



East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Benchmarking Report 2020/21

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 2020 to March 2021'
- Station and appliance comparisons from the 'CIPFA annual statistics for 2020-21'
- Health and Safety comparisons from the 'Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics: England, April 2020 to March 2021'
- Incident comparisons from the 'Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire Statistics: England April 2020 to March 2021' and the 'Fire Incident Response Times: England, for 2020-21'
- Sickness comparisons for the FG2 from the 'National Fire & Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2020 – March 2021'
- Prevention and protection comparisons from 'Fire prevention & protection statistics, England, April 2020 to March 2021'

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 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 October 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 2020-21) and the Employee and Health & Safety comparisons are based on 2020-21 Operational Statistics data collection returns. These returns reflect the positions within each organisation as of 31 March 2021. Sickness data is provided directly from Fire and Rescue Services in the 'National Fire and Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2020 – March 2021'. 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 2020 to March 2021). 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 2020 to March 2021). 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 2020 to March 2021’ and the ‘Response times to fires attended by fire and rescue services: England, April 2020 to March 2021’.

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 6th highest population (850,090), the 5th highest number of occupied dwellings (373,606) and the 3rd highest number of non-domestic properties (33,300) but it is the 3rd smallest in area among FG2.

ESFRS, with regard to full-time equivalents (FTE), has the 2nd highest number of Wholetime (WT) and 4th highest number of On-call firefighters. This is the 3rd highest number of WT and On-call combined.

	Bedfordshire	Berkshire	Buckinghamshire	Cambridgeshire	Dorset & Wiltshire	Durham	East Sussex	Norfolk	Northamptonshire	Oxfordshire	Suffolk	West Sussex
Population	682,311	917,762	817,263	859,830	1,503,731	640,551	850,590	914,039	757,181	696,880	761,246	867,635
Domestic Properties (Occupied dwellings)	278,690	379,572	337,594	370,254	675,665	290,894	375,644	421,323	325,302	298,380	340,843	383,078
Non-domestic Properties	18,680	27,420	24,000	27,320	55,790	19,770	33,300	40,030	23,900	22,410	31,120	29,200
Wholetime (Full Time Equivalents)	291	354	277	262	378	302	355	280	238	234	202	330
On-call (Full Time Equivalents)	118	45	99	161	447	140	239	438	144	194	340	159
Total FTEs	409	399	376	422	825	442	594	718	382	428	542	489
Area Sq Km	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 2020 (iii, vi & vii) CIPFA Fire and Rescue Service Statistics 2021 Summary (ii) LG Inform/Ministry of Housing, Community & Local Government 202 (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.

Employee comparisons

Table 2 shows that the ESFRS's senior management structure is most comparable to West Sussex and Dorset & Wiltshire. Overall, ESFRS has the 2nd 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 of 31st March 2021. 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 5th highest percentage change in WT operational staff against the numbers stated in the 2019/20 Benchmarking Report. The 0.3% decrease equates to 1 WT posts and is a decline of 76 WT posts since 2011. The average ratio of firefighters to Senior Managers in FG2 is 19, so with 20, ESFRS is slightly above this and has the 4th 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	2	6	5	15	39	49	175	291	2.5%	21 to 1
Berkshire	4	4	13	33	33	64	203	354	-4.8%	16 to 1
Buckinghamshire	2	3	7	22	36	46	161	277	15.4%	22 to 1
Cambridgeshire	2	3	9	27	44	31	146	262	7.8%	18 to 1
Dorset & Wiltshire	2	5	10	36	69	61	195	378	-6.2%	21 to 1
Durham	3	3	4	17	48	53	174	302	-0.7%	29 to 1
East Sussex	3	4	10	28	55	62	193	355	-0.3%	20 to 1
Norfolk	3	3	8	25	41	37	163	280	0.7%	19 to 1
Northamptonshire	3	3	8	18	51	33	122	238	-6.3%	16 to 1
Oxfordshire	3	3	8	28	53	27	112	234	2.6%	16 to 1
Suffolk	2	3	8	21	41	25	103	202	3.6%	15 to 1
West Sussex	3	4	9	25	68	49	172	330	4.1%	20 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 2nd equal highest number of Watch and Crew Managers and WT and Day crewed (DC) stations and the 3rd equal lowest average number of watch and crew managers by DC and WT station with 9.75. The FG2 average is 10.73.

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	39	49	175	88	6	14.67	12
Berkshire	33	64	203	97	12	8.08	2
Buckinghamshire	36	46	161	82	9	9.11	1
Cambridgeshire	44	31	146	75	7	10.71	7
Dorset & Wiltshire	69	61	195	130	13	10.00	9
Durham	48	53	174	101	9	11.22	10
East Sussex	55	62	193	117	12	9.75	3
Norfolk	41	37	163	78	8	9.75	5
Northamptonshire	51	33	122	84	8	10.50	5
Oxfordshire	53	27	112	80	6	13.33	11
Suffolk	41	25	103	66	6	11.00	8
West Sussex	68	49	172	117	11	10.64	4

Table 3: Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1102a: Total Staff Numbers (FTE) by role and fire and rescue authority – Wholetime Firefighters. Number of Stations: CIPFA Fire and Rescue Service Statistics 2020-21 Actuals.

Chart 1, below, shows the comparisons of WT firefighters (head count) across FG2. ESFRS is above the FG2 average of 293, with 356.

