

## 2023 - 2024 MONITORING REPORT

Covering the performance in support of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeen City 2020-23



APRIL 2023 to March 2024

Working together for a safer Scotland



#### ABOUT THE STATISTICS IN THIS REPORT

The activity totals and other statistics quoted in this report are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review.

Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be differences in the period totals quoted in our reports after original publication which result from revisions or additions to the data on our systems.

From 2015-16 onwards responsibility for the publication of end-year statistical data transferred from the Scottish Government to the SFRS. This change of responsibility does not change the status of the figures quoted in this and other SFRS reports reported to the Committee.

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#### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Aberdeen City performance report for the reporting period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The report is aligned to and reports on progress against the priorities set out in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeen City 2020 - 2023.

The information presented in this report provides a comparison against key performance indicators, the selected performance indicators are selected to best inform and support the priorities within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeen City 2020-23. Each indicator displays the activity reflecting performance for year-to-date vs a specific target or previous 3 years rolling average.

The performance indicators within the report support the local priorities:

- Priority 1 Improving Fire Safety in the Home
- Priority 2 Reducing Deliberate Fires
- Priority 3 Improving Fire Safety in the Business Community
- Priority 4 Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)
- Priority 5 Effective Risk Management and Operational Preparedness

As well as supporting the five priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeen City, SFRS activities and performance contribute to the wider priorities of Community Planning Aberdeen (CPA) Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and its 15 stretch outcomes. The SFRS is a statutory and active member of CPA's Outcome Improvement Groups and is committed to CPA's vision; "Aberdeen, a place where all people can prosper".

The figures in this report are provisional, to provide the Committee with the SFRS's direction of travel in Aberdeen City, in terms of performance against headline indicators and targets. Most figures will not change; however, members should note that there may be some small variations for some indicators when the final confirmed figures are published by the SFRS.

#### **PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

The table below provides a summary of our 2023-24 performance against headline indicators and annual targets. It aims to provide – at a glance – our direction of travel during the current reporting year.

#### Performance against Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2020-23

#### Year-to-Date Legend

1	Below 3 Year Average
	Less than 10% above 3 Year Average
1	More than 10% above 3 Year Average

		April	2023 – Ma	rch 2024	
Key Performance Indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	RAG STATUS
Accidental Dwelling Fires					
	223	200	215	222	<b>→</b>
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties					
	63	29	39	40	$\Rightarrow$
Deliberate Secondary Fires	0.40	00.4	004	205	
4	246	284	261	205	•
Deliberate Primary Fires					_
	96	83	103	90	•

Fires in Non- Domestic Premises	89	70	92	70	1
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	1220	1345	1366	671	1
Legislative Fire Safety Audits	184	320	363	365	Annual Target 366
Home Fire Safety Visits	567	1559	1780	1849	Annual Target 2500
Operational Intelligence	59	211	650	435	Annual Target 420
Multi-Storey Operational Assurance Visits	98	215	224	266	Annual Target 280
Staff Competence					On Target 174 Staff (116 Comp, 55 Dev)
Appliance/Resource Availability					Wholetime availability never below 96% On-Call availability 80%

#### **PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS**

Of the 5 priority areas the following key performance indicators should be noted and are further explained in each indicator's performance management section from page 9 onwards.

#### **Accidental Dwelling Fires**

The statistics against the key performance indicators show that we have a increase compared to the three-year rolling average for Accidental Dwelling Fires.

#### Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties & Fatalities

Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties have increased over the Three-year average. There were three fatalities during this reporting period.

#### **Deliberate Primary and Secondary Fires**

Deliberate Primary fire has seen a significant decrease over the three-year average.

Deliberate secondary fires have decreased compared to the three-year average, with deliberate secondary fires involving outdoors structures such wheelie bins, small refuse/recycle containers as the highest attended.

#### **Non-Domestic Fires**

Non-Domestic Fires have seen a significant decrease compared to the three-year average with 70 incidents covering a variety of premise types across the Aberdeen City area.

We continue to work with owners and occupiers through our Fire Safety Enforcement Programme and Post Fire Audits to reduce the number of Non-Domestic Fires.

#### False Alarm - Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal

UFAS incidents have decreased compared to the three-year average with Hospitals / medical facilities contributing to the bulk of the calls.

#### **Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV)**

We have seen a steady increase of HFSVs but are reporting below our target of 2500. We remain committed to providing those must at risk from fire within the home with support and education.

#### **Appliance/Resource Availability**

Appliance availability has remained strong throughout the reporting period. We continue to actively improve our appliance availability through positive recruitment and our staff training and competency programmes.

