



East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Benchmarking Report 2016/17

Background

This document aims to provide benchmarking information for East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (ESFRS) against its other Family Group 2 (FG2) members. The UK's Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) are divided into five family groups, these groups are used to aid analysis and comparisons between similar FRS. ESFRS is grouped together with other similar sized FRS, which are deemed to have some, but by no means all of the same key characteristics.

The twelve FRS that make up FG2 are:

Bedfordshire
Royal Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Cambridgeshire
Dorset & Wiltshire
Durham
East Sussex
Norfolk
Northamptonshire
Oxfordshire
Suffolk
West Sussex.

Previously FG2 reported on thirteen members, but this has now reduced to twelve since Dorset & Wiltshire have now combined as one service and their statistics are now reported as one.

This benchmarking report focuses on the following areas:

- Employee comparisons from the 'Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics: England, April 2016 to March 2017'
- Station and appliance comparisons from the 'CIPFA annual statistics for 2016-17'
- Health and Safety comparisons from the 'Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics: England, April 2016 to March 2017'
- Incident comparisons from the 'Fire Statistic Monitor: England April 2016 to March 2017' and the 'Fire Incident Response Times: England, for 2016-17'
- Sickness comparisons for the FG2 from the 'National Fire & Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2016 – March 2017'

On the 1st April 2016 the Home Office took over responsibility for the FRS. ESFRS previously submitted a number of datasets throughout the year to Local Government and Communities (DCLG). These submissions are now being returned to the Home Office.

Datasets include ESFRS's incident data captured within the Electronic Incident Recording System (E-IRS), the Operational Statistics data collection returns, Fires of Special Interest (FOSI) and Fires on Crown premises. These are collated, verified and released into the public domain at different intervals by the Home Office.

The most current Home Office datasets were released in January 2018. The figures in this report are based on the latest published figures, the regional demographic information. Appliance and Station numbers are based on data released by CIPFA (annual statistics for 2016-17) and the Employee and Health & Safety comparisons are based on 2016/17 Operational Statistics data collection returns. These returns reflect the positions within each organisation as of 31 March 2017. Sickness data is provided directly from Fire and Rescue Services in the 'National Fire and Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2016 – March 2017'. This report is prepared by Cleveland Fire Brigade.

The Home Office collate the Annual Operational Statistics data collection returns and produce Fire and Rescue Service Operational Statistics Bulletins (Fire prevention and protection statistics: England, April 2016 to March 2017). These contain data from each UK FRS on:

- Fire Prevention and Community Fire Safety Activities
- Fire Safety Audits, Enforcement, Prohibition and Compliance Notices, and Prosecutions

The Home Office collate the Annual Operational Statistics data collection returns and produce Fire and Rescue Service Operational Statistics Bulletins (Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics: England, April 2016 to March 2017). These contain data from each UK FRS on:

- Staff strength by rank and contract
- Health and Safety – Injuries during operational incidents and training
- Vehicle Incidents and Accidents

All the Operational Statistics Bulletin datasets are in the public domain and can be accessed via the GOV.UK website or using this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-statistics-great-britain>

The Home Office also collect and collate the E-IRS data sets and produce the 'Detailed analysis of fires attended by fire and rescue services, England, April 2016 to March 2017' and the 'Response times to fires attended by fire and rescue services: England, April 2016 to March 2017'.

These contain data from each UK FRS on:

- Incident types
- Attendance times
- Fatalities and casualties

All Fire Statistics and Incident Response Times datasets are in the public domain and can be accessed via the GOV.UK website by using these links:<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables>

Population and Geographic details

In order to create meaningful comparators across the Family Group 2 (FG2) the performance indicators are often expressed as a rate or ratio against a standard demographic or geographic value.

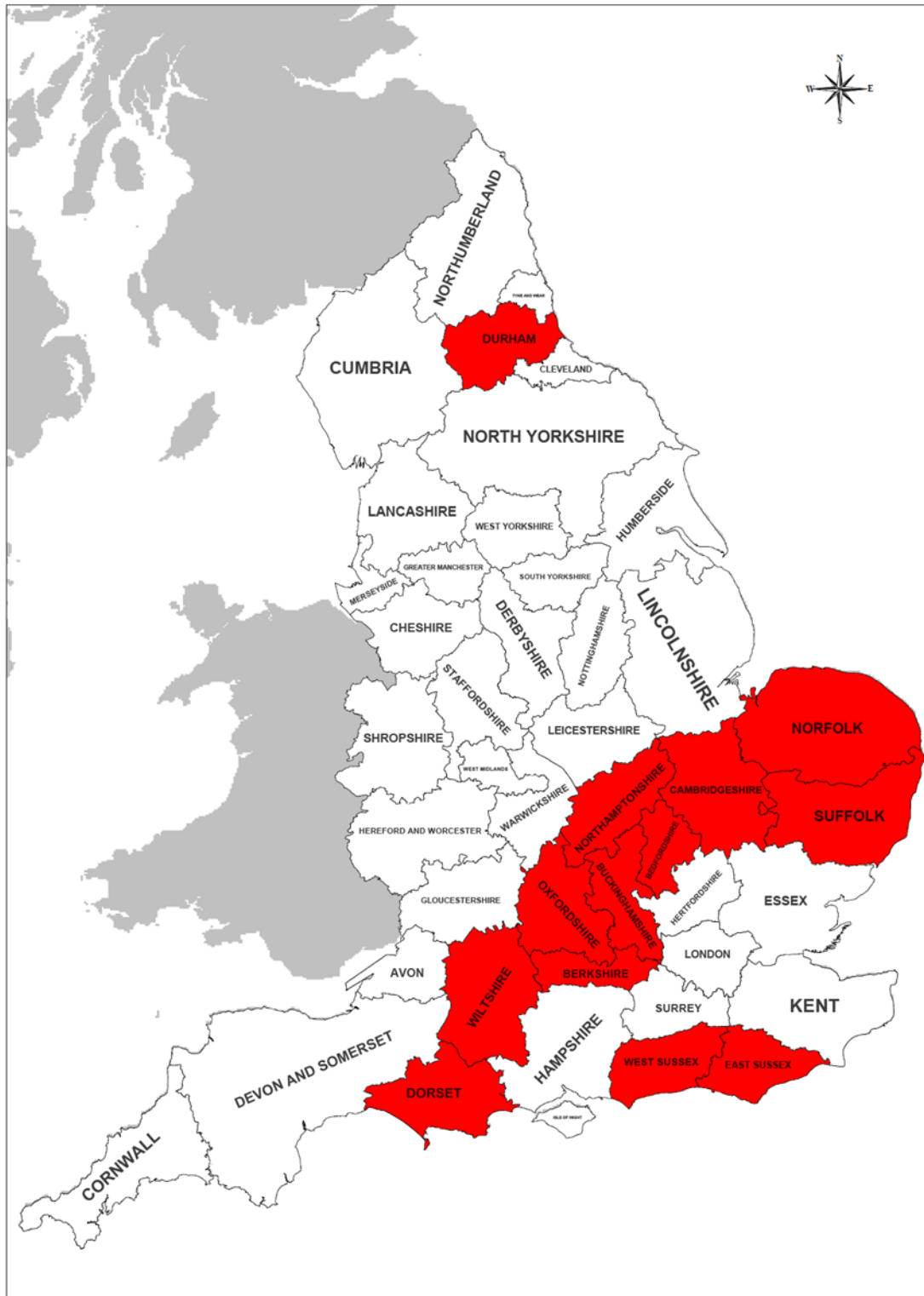
Table 1 sets out these main comparators and shows that East Sussex shares a similar population profile to that of Cambridgeshire and West Sussex. However, the area ESFRS covers is the third smallest, yet ESFRS has the third highest number of Wholetime (WT) firefighters and the third highest number of combined WT and Retained Duty Systems (RDS) Full time equivalent (FTE) firefighters overall.

ESFRS also has the fourth highest numbers of Domestic and Non-domestic properties in the group.

	Bedfordshire	Berkshire	Buckinghamshire	Cambridgeshire	Dorset & Wiltshire	Durham	East Sussex	Norfolk	Northamptonshire	Oxfordshire	Suffolk	West Sussex
Population	664,500	896,800	799,200	849,000	1,478,200	627,700	837,000	892,900	733,100	683,200	745,300	843,800
Domestic Properties (Dwellings)	262,762	361,079	321,723	349,772	647,231	285,135	366,948	405,511	309,997	273,064	327,577	369,055
Non-domestic Properties	17,891	23,699	22,206	24,733	50,866	18,628	28,909	34,948	20,984	18,541	28,920	26,632
Wholetime (Full Time Equivalent)	270	380	252	256	418	306	352	263	249	233	201	325
RDS (Full Time Equivalent)	117	44	116	146	489	141	209	454	159	215	438	211
Total	387	424	368	402	907	447	561	717	408	448	639	536
Area Sq Km	1,235	1,262	1,874	3,390	6,138	2,423	1,791	5,380	2,364	2,605	3,801	1,991

Table 1: Sources: i) CIPFA Fire and Rescue Service Statistics 2017 Summary ii) Fire statistics data tables 1102a:Total Staff Numbers (FTE) by role and fire and rescue authority – Wholetime Firefighters & 1102b Total Staff Numbers (FTE) by role and fire and rescue authority – Retained Duty System

Locations of the Family Group 2 Fire and Rescue Services



 FAMILY GROUP TWO

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Employee comparisons

ESFRS management structures overall numbers are comparable to Oxfordshire FRS. ESFRS reports the third highest numbers of operational staff in FG2.

The figures in Table 2 represent the 'Strength' of each FRS. This is the actual number of operational posts filled as per contract during the reporting period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. They do not include any temporary posts or posts that are fully funded by outside agencies. For example, persons seconded to DCLG, the Home Office, Fire Service College or charitable organisations. Posts such as these are not included in FRS Strength figures. However, it will reflect temporary promotions within the organisation.

ESFRS shows the second highest decrease in Wholetime (WT) operational staff against the numbers stated in the 2015/16 Benchmarking report. The 8% reduction equates to 30 WT posts. The average ratio of firefighters to Senior Managers in FG2 is 20, so ESFRS is above this with 24; this is the third highest ratio.

Fire & Rescue Service	Brigade Manager	Area Manager	Group Manager	Station Manager	Watch Manager	Crew Manager	Firefighter	Total	% change from previous year	Ratio of Firefighters to Senior Manager*
Bedfordshire	2	5	10	12	37	44	160	270	0.0%	15 to 1
Berkshire	4	4	8	23	53	71	217	380	-1.3%	23 to 1
Buckinghamshire	2	4	7	20	35	43	141	252	-2.7%	18 to 1
Cambridgeshire	2	3	8	26	48	24	145	256	8.0%	19 to 1
Dorset & Wiltshire	4	5	12	38	68	64	227	418	-0.7%	19 to 1
Durham	2	4	6	26	44	49	175	306	-2.5%	25 to 1
East Sussex	3	2	9	22	44	68	204	352	-8.0%	24 to 1
Norfolk	2	3	7	24	44	35	148	263	-0.4%	21 to 1
Northamptonshire	2	4	8	18	50	31	136	249	-9.5%	17 to 1
Oxfordshire	3	3	7	27	43	36	114	233	1.7%	17 to 1
Suffolk	2	3	7	19	38	28	104	201	-4.3%	16 to 1
West Sussex	2	3	6	22	52	55	185	325	3.5%	29 to 1

*Senior Manager includes Brigade Manager, Area Manager & Group Manager

Table 2 Source: Fire statistics data tables Table 1102a: Total Staff Numbers (FTE) by role and fire and rescue authority – Wholetime Firefighters

Fire & Rescue Service	Watch Manager	Crew Manager	Firefighter	Crew & Watch Manager total	No. of WT & DC stations	Average no. of watch & crew managers by DC & WT station	Rank
Bedfordshire	37	44	160	81	6	13.50	12
Berkshire	53	71	217	124	12	10.33	8
Buckinghamshire	35	43	141	78	10	7.80	1
Cambridgeshire	48	24	145	72	7	10.29	7
Dorset & Wiltshire	68	64	227	132	13	10.15	6
Durham	44	49	175	93	9	10.33	8
East Sussex	44	68	204	112	12	9.33	3
Norfolk	44	35	148	79	9	8.78	2
Northamptonshire	50	31	136	81	8	10.13	5
Oxfordshire	43	36	114	79	6	13.17	11
Suffolk	38	28	104	66	6	11.00	10
West Sussex	52	55	185	107	11	9.73	4

Table 3: Source - Fire statistics data tables Table 1102a: Total Staff Numbers (FTE) by role and fire and rescue authority – Wholetime Firefighters. Number of Stations: CIPFA Statistics 2016/17 Estimates and FRS Websites

Chart 1, below, shows the comparisons of WT firefighters across FG2.