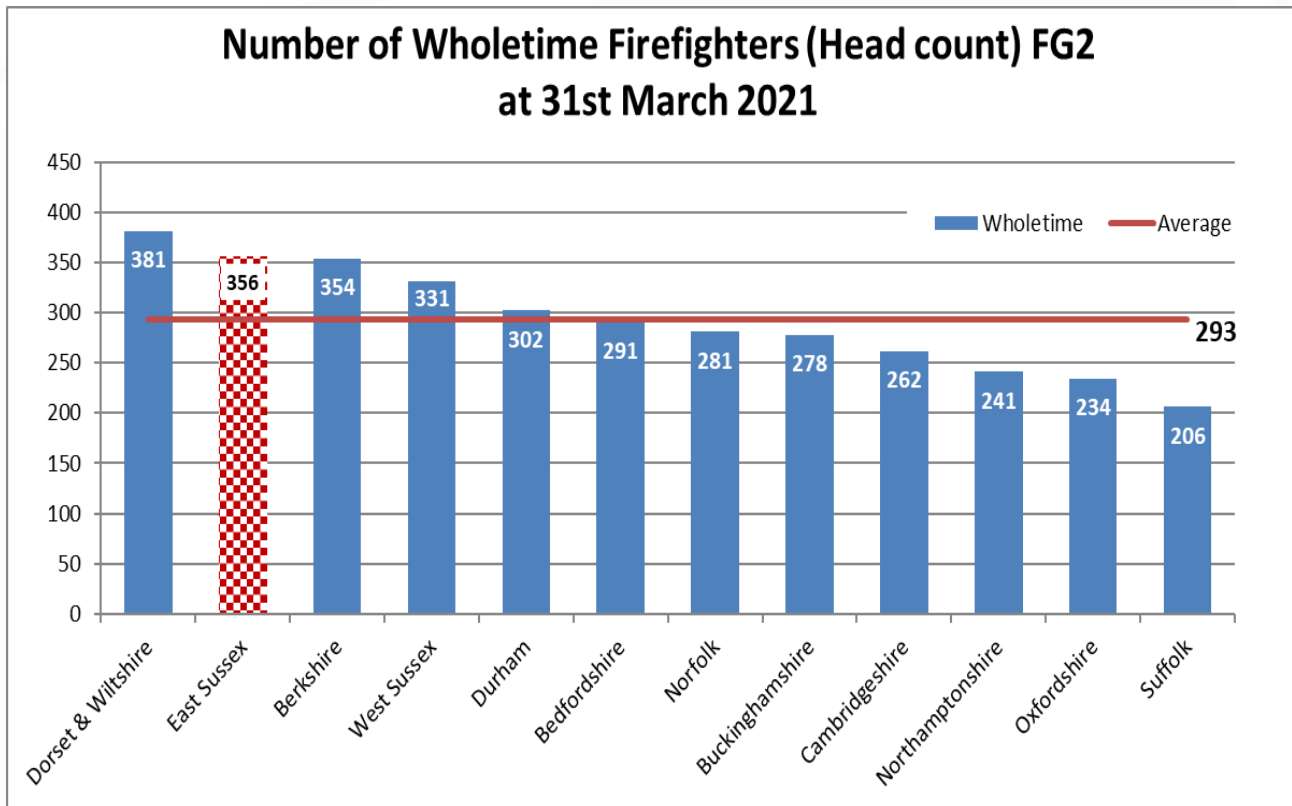


Chart 1: Number of WT Firefighters. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1101: Staff in post employed by FRA by head count – Wholetime Firefighters.)

Chart 2 shows the comparisons of On-call firefighters (head count) across FG2. The average number of On-call firefighters across the group is 282, whereas for ESFRS this is 239. The On-call staffing model is often dependent on several factors, including geographical location, the number of incidents in an area and the levels of risk within an area.

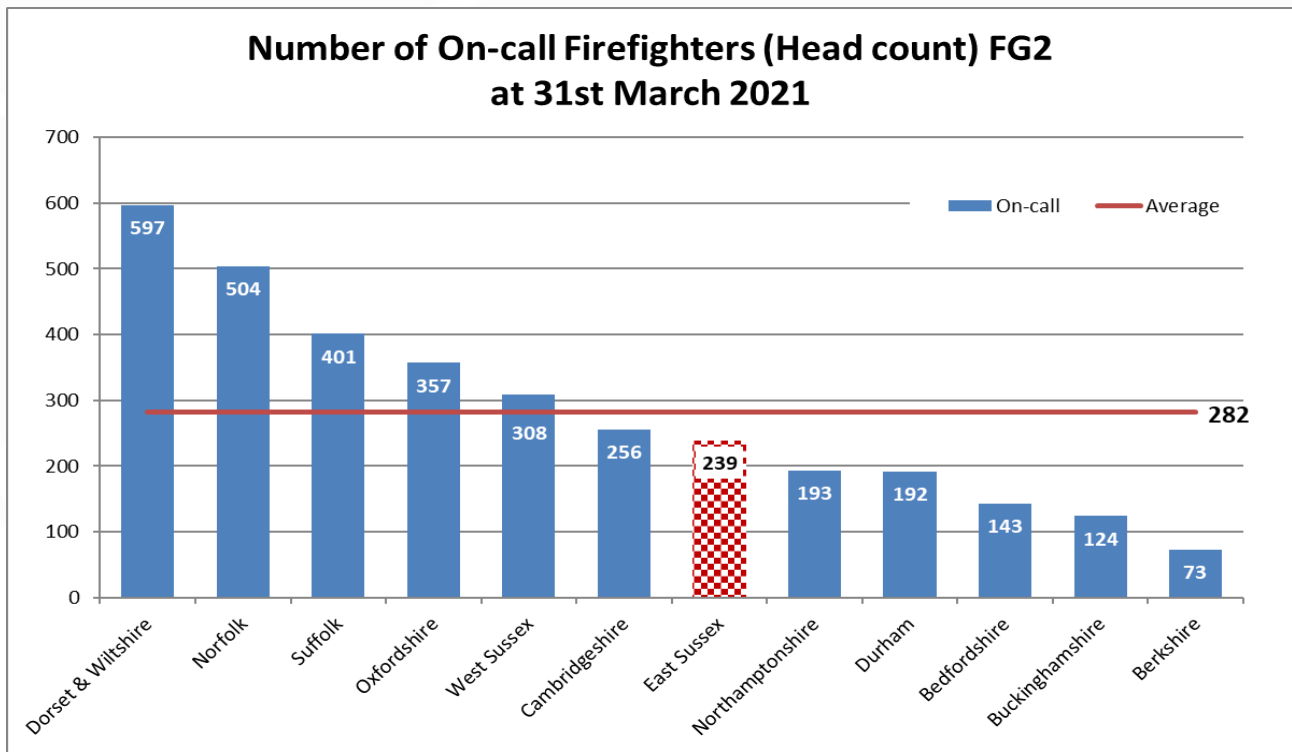


Chart 2: Number of On-call Firefighters. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1101: Staff in post employed by FRA by head count – On-call Firefighters.)

Stations and Appliances comparisons

Table 4 shows number of pumping appliances across area and population. ESFRS has the 4th highest number of pumping appliances among FG2 with 40. This is above the group average of 36.6. 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 ²)	FRS Area (km ²)	Population
Bedfordshire	22	3.22	56.2	1,235	682,311
Berkshire	20	2.18	63.2	1,264	917,762
Buckinghamshire	30	3.67	62.5	1,874	817,263
Cambridgeshire	36	4.19	94.3	3,396	859,830
Dorset & Wiltshire	74	4.92	82.9	6,138	1,503,731
Durham	26	4.06	93.4	2,429	640,551
East Sussex	40	4.70	44.9	1,795	850,590
Norfolk	50	5.47	107.6	5,382	914,039
Northamptonshire	25	3.30	94.7	2,367	757,181
Oxfordshire	34	4.88	76.6	2,606	696,880
Suffolk	40	5.25	95.1	3,802	761,246
West Sussex	42	4.84	47.4	1,991	867,635

Table 4: Number of pumping appliances. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2020/21 Actuals.)

Chart 3 presents the number of pumping appliances per 100,000 population. ESFRS has the 6th highest with 4.7, which is above the FG2 average of 4.2.