## PRIORITY 1 – IMPROVING FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME

**KPI 1 - Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** 

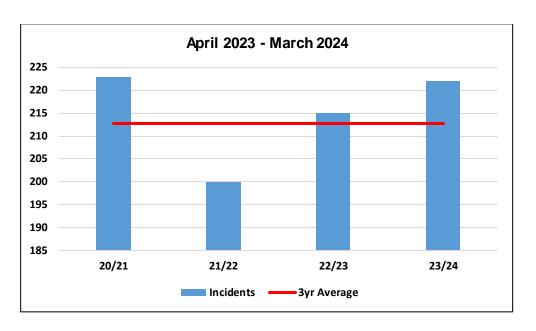


Table 1: Year to Date (April 23 - March 24) Performance

ADE's	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	RAG
ADF's	223	200	215	222	Amber

#### **Breakdown of Locations**

Area	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Airyhall, Broomhill & Garthdee	12	9	19	15
Bridge of Don	5	8	6	8
Dyce, Bucksburn & Danestone	15	5	9	9
George Street & Harbour	26	30	43	41
Hazelhead, Queens Cross & Countesswells	16	10	10	11
Hilton, Woodside & Stockethill	22	29	22	23
Kincorth, Nigg & Cove	9	8	11	11
Kingswells, Shedocksley & Summerhill	14	11	10	12
Lower Deeside	4	3	2	5
Midstocket & Rosemount	18	20	11	12
Northfield & Mastrick North	19	12	17	18
Tillydrone, Seaton & Old Aberdeen	39	32	32	26
Torry & Ferryhill	24	23	23	31

KPI 2 & 3 - ADF Fatal Casualties & - ADF Non-Fatal Casualties

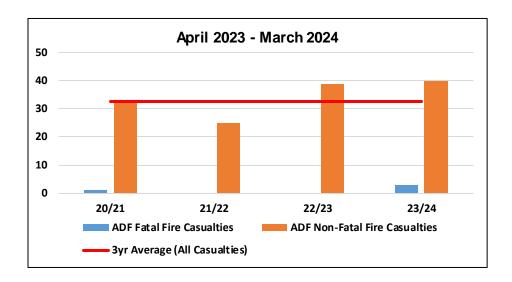
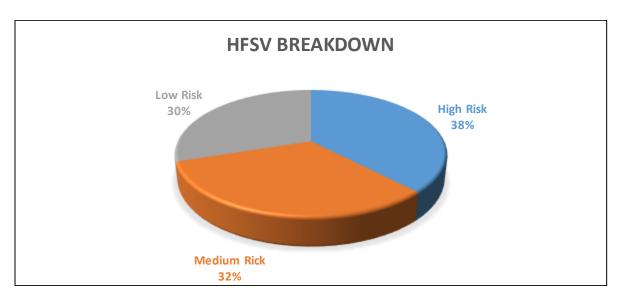


Table 2: Year to Date (April 23 - March 24)

#### **Performance**

	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	RAG
ADF Fatal Casualties	3	1	0	3	Red
ADF Non-Fatal Casualties	33	25	39	40	Amber

KPI 4 - High Risk Home Fire Safety Visits YTD April 23 - March 24



	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk	YTD Total	RAG
Home Fire Safety Visits	669	594	556	1849	Red
	38%	32%	30%	N/A	Red

#### Priority 1 Description – Improving Fire Safety in the home

#### KPI 1 - Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)

The largest single type of primary fire in Aberdeen City is accidental fires in the home, similarly accidental dwelling fires are also the primary cause of most fire casualties and fatalities. Their prevention, therefore, is a key focus of the Service's community safety activity.

The reduction of fire casualties is clearly linked to this priority. The reduction of fire fatalities and casualties is at the core of our preventative and early intervention activities carried out throughout the Aberdeen City area. Significant contributory factors associated with the number of fire casualties and fatalities include, lifestyle, independent living strategies, smoking, consumption of alcohol and prescribed and non-prescribed drugs, Individual capacity and vulnerability, and ageing demographics.

#### KPI 2 - ADF Fatal Casualties

This KPI counts those people for whom fire has been clearly identified as the cause of death, including those who succumb due to their injuries sometime later. Those who succumb at, or after, the fire but where fire is **not** identified as the cause of death are not included in these figures.

As a target, the aim is to have Zero ADF Fatal Casualties in Aberdeen each year.

