



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

North Service Delivery Area
Aberdeen City
2019/20 Q3 Performance Report



The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish Government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

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Introduction

This report provides detail on the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in the Aberdeen City area. In doing so it outlines our progress in the delivery of local priorities as set out within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan and the SFRS framework document.

The Scottish Government provides an overarching vision for public services. This vision is supported by 16 national outcomes, which demonstrate commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increasing sustainable growth. The SFRS can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes for Aberdeen City by contributing to the Community Planning arrangements across the area.

The national priorities for the SFRS are set out in the Fire and Rescue Framework (Scotland) 2016. The SFRS Strategic Plan 2019-2022 outlines how the SFRS will deliver against these priorities and the outcomes against which this delivery can be measured.

The SFRS Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Local Authority Area of Aberdeen City is the mechanism through which the aims of the SFRS Strategic Plan 2019-2022 are delivered to meet the agreed needs of Aberdeen City's communities.




The Plan sets out the priorities and objectives for SFRS within Aberdeen City and allows our Local Authority partners to scrutinise the performance outcomes of those priorities. The SFRS will continue to work closely with our partners in Aberdeen City to ensure we are all "Working Together for a Safer Scotland" through targeting risks to our communities at a local level.

The SFRS aspires to deliver the highest standards to our communities and our current performance is testament to the commitment, professionalism and dedication of our staff and the positive local partnerships embedded within Aberdeen City Community Safety working groups.

Performance Summary

We measure how well we are meeting our priorities using the 6 key indicators depicted below.

Key performance	Apr to Dec 2019-20					RAG rating
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	YTD
All accidental dwelling fires	232	226	180	195	190	Green
All accidental dwelling fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal)	44	26	18	24	29	Red
All deliberate fires	364	277	315	382	273	Green
Non-domestic fires	101	83	69	93	78	Green
All deliberate other building fires	14	7	11	15	13	Green
False Alarm - UFAS	993	1106	1068	1024	1140	Red

	RED	10% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
	Amber	Up to 9% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
	Green	Equal to or improved upon the previous equivalent quarter (or YTD period), or local target achieved.

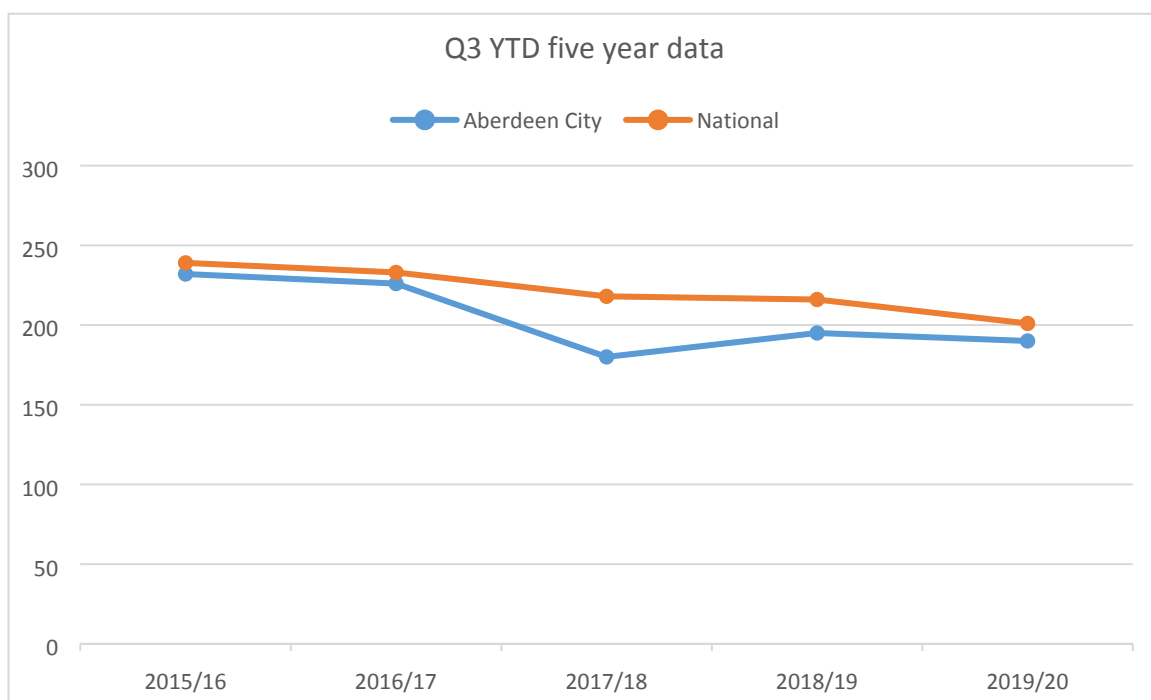
Note
Quarterly Performance RAG rating = the reporting period compared to the average over the previous quarterly reporting periods Year to Date RAG rating = the cumulative total of all quarterly performance in the current year compared to cumulative total of all quarterly performance in the previous year.

