

Report of the Head of Corporate Services

2018-19 Performance Report: Quarter 1

Purpose of report

1. This report is a summary of the Service's Quarter (Q1) performance against a comprehensive set of Performance Indicators agreed by Senior Management Board (SMB).
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Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the following headlines drawn from Appendix 1 relating to performance in Quarter 1, 2018-19:

- i) A total of 1,917 incidents were attended in Q1, an increase of 8.2% (145 incidents) over the same Quarter of 2017-18, and 11.5% (220 incidents) higher than the average for the last five years. However, the overall 5 year trend remains relatively consistent.***
- ii) The majority of the increase in Q1 is accounted for by a rise in the numbers of Special Service and False Alarms related incidents, while the number of Fire incidents was down:***
 - a. Special Services: an increase of 20.4% (80 incidents) is mainly accounted for by increases in the number of Road Traffic Collisions (44), Flooding (21) and Other Special Services (30).***
 - b. False Alarms: a substantial increase of 8.9% (69 incidents), most common automatic activations are at a number of sheltered housing, nursing homes and hospitals.***
 - c. Fires: have decreased slightly by 0.7% (4 incidents) over the previous year.***
- iii) Overall Staff Sickness levels were 2.06 days lost per head and is above the 5-year average of 1.44.***
- iv) The Service attended 60.4% (119 incidents) of Building Fires within 10 minutes in Quarter 1, compared with 60.6% in the same period in 2017-18. The average time for the first fire appliance attendance at all building fires was 10 minutes and 32 seconds.***
- v) The overall availability of the first On-Call (Retained) fire appliance remains high at 88.1%; however, this has decreased by 2.2% when compared to the same period in 2017-18.***

Introduction

2. The Service gathers data on a range of Performance Indicators covering response and prevention activity, absence management and On-Call (Retained) availability. This is reported on a quarterly basis to the Policy and Resources Committee and the Senior Management Board. The report includes commentary of any changes compared to the previous year and discussion of any exceptions to expected performance.

Tolerance Levels

3. Each Performance Indicator is tested against tolerance levels anticipated for the year, based on the average for the same Quarter over the three previous years. The tolerance levels provide a range between which performance is expected to fluctuate, and are generally 10% above and below the average levels for each specific indicator.
4. In addition to the totals for Chimney Fires and Special Service being out of tolerance for Q1, the first attendance by a Fire Appliance at Building Fires within 10 minutes was also outside the 10% tolerance level. These indicators are analysed in more detail in Appendix 1, together with an overview of operational activity and an analysis of Retained appliance availability.

Quarter 1 Performance

5. Quarter 1 saw 145 incidents or a 8.2% increase in the total number of incidents attended by the Service compared to the same period last year, or a 13.0% increase compared to the 5 year average of 1,697.
6. In terms of Fires, there were 19 more Primary Dwelling Fires and 5 fewer Chimney Fires over the period in Quarter 1, compared to the same period last year. The number of Building Fires, which form the largest proportion of Primary Fires, was 188, an increase of 26 incidents over the same period in 2017-18. There were 0 fatalities in Primary Building Fires during this period.
7. The number of Special Service incidents (emergency incidents that are not fire related) in Quarter 1 increased by 80 incidents compared to the same period in 2017-18. This is 16.1% higher than the 5-year average. There were 44 more Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), the majority of which involved making the vehicle and/or scene safe. The Service attended 6 fatalities in RTC incidents during Quarter 1. Assisting other Agency increased from 25 in Quarter 1 in 2017-18 to 27 in Quarter 1 in 2018-19. Animal assistance incidents decreased from 41 to 31.
8. There was a 8.9% increase (69 incidents) in the number of incidents in the False Alarm category in Quarter 1 over the same period in 2017-18. 49.5% of these incidents involved 'life risk' premises, such as residential properties, sheltered housing, hospitals, hotels, nursing homes, prisons etc. Calls to 'life risk' premises that result in a false alarm categorisation are mainly accounted for by faults on the system or cooking related incidents between the hours of 8am and 6pm.

9. The number of days lost to sickness absence (2.06 days per head) for all staff is outside tolerance levels, but continues to compare favourably with others, such as Worcestershire County Council.
10. The percentage of Building Fires attended within 10 minutes by the first fire appliance was 60.4% during Quarter 1; a decrease of 0.2% compared to the same period in 2017-18. This continues to remain below the 75% stretched target set in the Service's Attendance Standard.
11. The availability of the first On-Call (Retained) fire appliance decreased by 2.2% to 88.1% in Quarter 1 compared to Quarter 1 over the same period in 2017-18.

Conclusion/Summary

12. Further detail and analysis regarding the above headlines for performance in Quarter 1 of 2018-19 is included in Appendix 1.
13. The Senior Management Board will continue to receive reports based on the measures the Service is taking to stay within tolerance levels. 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 with the Fire Authority Annual Report and the strategic objectives of the Service.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	None
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, but not from an equalities viewpoint.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 - Fire Authority 2018-19 Performance Report: Quarter 1

Appendix 2 - HWFRS Community Risk Activity: Quarter 1

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