#### KPI 3 - ADF Non-Fatal Casualties

This KPI counts all types of non-fatal fire injury in the home, including precautionary checks.

As a target, the aim is to reduce the risk of injury from fire in the home, in an increasing Aberdeen population, by keeping fire injuries **below 32** each year.

#### KPI 4 - High Risk Home Fire Safety Visits

This measure counts the percentage of all home fire safety visits that are delivered to addresses that are identified as high risk.

As a target, the aim is that **61%** of all completed home fire safety visits are categorised as high risk.

#### What we aim to Achieve

- Improved community safety and wellbeing
- Reduction in number of accidental dwelling fires
- Reduction in number of casualties and fatalities resulting from accidental dwelling fires

#### Performance Management

There have been 222 ADF's during the reporting period of 2022-24, which is above the three-year average. We are therefore showing amber in relation to our annual target. The highest category of cause is cooking due to distraction in adults (18-64). From the 222 incidents attend, 108 didn't require intervention from SFRS, with only reassurance being provided.

Accidental dwelling fires can have a significant negative impact upon both individuals, the wider community and are financially damaging to house holders and housing providers in terms of repair and the reinstatement of homes. Key contributory risk factors include, lifestyle, independent living strategies, smoking, consumption of alcohol and prescribed and non-prescribed drugs. Individual capability and vulnerability, and aging demographics.

There has been 3 ADF Fatal Casualties during the reporting period. We are therefore showing Red for in relation to our annual target. Within all three incidents, each property was fitted with a working smoke alarm and involved adults (18-64). Causes have been determined as accidental, 1 smoking related and 2 due to combustible articles too close to a heat source.

There have been 40 ADF Non-Fatal Casualties report, which is an increase of 6 above the three-year average. Analysis of these incidents has shown that main causes of ADFs were through human error relating to cooking and careless handling due to sleep or unconsciousness. From the 40 casualties reported, 1 required hospital treatment due to serious injury.

Home Fire Safety Visits remain a key focus in our community safety activity to reduce accidental dwelling fires and casualties resulting from these. We continue to explore and develop partnerships throughout the area to identify those most vulnerable and/or at risk from fire and/or harm in the home. Through our contribution to Aberdeen City Community Safety Hub and the CPA collectively we have raised awareness of our referral process and promote a better understanding of fire risk in the home. The figures presented above show the number of HFSV's delivered during the reporting period. Actions are being taken to support how we target high/medium risk as our overall visits are below our aspirational target of 2500 visits.

The SFRS focus remains on delivery of high and very high risk HFSV's which are being carried out by both our Community Action Teams as well as operational front-line staff. To further improve engagement with our locally communities, specific Risk Reductions areas have allocated to front-line Watch Commanders. This approach will allow for a risk holder to build stronger relationships within their allocated areas and implement reduction strategies that are specific to the individual needs of each risk area.

## PRIORITY 2 – REDUCING DELIBERATE FIRES

KPI 5 - All - Deliberate Secondary Fires / Location

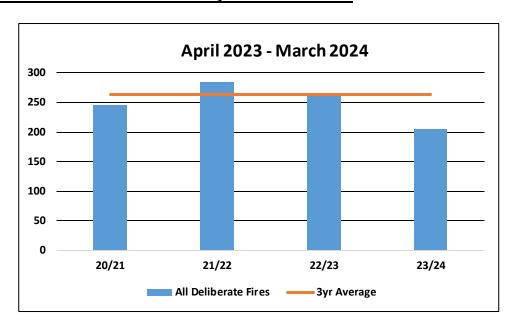


Table 3: Year to Date (April 23 to March 24) Performance

All Doliborato Socondary Fires	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	YTD
All Deliberate Secondary Fires	246	284	261	205	Green

Area	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Airyhall, Broomhill & Garthdee	6	28	10	8
Bridge of Don	11	7	13	6
Dyce, Bucksburn & Danestone	39	36	20	27
George St & Harbour	11	17	27	16
Hazlehead, Queens Cross & Countesswells	15	10	8	13
Hilton, Woodside & Stockethill	15	15	19	12
Kincorth, Nigg & Cove	14	63	52	38
Kingswells, Shedocksley & Summerhill	23	14	22	18
Lower Deeside	7	9	9	6
Midstocket & Rosemount	10	13	10	14
Northfield & Mastrick North	19	27	19	15
Tillydrone, Seaton & Old Aberdeen	12	21	28	17
Torry & Ferryhill	64	24	24	15

