



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-2018-0264, 26 November 2018

Proposed new integrated risk management plan for Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

**Westminster Hall, Wednesday 28
November 2018, 9.30am**

A Westminster Hall debate on the Proposed new integrated risk management plan for Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service is scheduled for Wednesday 28 November 2018 at 9.30am. The Member leading the debate is Mary Glendon MP.

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Subject specialists: Pat Strickland (Fire services)
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1. Background

Summary

There are currently 45 Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) in England. They have different structures and funding arrangements. All Fire and Rescue Services must prepare Integrated Risk Management Plans, and Chief Fire Officers must have regard to these in exercising their functions. Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service has said it faces a projected resources gap of £3 million by 2020-21 and £3.6m by 2021-22.

On 5 November 2018 Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority approved plans to start a consultation on a package of efficiency savings. The Fire Brigades Union have called the cuts “unsafe”. The Government says that Fire and Rescue services have the “resources they need to do their important work”.

1.1 Fire and rescue services – governance and structure

In England, there are 45 fire and rescue services operating under a variety of different governance arrangements:

- There are County Fire and Rescue Authorities which are integral parts of individual county councils or unitary authorities
- There are “stand alone” combined Fire and Rescue Authorities, responsible for fire and rescue services across combined county council and unitary authority areas.
- There are Metropolitan authorities, including Tyne and Wear, which are also “stand-alone”
- In some areas, Police and Crime Commissioners have taken responsibility for fire and rescue services under the Policing and Crime Act 2017
- In Greater Manchester, the Elected Mayor is Fire Commissioner under the Greater Manchester Combined Authority devolution arrangements, and the Mayor of London also has responsibility for fire and rescue services. I

1.2 Funding

There are different funding arrangements in different Fire and Rescue Service areas. The “stand-alone” authorities, including Tyne and Wear, get their core funding from locally retained business rates, a Government grant and a precept on council tax. A county authority’s core funding is derived from its parent council’s income.

The estimated **Net** Current Expenditure on Fire and Rescue services in England in 2018/19 was £2.08 billion, a rise of 1.3% on the amount for 2017/18 (£2.05 billion) (Source: MHCLG, [Table 1: estimated net current expenditure by service, 2017-18 and 2018-19](#), 28 June 2018).

On a slightly different basis, Revenue Expenditure for the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority, in 2018/19 was £52.5 million (Source: MHCLG, [Revenue account \(RA\) budget 2018 to 2019](#), 28 June 2018) and £51.9 million in 2017/18 (Source: MHCLG, [Revenue account \(RA\) budget 2017 to 2018](#), 29 June 2017) a rise of 1.1%.

1.3 Integrated risk management plans

[Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004](#) requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Fire and Rescue National Framework setting out the priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities and providing guidance. Fire and rescue authorities must have regard to the Framework in carrying out their functions.

The current Home Office [Fire and Rescue National Framework](#) was published in May 2018. Under this, as under its predecessors, each fire and rescue authority is required to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan in which they assess fire and rescue related risks that could affect the area and assess their capability. The chief fire officer must have regard to the Integrated Risk Management Plan in exercising his or her functions.

1.4 Tyne and Wear

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service has a [summary of efficiency savings it has made since 2013](#):

TWFRS has already introduced a number of efficiency savings within the framework of IRMP.

The Review of the Fire Cover Response Model in 2013 (which incorporated a review of staffing flexibility) produced a number of actions, including:

- Removal of six fire appliances across the Service (a reduction from 30 to 24)
- Introduction of two [Targeted Response Vehicles](#) (TRVs) to attend lower risk incidents 24/7 and two further TRVs to be staffed at night.
- Reduction of [Aerial Ladder Platforms](#) (ALPs) from three to two.
- Stand down of two fire appliances during quieter periods (through the night).
- Investment in technology to enhance firefighter and community safety, eg [Coldcut Cobra technology](#), which enables firefighters to tackle a fire safely without the risk of entering a burning building.
- Increased the flexibility of our workforce by measures including the introduction of an extended day shift, a shift exchange option and a flexible day crewing close call shift system at two stations

Efficiencies have also been achieved through a review of cleaning and catering services and a review and restructure of the fire safety and community safety functions.

