West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report Quarter 4 2022/23

Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Mark Andrews

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Strategic Performance Board Quarterly Report Quarter 4 2022-2023

The aim of the Quarterly Performance Report is to summarise how West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service/Directorate has performed over the previous three months, and to capture how performance contributes cumulatively to the year-end performance outcomes.

The report retrospectively presents information from the Performance and Assurance Framework (PAF) including the core measures and targets for the year which are current at the time of publishing. The report contains performance across the four elements of the PAF, namely Service Provision, Corporate health and where appropriate, Priority Programmes and Risk.

The explanations, mitigations and actions contained within this report are those endorsed by the Service Executive Board (SEB).

This report covers data from the period of 1st January 2023 – 31st March 2023.

Cabinet Member Summary



This quarter saw the continued delivery of the Leadership & Culture Programme that focusses on coaching skills and inclusive behaviours. The focus and priority given to leadership and culture continues to be relevant and timely in the light of the publication in March of the HMICFRS Spotlight Report on Values and culture in fire and rescue services.

We also saw the national firefighters pay dispute brought to a close with a revised pay offer that was accepted by the members of the Fire Brigades Union. Whilst this ended the potential for industrial action, officers are reviewing plans for loss of staff and assisting Home Office colleagues in wider plans for future minimum service levels.

Officers continue to focus on the areas where improvement still needs to be made and WSFRS continues to monitor performance through the Performance Assurance Framework (PAF), of which this Scrutiny committee is an integral part.

Chief Fire Officer Summary



Quarter 4 was a busy period for all teams across the service in ensuring the Local Risk Management Plans were completed. These plans underpin our offer to the public which targets resources against risk. A number of local events were delivered to ensure we met our annual targets for Safe and Well Visits, Fire Safety Audits and emergency response standards.

The Protection Team were also busy ensuring end of year targets were completed. The team managed to land our very first Primary Authority Scheme with Churchill Retirement Living. Primary Authority Schemes give businesses greater confidence and consistency to reduce the risk of contravening legislation, and this legal partnership will create a single point of contact for Churchill Retirement Living to get advice on fire safety matters to keep their residents safe from harm.

Operational crews saw a busy quarter, the most notable incident being the Angel Inn fire at Midhurst where 15 fire engines attended. This was a protracted incident, involving many of our partners across the county council and beyond where everyone played their part.

Finally, two new and important Fire Standards on leadership were launched in this quarter. These are professional standards that are set for each fire service to achieve and maintain continuous improvement across the fire sector and the team are busy ensuring all our activity and processes meet these expectations in readiness for future independent inspection.

Performance Summary

At the end of Quarter 4 2022-23 the following performance against the 29 core measures was recorded: 21 measures had a GREEN status, 6 were AMBER and 2 were RED.

Of the 7 comparable measures that were RED or AMBER last quarter:

- 4 measures showed an improvement in performance and 2 a decline
- 1 measure changed from RED to GREEN status and another from RED to AMBER status

Of the 14 comparable measures that were GREEN last quarter:

- 4 measures showed an improvement and 3 a decline
- 1 measure moved to AMBER status

Performance Summary for all core measures at the end of Quarter 4 (1 of 2):



Performance Summary for all core measures at the end of Quarter 4 (2 of 2):



