



Fire and rescue authority performance, 2022-23

14 Dec 2023
SFR 107/2023

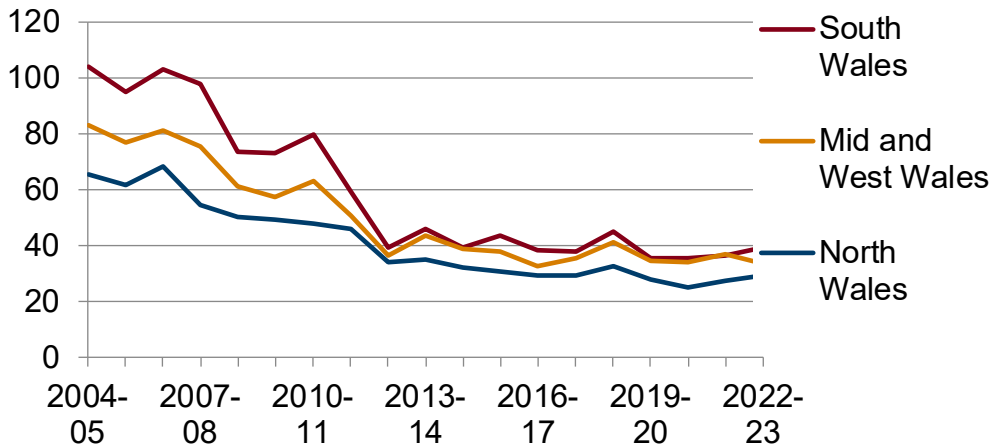
Main points

35 fires per 10,000 population

There were 11,066 fires attended by the FRAs in 2022-23, an increase of 3% in the number compared with 2021-22.

Since responsibility for fire and rescue services was devolved to Wales in 2004-05 the rate of fires per 10,000 population has more than halved from 89 in 2004-05 to 35 in 2022-23.

Figure 1: Fires attended per 10,000 population, 2004-05 to 2022-23



Description of Figure 1: The line chart shows the overall downward trend in the rate of fires per 10,000 population for each of the FRAs in Wales. Since 2013-14 the rates have been relatively steady.

53 false alarms per 10,000 population

There were 16,578 false alarms attended in 2022-23, an increase in numbers of 5% compared with 2021-22.

4 casualties per 100,000 population

There were 135 casualties (deaths and injuries) from fires in 2022-23; compared with 2021-22 this is a decrease of 11% in numbers, but a similar rate per 100,000 population.

About this release

The Welsh Government's Performance Management Framework for measuring Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) performance was introduced in 2007.

The performance indicators are grouped under two themes: 'risk reduction and community safety' and 'effective response'.

This report covers the financial year from April 2022 to March 2023, and comparisons are made with April 2021 to March 2022 a period still effected to some extent by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Any increase or decrease in numbers should be considered within this context.

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Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) have a duty under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to collect information relating to performance and use that information to compare their performance in previous years and with similar organisations. They are also required to use this information to assess how they can improve.

Following a consultation in 2015, the Performance Indicators collected by the Welsh Government from the Fire and Rescue Authorities were redefined to more accurately measure FRA activity and outcomes; the first collection of these data took place in 2015-16. The 3 indicators have a total of 7 measures and are divided into two themes as defined below:

Risk Reduction and Community Safety

1st Indicator FRS/RRC/S/001:

- i) Total fires attended per 10,000 population;
- v) Total false alarms attended per 10,000 population;
- vi) Total Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) attended per 10,000 population;
- vii) Total other incidents attended per 10,000 population.

2nd Indicator FRS/RRC/S/002:

Total number of:

- vi) Deaths and injuries arising from all fires per 100,000 population;
- vii) Deaths and injuries arising from accidental fires per 100,000 population.

Effective Response

3rd Indicator FRS/EFR/S/003:

- The percentage of dwelling fires which were contained in the room in which they originated.

For comparability considerations please see the [Key Quality Information](#).

Note: indicators FRS/RRC/S/001 parts ii to iv and FRS/RRC/S/002 parts i to vi are no longer collected, historical data for these indicators are published on [StatsWales](#).

It should be noted that the data presented here have been returned by the FRAs via a data collection. Whilst the source of the data is the same as the Fire and Rescue Incidents bulletin, the Incident Recording System, due to the nature of the live system data extracts may not match if taken at different times.

1. Risk reduction and community safety: Incidents attended

The first indicator (FRS/RRC/S/001) has 4 measures and looks at attendances at fire and rescue service incidents.

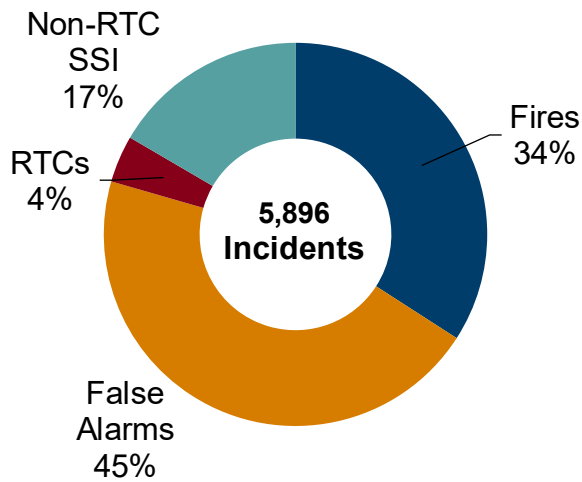
Analysis of this data allows FRAs to gauge the success of their community fire safety initiatives in the reduction of fires and false alarms.

FRAs record attendances at fires, false alarms and Special Service Incidents (SSIs) via the Incident Recording System (IRS). In this publication SSIs are split into Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) and Non-RTC SSIs.

