



# **East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service**

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## **East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Benchmarking Report 2019/20**

## 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 2019 to March 2020'
- Station and appliance comparisons from the 'CIPFA annual statistics for 2019-20'
- Health and Safety comparisons from the 'Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics: England, April 2019 to March 2020'
- Incident comparisons from the 'Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire Statistics: England April 2019 to March 2020' and the 'Fire Incident Response Times: England, for 2019-30'
- Sickness comparisons for the FG2 from the 'National Fire & Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2019 – March 2020'
- Prevention and protection comparisons from 'Fire prevention & protection statistics, England, April 2019 to March 2020'

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

The most current Home Office datasets were released in January 2021. The figures in this report are based on the latest published figures and regional demographic information. The Appliance and Station numbers are based on data released by CIPFA (annual statistics for 2019-20) and the Employee and Health & Safety comparisons are based on 2019-20 Operational Statistics data collection returns. These returns reflect the positions within each organisation as of 31 March 2020. Sickness data is provided directly from Fire and Rescue Services in the 'National Fire and Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2019 – March 2020'. This report is prepared by Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service.

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 2019 to March 2020). 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 2019 to March 2020). 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 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>

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 2019 to March 2020' and the 'Response times to fires attended by fire and rescue services: England, April 2019 to March 2020'.

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. It shows, with regard to population and properties, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (ESFRS) is comparable to Cambridgeshire and West Sussex. ESFRS has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest population (848,114), the 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of occupied dwellings (371,279) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of non-domestic properties (32,411) but it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> smallest in area among FG2.

ESFRS, with regard to full-time equivalents (FTE), has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of Wholetime (WT) and 7<sup>th</sup> highest number of On-call firefighters. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of WT and On-call combined.

	Bedfordshire	Berkshire	Buckinghamshire	Cambridgeshire	Dorset & Wiltshire	Durham	East Sussex	Norfolk	Northamptonshire	Oxfordshire	Suffolk	West Sussex
<b>Population</b>	674,992	914,859	813,430	855,796	1,496,056	636,897	848,114	907,760	753,278	691,667	761,350	863,980
<b>Domestic Properties (Occupied dwellings)</b>	270,190	369,713	330,875	358,103	666,246	283,558	371,279	417,585	317,626	289,251	337,048	377,861
<b>Non-domestic Properties (chargeable)</b>	18,538	27,295	17,879	27,010	54,689	19,535	32,411	38,891	23,680	21,876	30,679	28,703
<b>Wholetime (Full Time Equivalents)</b>	284	372	240	243	403	304	356	278	254	228	195	317
<b>On-call (Full Time Equivalents)</b>	118	58	84	133	493	136	141	420	155	193	333	158
<b>Total FTEs</b>	402	430	324	376	896	440	497	698	409	421	528	475
<b>Area Sq Km</b>	1,235	1,264	1,874	3,396	6,138	2,429	1,795	5,382	2,367	2,606	3,802	1,991

Table 1: Sources: (i) ONS Population Mid-year estimates 2019 (iii, vi & vii) CIPFA Fire and Rescue Service Statistics 2020 Summary (ii) LG Inform/Ministry of Housing, Community & Local Government 2020 (iv & v) Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics 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 – On-call firefighters.

# Locations of the Family Group 2 Fire and Rescue Services



 FAMILY GROUP TWO

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## Employee comparisons

Table 2 shows that the ESFRS's senior management structure is most comparable to Oxfordshire. Overall, ESFRS has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest numbers of WT operational staff in FG2.

Additionally, the figures represent the 'Strength' of each FRS. This is the actual number of WT operational posts filled as per contract as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. They do not include any temporary posts or posts that are fully funded by outside agencies; for example, persons seconded to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), the Home Office, HMICFRS, Fire Service College or charitable organisations. Posts such as these are not included in the FRS's 'Strength' figures. However, the figures reflect temporary promotions within the organisation.

ESFRS has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest increase in WT operational staff against the numbers stated in the 2018/19 Benchmarking Report. The 1.3% increase equates to 4 WT posts and a decline of 76 WT posts since 2011. The average ratio of firefighters to Senior Managers in FG2 is 20, so with 21, ESFRS is slightly above this and has the 4<sup>th</sup> equal highest ratio.

Fire & Rescue Service	Brigade Manager	Area Manager	Group Manager	Station Manager	Watch Manager	Crew Manager	Non managerial Firefighter	Total	% change from previous year	Ratio of Firefighters to Senior Manager
Bedfordshire	3	5	7	12	40	48	169	284	1.1%	18 to 1
Berkshire	3	4	11	33	38	63	220	372	1.6%	20 to 1
Buckinghamshire	2	2	6	21	39	43	127	240	1.7%	23 to 1
Cambridgeshire	2	3	8	25	43	29	133	243	-4.0%	18 to 1
Dorset & Wiltshire	3	5	10	38	72	67	208	403	-5.0%	21 to 1
Durham	3	3	4	19	46	53	176	304	3.1%	29 to 1
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>21 to 1</b>
Norfolk	3	3	8	26	41	40	157	278	0.7%	19 to 1
Northamptonshire	2	4	9	18	51	30	140	254	9.0%	16 to 1
Oxfordshire	3	3	9	27	50	30	106	228	-3.0%	14 to 1
Suffolk	2	5	6	17	33	29	104	195	2.1%	14 to 1
West Sussex	3	2	9	27	59	44	173	317	-0.6%	22 to 1

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

Table 2: Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1102a: Total Staff Numbers (FTE) by role and fire and rescue authority – Wholetime Firefighters.

Table 3, shows the FG2 management structure at station level. ESFRS has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of Watch and Crew Managers and WT and Day crewed (DC) stations and the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest average number of watch and crew managers by DC and WT station with 9.33. The FG2 average is 10.49.

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	Ranking
Bedfordshire	40	48	169	88	6	14.67	12
Berkshire	38	63	220	101	12	8.42	2
Buckinghamshire	39	43	127	82	10	8.20	1
Cambridgeshire	43	29	133	72	7	10.29	7
Dorset & Wiltshire	72	67	208	139	13	10.69	9
Durham	46	53	176	99	9	11.00	10
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9.33</b>	<b>3</b>
Norfolk	41	40	157	81	8	10.13	5
Northamptonshire	51	30	140	81	8	10.13	5
Oxfordshire	50	30	106	80	6	13.33	11
Suffolk	33	29	104	62	6	10.33	8
West Sussex	59	44	173	103	11	9.36	4

Table 3: Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1102a: Total Staff Numbers (FTE) by role and fire and rescue authority – Wholtime Firefighters. Number of Stations: CIPFA Fire and Rescue Service Statistics 2019-20 Actuals.

Chart 1, below, shows the comparisons of WT firefighters (head count) across FG2. ESFRS is above the FG2 average of 290, with 358.

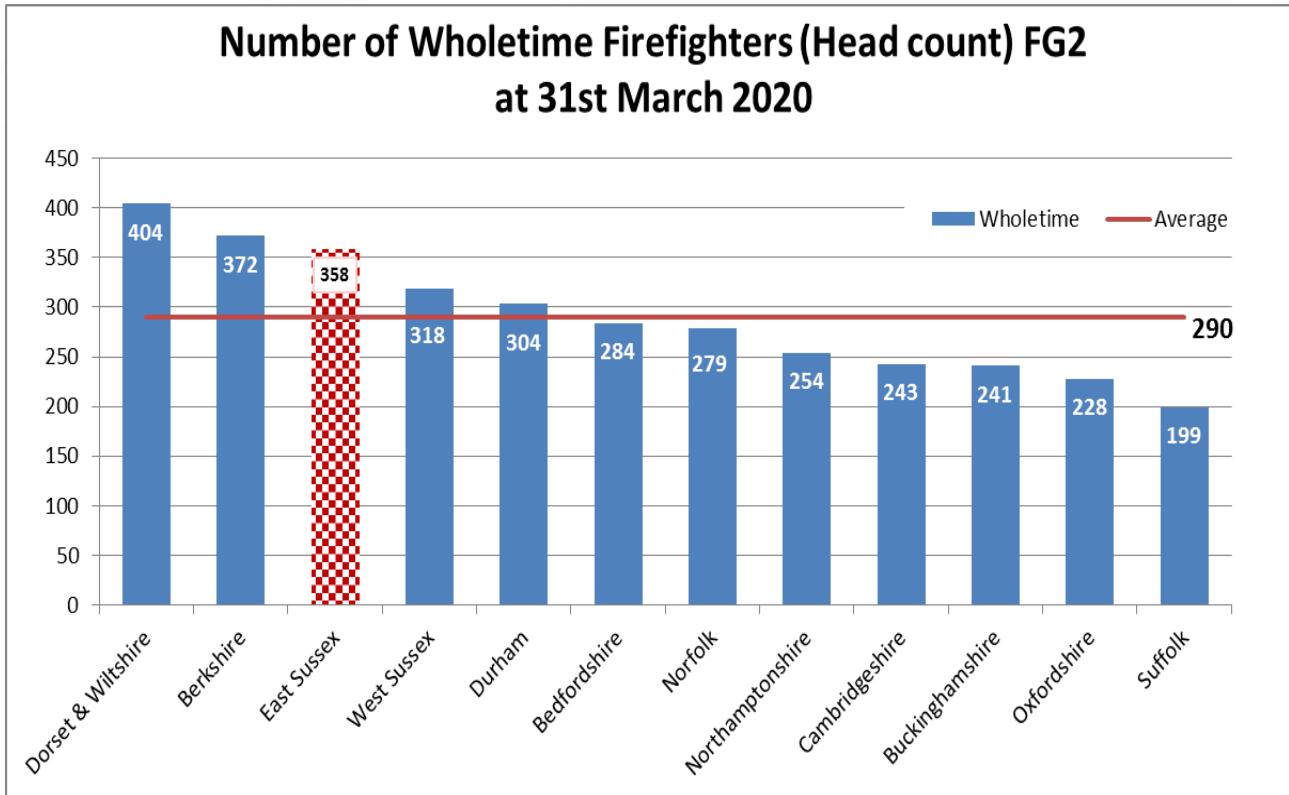


Chart 1: Number of WT Firefighters. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1101: Staff in post employed by FRA by head count – Wholetime Firefighters.)

Chart 2 shows the comparisons of On-call firefighters (head count) across FG2. The average number of On-call firefighters across the group is 272, whereas for ESFRS this is 254. The On-call staffing model is often dependent on a number of factors, including geographical location, the number of incidents in an area and the levels of risk within an area.

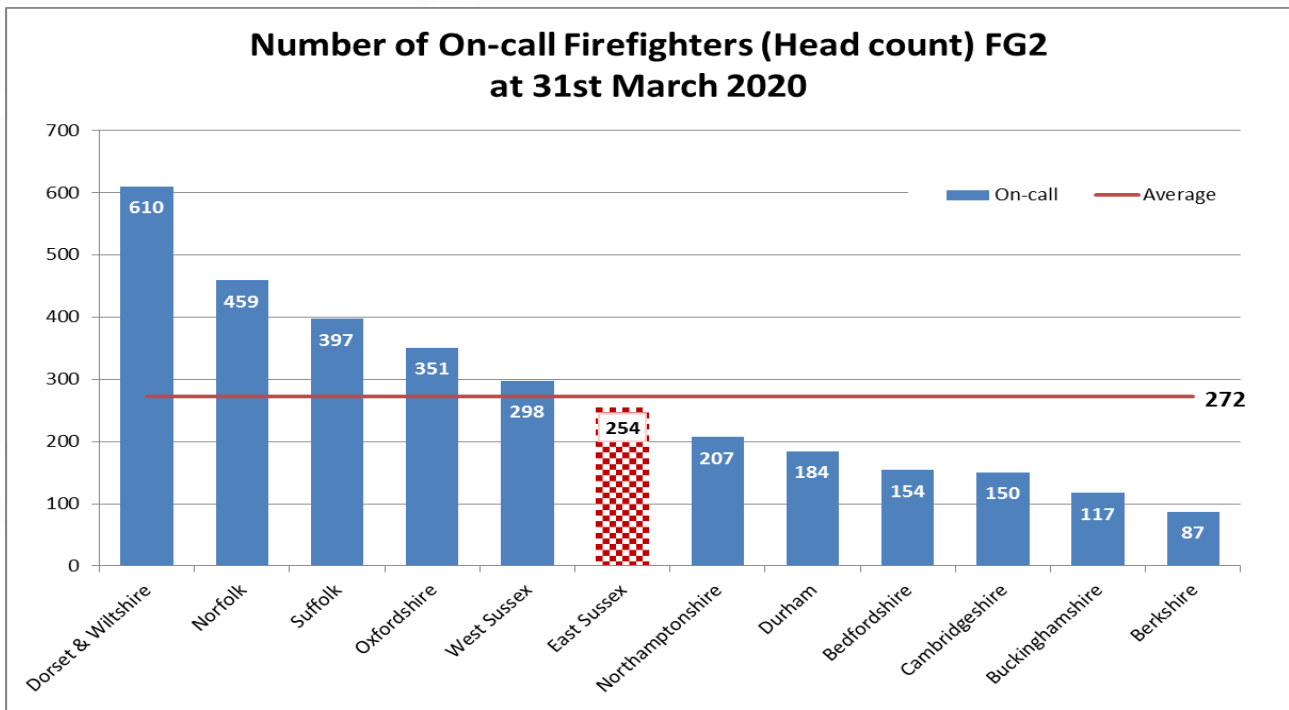


Chart 2: Number of On-call Firefighters. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1101: Staff in post employed by FRA by head count – On-call Firefighters.)



## Stations and Appliances comparisons

Table 4 shows number of pumping appliances across area and population. ESFRS has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of pumping appliances among FG2 with 41. This is above the group average of 36.9. ESFRS's population is concentrated mostly on the coast by comparison to many other FG2 members and therefore impacts on the area per pumping appliance.