Areas of Significant Improvement and Success

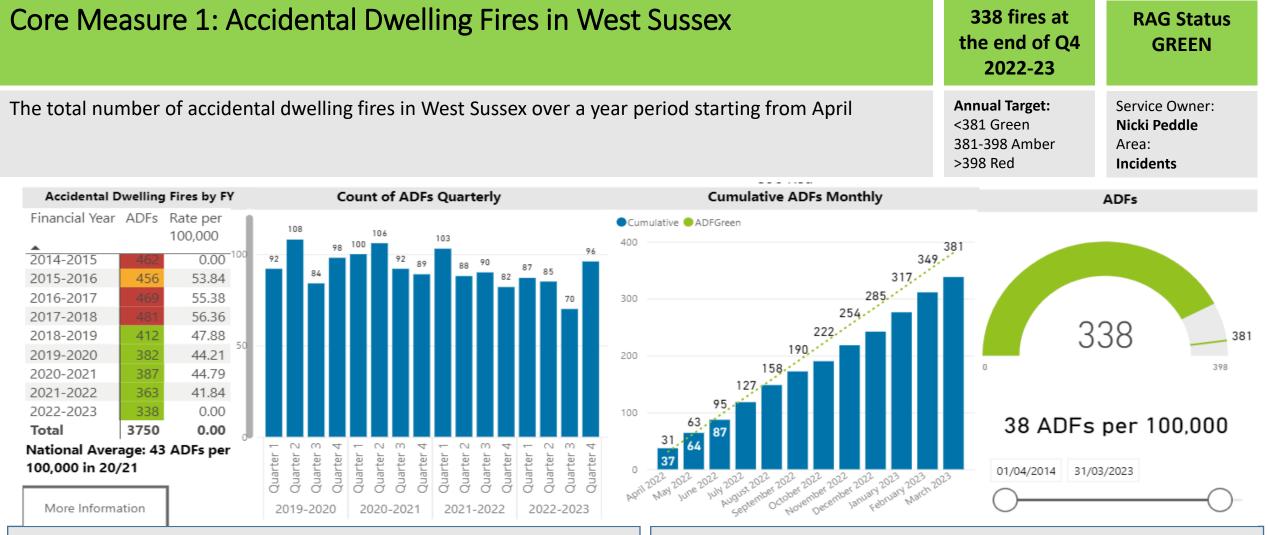
Quarter 4 (1st January – 31st March 2023)

Significant Improvement and Success

The Performance and Assurance Framework of which this report is a part of, has continued to demonstrate fire and rescue service performance and provide assurance to members and the public.

Quarter 4 saw sustained good performance in many areas, with the following measures showing particular success:

- CM 1: Accidental dwelling fires
- CM 4: Deliberate primary fires
- CM 5: Deliberate secondary fires
- CM 7: Safe and well visits delivered to households with at least one vulnerability
- CM 10: Number of FSO regulated buildings having received an audit over a year period
- CM 14: Number of unwanted fire signals attended
- CM 29: Health and safety risk assessments within date



Annually this measure reflects an ongoing downward trend, although the quarter 4 total is consistent with previous year's quarter 4 total. The main causes relate to cooking, electrical items and placing items too close to a heat source. These areas are key elements of our Safe and Well Visits. Quarter 4 total represents a figure of 38 ADFs per 100,000 population which is one the lowest for 5 years and is below the national average, which was 43 per 100,000 in 20/21.

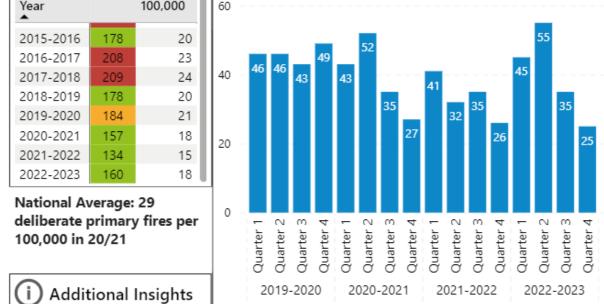
<u>Actions</u>

Treat: We will continue to deliver annual campaigns that are directed at the main causes of accidental fires in people's homes to raise awareness of the causes and provide preventative advice, specifically on cooking related fires. This activity will take place at a targeted local level through the delivery of the station's Local Risk Management action plan supported by the Prevention Team with the aim of driving this figure down further.

Core Measure 4: Deliberate Primary Fires in West Sussex over a year period starting from April

Primary fires involve property such as buildings and vehicles. This measure is the total number of primary fires where it has been identified that the fire was started deliberately, including through the criminal act of arson.