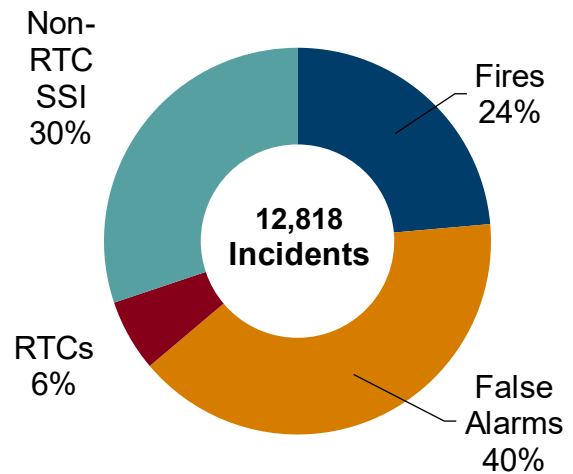
False alarms quoted in this release include those related to SSIs and so will be higher than figures quoted elsewhere, for instance in the 'Fire and Rescue Incidents' series of publications.

Figure 2: Proportion of incidents attended, by FRA and for Wales, 2022-23

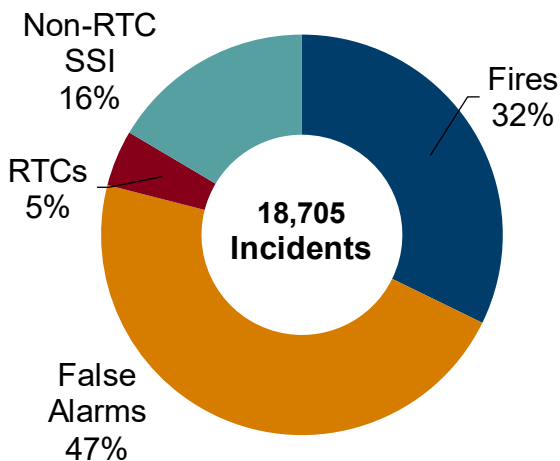
2a. North Wales



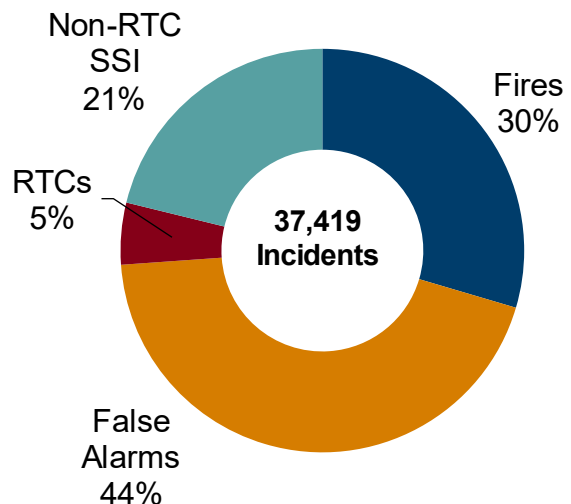
2b. Mid and West Wales



2c. South Wales



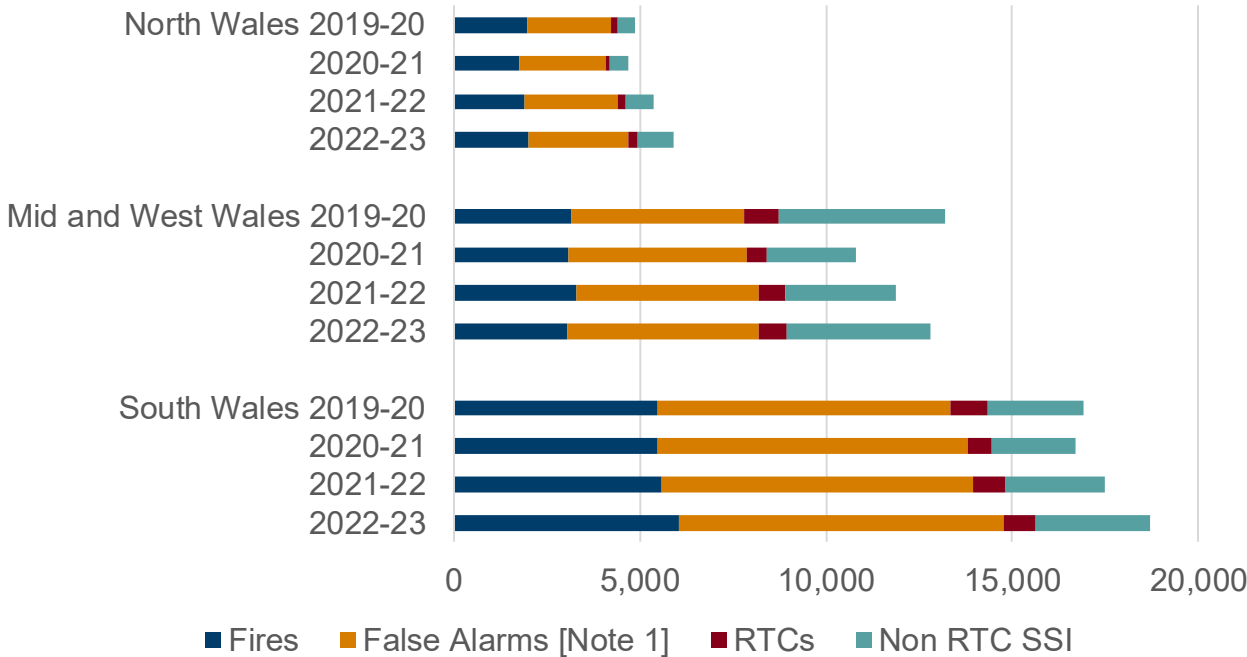
2d. Wales



Description of Figure 2: a series of four doughnut charts which show the proportions of each incident type attended in Wales and each Fire and Rescue Authority in 2022-23. In each Welsh FRA false alarms accounted for the largest proportion of incidents; 45% in North Wales, 40% in Mid and West Wales and 48% in South Wales. Fires represented the second largest category

for each North Wales and South Wales but in Mid and West Wales non-RTC SSIs were much higher than in the other FRAs. Overall, 30% of incidents attended in Wales in 2022-23 were fires; 44% were false alarms, 5% were Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) and 19% were non RTC Special Service Incidents (SSIs).

