

Report of the Assistant Director: Prevention

2022-23 Performance Report: Q1 (01 April – 30 June 2022)

Purpose of report

1. This report summarises the Service's performance for Quarter 1, 2022-23.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the Q1 2022-23 performance headlines set out in Section 4 of this report, with further details available in Appendix 1. For completeness Appendix 2 has also been included which provides detail of Q4 2021-22, a duplicate of data provided in the Annual Service Review 2021-22 presented at the FRA meeting on 22nd June 2022.

Introduction and Background

2. The Service gathers performance data relating to incidents attended and activities carried out, and reports to the Policy and Resources Committee and the Strategic Leadership Board on a quarterly basis. The Q1 2022-23 Performance Report is attached as Appendix 1, and provides information on overall incident numbers, Prevention, Protection and Response activities and an overview of the Service workforce. A cumulative summary of performance is reported separately in the Annual Service Review.
3. The Performance Report relates closely to the Prevention, Protection and Response strategies as well as the Community Risk Management Plan 2021-25.

Incident Overview

4. A total of 1,852 incidents were attended in Q1 2022-23, an increase of 5% on Q1 2021-22, and close to the five year average of 1,808 incidents. More context is provided later in the report however analysis shows the following:

498 Fires attended	an increase of 10% over Q1 2021-22, reflecting the return to normal post COVID, but still lower than the five-year average of 535 per Q1.
538 Special Services	a small increase of 1% over Q1 2021-22, but a decrease of 5% compared to 564 incidents recorded in Q1 2019-20.
816 False Alarms	an increase of 4% over Q1 2021-22, and slightly higher than the five-year average of 802 per Q1.

Prevention

5. 1,070 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) were completed in Q1 2022-23, a 64% increase over the same period in 2021-22, which reflects the commitment to increase our Prevention activity. Out of 1,070 HFSVs, 487 were delivered by Prevention technicians and 583 were delivered by crews (all Wholetime). HFSVs are targeted at those at greater risk of fire based on data and analysis as outlined in the Prevention Strategy. Trends are monitored on a monthly basis and fed into adjusting and focusing prevention activity as required.

Protection

6. The Service continues to conduct the Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) of business premises. In Q1 2022-23, 221 inspections were completed compared to 309 in Q1 2021-22. Operational staff are also being trained to gain Level 3 Certificates in Fire Safety, which will increase capacity to carry out formal inspections from Q1 2022-23 onwards providing recommendations as to how to reduce the risk of fire. The decrease in Q1 2022-23 RBIP figures in comparison to last year is because there was a drop in activity in June 2022. This is due to a number of reasons: All inspectors attended an in-house one week fire safety course; Inspectors spent 58 hours supporting operational crews on Business Fire Safety Inspections and Inspectors carried out 21 other inspections/consultations. The Protection department remain on track to complete 1000 scheduled RBIP inspections in 2022/23.
7. Businesses restarting following the easing of lockdown restrictions has seen an increase in fires in buildings. All fires in commercial premises are subject to a Post Fire Audit, and the number of audits have increased from 29 to 40 in Q1 2022-23, when compared to Q1 2021-22. Total Enforcement Activities have also increased from 7 to 21 in Q1 2022-23, when compared to Q1 2021-22.
8. New building safety legislation has also been introduced, and the department is proactively identifying business leads to highlight their fire safety responsibilities and offer support and signposting to other assistance where needed.

Response

Fires

9. The numbers of Primary Fires attended in Q1 2022-23 were up by 8%, and Secondary Fires were up by 15% over the same period in 2021-22. While the number of Primary Fires rose to 235, this was due to an increase in all three different categories of Primary Fires increasing. During this timeframe there were unfortunately 4 lives lost, 2 of these were due to vehicle fires and 2 were in domestic homes where the victim was a lone person over pensionable age. No victims went to visit hospital where an injury appeared serious. 78% of the Primary Building Fires were classified as accidental and most of them started in the kitchen area (34%). A high proportion of these fires occurred in houses of a single occupancy with the person over pensionable age (16%). This

information is fed back into the Prevention and Protection departments to further focus relevant activity and for trend analysis.