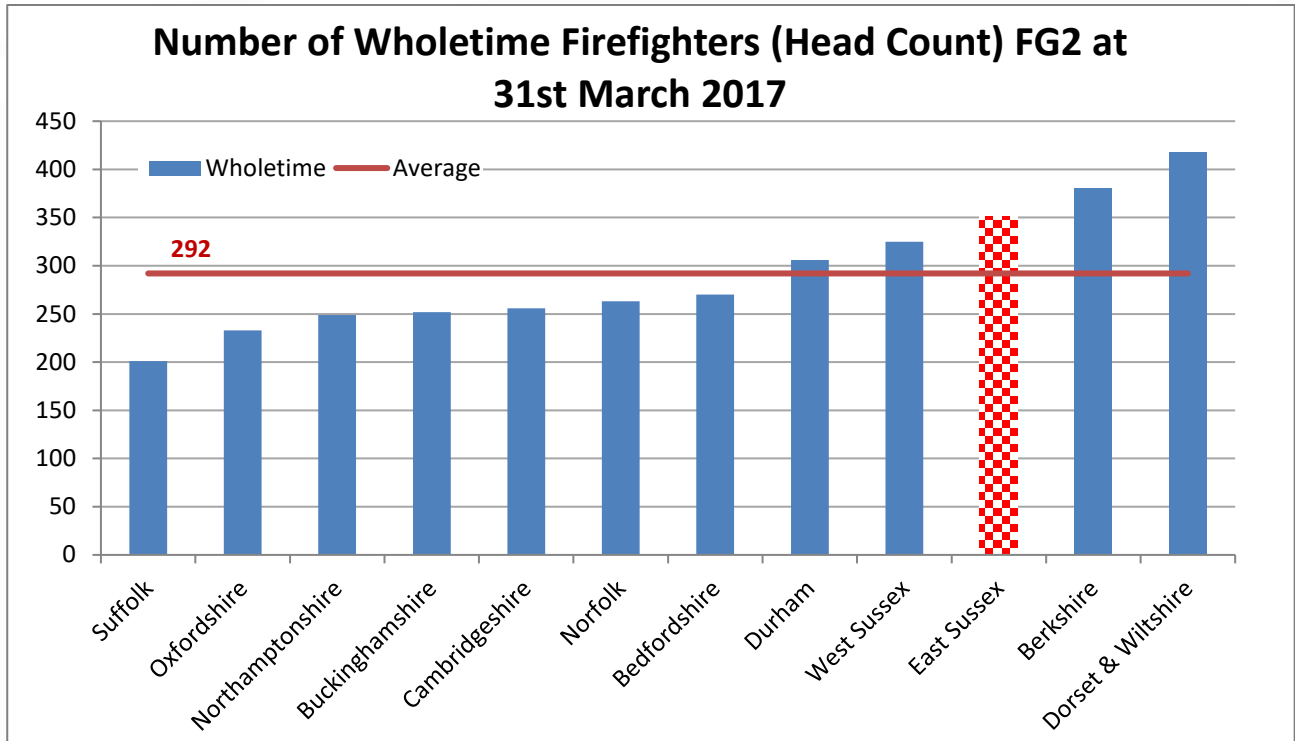


Chart 1 Number of WT Firefighters (Source: Fire statistics data tables 1102a: Total Staff Numbers (FTE) by role and fire and rescue authority – Wholetime Firefighters)

Chart 2 shows the comparisons of Retained Duty Systems (RDS) firefighters across FG2. The average number of RDS firefighters across the group is 228. The RDS staffing model is often dependent on a number of factors which include geographical location, the number of incidents in an area and the levels of risk within an area.

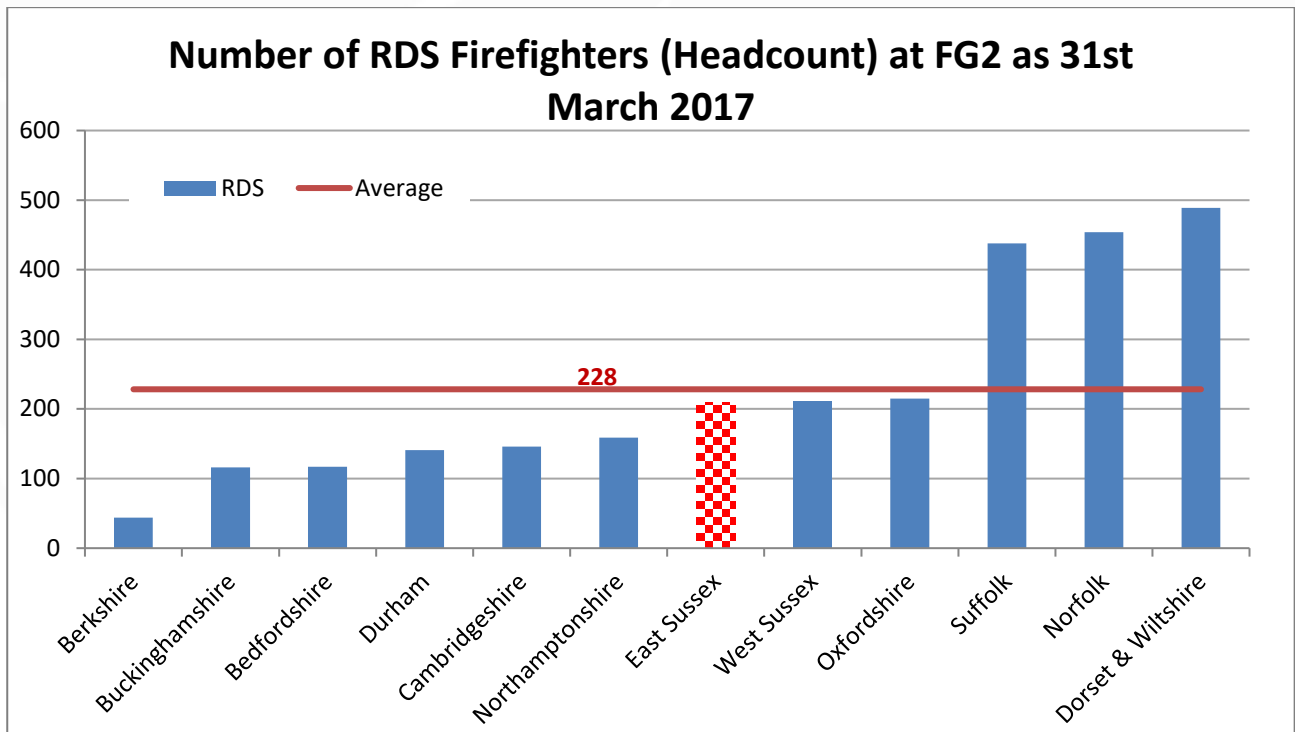


Chart 2 Number of RDS Firefighters (Source: Fire statistics data tables, 1102b Total Staff Numbers (FTE) by role and fire and rescue authority – Retained Duty System)

Stations and Appliances comparisons

Table 4 presents the number of pumping appliances per 100,000 population and area per pumping appliance (km²) for each member of FG2. ESFRS has a ratio of 5.50 pumping appliances per 100,000 population, this is just above the average for FG2 (the average is 4.56). The table also shows that ESFRS and Suffolk cover very similar sized areas and with a similar number of appliances.

Two FG2 members have a higher number of appliances per 100,000 population than ESFRS but East Sussex has the smallest area (km²) per pumping appliance compared to the other FG2 members.

Fire & Rescue Service	Pumping Appliances	Appliances per 100,000 population	Area per Pumping Appliance (km ²)	FRS Area (km ²)
Bedfordshire	26	3.91	47.5	1,235
Berkshire	20	2.23	63.1	1,262
Buckinghamshire	30	3.75	62.5	1,874
Cambridgeshire	36	4.24	94.2	3,390
Dorset & Wiltshire	88	5.95	69.8	6,138
Durham	29	4.62	83.6	2,423
East Sussex	46	5.50	38.9	1,791
Norfolk	53	5.94	101.5	5,380
Northamptonshire	26	3.55	90.9	2,364
Oxfordshire	34	4.98	76.6	2,605
Suffolk	42	5.64	90.5	3,801
West Sussex	37	4.38	53.8	1,991

Table 4: Number of pumping appliances (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2016/17 Actuals)

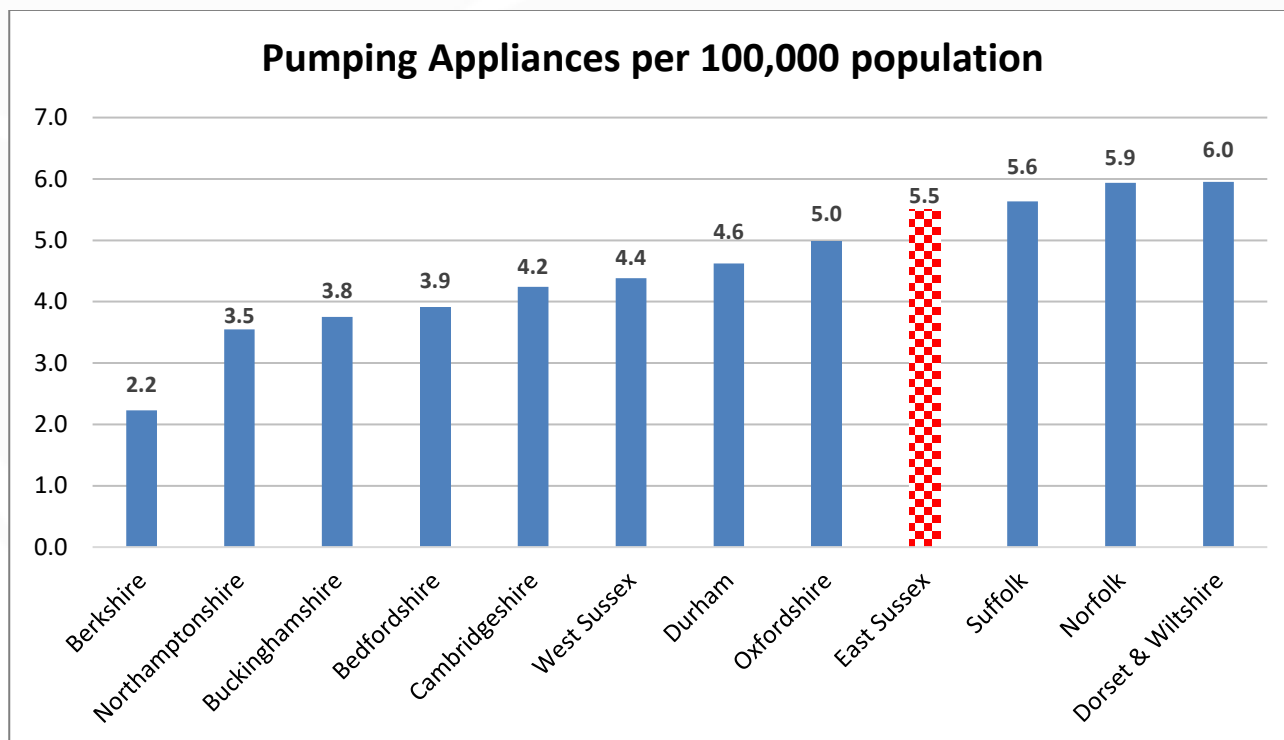


Chart 3: Pumping Appliances per 100,000 population (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2016/17 Actuals)

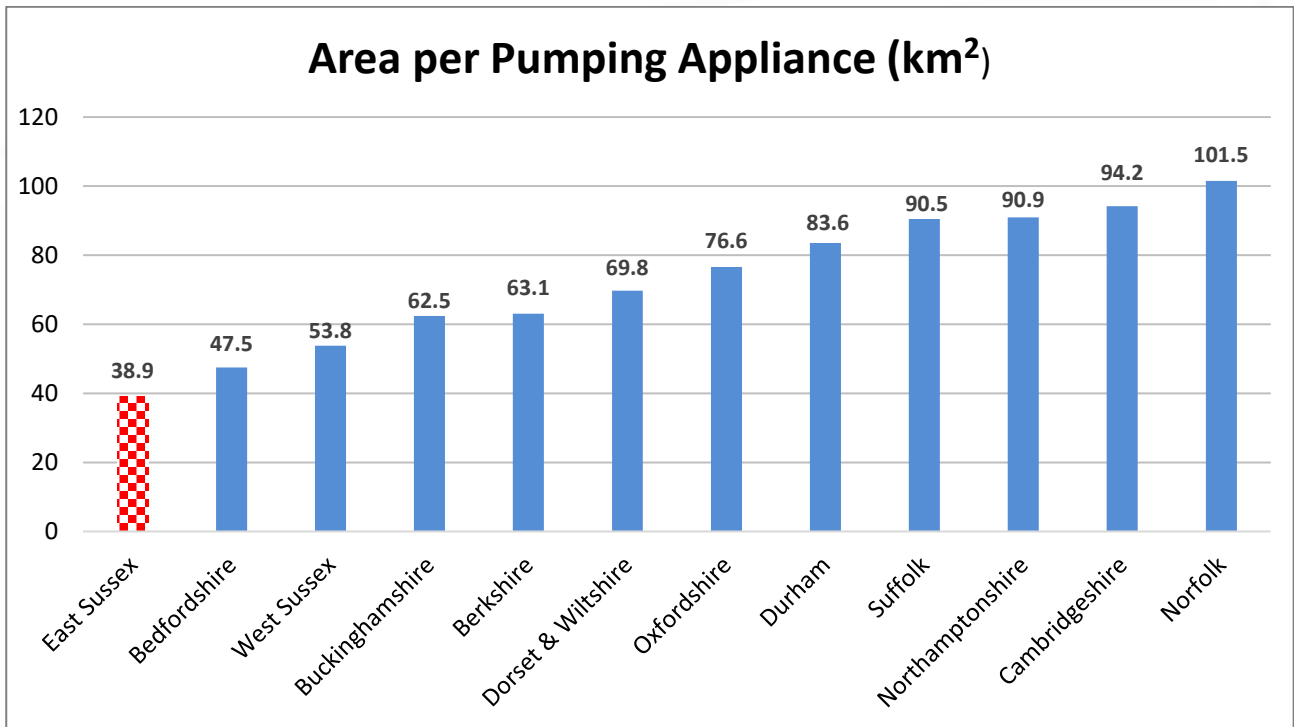


Chart 4: Square kilometers per appliance (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2016/17 Actuals)

Table 5 shows the number of stations per 100,000 population and the geographical area per station in km² for each FG2 FRS. It shows that ESFRS has 6 WT, 6 Day-crewed and 12 RDS stations. ESFRS has a ratio of 2.87 stations per 100,000 population, placing ESFRS 5th in FG2. Compared to other FG2 members, West Sussex is the closest fit to ESFRS.