Fire & Rescue Service	Pumping Appliances	Appliances per 100,000 population	Area per Pumping Appliance (km <sup>2</sup> )	FRS Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population
Bedfordshire	19	2.81	65.0	1,235	674,992
Berkshire	22	2.40	57.4	1,264	914,859
Buckinghamshire	30	3.69	62.5	1,874	813,430
Cambridgeshire	35	4.09	97.0	3,396	855,796
Dorset & Wiltshire	74	4.95	82.9	6,138	1,496,056
Durham	26	4.08	93.4	2,429	636,897
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>4.83</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>1,795</b>	<b>848,114</b>
Norfolk	51	5.62	105.5	5,382	907,760
Northamptonshire	28	3.72	84.5	2,367	753,278
Oxfordshire	35	5.06	74.5	2,606	691,667
Suffolk	40	5.25	95.1	3,802	761,350
West Sussex	42	4.86	47.4	1,991	863,980

Table 4: Number of pumping appliances. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2019/20 Actuals.)

Chart 3 presents the number of pumping appliances per 100,000 population. ESFRS has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest with 4.8, which is above the FG2 average of 4.3.

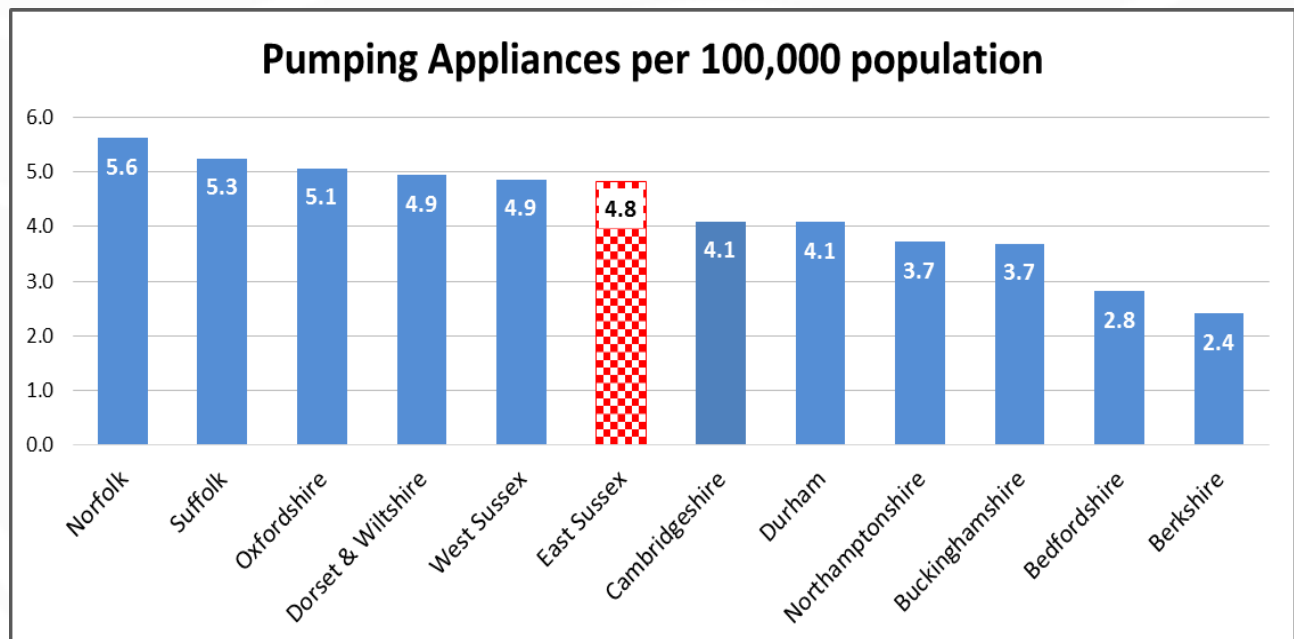


Chart 3: Pumping Appliances per 100,000 population. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2019/20 Actuals.)

Chart 4 shows area per pumping appliance. ESFRS has the highest pumping appliance density with one to every 43.8 km<sup>2</sup>. The FG2 average one to every 75.8 km<sup>2</sup>.

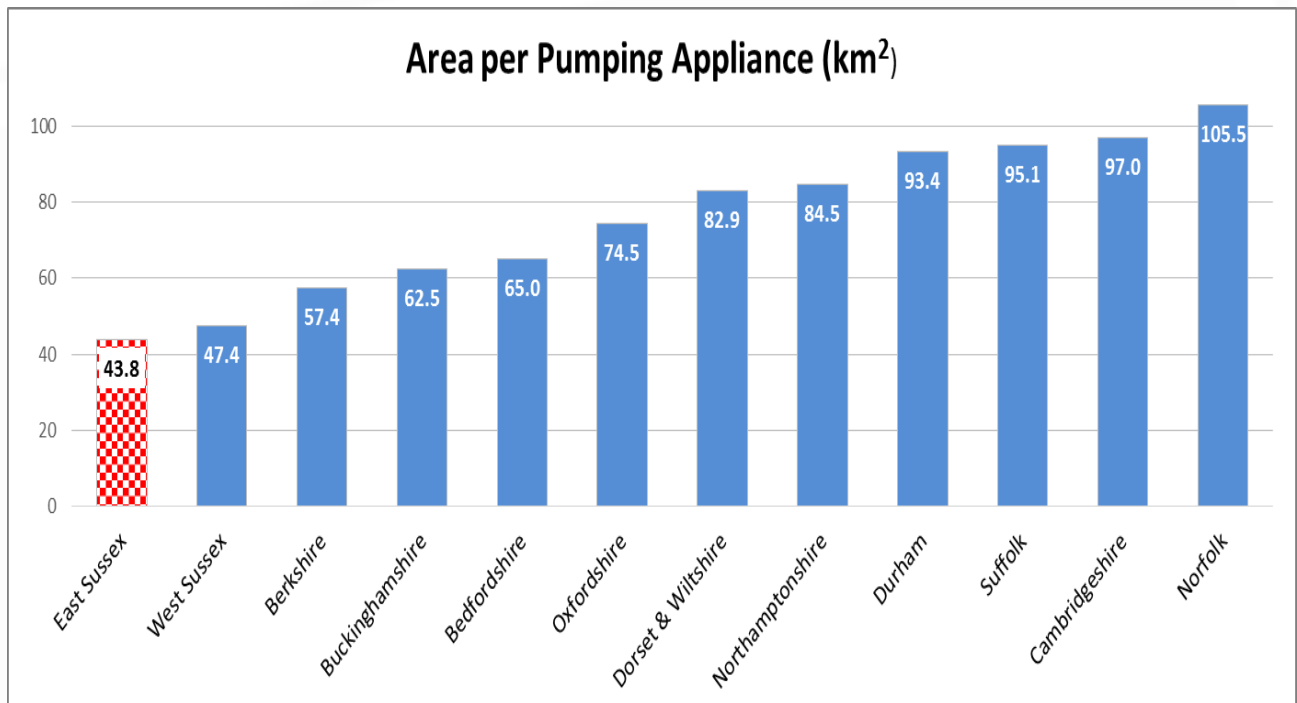


Chart 4: Square kilometers per appliance. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2019/20 Actuals.)

Table 5 shows the number of stations per 100,000 population and area per station in km<sup>2</sup> for each FG2 FRS. ESFRS has 6 WT, 6 DC and 12 On-call stations, which is proportionally most comparable to Buckinghamshire with regard to station type in FG2.

Fire & Rescue Service	Wholetime Stations	Day crewed / Mixed Stations	On-call Stations	Total Number of Fire Stations	Stations per 100,000 population	Area per Station (km <sup>2</sup> )
Bedfordshire	3	3	8	14	2.07	88.25
Berkshire	11	1	6	18	1.97	70.22
Buckinghamshire	6	4	10	20	2.46	93.68
Cambridgeshire*	3	4	19	26	3.04	130.61
Dorset & Wiltshire	3	10	37	50	3.34	122.76
Durham	2	7	6	15	2.36	161.93
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>74.81</b>
Norfolk	3	5	34	42	4.63	128.13
Northamptonshire	3	5	14	22	2.92	107.59
Oxfordshire	0	6	19	25	3.61	104.24
Suffolk**	0	6	29	35	4.60	108.64
West Sussex***	2	9	14	25	2.89	79.63

Table 5: Number of Stations. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2019/20 Actuals)

\*Cambridgeshire has 1 Volunteer Fire Station; \*\* Suffolk has 1 Nucleus Fire Station; \*\*\* West Sussex also share an additional station with Surrey FRS.

Chart 5 presents number of stations per 100,000 population. ESFRS has a rate of 2.83 stations per 100,000 population, this is the 5th lowest in FG2.

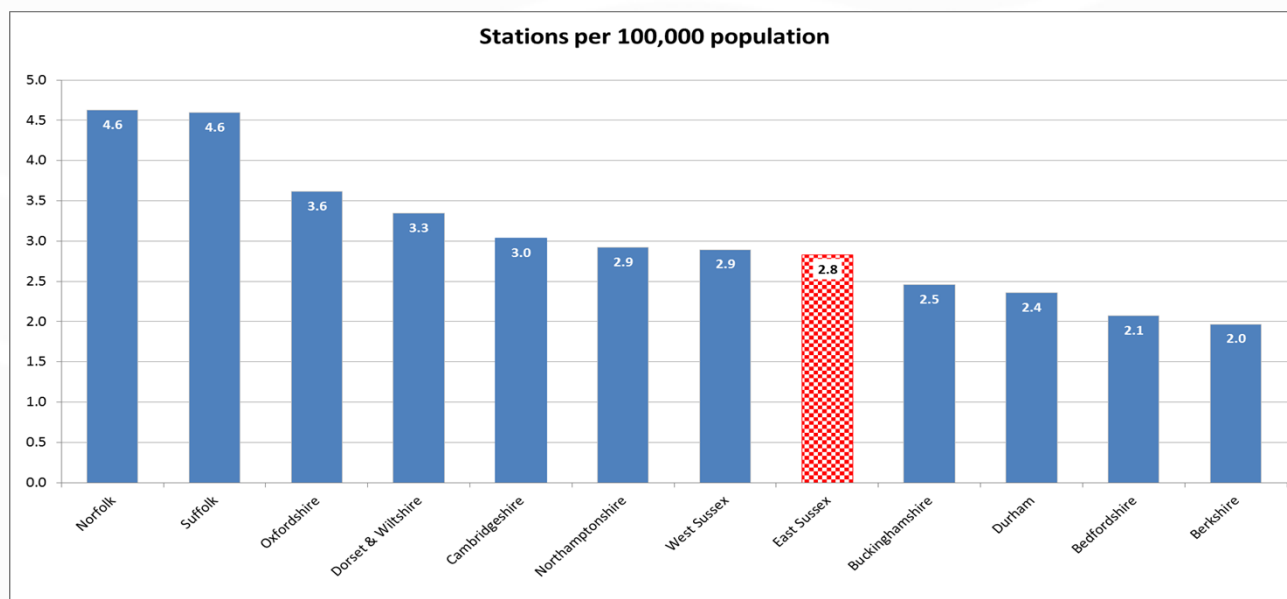


Chart 5: Stations per 100,000 population. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2019/20 Actuals.)

Chart 6 shows area per station in km<sup>2</sup>. ESFRS has one station for every 74.8 km<sup>2</sup>, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest density of stations per km<sup>2</sup> in FG2.

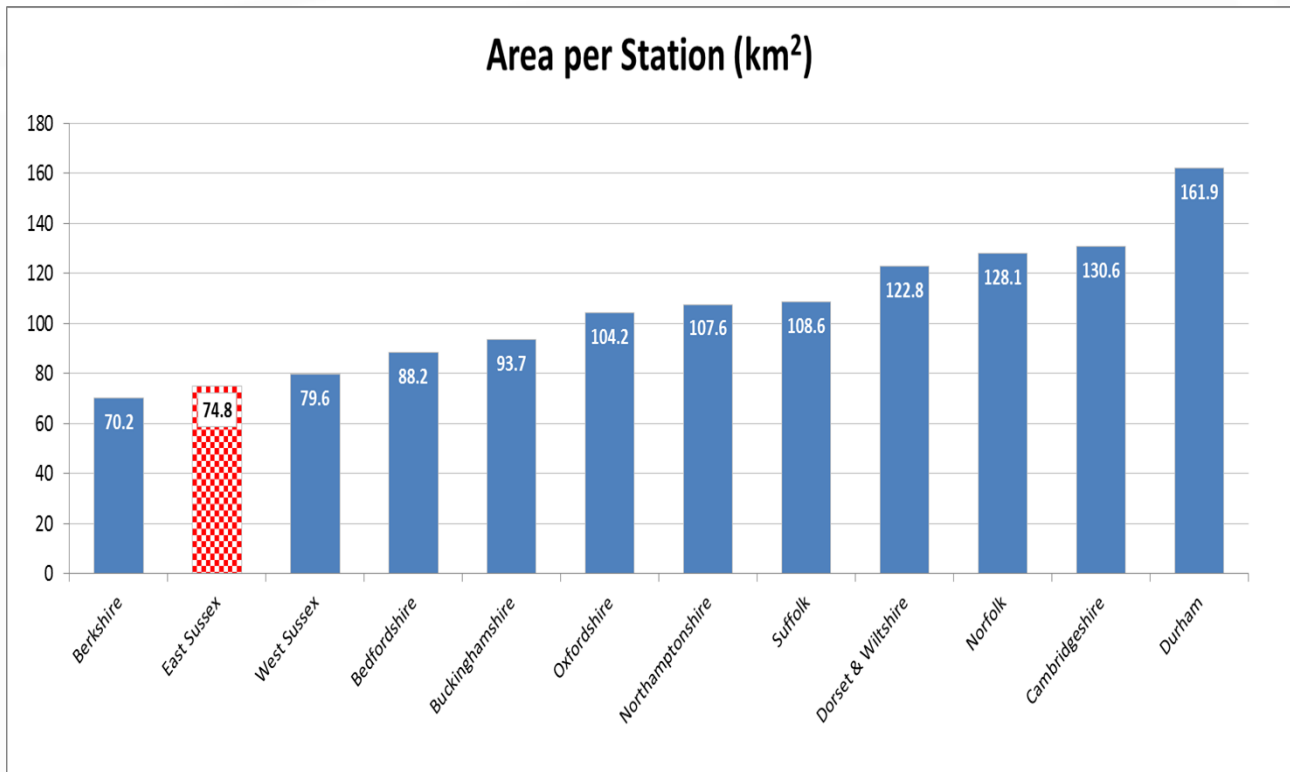


Chart 6: Stations per square km. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2018/19 Actuals.)