Deliberate Primary Fires - Quarterly



Commentary

Financial

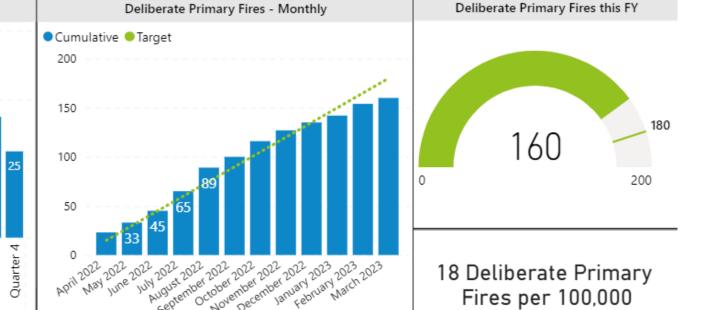
Rate per

100.000

60

Fires

With 25 deliberate fires, this is the lowest quarter 4 on record. It reflects an in depth review of each deliberate fire and how it has been recorded. For example an out of control bonfire has previously been incorrectly recorded as being deliberate in the way that we would record arson. Crawley and Worthing station grounds had the highest number, mostly in vehicles, dwellings and grassland, woodland and crops. The national annual average for deliberate primary fires in 20/21 was 29 per 100,000, our end of year figure is equivalent to 16 per 100,000.



160 at the end

of Q4 2022-23

Annual Target:

180 - 200 Amber

<180 Green

>200 Red

RAG Status

GREEN

Service Owner:

Nicki Peddle

Area:

Incidents

Actions

Treat: We will continue to scrutinise the data and address trends wherever they emerge. The most effective way to respond to arson is to work with local partners and to have a presence in areas where arson is taking place. We use social media and a variety of other comms channels to raise awareness of the implications of setting fires. This work is supplemented by the deliberate fire prevention toolkit for operational crews to use to support their local arson reduction work.

Core Measure 5: Deliberate Secondary Fires in West Sussex over a year period starting from April

Secondary fires are typically smaller fires, often occurring outdoors and involve items such as rubbish and grass. This measure is the total number of secondary fires where it has been identified that the fire was started deliberately, including through the criminal act of arson.



Commentary

There were 31 deliberate secondary fires in quarter 4, which is the lowest quarter 4 figure since 2019. Historically deliberate secondary fires are always at their lowest in the last 2 quarters of the year. Bognor, Worthing, Burgess Hill and Crawley have the highest proportion of deliberate secondary fires, the majority of which were grassland, woodland and roadside related. At the year end we have an average of 34 per 100, 000 population, the national annual average in 20/21 was 94 per 100,000.

Actions

Treat: The data is subject to ongoing monitoring and where trends are identified local plans to address it are being developed through the Local Risk Management Plans. The plans include working with local partners to identify those involved, raising awareness of the issues resulting from deliberate fires and providing a visible presence in the area.

299 at the end

of Q4 2022-23

Target:

<350 Green

351 - 375 Amber

RAG Status GREEN

Service Owner:

Nicki Peddle

Area:



In quarter 4 we carried out 1296 Safe and Well Visits and 659 home safety interventions. A total of 4680 Safe and Well Visits were delivered in 22/23, exceeding the target by 17%. In addition, we visited 2245 homes to carry out risk reduction activity such as installing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide sensors and supplying fire safety equipment. These are the highest number of visits completed since 2018.

Actions

Treat: We continue to support referrals and requests for Safe and Well Visits through our partnerships and through local initiatives promoting them. We use data to target those who are most at risk of being injured or dying in a fire. We now offer regular fire risk awareness webinars to staff in the health, housing and social care sector and are working on direct pathways for customers with high fire risk, such as with Public Health and Wellbeing Hubs for housebound smokers to support smoking cessation.

Core Measure 10: Number of FSO regulated buildings having received an audit over a year period starting from April	1004 at the end of Q4 2022-23	RAG Status GREEN
There are approximately 35,000 Fire Safety Order (FSO) regulated buildings in West Sussex. This measure examines the total number of audits of these buildings undertaken in a year starting in April under the Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP). The RBIP is a combination of the activities on specific risk premises, thematic risks and IRMP work and at the core of the RBIP is a regular inspection programme for known sleeping risks.	Target: 1750 Green 1400 - 1749 Amber <1400 red	Service Owner: Dave Bray Area: Protection
	Fire Cofety Audite VTD to	and of Last Quarter