Fire & Rescue Service	Wholetime Stations	Day crewed Stations	Retained Stations	Total Number of Fire Stations	Stations per 100,000 population	Area per Station (km ²)
Bedfordshire	3	3	8	14	2.11	88.24
Berkshire	11	1	6	18	2.01	70.11
Buckinghamshire	6	4	10	20	2.50	93.68
Cambridgeshire*	3	4	20	27	3.18	125.54
Dorset & Wiltshire	6	7	37	50	3.38	122.76
Durham	2	7	6	15	2.39	161.56
East Sussex	6	6	12	24	2.87	74.64
Norfolk	3	6	33	42	4.70	128.10
Northamptonshire	3	5	14	22	3.00	107.45
Oxfordshire	2	4	18	24	3.51	108.54
Suffolk**	4	2	29	35	4.70	108.60
West Sussex***	2	9	14	25	2.96	79.64

Table 5: Number of Stations (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2016/17 Actuals and FRS Websites)

*Cambridgeshire has 1 Volunteer Fire Station

** Suffolk has 1 Nucleus Fire Station

*** West Sussex also share an additional station with Surrey FRS

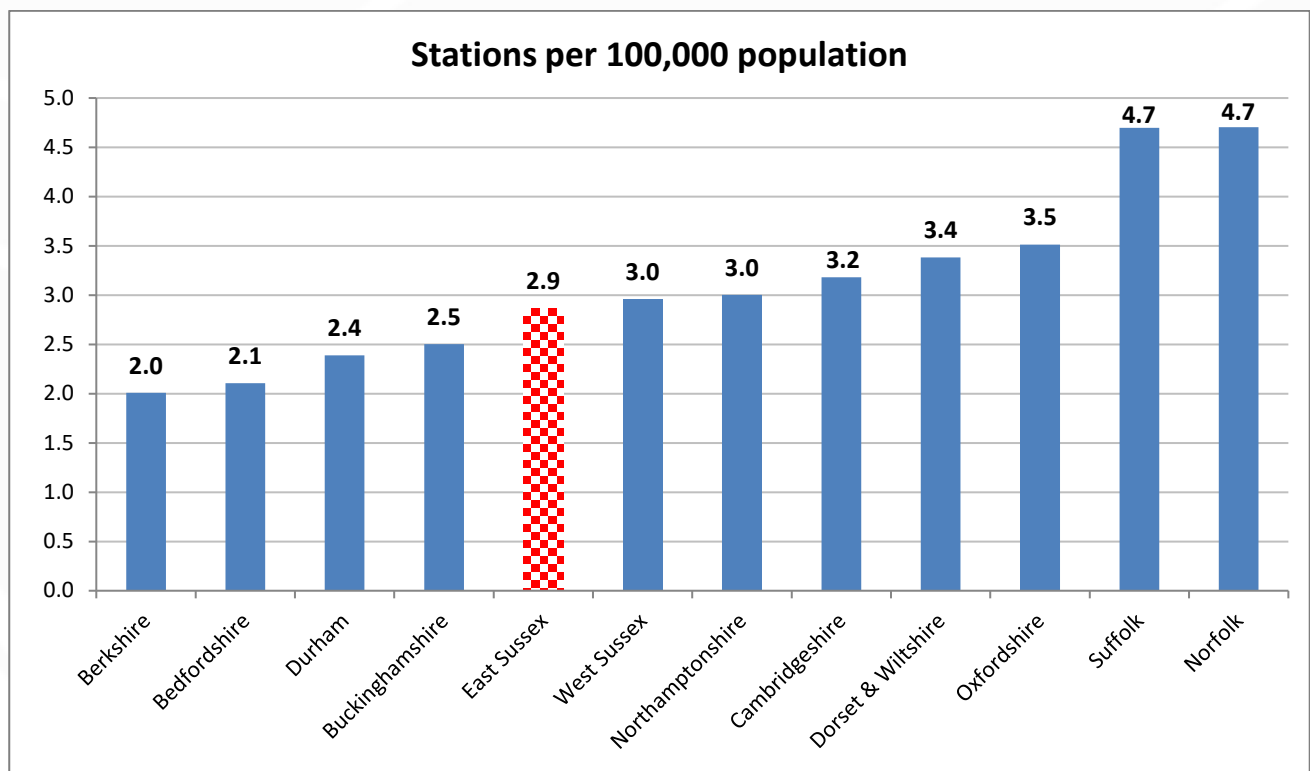


Chart 5: Stations per 100,000 pop (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2016/17 Estimates)

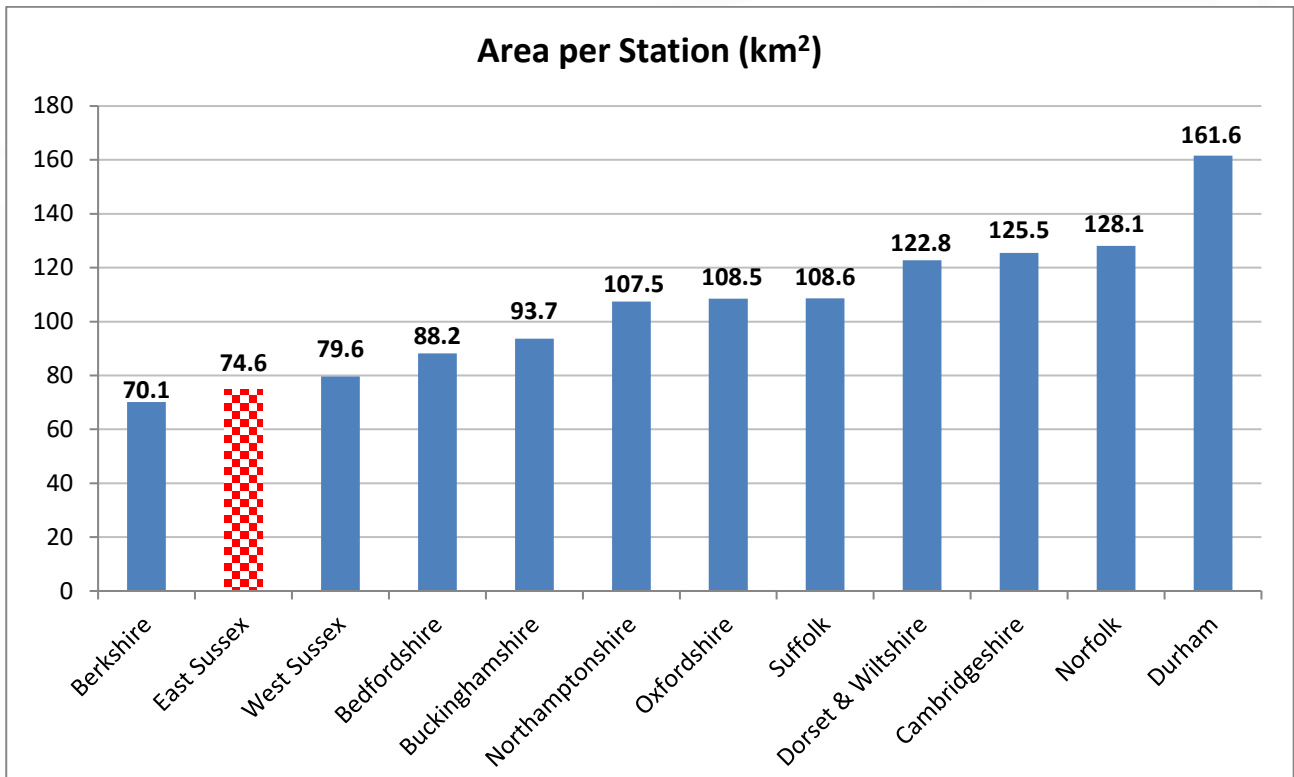


Chart 6: Stations per square km (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2016/17 Estimates)

Chart 7 illustrates the number of WT, Day crewed and RDS stations for each FG2 member. Dorset and Wiltshire has the highest number of RDS stations within the group. Bedfordshire and Durham have the lowest number of fire stations in total.

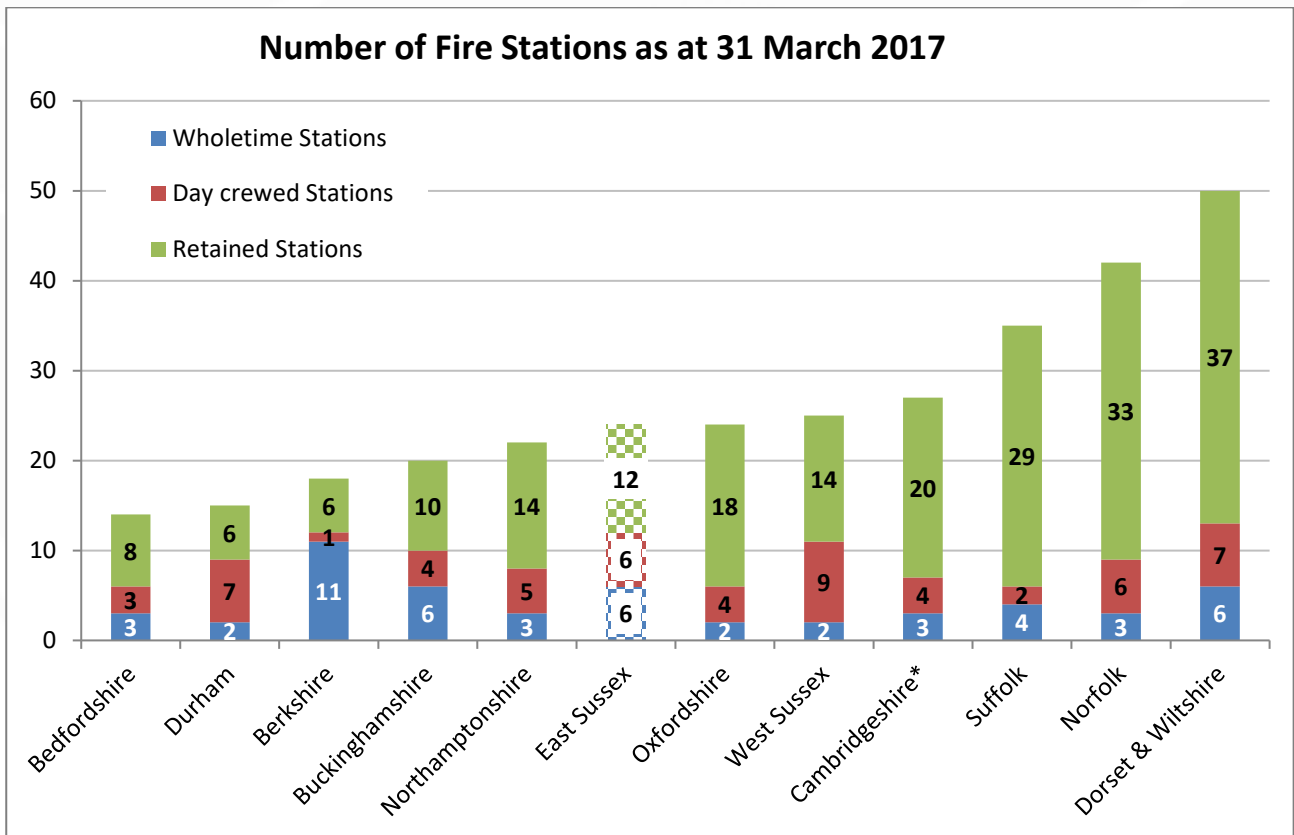


Chart 7 Number of Stations (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2016/17 Estimates & FRS Websites)

Financial comparisons

Chart 8 shows the average net expenditure of each FRS in FG2 per domestic household and average Band D equivalent Council Tax for each FRS and for Combined Fire Authorities. (This information is not readily available for County Fire Authorities, as Fire budgets are generally combined with other departments.)

ESFRS has the highest average net expenditure cost per domestic household and the 3rd highest cost per Council Tax Band D.

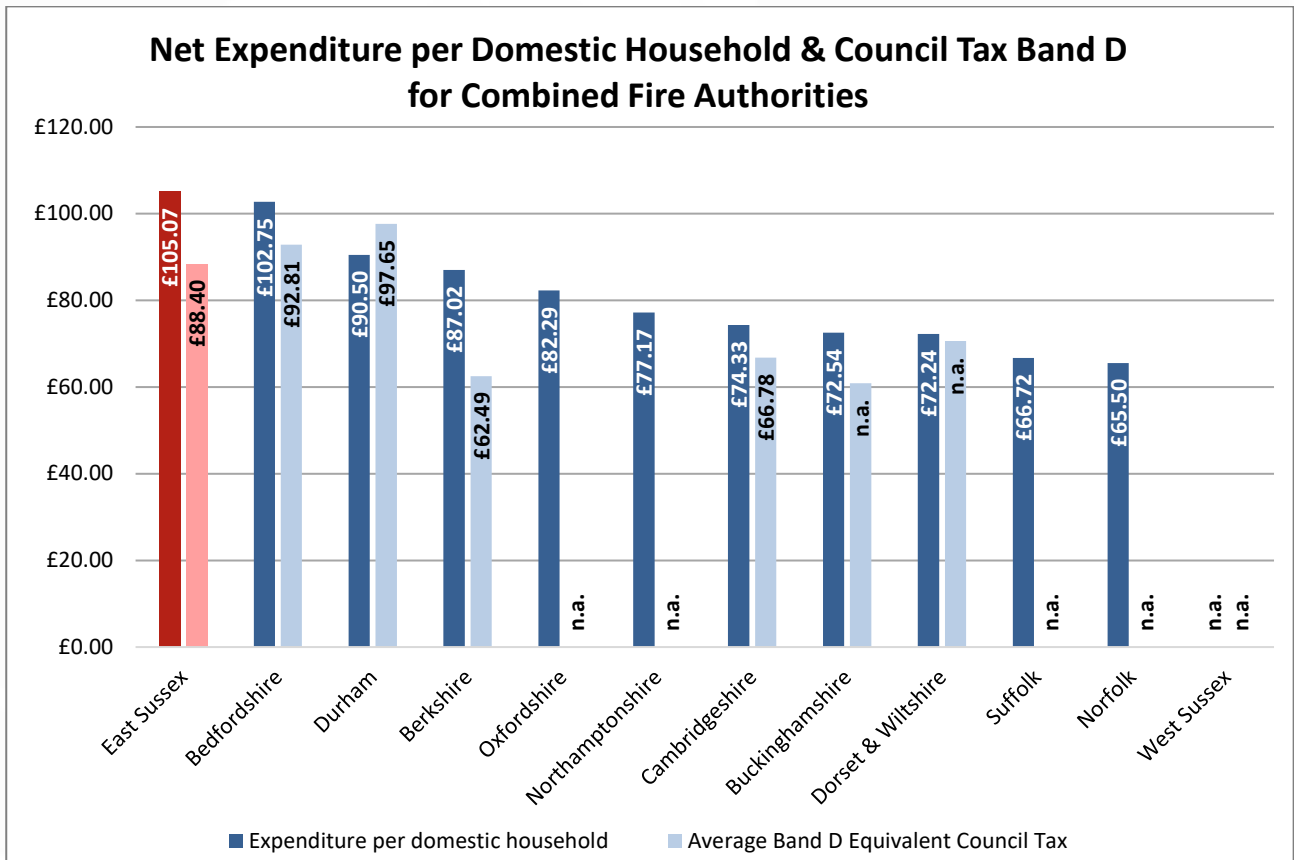


Chart 8 Average net expenditure per number of domestic properties & Council Tax Band D (Source: CIPFA Statistics 2016/17)

Health & Safety

Chart 9, below, shows the number of injuries per 100 WT and RDS firefighters sustained during operational incidents and training for FG2 FRS. In 2016/17, ESFRS sustained 3.57 (5.85 in 2015/16) injuries per 100 firefighters at operational incidents and 4.10 (5.35 in 2015/16) injuries per 100 firefighters during training. The FG2 average number of injuries per 100 firefighters at operational incidents is 4.19 and the average rate for injuries during training is 4.15 per 100 firefighters.

