West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority

Agenda item: 08

Statement of Assurance 2023-24

Full Authority

Date:	27 September 2024
Submitted by:	Director of Corporate Services
Purpose:	To present Members with the annual Statement of Assurance 2023/24 for approval.
Recommendations:	Members are requested to approve the Statement of Assurance 2023/24 as a valid assessment of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority's performance.
Summary:	This report presents the annual Statement of Assurance 2023/24; the principal aim of which is to provide an accessible way in which communities, Government, local authorities and other partners may make a valid assessment of their local fire and rescue authority's performance.

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category:	None
Contact Officer:	Alison Davey- Head of Corporate Services 01274 682311 alison.davey@westyorksfire.gov.uk
Background papers open to inspection:	Department for Communities and Local Government Guidance on statements of assurance for fire and rescue authorities in England
Annexes:	Statement of Assurance 2023-24

Making West Yorkshire Safer
www.westyorksfire.gov.uk

1. Introduction

1.1 The Government is committed to unburdening local government, eliminating top-down bureaucracy and increasing local flexibility. For fire and rescue authorities, this ethos is demonstrated by the revised Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (the Framework), and in the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, which helps to let them run their services as they see fit.

1.2 This freedom and flexibility is accompanied by the need for accountability and transparency. Providing an excellent service is only the starting point – communities expect to know how their services are being provided.

1.3 It is against this background that the Framework sets out a requirement for fire and rescue authorities to publish Statements of Assurance. It says:

1.4 'Fire and rescue authorities must provide annual assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and show how they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their integrated risk management plan and the requirements included in the Framework.

To provide assurance, fire and rescue authorities must publish an annual statement of assurance.

2. Information

2.1 Whilst the Government have issued 'Guidance on statements of assurance for fire and rescue authorities in England', it is for individual fire and rescue authorities to determine the best way for them to present the information with their communities in mind.

2.2 West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (WYFRA) consider that the majority of the information required to meet the aim of the Statement of Assurance is already provided in an accessible way in which communities, Government, local authorities and other partners may make a valid assessment of the Authority's performance and, where this is the case, the attached Statement links to those documents.

2.3 The WYFRA's Service Assurance Framework details the high-level expectations of the service relating to:

- Compliance with the National Framework.

- The assessment of performance via His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

- The annual completion of the Service Assurance process.

- A comprehensive approach to the assurance of service delivery.

2.4   The Statement of Assurance will be used as a source of information on which to base the Secretary of State's biennial report under section 25 of the Fire and Rescue Act 2004 and is required to be signed off by an elected member of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. The Chair of the Authority is, therefore, requested to sign the statement on behalf of the Authority.

2.5   There is a requirement to publish the statement on an annual basis. The first statement was published in September 2013.

2.6   The Statement of Assurance for the year 2023/24 are attached to this report for Members to approve for signature by the Chair of the Authority and publication on the Authority's website.

3.   Financial Implications

3.1   There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4.   Legal Implications

4.1   The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution.

5.   Human Resource and Diversity Implications

5.1   The Authority remains committed to diversity and inclusion and to maintaining the highest possible standards. It takes a pragmatic and focused approach towards delivery of its legal equality duties.

5.2   The National Fire and Rescue Service Framework is a tool which helps WYFRS set and deliver diversity and inclusion objectives. It enables the Authority to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and benchmark its equality performance against other Fire and Rescue Services.

6.   Equality Impact Assessment

6.1   Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance?   No

7.   Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

7.1   There are no health and safety implications arising from this report.

8.   Environmental Implications

8.1   There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

9.   Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

9.1   This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-25 strategic priorities below:

- Improve the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters.
- Promote the health, safety, and wellbeing of all our people.
- Encourage a learning environment in which we support, develop, and enable all our people to be at their best.
- Focus our prevention and protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
- Provide ethical governance and value for money.
- Collaborate with partners to improve all of our services.
- Work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.
- Achieve a more inclusive workforce, which reflects the diverse communities we serve.
- Continuously improve using digital and data platforms to innovate and work smarter.
- Plan and deploy our resources based on risk.

10. Conclusions

10.1 Members are requested to approve the Statement of Assurance 2023/24 as a valid assessment of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority's performance for signature by the Chair of the Authority prior to publication on the Authority's website

Statement of Assurance
2023-24

Ownership: Corporate Services

Date Issued: 27/09/2024

Protected: OFFICIAL

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Introduction

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (WYFRA) is required to produce an annual Statement of Assurance as part of the <u>Fire and Rescue National Framework for England</u>. The purpose of the statement is to provide independent assurance to communities and the Government that the service is being delivered efficiently and effectively. Whilst the Fire and Rescue National Framework sets out the Government's priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities in England, it does not prescribe operational matters as these are determined locally by fire and rescue authorities.

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) has published <u>Your Fire & Rescue Service 2022-25</u> which outlines the key priorities and builds upon the delivery and achievements of our previous Service Plan. A report on the programme of change is produced regularly to focus the work of WYFRS and to manage and monitor performance in order to achieve our ambition of 'Making West Yorkshire Safer'.

This Statement of Assurance provides assurance that WYFRA is providing an efficient, effective and value for money service to the community of West Yorkshire in its financial, governance and operational matters.

Financial

In accordance with the 2023/24 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for 2022/23 and the Accounting Codes of Practice published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), WYFRA has produced the <u>Statement of Accounts 2023/24</u> <u>(the accounts are subject to final audit by Grant Thornton)</u>. As the Authority is funded by public money, it has a responsibility to ensure this money is used lawfully, effectively, efficiently, and economically.

The Statement of Accounts 2022/23 have not been audited by our incumbent external auditors, Deloitte LLP. The accounts are subject to an audit backstop which means that if they are not audited by a specified date (backstop), they will be subject to a qualified audit opinion. The previous government undertook consultation with the local government sector and introduced a backstop date of the 30th of September 2024 by which all outstanding audits must have either been completed or given a modified opinion. This date is currently subject to review following a change in government in July 2024.

There is a new reporting requirement from 2021/22, which is a separate Value for Money report which is required to be completed three months after the audit of the Statement of Accounts is complete. The 2022/23 Value for Money report is currently outstanding.

The <u>Annual Governance Statement</u>, which is included within the Statement of Accounts, sets out the systems and procedures that are in place to ensure that the Authority's resources are used in accordance with the law and provide best value for the tax payer.

The Authority's governance framework comprises systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which the Authority is directed and controlled. It enables the Authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.

The Medium-Term Financial Plan which was approved by the Full Authority in February 2023 shows that the Authority has a balanced budget for 2023/24. All Fire Authorities in England were given powers by the Secretary of State to increase the precept by £5 on a Band D property. This additional precept income enabled the Authority to add £3.4m of growth to the revenue budget. West Yorkshire remains the fourth lowest precepting fire authority in England with a Band D property charge of £77.18.

In terms of Central Government funding, the Authority received another one-year financial settlement in 2023/24. In addition, the Authority received additional grants to fund work relating to Building Safety Reform and Fire Protection.

The Authority has healthy reserves that can be used to support the revenue budget with a general fund balance of £5m and earmarked reserves of £36.4m at the 1st of April 2023.

Internal Audit

The Authority's Director of Finance and Procurement has a statutory duty to provide a continuous and effective internal audit. This internal audit service is provided under a service level agreement with Kirklees Council, which provides approximately 160 days of audit time each year.

Internal Audit assesses the adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's risk management system and internal control environment against an annual audit plan. The plan targets areas of highest risk as determined by the Authority through its risk management process and the resulting risk management matrix. Auditing of these risks accounts for approximately half of the available audit resource, with the other half involving the review of key financial systems and processes. The internal audit plan also considers audit areas where most value can be added.

Internal audit 'opinions' based on the level of assurance concerning each risk, system or process control is reported to the Authority's Audit Committee on a quarterly basis. The Internal Audit Plan 2023/24 resulted in all audits concluding with a 'substantial' or 'adequate' assurance, which confirms a robust framework of all key controls exists, that are likely to ensure that objectives will be achieved. Internal Audit provides recommendations where it is thought that risks can be reduced, and the control environment improved.

The audit plan and subsequent audits ensure an independent review is conducted at least once in a year of the effectiveness of the Authority's systems of internal control, which assists with the formulation of the Annual Governance Statement.

Transparency

In accordance with the Local Government's Transparency Code 2015, WYFRA is committed to greater openness and financial transparency through the publication, on the website, of information regarding local decision making and how public money is being spent. This includes payments for goods and services to external bodies and suppliers above £500, details of salaries and allowances paid to staff and Members, transactions made via Government Procurement Cards, tender and procurement information, details of land and assets owned by WYFRA and details relating to Trade Unions. We ensure that the publication of any data complies with the Data Protection Act. All data is as accurate as possible at time of publication.

The data is routinely published on either a quarterly or annual basis in accordance with the requirements of the Code. All published data can be viewed on the Data Transparency section of the website.

The Authority makes information publicly available and promotes a spirit of openness and accessibility adopting an approach of making information available and a commitment to sharing information whenever it is appropriate in line with legislation. This commitment is described in the Access to Information Policy.

Governance

WYFRA has an approved constitution which sets out how the Authority operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local citizens. Some of these processes are required by the law, while others are a matter for the Authority to determine.

The Authority is composed of 22 members, all of whom are a Councillor elected to one of the five constituent district councils within West Yorkshire: Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield. The overriding duty of Members of the Authority is to the whole community of West Yorkshire.

To strengthen Government arrangements and provide greater transparency and accountability, WYFRA has appointed an Independent Member to the Audit Committee in line with CIPFA 'good practice'.

Members have an approved Code of Conduct designed to ensure high standards in the way they undertake their duties and are required to comply with the Principles of Public Life.

Codes of Conduct and Protocols included within the Constitution are:

- Code of Conduct for Members
- Officer Code of Conduct
- Member/Officer Relations and Procedural Protocol
- Officer Employment Procedure Rules

- Protocol regarding the use of Authority resources by Members
- Compliments and Complaints Policy
- Whistle Blowing Policy

In accordance with the Code of Corporate Governance and pursuant to the corporate performance monitoring processes an annual Corporate Health Report is submitted to the Annual General Meeting of the Authority to enable Members to scrutinise and challenge performance. A Performance Management Report is also presented to each Full Authority meeting to enable ongoing performance monitoring, scrutiny and challenge.

Information Governance

The Authority has developed and implemented a robust information governance framework for the effective management and protection of information held by WYFRA.

WYFRA ensures that the Service has appropriate governance arrangements in place and that risk and performance are being effectively managed. There is an Information Governance Framework and an Information Risk Policy which sets out how this is achieved.

The Authority has a designated statutory Data Protection Officer (DPO) and a Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) who ensures legal compliance with data protection requirements.

Data Protection audits are carried out across the Service via departments self-assessing against relevant criteria as part of the Service Assurance process. This ensures appropriate arrangements are in place.

Information governance describes the approach within which accountability, standards, policies, and procedures are developed and implemented, to ensure that all information created, obtained, or received by WYFRA is held and used appropriately.

The Authority has an Information Governance Strategy and Policy which describes its commitment to ensuring effective information governance as a means to enable the service to ensure it can make the best use of its information and to provide a solid foundation to enable it to be open and transparent.

At the same time, it takes account of and supports WYFRA's operational objectives and ensures that a balance is struck between operational and compliance objectives.

The Authority has achieved excellent audit reports in respect of the handling and processing of information including the personal information relating to customers. This includes the achievement of the highest level of 'Compliance Plus' within the annual Customer Service Excellence report for the strategic approach to Information Management particularly relating to our customers' privacy and confidentiality. This standard was first achieved in 2009 and has been maintained at this level since then.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on 25 May 2018, extending the privacy rights granted to EU individuals. The GDPR placed many new obligations upon

organisations that process personal data. The Data Protection Act 2018 incorporated the GDPR and brought it into UK law.

An audit of the Authority's data protection compliance was undertaken by Kirklees Internal Audit in December 2020/January 2021 which resulted in 'Substantial Assurance' for the arrangements in place.

WYFRA introduced a structured approach to Information Security (IS) aligned with ISO 27001 and His Majesty's Government Security Policy Framework. This approach includes regular information governance audits, access permission reviews, mandatory data security training, and ongoing communication of data protection advice.

The strategic Information Governance and Security Group (IGSG) and the operational Corporate Information Management Group (CIMG) promote information governance standards across all departments. Regular reviews and updates to policies ensure compliance with data protection regulations.

WYFRA utilises the Information Commissioner's Office Accountability Framework self-assessment, demonstrating strong adherence to GDPR. The continual use of Data Protection Impact Assessments and internal communications support data protection and security responsibilities across the service.

All information security incidents are monitored, and staff are required to report incidents to mitigate risks. The Records Retention Schedule is regularly reviewed and updated, ensuring adherence and reducing unnecessary documentation.

In summary, WYFRA's comprehensive Information Governance framework and proactive measures ensure effective information management, legal compliance, and risk mitigation, fostering transparency and operational efficiency across the organisation.

Risk and Business Continuity

WYFRA has a Risk Management Strategy and Policy and Business Continuity Management Strategy and Policy which provide clear and defined strategies to be implemented, adhered to and developed to aide achievement of the following objectives:

- Implement and maintain risk policy arrangements including a risk framework and processes, which will enable the organisation to identify, assess and manage strategic and corporate risks in an effective, systematic and consistent manner. This also assists in embedding a risk management culture.
- Implement and maintain a business continuity management system to ensure that key services can be maintained in the event of any disruption that threatens the delivery of services to the community of West Yorkshire.
- Protect the organisation from disruptive events and service interruptions and facilitate a co-ordinated recovery of organisational services and critical functions during and following such events.

An update on risk and business continuity is provided at each quarterly Audit Committee meeting, and a full report on progress and future developments is provided on an annual basis.

Operational (Service Delivery)

WYFRA operates within a clearly defined statutory and policy framework and the key documents setting this out are:

- The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
- The Civil Contingencies Act 2004
- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- The Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) (England) Order 2007
- The Localism Act 2011
- The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England
- The Fire Safety Act 2021

At strategic level, Community Risk Management Planning is an integral part of the business planning process in West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS). The Service's strategic assessment of risk covers all foreseeable risks within the County and establishes baseline standards of service.

In February 2022, Authority members approved a report submitted by the Director of Service Support presenting the draft 'Your Fire & Rescue Service 2022-2025' document which replaced 'Your Fire & Rescue Service 2020-23'. The revised plan was updated to reflect the recent national fire standard for Community Risk Management Planning, the Core Code of Ethics for fire and rescue services, and our updated organisational priorities and programme of change.

Your Fire & Rescue Service 2022-25 sets out the strategic priorities for the Service and provides an overview of how we intend to achieve our ambition of 'Making West Yorkshire Safer' and meet the challenges facing the Service between 2022/2025. The document also provides the overarching business case for delivering prevention, protection, response and resilience, and sets out how we aim to use our resources to manage the risks we face in a proportionate manner.

In 2022, a project was initiated which saw an investment in 34 whole time firefighter posts. In addition, we commenced a review of all operational staffing with the objective being to improve the flexibility, resilience, and efficiency of staffing on wholetime fire stations. To achieve our objectives and to increase productivity, we reviewed:

- The requirement to use overtime to backfill shortfalls in staffing.
- How firefighters over and above standard staffing can support risk reduction initiatives and operational training without impacting fire cover.
- The role of stations and the district team in leave and absence management.
- How the Employee Resource Team support district teams with leave and absence management.
- The management of non-establishment posts.

- Recruitment, retention, and development of 'Safe to Command' firefighters.
- Training budgets and training course bookings.
- The distribution and management of specialisms, including driver numbers across watches.

Customer Service Excellence

Since 1998, WYFRA has consistently attained the Charter Mark standard; the Government's national standard of customer service excellence for organisations delivering public services. In August 2009 the Authority invited an assessment against the new Customer Service Excellence standard, which was being phased in and which has now fully replaced the Charter Mark standard. The Customer Service Excellence standard is derived from the core concepts of customer focus and the delivery of excellent customer service and assesses, in great detail, the following areas:

- Customer Insight
- The Culture of the Organisation
- Information and Access
- Delivery
- Timeliness and Quality of Service

WYFRA has an independent assessment against the standard annually and in 2023 was awarded full compliance against the 57 elements of the standard including 33 'Compliance Plus' awards, which are awarded for behaviours or practices that exceed the requirements of the standard and are viewed as exceptional or as an exemplar for others – either within the organisation or in the wider public service arena. The summary of the Customer Service Excellence report clearly demonstrates the continuous commitment of the Authority to provide an excellent service to customers.

Communication and Engagement

WYFRS follows the Government's Consultation Principles 2018 in delivery and promotion of its consultations. The principles can be found here.

Service Delivery Performance

Service delivery standards are established in 'Your Fire and Rescue Service 2022-25'. Performance against targets are reported to the Fire and Rescue Authority on a regular basis, with the latest annual Performance Management Report for 2023/24 submitted in June 2023.

Your Fire & Rescue Service 2022-25 includes reference to Risk Based Planning Assumptions (RBPA) for responding to emergencies. These are used to ensure resources are in the best place relative to risk and demand, with life risk incidents being the priority. The RBPAs are monitored at the quarterly Fire Cover Review Group.

The impact of any proposed changes can be measured and communicated by reference to the RBPA down to Lower Layer Super Output Area level. These were used in comprehensive consultation on changes to emergency cover in 2011; 2012; 2016; 2019, and during the more recent 2020 Cleckheaton Fire Station relocation proposal. These changes enable WYFRS to provide appropriate emergency cover and fire prevention activity whilst delivering significant financial savings.

Firefighter productivity activities are aligned to the delivery of 'Your Fire & Rescue Service 2022-25'. To enable us to deliver this work efficiently and effectively we understand wholetime firefighter capacity on each of our wholetime fire stations, taking into consideration the duty system, time allocated to station work, training, risk reduction activities and time spent in attendance at operational incidents.

OneView, our new bespoke performance management system is a series of intuitive dashboards that provide a comprehensive picture of WYFRS' progress towards achieving our strategic priorities and ambition of 'Making West Yorkshire Safer.'

Balanced activity reports are produced which consider performance across the whole Service, displaying clear governance and performance reporting. It is a more efficient way of collating, reporting, and analysing data.

Service performance is monitored through a set of key performance indicators that are reported to members of the Authority. All reports are available on the WYFRS website.

As part of the 2021/22 Spending Review, the National Fire Chiefs' Council (NFCC) and the Local Government Association proposed that across Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) in England, the fire and rescue sector could create 2% of non-pay efficiencies and increase productivity by 3% by 2024/25.

Our Efficiency and Productivity Plan 2023/24 details how the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority aim to deliver efficiencies and increase productivity against national targets set for the 2021/22 - 2024/25 spending review period, and demonstrates how we add social and economic value through our response to fire and non-fire emergencies and through our daily risk reduction activity.

WYFRA discharges its statutory duties in relation to community safety, fire prevention and fire protection, including enforcement of relevant statutory regulations in accordance with the Safer Communities Protection Strategy, Safer Communities Prevention Strategy, and Response and Resilience Strategy, with firefighters and specialist staff being deployed across districts where most needed based on risk.

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) carried out formal inspections to assess how we deliver our service in June 2019 and October and November 2021 following which we were rated 'Good' for all three pillars on both occasions. HMICFRS stated that they were pleased with the performance of WYFRS in keeping people safe and secure from fires and other risks and pleased with the progress made in most areas since

their initial pilot inspection in 2018. Our third HMICFRS inspection was carried out in January 2024.

The WYFRA's Service Assurance Framework details the high-level expectations of the service relating to:

- Compliance with the National Framework 2018.
- The assessment of performance via His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).
- The annual completion of the Service Assurance process.
- A comprehensive approach to the assurance of service delivery through our Reality Testing of incidents process.

This is summarised within the Service Improvement and Assurance Report and provides assurance that the organisation is performing effectively and efficiently.

Agreements and Mutual Aid Arrangements

Sections 13 and 16 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 provide clear instructions for fire and rescue services regarding mutual assistance and the discharge of functions by others. West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority have Section 13 and 16 agreements with:

- Lancashire Combined Fire Authority
- North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
- Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
- Humberside Fire and Rescue Authority

These agreements are regularly reviewed and updated as necessary and are supplemented by specific agreements on specialist services, for example aerial appliances, and WYFRA is a major contributor to national and regional resilience with the capability to respond to major disasters and terrorist attacks. We are the only service in the country to host every National Resilience asset. In addition, we are one of the main providers of national resilience training under the national resilience distributed learning (NRDL) model.

Future Improvements

Our services are funded by the taxpayer; we have a legal duty to ensure the services we provide offer value for money to the taxpayer and meet the requirements of an ever-changing society.

WYFRA's annual budget is £104.3 million and despite cuts of £26.2 million since 2010, we believe that we are providing a high-quality affordable service for our communities.

During this time, we have redesigned our Service, moving fire station locations, removing fire engines, and ensuring resources remain allocated appropriate to risk and demand.

Through the implementation of smarter working and the introduction of an improved budget management system, the service has achieved a balanced budget. This means that our expenditure is matched by our funding and there is no need to use any of our reserves.

Our Community Risk Management Plan, Medium-Term Financial Plan and Workforce Plan are now aligned, and a range of financial planning scenarios have been produced which ensures a joined-up approach to the analysis of risk and the deployment of resources. Following budget approval, we recently increased firefighter numbers to enable us to provide increased capacity within our operational response service.

All our people are fundamental to WYFRS delivering our ambition. We will continue to develop the culture of the organisation and ensure our service values and the Core Code of Ethics for fire and rescue services are used to guide our behaviour and decisions. Our cultural development will be supported by our leadership and development programme, and there will be a clear focus on diversity and inclusion within our recruitment processes.

We have embarked on a programme of change that will realise new, innovative, and more effective ways of working over the forthcoming years. Moving forward with our programme of continuous improvement, we will focus on efficiency and effectiveness without compromising public safety.

Our current programme of change for 2023/24 includes:

Birkenshaw Site Redevelopment

Deliver a modern, energy-efficient Headquarters with a purpose-built training arena.

New Fire Engine Fleet

Introduction of a new fleet of modern fire appliances with provision to reduce firefighter exposure to contamination.

Keighley Fire Station

The construction of a new fire station on the existing site to replace an oversized and outdated fire station.

Halifax Fire Station

The construction of a new fire station on the existing site to replace an oversized and outdated fire station.

Huddersfield Fire Station

The construction of a new fire station on the existing site to replace an oversized and outdated fire station.

OneView Programme

Performance management programme to provide a transparent, timely and flexible method of sharing performance data with our colleagues, partners, and the communities.

Grenfell Programme

We will continue to implement the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Report and await the outcomes and recommendations of the phase 2 report.