LPI Assessment 1: Domestic Safety and Wellbeing

The main areas of measurement of Domestic Safety and Wellbeing are:

- Accidental Dwelling Fires
- Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties and Fatalities
- Number of high risk Home Fire Safety Visits delivered
- Number of referrals for Home Fire Safety Visits received from partners

Accidental Dwelling Fires:



Dwelling fires can have a significant negative impact upon both individuals and the community and are financially costly to house holders and housing providers in terms of repair and the reinstatement of homes. By giving safety advice and fitting smoke detectors, SFRS have reduced the risk of fire and its associated human and financial costs as well as enhancing community safety.

Results:

The figure for the Q1 2019/20 reporting period of one hundred and ninety (190) incidents demonstrates a decrease of 2.5% from the same reporting period in 2018/19 of one hundred and ninety-five (195) incidents.

Equally, the average over the previous four years for the same reporting period was two hundred and eight (208) incidents. This shows a 9% decrease for 2019/20 against the four-year average and shows a downward trend across Aberdeen City.

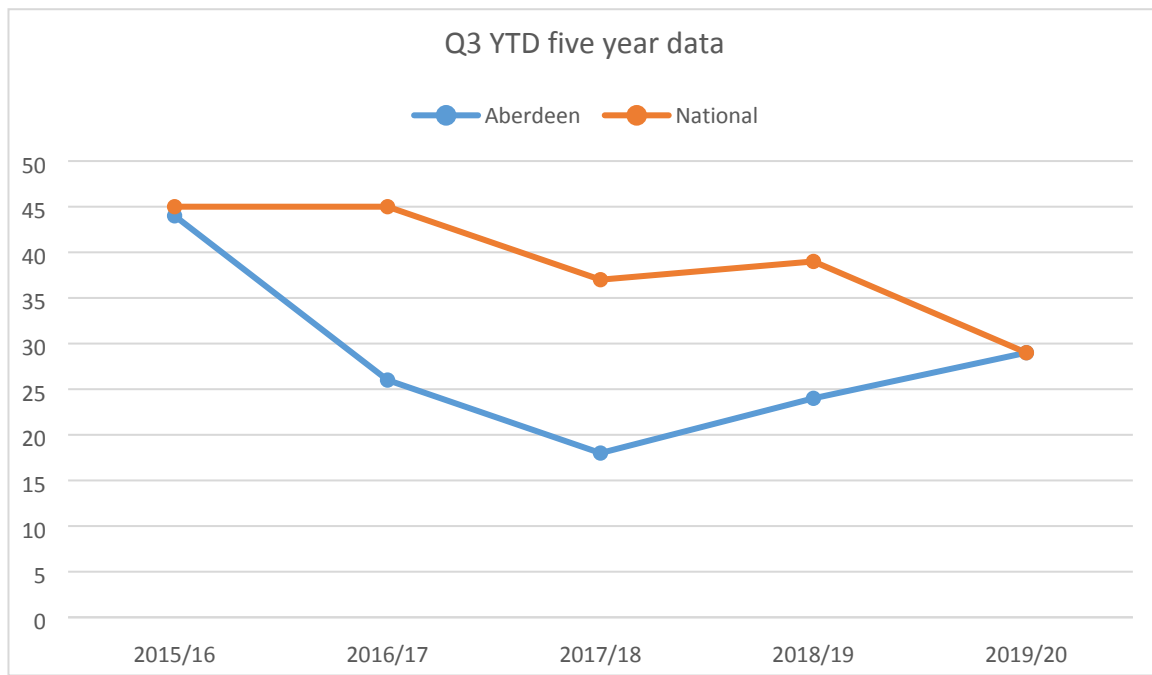
Reasons:

“Cooking” continues to be the principal primary cause of accidental dwelling fires across Aberdeen City, consistent with the national picture. These are mainly caused by adults in the 18-64 age range. The most common human factors relate to occupants being distracted and under the influence of drugs/alcohol.

Actions:

We continue to use a targeted approach to promote fire safety, education and awareness programmes, and work with our communities and partners to deliver safety initiatives. We prioritise ‘Home Fire Safety’ visits in our high-risk areas and target identified, vulnerable person(s) to reduce the risk of fire within the home to ensure individuals in our community remain safe from fire.

Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties and Fatalities



Fire casualty and fatality rates provide an indication of the number of serious, life threatening injuries that occur because of fire. This statistic is a key indicator of the success of our risk reduction and community engagement strategies.

Historically, most fire incident casualties and fatalities involves one person per incident. Although our accidental dwelling fires are reducing, the increase in this reporting period includes three incidents where seven persons were affected. The vulnerable in our communities continue to be those most at risk. Older people, those with disabilities, those who live alone and those with alcohol and drug dependencies provide the SFRS with challenges in engagement and reduction strategies. Working with partner organisations with single shared assessments and signposting of vulnerable persons provides an effective method of identification and engagement. Fire casualties are more likely to occur in the areas with highest operational demand.

Results:

The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the previous four years confirms an upward trend in relation to all accidental dwelling fire casualties.

The figure for the 2019/20 reporting period is twenty-nine (29) which is up on the same reporting period in 2018-19 of twenty-four (24).

The average over the previous four years for the same reporting period was twenty-eight (28) which is slightly below this reporting period.

It is gratifying to report that we had no fire fatalities during this period. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will continue to work with our partners in the community to prevent fire fatalities in our communities.

Reasons:

With a reduction in the number of 'Accidental Dwelling Fires' over recent years, the casualties from these types of incidents has unfortunately maintained a constant level on the previous four-year average.

Analysis for this reporting period shows the fire incidents recorded were predominantly accidental by adults and elderly persons between 12:00hrs & 21:00hrs, with cooking appliances being the main source of ignition. Consistent with the national picture, the kitchen was the most common room of origin and food the item most likely to be ignited first.

The majority of casualties were overcome with smoke and fumes with five having burns, one having cuts or lacerations and one with a fracture. Ten went to hospital with the majority receiving first aid (oxygen) at the incident. Two were treated at the incident with two going to hospital. Firefighters rescued twelve persons at these incidents.

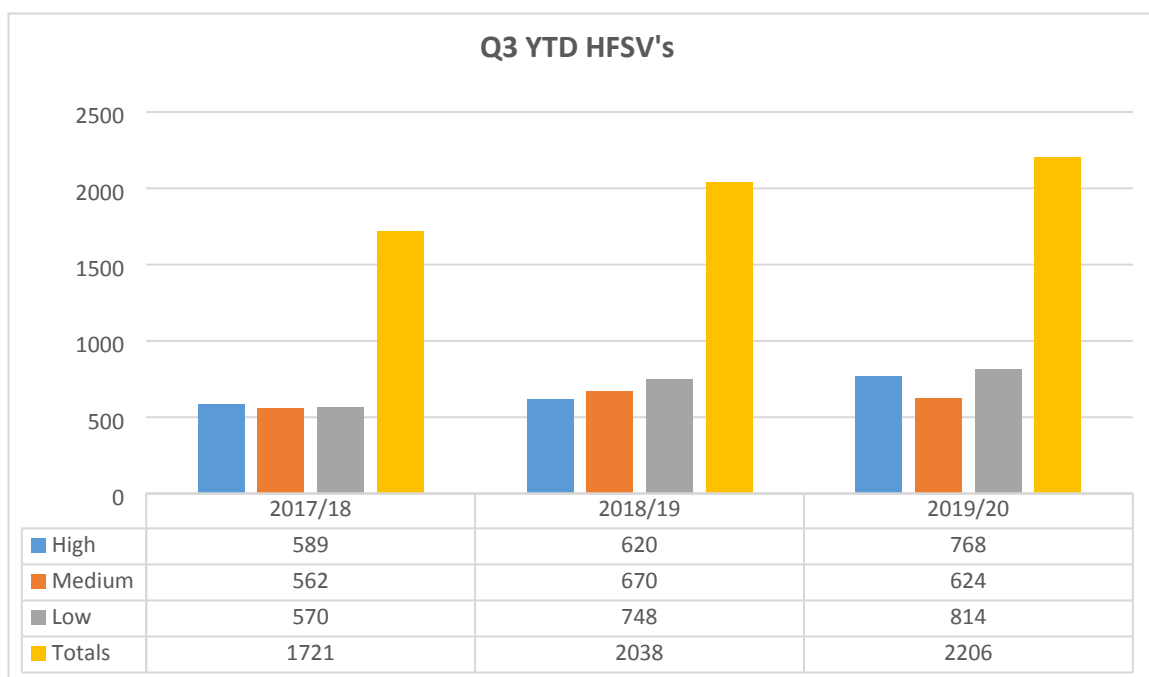
Actions:

Following all domestic incidents, SFRS personnel initiate effective and meaningful 'Community Engagement' through our 'Post Domestic Incident Response'. We engage with neighbouring households, and the wider community, offering Home Fire Safety Visits and providing community fire safety advice and guidance.