TWFRS is exploring options for joint working and collaboration with other emergency services and trusted partners. This has led to:

- Co-location with other services, including Northumbria Police, at five of our community fire stations.
- A pilot with [North East Ambulance Service](#) to provide emergency medical response.
- Redevelopment of [SafetyWorks!](#) – an interactive safety education centre, following investment from the Innovation Fund Bid secured by PCC Vera Baird.

During 2015 [Impeller Assurance & Resilience Ltd](#) (Impeller) was set up as a commercially driven social enterprise working in close collaboration with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS), delivering excellence in safety, resilience and business performance; to generate profits for good, which will be invested to create safer communities across Tyne and Wear.

In 2018, we implemented a change to the level of some of our crews. From January 1st 2018 Wallsend, Marley Park, Hebburn and Birtley all began to 'ride' 4. This was followed on June 1st, by West Denton, Newcastle Central, Rainton Bridge, Sunderland Central and Swalwell. We will continue to monitor the implementation.

In a [Joint Report](#) to Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority on 5 November 2018, the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive noted the challenges posed by funding constraints since 2010, and highlighted a projected resources gap of £3 million by 2020-21 and £3.6m by 2021-22:

Since 2010, balancing risk and resources has become increasingly challenging and IRMP actions have been developed against a background of significant reductions in the resources available to the Authority, as a result of reductions in Government spending.

2.4 Taking into account all of the remaining IRMP 2014-17 savings identified in the updated and refreshed MTFS presented to the Authority, including the limited additional resources provided within the Finance Settlement 2018-19, the Authority is still projecting a gap in financial resources of approximately £2.2m by 2019-20. The resources gap set out in the updated MTFS also projected an increase to £3.0m by 2020-21, and to £3.6m by 2021/22. Temporary use of reserves was also agreed to meet the shortfall in funding until IRMP actions are developed, approved and implemented.

2.5 In summary, the Finance Settlement 2018-19 presented further challenges to the Authority. The Settlement confirmed that it will still be necessary for the Authority to continue to consider and implement its proposed 2017-20 IRMP actions to help address the projected revenue budget gap identified of £3.6m up to 2021-22.¹

¹ Tyne and Weir Fire and Rescue Authority Meeting: Item No 7: 5 November 2018, [INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN 2017-20 - UPDATE](#)

A separate detailed report reviewing how the Service should respond relative to risk has not been published but was due to be presented at a meeting of Fire and Rescue Authority on 5 November 2018.²

In that meeting, the Authority reportedly approved plans to start a consultation on proposals for efficiency savings. The Chief Fire Officer, Chris Lowther, commented:

“To ensure we are a sustainable and flexible fire and rescue service, continuing to deliver an excellent service for our communities, our finite resources must be applied to where the greatest risks are in Tyne and Wear. That analysis has resulted in three proposals for change. I would urge our communities to get involved in our consultation – it’s your views which will help shape your fire and rescue service for now and the years to come.

“Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service has faced some of the worst funding settlements across fire and rescue in England since austerity began in 2010. By 2019/20 we will see a 19% budget cut by £11.3m to £48.1m. We have also had to manage higher costs faced by the Authority such as inflation and pay awards which means we have actually had to make total budget savings across the Service of just over £25m. As a result, we need to look at how we resource our operational responsive services, such as our fire stations and control room, to ensure we have the correct balance.”³

The Fire Brigades Union has called the proposals “unsafe”;

The proposals include:

- The downgrading of wholetime availability at Hebburn and Wallsend to on-call (retained, part time) system with up to a 30 minute delay between the hours of 2000hrs-0800hrs.
- The reduction in available fire appliances at Tynemouth and South Shields between the hours of 2000hrs-0800hrs due to the need to provide fire cover for Wallsend and Hebburn.
- Reduction of two fire appliances one each from Gosforth and Washington by relocating them to Newcastle and Sunderland central.
- Downgrading an immediate response wholetime appliance at North Moor, Sunderland to an on-call (retained, part time) with a delayed response.