Fire Control

The existing mobilising system is approaching end of life. To meet the ever-changing demands placed on WYFRS and to continue to provide a resilient, effective service, a new mobilising system is required.

Fire Standards Programme

Implementation of nationally agreed fire standards across Fire and Rescue Service core functions.

Accessible Content Toolkit Project

Ensuring that digital content, including websites, mobile apps and documents that are shared electronically are accessible to all audiences.

Command Support Software

The project will deploy a command support system including hardware and software that will improve situational awareness of our incident commanders at larger scale incidents.

Special Projects Implementation

Following the conclusion of the Special Projects research phase on Aerial Appliances, Fire Appliances and Fire Station Design, the project has moved onto the implementation phase.

Office 365

Technical requirements to keep Microsoft office products up to date with the latest features and security. This includes the implementation of SharePoint Online, MS Teams and some Viva Products which will enhance work productivity and collaboration.

Data Centre

The relocation of our backup data centre which is required for disaster recovery and business continuity purposes.

MDT software

Replacement of Lego MDT software to coincide with the go live of the replacement mobilising system.

The annual planning cycle encourages teams to plan and consider activities and initiatives a year in advance of implementation. This means that stakeholder engagement is carried out earlier, involving those who are impacted and enabling change within the organisation. This assists with capacity planning and benefits realisation from the programme of change.

As the risk from fire has reduced, an increase in other types of emergencies is evident, for example:

- The terror attack at Manchester Arena
- The impact of climate change and severe weather
- COVID 19 Pandemic 2020/21

A review of foreseeable risks has taken place on the back of these incidents to assess their impacts and to plan for them accordingly. The outcomes of the review have been captured within the Community Risk Management Plan.

Since the tragic events of Grenfell, WYFRS has played a significant role in supporting the Government and the National Fire Chiefs Council in assessing and developing new ways of working to bring about much needed change in legislation through work we have carried out with the Protection Board.

The introduction of the new Building Safety Regulator (BSR) and the Gateway regime will provide a new mechanism to ensure new buildings are built correctly, and existing occupied premises meet the same stringent safety standards. Our Protection team are prepared to enable them to support the work of the new BSR on a regional basis.

Within the building safety environment, the Authority continues to respond to the needs of business and strives to ensure the safety of relevant persons is maintained. Where we have evidence that this is not the case, we utilise our powers of enforcement to bring about a safe environment.

The future of fire protection continues to change and WYFRS is committed to ensuring that our team is ready and able to pick up the challenges we face. Our commitment is demonstrated within our CRMP and to ensure we achieve this; we continue to invest and recruit into our Fire Protection team structure. This will ensure we have the right number of people in the teams to continue to successfully deliver our statutory duties.

In recent years the dedication and commitment of WYFRS staff has saved many lives within West Yorkshire. Working with our communities as part of an intelligence led approach, we aim to stop fires before they happen.

We model the risk of fire across our communities, utilising the very strong correlation between the likelihood of fire and deprivation. We have embedded this over the last three years and building on this, we have introduced new ways of identifying individuals who are at the greatest risk of fire and being injured by fire, wherever they live within West Yorkshire. This allows us to target assistance to those at greatest risk to ensure our valuable resources are having the greatest impact on community safety.

To build on this work, we are utilising national guidance that has been released through the Definition of Risk Programme to profile all risk, not just risk from fire, across West Yorkshire.

Reducing the impact of climate related incidents such as flooding, and wildfire continues to be a priority for the Service. We have worked collaboratively with local partners to proactively challenge irresponsible behaviour, provide safety advice and where necessary responded quickly and effectively to mitigate the impacts on our communities.

Working with other organisations brings value to the service WYFRS provides. There is an ongoing programme of collaboration to improve how we work with the police and ambulance service and evaluation is being carried out on a wide range of opportunities to make more efficient use of resources. This includes sharing buildings, training, and staff to enhance community safety work, improve planning for emergencies, and supporting emergency response. The focus of Tri-Service collaboration moving forwards will be reducing risk and demand through data sharing.

Working with local authorities, health teams, community groups and voluntary organisations to support the most vulnerable people in our communities continues. WYFRS are also working more closely than ever with other fire and rescue service partners on projects such as the recent joint procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for firefighters and an upcoming procurement of multi-role PPE.

We are investing heavily in the health and safety of our firefighters by providing new PPE, appliances, and station upgrades to reduce the risks of contaminants from smoke on their health.

The importance of good health and wellbeing, as opposed to just safety can sometimes be overlooked, but plays a significant role in service delivery. The emphasis on improving mental health and wellbeing by improving our procedures and training, whilst developing a more robust framework of welfare support, continues to be a priority.

Whilst the traditional fire calls have reduced over the past 20 years, we are seeing a more diverse range of incident types leading to increased call volumes including helping multi-agency partners. The training priority continues to be to ensure that realistic training and shared learning continues to be developed to bridge this gap.

The Authority has a risk-based training strategy and continues to invest in a central training programme to make sure firefighter skills are kept at the highest level. We are investing in state-of-the-art training facilities at our Headquarters as well as training our firefighters at the Fire Service College to provide realistic training opportunities.

Our Firefighter Safety Team work to reduce the risk to firefighters and improve knowledge and understanding of tactical options and National Operational Guidance. In addition, WYFRS have procured new equipment to mitigate the rising threat of lithium-ion batteries and electric vehicle fires and the Firefighter Safety Team have provided training to all operational crews.

The Digital and Data Strategy 2021-25 continues to deliver an ambitious programme of change to meet the needs of our Service's ambition. The Strategy maximises the use of electronic ways of working, simplifies systems and produces a consistent user experience reducing repetition and exploiting the value of the information held within a secure and resilient infrastructure. This strategy will be key to supporting our focus on performance management and smarter working for the year ahead.

This Statement of Assurance is signed on 27 September 2024 on behalf of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

Councillor Darren O'Donovan
Chair of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority

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Agenda item: 09

Membership of the Authority and Appointment to Committees

Full Authority

Date:	27 September 2024
Submitted by:	Director of Corporate Services
Purpose:	To advise of a change of membership of the Authority and make changes to Committee memberships as appropriate.
Recommendations:	That the report be noted and the appointments to Committees be agreed.
Summary:	Councillor Beverley Addy has resigned from the Authority and her replacement Councillor Aafaq Butt has been appointed with effect from 23 July 2024

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category:	None
Contact Officer:	Jik Townson, Committee Services and Governance Officer Jik.Townson@Westyorksfire.gov.uk
Background papers open to inspection:	None
Annexes:	Committee Memberships 2024/25

1. Introduction

1.1 Notification has been received from Kirklees Council of a replacement appointment for Councillor Beverley Addy who resigned from the Fire Authority with effect from 22 July 2024

2. Information

2.1 Councillor Aafaq Butt has been appointed to the Fire Authority and will take over Cllr Addy's positions as Vice Chair for Finance and Resources Committee and Member of Community Safety Committee

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution.

5. Human Resource and Diversity Implications

5.1 There are no human resource and diversity implications arising from this report.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance?   No

7. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

7.1 There are no health, safety and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

8. Environmental Implications

8.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report

9. Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

9.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-25 strategic priorities below:

- Promote the health, safety, and wellbeing of all our people.
- Encourage a learning environment in which we support, develop, and enable all our people to be at their best.

- Provide ethical governance and value for money.
- Collaborate with partners to improve all of our services.
- Work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.
- Achieve a more inclusive workforce, which reflects the diverse communities we serve.
- Continuously improve using digital and data platforms to innovate and work smarter.

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Committee Structure and Membership 2024 / 25
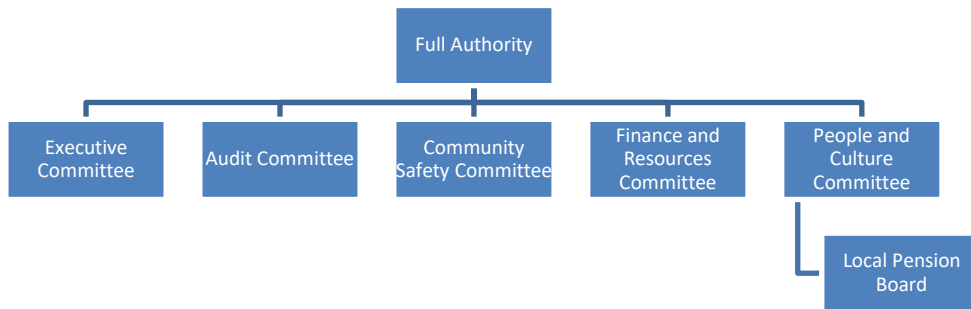
Labour	24/25 (13)
Chair	O'Donovan
Vice Chair	Tulley
	Ahmed
	Ali
	Bruce
	Bryan
	Butt
	Hinchcliffe
	Keith
	Parnham
	Renshaw
	Shaheen
	Wood

Conservative	24/25 (4)
Lead	Hall
	Buckley
	Dickenson
	Pollard

Liberal Democrats	24/25 (2)
Lead	Downes
	Burke

Green	24/25 (2)
Lead	Sutcliffe
	Carlisle

Bradford Independent	24/25 (1)
Lead	Salam

Committee Seats (45)

Labour 13/22	59%	27 seats
Cons 4/22	18%	8 seats
Lib Dems 2/22	9%	4 seats
Greens 2/22	9%	4 seats
Bradford Independent Group 1/22	5%	2 seats
		45 seats

Committee	Members	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem	Green	Bradford Independents
Executive	6	4	1	1		
P&C	11	6	2	1	1	1
F&R	11	6	2	1	1	1
Audit	6	4	1		1	
Comm Safety	11	7	2	1	1	
TOTAL	**45**	**27**	**8**	**4**	**4**	**2**

Executive Committee (6)

Labour (4)	O'Donovan (C)
	Tulley (VC)
	Renshaw
	Shaheen
Conservative (1)	Hall (L)
Liberal Democrat (1)	Downes

People and Culture Committee (11)

Labour (6)	Shaheen (C)
	Ali (VC)
	Bruce
	Hinchcliffe
	Renshaw
	Tulley
Conservative (2)	Dickenson (L)
	Pollard
Liberal Democrat (1)	Downes
Green (1)	Sutcliffe
Bradford independent Group (1)	Salam

Finance And Resources Committee (11)

Labour (6)	Tulley (C)
	Butt (VC)
	O'Donovan
	Hinchcliffe
	Keith
	Shaheen
Conservative (2)	Buckley
	Pollard (L)
Liberal Democrat (1)	Downes
Green (1)	Carlisle
Bradford independent Group (1)	Salam

Audit Committee (6)

Labour (4)	Renshaw (C)
	Parnham (VC)
	Ahmed
	Wood
Conservative (1)	Buckley (L)
Green (1)	Carlisle

Community Safety Committee (11)

Labour (7)	Keith (C)
Vice Chair	Wood (VC)
	Butt
	Ahmed
	Ali
	Bruce
	Bryan
Conservative (2)	Hall (L)
	Dickenson
Liberal Democrats (1)	Burke
Green (1)	Sutcliffe

Local Pension Board (2 x Employer representatives)

Labour (1)	Shaheen
Conservative (1)	Pollard

Consultation And Negotiation Panel (6)

Labour (4)	O'Donovan
	Renshaw
	Shaheen
	Tulley
Conservative (1)	Hall
Liberal Democrat (1)	Downes

Substitutes
Any Member from relevant Group who is not substantive Member of this Committee.

Briefing Group Arrangements
2024 / 2025

Group / Position	Member	Substitute
Full Authority		
Chair	Cllr O'Donovan	Any Labour Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Tulley	Any Labour Member
Conservative	Cllr Hall	Any Conservative Member
People and Culture Committee		
Chair	Cllr Shaheen	Any Labour Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Ali	Any Labour Member
Conservative	Cllr Dickenson	Any Conservative Member
Finance and Resources Committee		
Chair	Cllr Tulley	Any Labour Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Butt	Any Labour Member
Conservative	Cllr Pollard	Any Conservative Member
Audit Committee		
Chair	Cllr Renshaw	Any Labour Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Parnham	Any Labour Member
Conservative	Cllr Buckley	Any Conservative Member
Community Safety Committee		
Chair	Cllr Keith	Any Labour Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Wood	Any Labour Member
Conservative	Cllr Hall	Any Conservative Member

HMICFRS Round 3

WYFRS headline feedback

Background

- Our Round 3 HMICFRS Inspection followed the timeline below:-

Date	Activity
4th September '23	Staff Survey (4 weeks)
13th October '23	Autumn Data Collection (6 weeks)
6th November '23	Document Request, Self-Assessment, Strategic Briefing Presentation (4 weeks)
14th December '23 (Virtual)	Head of Finance Interview
8th and 22nd January '23 (Inspectors on site at HQ and visits to 8 stations)	Strategic Briefing, FA Chair Interview, Desktop Reviews, Interviews, Reality Tests, Focus Groups Cleckheaton, Garforth, Halifax, Illingworth, Leeds, Morley 2 x On Call stations Ilkley, Featherstone
5th February '24 (Virtual)	Incident Command Interviews, Virtual Strategic Managers Interviews, CFO Interview
7th March '24	Service Debrief
25th July '24	Report published
3rd Sept '24	HMICFRS Workshops started

West Yorkshire
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HMICFRS R3 Grades

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
	Understanding fire and risk	Public safety through fire regulation	Preventing fire and risk	
	Responding to fires and emergencies	Best use of resources		
	Responding to major incidents	Promoting values and culture		
	Future affordability			
	Right people, right skills			
	Promoting fairness and diversity			
	Managing performance and developing leaders			

West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service

26 September 2024

R2 Achievements

- In our R2 inspection findings we are asked to address 13 Areas for Improvement, in R3 HMICFRS confirmed:-

- 9 of these had been achieved

- 4 making progress, to be reviewed in our Round 4 inspection

- 4 new ones

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R2 Areas of improvement we have achieved

1. The service should make sure that firefighters have good access to relevant, up-to-date risk information.

2. The service should make sure it consistently quality assures its prevention activity, so all staff carry out safe and well visits to an appropriate standard.

3. The service should make sure its mobile data terminals are reliable so that firefighters can readily access up-to-date risk information.

4. The service should have effective measures, targets and processes in place to support performance management of its key business functions.

5. The service should make sure that it has effective arrangements in place to support staff following a traumatic incident.

6. The service should make sure all staff are appropriately trained and up to date in relation to health and safety.

7. The service should make sure it has an effective, accurate and accessible system for recording and monitoring all staff training, including eLearning.

8. The service should review how effective its policy on bullying, harassment and discrimination is in reducing unacceptable behaviour towards its staff.

9. The service should improve all staff understanding and application of the performance (annual) review process.

West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service

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26 September 2024

R2 Areas of improvement continuing

1. The service should make sure it delivers safe and well visits in a timely manner.

2. The service should assure itself that its auditing activity is aligned with its risk-based inspection programme.

3. The service should make sure it has an effective system for learning from operational incidents.

4. The service should assure itself that staff are confident using its feedback mechanisms.

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R3 New Areas for Improvement

1. The service should make sure it puts effective measures in place to address the backlog of safe and well visits.

2. The service needs to show clear rationale for the resources allocated between prevention, protection and response activities. This should reflect and be consistent with, the risks and priorities set out in its Community Risk Management Plan.

3. The service should make sure there is a testing programme for its business continuity arrangements, particularly in high-risk areas of service

4. The service should proactively monitor working hours (including overtime) to improve staff well-being.

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Effectiveness positive feedback

Understanding the risk of fire and other emergencies

- The service has improved its arrangements to gather information and make it available to staff
- The service uses the outcomes of operational activity effectively to build an understanding of risk

Preventing fires and other risks

- The service's prevention strategy is clearly linked to the risks it has identified in its CRMP
- The service's prevention strategy prioritises those most at risk from fire and other emergencies
- The service effectively targets its prevention activity
- The service works well with other organisations to reduce risk
- The service has dedicated resources to tackle fire-setting behaviour
- The service evaluates its prevention activity effectively
- The service uses feedback to inform its planning assumptions and change future activity

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Effectiveness positive feedback

Protecting the public through fire regulation

- The service's protection strategy is linked to its CRMP
- The service carries out consistent, good-quality audits
- The service has an effective quality assurance policy in place
- Enforcement activities are proportionate to risks
- The service has adapted well to new legislation
- The service works well with other enforcement agencies
- The service regularly responds to building consultations on time
- The service has a proactive approach to reduce the number of unwanted fire

Responding to major and multi-agency incidents

- The service is prepared for major and multi-agency incidents
- The service has the ability to respond to major and multi-agency incidents
- The service works effectively with other fire and rescue services
- The service frequently carries out cross-border exercises
- Incident commanders have good understanding of JESIP
- The service is an active and valued member of the West Yorkshire Resilience Forum
- The service shares and contributes to national learning

Innovative practice

The service effectively shares risk information to assist with rescues and the evacuation of tall buildings involved in fire

The service uses an electronic system to relay important information, such as the people who are at the greatest risk and need to be rescued. Information is also shared through a dedicated video link. Risk information can be accessed and updated from both the emergency control room and the evacuation unit at the scene of an incident.

This helps the service to prioritise rescues and effectively evacuate tall buildings involved in fire.

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Effectiveness improvement areas

Preventing fire and other risks

- They should share intelligence and risk information with these other organisations when they identify vulnerability or exploitation

- Safe and well visits aren't prioritised consistently

- The service's post-incident prevention work was inconsistent

Protecting the public through fire regulation

- Align the service's auditing activity with its risk-based inspection programme

- The service should make sure it allocates enough resources to meet its protection strategy

- The service could do more to promote fire safety with local businesses

Responding to fire and other emergencies

- Although the service has made progress in learning from incidents, we still found some debriefs weren't carried out within the service's set timescales

West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

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Efficiency positive feedback

Making best use of resources

- The service is improving workforce productivity

- The service collaborates effectively with others

- The service shows effective financial management

Making the fire and rescue service affordable now and in future

- The service understands its future financial challenges

- The service has a clear plan in place for the use of reserves

- The fleet and estate strategies are aligned with the CRMP

- The service invests in technology to support change and improve efficiency

- The service considers income generation opportunities

West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

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Efficiency development areas

Making best use of resources

- The service needs to improve how it allocates resources (staff in prevention, protection and response) to meet its objectives

- The service does not have enough qualified protection staff to carry out its strategic plan

- The service could improve its business continuity arrangements

West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

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People positive feedback

Promoting the right values and culture

- The service prioritises culture, behaviours and values

- The service has good well-being provisions in place and prioritises mental and physical health

- The service has appropriate health and safety provisions in place

Getting the right people with the right skills

- The service effectively monitors workforce skills and capabilities

- The service supports staff with learning and development

Ensuring fairness and promoting diversity

- The service and senior leaders seek feedback from staff

- Most staff are confident in the service's approach to dealing with bullying, harassment and discrimination

- EDI are clear priorities for the service

Managing performance and developing leaders

- The service has improved how it manages individuals' performance

- The service is making efforts to increase diversity in its leadership

- The service identifies and develops leadership and high-potential staff at all levels

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People development areas

Promoting the right values and culture

- Still evidence of poor behaviours, with some staff still not feeling confident to raise concerns or to challenge

- The service doesn't monitor staff who have secondary employment or dual contracts, and they are recorded on two separate availability systems, making it difficult for managers to monitor combined working hours

- Staff informed that working excessive overtime shifts to cover staff shortages was affecting well-being

- The service needs to improve how it manages absences

Getting the right people with the right skills

- The service needs to improve its workforce planning

Ensuring fairness and promoting diversity

- Further work is needed to assure staff that Say So is confidential and can be trusted

- The service needs to do more to improve disproportionality in recruitment

Managing performance and developing leaders

- The service needs to do more to assure the workforce that promotion and progression processes are fair

West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

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Next Steps

1. Areas for improvement have been added to a HMICFRS Action Plan.

2. Targeted workshops
   o Allocate action owners
   o Plan the way forward

3. Plan mock inspection activity for end of 2024 to assess improvement.

4. Secondment with HMICFRS for inspection activity to upskill personnel and bring back learning.

5. Further review of our prevention work.

6. Recruitment and development in our Protection teams.

7. Development of an Operational Learning PowerApp.

8. Further evaluation of our SaySo feedback platform – Culture project focus groups/People Plan.

West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

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HMICFRS Round 4 Consultation

HMICFRS have launched a Consultation to help plan what their Round 4 inspections will look like.

NFCC have formulated a response and this in line with what WYFRS thoughts

➢ We propose to evaluate how each FRS is affected by its fire and rescue authority's governance, oversight and scrutiny arrangements. We also propose to examine how the fire and rescue authority supports the FRS to keep the public safe, establish a positive culture and standards of conduct, and look after the health and well-being of its staff. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

➢ Do you agree or disagree that we should assess leadership at all levels of FRSs?

➢ Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to combine the efficiency questions into a single question (to concentrate on how resources are allocated and used in support of the outcomes required for the community risk management plan)?

➢ Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to examine how FRSs work with local communities to make them more resilient?

➢ Does the draft 'characteristics of good' (Annex A) include the right questions to gather evidence for a comprehensive assessment of FRSs? How could this be improved?

➢ What do you think we should spend less time on during our inspections?

➢ Is there anything we can do to improve the way we report our findings?

➢ Are there any areas that you think we should examine more?

West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

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West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority

Agenda item: 11

Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA) Update

Full Authority

Date:	27/09/2024
Submitted by:	Director of Service Delivery
Purpose:	To update members on progress, following changes made to Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) mobilising policy. This is an informal review of the changes that were introduced in March 2024.
Recommendations:	That members note the update in respect of the changes to AFA response to commercial premises and note the next steps of the review in respect of rationalising the resources mobilised to domestic AFA calls.
Summary:	Members approved changes to the AFA response policy which were implemented March 2024. WYFRS has seen a significant reduction in mobilisations resulting from the policy change. 710 commercial AFA incidents have been recorded in the period from 18th March 2024. This is 47% less than the three-year average of 1350, for the same six-month period.

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category:	None
Contact Officer:	Scott Donegan, Operations Response AM
Background papers open to inspection:	Fire Authority paper 29.09.2024 Review of Response to Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's)
Annexes:	None

Making West Yorkshire Safer
www.westyorksfire.gov.uk

1. Introduction

1.1 In 2023 a review was undertaken into how the service responds to automatic fire alarms (AFA) in different premise types. The aim of this review was to inform decision making on the efficiency and effectiveness of the existing AFA response policy. In January 2024, Fire Authority approved changes to the way the service responds to AFA.

1.2 By rationalising how we respond to AFAs, capacity more than 4000 hours could be realised. The 'time' will be more effectively applied to operational training, prevention, and protection activities. It is likely we would also see a significant reduction in road risk due to less blue light journeys. The changes would also lead to improvements in fire cover and response arrangements as fire appliances will be available for other incident types when not responding to fire alarms.