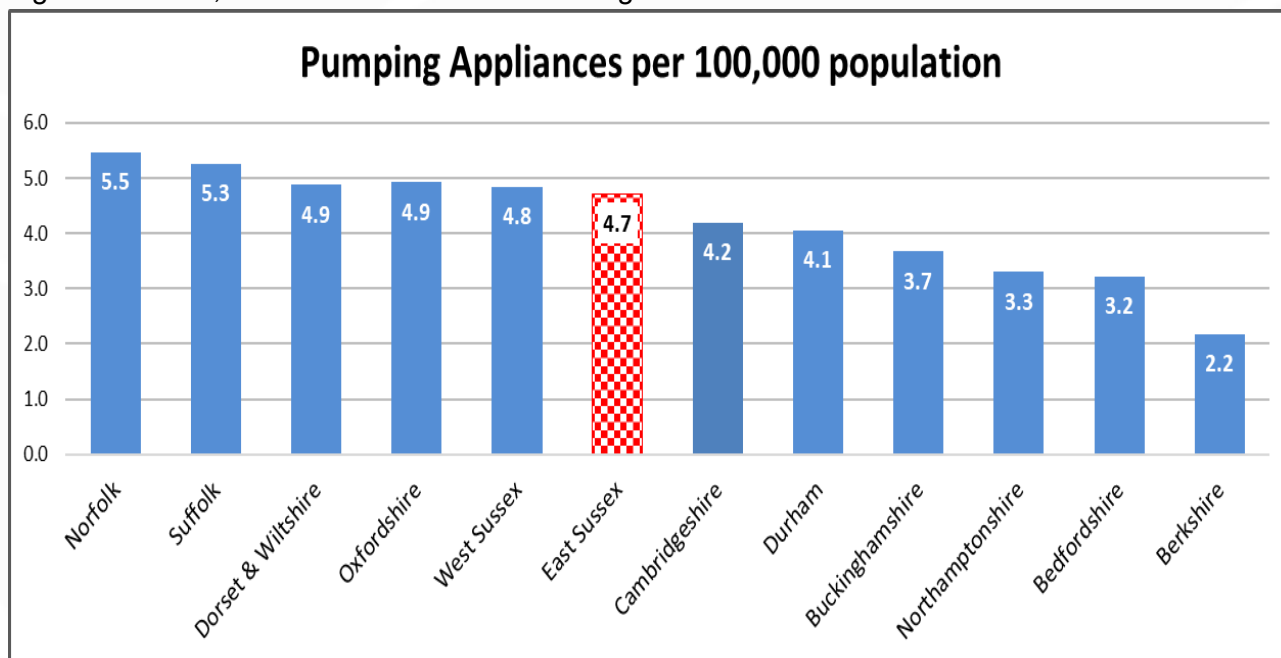


Chart 3: Pumping Appliances per 100,000 population. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2020/21 Actuals.)

Chart 4 shows area per pumping appliance. ESFRS has the highest pumping appliance density with one to every 44.9 km². The FG2 average one to every 76.6 km².

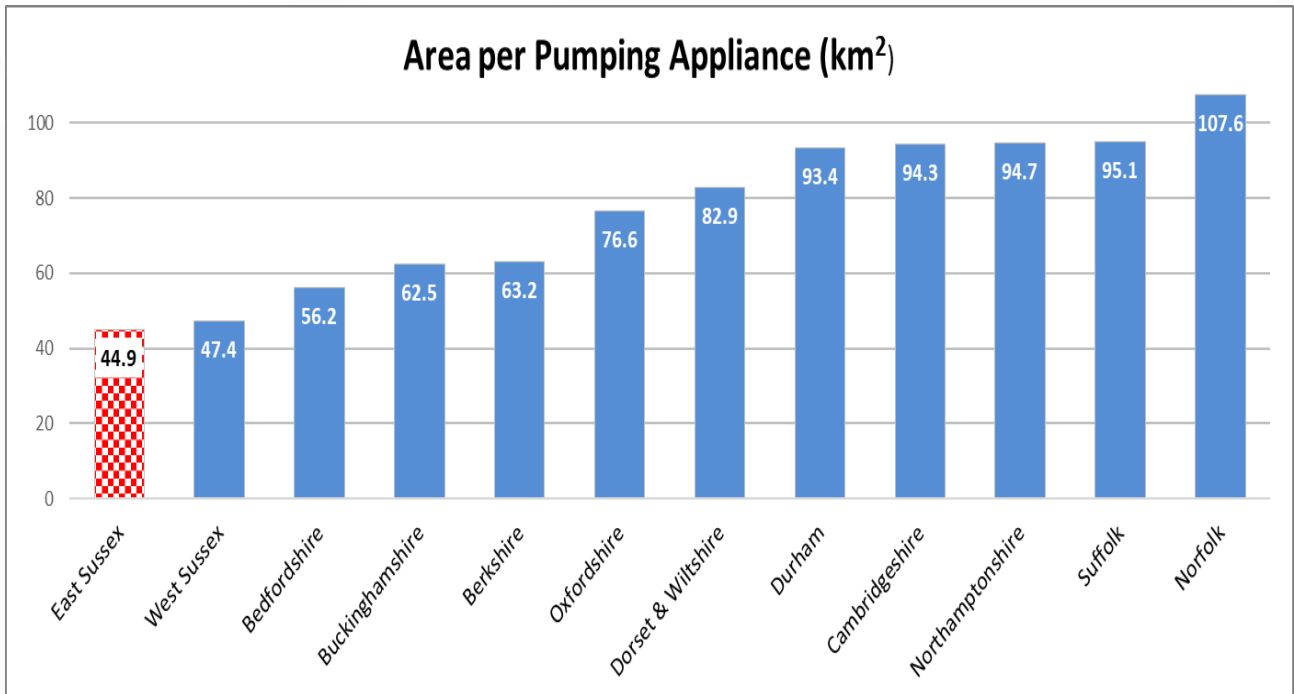


Chart 4: Square kilometers per appliance. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2020/21 Actuals.)

Table 5 shows the number of stations per 100,000 population and area per station in km² for each FG2 FRS. ESFRS has 6 WT, 6 DC and 12 On-call stations, which is proportionally closest 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 ²)
Bedfordshire	3	3	8	14	2.05	88.25
Berkshire	11	1	5	17	1.85	74.35
Buckinghamshire	5	4	10	19	2.32	98.61
Cambridgeshire*	3	4	19	26	3.02	130.61
Dorset & Wiltshire	3	10	37	50	3.33	122.76
Durham	2	7	6	15	2.34	161.93
East Sussex	6	6	12	24	2.82	74.81
Norfolk	3	5	34	42	4.59	128.13
Northamptonshire	3	5	14	22	2.91	107.59
Oxfordshire	0	6	19	25	3.59	104.24
Suffolk	0	6	29	35	4.60	108.64
West Sussex**	2	9	14	25	2.88	79.63

Table 5: Number of Stations. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2020/21 Actuals)

*Cambridgeshire has 1 Volunteer 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 2.82 stations per 100,000 population, this is the 5th lowest in FG2.