ESFRS is currently below the average for injuries at operational incidents with our Service being ranked 6th best performing (12th in 2015/16) and also below the average in relation to injuries at training incidents, ranked 7th (10th in 2015/16). Cambridgeshire FRS has the worst injury ratio per 100 firefighters in operational incidents and during training.

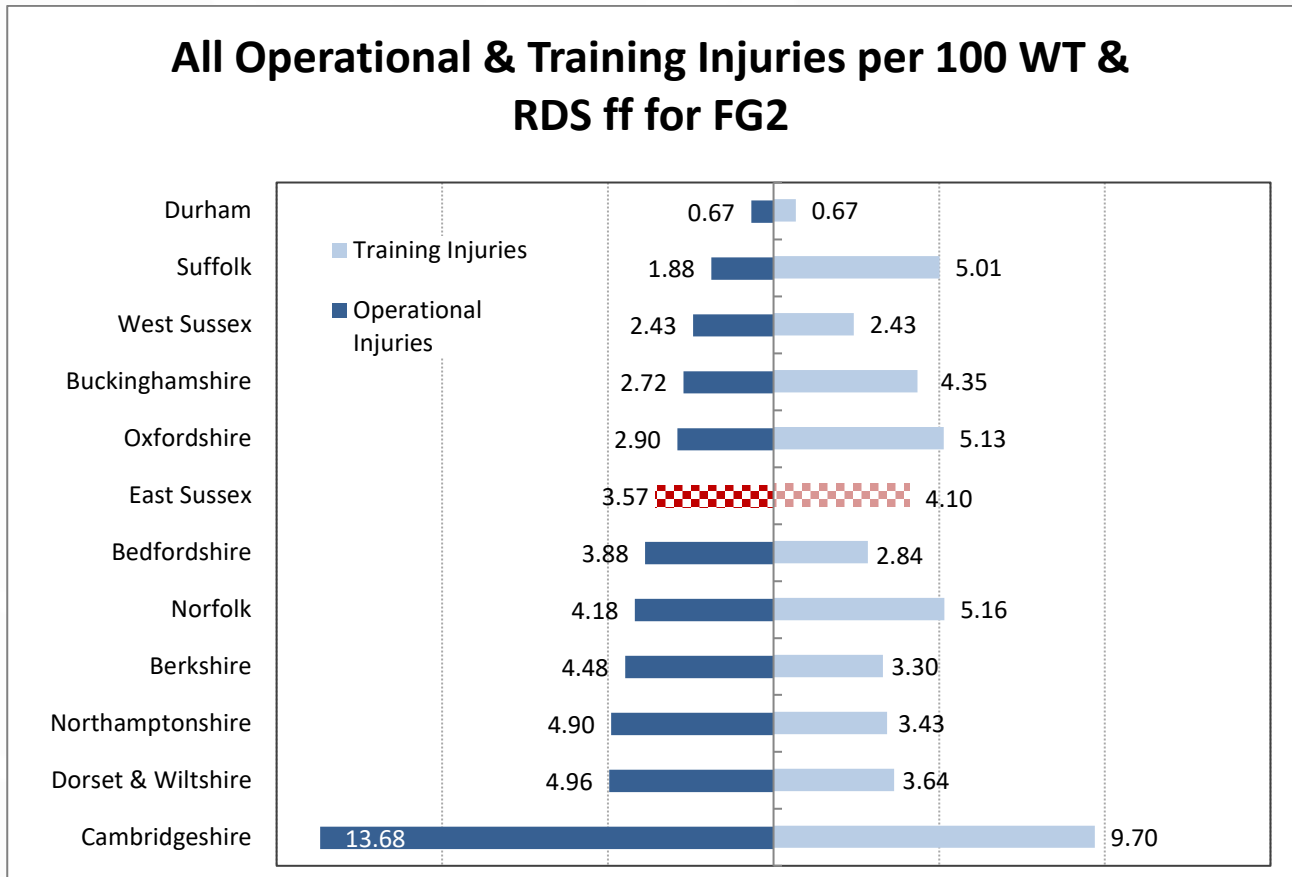


Chart 9: Operational & Training Injuries per 100 firefighters Source: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2016 to 2017 FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0508b: Injuries sustained by firefighters and firefighter fatalities, during operational incidents, by fire and rescue authority & FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0508c: Injuries sustained by firefighters and firefighter fatalities, during training incidents, by fire and rescue authority)

Firefighters by Gender and Ethnicity comparisons

Chart 10 shows the percentage of female WT firefighters for each FG2 member over the past seven years. The profile of WT firefighters in England is predominantly male and white. However, the proportion of firefighters who are female has increased from a national average of 1.3% in 2002 to a national average of 5.2% in March 2017 but it is understood that this proportional increase is owing to the larger numbers of males leaving the FRS, rather than an actual increase in the numbers of female firefighters.

ESFRS has the 5th highest proportion of female firefighters across FG2 with 5.7% of WT firefighters, which is above the national average (5.2%) and the FG2 average of 5.1%.

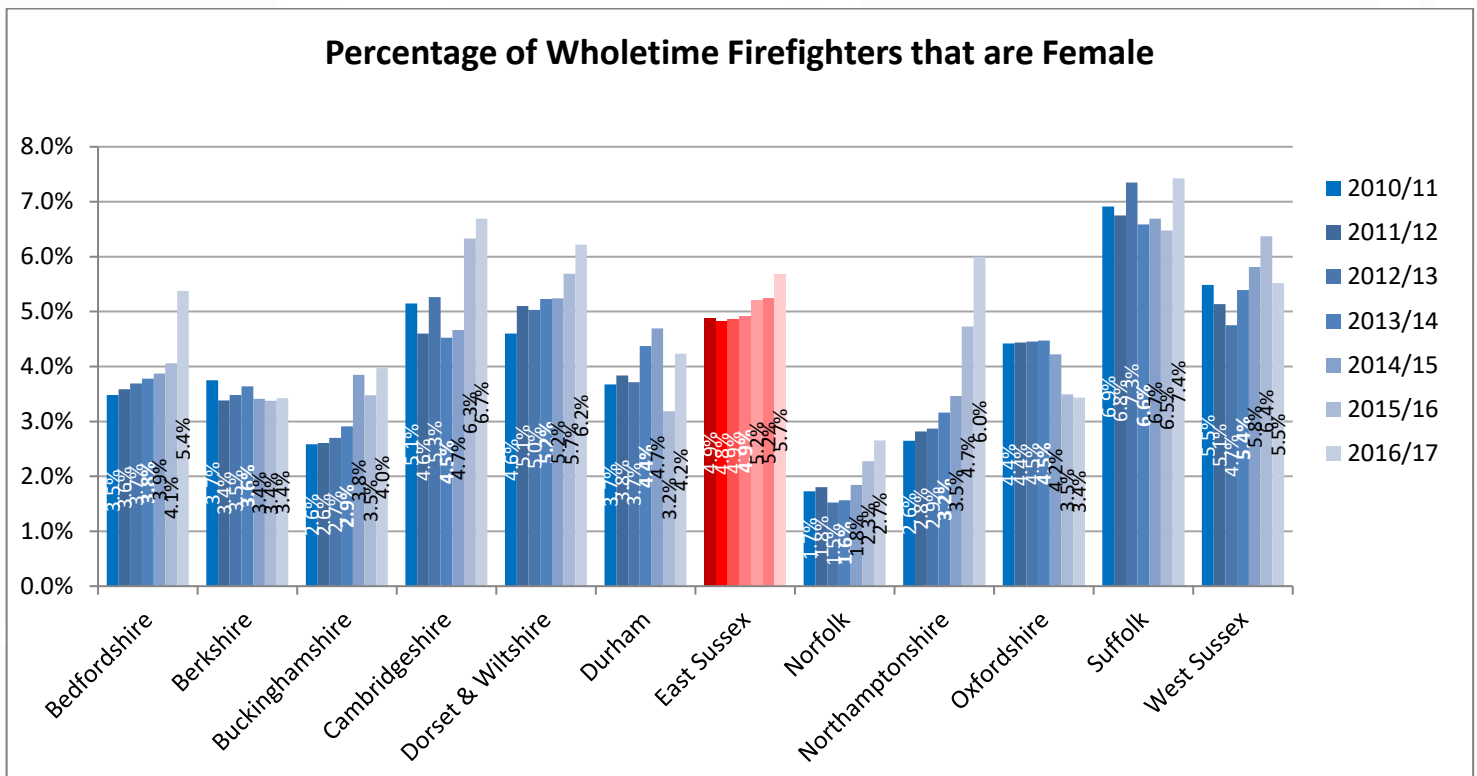


Chart 10: Percentage of WT firefighters that are female (Source: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2016 to 2017 FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 1103: Staff headcount by gender, fire and rescue authority and role)

Chart 11 shows the actual numbers of male and female firefighters at each FG2 FRS. In terms of raw numbers, ESFRS has the 2nd highest numbers of female firefighters: 20; only the recently combined Dorset & Wiltshire FRS, with 26, has more female WT firefighters.

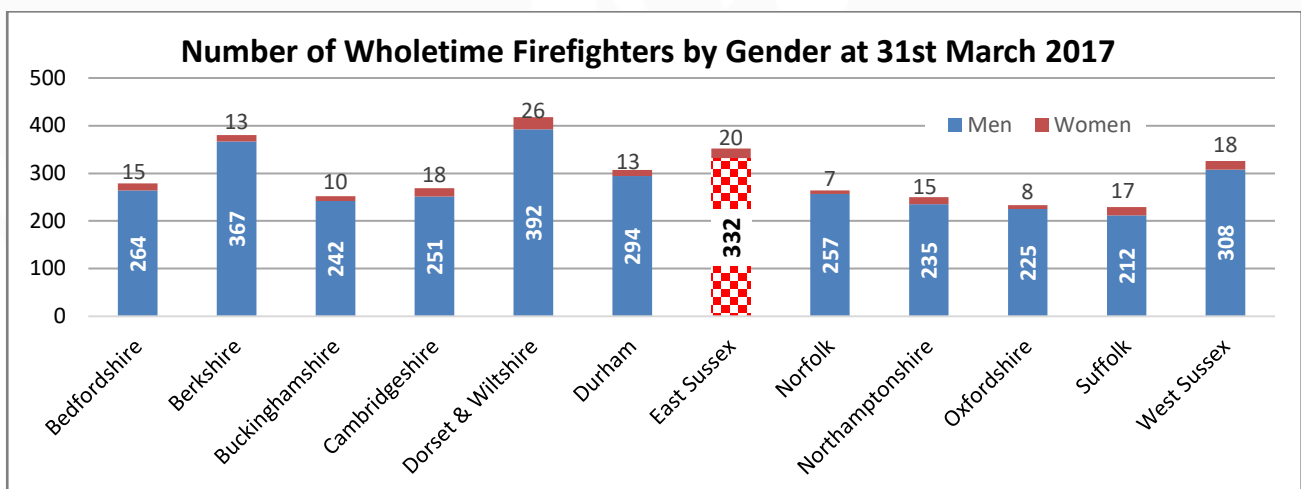


Chart 11: Numbers of WT firefighters that are female (Source: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2016 to 2017 FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 1103: Staff headcount by gender, fire and rescue authority and role)

Nationally, the percentage of WT firefighters from ethnic minority backgrounds has also increased: from an average across all FRS of 1.5% in 2002 to 3.9% in March 2017. ESFRS is currently below the national average at 2.7% as is the case with most of the FG2 FRS except for Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Suffolk.

Chart 12 illustrates the percentage of WT firefighters that are from an ethnic minority background for FG2. As of 31 March 2017, ESFRS has the 6th highest proportion of ethnic minority staff across the FG2 members.