Figure 3: Number of incidents attended, by Fire and Rescue Authority, 2019-20 to 2022-23



Description of Figure 3: a stacked bar chart showing the number of incidents attended by each FRA for the years 2019-20 to 2022-23. The chart shows South Wales FRA attended most incidents (around 17,000 to 19,000 each year) and that a large proportion of these incidents were false alarms. North Wales attend the fewest incidents (almost 6,000 incidents in 2022-23), made up mainly of fires and false alarms. Mid and West Wales have seen some variation in numbers in recent years, mainly in the non-RTC category.

The number of incidents attended increased in 2022-23 compared with 2021-22 in all FRAs. The largest increase in numbers was seen in South Wales (with 1,203 more incidents attended equating to a 7% increase). North Wales saw the largest percentage increase of 10%. Mid and West Wales saw an increase of 8%. Most incident categories in all 3 Welsh FRAs saw increases in 2022-23 compared with 2021-22, the exceptions being fires in Mid and West Wales (8% drop) and RTCs in South Wales (1% drop).

Fires attended

In 2022-23, there were 11,066 fires (35 fires per 10,000 population) attended by the FRAs in Wales; this is a 3% increase in numbers compared with 2021-22, and the highest number since 2018-19.

Table 1: Fires attended, 2018-19 to 2022-23

	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
Numbers of fires				
2018-19	2,281	3,734	6,897	12,912
2019-20	1,950	3,152	5,482	10,584
2020-21	1,770	3,087	5,477	10,334
2021-22	1,879	3,290	5,565	10,734
2022-23	2,011	3,024	6,031	11,066
Rate per 10,000 population				
2018-19	33	42	46	42
2019-20	28	35	36	34
2020-21	26	34	36	33
2021-22	27	37	37	35
2022-23	29	34	39	35

Description of Table 1: The table shows the number and rate of fires per 10,000 population for each FRA in Wales for the years 2018-19 to 2022-23. In 2022-23 South Wales had the highest rate of fires (39 fires per 10,000 population) and the lowest rate (29 fires per 10,000 population) was in North Wales. A similar pattern has been seen in the majority of previous years. Only Mid and West Wales saw a decrease in the rate of fires, from 37 in 2021-22 to 34 per 10,000 population in 2022-23. The rates in North Wales rose from 27 to 29 and in South Wales from 37 to 39.

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

Figure 1 (on page one) shows that at the beginning of the timeseries (in 2004-05) the difference in rates between the FRAs was wider and rates have become closer in recent years.

False alarms attended

Prior to 2015-16 only numbers of malicious false alarms and false alarms caused by automatic fire detection were collected for the purposes of performance indicators. The revised indicator includes malicious false alarms, good intent false alarms and false alarms due to apparatus. Definitions are given in the Glossary.

False alarms quoted in this release include those related to SSIs and so will be higher than figures quoted elsewhere, for instance in the 'Fire and Rescue Incidents' series of publications.

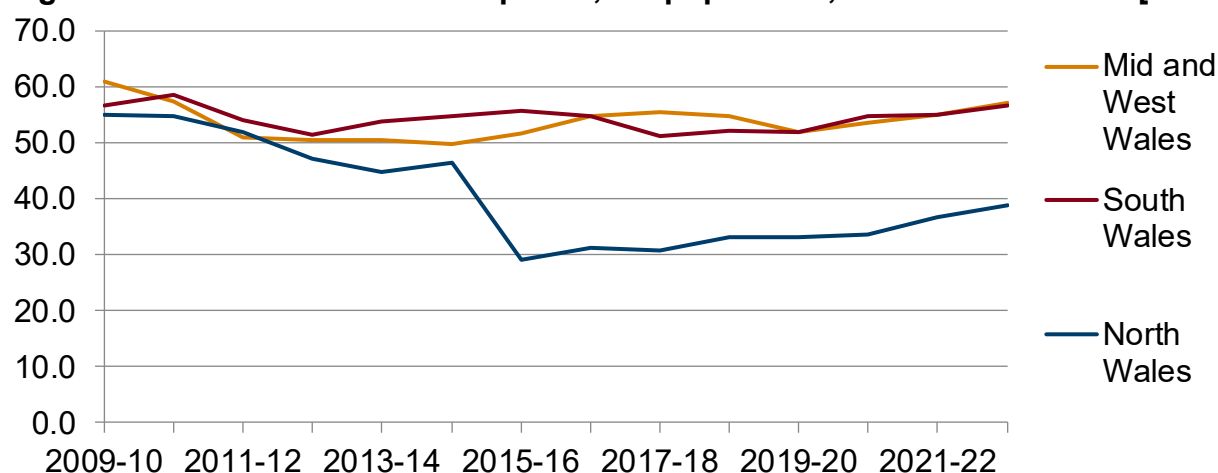
Table 2: False alarms attended, 2018-19 to 2022-23

	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
Numbers of false alarms				
2018-19	2,269	4,886	7,847	15,002
2019-20	2,274	4,627	7,857	14,758
2020-21	2,315	4,798	8,316	15,429
2021-22	2,517	4,916	8,367	15,800
2022-23	2,674	5,158	8,746	16,578
Rate per 10,000 population				
2018-19	32	54	51	48
2019-20	33	51	51	47
2020-21	33	53	54	49
2021-22	37	55	55	50
2022-23	39	57	57	53

Description Table 2: A table showing the number of false alarms attended by each FRA and the rate of false alarms per 10,000 population. In 2022-23 FRAs in Wales attended 16,578 false alarms, equating to 53 per 10,000 population. North Wales FRA attended the fewest false alarms, equating to 39 per 10,000 population. Rates in both Mid and West Wales and South Wales were 57 false alarms per 10,000 population. Overall, there was a 5% increase in the number of false alarms attended; all regions experienced an increase.