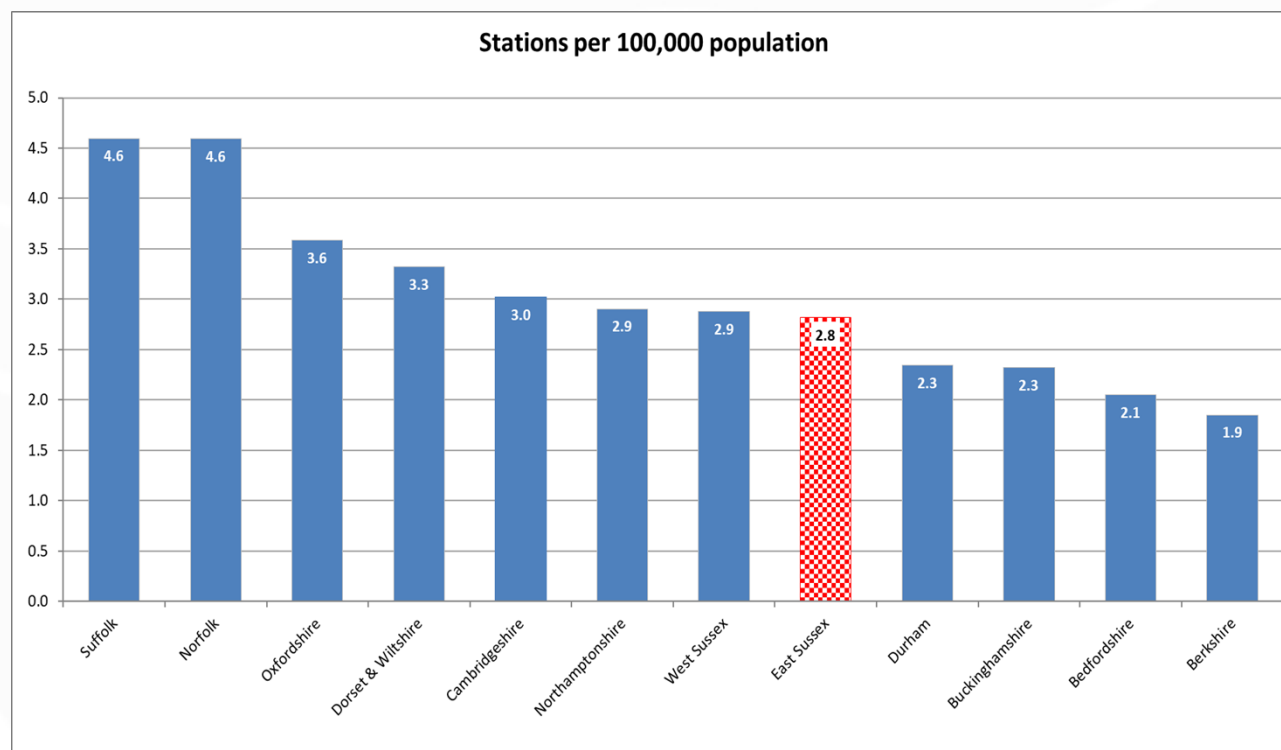


Chart 5: Stations per 100,000 population. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2020/21 Actuals.)

Chart 6 shows area per station in km². ESFRS has one station for every 74.8 km², which is the 2nd highest density of stations per km² in FG2.

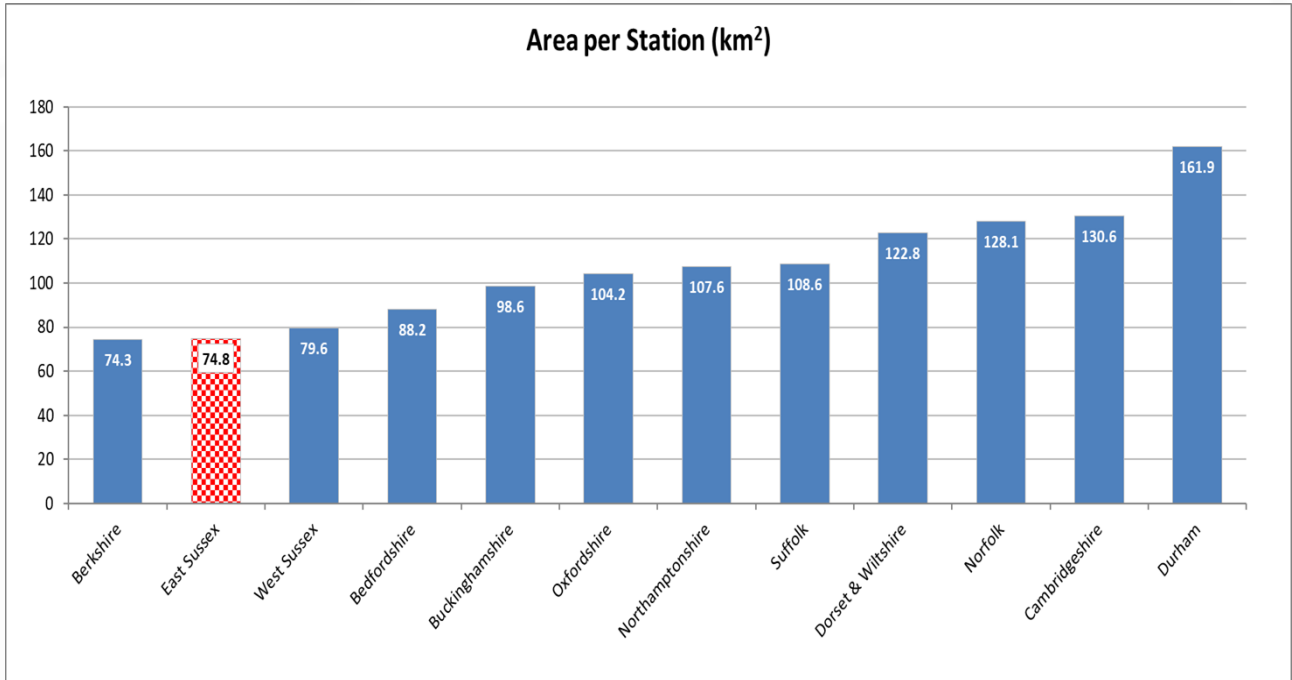


Chart 6: Stations per square km. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2020/21 Actuals.)

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.

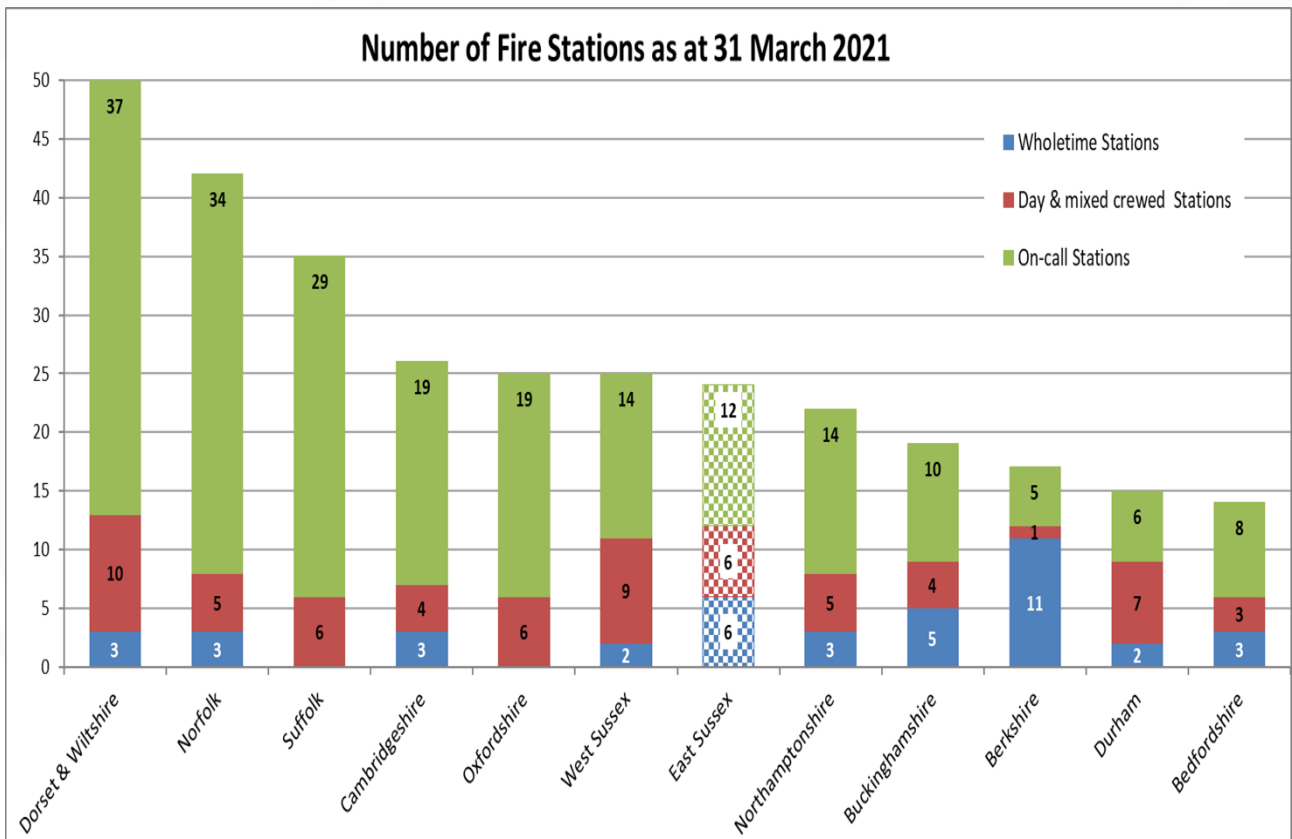


Chart 7: Number of Stations. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2020/21 Actuals)