1.3 From 18th March 2024, the service has not responded to AFAs in commercial property, unless on receipt of a confirmed fire or signs of fire. The exceptions to this are sleeping risks, (including hospitals, care homes, hotels), Schools, high risk chemical sites and Heritage risks.

1.4 It has now been six months since these changes in response were introduced; this paper highlights the initial progress of the changes and will set out the next steps.

2. Information

Communication and engagement plan

2.1 An eight-week communication/engagement plan was undertaken with key stakeholders regarding the changes in our response to commercial AFAs.

2.2 A press statement was released, informing the business community and the public of the key changes to our response. The statement gave reassurance to the community regarding more vulnerable and higher risk buildings, such as hospitals, schools, and dwellings. It also highlighted the responsibilities of businesses and signposted them to where they could locate further information around the changes. The press release also highlighted the main benefits to be realised by making these changes.

2.3 Social media was used over the engagement period, reminding building owners of their responsibilities and measures they should take to mitigate false alarms.

2.4 The five local authorities were sent details of the changes. They assisted WYFRS by communicating the information throughout their business networks.

2.5 All Alarm Receiving Companies (ARC) were contacted individually to discuss the changes and how they themselves could support businesses. Each ARC was sent a fact sheet detailing why the changes were happening and the benefits to the community of West Yorkshire.

2.6 A dedicated email was set up to allow stakeholders to engage with WYFRS and ask questions regarding the changes. Many businesses utilised this by asking pertinent questions, mainly around their responsibilities and how they could reduce false alarms happening.

2.7 A 'help page' was established on the WYFRS internet site which gave useful information to businesses and advice on how to reduce false alarms.

Update since the changes were introduced on 18th March 2024

2.8 The table (fig 1) below shows the number of Commercial AFAs attended by fire crews over the same six-month period (March-August) for the previous three years.

The table indicates how many of the calls turned out to be incidents and how many were unwanted fire signals (false alarms). It also indicates how much time was spent by fire crews dealing with incidents.

	2021 March - August	2022 March-August	2023 March-August	2024 March-August
Incidents	1366	1381	1431	711
Fires	12	12	12	5
False Alarms	1354	1369	1419	707
Time at Incident (approx)	885 hrs	895 hrs	928 hrs	462 hrs

Fig 1

2.9 The figures indicate that there has been a significant reduction in AFA attendances since the changes to our response went live. The number of AFAs for the last six months is 707. This equates to almost a 50% reduction in commercial AFA incidents, compared to the three-year average.

2.10 The numbers also demonstrate that there hasn't been an increase in actual fires as a result of the changes to AFA response to commercial property.

2.11 The 'Time at Incidents' calculation is approximate and is based on the **average of 39.25 minutes** which crews spend attending an unwanted fire alarm at a commercial premise.

2.12 Changes were also introduced to the AFA response in relation to other non-domestic buildings which would continue to receive an immediate response of one appliance. The following premises had previously received at least two fire appliances in response to an automatic fire alarm actuation:

- Sleeping Premises (premises as hospitals, care homes, hotels etc.)

- Educational Premises

- COMAH Sites

- Heritage Sites

The figures below show that the majority of commercial (non-domestic) AFA are resulting from either Hospitals or Schools. The table sets out the amount of time and resources it would previously have taken before the changes.

Type	AFA incidents March – August 2024	Average time with 2 appliances	Average time with 1 appliance	Time saved
Schools/Education	345	452 hours	226 hours	226 hours
Hospitals /medical care	176	230 hours	115 hours	115 hours

2.13 Both sets of data above (fig1 and fig2) show a significant saving of resources and time of fire crews. This increased capacity has been directed to support operational training, prevention, and protection initiatives, along with community engagement.

2.14 Less time spent dealing with unwanted fire calls also means appliances has also led to improvements in fire cover and response arrangements as fire appliances are available for other incident types when not responding to fire alarms.

Fire Control

2.15 Fire Control have been key in delivering these changes to the AFA response. Control operators continue to 'challenge' calls received from Alarm Receiving Companies (ARC). They determine the use of the building and whether an immediate response is required. They would determine if there was a sleeping risk or any 'other' high risk factor before mobilising an appliance.

2.16 Control offer advice to both ARCs and businesses around their duties as building owners/responsible persons. Control operators continue to have autonomy to mobilise appliance immediately if there is doubt around the incident.

Next steps

2.17 WYFRS have focused on commercial / industrial premises in respect of these initial changes to AFA response. The next steps will be to rationalise our response to AFA domestic property.

2.18 Currently, between 19:00hrs and 08:00hrs, WYFRS will mobilise two fire appliances to all AFA actuations which relate to a domestic property. Between 08:00hrs and 19:00hrs, one fire appliance is mobilised.

2.19 The data from the last three years relating to AFA domestic calls shows that most alarm actuations are caused by cooking fumes, smoking, faulty smoke detection and the testing of fire alarms.

2.20 The table below shows the figures for 2023/2024 in relation to AFA domestic calls and incidents:

2022/2023 AFA domestic calls	Two fire appliances mobilised. (19:00-08:00)	No of AFA calls which required fire and rescue service intervention	Persons requiring medical attention as a result of fire.
4751	1339	109	12

2.21 The above table (fig 3) shows us that a significant proportion of AFA domestic calls had two fire appliances mobilised due to the time of day (19;00hrs – 08:00hrs). The majority of calls through the daytime had one appliance attend.

2.22 The table shows that most AFA domestic calls were logged as 'false alarm.' The incident data also suggests that one appliance was adequate to deal with the incidents which did require fire service intervention. A substantial proportion of these incidents were cooking related and were dealt with minimal resources. For example, removing a pan from a heat source or isolating a power supply.

2.23 The vast majority of medical treatment was largely superficial and was mainly due to smoke inhalation or small burns. The incident data shows that 0.26% of AFA domestic calls resulted in any type of medical treatment for occupants.

2.24 By rationalising our response to AFA domestic calls to one appliance, we will see a significant reduction in mobilisations. This change will also impact positively on fire cover across West Yorkshire. It would also allow the time saved to be invested into operational training, fire prevention, protection, and community engagement. Mobilisation of one appliance to AFA domestic calls would also reduce the road risk to both fire crews and the public.

2.25 Due to the higher level of risk, this proposed change would not affect the pre-determined attendance (PDA) of a call to a high-rise building and we will continue to send the full PDA.

2.26 Fire Control continue to have the autonomy to mobilise more resources at the time of call, should they feel it necessary.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 WYFRS recover mobilisation costs when businesses fail to make improvements into their fire alarm systems which results in repeat false alarms. Approximately £145,000 per year is currently recovered. This amount should naturally reduce due to the changes in response to commercial property.

3.2 It is expected that the community benefit resulting from increased prevention and protection activity would offset this reduction of cost recovery.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 WYFRS will continue to fulfil statutory obligations. Responsibilities will be pushed back onto the responsible people.

4.2 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution.

5. Human Resource and Diversity Implications

5.1 There are no human resource and diversity implications arising directly from this report.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance?   No (update only)

(EIA template and guidance)

6.2 Date EIA Completed: "Add EIA completed date here"

6.3 Date EIA Approved: "Add EIA completed date here"

6.4 The EIA is available on request from the report author or from diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk

7. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

7.1 The changes to our AFA response have resulted in a significant decrease in emergency mobilisations undertaken in fire appliances. Therefore, the likelihood of a road traffic collision, involving fire crews or the public will be directly reduced.

8. Environmental Implications

8.1   The first six months of these changes in response has seen a significant reduction of mobilisations from emergency vehicles. This will have a positive impact on the environment.

8.2   There will be significant fuel efficiency savings and Co2 reductions. Climate change issues have also been supported by the increased availability of specialist provisions for wildfire and flood incidents.

9.   Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

9.1   This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-25 strategic priorities below:

- Improve the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters and the community by reducing road risk.
- Focus our prevention and protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
- Provide ethical governance and value for money.
- Plan and deploy our resources based on risk.

10. Conclusions

10.1 Since the changes were introduced on 18th March 2024 to AFA response, we have seen a significant reduction of around 47% in AFA commercial incidents.

10.2 Service effectiveness and efficiency has increased as the amount of time saved by introducing these changes, has been invested into operational training, community engagement and fire prevention activity.

10.3 The changes in our AFA response supports the HMICFRS recommendation of reducing false alarms - "*Fewer unwanted calls mean that fire engines are available to respond to a genuine incident rather than responding to a false one. It also reduces the risk to the public if fewer fire engines travel at high speed on the roads*."

10.4 We will continue to support, advise and educate businesses and building owners on their responsibilities and how they can further mitigate the risk of fire.

10.5 The 'next step' of rationalising response to AFA domestic incidents is supported by the data available for this incident type. By sending one appliance to a domestic AFA, it will further contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the service, whilst still ensuring an immediate response is mobilised to the property.

10.6 WYFRS will continue to mobilise an immediate response when a call is received stating there is a fire or signs of fire.

Agenda item: 12

Programme of Change Update

Full Authority

Date:	27th September 2024
Submitted by:	Director of Service Support
Purpose:	To update members of the progress of the Programme of Change 2024/25.
Recommendations:	That members note the report.
Summary:	The report highlights progress against the Programme of Change 2024/25.

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category:	None
Contact Officer:	Toby May, Service Support AM Toby.May01@westyorksfire.gov.uk
Background papers open to inspection:	None
Annexes:	Annex 1 – Programme of Change 24/25

1. Introduction

1.1 The Organisational Annual Planning Cycle is an embedded process which aims to achieve the following:

- Improve the logical flow of activities.

- Allow greater planning time.

- Allow scrutiny of proposed change activities.

- Streamline and avoid duplication of effort with reporting.

1.2 The approved change activities which fall out of the planning process become programmes or projects of varying scale and form the Programme of Change.

1.3 Lower-level change is often managed within departments or districts as part of their Business as Usual (BaU).

2. Information

2.1 Progress on the implementation of the programme is reported to each Full Authority. Annex 1 shows the status for current projects.

2.2 Out of the 16 projects; 12 projects are on track, 1 is behind schedule, 1 is overdue and 2 are on hold.

2.3 In addition, progress is reported at Change Management Board on a six-weekly basis.

2.4 Achieved activities (completed or closed) are removed from the portfolio.

2.5 The next key event in the Organisational Annual Planning Cycle is the Annual Strategic Workshop, set for 9th October 2024. This workshop will focus on governance and organisational structure. Expert guest speakers will be invited to share their insights on these subjects. Pre-workshops are being arranged to examine "the foundations of good governance," and the findings from these sessions will inform the discussions at the main event.

2.6 A recent internal review of the Portfolio Management Office (PMO) has been concluded. The findings and recommendations have been presented to the Project Coordination Group. Concurrently, work is underway to establish a benefits management framework aimed at improving both efficiency and effectiveness.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 Although there are no financial implications arising from this report each project completed a full business case highlighting any financial implications.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution.

5. Human Resource and Diversity Implications

5.1 There are no Human Resources and Diversity implications arising from this report at the time of submission.

5.2 All projects are required to assess the HR implications and undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance?   Yes

6.2 Each project/programme is required to complete an individual EIA.

6.3 The EIA is available on request from the report author or from diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk

7. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

7.1 There are no Health and Safety implications arising from this report at the time of submission.

8. Environmental Implications

8.1 There are no Environmental implications arising from this report at the time of submission.

9. Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

9.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-25 strategic priorities below:

- Improve the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters.
- Promote the health, safety, and wellbeing of all our people.
- Encourage a learning environment in which we support, develop, and enable all our people to be at their best.
- Focus our prevention and protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
- Provide ethical governance and value for money.
- Collaborate with partners to improve all of our services.
- Work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.
- Achieve a more inclusive workforce, which reflects the diverse communities we serve.
- Continuously improve using digital and data platforms to innovate and work smarter.
- Plan and deploy our resources based on risk.

10. Conclusions

10.1 Our programme of continuous improvement focuses on efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity.

10.2 The status of each project can be seen in Annex 1.

11. Annex 1 – Programme of Change 2023/24

Data as of 05/09/2024.

Project / Initiative	Project / Initiative Description	Target Completion Date	Strategic Alignment	Project Status	% Complete
FSHQ Programme	Deliver a modern, energy-efficient Headquarters with a purpose-built training arena. Refurbish existing buildings to provide a new 3 appliance bay Fire Station, a recruit and staff training centre, and a Command training facility whilst retaining the capacity to deliver BA training. Maximise space within the site to provide a new outdoor RTC training facility	02/01/2025	38	On track	85%
OneView Programme	Performance management programme to provide a transparent, timely and flexible method of sharing performance data with our colleagues, partners, and the communities.	17/05/2025	36	On track	95%
HQ Fire Control	The existing mobilising system is approaching end of life. In order to meet the ever-changing demands placed on WYFRS and to continue	31/01/2025	33	On track	65%

	provide a resilient, effective service a new mobilising system and ICCS is required.			<td style="background:green"></td>	
Microsoft 365	Technical requirements to keep Microsoft office products up to date with the latest features and security. This includes the implementation of SharePoint Online, MS Teams and some Viva Products which all enhance work productivity and collaboration	31/07/2024	30	Overdue	90%
Keighley Fire Station	The construction of a new fire station on the existing site to replace an oversized and outdated fire station	31/3/2025	28	Behind schedule	35%
Command Support Software	Implement Airbox Mosaic command support software.	31/08/2024	16	On hold	40%
Grenfell Programme	Implement the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry: Phase 1 Report.	31/01/2025	20	On track	80%
Special Projects Implementation	Following the conclusion of the Special Projects research phase on Aerial Appliances, Fire Appliances and Fire Station Design, the project has moved onto the implementation phase.	31/07/2025		On track	95%
Halifax Fire Station	The construction of a new fire station on the existing site to replace an oversized and outdated fire station			On hold	

Huddersfield Fire Station	The construction of a new fire station on the existing site to replace an oversized and outdated fire station			On track	
MDT Software	This project will replace the existing Systel LEGO software and provide a new solution based primarily on an Android platform that will link to the new Frequentis Control System. WYFRS will procure a replace system and appoint a specialist contract that will partner who, in partnership, will collaborate with WYFRS and Frequentis to successfully and professionally deliver a fully supported MDT software solution to help achieve our organisational aims & objectives		22	On track	10%
Risk and capabilities review	To review all WYFRS specialist asset locations, staffing and operational activity to ensure they are aligned to risk and to identify areas to improve efficiency and operational effectiveness without compromising Service Deliver		20	On track	10%
National Operational Guidance (NOG)	The National Operational Guidance (NOG) project will improve the access to operational information based around the Product Pack concept bringing together policy, guidance, training materials and more into a single easy to access location. The vision is to create a 'Firefighters Hub' which will provide a modern solution, establishing a 'one-stop-shop' for all operational needs. The concept is based around		18	On track	5%

	the user identifying the 'incident type' they wish to explore e.g. building fires, RTC, HazMat etc. Once the user has selected the incident type they wish to view, they would be presented with a standardised sub areas (Policy, Training, Equipment etc.), the content of each sub area is bespoke to its overarching incident type.				
Operational Staffing	In September 2022, the Operational Staffing project was initiated to review all wholetime operational staffing, with the objective being to improve the flexibility, resilience, and efficiency of staffing on wholetime fire stations. Phase one has now completed and the project has moved into phase two which will see: • Management of wholetime operational staffing transition to a fully locally managed system. • Changes to local Staffing Management Structure. • Increased effectiveness of Employee Resources Team to support District Management Teams managing workforce planning, leave and absence management. • Further reduction in overtime and pre-arranged detached duty costs. • Introduction of Short-Term Flexibility Contracts. • Re-introduction of On-Call to Wholetime transfer process.		23	On track	60%

	• Transition of Organisational Training to a crew-based training model. Review of organisational/duty system attribute requirements.			On track	
Culture Review	OUR WYFRS will look at how we, as WYFRS, embed, develop, and display the recommendations from the LFB report, HMICFRS report, NFCC Culture action plan and our own strategies (people, leadership, diversity and inclusion, talent management). The project will pull together the workstreams involved in delivering the action plans and ensure the changes are embedded and understood by all.			On track	10%
Digital and Data Programme	Migration of legacy systems on to the Power Platform and the development of new automations and applications into the Power Platform.			On track	15%

Agenda item: 13

Performance Management Report

Full Authority

Date:	27 September 2024
Submitted by:	Director of Corporate Services
Purpose:	To inform Members of the Authority's performance against key performance indicators.
Recommendations:	That Members note the report.
Summary:	This report provides Members with information regarding the performance of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service against targets to enable the Authority to measure, monitor and evaluate performance.

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category:	None
Contact Officer:	Alison Davey – Head of Corporate Services
	01274 682311, alison.davey@westyorksfire.gov.uk
Background papers open to inspection:	None
Annexes:	2024-25 Performance Management Report from 1 April 2024 to 15 September 2024.

1. Introduction

1.1 The attached Performance Management Report outlines the Authority's performance against key performance indicators thereby enabling the Authority to measure, monitor and evaluate performance.

2. Information

2.1 The report shows a summary of the cumulative performance for the period 1 April 2024 to 15 September 2024 against each of the indicators.

2.2 The Performance Management Report is monitored at each Full Authority meeting.

2.3 An abridged version of the Performance Management Report is presented quarterly to the Audit Committee highlighting where targets are not being achieved.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution.

5. Human Resource and Diversity Implications

5.1 There are no Human Resource and Diversity implications arising from this report.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance?   No

7. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

7.1 There are no health, safety and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

8. Environmental Implications

8.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

9. Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

9.1   This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-25 strategic priorities below:

- Improve the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters.
- Promote the health, safety, and wellbeing of all our people.
- Encourage a learning environment in which we support, develop, and enable all our people to be at their best.
- Focus our prevention and protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
- Provide ethical governance and value for money.
- Collaborate with partners to improve all of our services.
- Work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.
- Achieve a more inclusive workforce, which reflects the diverse communities we serve.
- Continuously improve using digital and data platforms to innovate and work smarter.
- Plan and deploy our resources based on risk.

10. Conclusions

10.1 That Members note the report.

Performance Management Report
Fire Authority

Period Covered:

01 April 2024   15 September 2024

Table of contents:

This report provides a summary of our progress across the Service based on the date ranges below.

Period Covered:

Financial Year	2024-25	
Date Range	01 April 2024	15 September 2024

IMPORTANT: The data provided is based on incident reports that have been completed and/or checked but will not include data from incident reports which have not been completed.
Data may change due to incident reports that have been updated due to amendment. The data is accurate at time of creation of the report.

This report is comparing the date range above against:

Previous Year Comparison Date Range	01 April 2023	15 September 2023
3 Year Average Comparison Period	01 April 2023 01 April 2022 01 April 2021	15 September 2023 15 September 2022 15 September 2021
Colour Key	Positive Arrows Negative Arrows Positive Charts Negative Charts *When doing a comparison the key above is used. In all other cases graphs, charts and visuals are using contrasting colours to support accessibility.	

Due to seasonality **Previous Year** and **3 Year Average** comparison are based on selected range and not the whole of the previous year.

Performance Summary

Arrows display percentage(%) increase/decrease on previous year to current financial year.
The comparison range is based on selected date range.