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

Although 2015-16 was the first year this false alarm data was collected as part of the Performance Indicators, comparable historical data are available (although these data are revised periodically).

Figure 4: False alarms attended per 10,000 population, 2009-10 to 2022-23 [Note 1]

Description of Figure 4: A line chart showing the rate of fire alarms attended (per 10,000 population) by each FRS since 2009-10. Whilst in Mid and West Wales and South Wales some minor fluctuation is seen, the rate in North Wales fell in 2015-16; this can be attributed to a change in policy regarding attendance at automatic fire alarms in April 2015. The chart also shows that the rate has risen in Mid and West Wales and South Wales to levels last seen in 2010-11 and the rate in North Wales is the highest since 2014-15.

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

[Note 1] Data prior to 2015-16 were not collected as part of the Performance Indicator data collection but are taken from the Incident Recording System.

Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) attended

Prior to 2015-16 numbers of RTCs attended were not collected as part of the performance indicator data collection.

Table 3: Road Traffic Collisions attended, 2018-19 to 2022-23

	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
Numbers of RTCs				
2018-19	220	870	1,112	2,202
2019-20	179	948	996	2,123
2020-21	105	530	643	1,278
2021-22	207	693	857	1,757
2022-23	234	771	848	1,853
Rate per 10,000 population				
2018-19	3	10	7	7
2019-20	3	11	7	7
2020-21	2	6	4	4
2021-22	3	8	6	6
2022-23	3	9	6	6

Description of Table 3: a table showing the number and rate per 10,000 population of Road Traffic collisions attended by each FRA for the years 2018-19 to 2022-23. In 2022-23 FRAs in Wales attended 1,853 RTCs, equating to 6 per 10,000 population and numbers increased by 5% compared with 2021-22. Mid and West Wales had the highest rate of RTCs, 9 per 10,000 population whilst North Wales had the lowest rate, at 3 per 10,000 population.

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

Numbers and rates of RTCs notably fell across the FRAs in 2020-21, likely to be the result of COVID-19 related lockdown measures introduced in March 2020 which resulted in a reduction in road traffic¹. Easing of travel restrictions resulted in increased traffic volumes in 2021 compared with 2020 and rates in 2022-23 are similar to those in the previous year and the pre-COVID period.

However, there is evidence to suggest many employees are continuing to work from home and so traffic volumes may not be as high as in previous years².

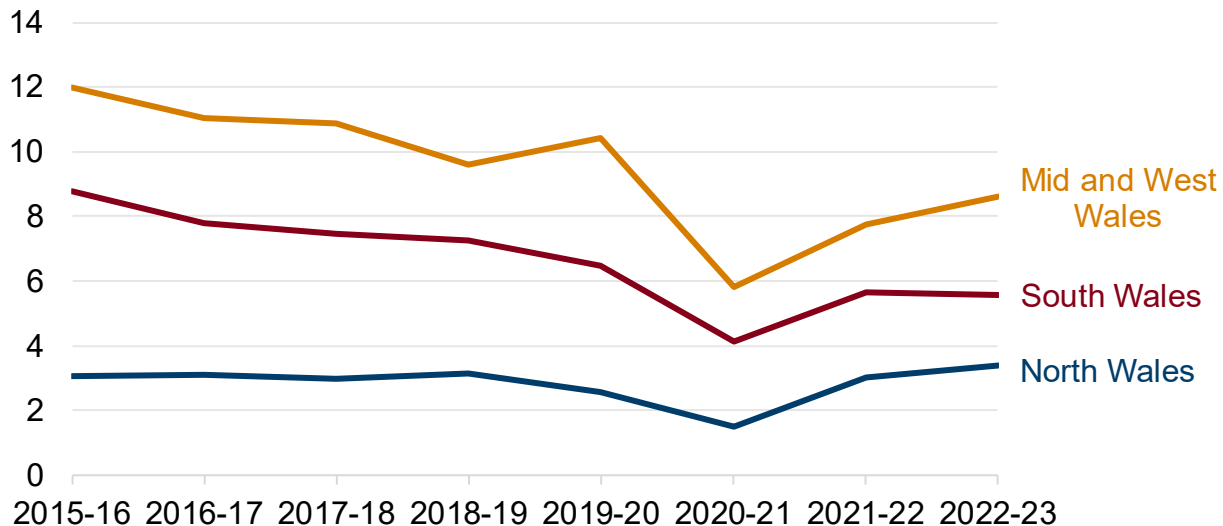
Earlier data for RTCs attended have been collected and published via the Operational data collection (for years 2004-05 to 2010-11) and via the Incident Recording System (IRS) since 2009-10. For comparability issues see the Key Quality Information. The data used here (and those for other Special Service Incidents) can be found on [StatsWales](https://stats.wales.gov.uk/).

¹ [Road traffic | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/road-traffic/)

² [Characteristics of homeworkers, Great Britain: September 2022 to January 2023](https://www.gov.uk/government/research-data-and-analysis/publications/characteristics-of-homeworkers-great-britain-september-2022-to-january-2023)

There were 1,853 RTCs in 2022-23, accounting for around a fifth of SSIs attended in Wales and a similar proportion to previous years. This proportion was lowest in Mid and West Wales where 17% of SSIs were RTCs, whereas the proportions were 19% in North Wales and 22% in South Wales.

Figure 5: Road Traffic Collisions attended per 10,000 population, 2015-16 to 2022-23



Description of figure 5: The line chart shows the rate per 10,000 population of Road Traffic collisions attended by each FRA for the years 2015-16 to 2022-23. Rates notably fell across the FRAs in 2020-21, likely to be the result of COVID-19 related lockdown measures introduced in March 2020 which resulted in a reduction in road traffic. Easing of travel restrictions has meant the traffic volumes have increased since this time, however, only North Wales has seen the numbers of RTCs being attended rising above pre COVID levels.

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

Other Special Service Incidents (SSIs) attended

Other SSI incidents include flooding, release of persons and animals, and so on. A full list of incident types can be found in the [Key Quality Information](#).