Chart 7 highlights the number of WT, DC and On-call stations for each FG2 member. Berkshire has the highest number of WT stations, Dorset and Wiltshire has the highest number of Day and mixed crewed, and On-call stations. Dorset & Wiltshire (50) and Norfolk (42) have the most stations overall, whilst Bedfordshire (14) and Durham (15) have the least among FG2.

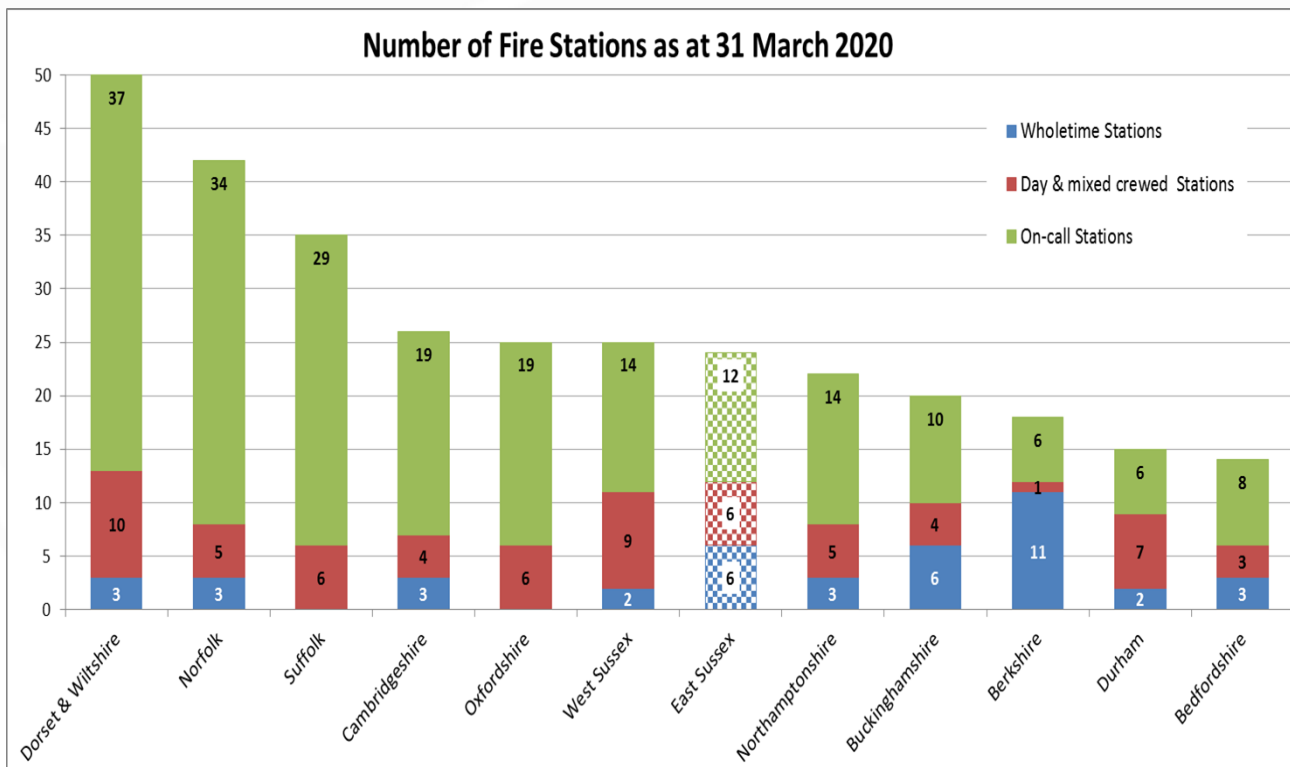


Chart 7: Number of Stations. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2019/20 Actuals)

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> highest cost per Council Tax Band D.

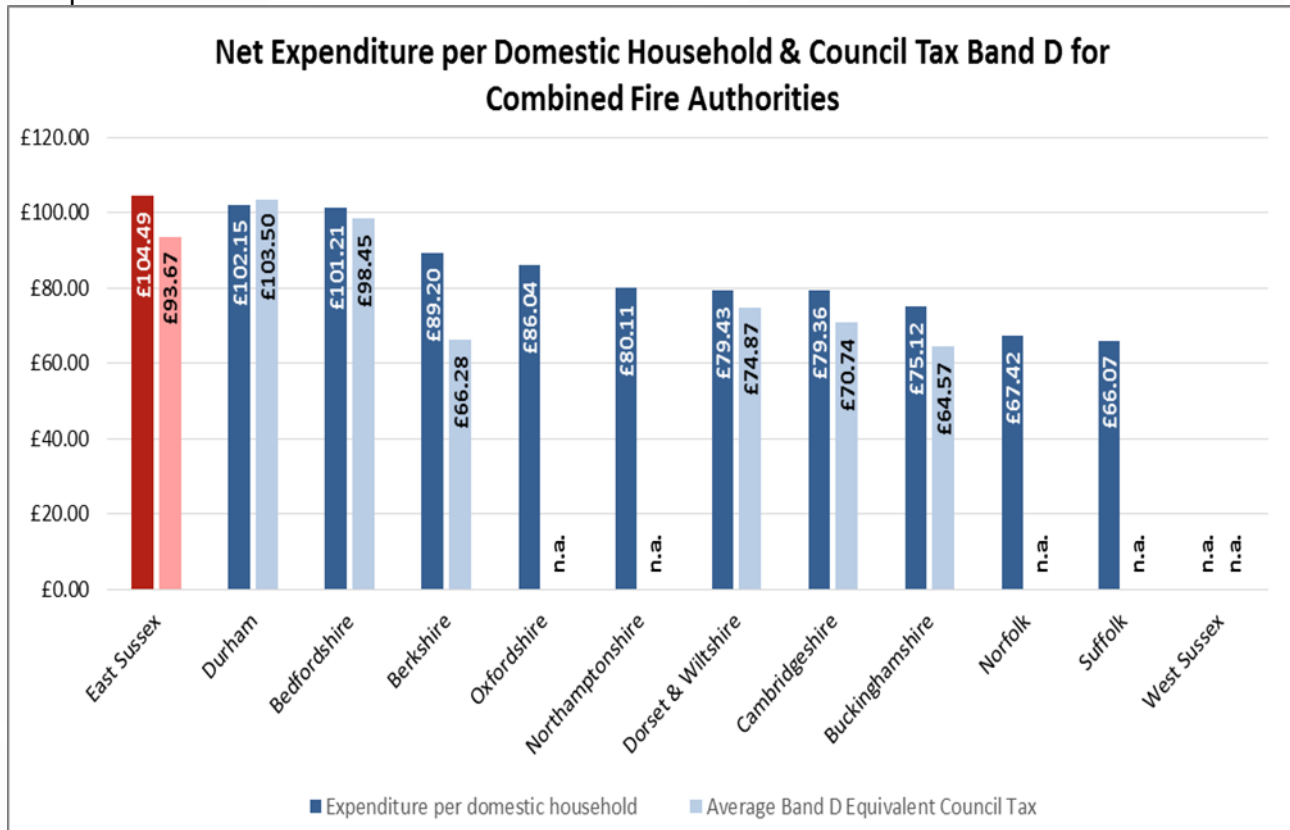
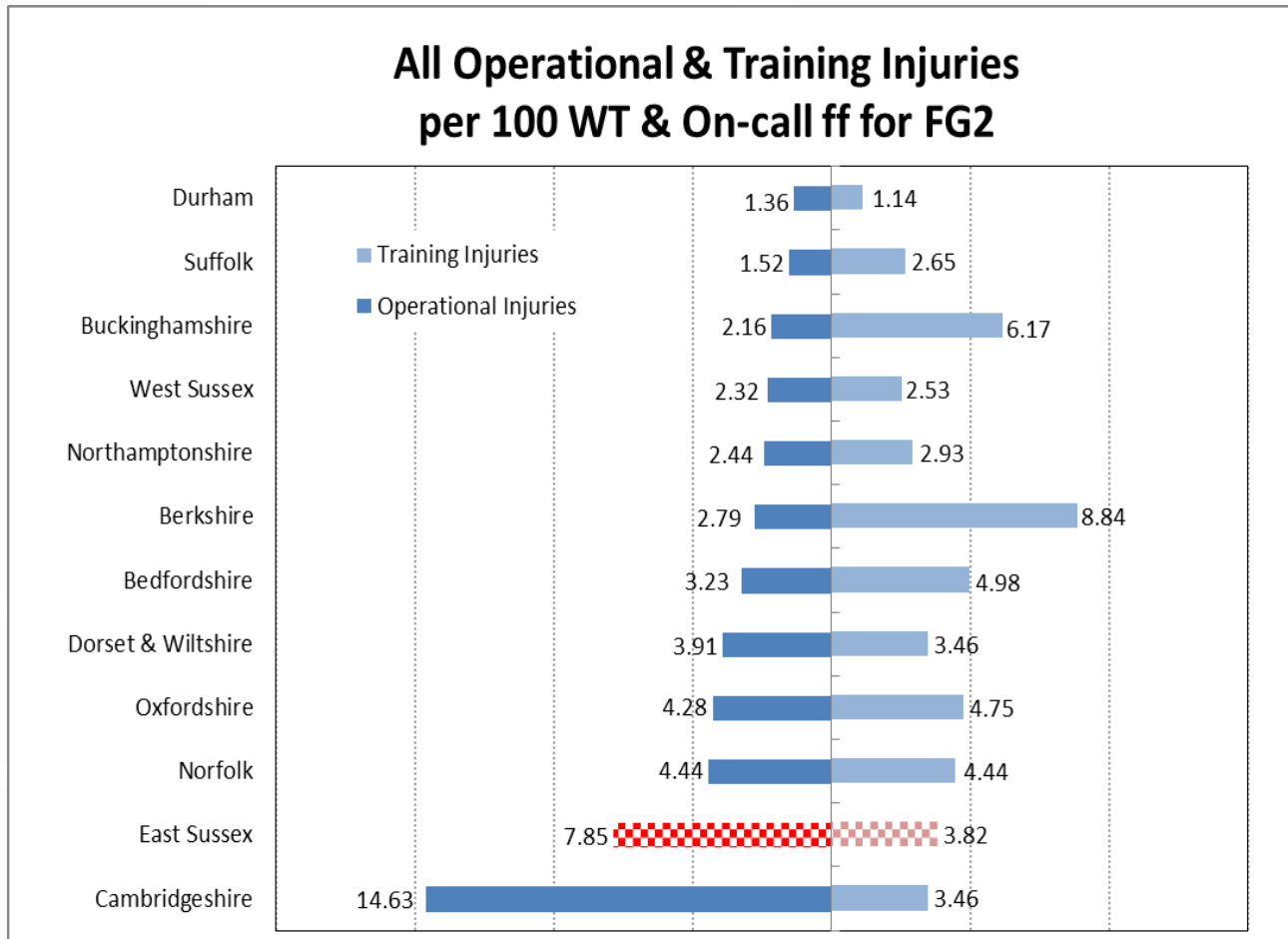


Chart 8: Average net expenditure per number of domestic properties & Council Tax Band D. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2019/20)

## Health & Safety

Chart 9, below, shows the number of injuries per 100 WT and On-call firefighters sustained during operational incidents and training for FG2. In 2019/20, ESFRS sustained 7.85 operational injuries per 100 firefighters (6.40 in 2018/19) and 3.82 training injuries per 100 firefighters (3.47 in 2018/19). The FG2 average number of operational injuries per 100 firefighters is 4.24 and the average rate for training injuries is 4.10 per 100 firefighters.

ESFRS is above the FG2 average in operational injuries, currently ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> highest (the same as in 2018/19) and below the average in training injuries, ranked 7<sup>th</sup> lowest (5<sup>th</sup> lowest in 2018/19). Cambridgeshire has the most operational injuries and Bedfordshire the most training injuries, whilst Durham has the least training and operational injuries per 100 firefighters among FG2.



**Chart 9: Operational & Training Injuries per 100 firefighters.** (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics tables 0508b: Injuries sustained by firefighters and firefighter fatalities, during operational incidents, by fire and rescue authority & 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 four 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 March 2002 to 7.4% in March 2020. Notably, a significant part of this increase during this period is owing to the large decline in male firefighters (down from 31,168 to 21,100), rather than an actual increase in the numbers of female firefighters (up from 424 to 1,692).

ESFRS has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest proportion of female firefighters across FG2 with 8.7% of WT firefighters, which is above both the national average of 7.4% and the FG2 average of 6.7%.