### KPI 6 - All Deliberate Primary Fires / Location

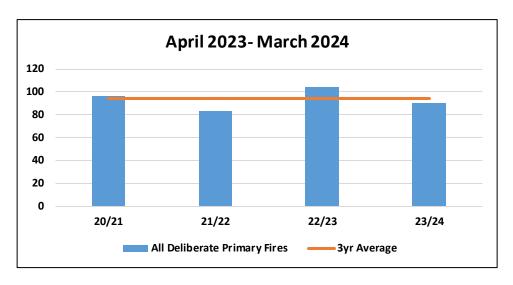


Table 4: Year to Date (April 23 to March 24) Performance

All Deliberate Brimary Fires	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	RAG
All Deliberate Primary Fires	96	83	103	90	Green

Area	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Airyhall, Broomhill & Garthdee	4	3	4	4
Bridge of Don	4	4	5	5
Dyce, Bucksburn & Danestone	14	14	9	12
George St & Harbour	10	9	10	11
Hazlehead, Queens Cross & Countesswells	12	7	3	2
Hilton, Woodside & Stockethill	5	11	9	1
Kincorth, Nigg & Cove	4	9	20	11
Kingswells, Sheddocksley & Summerhill	9	4	7	12
Lower Deeside	2	0	1	1
Midstocket & Rosemount	7	1	8	9
Northfield & Mastrick North	12	9	4	8
Tillydrone, Seaton & Old Aberdeen	8	6	12	7
Torry & Ferryhill	5	6	11	7

#### **Priority 2 Description – Reducing Deliberate Fires**

These KPi's and targets account for all types of fire that are believed to have been started intentionally and are categorised as deliberate primary fires and deliberate secondary fires.

#### **KPI 5 – Deliberate Secondary Fires**

Deliberate secondary fires cover the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires along with fires in derelict property.

As a target the aim is to reduce the rate of deliberate secondary fires in Aberdeen by keeping these **below 266** for the reporting year.

#### **KPI 6 – Deliberate Primary Fires**

These deliberate fires cover the following property types;

- Fires in the home
- Fires in non-domestic premises
- Fires in motor vehicles

As a target we aim to reduce the rate of deliberate primary fires in Aberdeen by keeping these **below 102** for the reporting year.

#### What we aim to Achieve

- Improved community safety and wellbeing
- Improved data analysis to ensure resources are directed to maximise community outcomes
- Protect Aberdeen's natural and built environment.

#### **Performance Management**

Deliberate secondary fire is showing a decrease compared to the three-year average and are below our area target of **266** with 205 incidents attended during this reporting period. SFRS and partners are committed to striving in the further reduction of deliberate secondary fires with this area. We will continue to work with our local schools and communities to educate our young people in the dangers associated with these types of incidents. Analysis of our incident data has indicated a notable shift from fire involving grasslands/wooded areas to outdoors structures (wheelie bins, small refuse/recycle containers). To address this trend, SFRS will work closely with our communities to provide advice and guidance to homeowners on the safe and responsible storage of refuse.

Deliberate Primary fires have seen a decrease compared to the three-year average and is 12 incidents below our area target of **102**. Analysis of our incident data has identified that highest activity type involved vehicle fire. We will actively work with our communities and Police Scotland in tackling anti-social behaviour associated with these types of incidents.

# PRIORITY 3 – Improving Fire Safety in the Business Community

KPI 7 - Non-Domestic Building Fires

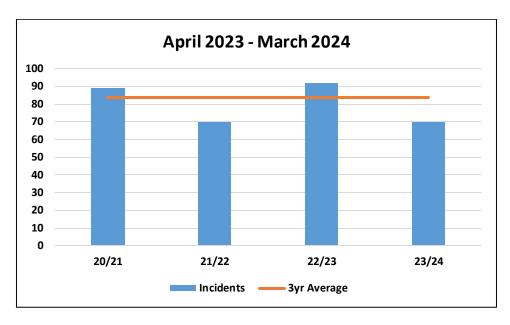


Table 4: Year to Date (April 23 to Sept 24) Performance

Non-Domestic Building Fires	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	RAG
	89	70	92	70	Green

Area	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Airyhall, Broomhill & Garthdee	3	4	3	5
Bridge of Don	8	3	4	4
Dyce, Bucksburn & Danestone	12	8	8	7
George St & Harbour	13	14	15	14
Hazlelhead, Queens Cross & Countesswells	2	3	5	3
Hilton, Woodside & Stockethill	0	0	6	0
Kincorth, Nigg & Cove	6	8	14	7
Kingswells, Shedocksley & Summerhill	7	2	1	2
Lower Deeside	3	2	1	2
Midstocket & Rosemount	13	14	20	13
Northfield & Mastrick North	6	2	3	1
Tillydrone, Seaton & Old Aberdeen	9	4	4	4
Torry & Ferryhill	7	6	6	8