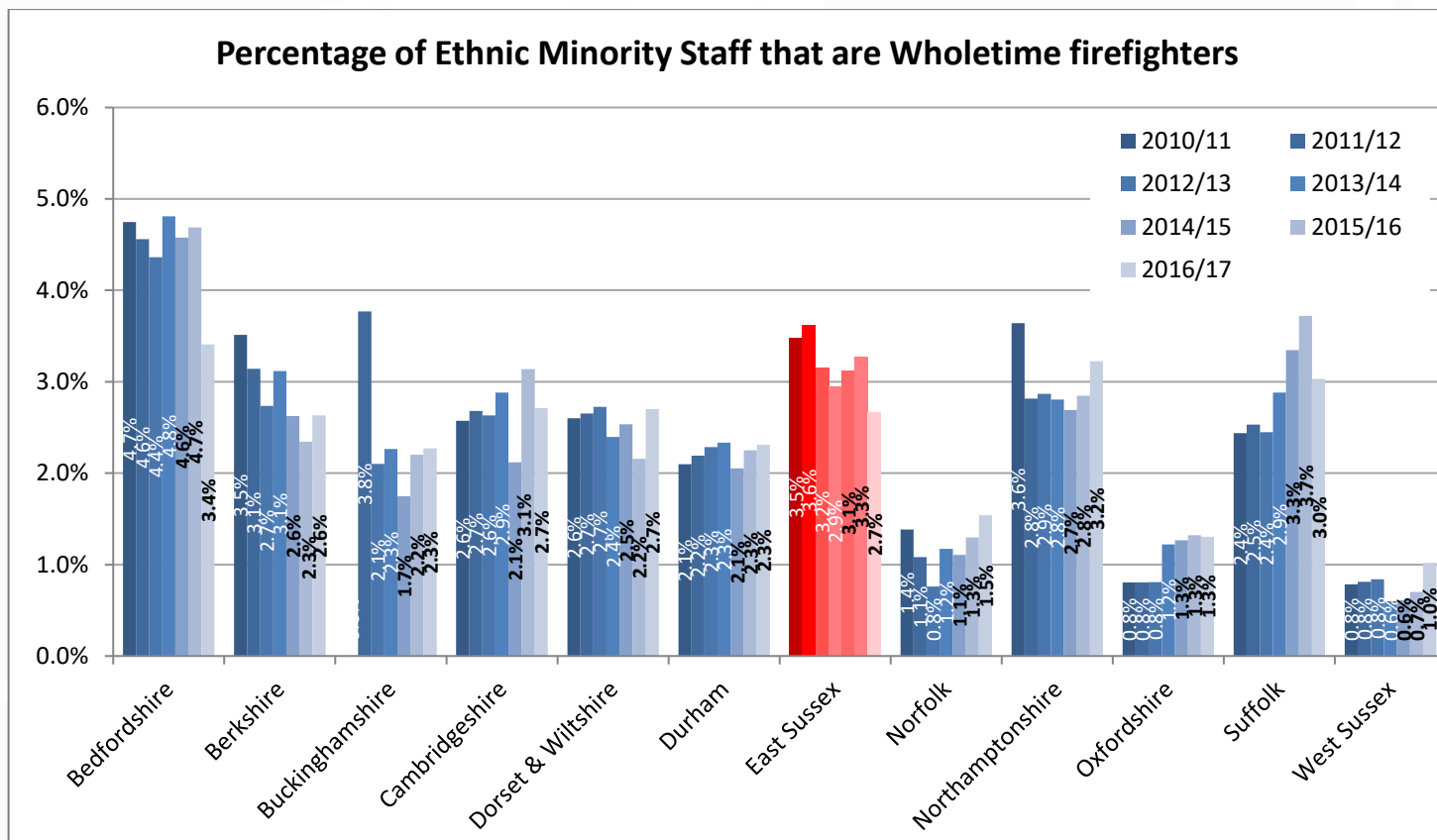


Chart 12: Percentage of WT firefighters that are from an ethnic minority (Source: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2017 to 2017 FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 1104: Staff headcount by ethnicity, fire and rescue authority and role)

N.B. Nationally, based on the 2011 Census, England had 14.5% classified as being from an ethnic minority background. The corresponding figures for the East Sussex County Council area was 3.9%; the Brighton and Hove City Council area: 10.9%. This combined, and therefore covering the ESFRS area, equates to 6.4 %.

Chart 13 shows the actual numbers of white and ethnic minority WT firefighters by each FG2 member. ESFRS has the 3rd highest numbers of ethnic minority WT firefighters with 9. The recently combined Dorset and Wiltshire FRS has the highest number: 11.

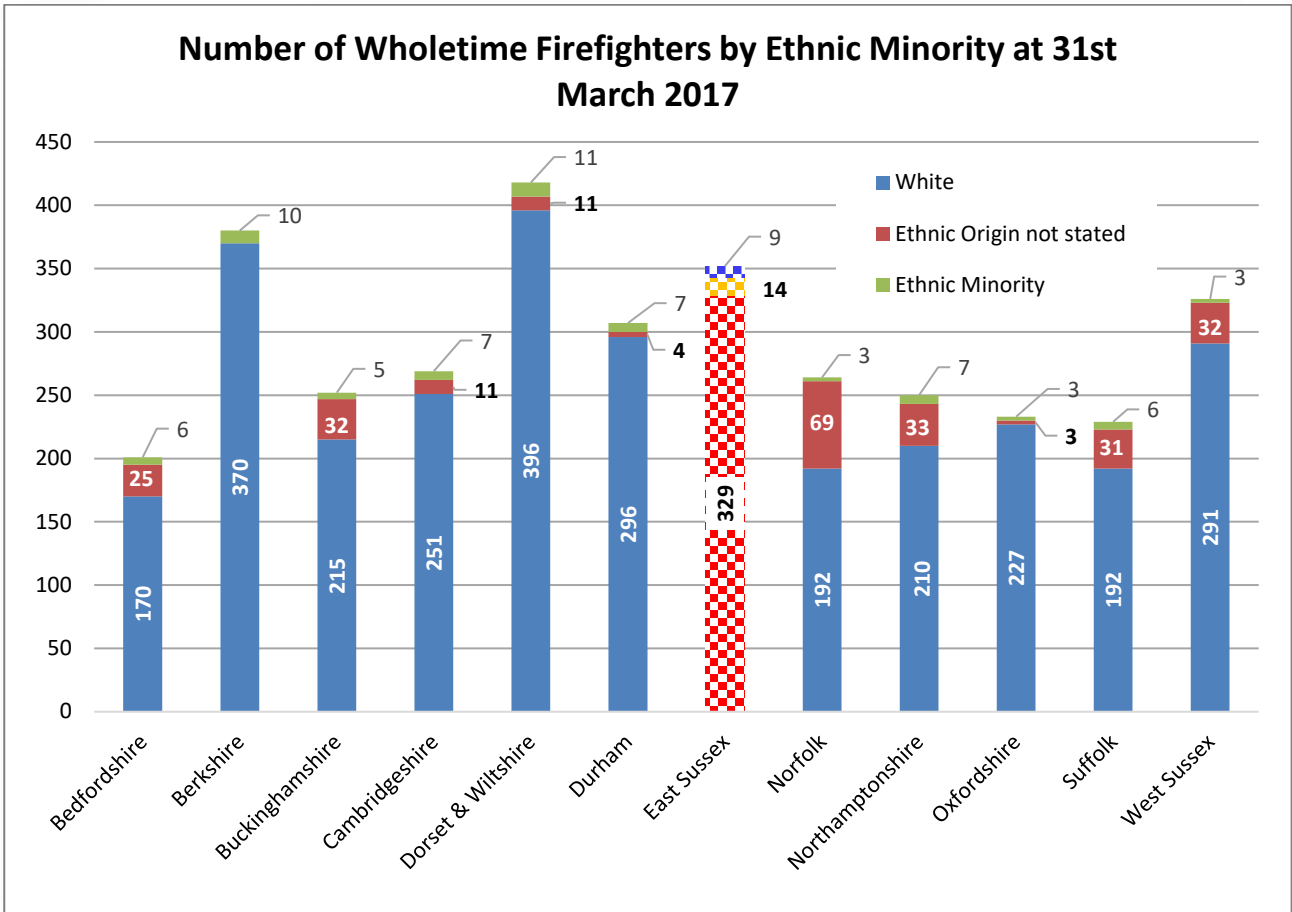


Chart 13: Number of WT firefighters that are from an ethnic minority (Source: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2016 to 2017 FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 1104: Staff headcount by ethnicity, fire and rescue authority and role)

Sickness

Chart 14 illustrates the number of duty days lost per person for WT and Control staff due to sickness. ESFRS has the highest level of sickness in FG2 for 2016/17 with 10.91 days lost to sickness per employee, which is above the 2016/17 average of 7.14. However, only five FRS from FG2 provided data in 2016/17. These are represented as 'n.a.' (not available) in the chart below where no value was returned by a FRS.

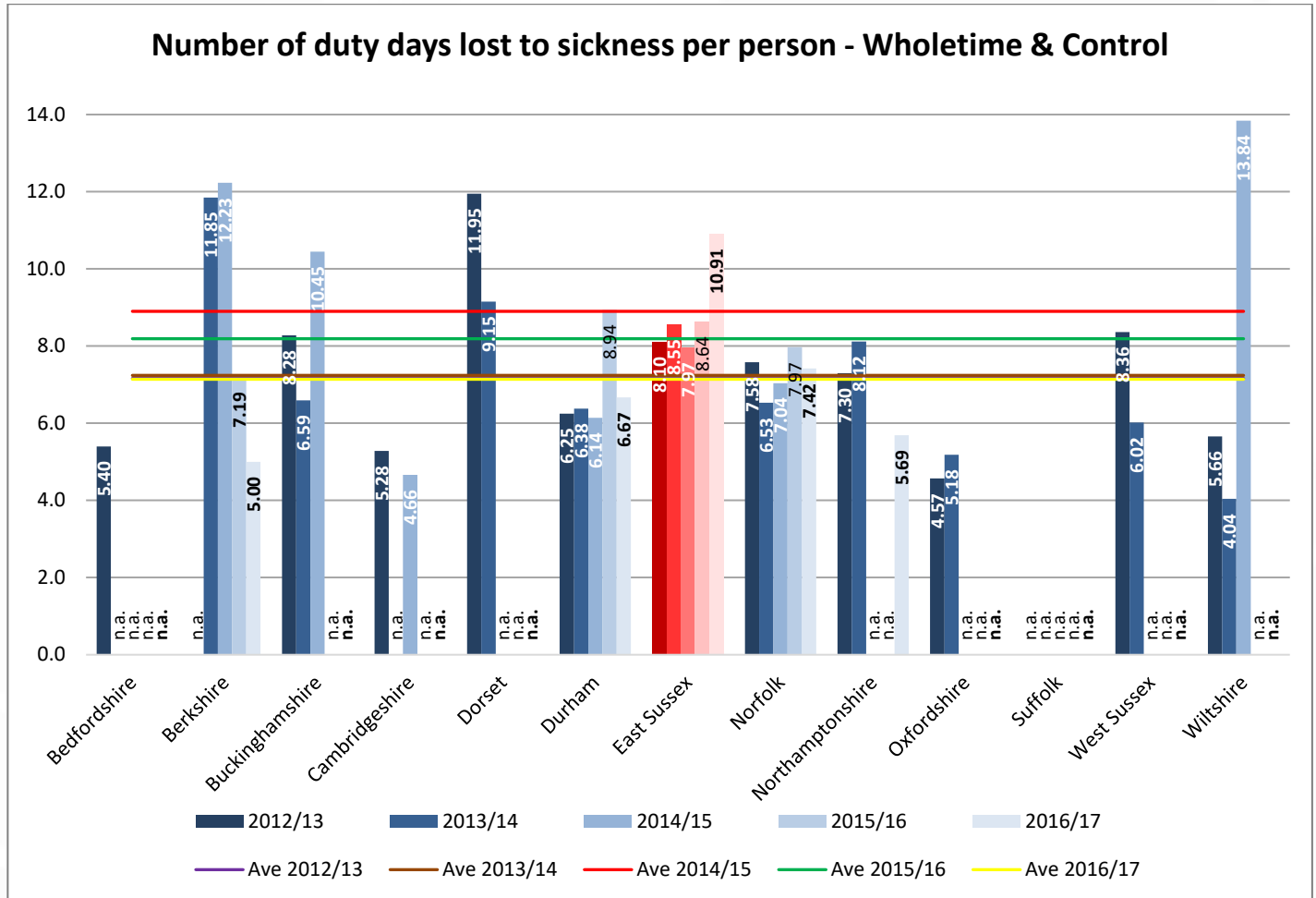


Chart 14: Number of shifts lost per person due to sickness (WT and Control) (Source: National Fire & Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2016 – March 2017)

Chart 15 illustrates the number of shifts lost per person for non-uniformed staff due to sickness. ESFRS has the highest level of sickness in FG2 from the eight FRS that provided data in 2016/17 with 12.43 days lost to sickness per employee. This is above the 2016/17 average of 8.05 and the highest figure for ESFRS since the first Occupational Health Report was produced in 2012/13.

In the chart below, 'n.a.' represents no value being returned by a specific FRS.