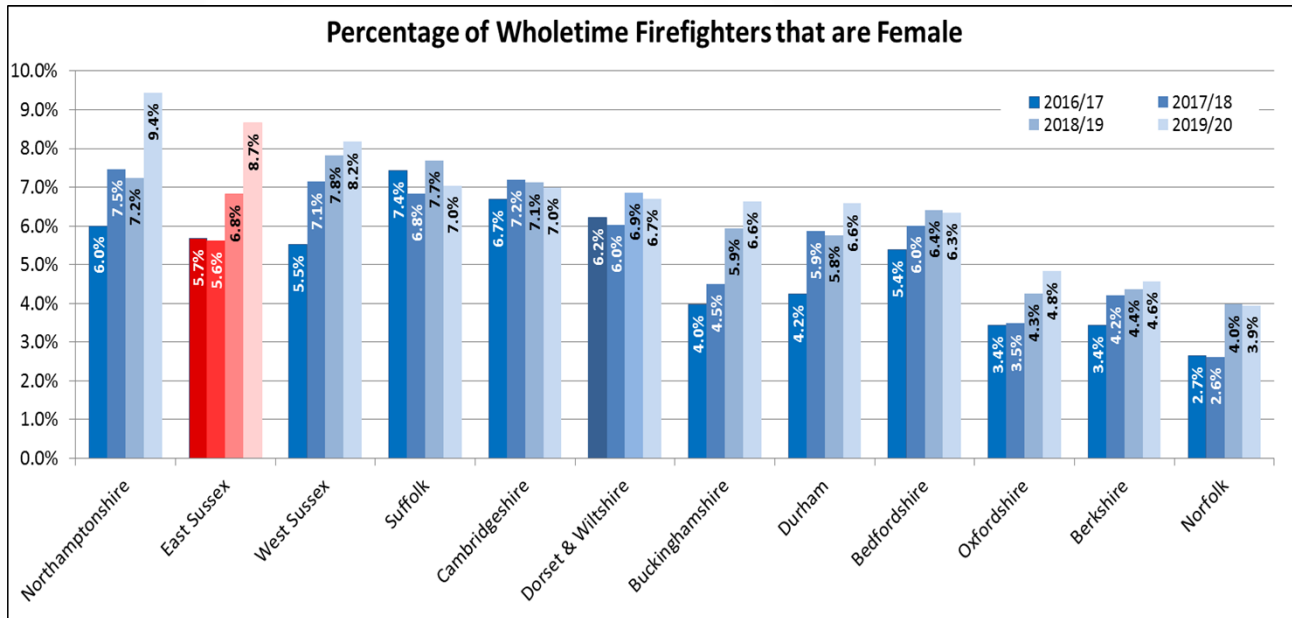


Chart 10: Percentage of WT firefighters that are female. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1103: Staff headcount by gender, fire and rescue authority and role.)

Chart 11 shows the actual numbers of male and female firefighters at each FG2 FRS. In terms of raw numbers, ESFRS has the highest numbers of female firefighters with 31. The lowest number of female fighters were 11, in both Oxfordshire and Norfolk FRSs.

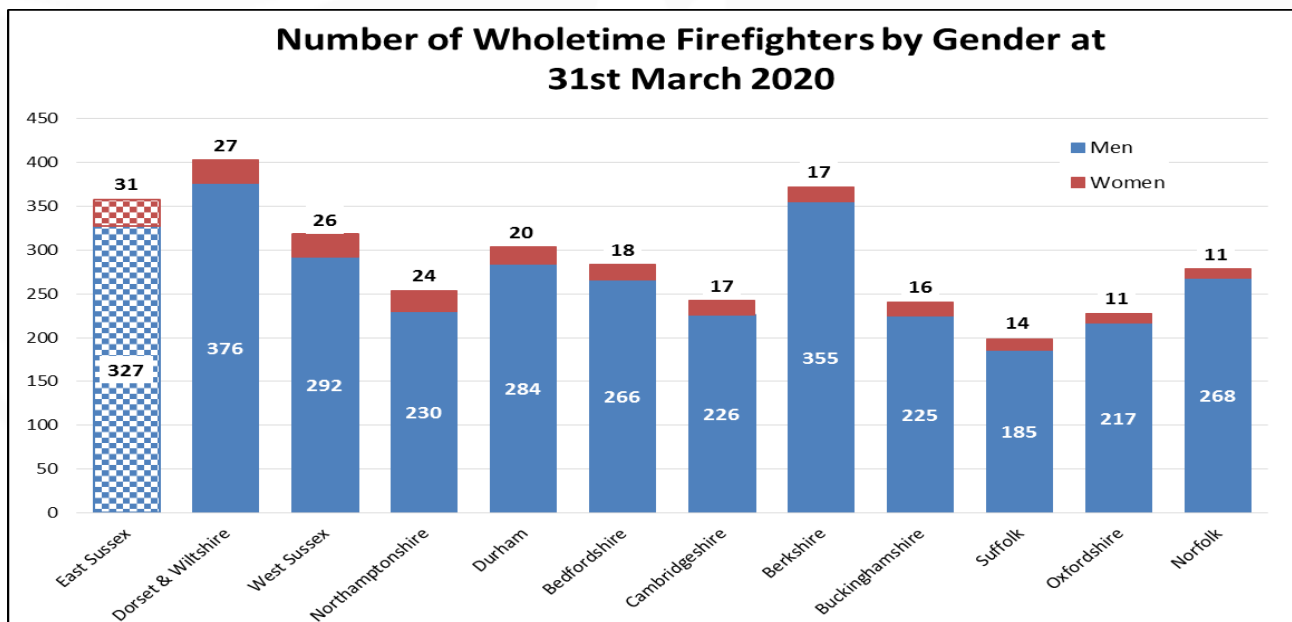
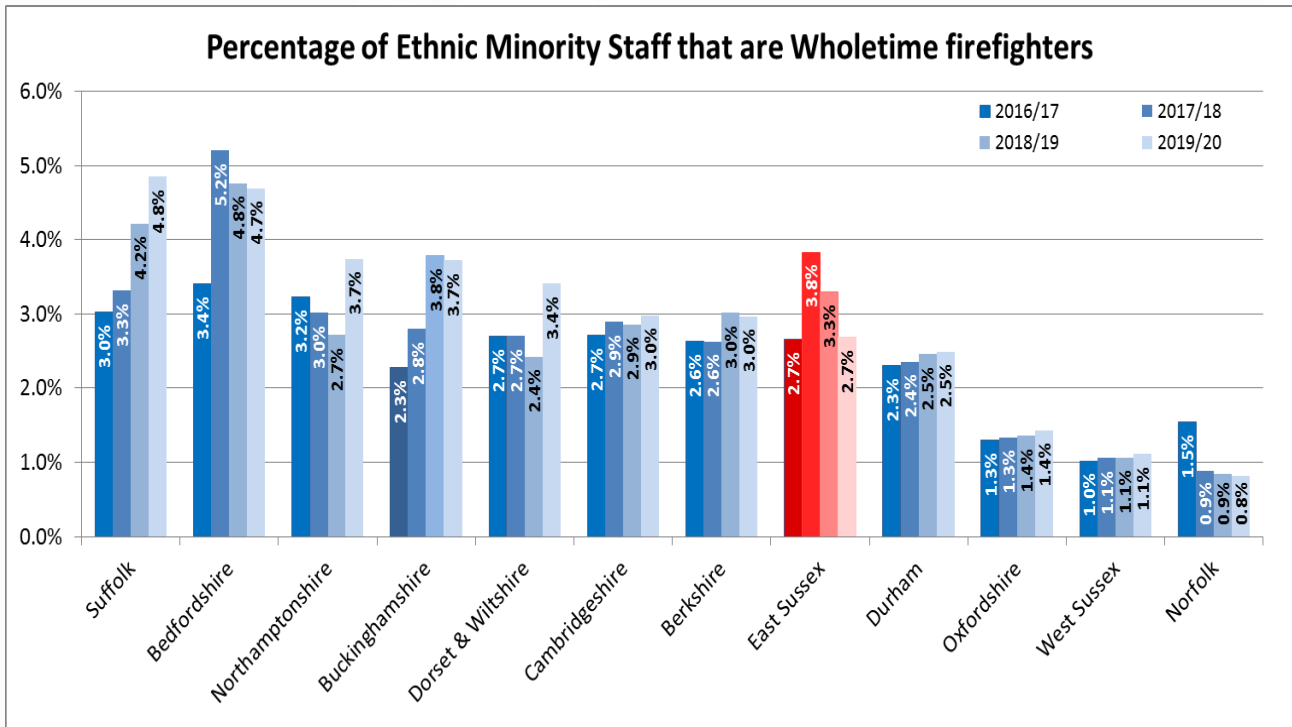


Chart 11: Numbers of WT firefighters that are female. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1103: Staff headcount by gender, fire and rescue authority and role.)

Nationally, the percentage of WT firefighters from ethnic minority backgrounds has also increased:

from an average across all FRSs of 1.5% in 2002 to 5.9% in March 2020. ESFRS is currently below the national average with 2.7% as are all FG2. The highest is Suffolk with 4.8%.

Chart 12 illustrates the percentage of WT firefighters that are from an ethnic minority background for FG2. As of 31 March 2020, ESFRS has the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest proportion of ethnic minority WT firefighters across the FG2 members.



**Chart 12: Percentage of WT firefighters that are from an ethnic minority. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1104: Staff headcount by ethnicity, fire and rescue authority and role.)**

N.B. Nationally, based on the 2011 Census, 14.5% of England’s population were 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 equal 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of ethnic minority WT firefighters with 9. Bedfordshire was the highest with 13.

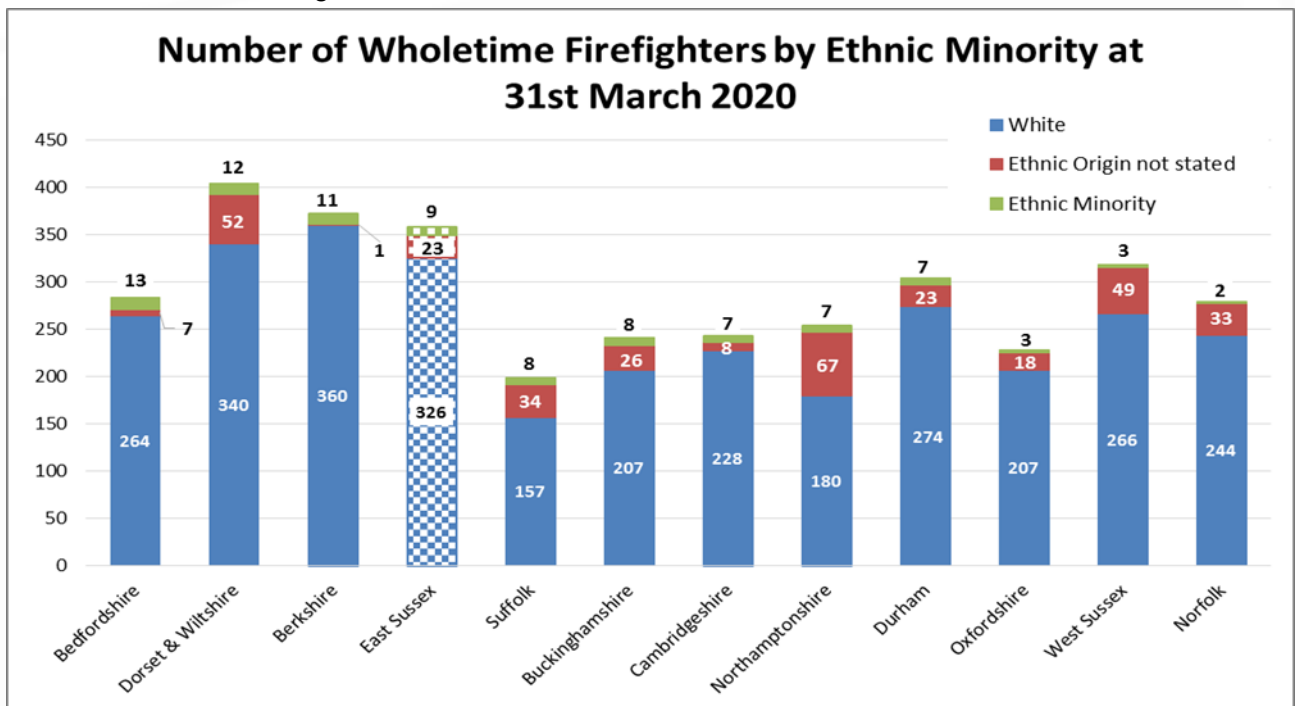


Chart 13: Number of WT firefighters that are from an ethnic minority. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1104: Staff headcount by ethnicity, fire and rescue authority and role.)

## 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 2019/20 with 10.77 days lost to sickness per employee compared to the FG2 average of 8.19. However, five FRSs from FG2 did not provide data in 2019/20. These are represented as 'n.a.' (not available) in the chart below where no value was returned.

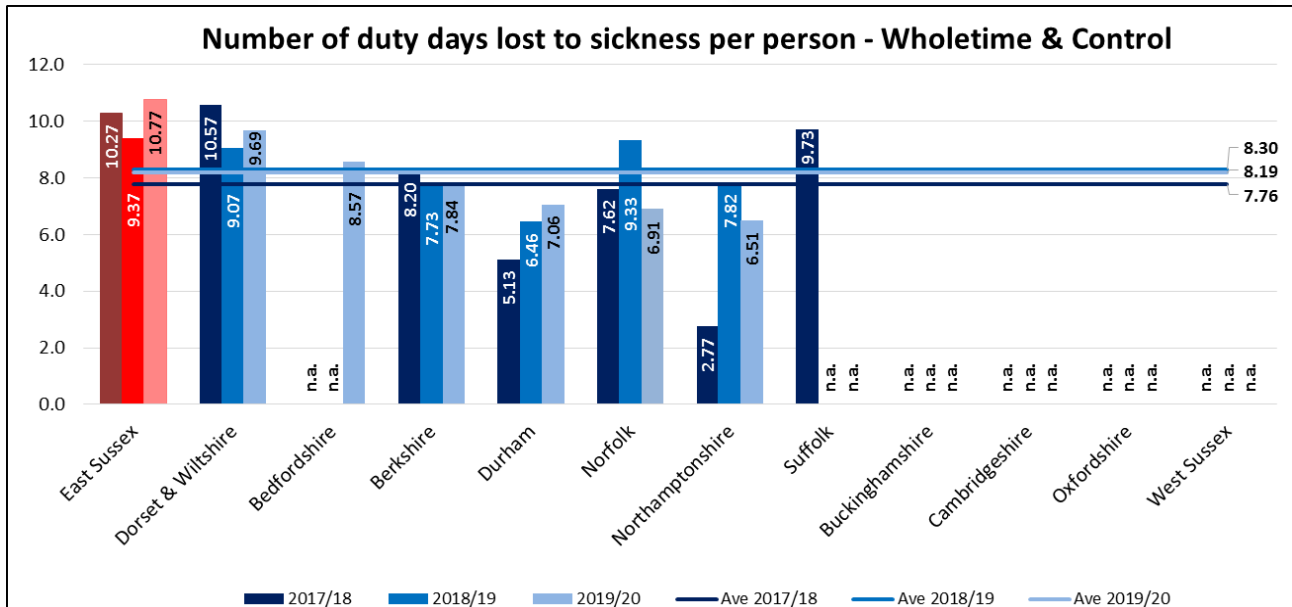


Chart 14: Number of shifts lost per person due to sickness (WT and Control). (Source - National Fire & Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2019– March 2020)

Chart 15 illustrates the number of shifts lost per person for non-uniformed staff due to sickness. ESFRS has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest level of sickness in FG2 from the 11 FRS that provided data in 2019/20 with 8.76 days lost to sickness per employee. This figure is above the 2019/20 average of 8.22. (In the chart below, 'n.a.' represents no value being returned.)