Russ King North East chair of the Fire Brigades Union said:

“If these proposals go ahead, it will make the communities of Tyne and Wear less safe than they currently are. At the end of the day it’s not rocket science, it’s all about speed of response and weight of attack, the quicker our response with the appropriate number of staff, the more effective we can be.

“The proposed measures do nothing to improve public safety, in fact they make it worse, not only increasing community risk, but

² Under Agenda Item 9, which isn’t published– see Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority, [Agendas and Papers, 5 November 2018](#) which says that the business under that part of the Agenda was to be conducted in private “as it involves a likely disclosure of exempt information”.

³ Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, [Fire Authority Agree Response Consultation](#), 5 November 2018

endangering firefighter safety. The reality is, there will be less immediate response, from a decreased number of immediately available fire engines, by a decreased workforce, over a greater area of the authority than before. The people of Tyne and Wear deserve better. Authority members need to be upfront about this with the public, they should openly acknowledge that the integrated risk management plan (IRMP) is not being implemented as it was originally intended due to the austerity measures of both current and previous governments".⁴

The Government has said that stand-alone Fire and Rescue Authorities will see an increase in core spending power of 1.2% in cash terms in 2018/19 and an overall increase of 0.3% from 2015/16 to 2019/20.⁵ Overall fire and rescue authorities will receive around £2.3 billion in 2018/19. In June 2018, the police and fire minister Nick Hurd said:

Fire and rescue services have the resources they need to do their important work.⁶

Incident statistics

Statistics on the number incidents attended by the Tyne and Wear fire and rescue services, by incident type are given at the end of this debate pack (Source: Home Office, [FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0102: Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority](#), accessed 26 November 2018).

⁴ Fire Brigades Union, [Firefighters warn of unsafe cuts in Tyne and Wear](#), 8 November 2018

⁵ PQ 183278 [on [Fire and Rescue Services: Finance](#)], 29 October 2018

⁶ PQ 156428 [on [Fire and Rescue Services: Finance](#)], 26 June 2018

2. News and blogs

Fire Brigades Union

[Firefighters warn of unsafe cuts in Tyne and Wear](#)

8 November 2018

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

[Integrated Risk Management Plan - our actions so far](#)

18 June 2018

National Fire Chiefs Council

[Funding for Fire and Rescue services needs more flexibility](#)

31 October 2017

National Fire Chiefs Council

[Impact of Funding Reductions and Financial Sustainability](#) [NAO reports]

5 November 2015

2.1 Press

Chronicle Live

[Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service boss says cuts won't make people less safe](#)

18 November 2018

Chronicle Live

[Tyne and Wear fire stations cost-cutting plans leave 70 jobs under threat](#)

5 November 2018

BBC News

[Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service](#)

Collected articles

Shields Gazette

[Stephen Hepburn MP: threat to run down fire services is a threat to lives](#)

22 November 2018

Shields Gazette

[Emma Lewell-Buck MP: why cuts to fire services will put lives at risk](#)

15 November 2018

Shields Gazette

[MP's fears over downgrading plan for Hebburn fire station](#)

7 November 2018

ITV News

[Fire bosses propose service changes due to budget pressures](#)

5 November 2018

Shields Gazette

[70 fire service jobs face the axe as chief sets out plans for £3 million cuts to cope with funding shortfall](#)

5 November 2018

Guardian

[England's fire services suffer 25% cut to safety officers numbers](#)

29 August 2017

Chronicle Live

[Unions blame Government cuts for 15% increase in fire-related casualties in the North East](#)

13 August 2018

Chronicle Live

[Tyne and Wear fire response times are the longest on record as service faces major cuts](#)

10 March 2018

Independent

[As a firefighter, I know that fire service cuts brought in by the Tories are just as dangerous as those to the police](#)

5 June 2017

3. Parliamentary Business

[Topical Questions](#)

Asked by: Stephen Hepburn

Tyne and Wear fire service is facing £3 million of cuts, which could mean the closure of my local fire station. Will the Secretary of State look at the special problems with funding fire services that are facing local government in the north-east?

Answered by: James Brokenshire | Housing, Communities and Local Government

I will certainly raise the hon. Gentleman's point with colleagues who lead on fire within the Home Office.