This report is comparing: **01 April 2024**   **15 September 2024**
Against: 01 April 2023   15 September 2023

Total Incidents	Fires	False Alarms	Non-fires
11718	4581	4931	2206
⬇ -5%	⬇ -9%	⬇ -6%	⬆ 7%

Fire Related Fatalities	Fire Related Injuries	Malicious False Alarms	Road Traffic Collisions
14	74	127	244
⬆ 367%	⬆ 40%	⬇ -18%	⬇ -11%

Accidental Dwelling Fires	Deliberate Fires	Non-domestic Building Fires	Response Times Met
408	2745	159	93%
⬆ 2%	⬇ -7%	⬇ -6%	⬇ -1%

Safe and Well Visits
5634
⬆ 7%
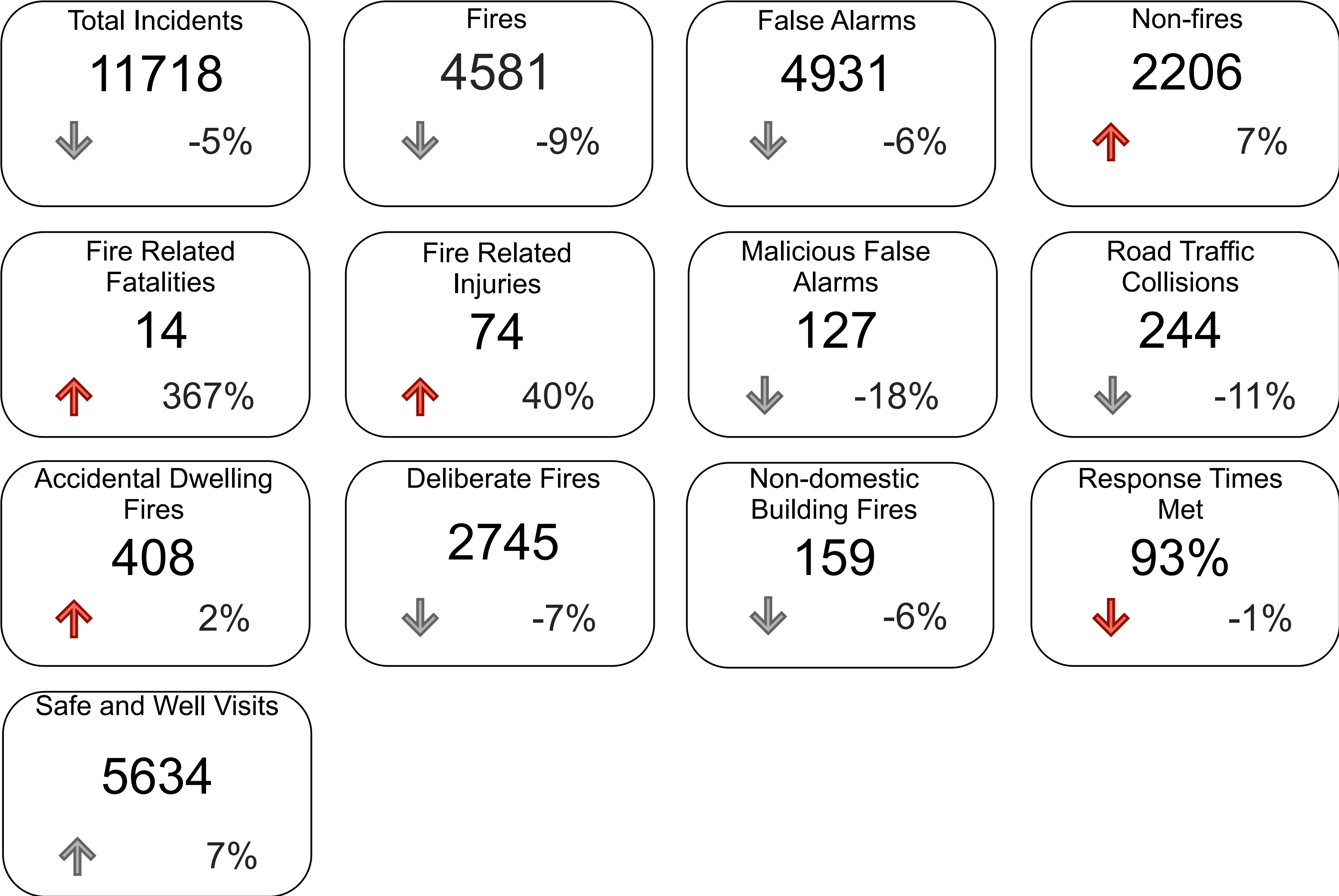
Incident Demand by Time of Day

| Day	08:00-08:59	09:00-09:59	10:00-10:59	11:00-11:59	12:00-12:59	13:00-13:59	14:00-14:59	15:00-15:59	16:00-16:59	17:00-17:59	18:00-18:59	19:00-19:59	20:00-20:59	21:00-21:59	22:00-22:59	23:00-23:59	00:00-00:59	01:00-01:59	02:00-02:59	03:00-03:59	04:00-04:59	05:00-05:59	06:00-06:59	07:00-07:59
Mon	47	60	63	61	60	95	86	90	97	103	134	130	121	107	82	77	44	57	37	22	28	28	21	37
Tue	50	54	69	55	64	76	81	97	108	111	108	109	119	85	88	63	63	50	35	23	30	28	19	41
Wed	43	59	67	57	73	93	94	88	91	98	112	131	102	90	86	56	61	41	43	28	28	23	31	49
Thu	49	44	66	59	85	61	74	98	113	114	88	128	123	101	75	53	47	38	21	24	25	17	26	37
Fri	46	47	67	71	72	68	71	86	71	112	128	129	139	120	86	70	49	38	29	29	40	27	21	33
Sat	46	49	42	65	77	77	105	88	95	126	121	124	133	117	93	84	62	59	46	49	37	30	30	47
Sun	45	52	68	60	72	83	82	87	110	116	110	121	136	137	87	69	74	50	38	42	37	20	21	27

Fires

Fires by Financial Year
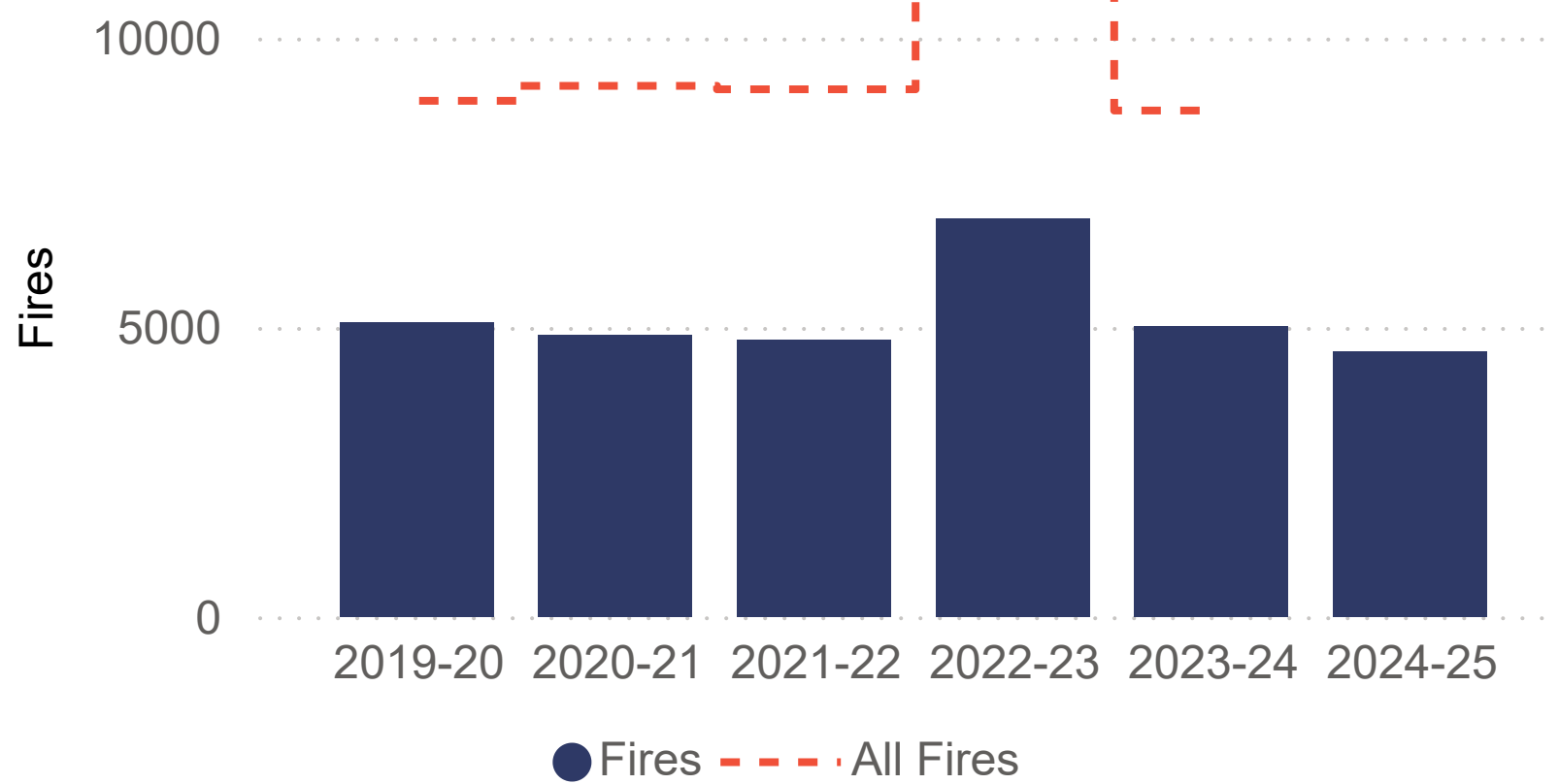
All Fires (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.

The bars show the value for selected date range.

Fires Previous Year To Date Comparison

District ▲	% increase/decrease on previous year	3 Year Average
Bradford	-12%	⇓
Calderdale	-16%	⇓
Kirklees	-8%	⇓
Leeds	-6%	⇓
Wakefield	-6%	⇓

3 Year average indicator shows if current number of Fires this financial year is an increase/decrease of fires against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

Fires by Property Type

Outdoor	3168
Building	872
Road Vehicle	540
Other transport vehicle	1
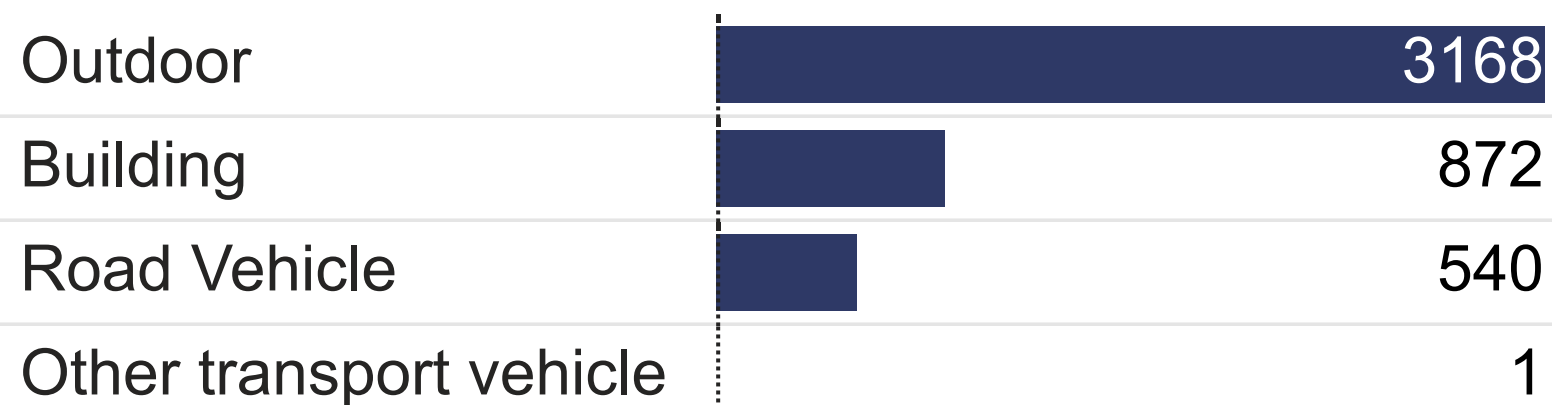
Fires by Category

Fire Classification	Accidental	Deliberate
Chimney Fire	0.15%	0.02%
Primary Fire	17.99%	12.94%
Secondary Fire	21.94%	46.95%

Fires by Building Property Type

Dwelling	483
Non Residential	376
Other Residential	13
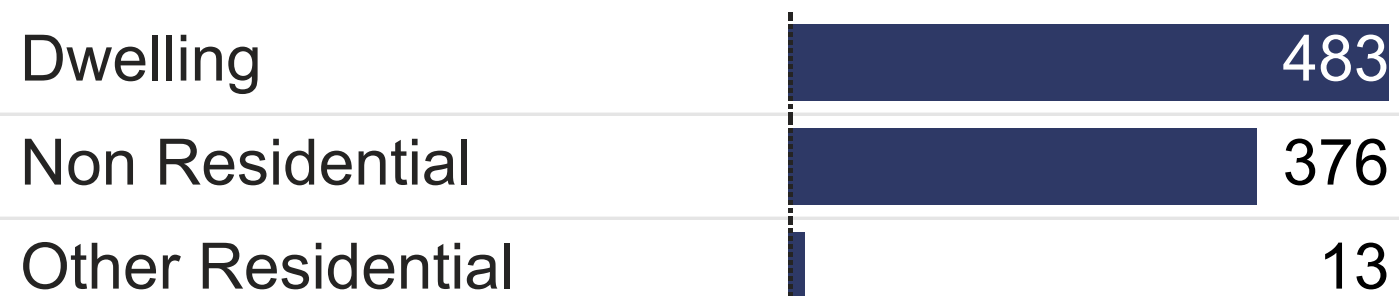
Fires by Outdoor Property Type

Other outdoors (including land)	1382
Grassland, woodland and crops	882
Outdoor structures	857
Outdoor equipment and machinery	47
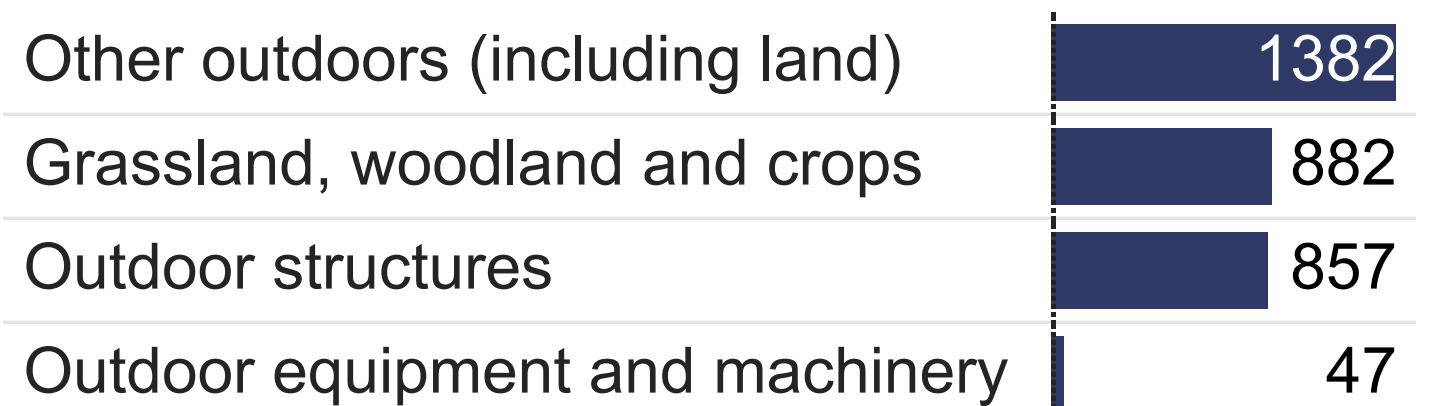
# Accidental Dwelling Fires

01 April 2024   15 September 2024

Accidental Dwelling Fires by Financial Year
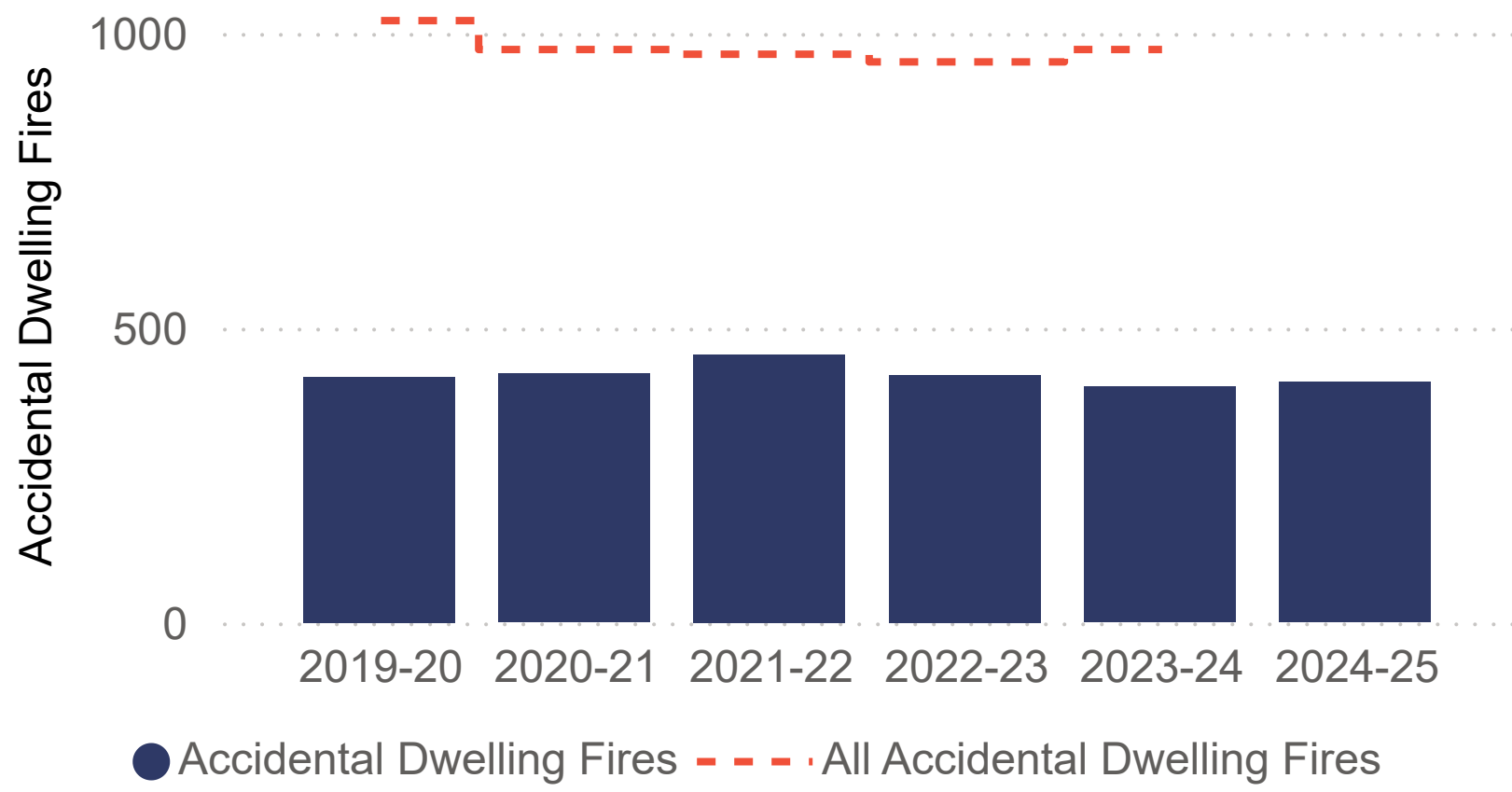
All ADF (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.

The bars show the value for selected date range.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Previous Year To Date Comparison

District ▲	% increase/decrease on previous year	3 Year Average
Bradford	-2%	⬇
Calderdale	-10%	⬇
Kirklees	8%	⬇
Leeds	1%	⬆
Wakefield	15%	⬇

3 Year average indicator shows if current number of ADF this financial year is an increase/decrease of ADF against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

Accidental Dwelling Fires by Property Type

Property Type	
House - single occupancy	260
Purpose Built Flat/Maisonette - multiple occupancy	73
Converted Flat/Maisonette - multiple occupancy	36
Bungalow - single occupancy	15
Self contained Sheltered Housing	14
Unknown if licensed HMO	5
Licensed HMO	4
Houseboat (permanent dwelling)	1

Top Fire Cause

Accidental - Cooking - other cooking

Deliberate Fires

01 April 2024   15 September 2024

Deliberate Fires by Financial Year
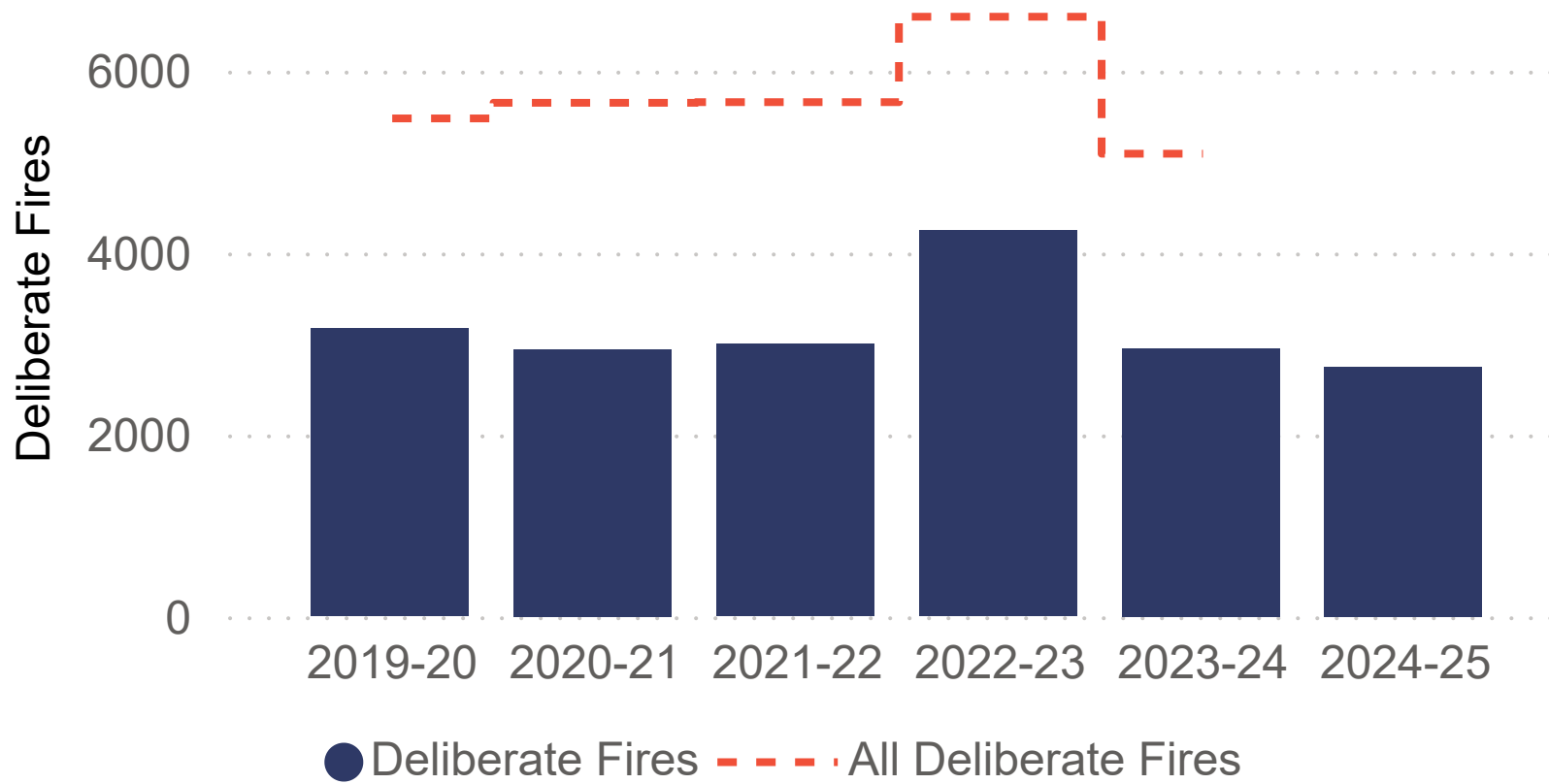
All Deliberate Fires (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.
The bars show the value for selected date range.