Table 4: Other SSIs attended, 2018-19 to 2022-23 [Note 1]

	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
Numbers of Non RTC SSI				
2018-19	535	3,967	2,062	6,564
2019-20	469	4,484	2,569	7,522
2020-21	509	2,383	2,264	5,156
2021-22	751	2,974	2,712	6,437
2022-23	977	3,865	3,080	7,922
Rate per 10,000 population				
2018-19	8	45	14	21
2019-20	7	50	17	24
2020-21	7	27	15	17
2021-22	11	33	18	21
2022-23	14	43	20	25

Description of Table 4: A table showing the number and rate per 10,000 population of non RTC SSIs attended for the years 2018-19 to 2022-23. There was a large fall in such incidents between 2019-20 and 2020-21 (driven by Mid and West Wales), which may be due to pandemic restrictions. Numbers have since increased and in 2022-23 saw the most non-RTC SSIs in the 5 year series. Mid and West Wales has, throughout the time series, had a much higher rate than the other two FRAs.

[Note 1] A full list of incidents included in 'Other Special Service Incidents' are included in the [Glossary](#).

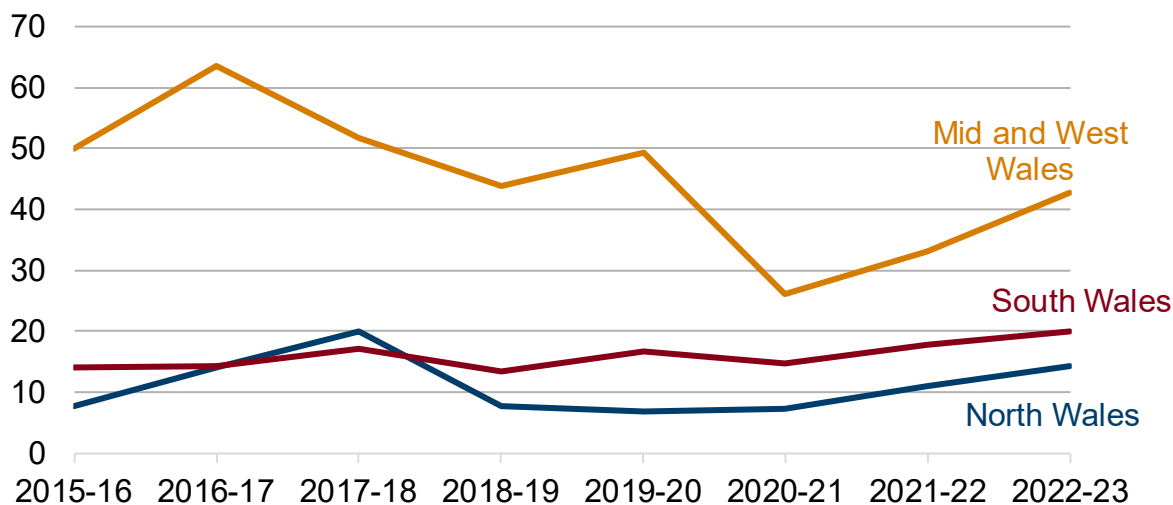
Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

In 2022-23 FRAs in Wales attended 7,922 SSIs other than RTCs, equating to 25 per 10,000 population and an increase of 23% in number compared with the previous year.

Mid and West Wales FRA attended the most (3,865), equating to 43 per 10,000 population; North Wales attended 977 (14 per 10,000 population) and South Wales attended 3,080 (20 per 10,000 population).

All 3 FRAs saw increases compared with 2021-22; North Wales saw its highest rate since 2017-18, in Mid and West Wales it's the highest since 2019-20. It is the highest rate in the South Wales time series (since 2015-16).

Figure 6: Other SSIs attended per 10,000 population, 2015-16 to 2022-23 [Note 1]



Description of Figure 6: A line chart showing the rate per 10,000 population of non-RTC SSIs attended, for each FRA since 2015-16. The chart highlights the consistently higher rate seen in Mid and West Wales than in North Wales and South Wales.

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

[Note 1] A full list of incidents included in 'Other Special Service Incidents' are included in the [Glossary](#).

2. Risk reduction and community safety: deaths and injuries

The second indicator (FRS/RRC/S/002) has two parts and looks at the casualties resulting from fires.

Deaths and injuries from fires

During 2022-23, there were 135 deaths and persons injured due to fire in Wales, 17 fewer than in 2021-22. Persons injured excludes those who are sent to hospital for a precautionary check-up or told to seek medical advice, and those receiving first aid at the scene. Non-fatal casualties recorded as not fire related are also excluded. See Key Quality information for comparability issues with data contained in Fire Statistics series of bulletins.

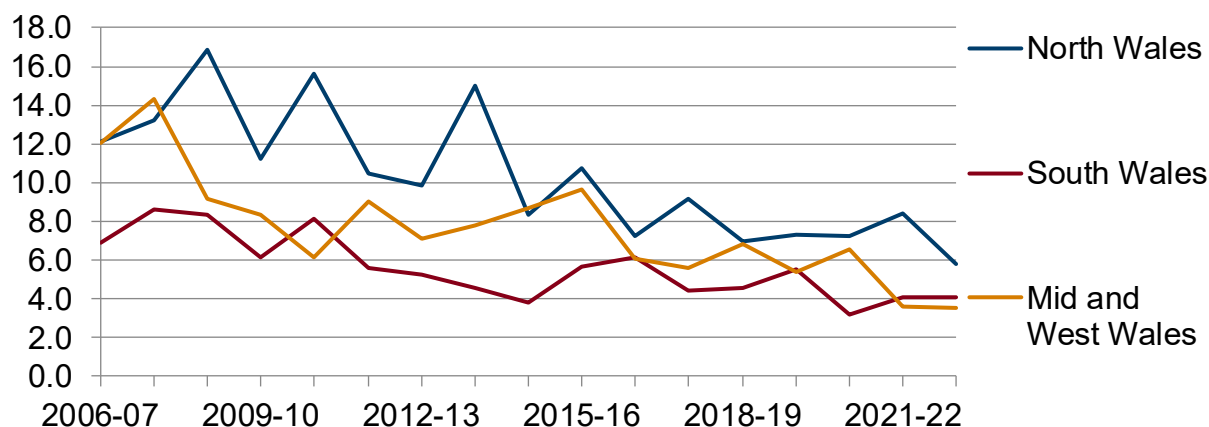
Table 5: Deaths and injuries arising from all fires, numbers and rates per 100,000 population, 2018-19 to 2022-23