HC Deb 5 November 2018 c1232

[Fire and Rescue Services: Finance](#)

Asked by: Chris Ruane

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the year on year changes to central government grants to the UK Fire and Rescue service in each of the last seven years.

Answered by: Elizabeth Truss | Treasury

Overall Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) will receive around £2.3 billion in 2018/19. Single purpose FRAs will see an increase in core spending power of 1.2% in cash terms in 2018/19 and an overall increase of 0.3% from 2015/16 to 2019/20.

Financial reserves held by single purpose FRAs increased by 80% to £545 million between 31 March 2011 and 31 March 2018. This is equivalent to 42% of their core spending power.

As fire services are devolved, these figures apply to England only.

29 October 2018 | Written question | 183278

[Fire and Rescue Services: Pensions](#)

Asked by: Stephanie Peacock

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the cost to Fire and Rescue Services of increasing the employer contribution to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme in each of the next three fiscal years; and whether his Department has plans to fund the cost of the increased contribution in each of those years.

Answered by: Nick Hurd | Home Office

The 2016 valuation is the first full assessment of the firefighters' pension schemes since the government introduced major pension reforms in 2015.

Our analysis shows that there will be an increase in the employers' contribution cost due to proposed changes to the discount rate that is used to assess the current cost of future pensions liabilities. When these changes are confirmed, I will be able to confirm the increase in employer costs.

Treasury will be supporting departments with funding for most of the additional costs in 2019/20. Additional costs for future years will be included in the Spending Review discussions.

18 October 2018 | Written question | 179292

[Fire and Rescue Services: Finance](#)

Asked by: Dan Jarvis

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of funding for fire and rescue services.

Answered by: Nick Hurd | Home Office

Fire and rescue services have the resources they need to do their important work. Overall fire and rescue authorities will receive around £2.3 billion in 2018/19.

Single purpose fire and rescue authorities will see an increase in core spending power of 1.2% in cash terms in 2018/19, and an overall increase of 0.3% from 2015/16 to 2019/20. Financial reserves held by single purpose FRAs increased by 88% to £615 million between 31 March 2011 and 31 March 2017. This is equivalent to 45% of their core spending power.

26 June 2018 | Written question | 156428

[Fire and Rescue Services: Debts](#)

Asked by: Karen Lee

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the level of debt has been for each fire authority in each of the last eight financial years.

Answered by: Nick Hurd | Home Office

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government publish data on local authority debt. This can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-local-government-finance#borrowing-and-investment>

23 March 2018 | Written question | 133053

[Fire Services](#)

Asked by: Liz Twist

Tyne and Wear fire and rescue service has the lowest per-incident spending power of any fire and rescue service. When do the Government intend to start to fund fire and rescue services based on risk, not just on demand?

Answered by: Nick Hurd | Home Office

Tyne and Wear will receive £47.7 million of core spending power in 2018-19. That is an increase of 0.8% compared with 2017-18. It also has £23 million of non-ring-fenced reserves, representing almost 50% of revenue.

HC Deb 26 February 2018 c539

[Fire and Rescue Services: Pay](#)

Asked by: Chris Williamson

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral contribution of the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service of 20 November 2017, Official Report, column 713, what the evidential basis is for the £2.3 billion of public money in the fire service cited.

Answered by: Nick Hurd | Home Office

DCLG publish financial information from all local authorities. The information on Fire and Rescue Authority reserves as at March 2017 can be found at the following link;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing-england-2016-to-2017-individual-local-authority-data-outturn>.

Fire and Rescue is funded via revenue support grant (RSG), retained business rates and council tax (precept). Fire and Rescue also receive national resilience grants directly from the Home Office which in 2017/18 are worth £28m. DCLG settlement documents showing allocations for RSG and business rates can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-finance-report-2017-to-2018>. DCLG also publishes core spending power for all local authorities (core spending power includes revenue support grant, retained business rates and council tax). This can be found at the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/core-spending-power-final-local-government-finance-settlement-2017-to-2018>

20 December 2017 | Written question | 119396

[Topical Questions](#)

Asked by: Julie Elliott

Will the Minister ensure that any scheduled repayments from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service do not have a negative impact on the

residents of Sunderland and the wider Tyne and Wear area because of the constraint of the cap on the precept?