The areas Community Action Team actively targets locations where casualties have occurred, we have also invested in the provision of heat detectors which are being fitted on a risk basis to those most vulnerable from a kitchen fire. We have carried out two thousand, two hundred and six (2206) free Home Fire Safety Visits during this period and fitted four hundred and forty nine (449) detectors in three hundred and five (305) residences in Aberdeen City. We will continue to engage with the local communities and key partners to target the highest risk individuals.

Number of high risk Home Fire Safety Visits delivered:

A Home Fire Safety Visit is a comprehensive assessment by our Firefighters or Community Action Team which examines the levels of fire risk within the home. It provides a means to mitigate the risk through the provision of guidance, advice and, if required, the installation of battery operated smoke alarms and heat alarms where additional risk has been identified. Where appropriate, the HFSV will permit the occupier to be referred to other agencies for additional support.



Results:

With 2206 visits undertaken so far, we are ahead of schedule to meet our annual target of 2500. We will use our community safety toolkit to ensure high and medium risk persons are prioritised.

Reason:

Through engagement with our partners involved in the Community Planning Partnership, referral pathways have been put in place to allow them to refer "High Risk" vulnerable members of the community to SFRS for a comprehensive free Home Fire Safety Visit. As mentioned previously visits are carried out in the vicinity of accidental dwelling fires, this aids SFRS in reaching those at high risk of fire in specific wards of Aberdeen City.

Action:

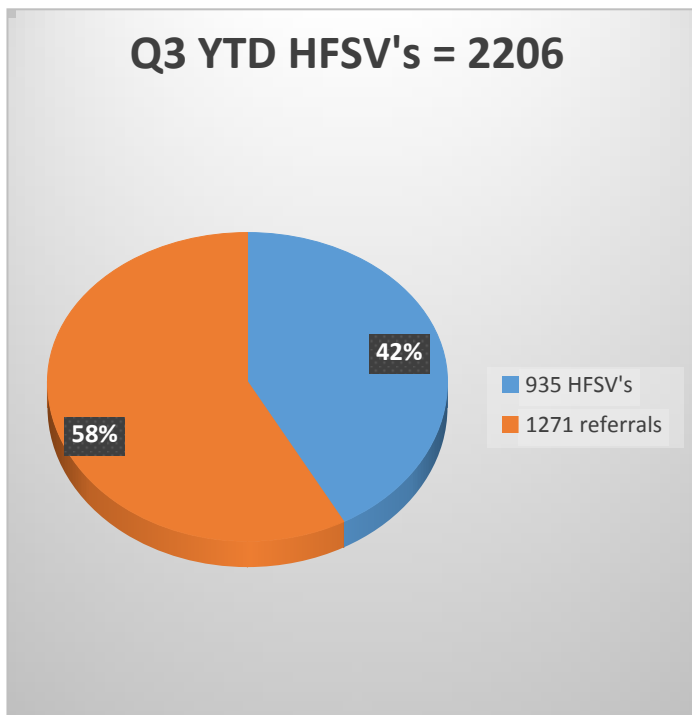
Aberdeen City are currently engaged with Bon Accord Care rolling out a new referral pathway, which if proved successful will be replicated across Scotland. This will see the numbers of "High Risk" visits continue to increase.

Number of referrals for Home Fire Safety Visits received from partners:

As part of our commitment to building a safer Scotland we offer everyone in Scotland a free home fire safety visit. We can also fit smoke alarms free of charge if your home requires them.

Get in touch with us, it's so easy to arrange:

- call [0800 0731 999](tel:08000731999)
- text "FIRE" to 80800 from your mobile phone
- complete our online form
- call your local fire station



Results:

Currently 58% of all Home Fire Safety Visits are referrals from partners. Our aim going forward is to increase this figure by continuing to work with our partners to identify vulnerable members of our community.

Reason:

Our referral pathways are continually providing us with high risk 'Home Fire Safety Visits' in the areas in our community that are at most risk. We continue to engage with our partner agencies to maintain these referral pathways to ensure that we continually reach the high-risk members of our community.

Action:

Our aim is to ensure that our resources are directed to those most vulnerable from fire, this part of the community can be the most difficult to reach, therefore partner referrals are key in assisting SFRS to create the opportunity to deliver lifesaving advice and increase smoke alarm ownership. Engagement with additional partners are currently underway to increase the number of referrals.

