-information/publication-scheme.aspx>
Prior to this performance indicators have not been published for Scotland. However, other Scottish fire data are available at:
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubFires>
<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/02/9404>
- **Northern Ireland:** There are seven performance indicators, most of which are similar to the Welsh PIs. The data are available from: <http://www.nifrs.org/statistics/>

Revisions

- This release contains the final data for 2014-15 financial year. Fire incident data are published as signed off in August/September 2015. Note that this data may subsequently change as a result of further details becoming available, or coroners' inquests. For the most up-to-date figures on fire incidents and other fire service data for Wales, visit the StatsWales website at <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Community-Safety/Fire-Service-Performance-Indicators>
- Some performance indicator denominator data, for example population data, non domestic properties data and domestic dwellings data may be updated in the StatsWales dataset accompanying this release to reflect the most recently published data. Revising the data in this way ensures coherence between the different detailed datasets presented on StatsWales, and helps to avoid confusion. Although in practice this may result in differences between this release, which provides a snapshot of the data at the time of publishing, and StatsWales, such differences are typically very small and often unnoticeable at the level of precision presented.
- Revised data are marked with an (r) in the statistical release.
- We follow the Welsh Government's statistical revisions policy, details of which are available at: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/about/statement-of-compliance/revisions-errors-postponements/?lang=en>

StatsWales

More information is available in the form of StatsWales tables that accompany this release and can be found at <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Community-Safety/Fire-Service-Performance-Indicators>.

The StatsWales tables include information on fire deaths, injuries, number of fires, false alarms and staffing data.

Fire operational and incident data are also published on StatsWales.

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Community-Safety>

Further information

Queries on data prior to 2005-06 should be referred to CLG:
fireresearchandstats@communities.gsi.gov.uk

We actively encourage feedback from our users. If you have any comments please contact us.

If you require any further information regarding this Welsh Government publication, contact details are as follows:

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