Deliberate Fires Previous Year To Date Comparison

District ▲	% increase/decrease on previous year	3 Year Average
Bradford	-3%	⬇
Calderdale	-6%	⬇
Kirklees	-13%	⬇
Leeds	-6%	⬇
Wakefield	-11%	⬇

3 Year average indicator shows if current number of Deliberate Fires this financial year is an increase/decrease of Deliberate Fires against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

Top 10 Property Types

	Deliberate Fires ▼
Other outdoors (including land)	1046
Outdoor structures	562
Grassland, woodland and crops	490
Non Residential	225
Car	199
Dwelling	75
Motorcycle	54
Van	31
Multiple Vehicles	20
Outdoor equipment and machinery	12

Deliberate Fires by Primary or Secondary

Chimney F… 0%
Primary Fire 22%
Secondary Fire 78%
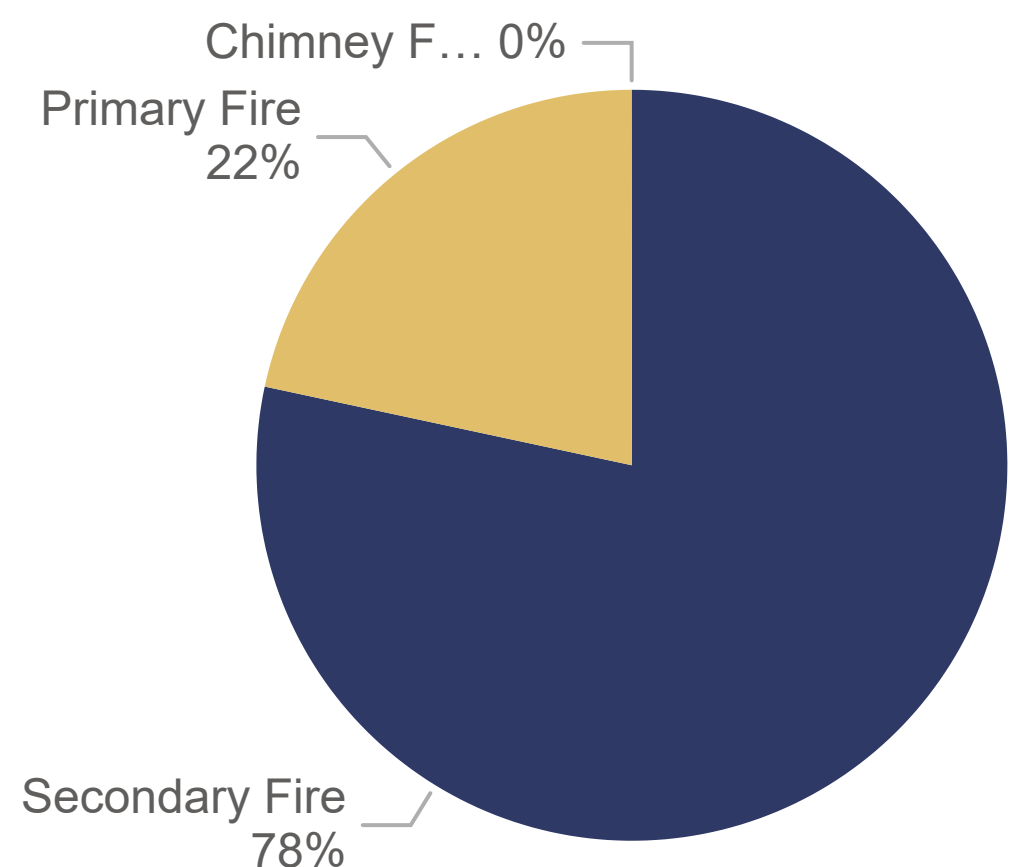
Top 5 Fire Causes

	Deliberate Fires ▼
Deliberate - unknown owner	1017
Deliberate - others property	893
Deliberate - others property - Heat source and combustibles brought together deliberately	348
Deliberate - own property	239
Deliberate - unknown owner - Heat source and combustibles brought together deliberately	172

Non-domestic Fires

01 April 2024   15 September 2024

Non-domestic Building Fires by Financial Year
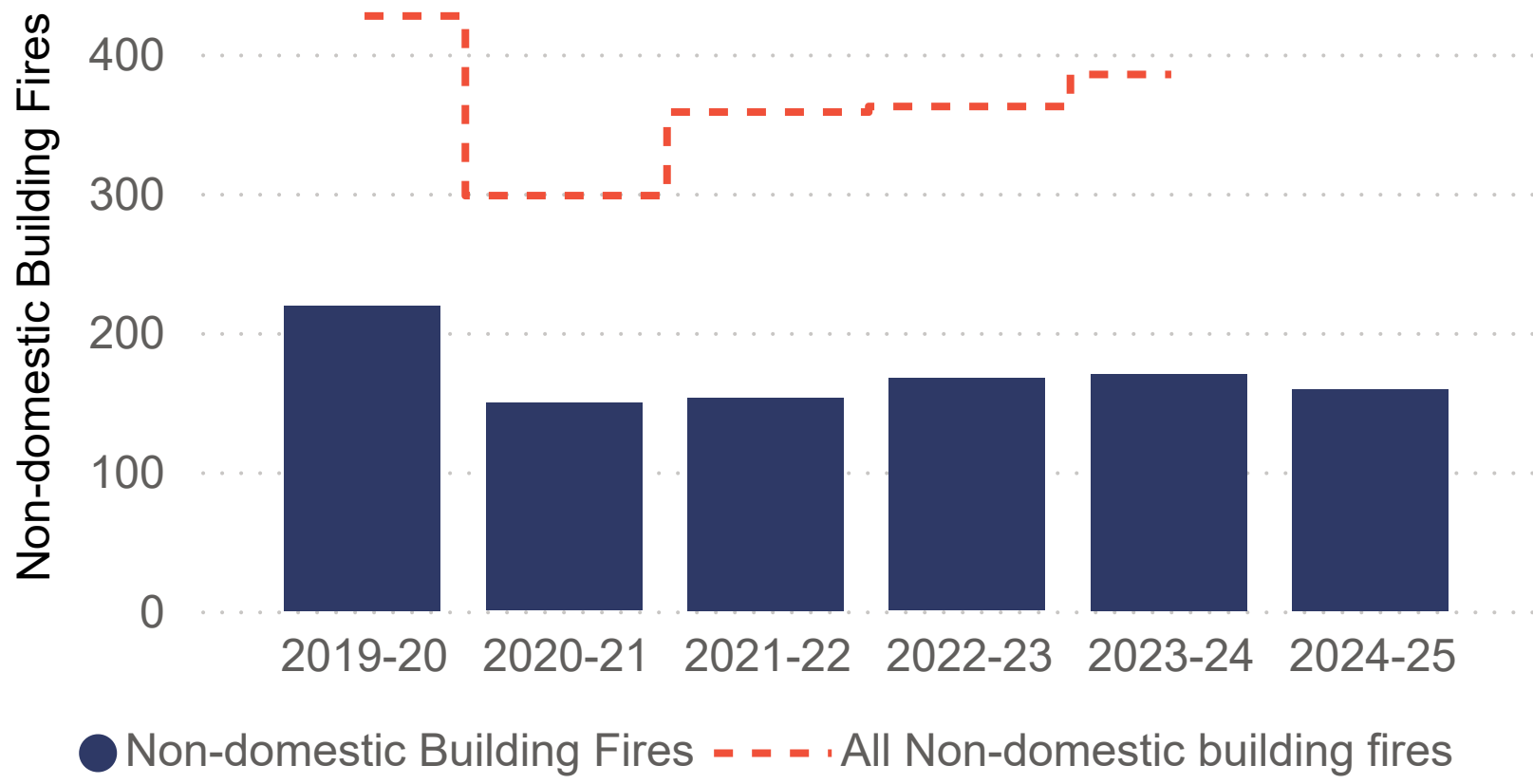
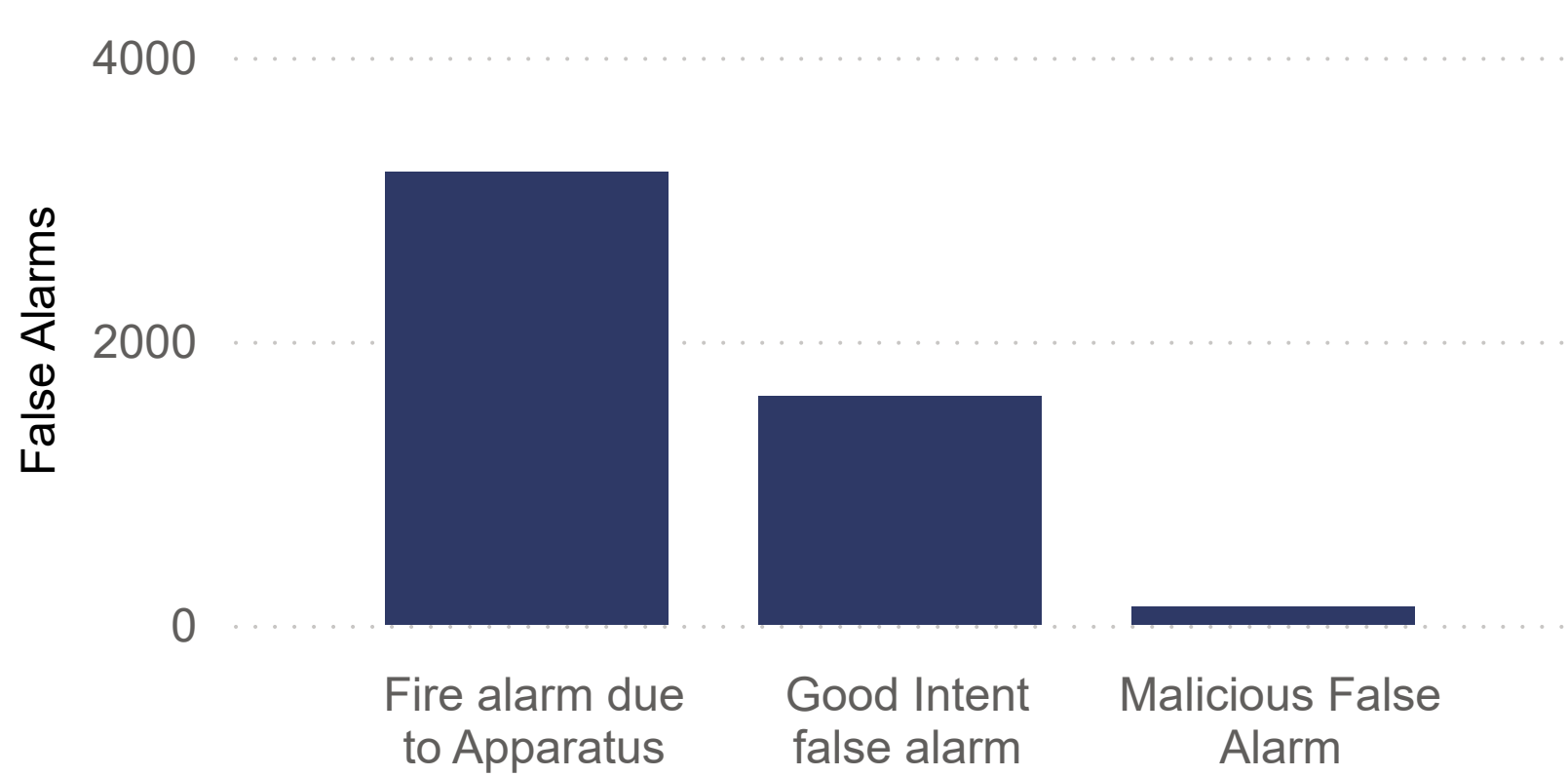All Non-domestic Building Fires (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.

The bars show the value for selected date range.

Non-domestic Building Fires Previous Year To Date Comparison

District ▲	% increase/decrease on previous year		3 Year Average
Bradford		-28%	⬇
Calderdale		71%	⬇
Kirklees		-55%	⬇
Leeds		35%	⬆
Wakefield		-39%	⬇

3 Year average indicator shows if current number of Non-domestic Building Fires this financial year is an increase/decrease of Non-domestic Building fires against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

Top 5 Property Types

	Non-domestic Building Fires ▼
Public admin, security and safety	58
Food and Drink	29
Retail	15
Industrial Manufacturing	9
Education	6
Industrial Processing	6

Non-domestic Building Fires by Accidental or Deliberate Fires

Deliberate 48%
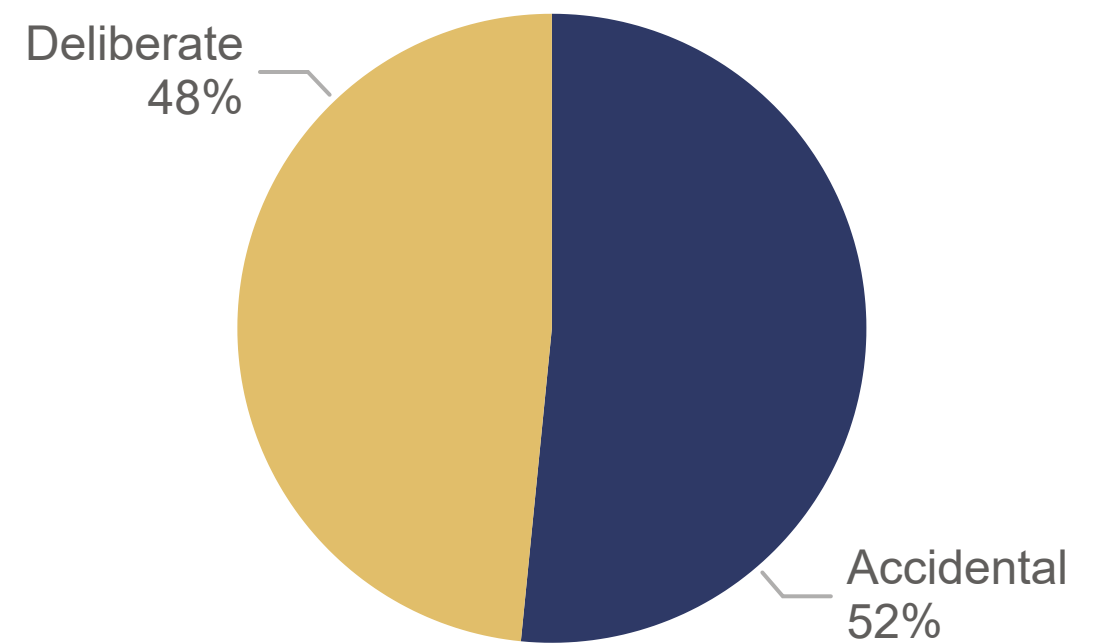
Accidental 52%

Top 5 Fire Causes

	Non-domestic Building Fires ▼
Deliberate - others property - Heat source and combustibles brought together deliberately	42
Accidental - Faulty fuel supply - electricity	15
Accidental - Fault in equipment or appliance	11
Accidental - Combustible articles too close to heat source (or fire)	8
Accidental - Accumulation of flammable material	5

False Alarms

01 April 2024   15 September 2024

False Alarms by Financial Year

● False Alarms   - - - All False Alarms
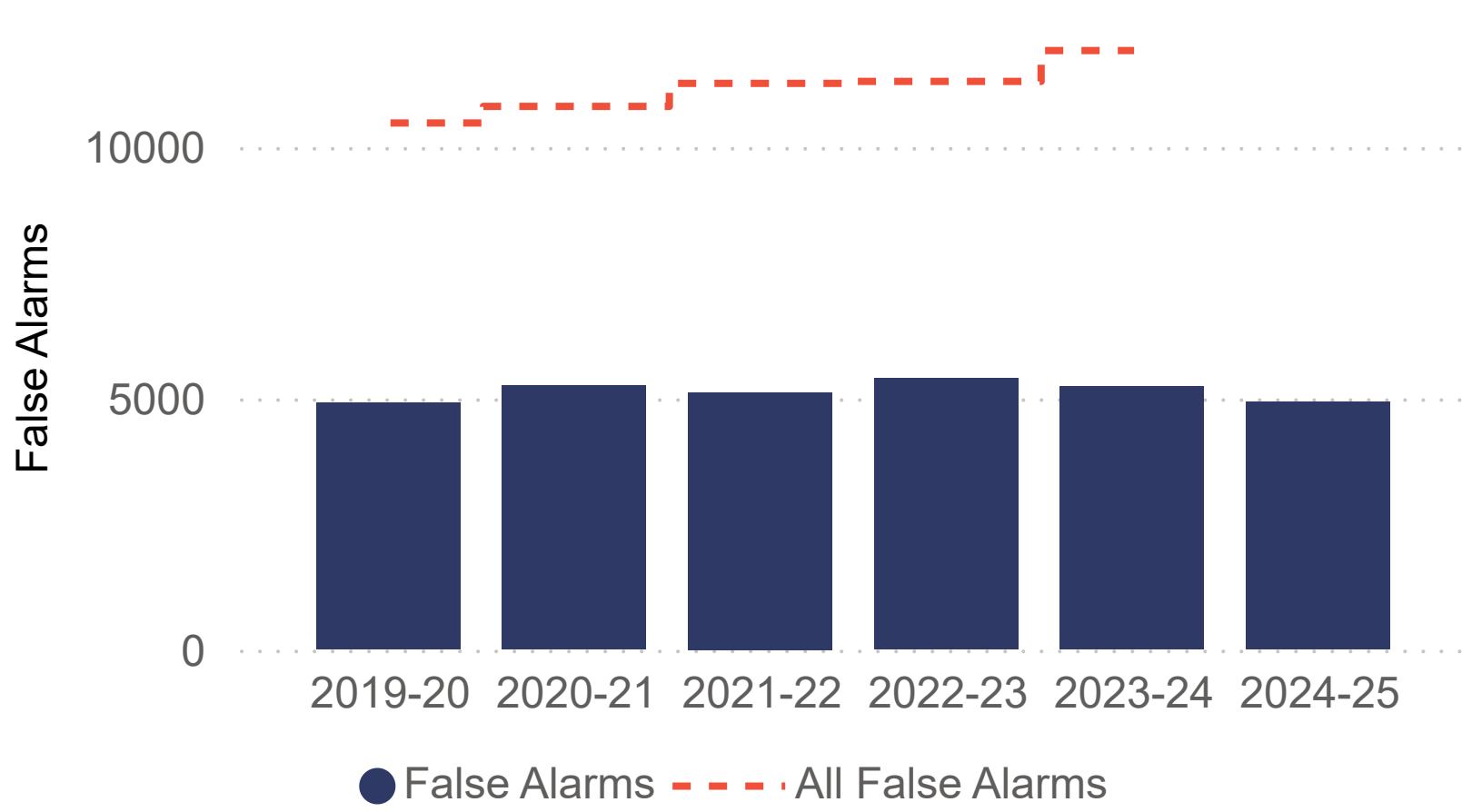
All False Alarms (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.
The bars show the value for selected date range.

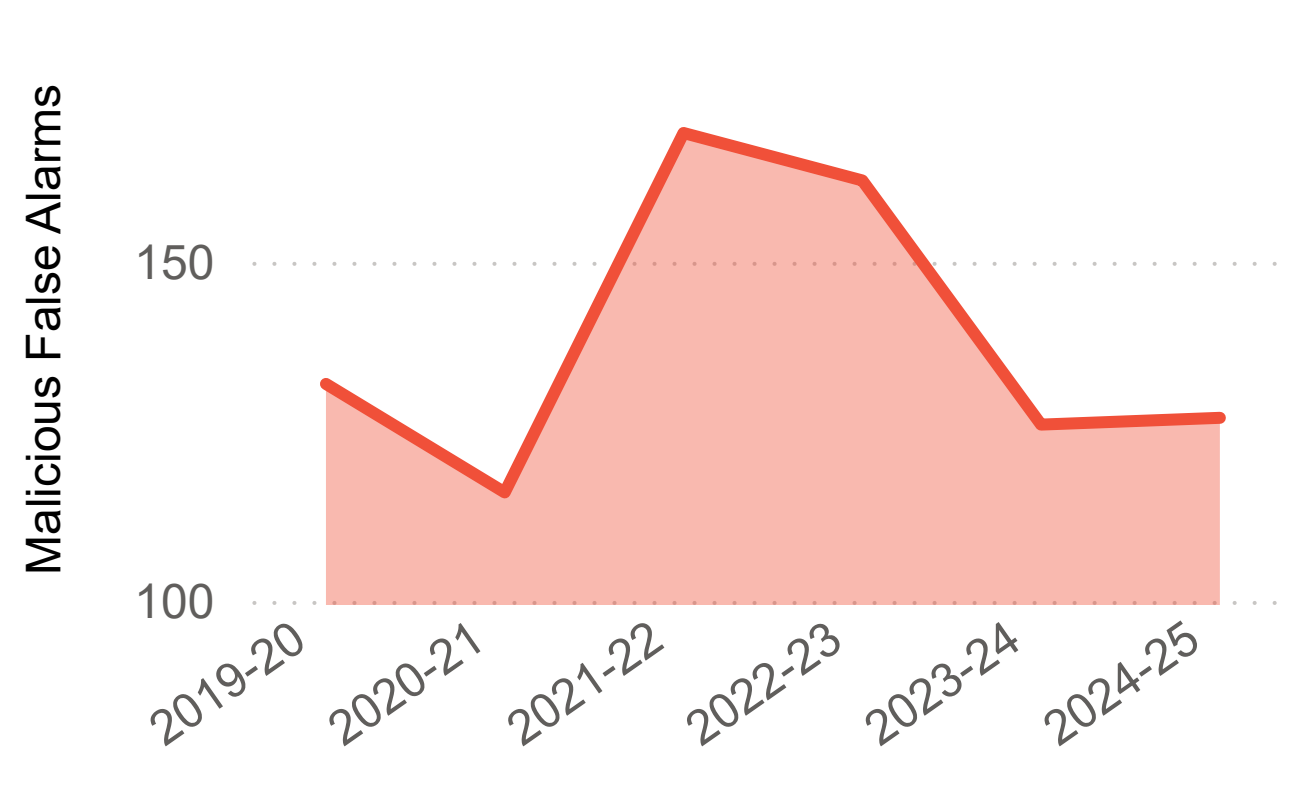## False Alarms Previous Year To Date Comparison

District	% increase/decrease on previous year	3 Year Average
Bradford	8%	⬆
Calderdale	-6%	⬇
Kirklees	-14%	⬇
Leeds	-6%	⬇
Wakefield	-21%	⬇

3 year average indicator shows if current number of False Alarms this financial year is an increase/decrease of False Alarms against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

False Alarm by Reason

Malicious False Alarms by Financial Year

Top Dwelling Properties

Purpose Built Flat/Maisonette - multiple occupancy

Top Other Residential Buildings Properties

Residential Home

Top Non-Residential Building

Education

Top Dwelling Reason

Cooking/burnt toast

Top Other Residential Building Reason

Faulty

Top Non-Residential Reason

Faulty

113

Non-fires

01 April 2024   15 September 2024

Non-fires by Financial Year
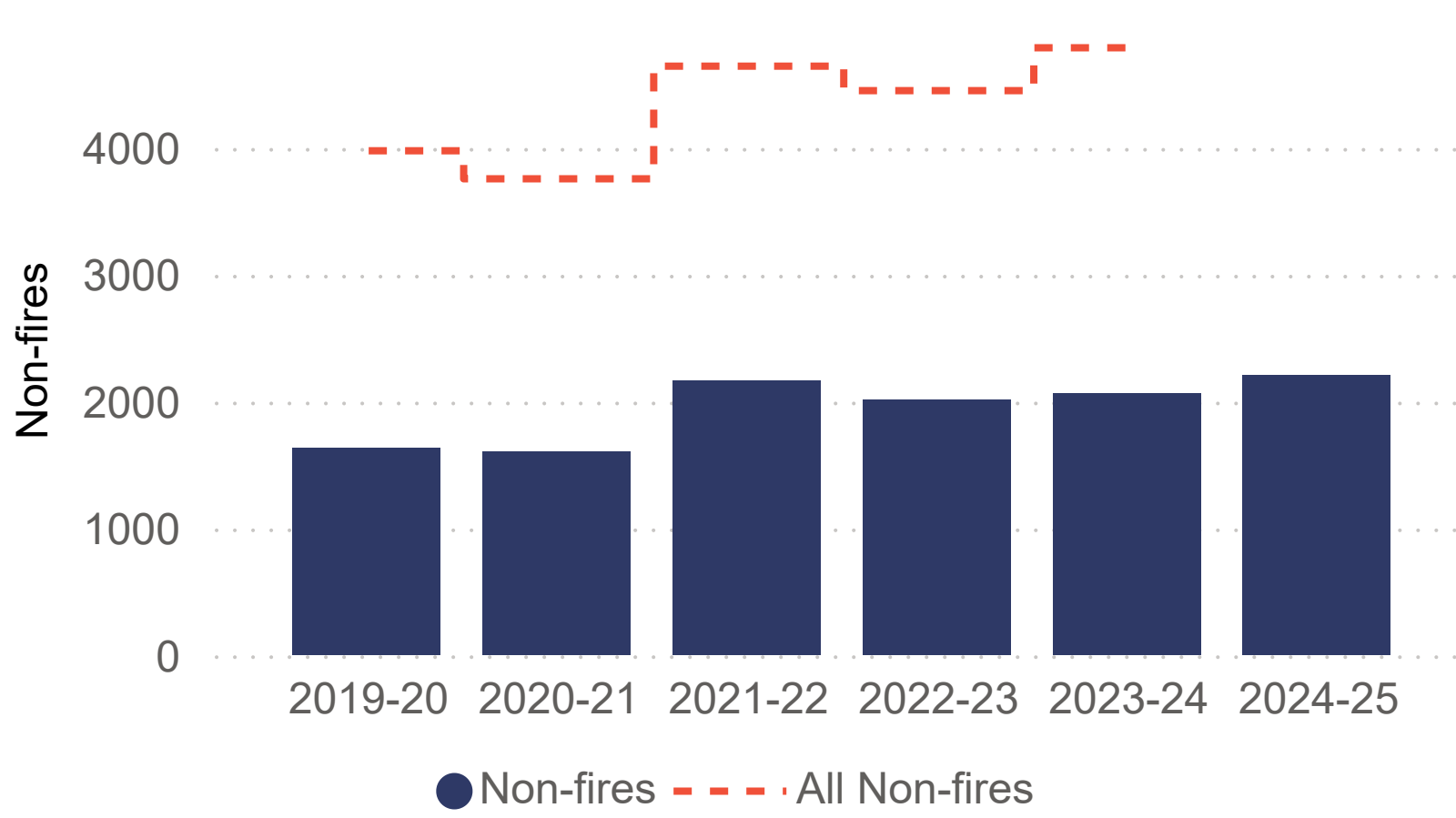
All Non-fires (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.
The bars show the value for selected date range.