			-		
Financial Year	Audits	Fire Safety Checks	Audits per 100 premises	Audits (cumulative)	Fire Safety Audits - YTD to end of Last Quarter
<u> </u>				Audit Job Categ RBIP Audit Thematic Audit Audit Target	
Q2	241		0.7		
Q3	181		0.5	1000 1,000 916	
Q4	178	182	0.5	833 753 792	
□ 2022/23				666 667	
Q1	210	23	0.6	583 585 585	
Q2	236	182	0.7	500 416 441 441 500 500 500 500 500 500 500 500 500 50	100/
Q3	277	99	0.8	250 264 264	1004
Q4	282	220	0.8	83 162 209 128 137 147 189 212	
National Average	e: 1.7 Au	dits per 100 premises	in 20/21 Last Refresh Date	April May June July August Cooper November January March	0 1000
More Informat	ion		12/05/2023	h septer Or Nover Decer 18, tep. "	
L			. 2, 00, 2020		

Quarter 4 audit output has been the highest attained in any of the previous 8 quarters. This has enabled the protection department to meet the target of 1000 fire safety audits in regulated premises for the year.

Actions

Tolerate: A significant number of the team have commenced the necessary training courses to bring them in line with the requirements of the Fire Standard and the National Competency Framework during quarter 4, and this will ultimately assist in ensuring that our regulatory work in the future is effective.



(I)Additional Information

2021-2022

2022-2023

1603

1305

As a result of the changes that we made to our attendance at Unwanted Fire Signals (UwFS) on December 1st 2022 as part of our CRMP strategic objectives, our annual performance is on target. We have, for quarter 4, attended only 117 UwFS, equating to 43 in Jan, 34 in Feb, and 40 in March. This is a reduction against quarter 4 of last year. Such has been the impact of the call challenge policy, that quarter 4 accounts for only 9% of the total of all UwFS attended for the entire year.

Quarter Quarter Quarter Quarter

2019-2020

Quarter

Quarter

Quarter

2020-202

Quarter Quarter Quarter

2021-2022

Quarter

Quarter

2018-2019

Quarter

Actions

500

Quarter

2022-2023

Quarter

Quarter

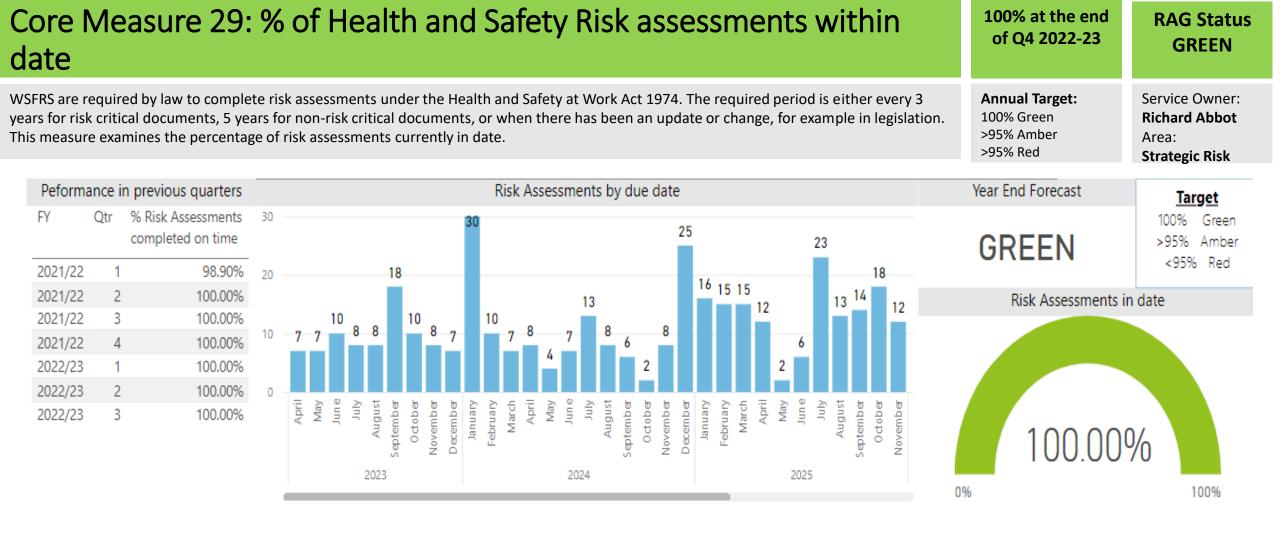
Tolerate: We will continue to monitor this measure to ensure that Joint Fire Control continues to operate the call challenge and non-attendance procedure correctly.

