

## **Report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Service Support**

### **12. Quarter 1 Performance and Health and Safety Reports 2013-14**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. To note the key outcomes in performance in the first quarter of 2013-14.
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#### **Recommendations**

***That Policy and Resources Committee note the following key outcomes in respect of performance in Quarter 1 2013-14:***

- i) the total number of incidents attended in Quarter 1 2013-14 is the lowest Quarter 1 total in the seven years that the current data set has been collected;***
- ii) the Service also attended the lowest Quarter 1 totals of Special Service (non-fire emergencies) and False alarms in the last seven years;***
- iii) although the number of Fires attended in Quarter 1 2013-14 have increased when compared to the same quarter last year, the total is still less than the average number of fires attended in Quarter 1 of the last five years;***
- iv) the Service has also seen the lowest Quarter 1 totals of injuries from primary fires and the lowest Quarter 1 number of injuries from accidental dwelling fires in the last seven years, with no injuries reported from accidental dwelling fires in May and June 2013; and***
- v) reported health and safety events (Appendix 2) have increased when compared with the previous quarter mainly due to a major recycling fire incident in Kidderminster in June.***

#### **Introduction**

2. The Service gathers data on a number of performance indicators based on operational activity and other areas of the Service and reports on these on a quarterly basis to the Senior Management Board (SMB) and the Policy and Resources Committee. The Service also monitors the number of accidents and other health and safety related events involving firefighters at operational incidents and training exercises.
3. This report is a summary of Quarter 1 performance against the Fire and Rescue Authority Plan 2013-12014 using the set of Key Performance Indicators agreed by Senior Management Board (SMB) together with a summary of health and safety incidents occurring in Quarter 1 2013-14.

## **Tolerance Levels**

4. Each individual key performance indicator is tested against the tolerance levels expected for the quarter 1 data. These are the levels between which performance is expected to fluctuate and are generally 10% above and below the average levels for the specific indicators. The tolerance levels are represented in the accompanying appendices in graph format.
5. The only indicators out of tolerance at the end of Quarter 1 were the percentage of building fires attended by the first appliance within 10 minutes of the time of call and the second appliance's attendance at building fire incidents within five minutes of the first appliance. These indicators are analysed in detail in Appendix 1 together with an overview of all operational activity, a summary of information requests received by the Service and an analysis of retained appliance availability.
6. The performance Quarter 1 totals do not include the on-going (at the time of writing) incident at Lawrence Recycling in Kidderminster which started on 15 June 2013. This incident will be added to the Quarter 1 2013-14 totals on completion of the event. However the health and safety events reported do include this incident as it was a major occurrence in terms of managing health and safety at incidents.

## **Quarter 1 2013-14 Performance**

7. Quarter 1 2013-14 saw a 5% reduction in total incidents compared to the same quarter last year. Although total fires have increased when compared to Quarter 1 2012-13, incidents in total have reduced as a result of a decrease in special service incidents when compared with the number of special service incidents attended in the predominantly wet weather conditions in Quarter 1 2012-13. False alarm incidents have also reduced when compared with the same period in the previous year.
8. Comparing the Quarter 1 data with the same quarter in previous years, the total number of incidents attended is the lowest Quarter 1 total in the seven years in which the current set of data has been collected. This is also true of the total number of false alarms and special services attended. These reductions are due in part to better education and the Service's preventative activities.
9. The number of fires, whilst not the lowest Quarter 1 totals, are less than the previous 5 year average. The wet weather conditions experienced in Quarter 1 last year led to the lowest number of fires recorded in Quarter 1 last year. The warmer drier conditions this year have led to an increase compared with the same quarter last year, but the overall trend is still downwards in direction.
10. The prevention of fires that result in injuries to members of the public is a key part of the Service's Community Safety Strategy. The Service has seen the lowest Quarter 1 totals of injuries where the casualty went to hospital from primary (car and building) fires and the lowest Quarter 1 number of injuries where the casualty went to hospital from accidental dwelling fires in the last seven years, with no injuries reported at all from accidental dwelling fires in May and June 2013.
11. The Lawrence Recycling incident had a major effect on health and safety performance where several incidents of exposure to smoke or other hazardous substances were reported.

## Conclusion/Summary

12. Further details and analysis regarding the headlines in the recommendation and Quarter 1 performance and health and safety in general are included in the attached appendices. SMB will continue to receive reports based on the measures the Service is taking to stay within tolerance levels and where improvements are required and will report any action required together with details of future performance to the Policy and Resources Committee.

## Corporate Considerations

<b>Resource Implications</b> (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	None at this stage.
<b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	The areas included link with the FRA plan and strategic objectives of the Service.
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	H&S is the subject of appendix 2 attached to this report.
<b>Consultation</b> (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	None.
<b>Equalities</b> (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	No the report concerns operational activity and other areas of general performance but not from an equalities viewpoint.

## Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Quarter 1 2013-14 Performance Analysis

Appendix 2: Quarter 1 2013-14 Health and Safety Report

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