Non-fires Previous Year To Date Comparison

District ▲	% increase/decrease on previous year	3 Year Average
Bradford	0%	⇑
Calderdale	13%	⇑
Kirklees	-4%	⇓
Leeds	14%	⇑
Wakefield	8%	⇑

3 Year average indicator shows if current number of Non-fires this financial year is an increase/decrease of Non-fires against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

Road Traffic Collisions by Financial Year
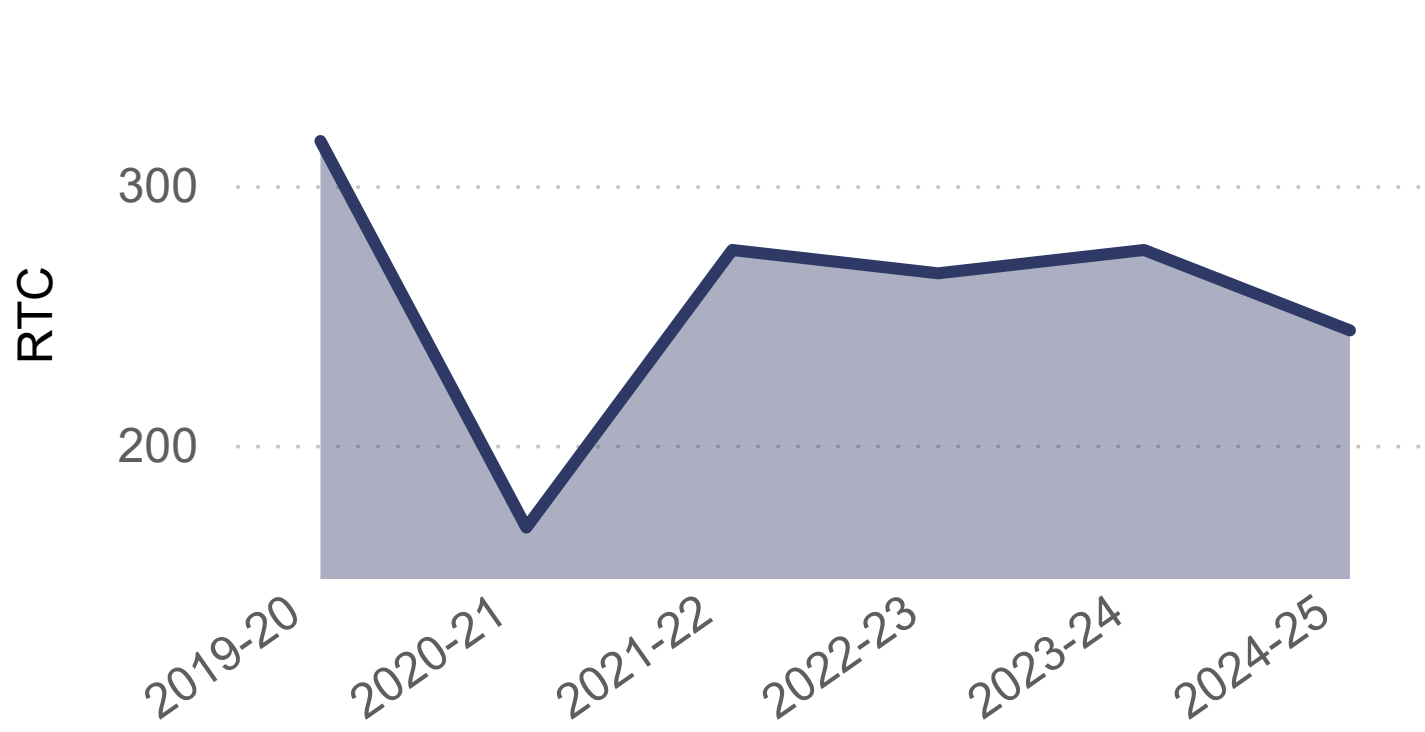
Gaining Entry Cause for Concern by Financial Year
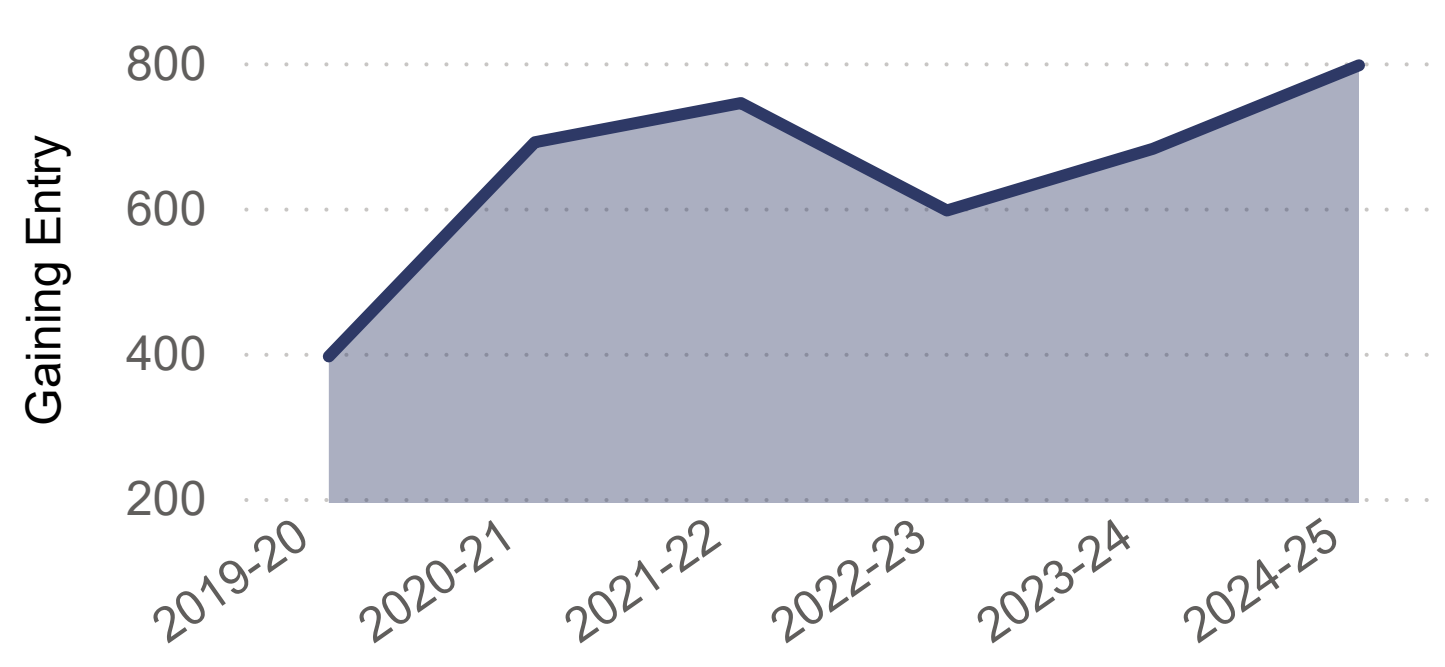
Top 5 Non-fire Types

	Non-fires ▼
Effecting entry/exit	745
Assist other agencies	335
RTC	248
No action (not false alarm)	145
Other rescue/release of persons	112

Fire Related Fatalities

01 April 2024   15 September 2024

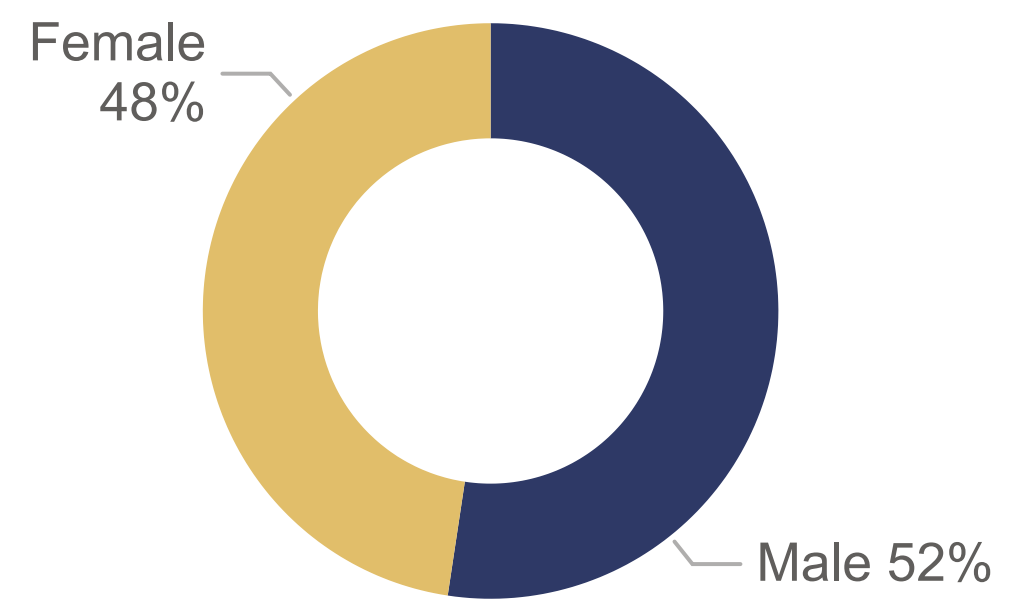## Fire Related Fatalities by Financial Year
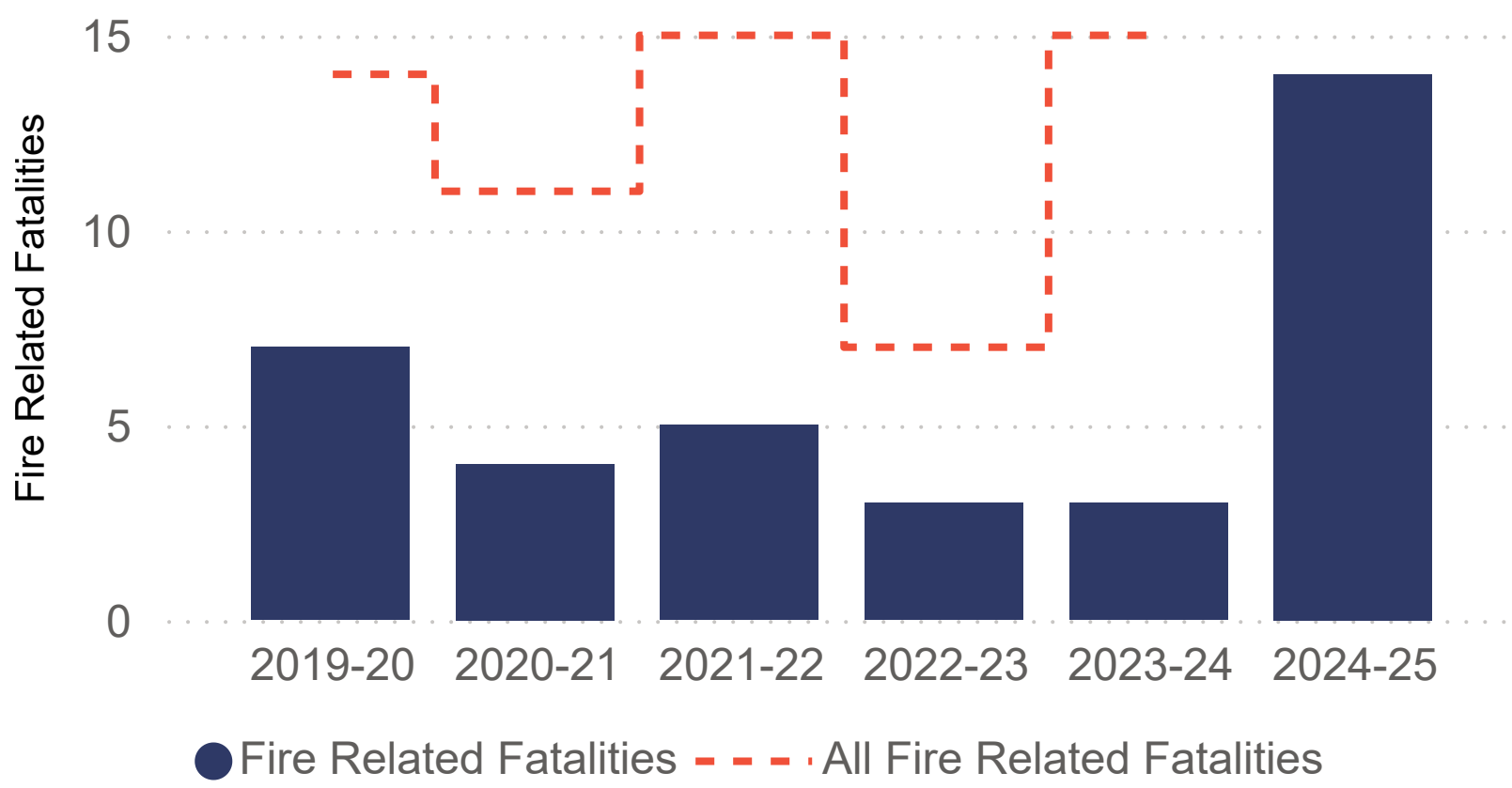
All Fire Related Fatalities (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.

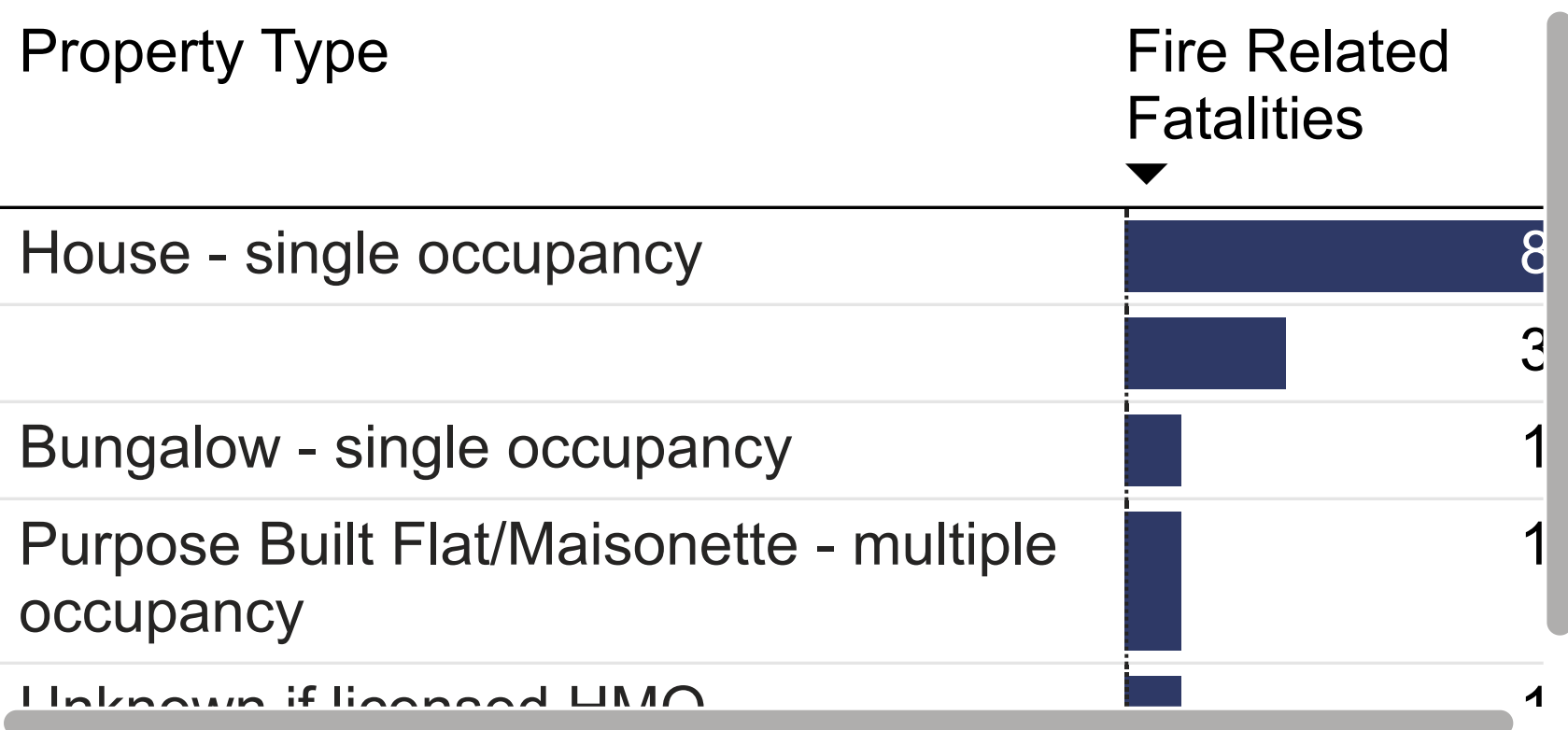The bars show the value for selected date range.
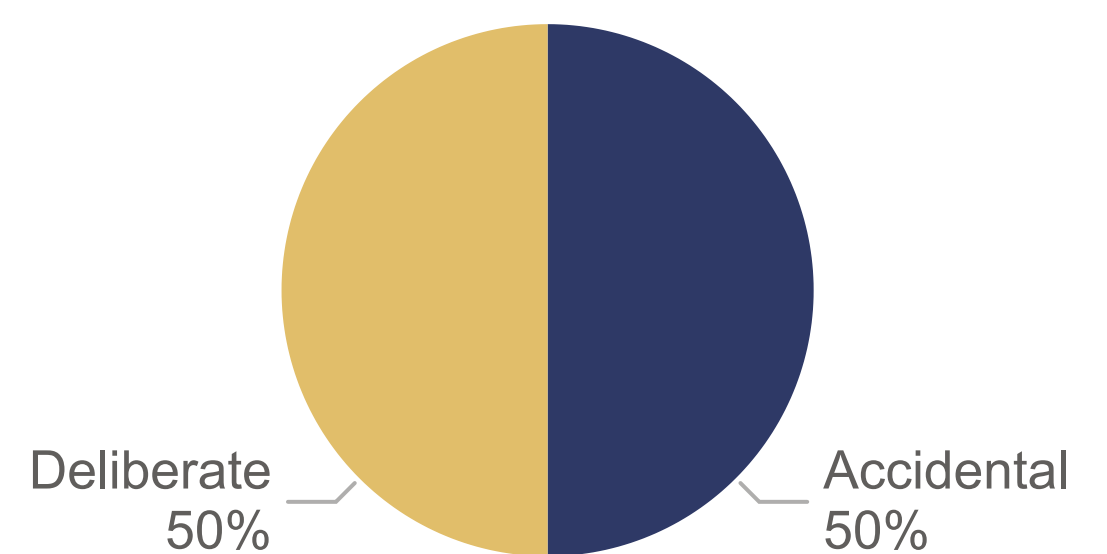
Fire Related Fatalities by Age
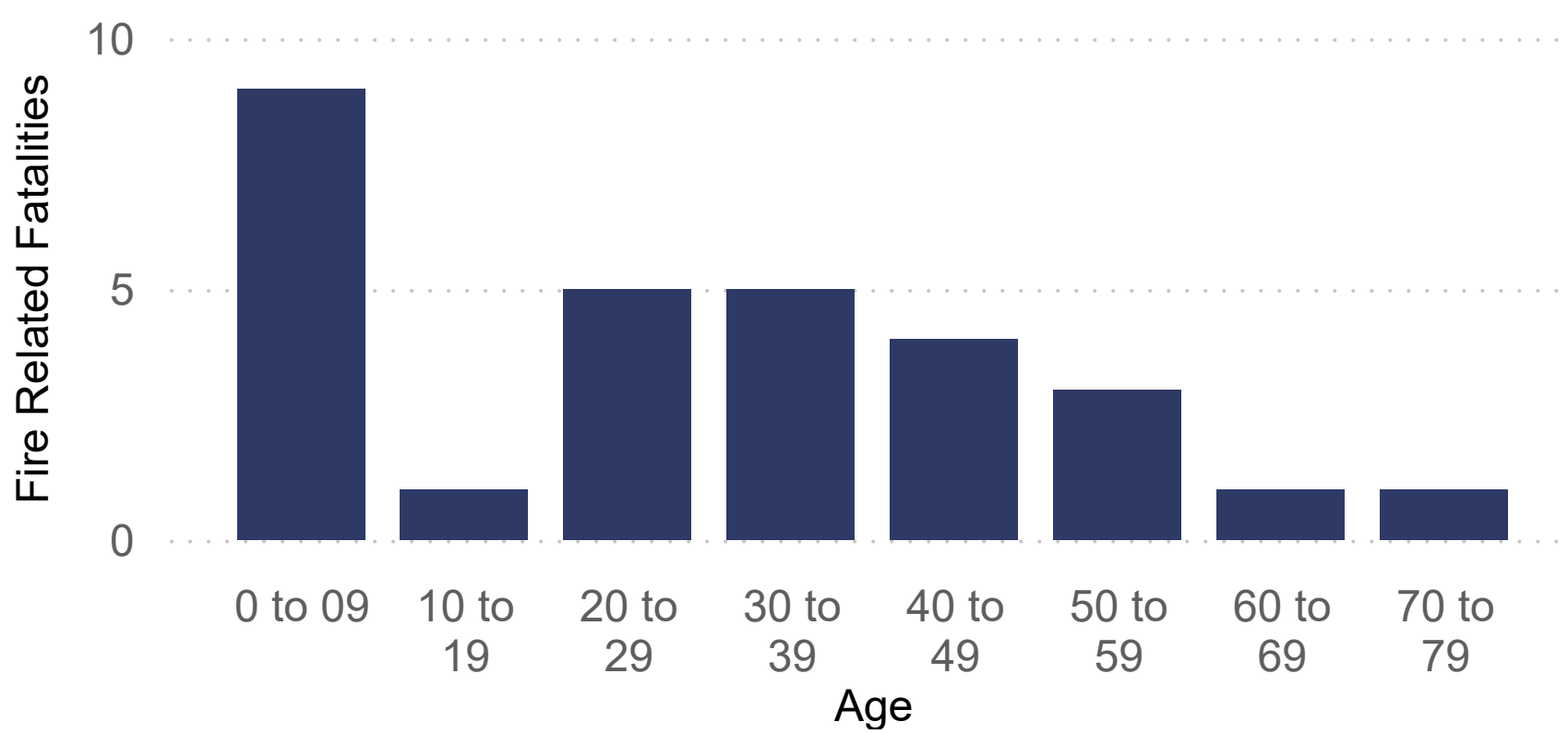
Fire Related Fatalities by Gender