February 2023 March 2023

Pecember 2022

Date

01/01/2012 31/03/2023



All WSFRS Health and Safety risk assessments that required review were completed and reviewed within the legislated timelines. Strict management and monitoring of all risk assessments is maintained by the WSFRS Health and Safety team who work closely with other managers to ensure compliance and provide specialist support where required.

<u>Actions</u>

Tolerate: An ongoing review programme is established to ensure that all risk assessments are reviewed and recorded within the legislated timelines.

Selected Measures (Red and Amber Status)

Quarter 4 (1st January – 31st March 2023)

Selected Measures (Red and Amber Status)

The following red and amber measures have been selected for examination by the Scrutiny Committee:

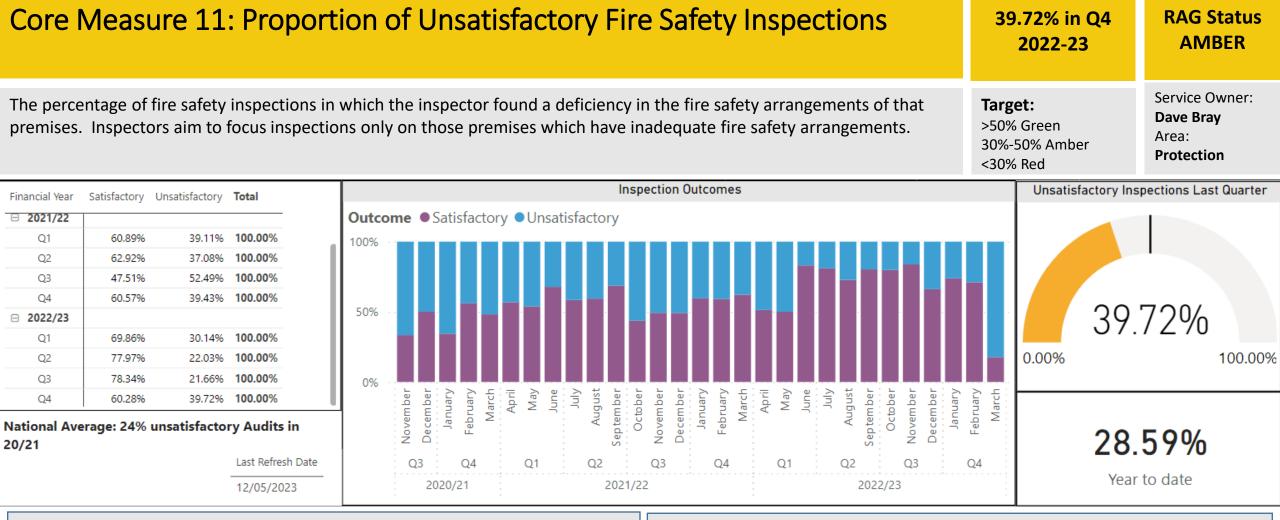
- CM 9: High risk safe and well visit referrals contacted within 7 working days
- CM 11: Unsatisfactory audits
- CM 17: Time to alert
- CM 23: Retained duty system crewing availability
- CM 26 : Eligible Staff with a successful fitness test
- CM 27: Eligibly operational staff in qualification



In quarter 4 there were 715 customers who were assessed as having a high level of fire risk, and all but 1 were contacted within 7 days and offered a visit. In 22/23, 99.87% of customers were contacted within 7 days. There were a small number that were delayed due to Covid absence in the team over Christmas and earlier in the year when there a training need was identified.