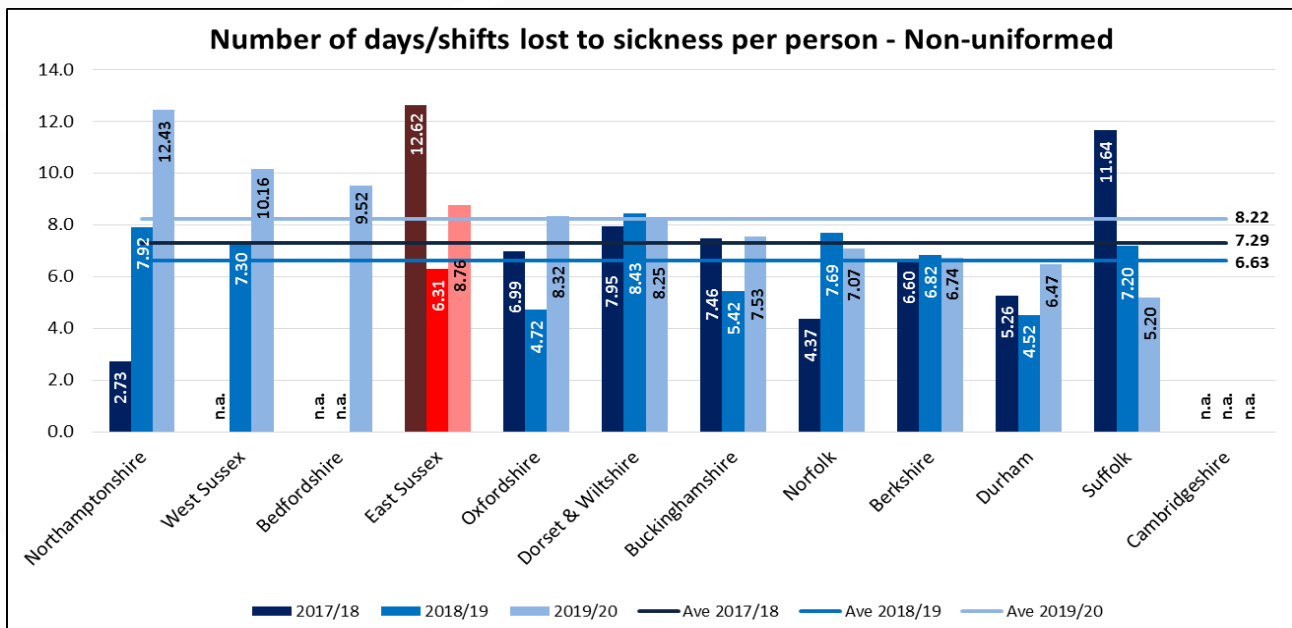


Chart 15: Number of shifts lost per person due to sickness (Support). (Source - National Fire & Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2019 – March 2020.)

## Home Safety Visits completed

Chart 16 shows the numbers of Home Safety Visits (HSVs) completed from 2010/11 to 2019/20 per 1,000 occupied dwellings for each FG2 member.

ESFRS has the 2nd highest number of HSVs completed per 1,000 occupied dwellings in 2019/20 with 27.6. Durham, with the highest number of HSVs completed 68.2 per 1,000 occupied dwellings.

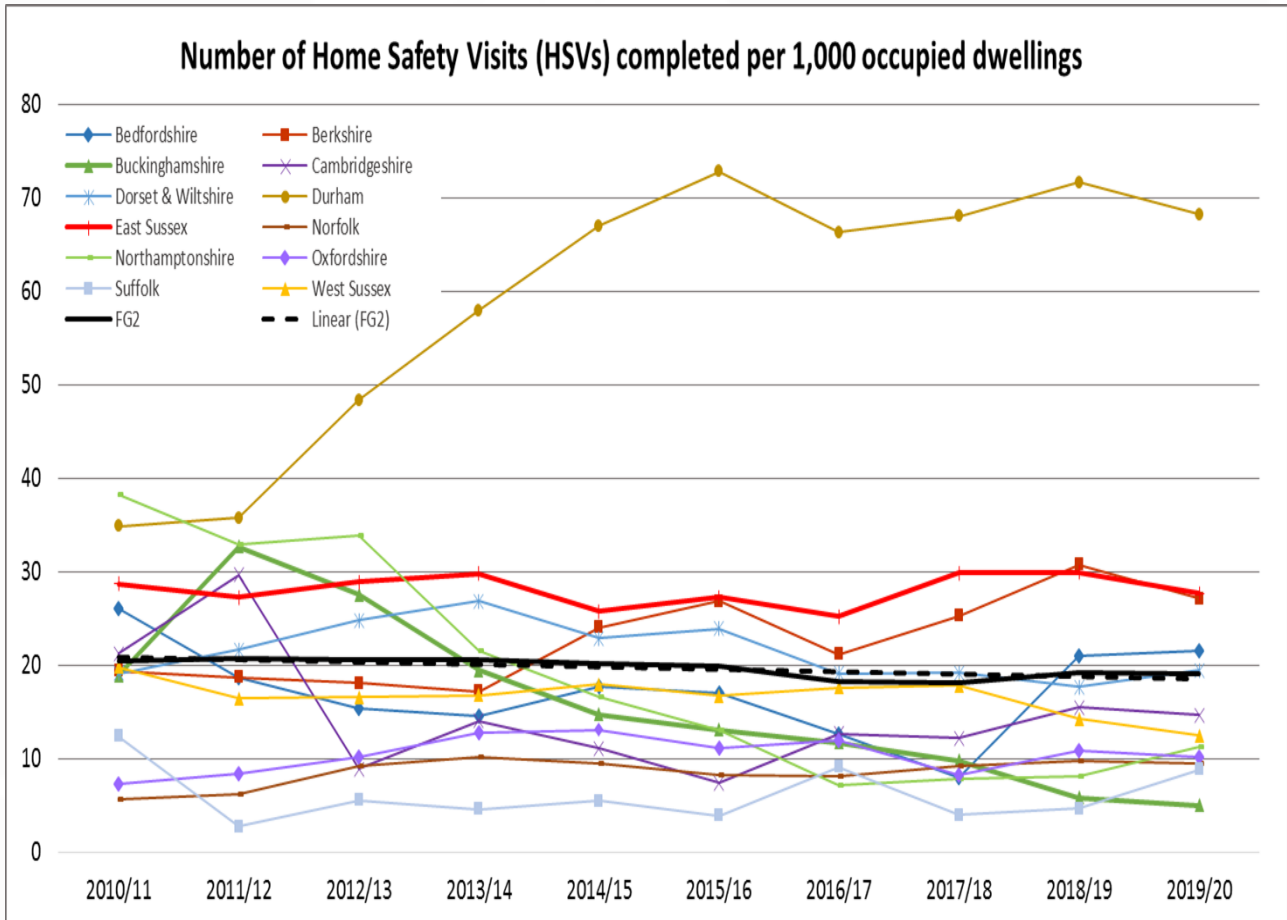


Chart 16: Number of HSVs completed per 1,000 occupied dwellings. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1201: Home Fire Risk Checks carried out by fire and rescue authorities and partners, by fire and rescue authority & LG Inform/Ministry of Housing, Community & Local Government 2021.)

## Number of Fire Safety Audits completed

Chart 17 shows the total number of Fire Safety Audits completed by FG2 in 2019/20. ESFRS had the 3rd lowest with 449, compared to Durham with 2,002. The FG2 average was 1,001.

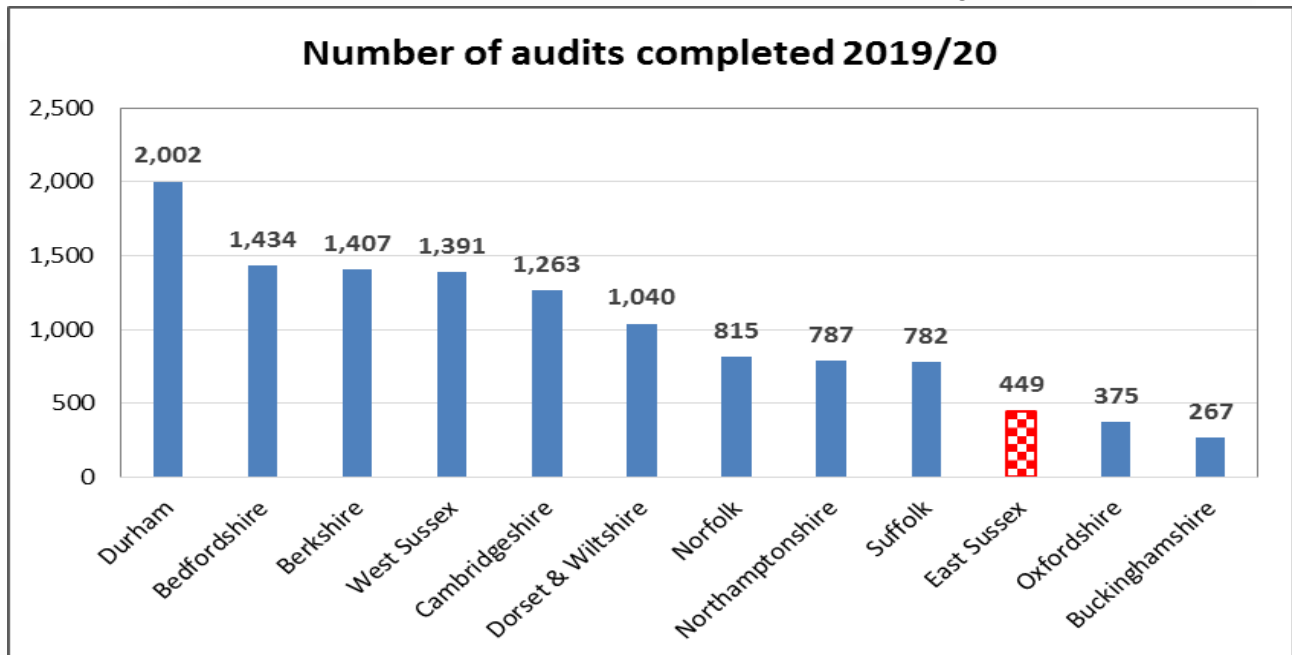
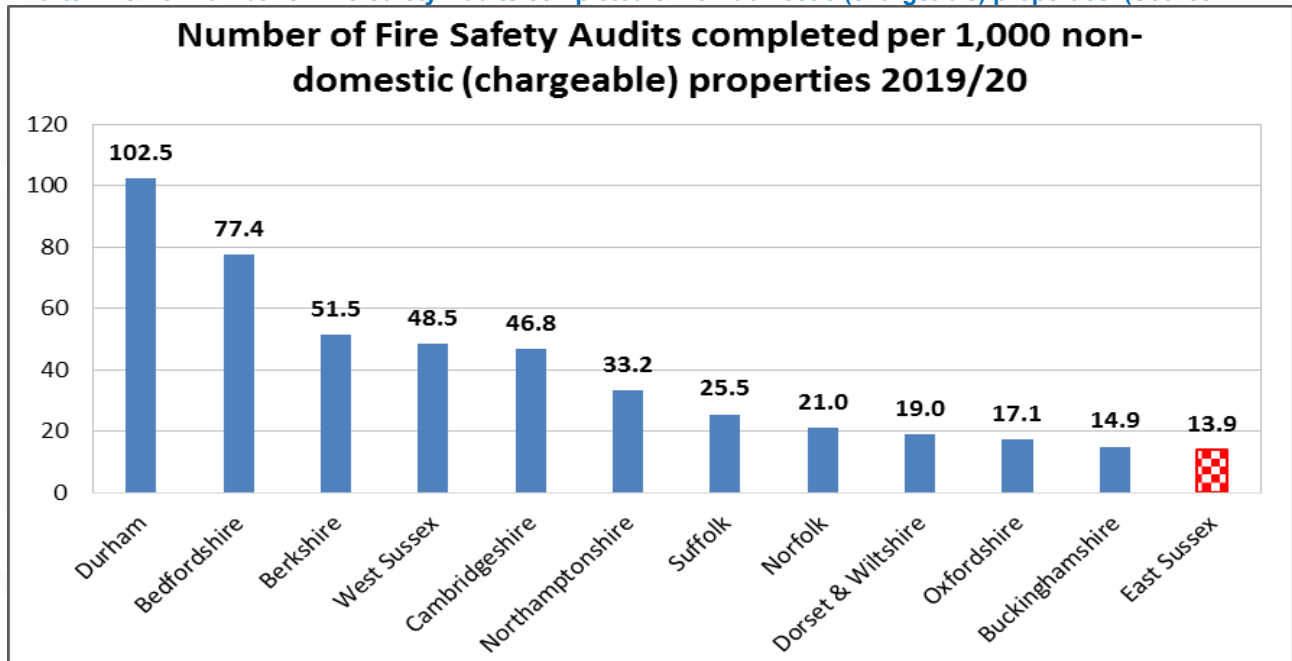


Chart 18 shows the number of Fire Safety Audits completed per 1,000 non-domestic (chargeable) properties in 2019/20. ESFRS completed the lowest recorded number of audits per 1,000 non-domestic (chargeable) properties with 13.9, whereas Durham completed the most with 102.5 per 1,000 non-domestic (chargeable) properties. The FG2 average at 39.3 was nearly treble that of ESFRS.