Female 48%

Male 52%

Fire Related Fatalities by Property Type

Property Type	Fire Related Fatalities ▼
House - single occupancy	8
	3
Bungalow - single occupancy	1
Purpose Built Flat/Maisonette - multiple occupancy	1
Unknown if licensed HMO	1

Fire Related Fatalities by Accidental or Deliberate Fires

Deliberate 50%

Accidental 50%

Fire Related Injuries

01 April 2024　　　　　　　　15 September 2024

Fire Related Injuries by Financial Year

● Fire Related Injuries　‒ ‒ All Fire Related Injuries
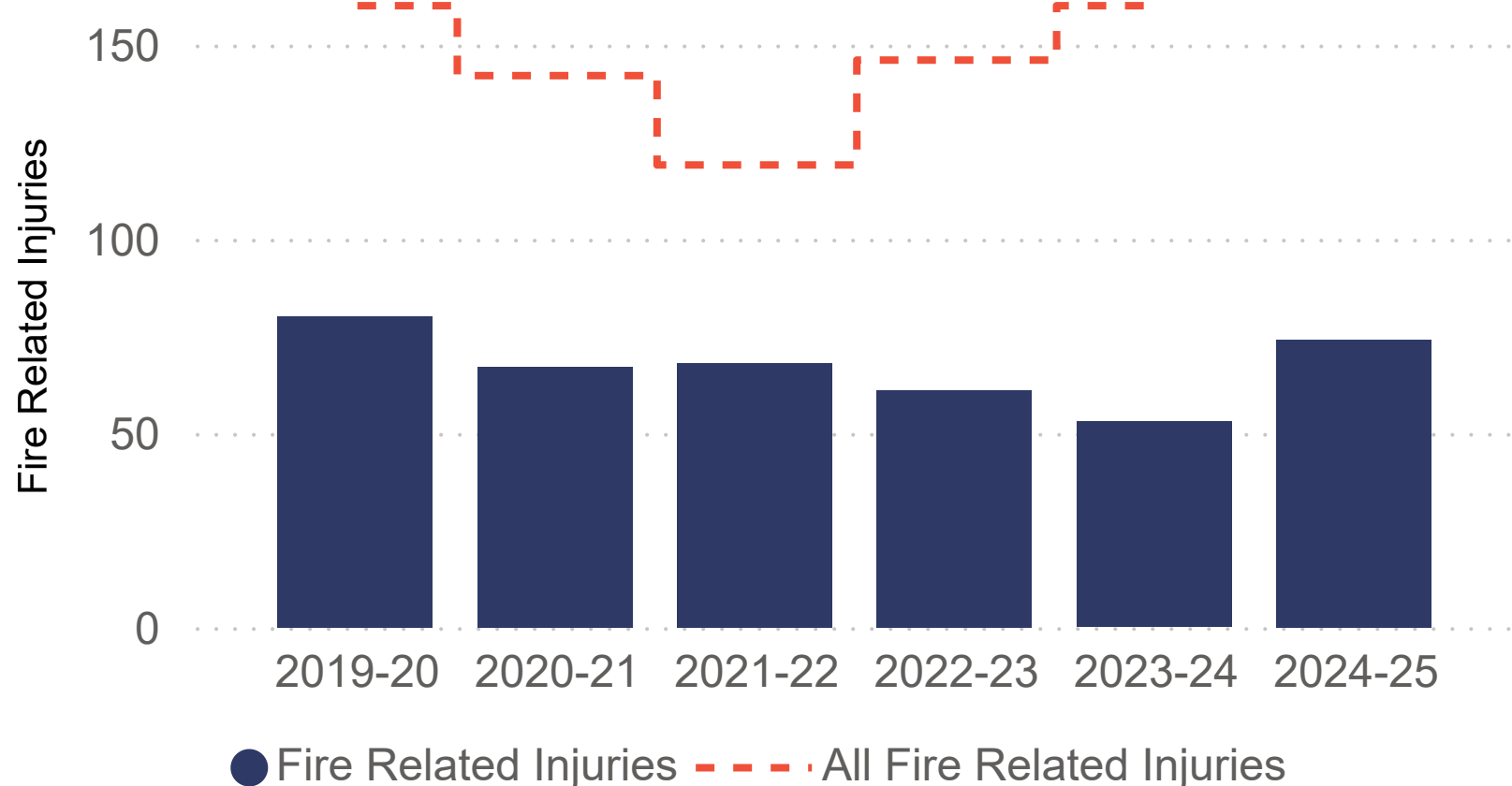
All Fire Related Injuries (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year. The bars show the value for selected date range.

Fire Related Injuries Previous Year To Date Comparison

District ▲	% increase/decrease on previous year	3 Year Average
Bradford	64%	⬆
Calderdale	-50%	⬇
Kirklees	125%	⬆
Leeds	-5%	⬇
Wakefield	175%	⬆

3 Year average indicator shows if current number of Fire Related Injuries this financial year is an increase/decrease of Fire Related Injuries against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

Fire Related Injuries by Age
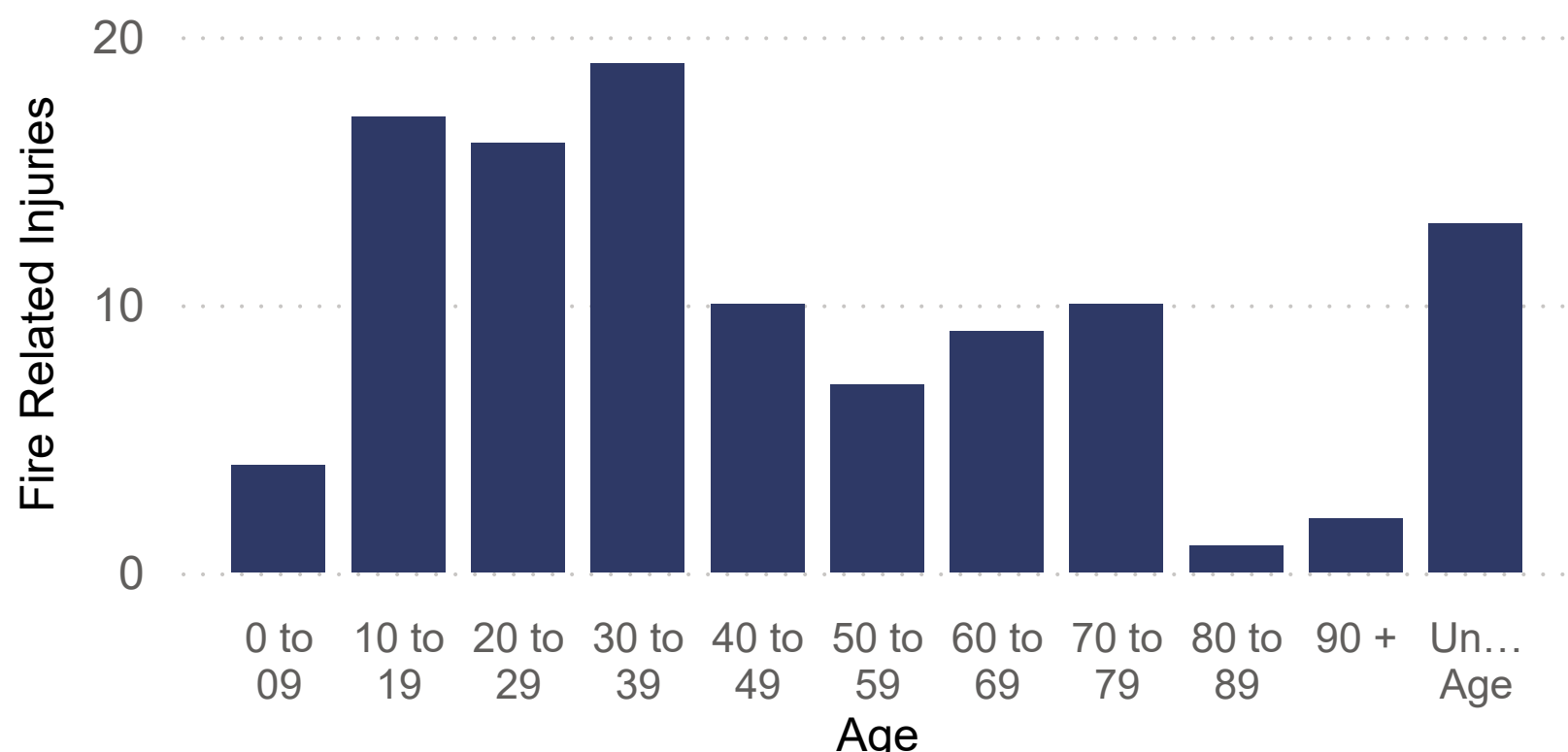
Fire Related Injuries by Gender

Female 44%　Male 56%
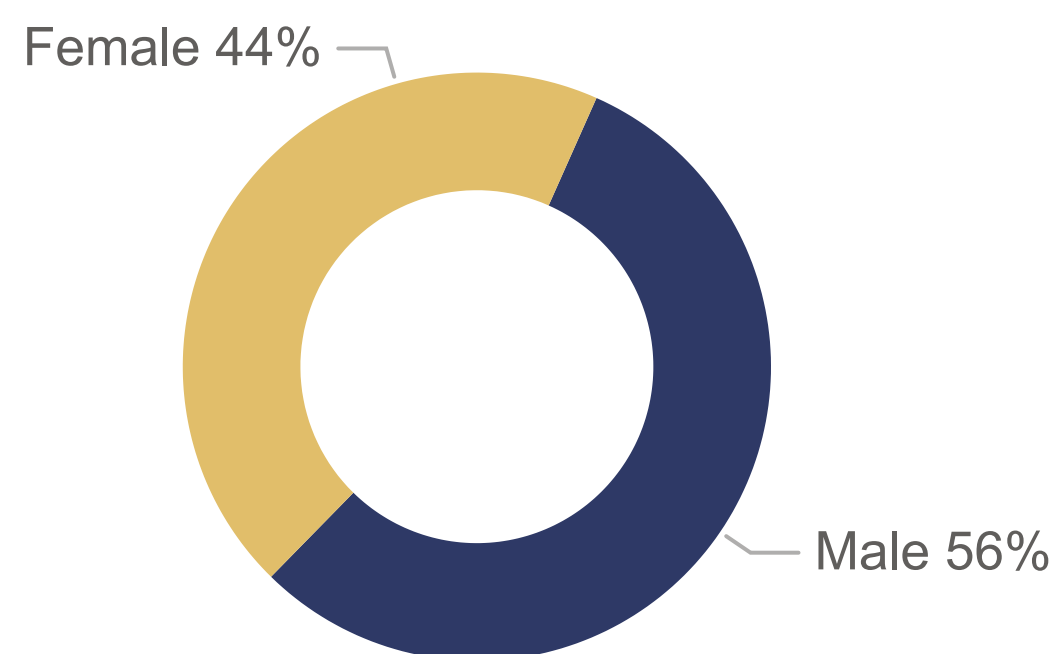
Fire Related Injuries by Severity

Severity of Injury	Fire Related Injuries ▼
Victim went to hospital, injuries appear to be Slight	66
Victim went to hospital, injuries appear to be Serious	14
Precautionary check recommended	9
First aid given at scene	1

Fire Related Injuries by Accidental or Deliberate Fires

Deliberate 20%　Accidental 80%
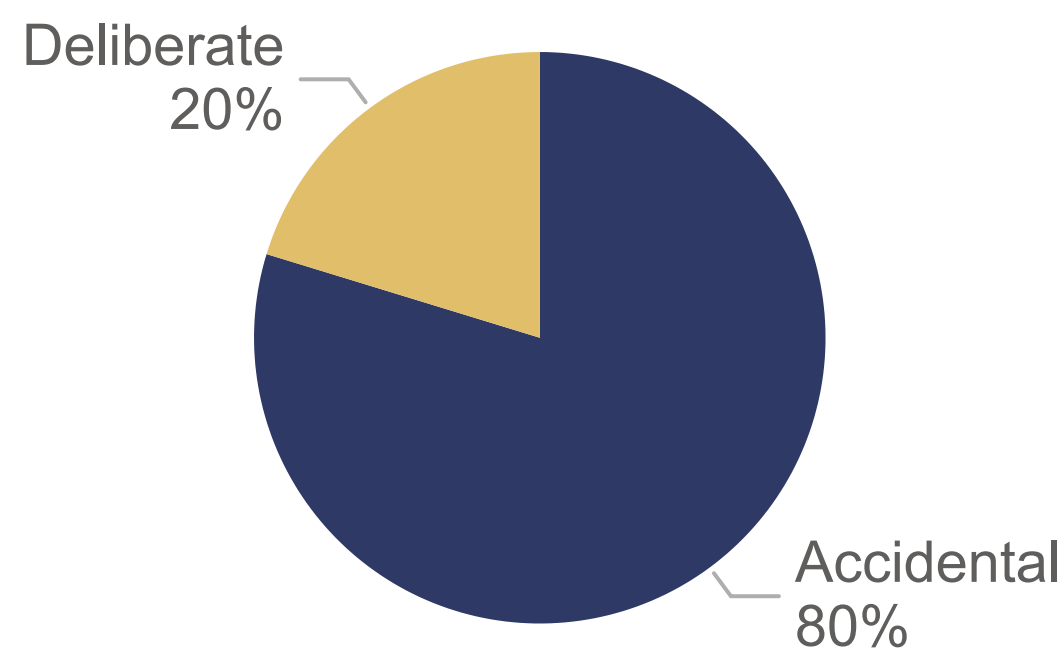
Top Property Type

House - single occupancy
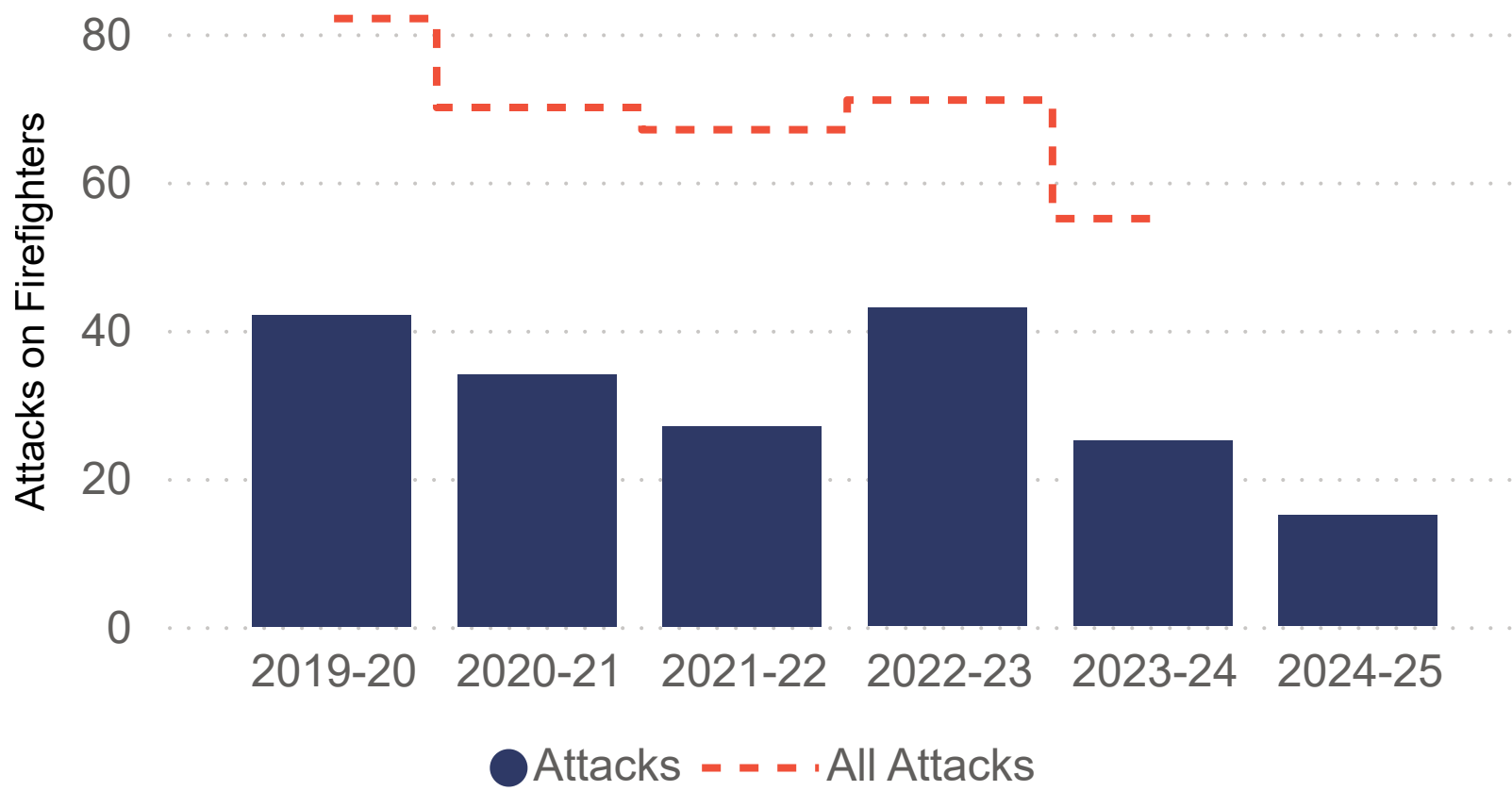
Top Fire Cause

Accidental - Fault in equipment or appliance

116

Attacks on Firefighters

01 April 2024   15 September 2024

Attacks on Firefighters by Financial Year

All Attacks on Firefighters (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.
The bars show the value for selected date range.

Attacks on Firefighters Previous Year To Date Comparison

| District	Current period	Previous year	% increase/decrease on previous year	3 Year Average
Bradford	8	10	-20%	⇩
Calderdale	1	1	0%	⇩
Kirklees	1	2	-50%	⇩
Leeds	3	6	-50%	⇩
Wakefield	2	6	-67%	⇩

3 Year average indicator shows if current number of Attacks on Firefighters this financial year is an increase/decrease of Attacks on Firefighters against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

Attacks on Firefighters by Severity

Slight Injuries 100%

Visual may be blank if no slight and serious injuries are recorded for the date range.