	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
Numbers				
2018-19	48	61	69	178
2019-20	50	48	84	182
2020-21	50	59	49	158
2021-22	58	32	62	152
2022-23	40	32	63	135
Rate per 100,000 population				
2018-19	7	7	5	6
2019-20	7	5	6	6
2020-21	7	7	3	5
2021-22	8	4	4	5
2022-23	6	4	4	4

Description of Table 5: The table shows the rate per 100,000 population of deaths and casualties injured from fires. Since numbers of the fatalities and casualties are small these rates are prone to fluctuation. The number of deaths and injuries in Wales is equivalent to 4 casualties per 100,000 population (the lowest rate on the timeseries). In 2022-23 South Wales and Mid and West Wales had the same rate, 4 per 100,000 population, whilst North Wales had the highest rate at 6 per 100,000 population.

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

Figure 7: Deaths and injuries arising from all fires per 100,000 population, 2006-07 to 2022-23 [Note 1]



Description of Figure 7: The line chart shows the same data as in table 5 (deaths and casualty rates per 100,000 population from accidental fires) but a longer time series, from 2006-07. The chart shows how volatile the figures can be with North Wales having the most variation, noticeably in the years prior to 2015-16.

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates [Note 1] Time series prior to 2015-16 derived from data provided for previous PIs.

Table 6: Deaths and injuries arising from accidental fires, numbers and rates per 100,000 population, 2018-19 to 2022-23

	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
Numbers				
2018-19	28	51	54	133
2019-20	46	45	64	155
2020-21	47	56	42	145
2021-22	50	30	53	133
2022-23	35	27	52	114
Rate per 100,000 population				
2018-19	4	6	4	4
2019-20	7	5	4	5
2020-21	7	6	3	5
2021-22	7	3	3	4
2022-23	5	3	3	4

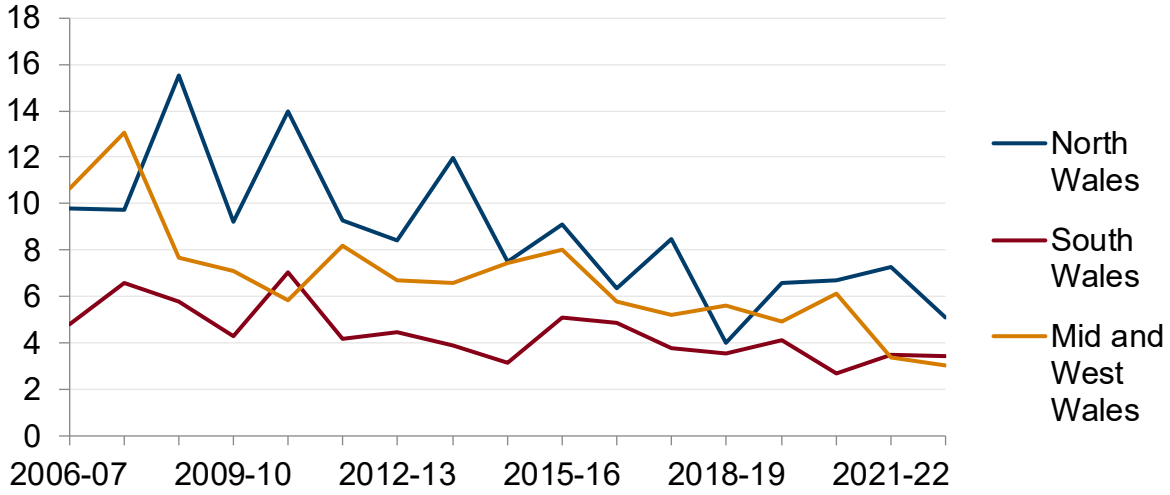
Description of Table 6: The table shows the rate per 100,000 population of deaths and casualties injured in accidental fires. As before numbers are small and prone to fluctuation.

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

Most injuries occurred in accidental fires (84% of those in all fires in 2022-23) and so the overall trend in injuries occurring in such fires is very similar to the trend across all fires.

In 2022-23 North Wales had the highest rate with 5 casualties in accidental fires per 100,000 population. Mid and West Wales and South Wales had the same rate, 3 casualties per 100,000.

Figure 8: Deaths and injuries arising from accidental fires per 100,000 population
[Note 1]



Description of Figure 8: The line chart shows deaths and casualty rates per 100,000 population from accidental fires from 2006-07. The chart shows how volatile the figures can be with North Wales having the most variation.

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

[Note 1] Time series prior to 2015-16 derived from data provided for previous PIs.

3. Effective response

The third indicator (FRS/EFR/S/003) has only one measure and relates to containment of fires.

The percentage of dwelling fires which were contained in the room in which they originated.

The Performance Indicator is intended to provide an indication of the success of FRA intervention in terms of both community fire safety messages being understood and implemented by members of the public and the timely and effective response of FRAs to emergency calls.

2015-16 was the first year these data were collected; no similar analysis had previously been published.

Table 7: Dwelling fires which were contained in the room of origin [Note 1][Note 2]

	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
Numbers of fires contained				
2018-19	313	489	528	1,330
2019-20	339	420	629	1,388
2020-21	339	389	546	1,274
2021-22	375	405	558	1,338
2022-23	330	393	587	1,310
Percentage contained				
2018-19	87	89	83	86
2019-20	89	85	84	86
2020-21	88	87	82	85
2021-22	88	82	84	84
2022-23	87	87	83	85

Description of Table 7: The table shows the number of fires contained within the room of origin, and the percentage of dwelling fires which were contained. For the year 2022-23, in 85% of dwelling fires the fire was contained to the room of origin, similar to earlier years.