Actions

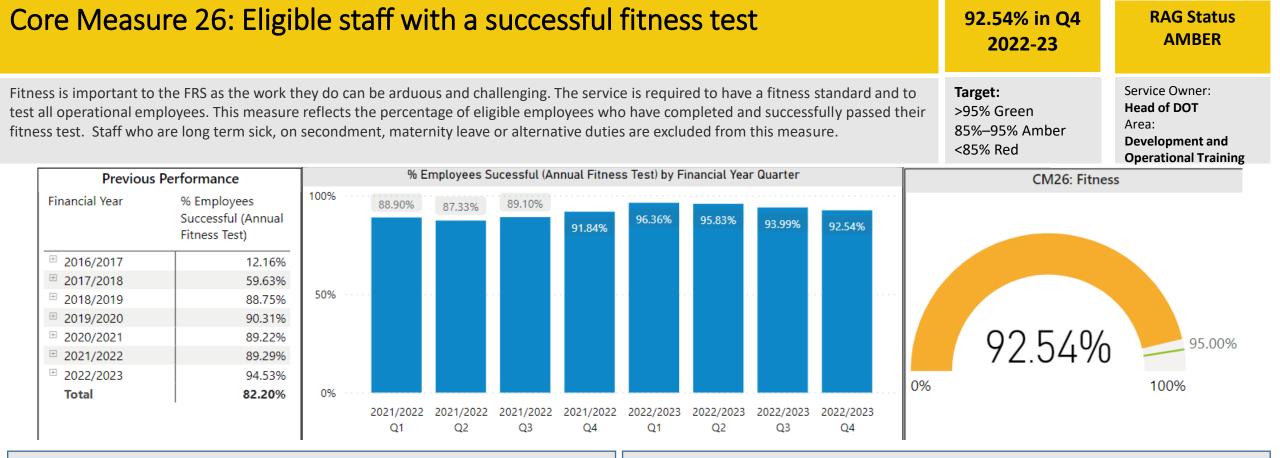
Treat: We will continue to monitor and use the additional measures now in place to monitor timelines.



Whilst we have achieved just under 29% for the year to date, the national average based on all FRSs across the last 5 years is 32%. The changes that we made to our recording systems during quarter 4 as to what constitutes an unsatisfactory audit meant that across quarter 4 we recorded 40%, whilst March recorded over 80%.

Actions

Treat: Whilst we have achieved just under 29% for the year to date, the national average based on all Fire & Rescue Services across the last five years is 32%. As part of our ongoing improvements, staff training and quality assurance processes, we identified some improvements we could make to recording audit outcomes and as a result changed our recording systems during quarter four as to what constitutes an unsatisfactory audit. This meant that during quarter 4 we recorded an average of 40%, whilst March recorded over 80% unsatisfactory. We will continue to monitor this and have further training sessions booked.



Q4 saw a 1.7% decline in performance with firefighters not meeting the annual target to complete their fitness test. As with previous quarters, continued reminders and involvement of managers within Service Delivery are in place to drive further completion of fitness tests. The support provided by the Personal Training Instructor on the Wholetime Firefighter recruits course has now completed, meaning more time can be allocated to focus on this measure in the coming quarter.

Actions

Treat: The new Culture & Development Manager starting 2/5/23 will provide greater levels of support for ensuring fitness tests are focused upon. The reporting system for this measure is also currently being improved upon, and more support provided to the Personal Training instructor in utilising this too. All managers will be reminded that the fitness test is annual and retests should occur inside this window. Reporting has been escalated to the ACFO for performance action for those failing to complete their test in time.



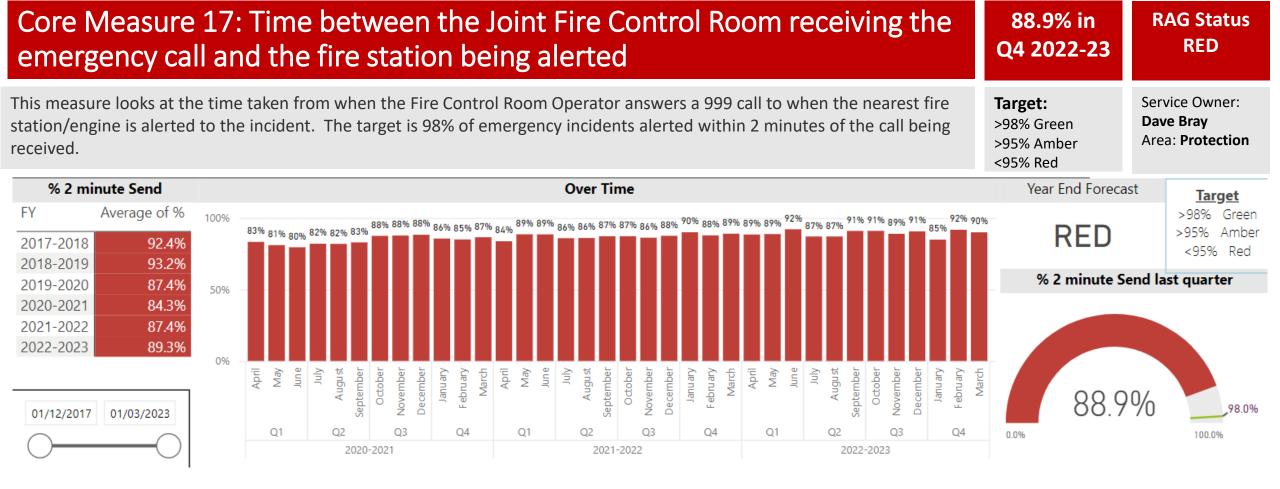
Performance data for the qualifications owned by central training continue to consistently perform in excess of 95%, at 98% for the last quarter. Performance data for Service Delivery based activities are not being recorded/planned as expected. Work and support continues with station management teams to address this (from both Operational Training & Service Delivery Support).