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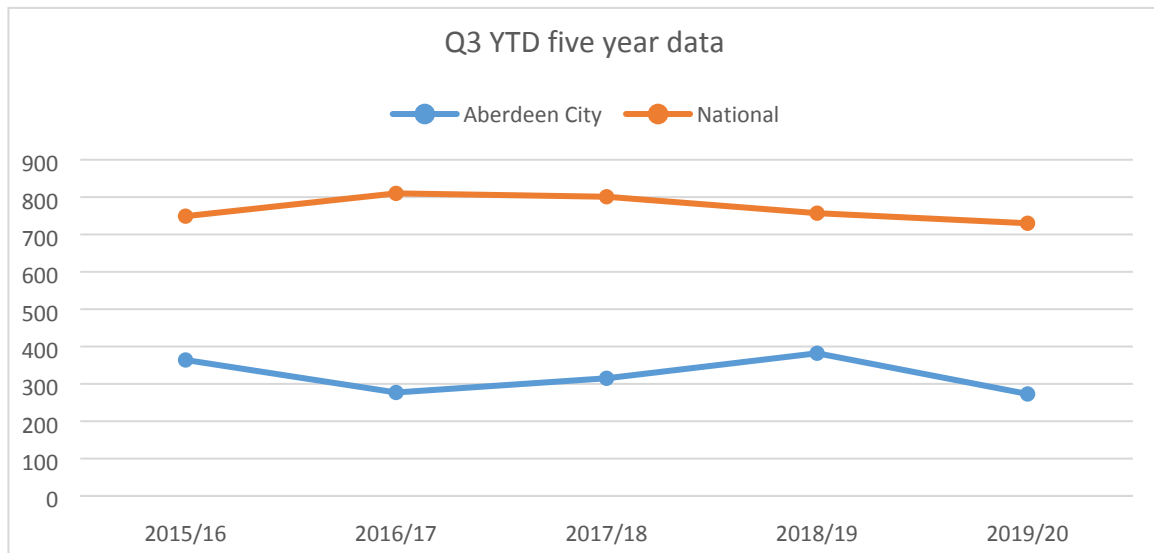


LPI Assessment 2: Deliberate Fire Setting

The main areas of measurement of Deliberate Fire Setting is:

- All deliberate fires

All Deliberate Fires:



Deliberate Fires include both Primary Fires (those that involve a building or property) and Secondary Fires (typically refuse fires or fires involving grass, trees or heathland). Deliberate fires are defined as fires which were ignited deliberately or the Fire and Rescue Service suspect they were started deliberately.

The reduction of deliberate dwelling fires continues to be a priority for the SFRS in Aberdeen City. SFRS continue to work in partnership with Police Scotland and Aberdeen City Council in order to reduce these incident types.

Results:

The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the previous four years confirms a downward trend in relation to 'All Deliberate Fires'.

The figure for the 2019/20 reporting period is two hundred and seventy-three (273) incidents which is down on the same reporting period in 2018/19 of three hundred and eighty-two (382).

The average over the previous four years for the same reporting period was three hundred and thirty-five (335) which identifies a continual downward trend.

Reasons:

The annual trend for deliberate fires has increased in recent years due to anti-social behaviour. Through statistical analysis last year, we could identify areas of high fire setting activity and work with our community partners to reduce this root cause. Our actions and community engagement work to mitigate anti-social behaviour have led to a reduction for this reporting period.

Actions:

We worked closely with our partners, specifically Police Scotland and Aberdeen City Council in order to reduce deliberate fire setting across Aberdeen City, this partnership approach has seen a number of individuals arrested and subsequently charged with wilful fire raising. Our Community Action Team have delivered school presentations where the opportunity was taken to highlight the dangers from fire setting through anti-social behaviour to both secondary and primary children. This coupled with a close working relationship with Police Scotland and Aberdeen City council allows prevention activities such as clearing of combustibles and increased visibility patrols has had a positive impact on the number of fires.