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

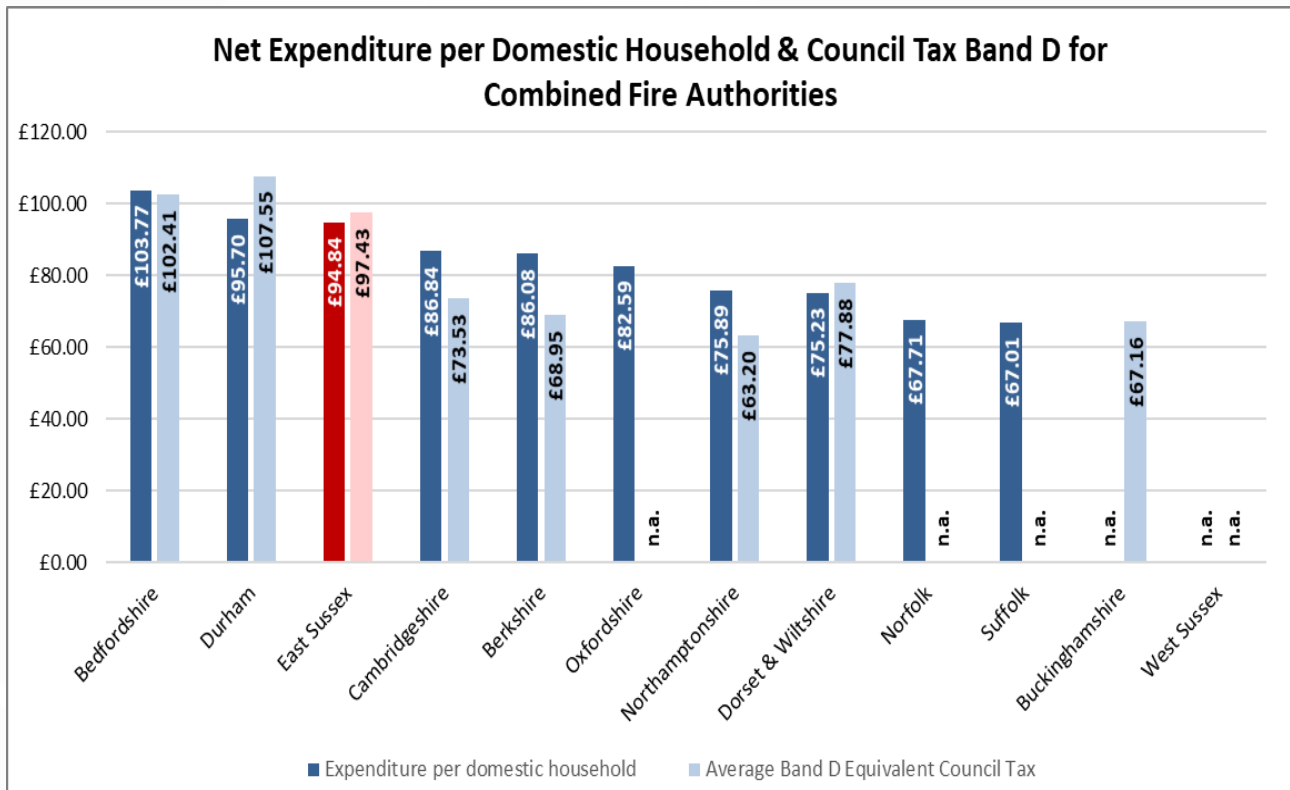


Chart 8: Average net expenditure per number of domestic properties & Council Tax Band D. (Source - CIPFA Statistics 2020/21)

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 2020/21, ESFRS sustained 8.25 operational injuries per 100 firefighters (7.85 in 2019/20) and 1.52 training injuries per 100 firefighters (3.82 in 2019/20). The FG2 average number of operational injuries per 100 firefighters is 3.44 and the average rate for training injuries is 3.38 per 100 firefighters.

ESFRS is more than twice the FG2 average in operational injuries, currently ranked 2nd highest (the same as in 2019/20) and more than half the average in training injuries, ranked 3rd lowest (7th lowest in 2019/20). Cambridgeshire has the most operational and training injuries, whilst Durham has the least operational injuries and West Sussex the least training injuries among FG2.