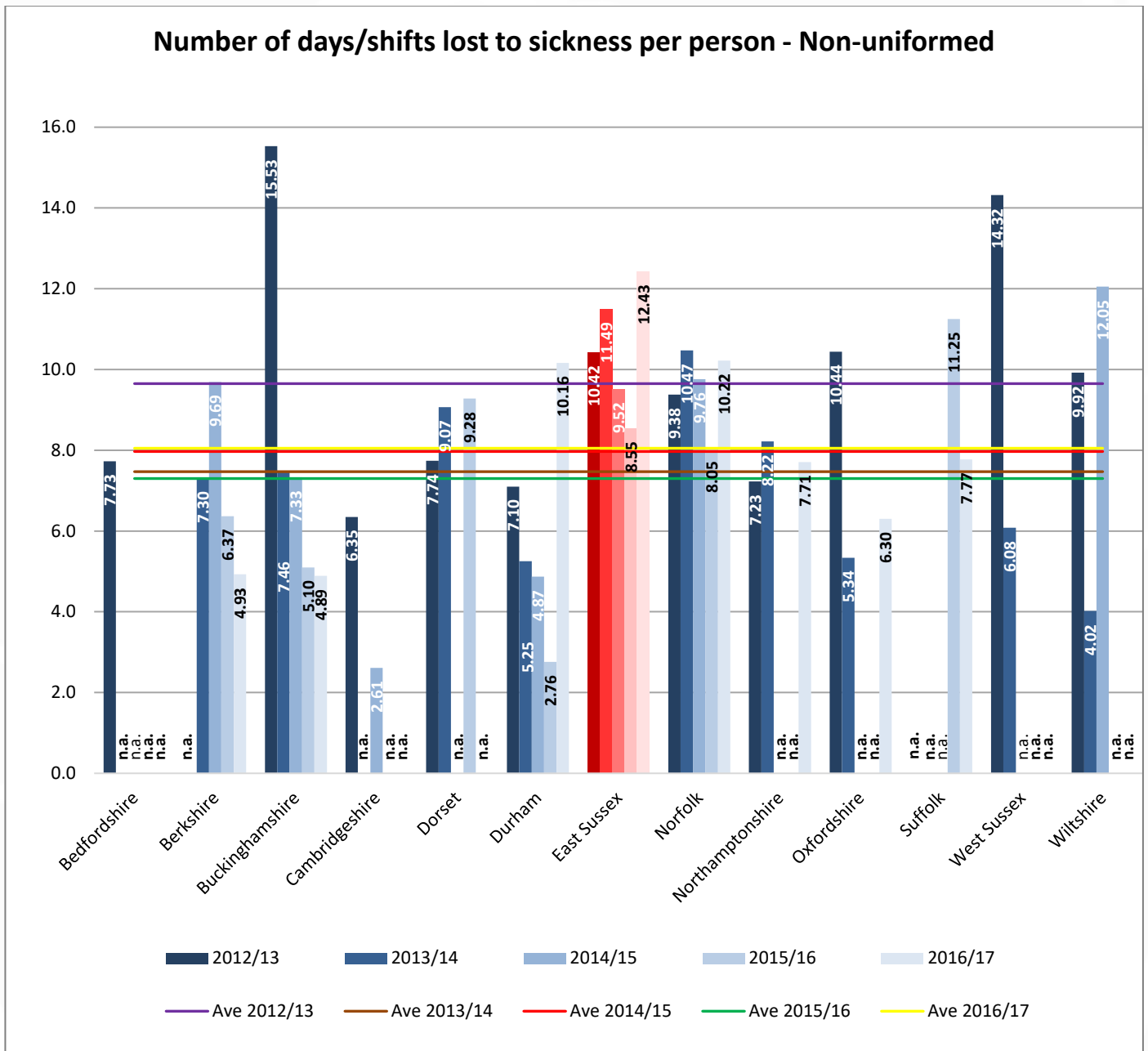


Chart 15: Number of shifts lost per person due to sickness (Support) (Source: National Fire & Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2016 – March 2017)

Home Safety Visits completed

Chart 16 shows the numbers of Home Safety Visits (HSVs) completed from 2010/11 to 2016/17 per 1,000 domestic dwellings for each FG2 member.

ESFRS has the 2nd highest number of HSVs completed per 1,000 domestic dwellings in 2016/17 with 25.2. However, Durham, with the highest HSVs, completed 66.3 per 1,000 domestic dwellings.

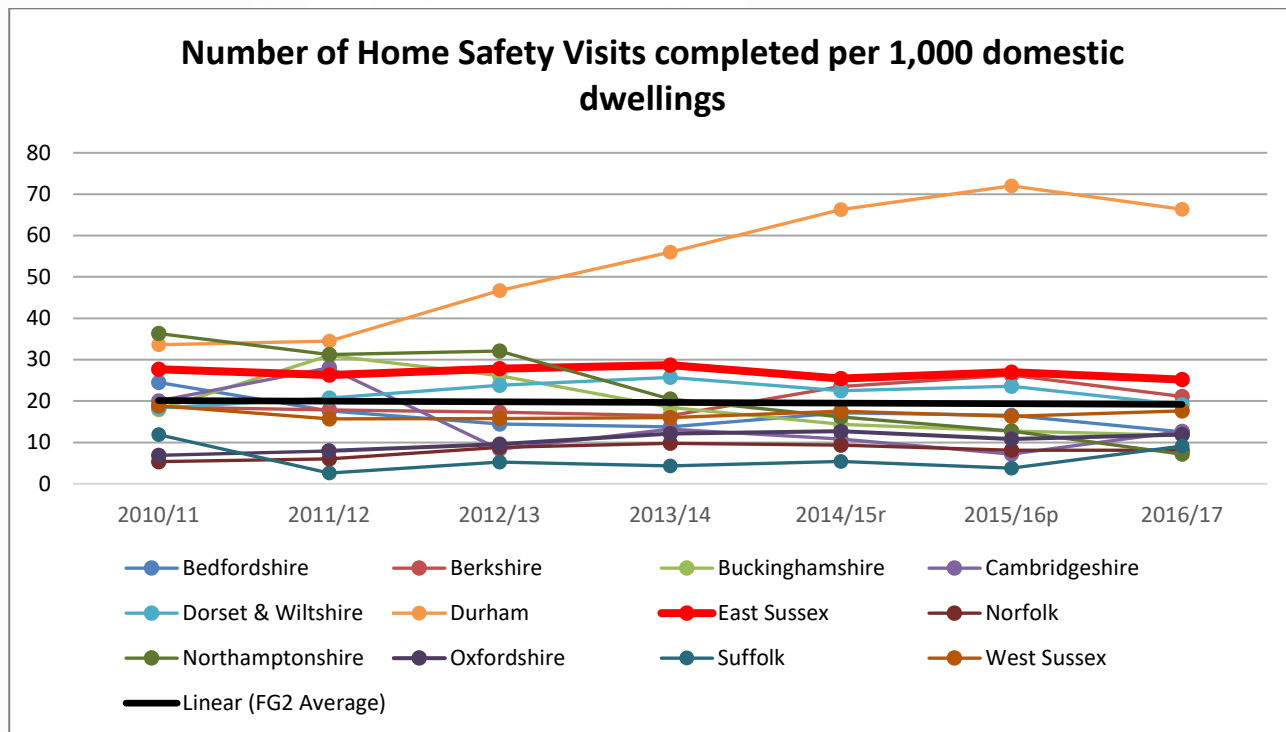


Chart 16: Number of HSVs completed per 1,000 domestic dwellings (Source: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2016 to 2017 FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 1201: Home Fire Risk Checks carried out by fire and rescue authorities and partners, by fire and rescue authority)

Number of Fire Safety Audits completed

Chart 17 shows the number of Fire Safety Audits completed per 1,000 non-domestic properties by each FG2 member in 2016/17.

ESFRS completed the lowest recorded number of Fire Safety Audits per 1,000 non-domestic properties with 10.3, whereas Durham completed the most with 110.9 per 1,000 non-domestic properties.

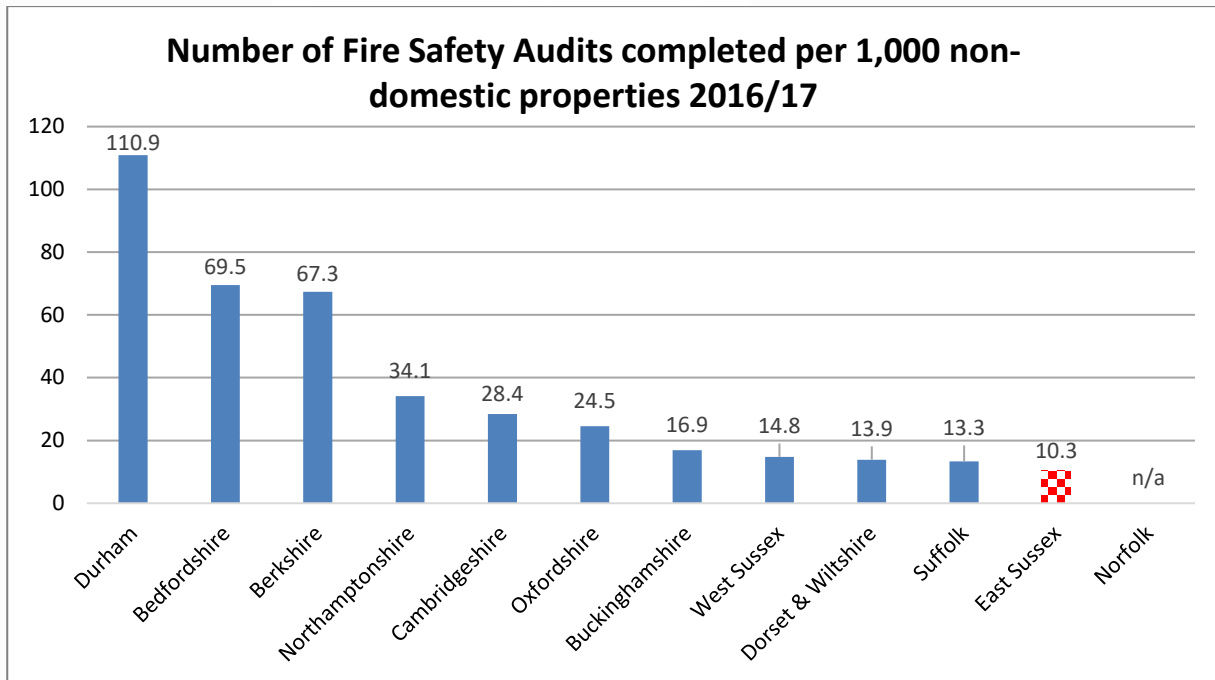
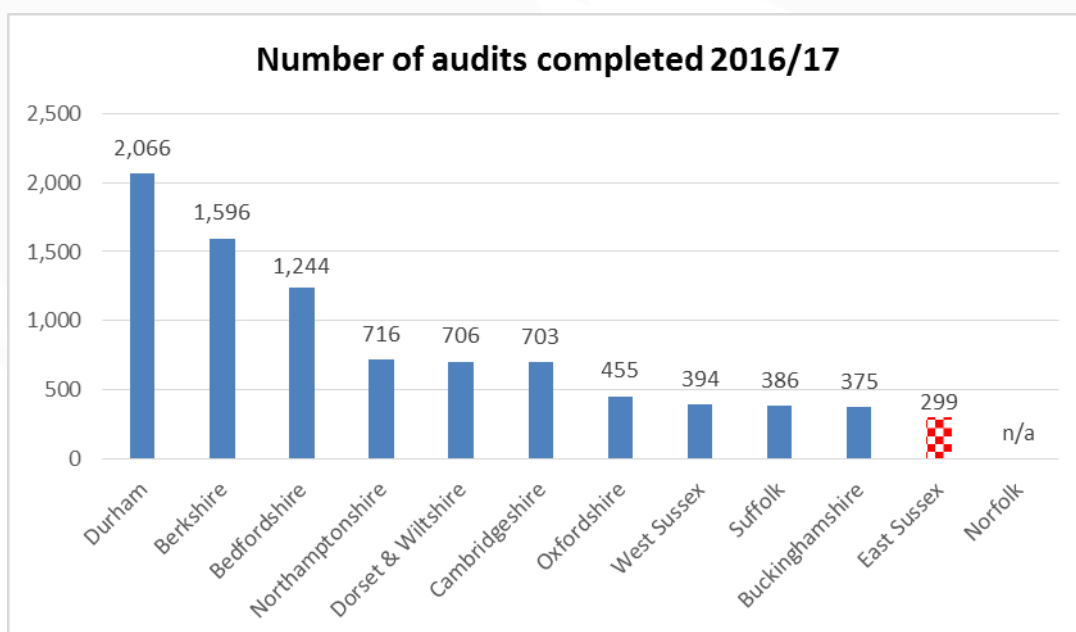


Chart 17: Number of Fire Safety Audits completed. (Source: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2016 to 2017 FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 1202: Fire Safety Audits carried out by fire and rescue authorities, by fire authority)



Incident comparisons - Benchmarking

Nationally, over the past decade, the number of incidents each FRS has had to attend has reduced, demonstrating a consistent downward trend. Since 2001/02, ESFRS has attended 61.5% less fires (5,352 in 2001/02 down to 2,060 in 2016/17). Each FRS across the country has been experiencing similar reductions.

Chart 18, below, shows the reduction of Primary Fires per 1,000 population for the FG2 members from 2001/02 to 2016/17.

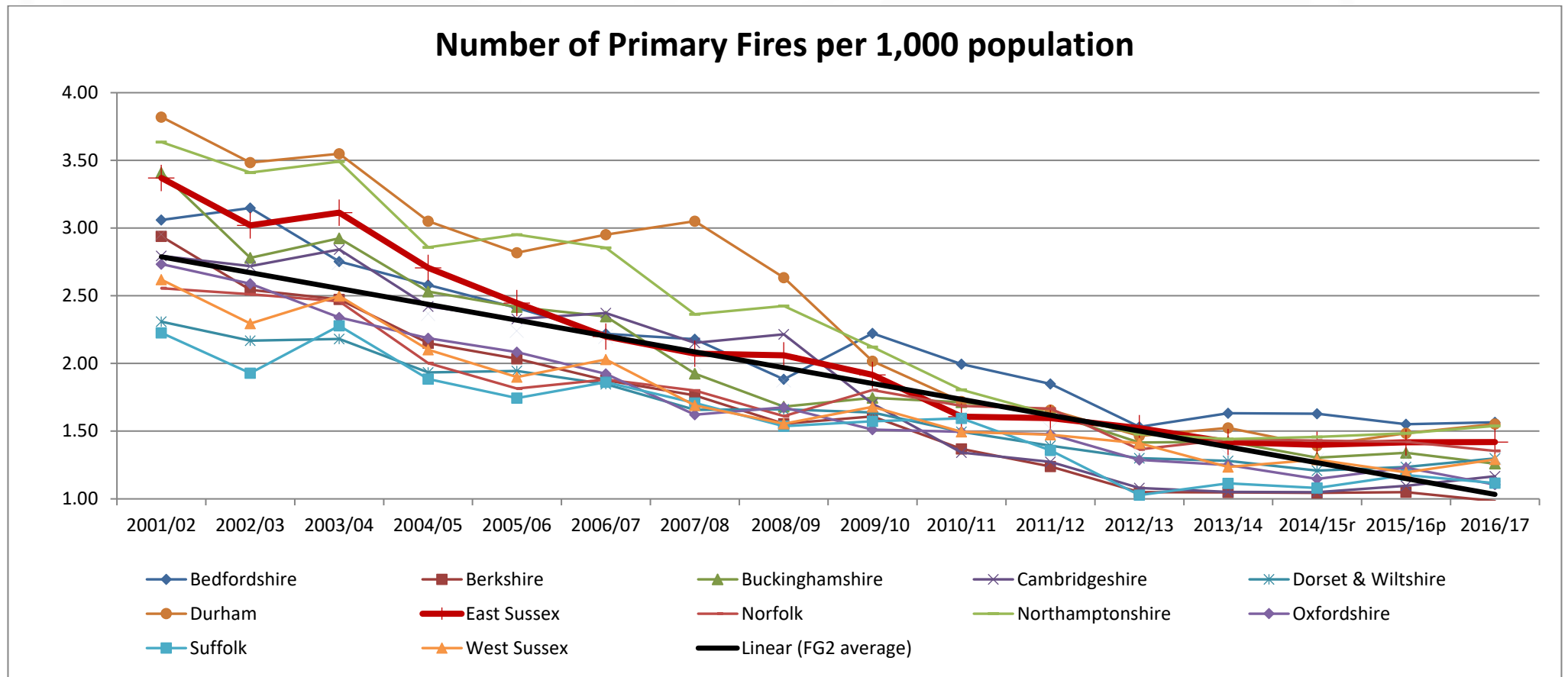


Chart 18: The number of Primary Fires per 1,000 population (source: Fire Statistics Monitor: April 2016 to March 2017, FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0102: Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority)

Chart 19, below, shows the number of Accidental Dwelling Fires per 1,000 population for each FG2 member.