10. There were 16 incidents in Q1 2022-23 where more than 5 pumps attended, 13 primary fires, 3 special services incidents.
11. There was a 15% increase to 246 Secondary Fires from 213 in comparison to Q1 2021-22. Although there was no identifiable pattern to cause this overall increase, a drier and warmer May and June 2022 (compared to May and June 2021) may have had an impact on outdoor fires.

Road Traffic Collisions

12. In terms of Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), there were 147 incidents during the quarter, a 2% decrease compared to Q1 2021-22. Prior to the pandemic, 164 RTCs were recorded in Q1 2019-20, so there is an overall slightly downward trend over the last five years.
13. Overall, there were 4 fatalities and 23 serious injuries in the RTCs attended. This is slightly higher than Q1 2021-22. Information related to RTCs is fed into the Response and Prevention Departments for review and to inform future training and awareness activities.

Attendance Performance Measure

14. In Q1 2022-23 the Service attended 134 Primary Building Fires, one incident was excluded from the attendance performance measure calculations as it was classified as a late call. The average attendance time increased from 11 minutes 1 second recorded in Q1 2021-22 to 11 minutes 18 seconds in Q1 2022-23. This was largely due to travel distance to the incidents. In addition, there was an increase of 4 seconds in call handling. There was a reduction of 1 minute 12 seconds for turnout time during Q1 2022-23 from 03:55 in Q1 2021-22 to 02:43 in Q1 2022-23.
15. Out of 133 examined Primary Building Fires, 72 incidents reported that the attendance performance measure was not met. The main reasons given were travel distance (34 incidents) and turn in time (15 incidents). A public consultation process looking at how the Service measures Attendance Performance is underway and due to cease in September 2022 prior to being considered by the Fire Authority in December 2022.

On Call Appliance Availability

16. The First On-Call appliance availability fell to 82% during the quarter, down from 89% in the same quarter of 2021-22. Availability for all On-Call appliances fell to 71%. However, for the first On-Call appliance 64% of fire stations (16 stations) remained at over 85% availability. Ross on Wye continued to have the highest availability of 100%. Since Q1 of the previous year the main differences were Hereford, Peterchurch, Bromsgrove, Pebworth, Pershore and Wyre Forest stations which dropped below 75%. While Eardisley and Worcester stations increased to above 85%, Broadway station remained below 50%

availability. The Service continues to identify recruitment opportunities to support availability of On Call units. The recent launch of the Marketing & Recruitment project will provide a data driven targeted approach to recruitment in the hard to reach areas of the Service.

People

17. In terms of workforce diversity, the proportion of female employees has stayed at 18% of the workforce, the same as Q1 2021-22. There has been a slight decrease of 1% in the ethnic minority representation in the workforce since Q1 2021-22, and it is currently at 6%. The Service continues to closely monitor equality and employment trends. Work has also progressed in supporting the professional career development of aspiring leaders and supporting our female operational staff with bespoke development via Women in the Fire Service UK. The Service has also recently enhanced the provision of kit in a wide range of sizes and improved welfare facilities for all operational colleagues on the incident ground.
18. The most common reasons for absence this quarter are Mental Health (Stress), Respiratory (Cold/Cough/Influenza) and Musculo Skeletal (Back). These figures and trends are monitored by the Health & Safety Committee who meet on a quarterly basis to ensure the safety and wellbeing of employees.
19. During this quarter, guidance was issued to staff outlining that COVID-19 be classed as part of a range of respiratory illnesses and would now be classed as a “respiratory illness” for sickness absence recording purposes, in the absence of testing. This coupled with exceptionally low absence rates in Q1 2021-22 has contributed to the increase in absence this quarter.

Conclusion/Summary

20. Further information on the headlines set out above is included in Appendix 1.
21. The Strategic Leadership Board will continue to receive performance reports and oversight of the measures being taken to address any issues arising. Where improvements are required any necessary action will be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	None at present.
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	The areas included link closely with the Annual Service Review and Annual Service Plan and the strategic objectives of the Service as outlined in the CRMP and three core strategies and the People Strategy.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	Relevant data is fed into the Health & Safety Committee as appropriate.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	None.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	No, the report concerns operational activity and other areas of general performance data.
Data Protection Impact Assessment (where personal data is processed a DPIA must be completed to ensure compliant handling)	Not required – no personal data is identified.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Performance Report: Quarter 1 2022-23

Appendix 2 – Performance Report: Quarter 4 2021-22