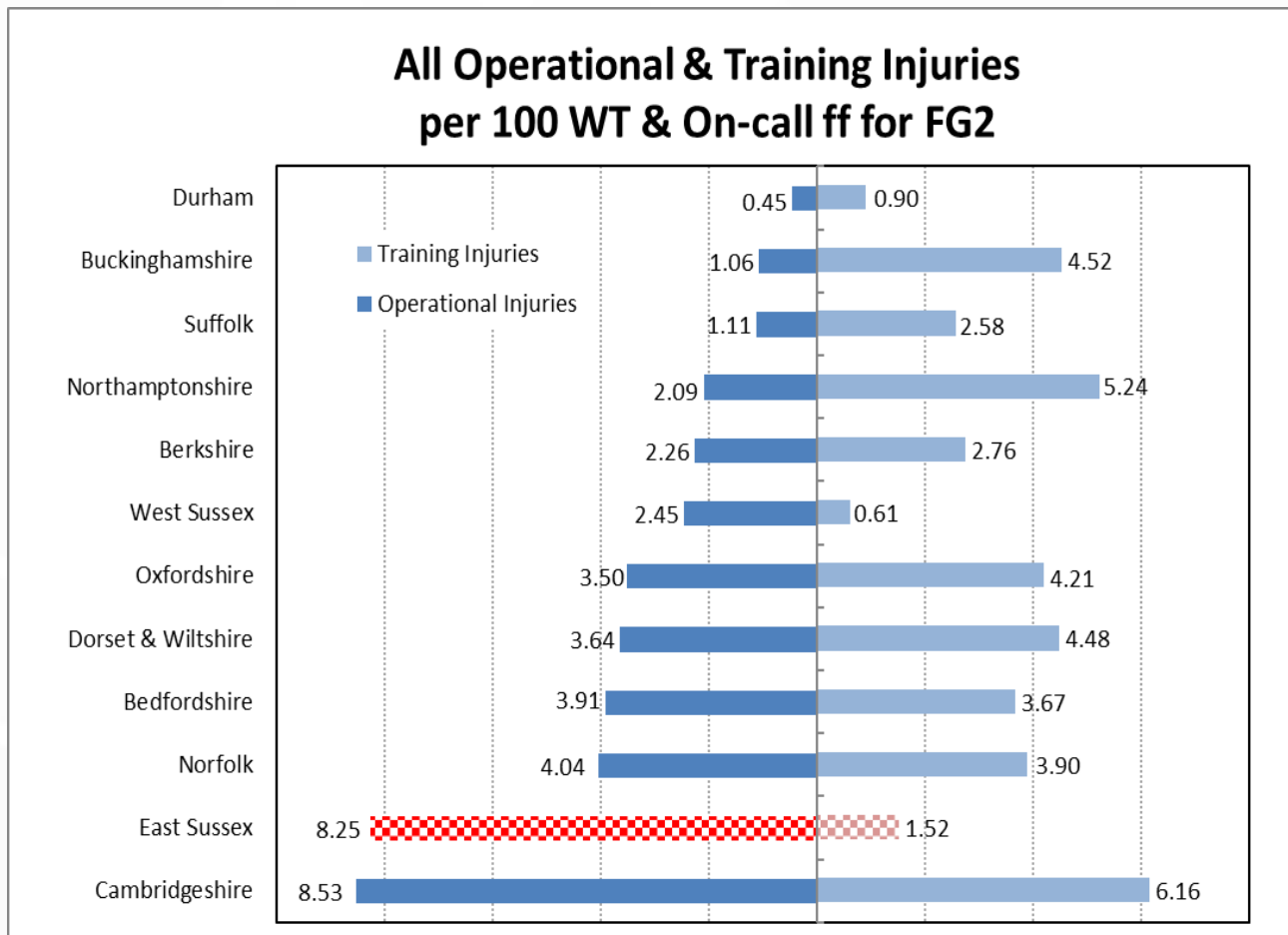


Chart 9: Operational & Training Injuries per 100 firefighters. (Source - Home Office, Fire statistics tables 0508b: Injuries sustained by firefighters and firefighter fatalities, during operational incidents, by fire and rescue authority & 0508c: Injuries sustained by firefighters and firefighter fatalities, 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 8.0% in March 2021. Notably, a significant part of this proportional increase during this period is owing to the large decline in male firefighters (down from 31,168 to 20,819), rather than an actual increase in the numbers of female firefighters (up from 424 to 1,824).

ESFRS has the 4th highest proportion of female firefighters across FG2 with 8.1% of WT firefighters, which is above both the national average of 8.0% and the FG2 average of 6.8%.

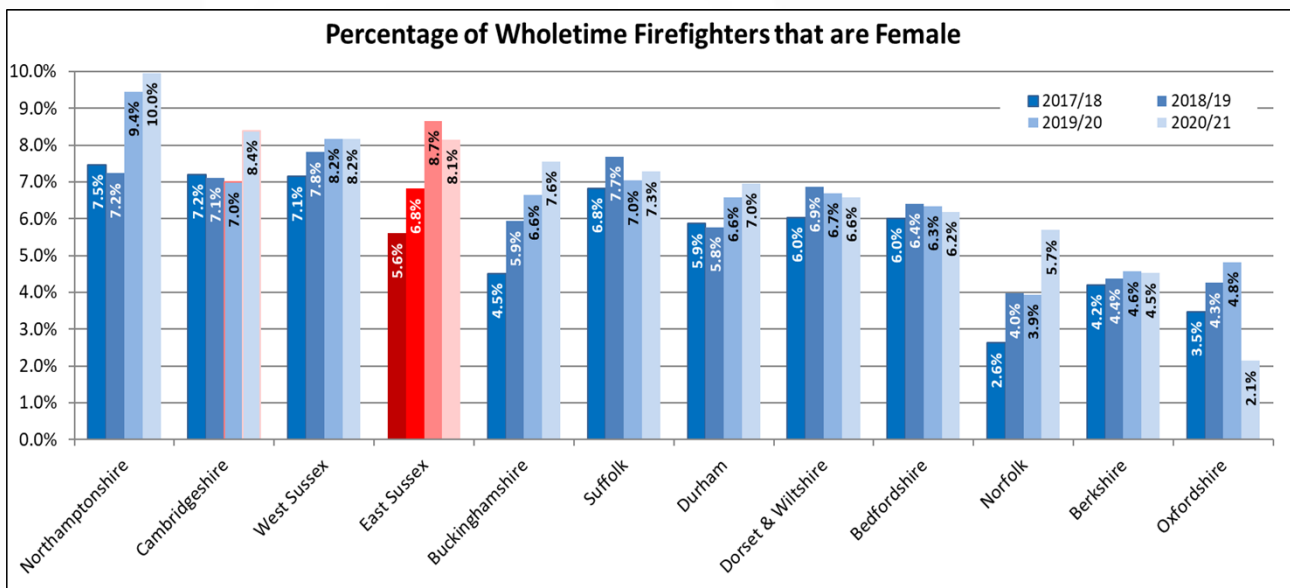


Chart 10: Percentage of WT firefighters that are female. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1103: Staff headcount by gender, fire and rescue authority and role.)

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 29. The lowest number of female fighters was 5 in Oxfordshire FRS.

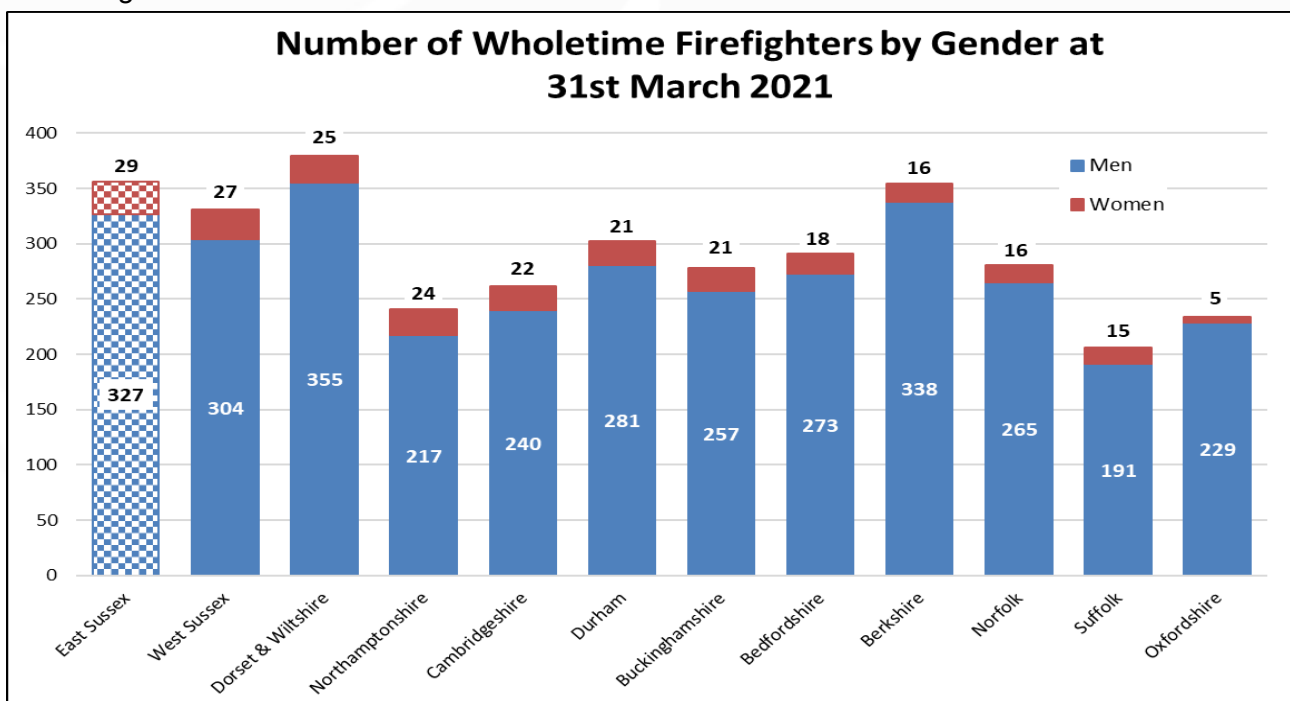


Chart 11: Numbers of WT firefighters that are female. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1103: Staff headcount by gender, fire and rescue authority and role.)