Charts 17 & 18: Number of Fire Safety Audits completed & Non-domestic (chargeable) properties. (Source -



Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1202: Fire Safety Audits carried out by fire and rescue authorities, by fire authority & CIPFA FRS Statistics 2020 Summary.)

## Incident comparisons - Benchmarking

Nationally, over the past decade, the number of incidents each FRS attend has reduced, demonstrating a consistent downward trend. Since 2001/02, ESFRS has attended 63.27% less fires (5,352 in 2001/02 down to 1,966 in 2019/20). Each FRS across the country has been experiencing similar reductions.

Chart 19, below, shows the reduction of Primary Fires per 1,000 population for the FG2 members from 2001/02 to 2019/20.

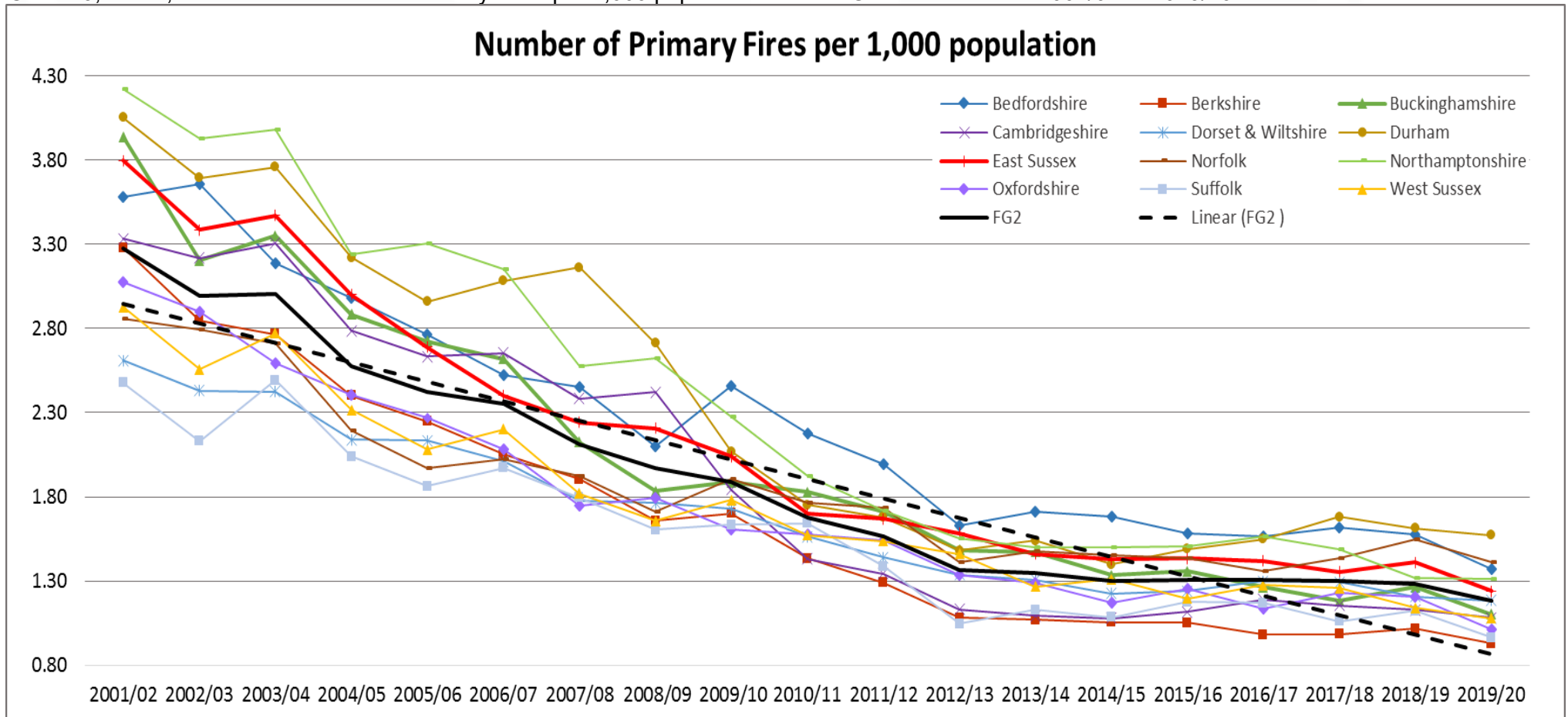


Chart 19: The number of Primary Fires per 1,000 population. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 0102: Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority.)

Chart 20, below, shows the number of Accidental Dwelling Fires per 1,000 population for each FG2 member.

As with other Primary Fires, the number of Accidental Dwelling Fires has been reducing for a significant number of years. In 2018/19, ESFRS had 0.54 Accidental Dwelling Fires per 1,000 population. This was the highest rate in FG2.

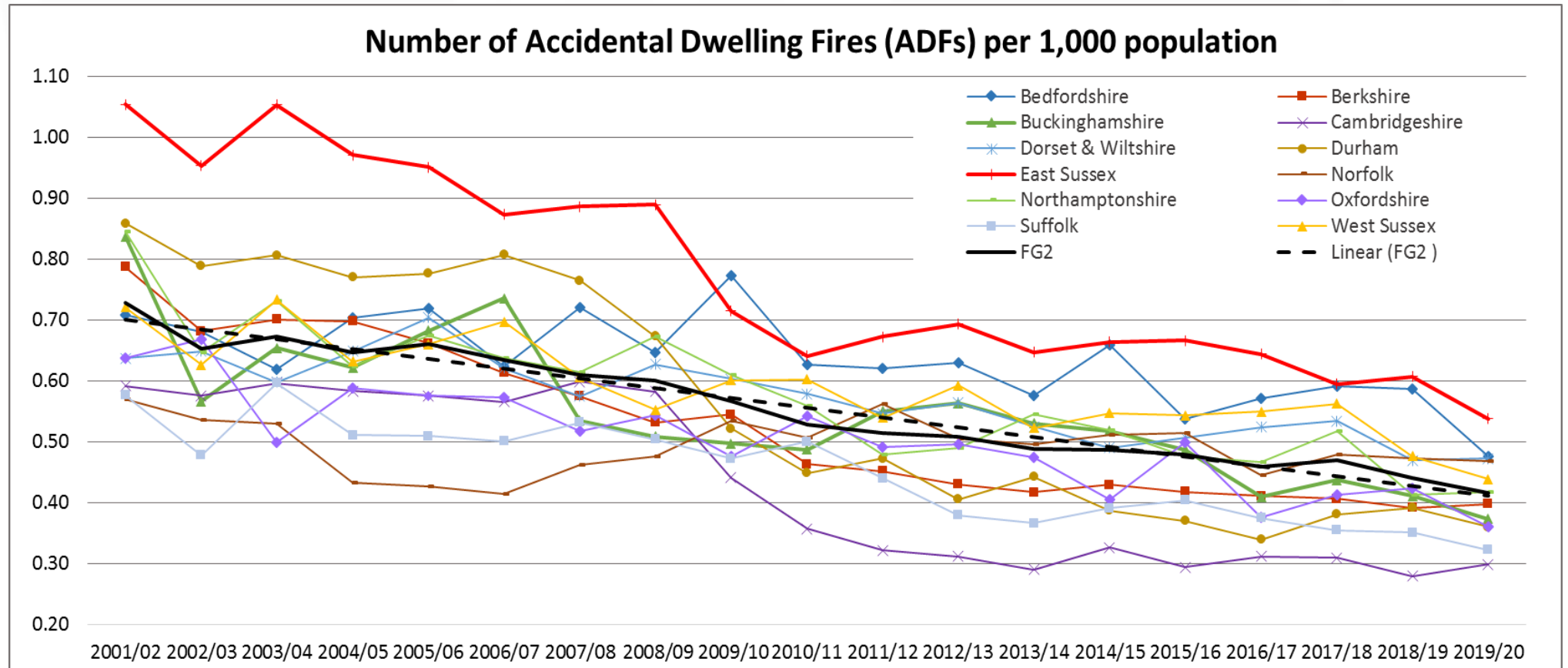


Chart 20: The number of accidental dwelling fires per 1,000 population. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 0202: Fires, fatalities and non-fatal casualties in dwellings by motive and fire and rescue authority, England.)

Chart 21, below, shows the number of Deliberate Primary Fires per 1,000 population for each FG2 member.

The number of Deliberate Primary Fires has significantly reduced since 2001/02, however, this improvement has levelled off since 2013/14 with six FG2 members now experiencing an increase in the last five years; particularly Durham FRS.

In 2019/20, ESFRS had 0.30 Deliberate Fires per 1,000 population. This was the 6<sup>th</sup> highest in the FG2 group and equal to the FG2 average.

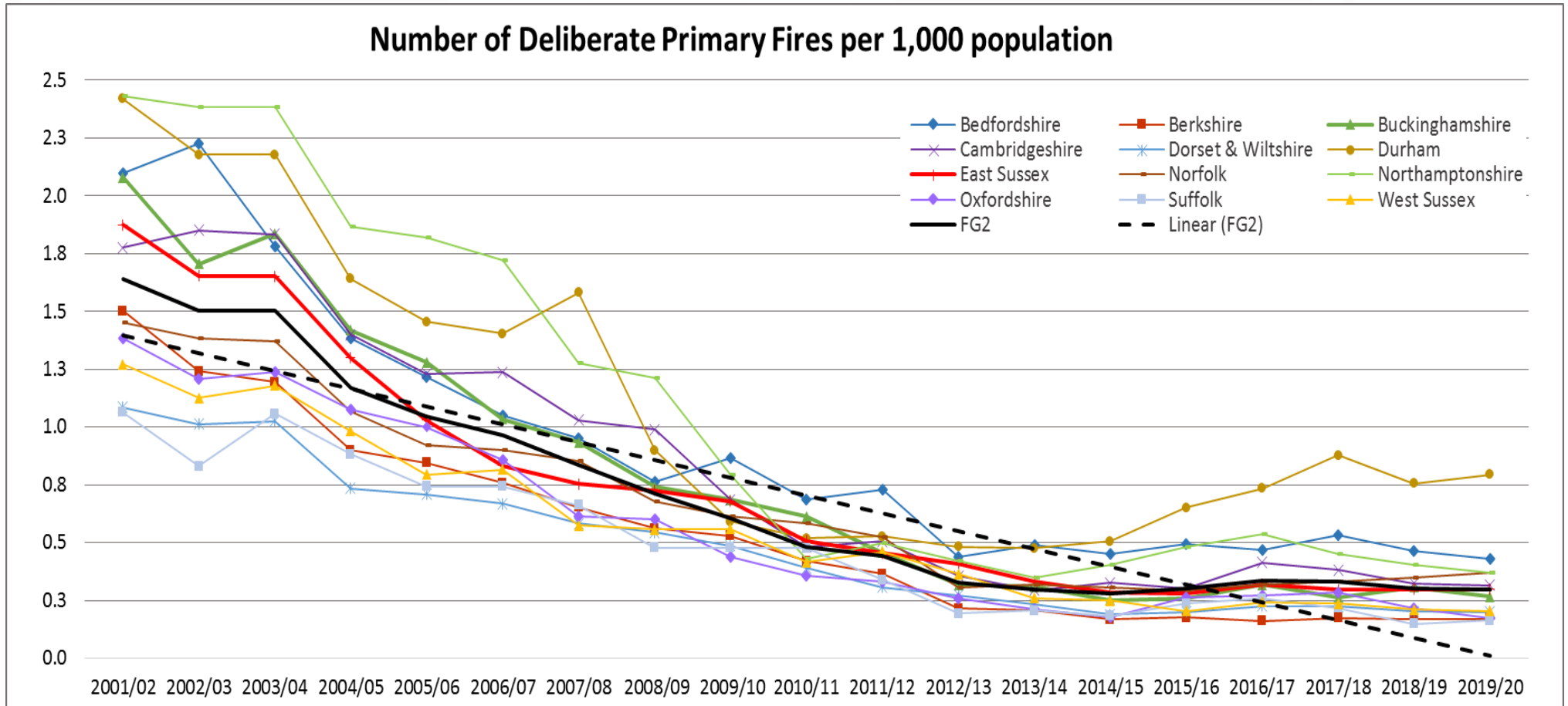


Chart 21: The number of Deliberate Primary Fires per 1,000 population. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 0401: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority.)

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 22, below, clearly shows that the rate of Deliberate Secondary Fires per 1,000 population has reduced since 2001/02 with the FG2 average down more than two-thirds (68%). However, three FG2 members experienced an increase last year including ESFRS, which had the highest total increase (42). ESFRS is still below the FG2 average, which is distorted by the considerable difference in numbers of deliberate secondary fires in Durham.