Answered by: Nick Hurd | Home Office

I am aware of this issue, and I am more than happy to have a meeting with the hon. Lady to give her the assurances she seeks.

HC Deb 20 November 2017 c723

[Fire and Rescue Service: Remuneration](#)

Oral questions

HC Deb 20 November 2017 c711-3

[Fire and Rescue Services: Finance](#)

Asked by: Justin Madders

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment has been made of the adequacy of the level of financial reserves held by fire authorities.

Answered by: Nick Hurd | Home Office

At March 2016, standalone Fire Authorities held reserves of £602m. This is an increase of 153% since March 2010, and represents 43% of core spending power in 2015/16.

The Department for Communities and Local Government collects and publishes data on revenue expenditure and financing of local authorities in England, including financial reserve levels. Final outturn information for 2015/16 can be found on the Government website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing-england-2015-to-2016-individual-local-authority-data-outturn>

24 October 2017 | Written question | 108234

[Fire and Rescue Services](#)

Asked by: Alex Cunningham

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of changes in the level of funding on the resilience of the fire and rescue service.

Answered by: Brandon Lewis | Home Office

Fire and Rescue Authorities have delivered significant savings since 2010, and fire deaths and injuries are at a near historic low.

Authorities can still work smarter to reduce costs. Since 2009/10 single-purpose fire authorities' non-ringfenced reserves rose by 150 % to £595 million. Those resources should be targeted at achieving long-term efficiencies.

31 October 2016 | Written question | 906891

[Fire and Rescue Services: Finance](#)

Asked by: Sammy Wilson

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding the Government made available to fire and rescue authorities over the last five years; how much such funding the Government plans to make available to such authorities over the next five years; and what assessment her Department has made of the effect of changes in levels of funding over the next five years on each fire and rescue authority area.

Answered by: Mike Penning | Home Office

Like all other local authorities fire and rescue authorities have had to play their part in reducing the national deficit. Fire and rescue services have coped well with savings to date: the numbers of incidents and fire deaths and injuries have all fallen to an historic low. The 2013 Knight Review provided clear evidence of the scope for fire and rescue authorities to make further efficiencies.

The table below shows the funding provided to single-purpose fire and rescue authorities.

Single purpose Fire and Rescue Authorities Funding

2011-12	£0.996 bn
2012-13	£1.014 bn
2013-14	£1.083 bn
2014-15	£1.005 bn
2015-16	£0.917 bn
2016-17	£0.869 bn

County councils that include fire and rescue services will decide for themselves how to fund those services. However, we expect that county councils in this position will ensure that their fire and rescue services are able to maintain the same quality and breadth of services as single purpose authorities.

In 2013-14 the Government introduced a new funding system for local government. Under this system the sector retained 50% of business rates. It is therefore inappropriate to compare these amounts over time due to differences in the way that funding was provided in each year.

For the first time ever, the Government offers the opportunity of financial certainty for fire and rescue authorities, with the offer of a firm four-year settlement in return for robust efficiency plans.

Indicative funding allocations for 2017-18 to 2019-20 can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/498722/Key_info_for_local_authorities

26 May 2016 | Written question | 37552

4. Further reading

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority, [Integrated Risk Management Plan 2017-2020](#)

[Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service](#)

Home Office, [Fire and rescue national framework for England](#)

Home Office, [Fire and Rescue Authority financial reserves](#)

Local Government Association, [Fire and rescue services in England: a guide for police and crime panel members](#), September 2017

National Audit Office, [Financial sustainability of fire and rescue services](#), 5 November 2015

National Audit Office, [Impact of funding reductions on fire and rescue services](#), 5 November 2015

FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0102: Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority**Tyne and Wear**