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 6.3% in March 2021. ESFRS is currently below the national average with 2.4%. Only Bedfordshire in FG2 is above this with 6.4%.

Chart 12 illustrates the percentage of WT firefighters that are from an ethnic minority background for FG2. As of 31 March 2021, ESFRS has the 5th lowest proportion of ethnic minority WT firefighters across the FG2 members.

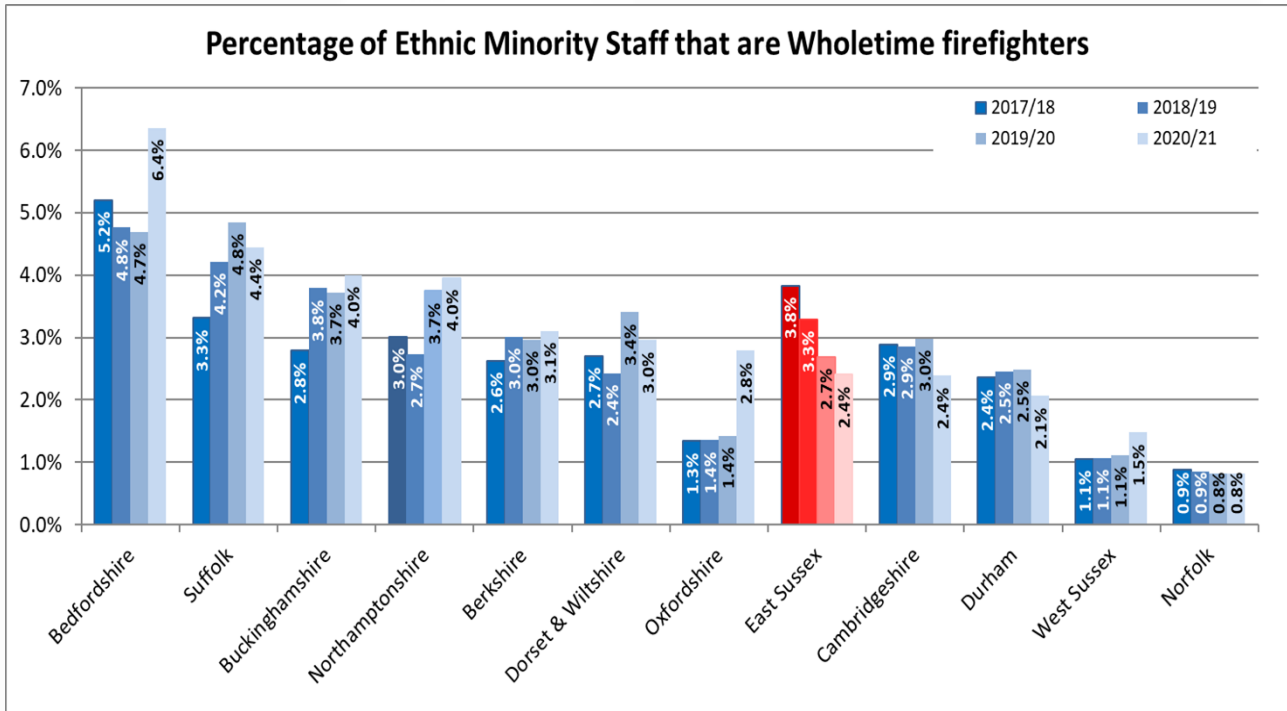


Chart 12: Percentage of WT firefighters that are from an ethnic minority. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1104: Staff headcount by ethnicity, fire and rescue authority and role.)

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 6th highest number of ethnic minority WT firefighters with 8. Bedfordshire was the highest with 18.

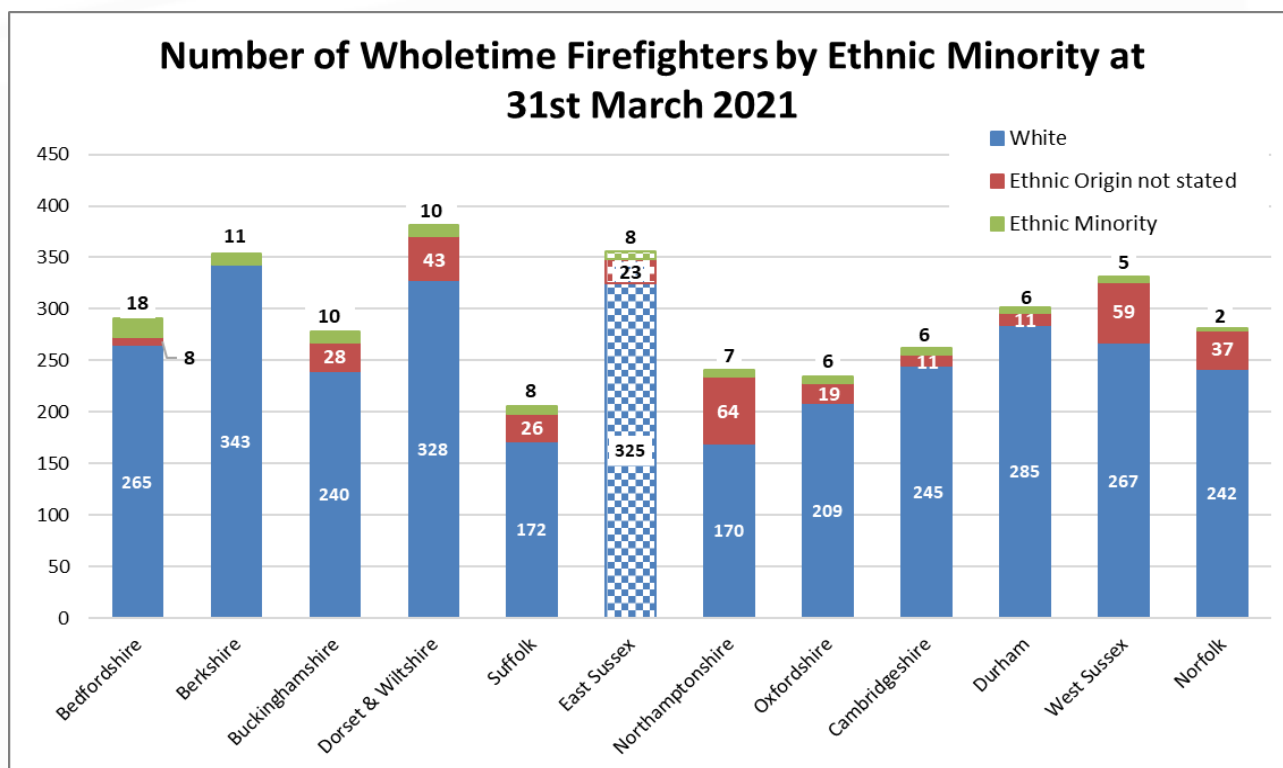


Chart 13: Number of WT firefighters that are from an ethnic minority. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1104: Staff headcount by ethnicity, fire and rescue authority and role.)