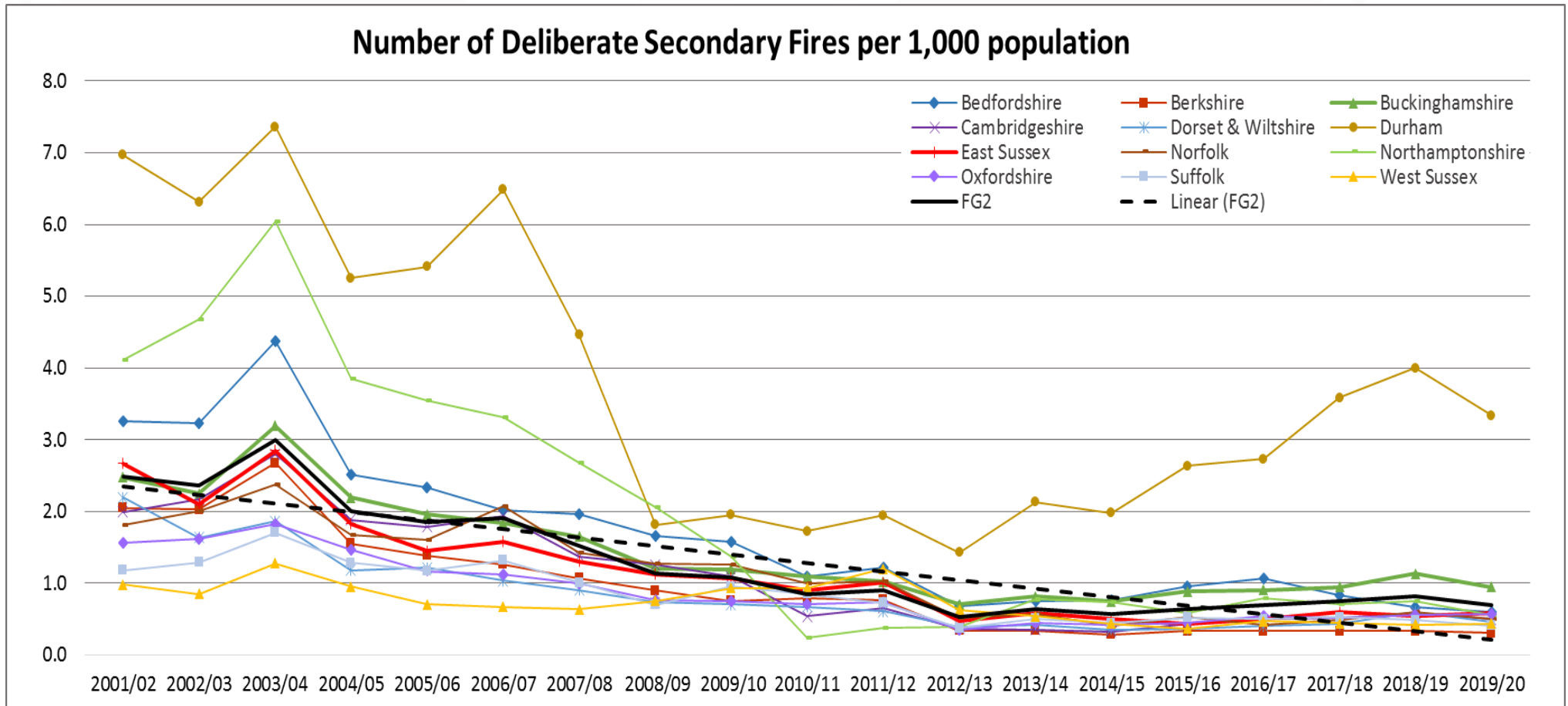


Chart 22: The number of Deliberate Secondary Fires per 1,000 population. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 0401: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority.)



Chart 23 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.

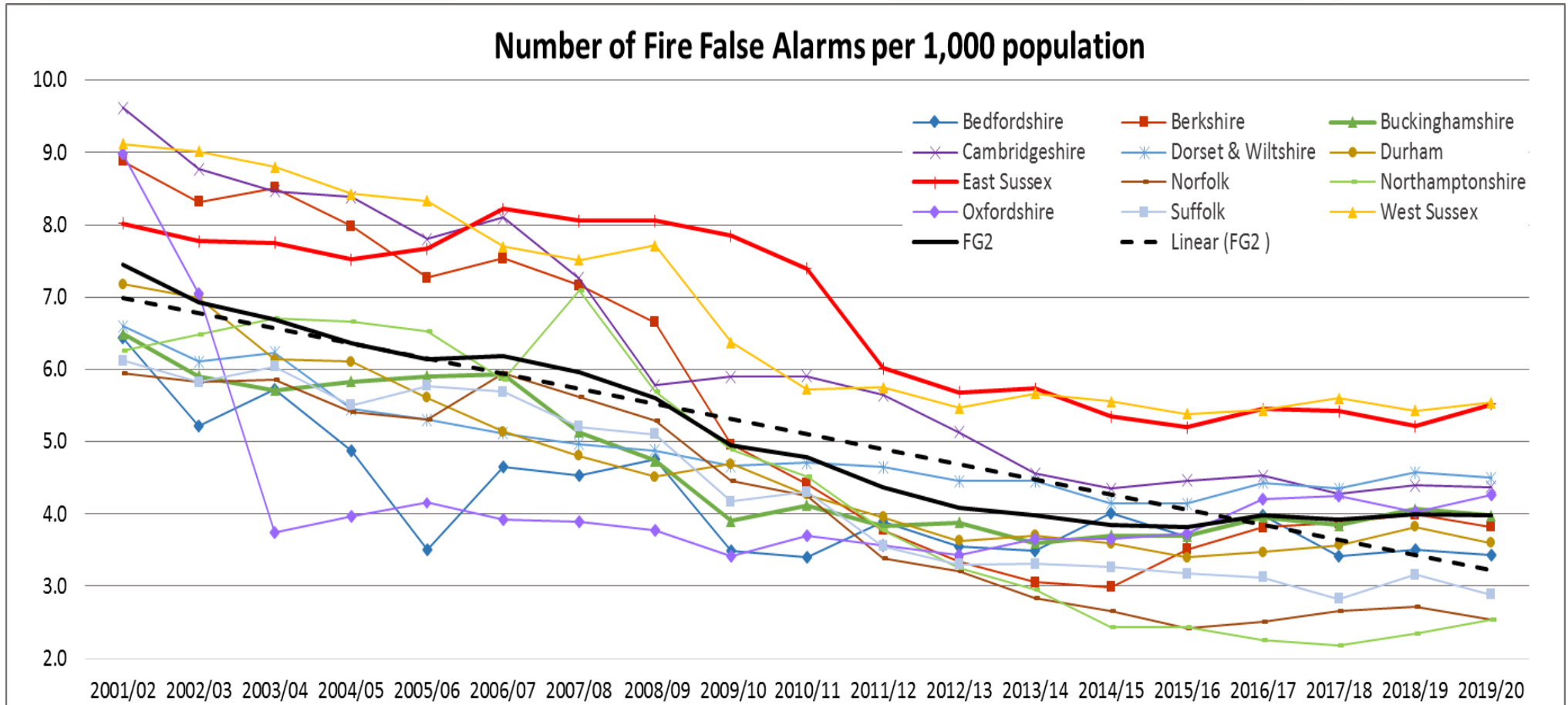


Chart 23: The number of Fire False Alarms per 1,000 population (total of false alarm good intent, false alarm malicious and false alarm due to apparatus calls). (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 0102: Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority.)

Chart 24 shows the number of Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) per 1,000 population attended by FG2 fire services since 2009/10. Based on data supplied by the Sussex Safer Road Partnership, ESFRS attends approximately a quarter of all RTCs in its service area, notably this figure could vary among the other FG2 members. Overall, RTCs have remained uniform among the FG2 group with the exception to Norfolk, which has experienced considerable variation during this period.

In 2019/20, ESFRS attended 0.53 RTCs per 1,000 population. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> highest among the FG2 members and below the FG2 average (0.57).

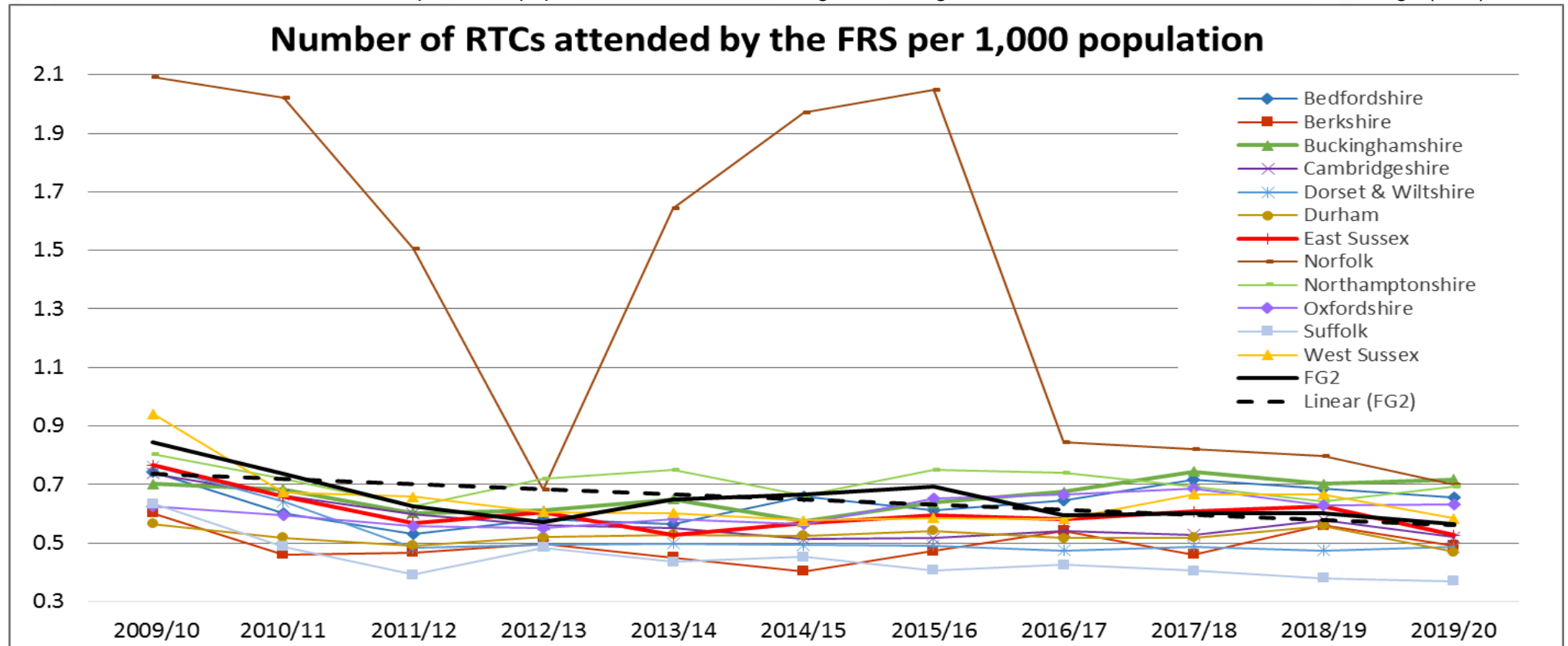


Chart 24: The number of Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) per 1,000 population. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 0901: Non-fire incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority.)

Chart 25 shows the number of Rescue or evacuation from water and Flooding incidents (which include, making safe, pumping out, advice only, standby and other) combined per 1,000 population since 2009/10. 87% of all Flooding incidents occur in dwellings. Overall, this data is varied, however, West Sussex, Durham and Norfolk have experienced the greatest variation during this period.

In 2019/20, ESFRS had the highest number of incidents with 0.52 per 1,000 population. This was more than twice the FG2 average. This was also the case for the whole period shown in the chart below, where ESFRS averaged 0.49 compared to the FG2 group average of 0.24.

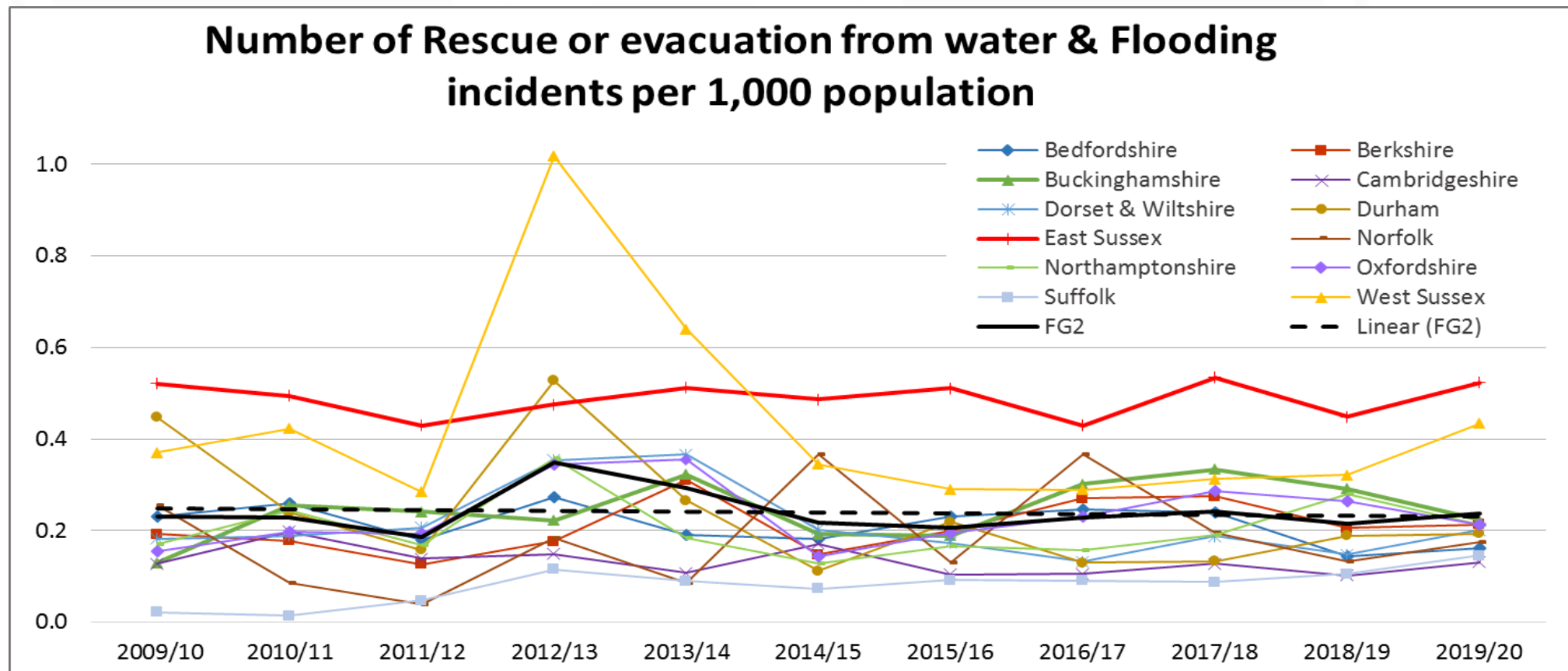


Chart 25: The number of Rescue or evacuation from water and Flooding incidents per 1,000 population. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 0901: Non-fire Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority.)