Source: Annual performance indicator returns

[Note 1] Dwelling means a property which is a permanent place of residence. As well as conventional dwellings, it includes static caravans, prefabricated dwellings and houseboats. It does not include temporary or mobile structures such as tents, marquees, sheds, outhouses, vehicles (including recreational vehicles containing sleeping accommodation) and mobile caravans.

[Note 2] Includes 'Heat and Smoke damage only' incidents and those fires where the damage was restricted to the first item ignited, the room of origin, the roof space only or the external roof only.

North Wales and Mid and West Wales had the highest percentage of dwelling fires restricted to the room of origin at 87%. South Wales had the lowest percentage (83%) of dwelling fires which were contained within the room of origin. Only South Wales saw an increase in the number of dwelling fires contained within the room of origin when compared with 2021-22 though this did not lead to an increase in the percentage which were contained.

Glossary

- **Accidental fires** are defined as fires where the fire was ignited by accident or the cause of the fire is not known or specified.
- **Deliberate fires** are defined as fires where the fire was ignited deliberately or if it is suspected or recorded as 'doubtful' by the Fire and Rescue Services.
- **Injuries** include those injured as a direct result of the fire, but not fatally injured, who required more medical treatment than could be given at the fire ground. This excludes those who are only sent to hospital for a precautionary check up, those only told to seek medical advice or those only receiving first aid at the scene.
- **Dwellings** are defined as buildings occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions. From 1988, mobile homes have been specifically included in the dwelling count. In 2000, the definition of a dwelling was widened to include any non-permanent structures used solely as a dwelling, such as houseboats.
- **False Alarms** are events in which the Fire and Rescue Authority was called to a reported fire which turned out not to exist. False alarms are categorised as follows:
 - **Malicious False Alarms** means calls that were made with the intent of getting the Fire and Rescue Service to attend a non-existent event (both fire and special service). Includes deliberate and suspected malicious intentions.
 - **Good Intent False Alarms** are calls made in good faith in the belief that the FRA really would attend a fire.
 - **False Alarms Due to Apparatus** are calls initiated by fire alarm and fire-fighting equipment operating (including accidental initiation of alarm apparatus by persons).
- **Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)**: where a mechanically propelled vehicle (eg a car, lorry or motorbike) on a public road or other public place causes damage to someone else's property or vehicle, or any other person or animal is injured.
- **Room of origin** means the place where the fire started and refers to any space within the property which is defined and enclosed by the structure of the property. It includes stairwells, roof voids, attics, basements and cellars, but not chimneys, flues, ducts or built-in storage furniture (eg airing cupboards and fitted wardrobes). Where a wall or door has been removed by the owner or occupier to create a larger space, the whole of that space counts as one room. Structures such as garages, workshops and conservatories which are part of, or attached to, the premises and accessible from the interior of it are also rooms for the purposes of this indicator. A roof is not a room. However, a fire which originates on the external roof of a dwelling, but is extinguished without spreading to the roof void, or to another room as defined above, is deemed to have been contained in the room of origin for the purposes of this indicator.
- **Primary fires** include all fires in non-derelict buildings, vehicles or outdoor structures, or any fire involving casualties, or rescues, or fires attended by five or more appliances.

- **Secondary fires** are mainly outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, or unless five or more appliances attend. They include fires in single derelict buildings and vehicles. They are reported in less detail than other fires and consequently less information concerning them is available.
- **Special Service Incidents** are non-fire incidents which require the attendance of an appliance or officer and are split into the following highest level categories:
 - Road Traffic Collisions (RTC)
 - Other transport incidents
 - Flooding
 - Rescue or evacuation from water
 - Other rescue/release of persons
 - Animal assistance incidents
 - Hazardous Materials incident
 - Spills and Leaks (not RTC)
 - Lift Release
 - Effecting entry/exit
 - Removal of objects from people
 - Suicide/attempts
 - Medical Incident - Co-responder/First responder
 - Evacuation (no fire)
 - Water provision
 - Assist other agencies Incident

Where more than one activity is carried out, the incident is recorded under the most resource intensive part or what was the most appropriate e.g. a railway incident with persons trapped is likely to be recorded under 'railway accident' even though the FRA may be involved in 'first aid', 'other rescue' and possibly 'making safe'.

Key quality information

The analysis in this bulletin relates to fire and rescue service incidents between April 2022 and end March 2023 whilst making comparisons with April 2021 to March 2022 a period to some extent effected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Whilst public health restrictions were eased during the 2021-22 there were some periods during the year when restrictions remained in place and patterns of behaviour may not have returned to that occurring prior to the pandemic.

On 10 November 2004 the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, which devolved fire and rescue services to the National Assembly for Wales (now the responsibility of the Welsh Government), was brought into effect. In Wales, these services are provided by three Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). The three FRAs cover varied geographical areas with a wide variety of risks including: fires in homes; outdoor fires; fires in business premises; road traffic collisions; rail or air crashes; chemical spills; building collapses; and trapped people or animals.

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority provides cover for a population of almost 690,000 across a geographical area of 2,400 square miles. It employs around 900 operational and non-operational support staff from its headquarters and its 44 fire stations.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority covers over half the area of Wales and a population of over 900,000. There are 58 fire stations and over 1,300 employees.

South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority serves a population of over 1.5 million people covering 1,085 square miles. It employs around 1,700 staff including over 1,300 fire-fighters who operate from 47 fire stations throughout South Wales.

Relevance

Fire statistics produced by the Welsh Government are used widely in measuring a number of targets and key performance indicators and in making policy decisions. Fire and rescue services use the data to monitor and benchmark performance and to make strategic decisions. Other interest and uses of this data are outlined in the 'Users and Uses' section of the [Quality Report](#).