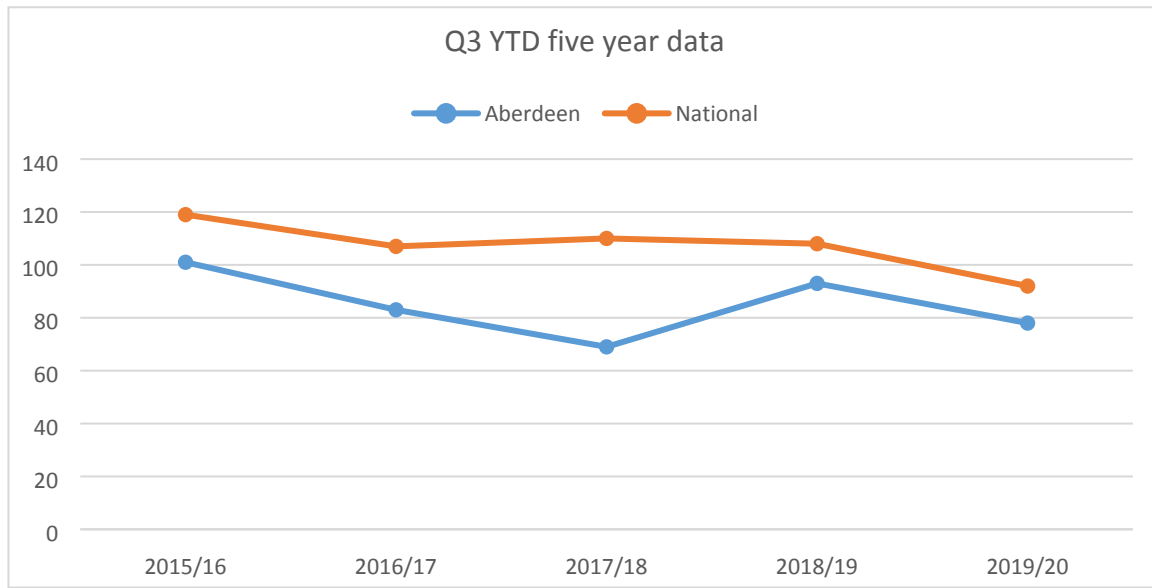
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LPI Assessment 3: Non-Domestic Fire Safety

The main areas of measurement of Domestic Safety and Wellbeing are:

- All non-domestic fires
- Number of Fire Safety Audits completed
- Deliberate fires in non-domestic properties

All non-domestic fires:



The most common cause of fires in non-domestic buildings is by adults aged 18 – 64yrs bringing heat sources and combustibles together with cooking appliances being the main source of ignition. Deliberate fire setting accounts for seventeen percent (17%) of non-domestic fires with ten percent (10%) targeting other people’s property.

While the number of deaths from fires in non-domestic buildings is less than domestic buildings the potential for significant life loss and injuries is far greater. This is due to the large occupancy capacities that may be involved and the complexity of occupant behaviour including the potential for delay in occupant evacuation following the outbreak of fire.

Results:

The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the previous four years confirms a downward trend in relation to ‘Non-domestic fires’.

The figure for the 2019/20 reporting period is seventy-eight (78) incidents which is down on the same reporting period in 2018/19 of ninety-three (93).

The average over the previous four years for the same reporting period was eighty-seven (87) which identifies a downward trend.

Reasons:

We have analysed statistical data which has helped us to identify contributory factors in relation to non-domestic fires. These are;

- Food ignited via 'cooking appliances'
- Deliberate fire setting
- Faulty equipment or appliances
- Electrical supply / lighting

Actions:

Through our risk based fire safety audit programme our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers carry out fire safety audits. Working in partnership with duty holders to meet their legislative fire safety requirements we assist them to ensure that their buildings are safe for the building users.

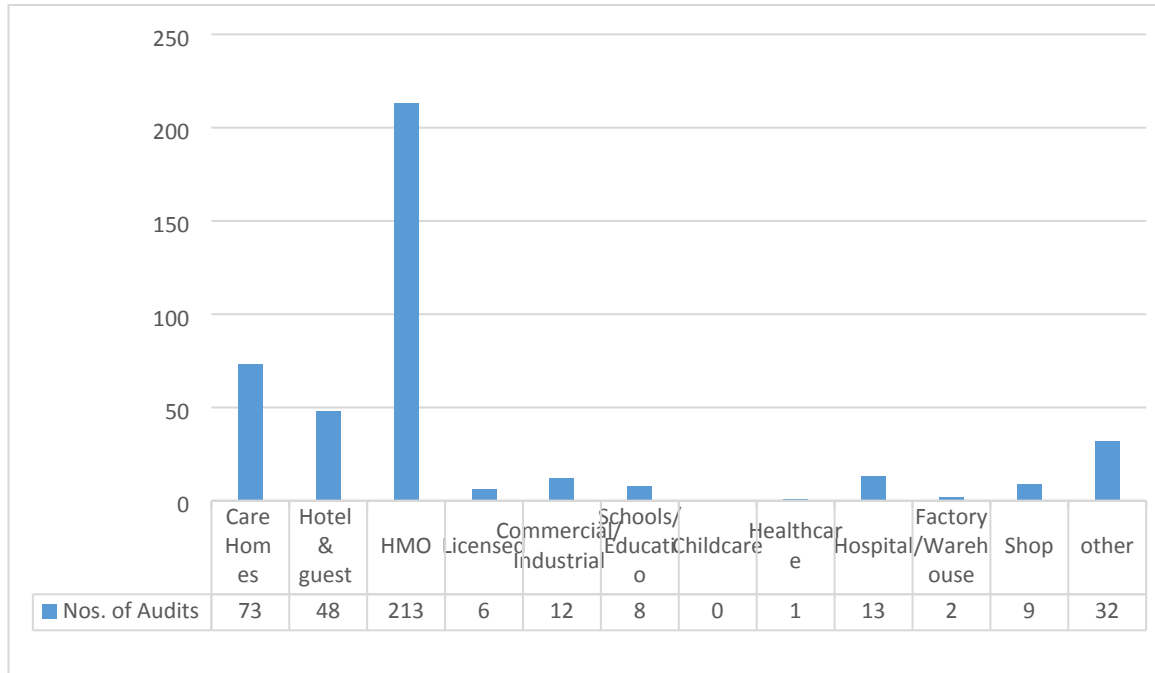
Our operational crews undertake Operational Intelligence visits to higher risk premises. This allows them to gather relevant operational information which is available to them in the event of an incident via our 'mobile data terminals' on appliances.