## Actual incidents: % reduction from 2001/02 to 2019/20 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 - 2019/20		
FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2019/20	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2019/20
Bedfordshire	-54.5%	10
Berkshire	-67.8%	1
Buckinghamshire	-67.1%	2
Cambridgeshire	-61.0%	6
Dorset & Wiltshire	-48.1%	11
Durham	-58.2%	7
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>-62.7%</b>	<b>4</b>
Norfolk	-43.9%	12
Northamptonshire	-62.9%	3
Oxfordshire	-62.5%	5
Suffolk	-55.8%	9
West Sussex	-57.9%	8

All Fire False Alarms by Fire and Rescue Service: 2001/02 - 2019/20		
FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2019/20	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2019/20
Bedfordshire	-36.6%	8
Berkshire	-51.0%	3
Buckinghamshire	-28.0%	10
Cambridgeshire	-45.3%	7
Dorset & Wiltshire	-21.9%	11
Durham	-46.1%	5
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>-21.5%</b>	<b>12</b>
Norfolk	-51.5%	2
Northamptonshire	-51.5%	1
Oxfordshire	-45.9%	6
Suffolk	-46.4%	4
West Sussex	-30.5%	9

Accidental Dwelling Fires by Fire and Rescue Service: 2001/02 - 2019/20		
FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2019/20	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2019/20
Bedfordshire	-20.1%	10
Berkshire	-42.4%	3
Buckinghamshire	-47.7%	2
Cambridgeshire	-39.4%	6
Dorset & Wiltshire	-15.1%	11
Durham	-54.9%	1
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>-41.8%</b>	<b>4</b>
Norfolk	-6.6%	12
Northamptonshire	-41.1%	5
Oxfordshire	-35.7%	8
Suffolk	-36.5%	7
West Sussex	-30.3%	9

Deliberate Secondary Fires by Fire and Rescue Service: 2001/02 - 2019/20		
FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2019/20	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2019/20
Bedfordshire	-78.0%	3
Berkshire	-82.8%	2
Buckinghamshire	-55.0%	10
Cambridgeshire	-69.8%	6
Dorset & Wiltshire	-76.0%	4
Durham	-48.4%	12
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>-74.9%</b>	<b>5</b>
Norfolk	-68.8%	7
Northamptonshire	-83.8%	1
Oxfordshire	-58.3%	9
Suffolk	-60.7%	8
West Sussex	-49.1%	11

## Average Response Times for all FG2 Fire and Rescue Services

Chart 26 shows the Average Response Times to dwelling fires for each FG2 member from 2009/10 to 2019/20. In 2019/20, ESFRS is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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 6.9. In 2019/20, England's response rate increased to 7.8 minutes, whereas ESFRS increased to 8.0 minutes, therefore, now above the national average. The chart below shows that there is a slight increase in Average Response Times for FG2 experienced in 2019/20. ESFRS is below the FG2 average of 8.8.

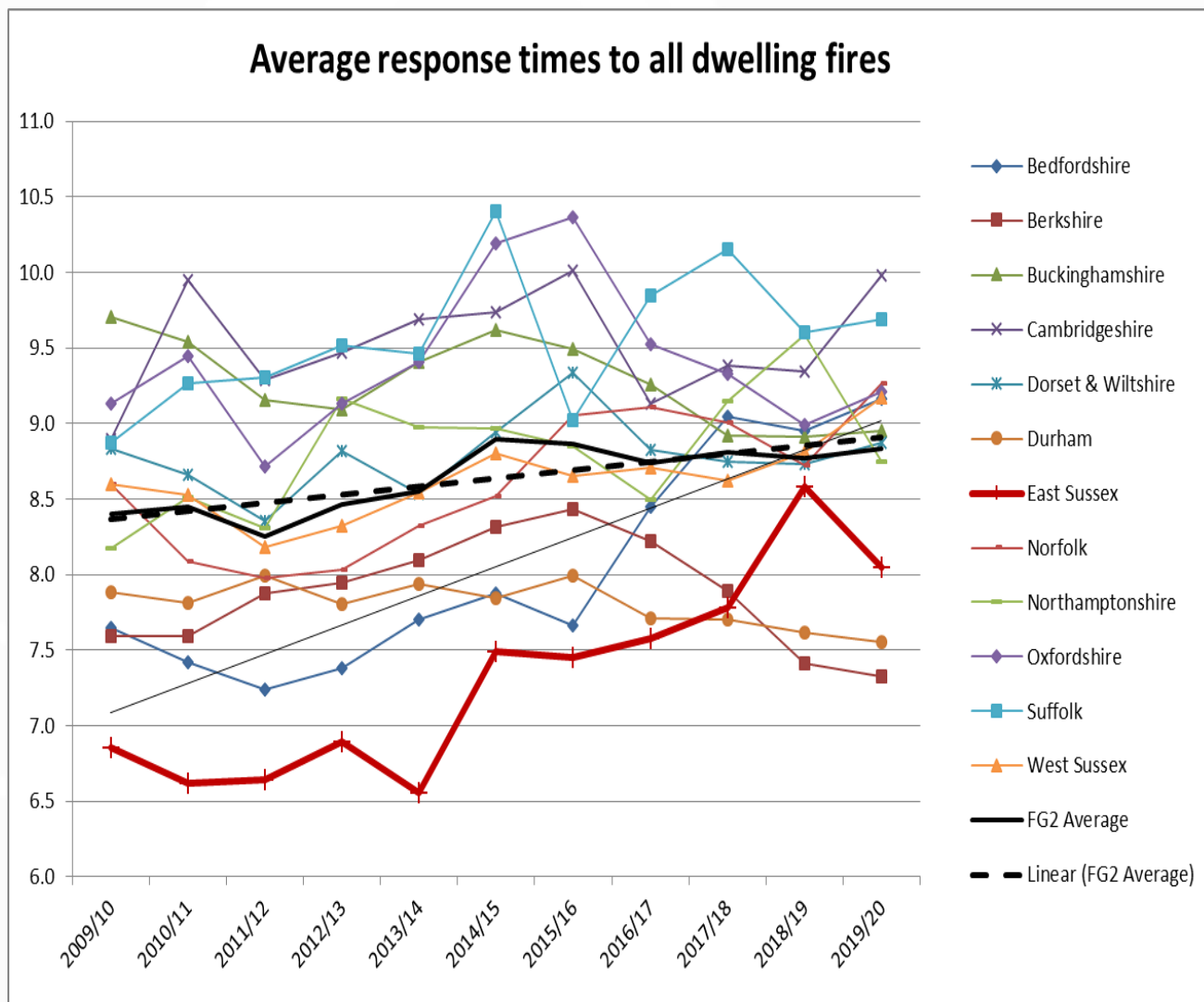


Chart 26: Average Response Times to dwelling fires. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1001: Average response times for dwelling fires by fire and rescue authority, England)



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> smallest area in FG2.
- ESFRS has a senior management structure similar in size, distribution and overall numbers to Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire.
- ESFRS has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest annual increase in WT firefighters, this 1.3% increase equates to 4 WT operational posts.
- ESFRS is 23.4% above the average number of WT firefighters with 358 (average 290) as of 31 March 2020 and has 6.6% less than the average On-call firefighters.
- ESFRS is above the FG2 average (20:1) for the ratio of firefighters to senior managers with 21:1. This is the joint 4<sup>th</sup> highest ratio of the group.
- ESFRS has a rate of 4.8 operational appliances per 100,000 population, this is above the average for FG2 with a rate of 4.3.
- ESFRS has a rate of 2.83 stations per 100,000 population this is the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest in FG2.
- ESFRS has one station for every 74.8 km<sup>2</sup>, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest density of stations per km<sup>2</sup> in FG2.
- ESFRS has the highest average net expenditure cost per domestic household and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest cost per Council Tax Band D.
- ESFRS is currently (per 100 firefighters) above the FG2 average in operational injuries, currently ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> highest (same as in 2018/19) and below the average in training injuries, ranked 7<sup>th</sup> lowest (5<sup>th</sup> lowest in 2018/19).
- ESFRS has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest proportion of female firefighters across FG2, with 8.7% of WT firefighters. This figure is above both the national average of 7.4% and the FG2 average of 6.7%. In terms of actual numbers, ESFRS has the highest number of female WT firefighters with 31 among FG2.
- ESFRS has the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest proportion of ethnic minority staff across the FG2 with 2.7%. This is below the proportion of ethnic minority residents in the ESFRS service area of 6.4%.
- ESFRS has the equal 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of ethnic minority WT firefighters with 9.
- ESFRS lost 10.77 duty days per employee among WT and Control staff due to sickness in 2019/20, up from 9.37 in 2018/19. The FG2 average for 2019/20 is 8.19 duty days lost per employee.
- ESFRS lost 8.76 shifts per employee among non-uniformed staff due to sickness in 2019/20, which is above the FG2 average of 8.22.
- ESFRS completed 27.6 Homes Safety Visits per 1,000 occupied domestic dwellings in 2019/20, the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest among FG2.
- ESFRS completed 13.9 Fire Safety Audits per 1,000 non-domestic (chargeable) properties. This is lowest among FG2.
- ESFRS has attended to 63.3% less fires (5,352 in 2001/02 down to 1,966 in 2019/20). Each FRS across the country has experienced similar reductions.
- ESFRS in 2019/20 had 0.54 Accidental Dwelling Fires per 1,000 population, which was the highest rate among FG2.
- ESFRS attends the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest numbers of incidents overall among FG2. The incidents most attended by ESFRS involve Fire False Alarms, accounting for 45.8% of all incidents (see table 6 overleaf for total incidents attended by FG2).
- ESFRS ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> for average response times to all dwellings with 8m 03s among FG2 but is above the national average of 7m 45s.

**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
	l	l	l	l	l	l	l	l	h	h	l	l	l	l	l
Bedfordshire	926	909	36	1,446	84	788	443	13	37	7	99	10	337	89	41
Berkshire	850	855	38	2,140	96	1,259	450	13	23	113	173	22	515	195	73
Buckinghamshire	896	1,051	46	2,493	115	626	584	13	14	1,111	165	17	379	149	25
Cambridgeshire	926	1,045	35	2,478	54	1,213	445	15	30	38	88	24	135	28	64
Dorset & Wiltshire	1,773	1,317	160	4,763	182	1,791	727	53	39	22	262	39	829	215	147
Durham	1,002	2,386	61	1,036	49	1,205	299	5	47	33	104	19	124	28	21
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>3,404</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>88</b>
Norfolk	1,280	897	124	1,327	57	921	636	18	36	6	121	38	402	58	87
Northamptonshire	989	685	41	825	85	1,015	523	15	12	200	147	13	130	56	53
Oxfordshire	701	654	80	2,249	80	619	438	22	26	196	116	31	327	97	32
Suffolk	734	734	69	1,541	55	601	282	16	31	7	83	28	83	17	55
West Sussex	931	718	64	3,270	136	1,381	504	21	36	4	343	32	530	205	107
<b>FG2 Average</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1,049</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>National results - England</b>	<b>68,677</b>	<b>82,150</b>	<b>3,130</b>	<b>157,149</b>	<b>6,544</b>	<b>67,738</b>	<b>31,080</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>4,459</b>	<b>13,845</b>	<b>15,526</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>26,331</b>	<b>11,705</b>	<b>4,403</b>

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
	l	l	l	l	l	l	l	l	l	l	l	l	l	l	l
Bedfordshire	56	42	42	35	23	29	6	1	300	18	4	26	3	70	5,920
Berkshire	54	53	58	26	63	25	1	0	144	49	0	67	1	123	7,479
Buckinghamshire	53	66	71	38	36	30	4	0	116	15	0	86	1	120	8,320
Cambridgeshire	123	62	31	20	27	37	7	1	242	13	6	56	0	1	7,244
Dorset & Wiltshire	172	122	77	84	131	61	10	1	678	62	7	110	3	190	14,027
Durham	66	85	35	36	35	29	1	0	74	4	6	57	0	69	6,916
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>10,229</b>
Norfolk	121	52	56	74	82	62	5	1	558	20	1	24	2	64	7,130
Northamptonshire	67	63	45	37	55	31	10	0	202	22	2	35	0	84	5,442
Oxfordshire	64	52	57	22	43	23	4	0	101	8	0	93	1	63	6,199
Suffolk	97	25	28	12	23	13	0	1	252	6	3	19	0	43	4,858
West Sussex	92	94	31	76	162	26	6	1	516	67	13	122	1	131	9,620
<b>FG2 Average</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>7,782</b>
<b>National results - England</b>	<b>4,714</b>	<b>5,278</b>	<b>2,957</b>	<b>3,213</b>	<b>4,746</b>	<b>2,035</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>18,324</b>	<b>2,520</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>7,218</b>	<b>557,299</b>