We regularly review our data collections and outputs to ensure that they are relevant, collect reliable data and meet user needs. We also consult our users on a number of fire data collections issues. This is part of an ongoing exercise covering all fire statistics in order to better understand user requirements and priorities for the future.

The timing of outputs is discussed with internal users on an annual basis. Regular meetings with users allow us to discuss content, format and timing of outputs. We use networks such as the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) Wales groups, plus specific fire networks to reach other users.

We encourage feedback on all our outputs and data collections.

Accuracy

At the time of publication, the rates in this release will be based on the most recently published population data for the relevant years. In time, some of these rates may become out of date. As these changes have only a very minor effect on the results, this release will not be revised, and the latest data will be reflected only in the rates shown on our StatsWales website, and, if relevant, in future versions of this release. Similarly previous first releases in this series have not been updated to reflect changes to population and the data within those publications may differ from the figures for earlier years included in this release.

This release uses the rebased mid-year estimates for 2012 to 2021 which were updated to align with Census 2021 results.

Population data used as Performance Indicator denominators are provided to data providers as part of the data collection process. Data providers input all numerator data including fire related data from IRS.

The Welsh Government with agreement from data providers will impute data if validation errors cannot be resolved. Any such occurrences will be highlighted in the 'quality information' section of the first release. Since data collections have been undertaken by the Welsh Government, no imputation of data has been necessary.

Revised data are marked with an [r] in the statistical release.

We follow the Welsh Government's statistical [revisions policy](#).

Timeliness and punctuality

All outputs adhere to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics by pre-announcing the date of publication. Furthermore, should the need arise to postpone an output, this would follow the Welsh Government's Revisions, Errors and Postponements arrangements.

The timetable for outputs is generally developed in line with user needs and aims to ensure that outputs are published as soon as the statistics are ready.

Accessibility and clarity

Welsh fire statistics are published in an accessible, orderly, pre-announced manner on the Welsh Government website at 9:30am on the day of publication. All releases are available to download for free.

In our outputs, we aim to provide a balance of commentary, summary tables, charts and maps. The aim is to 'tell the story' in the output, without the output becoming overly long and complicated. We provide additional, detailed data on [StatsWales](#).

We aim to make our outputs clear for the audience and all outputs adhere to the Welsh Government accessibility policy. Furthermore, all our headlines are published in Welsh and English.

[Forms and guidance](#) used to collect data are available for download from the Statistics and Research page on the Welsh Government website.

Further information regarding the statistics can be obtained by contacting the relevant staff detailed on the release or via stats.inclusion@gov.wales

Comparability and coherence

Since 2009-10 the three Fire and Rescue Services have recorded all their fire incidents using the Incident Recording System (IRS). This may affect some of the performance indicators especially when data are compared with years prior to 2009-10. Between 2005-06 and 2008-09 the data were collected by the Local Government Data Unit Wales (Data Unit) on behalf of the then Welsh Assembly Government. Prior to the 2005-06 collection, data were collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG).

Data are taken from the Incident Recording System (IRS) by the Fire and Rescue Authorities. Whilst the data are accurate at the time of extraction, numbers may subsequently change as IRS is an administrative database which is updated throughout the year. Consequently, the data published here may not match numbers appearing in other publications. Data from IRS will not be revised in subsequent editions of this release unless an error in the previously published figures has been detected (i.e. data in this publication is not marked as provisional).

The non-fatal casualties recorded within the second indicator FRS/RRC/S/002 exclude those casualties which were recorded as 'not fire related'. However, these casualties are included in the Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics series of bulletins, data published by the Home Office for England and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for Scotland data publications.

False alarms quoted in this bulletin include those related to Special Service Incidents (SSIs). The statistics published in the Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics series of bulletins excludes false alarms related to SSIs includes them with SSIs rather than false alarms.

The [Fire Statistics Quality Report](#) covers the general principles and processes leading up to the production of our fire statistics. The report covers various topics including definitions, coverage, timeliness, relevance and comparability.

Impact of COVID-19

It is likely that attendances by the Fire and Rescue Services and occurrences of some types of incidents in the years 2020-21 and 2021-22 will have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health restrictions that were in place during at this time.

Timelines³ published by the Senedd Research Centre note when these periods of lockdown came into being and when measures were eased.

Other UK data:

England: The Audit Commission collected Best Value Performance Indicators for England up until 2007-08. These were replaced with a smaller set of National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships. These included indicators on arson, primary fires, fatalities and casualties. These indicators are similar to Wales but have been developed separately so care should be taken in comparing the data. Performance indicator data are not collected

³ [Coronavirus timeline - Fifth Senedd](#)
[Coronavirus timeline – Sixth Senedd](#)

centrally in England however similar data is available in the Home Office's [Fire Statistics publications](#).

Scotland: The Scottish Fire and Rescue service publish an [Annual Performance Review](#).

Other [Scottish fire incident and organisational data](#) are available.

[Pre 2014-15 data](#)

Limited Northern Ireland data are available in an annual report from [Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service](#).

National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

The statistics last underwent a full [assessment](#) against the Code of Practice in June 2012.

Since the review by the UKSA, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Extended time series where possible
- Improved Key Quality information.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. The Act puts in place seven wellbeing goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the wellbeing goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before Senedd Cymru. Under section 10(8) of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, where the Welsh Ministers revise the

national indicators, they must as soon as reasonably practicable (a) publish the indicators as revised and (b) lay a copy of them before the Senedd. These national indicators were laid before the Senedd in 2021. The indicators laid on 14 December 2021 replace the set laid on 16 March 2016. Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

This document and previous editions are available on our [Fire and rescue authority performance webpage](#)

[Fire Statistics Data Quality Report](#)

[Incident Recording System Questions and Lists](#)

Next update

Fire and rescue authority performance 2023-24 - September 2024

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to stats.inclusion@gov.wales.

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