#### **KPI 8 - Legislative Fire Safety Audits**

**Table 5: Completed Audits** 

Premises Category	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Care / Children's Homes	71	54	100	78
Houses in Multiple Occupation	68	38	138	134
Hotel	1	42	40	42
Hospital	16	14	15	14
Post Fire	13	19	26	33
Other, workplace	15	153	44	64
TOTAL	184	320	363	365

#### Priority 3 Description – Improving Fire Safety in the Business Community

These performance measures and targets cover the type of non-domestic premises applicable to Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 i.e. business premises, and is designed to reflect the effectiveness of fire safety management in respect of these types of buildings.

#### PM 7 - Non-Domestic Building Fires Applicable to the Act

As a performance measure we aim to reduce the rate of fires in non-domestic premises (where the Act applies) by keeping them **below 100** for the reporting year.

#### PM 8 & 9 - Legislative Fire Safety Audits

As a performance measure we aim to ensure all premises that meet the SFRS framework requirements are subject to an annual fire safety audit.

#### What we aim to achieve

- Through a risk-based audit programme, we will protect Aberdeen's built environment and heritage at the same time supporting economic growth.
- Enhanced understanding of fire safety legislation and responsibilities across the business sector.

#### **Performance Management**

A dedicated team of legislative fire safety enforcement and auditing officers work across Aberdeen City auditing relevant premises that are considered as presenting the highest risk to life in the event of a fire.

During the reporting period we were not able to achieve our target but did achieve 365 inspections of the 366 targets. Our dedicated team have work hard to return to normal inspections workplans post COVID to ensure that our local business owner are supported to ensure fire safety requirements are met.

# PRIORITY 4 - Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

### KPI 10 - Number of UFAS Incidents

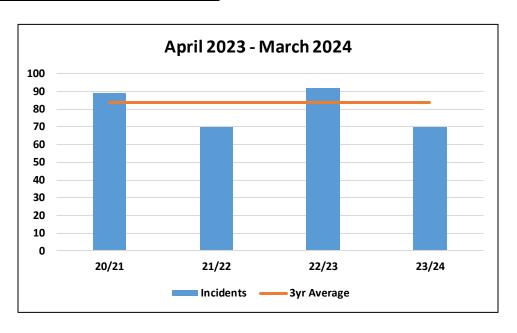


Table 6: Year to Date (April 23 - March 24) Performance

Unwanted Fire alarm signals	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	RAG
	1220	1345	1366	671	Green

Area	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Airyhall, Broomhill & Garthdee	67	72	76	39
Bridge of Don	74	64	78	24
Dyce, Bucksburn & Danestone	147	169	197	53
George St & Harbour	178	207	210	102
Hazlehead, Queens Cross & Countesswells	43	54	92	39
Hilton, Woodside & Stockethill	7	14	3	7
Kincorth, Nigg & Cove	123	148	117	29
Kingswells, Sheddocksley & Summerhill	78	66	71	36
Lower Deeside	38	61	60	24
Midstocket & Rosemount	275	305	304	224
Northfield & Mastrick North	22	13	15	8
Tillydrone, Seaton & Old Aberdeen	48	68	51	17
Torry & Ferryhill	120	104	92	69

#### <u>Priority 4 Description – reducing unwanted Fire alarm signals</u>

Automatic Fire alarms (AFA) are fundamental to providing early warning from fire, giving people the chance to evacuate safely. However, to be effective, they must be properly installed and maintained, and a good fire safety management regime must be in place by the duty holder, so they do not activate when there is no fire.

Every Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS) from an AFA has an impact in terms of unnecessary blue light journeys, redirecting SFRS resources away from other activities such as community safety work and causing considerable disruption to businesses.

#### KPI 10 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)

As a headline target, the aim is to improve fire safety management and awareness, by reducing the number of attendances to unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS) from automatic systems in non-domestic buildings to **less than 1375** each year.

#### What we aim to Achieve

- Reduced impact on businesses, communities and the SFRS, creating capacity to deliver against other local and national priorities.
- Reduce SFRS' carbon footprint through less vehicle movements.
- Reduction in unnecessary demand on retained firefighters and their primary employers.
- Reduced road risk for SFRS operational personnel and the general public.