As with Primary Fires, the number of Accidental Dwelling Fires has been reducing for a significant number of years. In 2016/17, ESFRS had 0.65 Accidental Dwelling Fires per 1,000 population. This was the highest amount in FG2.

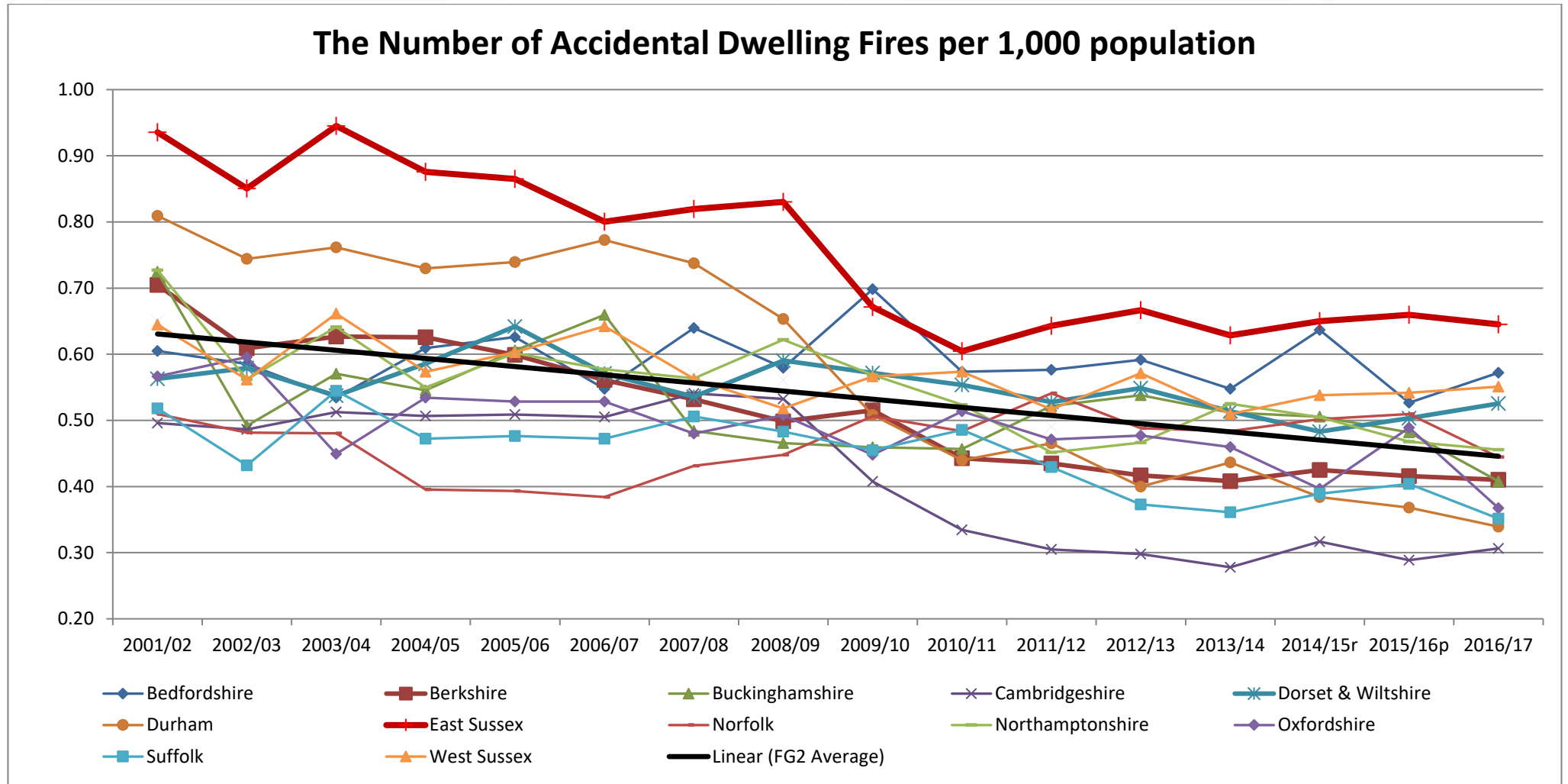


Chart 19: The number of accidental dwelling fires per 1,000 population (source: Fire Statistics Monitor: April 2016 to March 2017, FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0202: Fires, fatalities and non-fatal casualties in dwellings by motive and fire and rescue authority, England)

Traditionally, Deliberate Secondary Fires can be difficult to predict but it is clear that the level of these incidents has been reducing over recent years, along with all main incident types.

Chart 20, below, clearly shows that the rate of Deliberate Secondary Fires per 1,000 population has reduced. The FG2 average has halved since 2007/8.

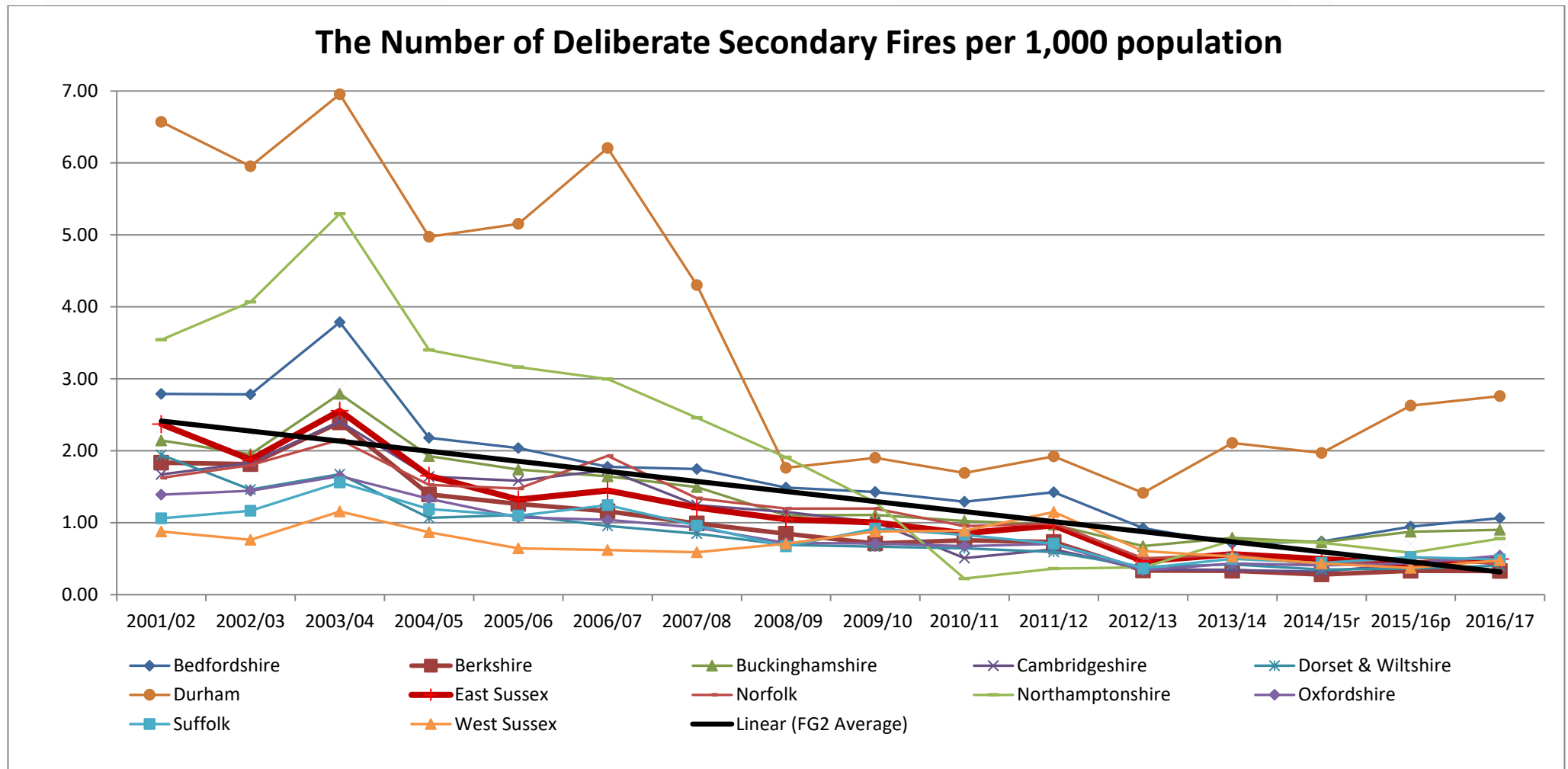


Chart 20: The number of Deliberate Secondary Fires per 1,000 population (source: Fire Statistics Monitor: April 2016 to March 2017, FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0401: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority)

Chart 21 shows that FG2 average attendances at Automatic Fire Alarms have been steadily reducing since 2001/02. The introduction and implementation of the Automatic Fire Alarms Reduction Policy at ESFRS in 2010 can clearly be seen with a reduction in numbers from 2010/11 onwards. However, since 2012, this decline has levelled off. Consequently, the ESFRS still has a high number of Automatic Fire Alarms incidents compared to the other FG2 members with the exception of West Sussex.

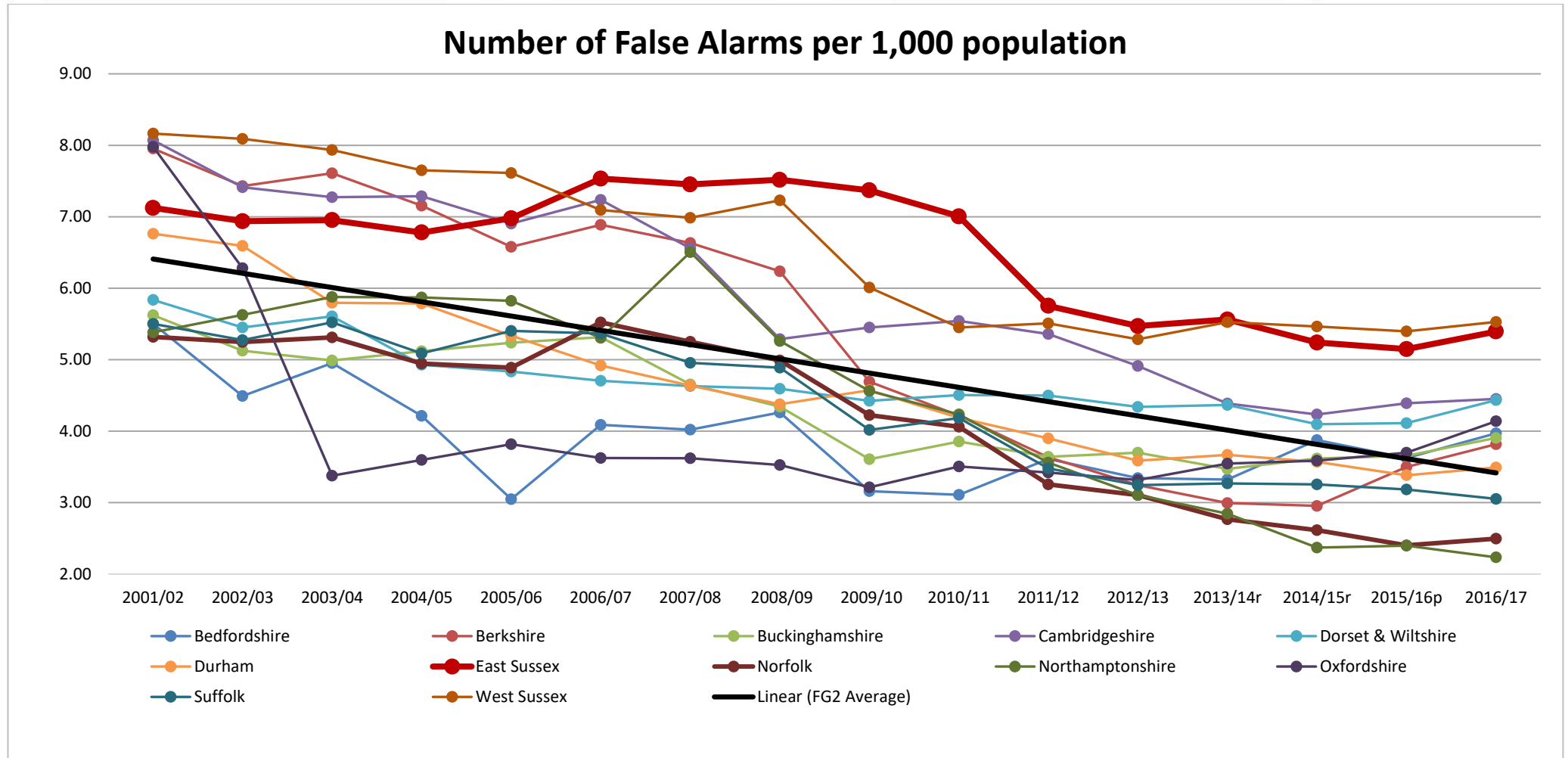


Chart 21: The number of False Alarms per 1,000 population. (Total of false alarm good intent, false alarm malicious and false alarm due to apparatus calls) (Source: Fire Statistics Monitor: April 2016 to March 2017, FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 0102: Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority)

Actual incidents: % reduction from 2001/02 to 2016/17 and FG2 rank

The following tables show the percentage reduction in actual incident numbers across all the members of FG2 from the charts provided above. The second column shows where ESFRS ranks in terms of improvement in reducing incidents over that period.