Attacks on Firefighters by Attack Type
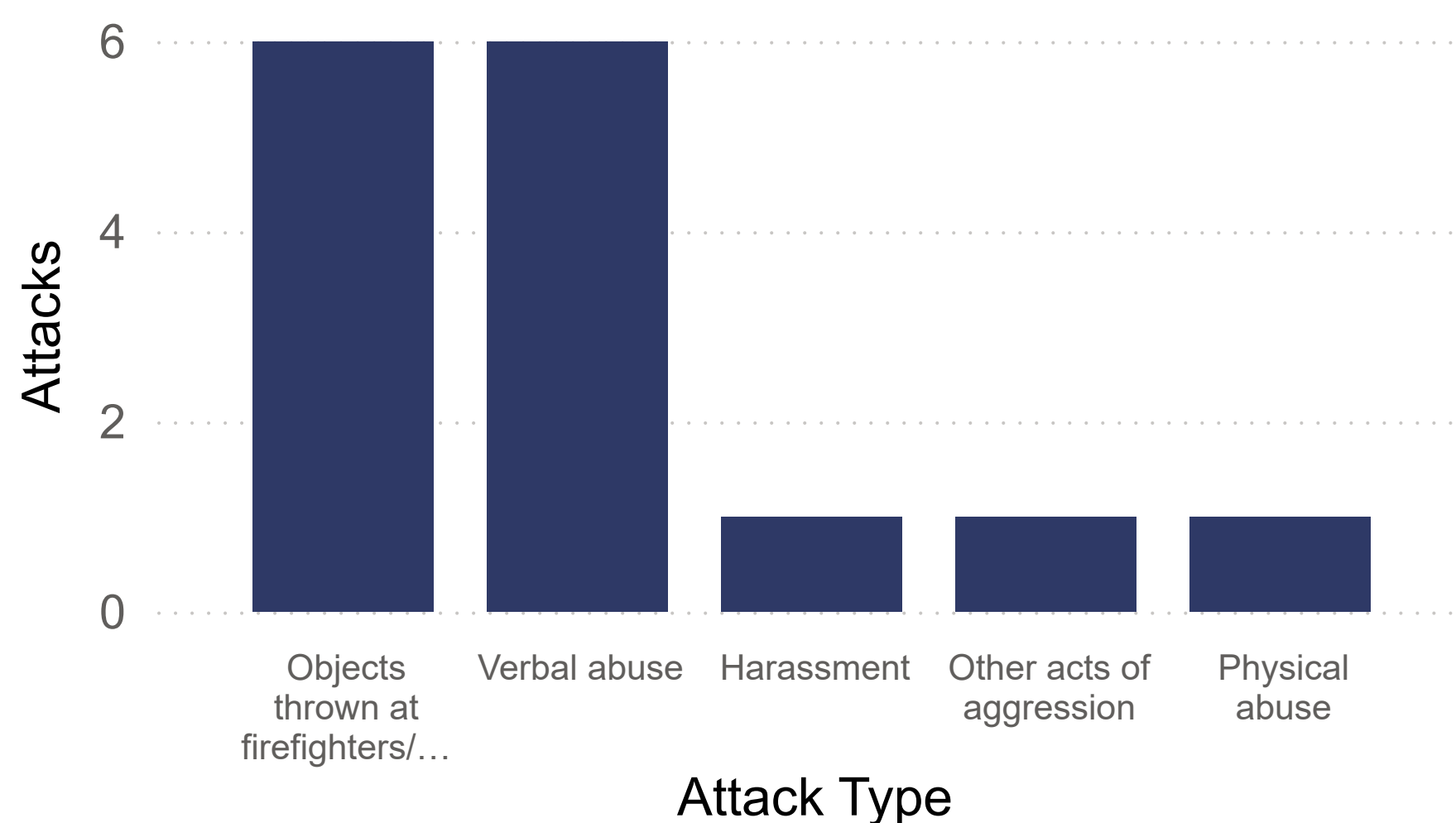
Percentage of incidents with an attack

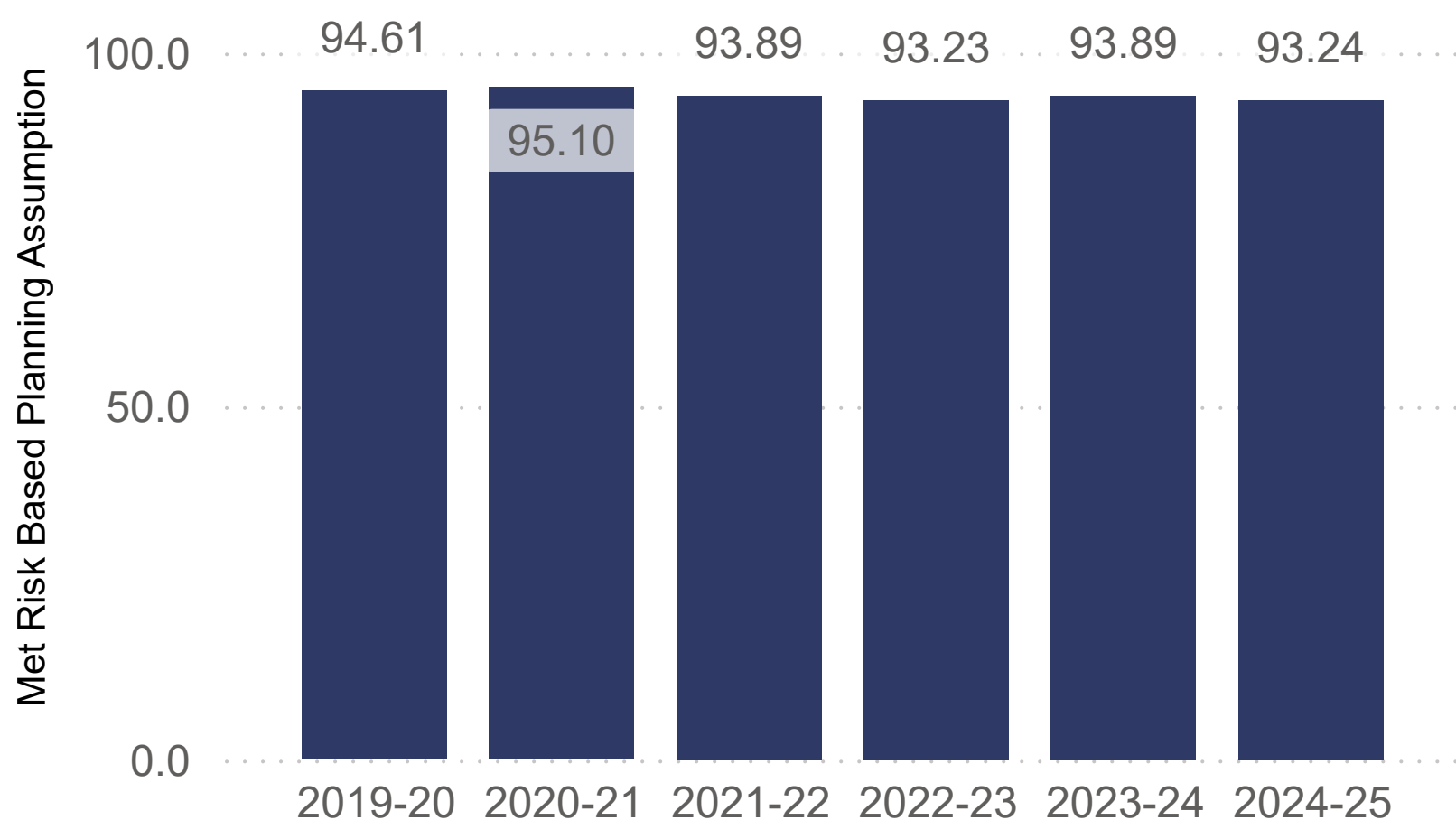| District	% Attacks at district total incidents
Bradford	0.25%
Wakefield	0.13%
Calderdale	0.09%
Leeds	0.07%
Kirklees	0.06%

Percentage of attacks based on number of incidents per district.

Response Times

Percentage of Met Risk Based Planing Assumption Response Times by Financial Year

Bar chart showing Met Risk Based Planning Assumption by financial year:
- 2019-20: 94.61
- 2020-21: 95.10
- 2021-22: 93.89
- 2022-23: 93.23
- 2023-24: 93.89
- 2024-25: 93.24

Percentage of Met Risk Based Planning Assumption Response Time

District	% Met
Leeds	95.01
Bradford	94.03
Calderdale	91.61
Wakefield	91.48
Kirklees	90.27

Average Response Time by LSOA Risk Score and Severity

Risk Score	Life	Property	Other	Total
Very High	00:05:34	00:07:18	00:06:44	**00:06:40**
High	00:06:13	00:06:54	00:06:45	**00:06:42**
Medium	00:06:31	00:07:46	00:07:12	**00:07:09**
Low	00:06:59	00:07:52	00:07:26	**00:07:25**
Very Low	00:08:14	00:10:14	00:08:53	**00:08:54**
Total	**00:07:06**	**00:08:22**	**00:07:33**	**00:07:33**

Average Response Time Targets

Risk Score	Life	Property	Other
Very High	7.00	9.00	15.00
High	8.00	10.00	15.00
Medium	9.00	11.00	15.00
Low	10.00	12.00	15.00
Very Low	11.00	13.00	15.00

LSOA: Lower Super Output Area.

The Risk Based Planning Assumptions (RBPA) utilised by WYFRS place greatest emphasis on the likelihood of incidents occurring where there is a risk to people. Three different classifications of incidents are utilised, these being:

Life – Potential for incidents to involve rescues, injuries or fatalities including private dwellings, or other sleeping risks.

Property – Incidents occurring in properties other than those included within the Life risk.

Other – All other incidents not included within the descriptors for Life and Property risk including secondary fires, false alarms and non-fire related incidents where there is no risk to human life.
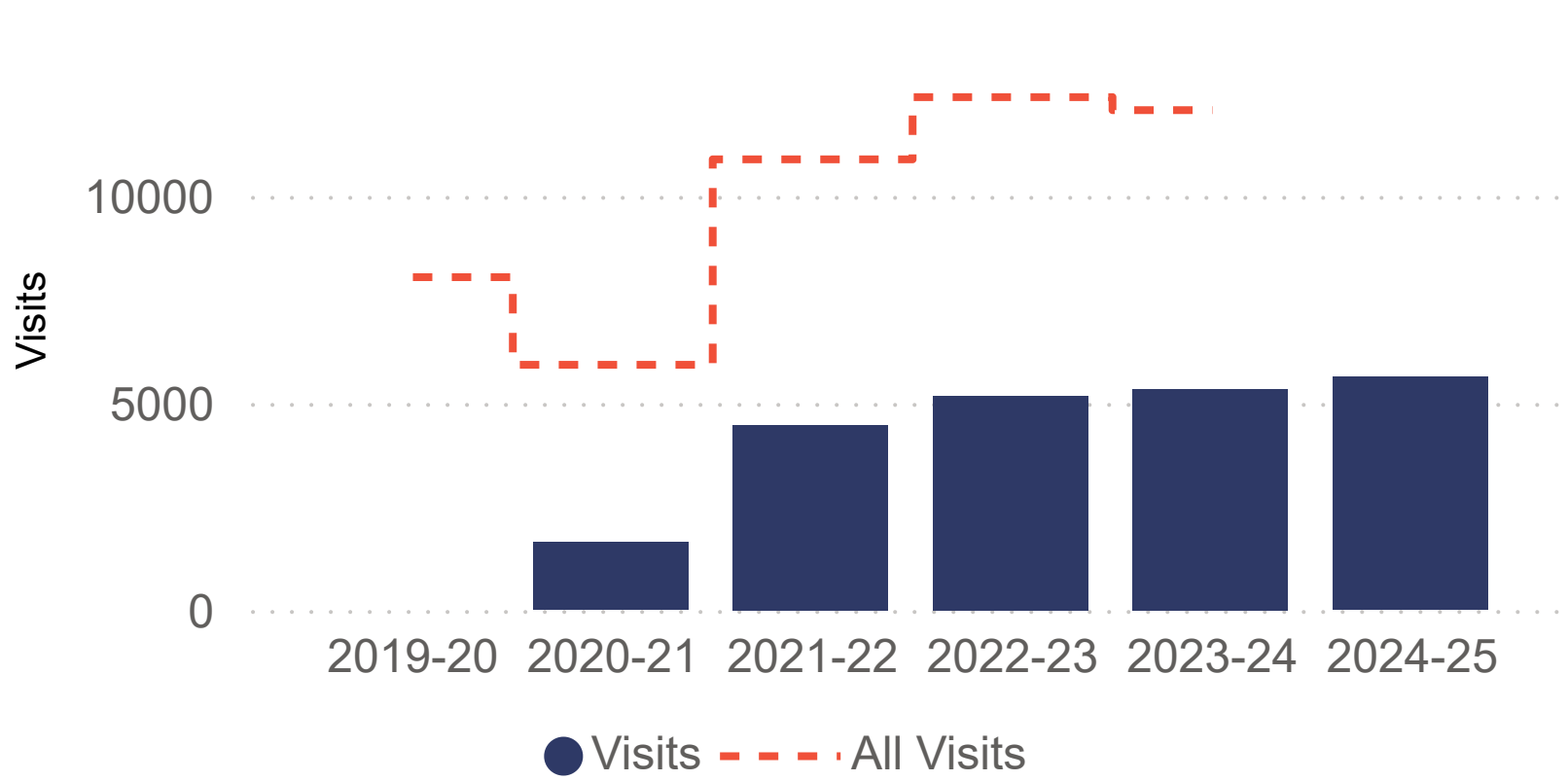
The RBPA's are underpinned by a comprehensive risk assessment for WYFRS.

Safe and Wells and High Risk Interventions

01 April 2024   15 September 2024

## Completed Safe and Well and High Risk Intervention Visits by Financial Year

Visits ■ Visits - - - All Visits

Completed Safe and Well Visits Previous Year To Date Comparison

District ▲	% increase/decrease on previous year
Bradford	4%
Calderdale	-11%
Kirklees	-3%
Leeds	18%
Wakefield	15%

All Visits (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.

The bars show the value for selected date range.

Completed Visits by Month

● Safe and Well
● High Risk Intervention
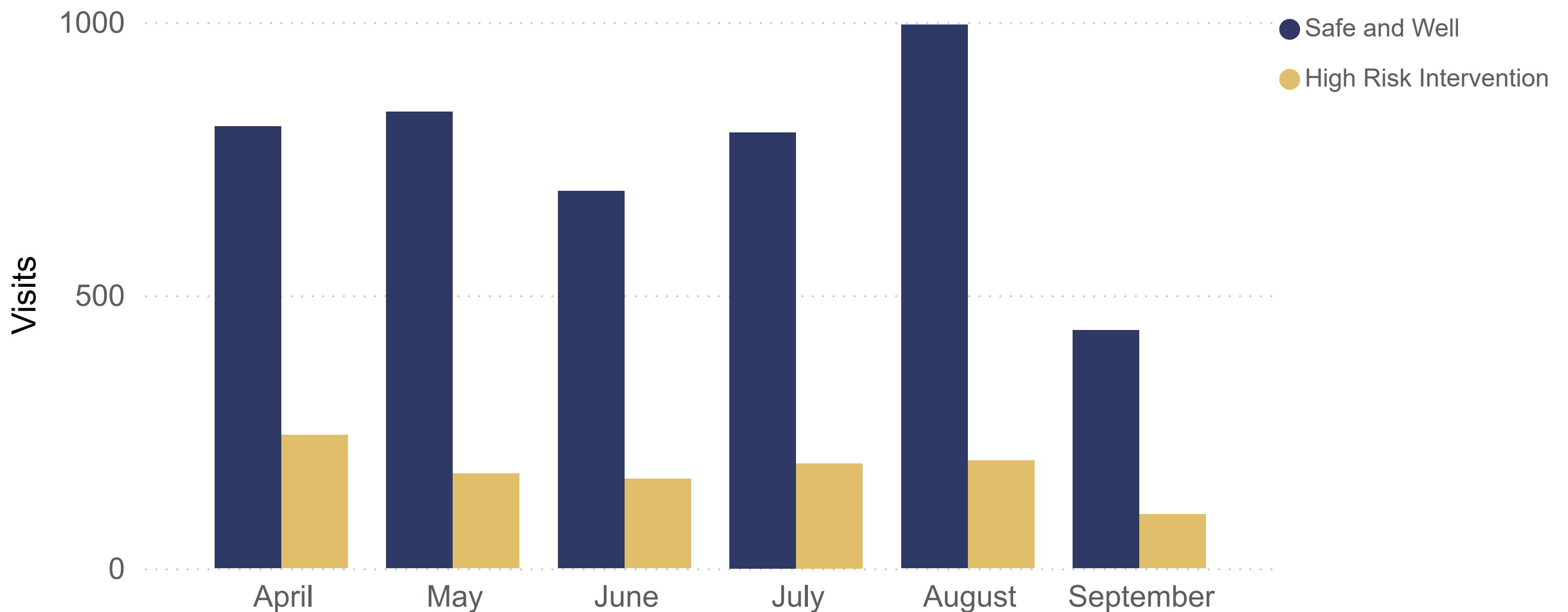
The Safe and Well programme is the flagship prevention activity within WYFRS. We target vulnerability through a simple risk rating process and then visit people in their homes to offer information, advice and safety equipment. The risk rating process is to ensure that we are providing our resources to those who need it most.

People can be referred to WYFRS from partner organisations, self-refer or we can identify the need for a Safe and Well Check during operational incidents.
It also covers a broader assessment of vulnerability against a number of other elements, including:
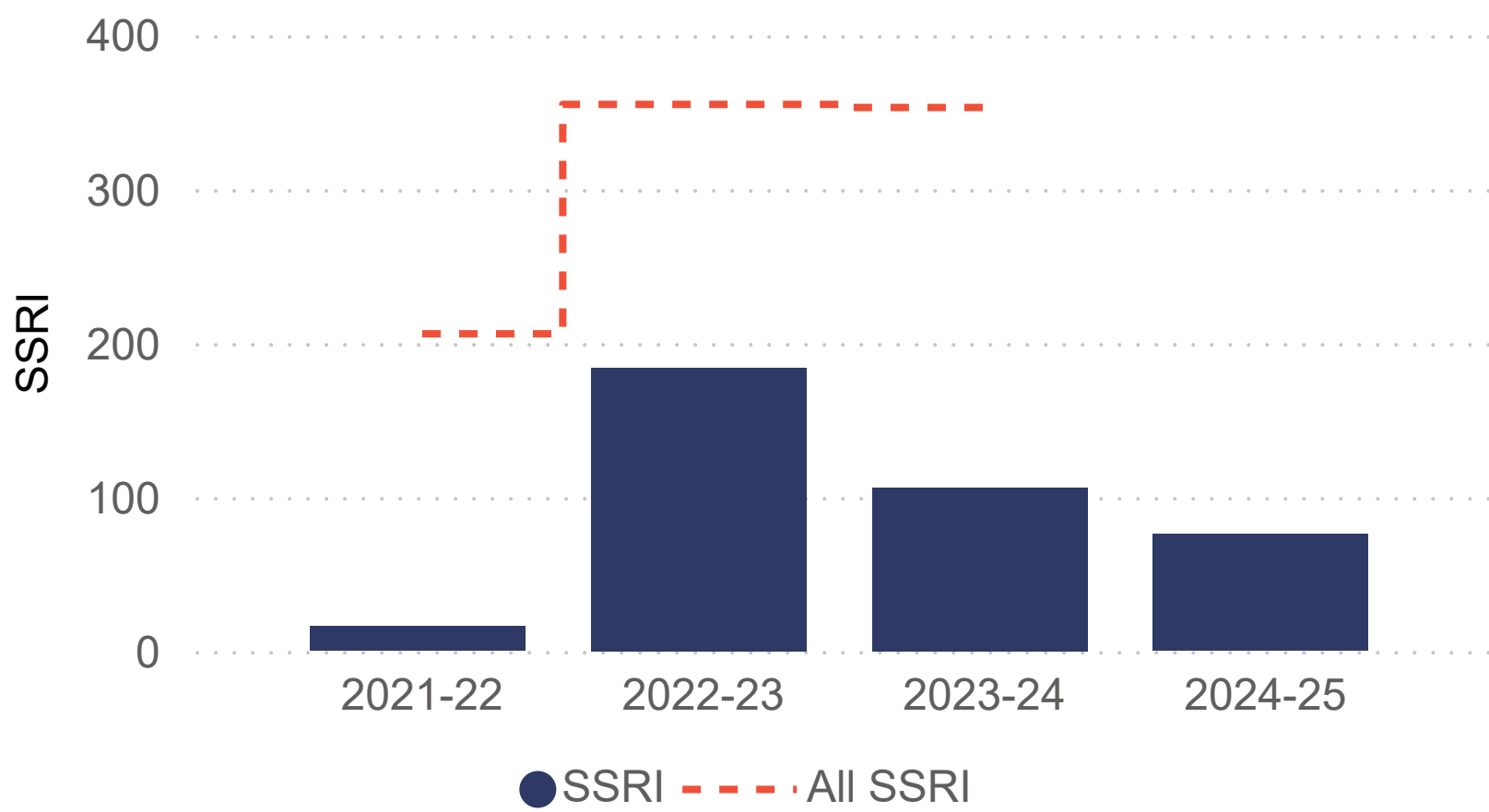• Frailty and falls
• Social Isolation
• Winter Cold
• Crime
• Smoking

Site Specific Risk Inspections (SSRI)
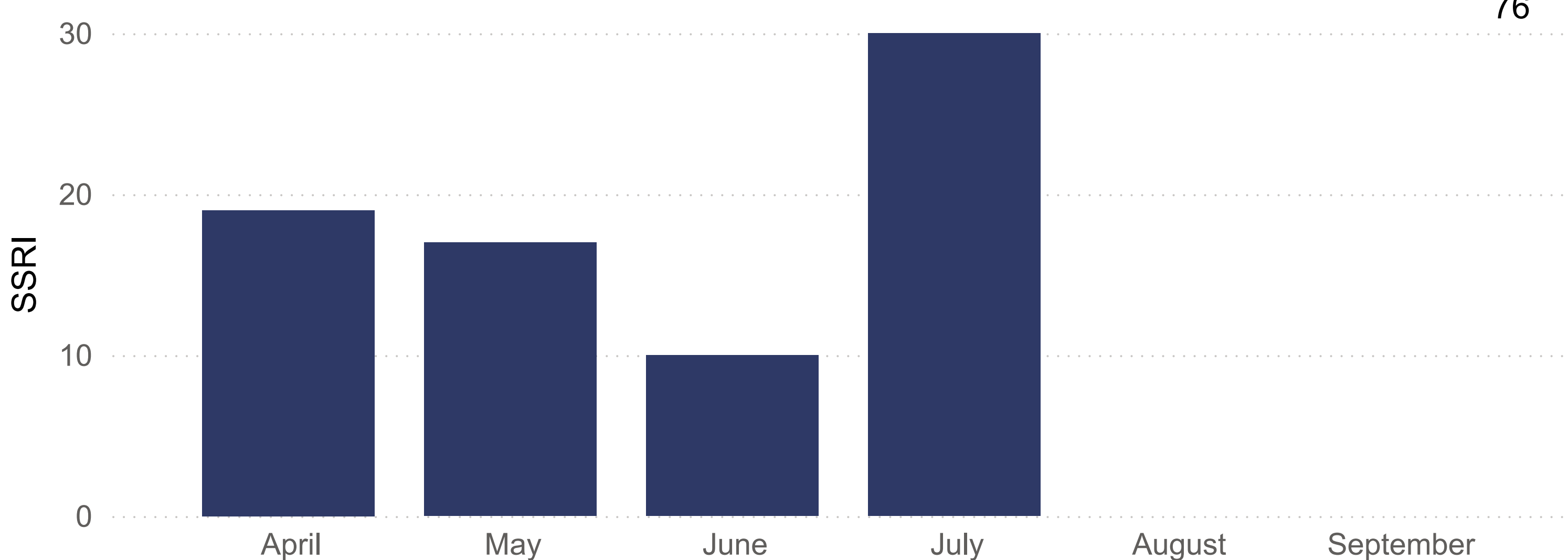
01 April 2024   15 September 2024

SSRI by Financial Year

All SSRI (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.

The bars show the value for selected date range.

SSRI by Month

Total
76

SSRIs are generated from operational liaison referrals, post fire visits and what crews identified as perceived risks within their station area.

SSRIs are allocated to each District which are then allocated to stations/watches.

The Operational Risk Management Team centrally audit 100 percent of all SSRIs. This ensures a standard approach to the recording and understanding of risk which in turn underpins the safety of operational crews when responding to premises considered higher risk.