Year	Total incidents	Primary fires ²								Fire false alarms				Non-fire incidents ³		
		Total fires	Total	Dwellings	Other Buildings	Road Vehicles	Other Outdoors	Secondary	Chimney	Total	Due to apparatus	Good intent	Malicious	Total	Non-fire false alarms	Special services
2001/02	..	17,349	6,518	2,224	1,261	2,593	440	10,814	17	9,651	6,185	2,205	1,261	..	..	..
2002/03	..	16,582	5,930	1,966	1,080	2,411	473	10,627	25	9,125	6,070	2,077	978	..	..	..
2003/04	..	17,552	5,746	2,108	1,073	2,180	385	11,789	17	9,535	6,249	2,299	987	..	..	..
2004/05	..	12,948	4,888	1,937	977	1,701	273	8,044	16	8,381	5,680	1,906	795	..	..	..
2005/06	..	12,395	4,694	1,896	919	1,602	277	7,684	17	8,756	6,159	1,975	622	..	..	..
2006/07	..	14,338	4,502	1,884	926	1,437	255	9,822	14	9,338	6,169	2,497	672	..	..	..
2007/08	..	12,540	3,760	1,507	781	1,254	218	8,766	14	9,098	5,473	2,940	685	..	..	..
2008/09	..	8,877	2,575	873	514	1,044	144	6,280	22	8,841	5,176	3,067	598	..	..	..
2009/10	19,015	8,389	2,411	891	480	878	162	5,962	16	8,280	5,938	2,067	275	2,346	8	2,338
2010/11	18,490	7,955	2,137	800	476	737	124	5,798	20	8,129	5,838	2,022	269	2,406	15	2,391
2011/12	17,699	7,870	1,944	706	479	621	138	5,910	16	7,709	5,557	1,895	257	2,120	7	2,113
2012/13	14,786	5,323	1,704	711	364	525	104	3,605	14	7,237	5,355	1,616	266	2,226	9	2,217
2013/14	15,549	6,450	1,604	677	345	471	111	4,819	27	7,006	5,039	1,724	243	2,093	18	2,075
2014/15	14,521	5,610	1,579	683	349	456	91	4,008	23	7,008	5,126	1,626	256	1,903	19	1,884
2015/16	14,420	5,767	1,672	666	349	532	125	4,072	23	6,214	4,266	1,722	226	2,439	49	2,390
2016/17	15,497	6,091	1,723	655	313	660	95	4,343	25	6,315	4,303	1,773	239	3,091	40	3,051
2017/18	17,118	7,215	1,803	650	358	684	111	5,391	21	6,730	4,403	2,061	266	3,173	41	3,132
Year ending June 2017	16,615	6,971	1,801	634	357	698	112	5,147	23	6,523	4,397	1,871	255	3,121	38	3,083
Year ending June 2018	16,716	6,859	1,751	649	338	671	93	5,086	22	6,695	4,342	2,082	271	3,162	49	3,113

1 Before 2017/18, Hampshire FRS did not record medical co-responding incidents in the IRS. They are currently undertaking a project to upload this data for 2017/18 and beyond. This was not completed in time for publication on 8 November 2018 but will be included in the quarterly release once available.

The incident figures from East Sussex FRS are known to be underreported for the first quarter of 2018/19. Due to technical issues, 632 incidents were not uploaded in time for publication on 8 November 2018.

2 Primary fires are defined as fires that meet at least one of the following conditions:

- (a) any fire that occurred in a (non-derelict) building, vehicle or outdoor structure,
- (b) any fire involving fatalities, casualties or rescues,
- (c) any fire attended by five or more pumping appliances.

3 Otherwise known as Special Service incidents.

4 Total fires for these years are an estimate and therefore rounded to the nearest 100.

Note on 2009/10:

Before 1 April 2009 fire incident statistics were based on the FDR1 paper form. This approach means the statistics for before this date can be less robust. Since this date the statistics are based on an online collection tool, the Incident Recording System (IRS).

General note:

Fire data are collected by the Incident Recording System (IRS) which collects information on all incidents attended by fire and rescue services. For a variety of reasons some records take longer than others for fire services to upload to the IRS and therefore totals are constantly being amended (by relatively small numbers).

[Last updated: 8 November 2018](#)

Next update: February 2019

The data in this table are consistent with records that reached the IRS by 12 September 2018.

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