Primary Fires by Fire and Rescue Service: 2001/02 - 2016/17		
FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2016/17	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2016/17
Bedfordshire	-48.8%	10
Berkshire	-66.5%	1
Buckinghamshire	-63.0%	2
Cambridgeshire	-58.2%	7
Dorset & Wiltshire	-43.7%	12
Durham	-59.3%	4
East Sussex	-57.9%	6
Norfolk	-47.0%	11
Northamptonshire	-57.7%	5
Oxfordshire	-59.6%	3
Suffolk	-49.8%	9
West Sussex	-50.7%	8

All False Alarms by Fire and Rescue Service: 2001/02 - 2016/17		
FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2016/17	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2016/17
Bedfordshire	-27.8%	10
Berkshire	-52.0%	3
Buckinghamshire	-30.5%	9
Cambridgeshire	-44.9%	6
Dorset & Wiltshire	-24.0%	12
Durham	-48.3%	4
East Sussex	-24.3%	11
Norfolk	-53.1%	2
Northamptonshire	-58.5%	1
Oxfordshire	-48.1%	5
Suffolk	-44.5%	7
West Sussex	-32.3%	8

Accidental Dwelling Fires by Fire and Rescue Service: 2001/02 - 2016/17		
FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2016/17	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2016/17
Bedfordshire	-5.5%	12
Berkshire	-41.8%	3
Buckinghamshire	-43.7%	2
Cambridgeshire	-38.2%	4
Dorset & Wiltshire	-6.6%	11
Durham	-58.1%	1
East Sussex	-31.0%	8
Norfolk	-12.7%	10
Northamptonshire	-37.3%	5
Oxfordshire	-35.1%	6
Suffolk	-32.1%	7
West Sussex	-14.5%	9

Deliberate Secondary Fires by Fire and Rescue Service: 2001/02 - 2016/17		
FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2016/17	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2016/17
Bedfordshire	-61.9%	7
Berkshire	-82.0%	1
Buckinghamshire	-57.9%	10
Cambridgeshire	-70.6%	5
Dorset & Wiltshire	-79.3%	2
Durham	-58.0%	9
East Sussex	-79.1%	3
Norfolk	-67.9%	6
Northamptonshire	-78.0%	4
Oxfordshire	-61.1%	8
Suffolk	-51.0%	11
West Sussex	-45.7%	12

Average Response Times for all FG2 Fire and Rescue Services

Chart 22 shows the Average Response Times to dwelling fires for each FG2 member from 2009/10 to 2016/17. In 2016/17, ESFRS is ranked 1st.

In England, the Average Response Time to fires in dwellings for 2012/13 was 7.4 minutes. ESFRS's Average Response Time for the same year was 7.1. In 2016/17, England's response rate increased to 7.7 minutes, whereas ESFRS increased to 7.5 minutes, therefore, still below the national average. The chart below shows that there is a slight increasing trend in Average Response Times for FG2.

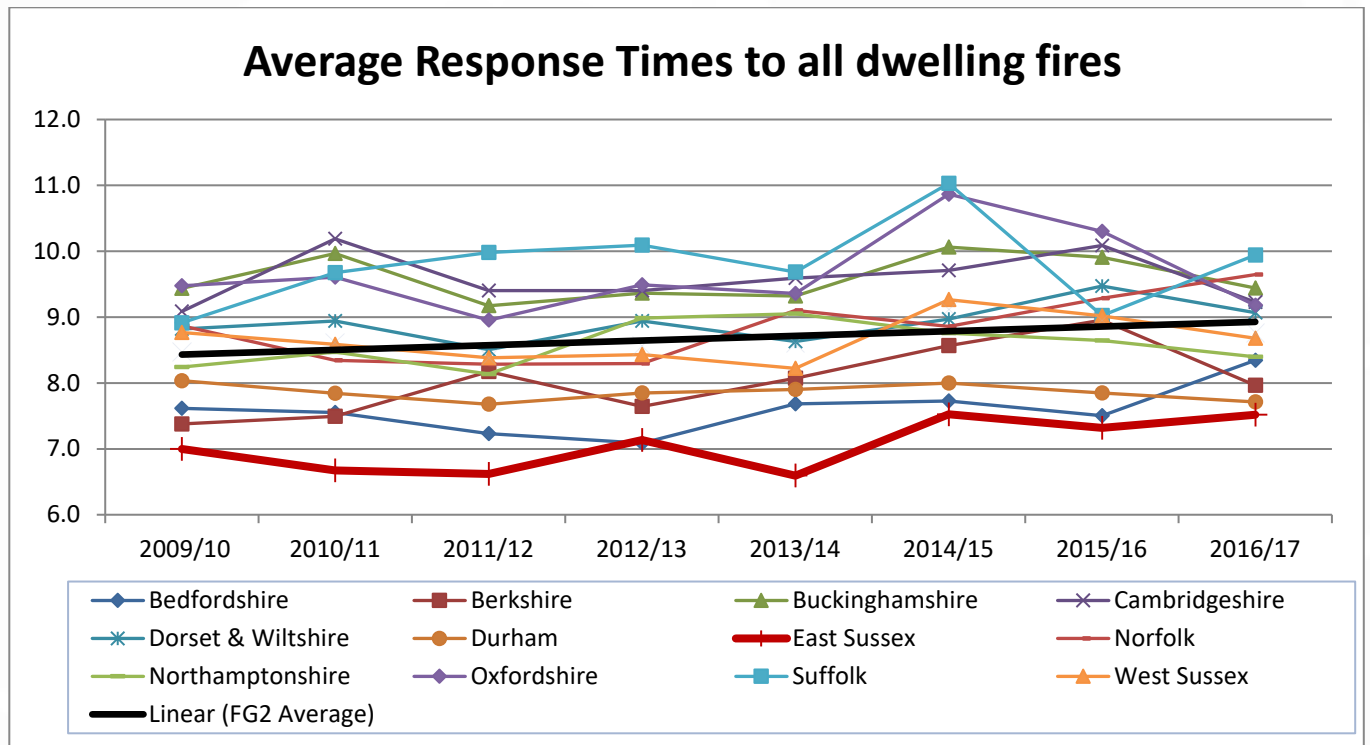


Chart 22 – Average Response Times to dwelling fires (Source: Fire Incidents Response Times: April 2016 to March 2017, England. FIRE STATISTICS TABLE 1006: Average response times for dwelling fires by fire and rescue authority, England)

Summary

- ESFRS, compared to the other FRS in FG2 in terms of population and properties, is most similar to Cambridgeshire and West Sussex.
- ESFRS covers the third smallest area in FG2.
- Management structures at ESFRS are similar in size, distribution and overall numbers to Oxfordshire.
- ESFRS shows the 2nd highest decrease in WT firefighters, this 8% drop equates to 30 operational posts
- ESFRS is 20.5% above the average number of WT firefighters with 352 (average 292) as of 31 March 2017 and has 9% less than the average RDS firefighters.
- ESFRS is above the FG2 average (20:1) for the ratio of firefighters to senior managers with 24:1. This is the 3rd highest ratio of the group.
- ESFRS has a ratio of 4.94 operational appliances per 100,000 population, this is just above the average for FG2 (the average is 4.54).
- ESFRS has a ratio of 2.89 stations per 100,000 population this places ESFRS 6th in FG2.
- ESFRS has the 2nd lowest number of square KM per station (74.63)
- ESFRS has the highest average net expenditure cost by numbers of dwellings and the 3rd highest cost per Council Tax Band D.
- ESFRS is below average for injuries sustained at both operational incidents and during training. ESFRS sustained 3.57 (5.85 in 2015/16) injuries per 100 firefighters at operational incidents and 4.10 (5.35 in 2015/16) injuries per 100 firefighters during training.
- ESFRS has the 5th highest proportion of female firefighters across FG2, with 5.7% of WT firefighters being female. This is above the national average of 5.5%. In terms of actual numbers, ESFRS has the 2nd highest number of female WT firefighters with 20.
- ESFRS has the 6th highest proportion of ethnic minority staff across the FG2 members with 2.7%, however the ethnic population of East Sussex is 10.5% and 10.9% in Brighton & Hove
- ESFRS has the 2nd highest number of ethnic minority WT firefighters with 9.
- ESFRS lost 10.91 shifts per employee amongst WT and Control staff due to sickness in 2016/17, up from 8.64 in 2015/16. The FG2 average for 2016/17 is 7.14 shifts lost per person.
- ESFRS lost 12.43 shifts per employee amongst non-uniformed staff due to sickness in 2016/17, which is above the FG2 average of 8.05. This a notable increase from 2015/16 when 8.55 shifts were lost per employee.
- ESFRS completed 25.2 Homes Safety Visits per 1,000 domestic dwellings in 2016/17
- ESFRS completed 10.3 Fire Safety Audits per 1,000 non-domestic properties in 2016/17, the lowest amongst FG2.
- ESFRS in 2016/17 had 0.65 Accidental Dwelling Fires per 1,000 population, this was the highest amount in FG2.
- ESFRS has attended 61.5% less fires (5,352 in 2001/02 down to 2,060 in 2016/17). Each FRS across the country has been experiencing similar reductions.
- ESFRS ranks 1st for average response times and is below the national average.
- ESFRS attends the 3rd highest numbers of incidents in FG2 group. The incidents most attended by ESFRS involve False Alarms, accounting for 49.4% of all incidents (see table 5 overleaf for total incidents attended per FRS in FG2).

Table 6 – Total Incidents attended per FRS in Family Group 2

FRA	Primary Fires	Secondary Fires	Chimney Fires	False Alarm Apparatus	False Alarm Malicious	False Alarm Good Intent	Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	Other Transport incident	Medical Incident - First responder	Medical Incident - Co-responder	Flooding	Rescue or evacuation from water	Effecting entry / exit	Lift Release	Other rescue / release of persons
Bedfordshire	1,036	998	38	1,931	149	555	427	14	62	22	153	10	360	100	41
Berkshire	882	768	57	1,977	103	1,344	486	9	12	1,000	202	15	271	200	91
Buckinghamshire	1,010	964	91	2,265	112	780	537	16	21	1,131	233	7	228	104	31
Cambridgeshire	995	942	53	2,134	67	1,589	449	18	17	89	69	20	144	27	73
Dorset & Wiltshire	1,917	1,103	245	5,135	145	1,272	700	46	61	1	183	13	309	204	93
Durham	976	2,169	68	1,099	94	1,001	326	8	79	2,690	73	7	92	35	36
East Sussex	1,189	737	134	3,177	130	1,207	477	29	15	22	353	5	350	338	87
Norfolk	1,209	698	138	1,366	60	804	754	29	405	85	281	47	396	51	86
Northamptonshire	1,146	866	68	685	56	913	539	25	16	823	107	9	138	81	45
Oxfordshire	764	597	124	2,118	59	666	442	13	723	652	130	26	152	109	30
Suffolk	854	755	109	1,626	65	631	289	21	9	108	47	16	83	17	61
West Sussex	1,081	787	107	3,194	121	1,287	501	14	30	78	240	6	345	191	63
FG2 Average	1,088	949	103	2,226	97	1,004	494	20	121	558	173	15	239	121	61
National results - England	74,869	82,813	4,230	151,626	6,951	65,222	29,872	1,292	7,813	37,298	14,080	981	20,706	10,971	4,040

FRA	Animal assistance incidents	Removal of objects from people	Hazardous Materials incident	Spills and Leaks (not RTC)	Making Safe (not RTC)	Suicide/ attempts	Evacuation (no fire)	Water provision	Assist other agencies	Advice Only	Stand By	No action (not false alarm)	Malicious False Alarm	Good Intent false alarm	Total
Bedfordshire	59	30	37	30	23	26	4	0	215	24	3	34	1	73	6,455
Berkshire	50	42	73	39	50	24	10	0	82	54	0	48	1	118	8,008
Buckinghamshire	55	84	51	32	40	19	12	1	62	21	0	109	2	74	8,092
Cambridgeshire	126	52	31	22	26	31	11	0	79	11	9	67	0	1	7,152
Dorset & Wiltshire	137	93	57	77	52	23	4	3	278	37	18	87	6	153	12,452
Durham	50	75	12	42	22	21	4	0	114	12	4	88	1	52	9,250
East Sussex	197	86	30	98	118	17	4	0	190	32	2	67	0	53	9,144
Norfolk	127	52	60	102	103	29	6	1	362	22	6	39	4	73	7,395
Northamptonshire	53	36	26	59	54	18	5	6	117	44	1	22	0	93	6,051
Oxfordshire	67	4	58	48	34	27	9	1	48	11	0	55	1	76	7,044
Suffolk	73	18	10	5	21	8	4	0	63	7	1	41	1	33	4,976
West Sussex	98	53	13	71	67	16	2	0	218	31	7	106	0	132	8,859
FG2 Average	91	52	38	52	51	22	6	1	152	26	4	64	1	78	7,907
National results - England	4,694	4,504	2,285	3,590	3,519	1,495	542	40	10,204	1,999	325	7,460	178	5,864	559,463