#### **Performance Management**

The table below lists the 5 property types that had persistent call-outs due to UFAS April 23 – March 24

Property Types Property Types	No. of UFAS
Hospitals	206
Student Halls of Residence	59
Sheltered Housing	55
Hotel/Motel	51
Office/Call Centre	49

SFRS personnel proactively engage with any premises that are identified as "repeat offenders" to assist them in developing strategies and procedures that will reduce false alarms of all types.

During this reporting period we have seen a decrease compared to the three-year average and this is reflected by the Green RAG status. It should be noted that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 SFRS implemented our new <u>UFAS response model</u> to attendance at UFAS incidents. This approach he seen a significant reduction in UFAS incidents. We are continuing to work closely with business and premises owners in preparation of these changes.

# PRIORITY 5 – Effective Risk Management and Operational Preparedness

#### PM 11 - Operational Intelligence

#### Table 7: Year to Date Performance

Operational Intelligence	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	RAG	Annual Target
Visits	109	110	116	100	GREEN	420

#### PM 12 - high Rise Operational Assurance Visits

#### Table 8: Year to Date Performance

Multi-Storey Operational	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	RAG	Annual Target
Assurance Visits	70	70	61	65	AMBER	280

#### PM 13 – Staff Competence

#### Table 9

	Total	Competent	Development	Deve	lopment	Stage
	Total	Competent	Development	Red	Amber	Green
Firefighter	111	71	40	12	16	12
Crew Commander	38	26	12			
Watch Commander	16	13	3			
Senior Manager	6	6	0			

#### PM 14 – Appliance/Resource Availability

#### Table 10: Year to Date Performance

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	RAG	Annual Target
On-Call Duty System	89.49	81.63	72.08	92.22	83.85%	80%

Wholetime availability has remained strong throughout the year and in line with policy has never dropped below 95% of resource available on any given day.

# <u>Priority 4 Description – Effective Risk Management and Operational Preparedness</u>

Risk Management and operational preparedness are key areas of work for the SFRS. For Aberdeen City this means;

- Knowing what the risks are and making appropriate plans to ensure we are resilient and informed to respond effectively to any event at that risk.
- Being prepared to respond to national threats or major emergencies.
- Firefighters being trained and equipped to deal with emergencies safely and effectively and our stations being ready to respond.

#### KPI 11 - Operational Intelligence

Each operational watch is tasked with undertaking 7 operational intelligence inspections each 7-week cycle. These will be a combination of new inspections and re-visits to validate the currency of the information held.

As a performance target we aim to complete 420 operational intelligence visits across Aberdeen during the reporting year.

#### KPI 12 - High Rise Operational Assurance Visits

Each identified high rise premises in Aberdeen City should receive a quarterly inspection.

As a performance target we aim to inspect 70 residential high rise premises every quarter.

#### KPI 13 - Staff Competence

On initial appointment, and upon promotion, all personnel enter a period of development where it is expected that they follow an appropriate development plan that will see them achieve competency in role within a defined period.

For new appointments there is a development period of 36 months. For newly promoted personnel achieving competence is expected within 12-24 months.

As a performance target we aim to have all personnel competent in role within these defined timescales.

#### KPI 14 - Appliance/Resource Availability

Good application and efficient use of attendance management, crewing and resourcing policies assists us to keep, as far as reasonably possible, all appliances available at all times. It should be noted that whole-time availability in Aberdeen City has not dropped below 96% at any time during the pandemic and we expect this figure to improve as we move forward to more settled times.

As a performance target we aim to achieve 100% resource availability for the reporting year.

#### What we aim to Achieve

- Support the wellbeing and safety of the public, SFRS personnel and other emergency responders
- Improved community resilience.

A Fire and Rescue Service that can respond effectively and efficiently across Aberdeen, and beyond

#### Performance Management

Operational Intelligence (OI): During the reporting period of 2023/24, significant work has been undertaken to improve our OI processes to ensure sustainability and effectiveness. This work has demonstrated a welcome increase in the quality and quantity of inspections being achieved across Aberdeen City, therefore were showing Green in achieving our annual target.

Multi-Storey Operational Assurance Visits are below our annual target. Management teams are working to resolve this to ensure visits are conducted at regualr intervials throughout the reporting year.

Staff competence are on track with continued support from the local and national training teams. We have seen a welcome increase of on-call personnel within our Dyce Fire Station, which can be problematic due to the nature of the on-call duty pattern. This increase has seen an improved picture in relation to applaince avaiablilty as we moved into quarter four.