Data cleansing continues, with support to stations from the Operational Learning and Development team contacting stations to report non-eligible staff. A new process has been developed (using the GovService system) to allow stations to report data inaccuracies directly. Service Delivery Group Managers continue to prioritise those stations most in need of support to ensure they are updating Firewatch.

Actions

Treat: Service Delivery have now implemented a monthly training plan to provide a more strategic and consistent approach to training. They also continue to speak with specific Station Managers whose stations are under-performing to ensure compliance and have run a webinar on updating the Firewatch system.

Operational Training continue to provide support to station management teams regarding the recording of all practical qualification modules.



Within quarter 4, January recorded the lowest performance registered across the entire year, whereas February recorded the joint highest performance. Quarter 4 combined performance was better than quarter 2, but worse than quarters 1 and 3.

Actions

Treat: We are currently engaging across the 3F partnership and with JFC to ensure that this measure reflects the national guidance of a 2 minute target and a meeting is scheduled in April to further discuss this measure. With all services using the National Guidance, this core measure will better reflect the performance offered to the public, which can then be better benchmarked across the sector. JFC now have a dedicated Training Manager which will assist in the call handling training and QA, which in turn should decrease the time taken to answer and mobilise resources to the incident. This topic is currently being discussed within the JFC Governance Boards, with the aim reducing the time taken from call start to mobilising assets to the incident.

Core Measure 23: Adequate crewing on all Retained Frontline Pumping	53% in Q4	RAG Status
Appliances (based on 24/7 crewing)	2022-23	RED
Retained frontline fire engines are crewed mainly by on-call fire fighters who are based at stations in more rural locations and, when they receive the call via their pagers, leave their place of work or home and attend emergencies from the local retained station. Four qualified people are required on a frontline fire engine to ensure safety. This measure examines the percentage of hours where there are sufficient minimum qualified fire fighters (4 personnel) on retained fire engines.	Target: >75% Green 65% - 75% Amber <65% Red	Service Owner: Gary Ball Area: Response

Retained Fire Engines On The Run by Quarter (including current quarter to date)

60.5%

47.89

2021/2022 03

2021/2022 02

2021/2022 04

2022/2023 01

Commentary

Financial Year Total

56.9%

67.1%

51.7%

48.6%

2019/2020

2020/2021

2021/2022

2022/2023

More

Information

We have seen a 5.6% increase in this measure as we have continued to maximise the use of our Wholetime firefighters who are on duty at fire stations over our minimum crewing number to supplement our RDS stations. Our dedicated Station Managers and re-aligned Service Delivery structure is providing further leadership support and has also started to show benefits.

2019/2020 02

2019/2020 03

80%

60%

40%

20%

0%

2019/2020 01

Actions

2020/2021 04

2020/2021 03

2021/2022 01

58.69

56.2%

2019/2020 04

2020/2021 01

2020/2021 02

53.1%

Treat: Social economic changes impacting on the viability of the Retained Duty System is a national issue. Work also continues at a local level to ensure that we maximise availability wherever possible utilising all other available resource. A more strategic approach is also being taken in our four-year Community Risk Management Plan which includes developing and implementing an operational response model to maximise retained availability in geographical areas aligned to community risk. The planning of this work is now underway with a staff survey and a number of initiated focus groups with our Retained staff.

2022/2023 03

47.4%

2022/2023 04

45.4%

48.89

2022/2023 02

Fire Engines On the Run

Date Range

01/04/2019

53 0%

Financial Year to Date

48.6%

31/03/2023