Number of Fire Safety Audits completed: -

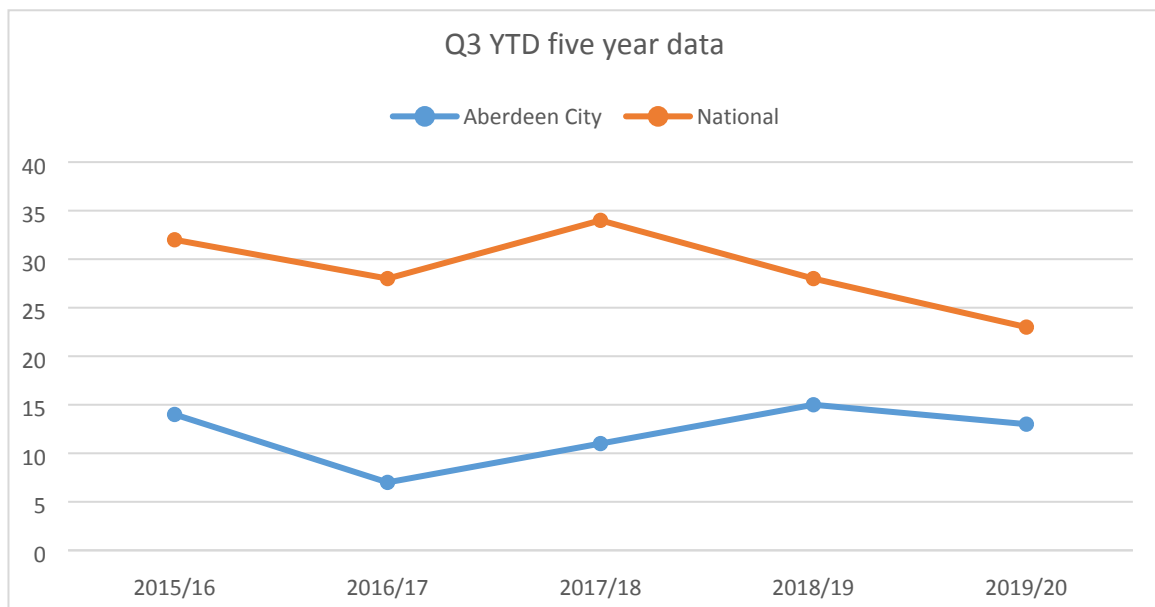
Fire safety legislation aims to ensure the safety of employees, residents, visitors or customers; it sets out rights and responsibilities in respect of fire safety.

Anyone who has control, to any extent, of any premises will have some responsibilities for ensuring that those occupying the premises are safe from harm caused by fire.

The legislation places a duty on those responsible for fire safety within relevant premises to carry out a fire risk assessment. These people are defined in the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 as Duty Holders.



Deliberate fires in non-domestic properties:



Building fires are known as primary fires i.e. those that involve a building or property. Deliberate fires are defined as fires which were ignited deliberately or the Fire and Rescue Service suspect they were started deliberately.

The SFRS have a partnership arrangement with 'Crimestoppers Scotland' which encourages the public to report fire crime and vandalism.

Results:

The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the previous four years confirms a downward trend in relation to 'All Deliberate other building fires.

The figure for the 2019/20 reporting period is thirteen (13) incidents which is down from the same reporting period in 2018/19 of fifteen (15).

The average over the previous four years for the same reporting period was twelve (12) incidents which is on a par with this reporting period.

Reasons:

Our statistical analysis for these deliberate fires show that they are caused by persons unknown in most cases with other people's property being targeted.

Actions:

Through our risk based fire safety audit programme our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers carry out fire safety audits. Working in partnership with duty holders to meet their legislative fire safety requirements we assist them to ensure that their buildings are safe for the building users.

It is acknowledged that the Aberdeen City figures for the reporting period consistently remain lower than the national average over five (5) years.

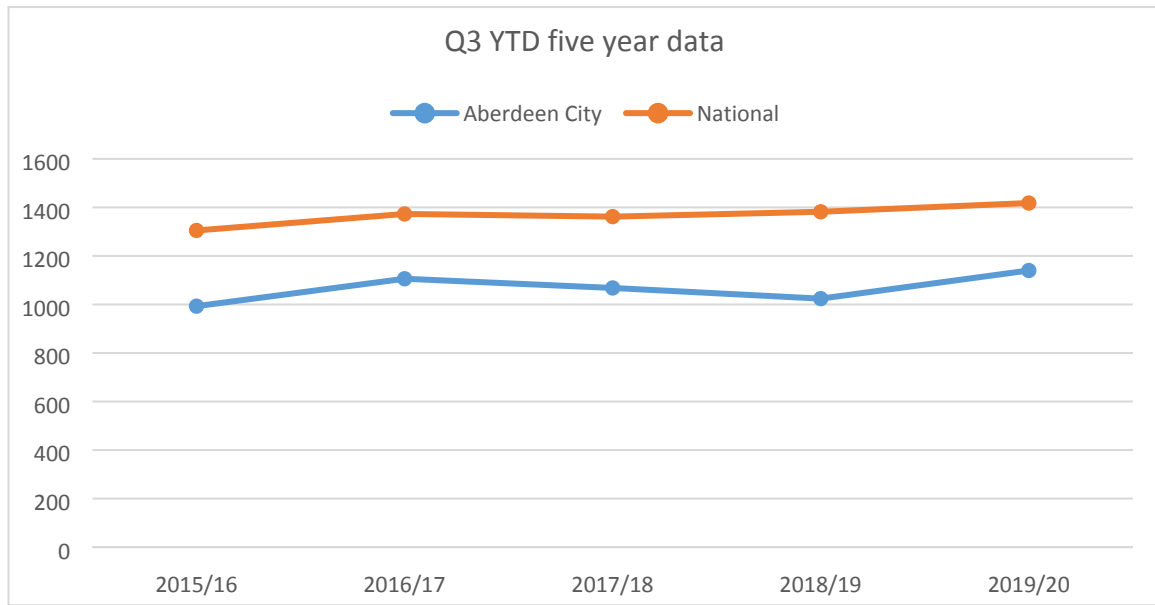
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LPI Assessment 4: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

The main areas of measurement of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals is:

- Number of UFAS incidents



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are defined as incidents where an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be something other than a fire emergency. The SFRS are committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to reduce UFAS mobilisations.

Results:

The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the previous four years confirms an upward trend in relation to 'False Alarms - UFAS'.

The figure for the 2019-20 reporting period is one thousand one hundred and forty (1140) which is up on the same reporting period in 2018-19 of one thousand and twenty-four (1024).

The average over the previous four years for the same reporting period was one thousand and forty-seven (1047) incidents which identifies a continuing upward trend.

Reason:

The increased prevalence of automatic fire detection systems throughout all classes of building has inevitably contributed to difficulties in terms of system faults and failures. The SFRS has long been aware of the importance of developing a robust process for managing UFAS activity. We have policies and procedures detailing the processes to be used to engage with persons responsible for managing automated alarm systems and the mechanisms available to support them in dealing with identified issues.

The majority of false alarm actuations originate from Hospital and medical care premises with student accommodation, hotel, manufacturing & engineering premises and retail shopping centres equally to a lesser extent. The types of alarm actuation most prevalent are fault, testing, accidental/careless set off, cooking and dust.

Action:

SFRS has an electronic system for recording UFAS activity and providing an audit trail for all engagement undertaken. Officers manage the system and provide reports on progress. SFRS aims to reduce the number of UFAS calls and are currently working with partners at a local level to reduce these calls by applying national policy and process to ensure a consistent approach. This approach has seen significant investment from partners to reduce UFAS incidents across Aberdeen City. SFRS will continue to support duty holders in minimising the impact of false alarms on their day to day business and the subsequent impact on SFRS resources.

Status



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