Sickness

Chart 14 illustrates the number of duty days lost per person for WT and Control staff due to sickness. ESFRS has the 2nd highest level of sickness in FG2 for 2020/21 with 7.04 days lost to sickness per employee compared to the FG2 average of 6.89. However, six FRSs from FG2 did not provide data in 2020/21. These are represented as 'n.a.' (not available) in the chart below where no value was returned.

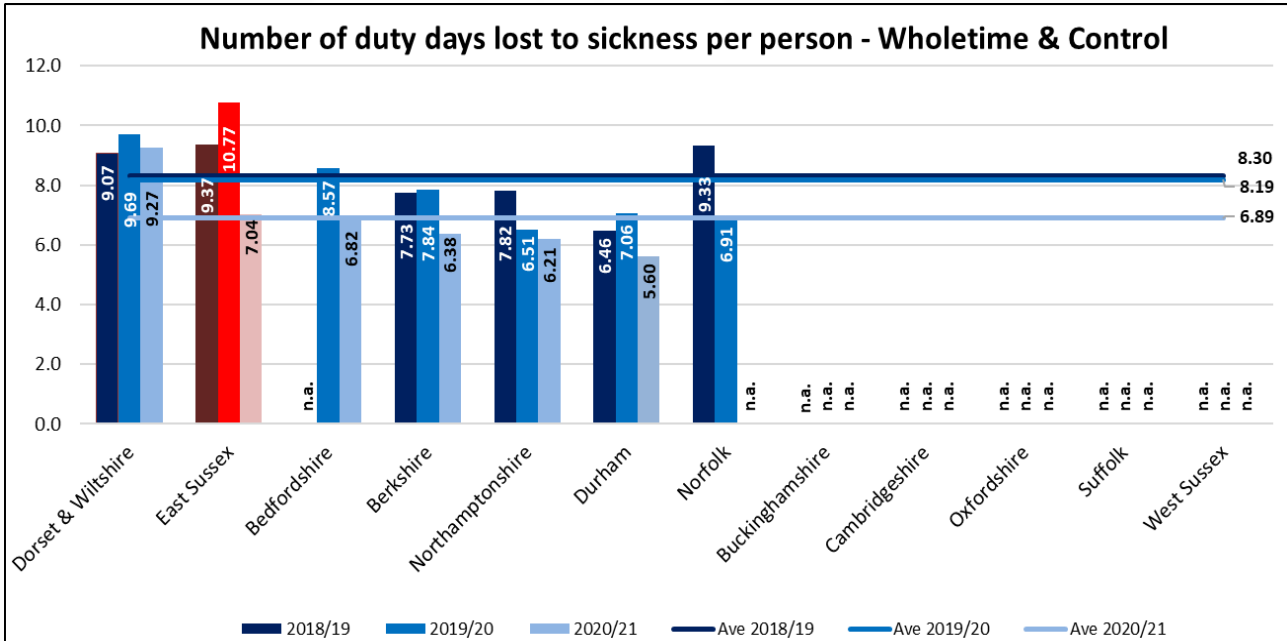


Chart 14: Number of shifts lost per person due to sickness (WT and Control). (Source - National Fire & Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2020 – March 2021.)

Chart 15 illustrates the number of shifts lost per person for non-uniformed staff due to sickness. ESFRS has the 3rd highest level of sickness in FG2 from the 10 FRSs that provided data in 2020/21 with 5.56 days lost to sickness per employee. This figure is above the 2020/21 FG2 average of 4.82. (In the chart below, 'n.a.' represents no value being returned.)

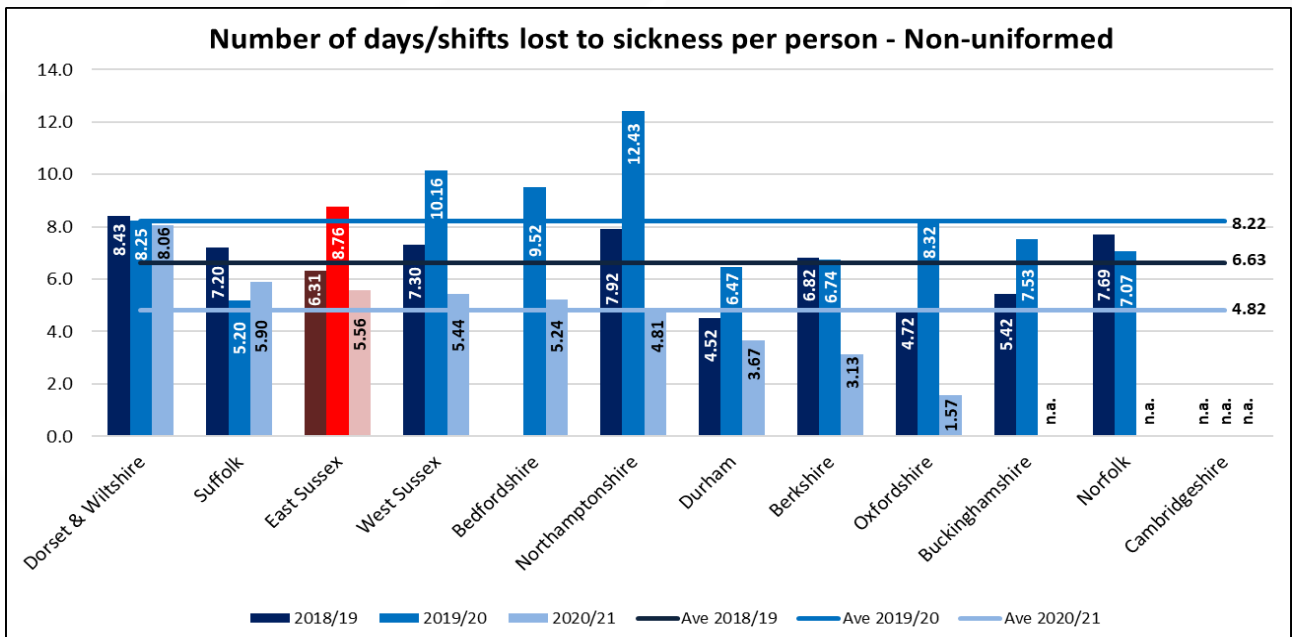


Chart 15: Number of shifts lost per person due to sickness (Support). (Source - National Fire & Rescue Service Occupational Health Performance Report April 2020 – March 2021.)

Home Safety Visits completed

Chart 16 shows the numbers of Home Safety Visits (HSVs) completed from 2010/11 to 2020/21 per 1,000 occupied dwellings for each FG2 member.

ESFRS recorded the 2nd highest number of HSVs completed per 1,000 occupied dwellings in 2020/21 with 19.1. Bedfordshire with the highest number of HSVs completed 24.4 per 1,000 occupied dwellings. However, owing to COVID 19, variations in what constitutes a HSV in the last financial year may vary across the different services, e.g. ESFRS figures include HSVs that were carried out by telephone.

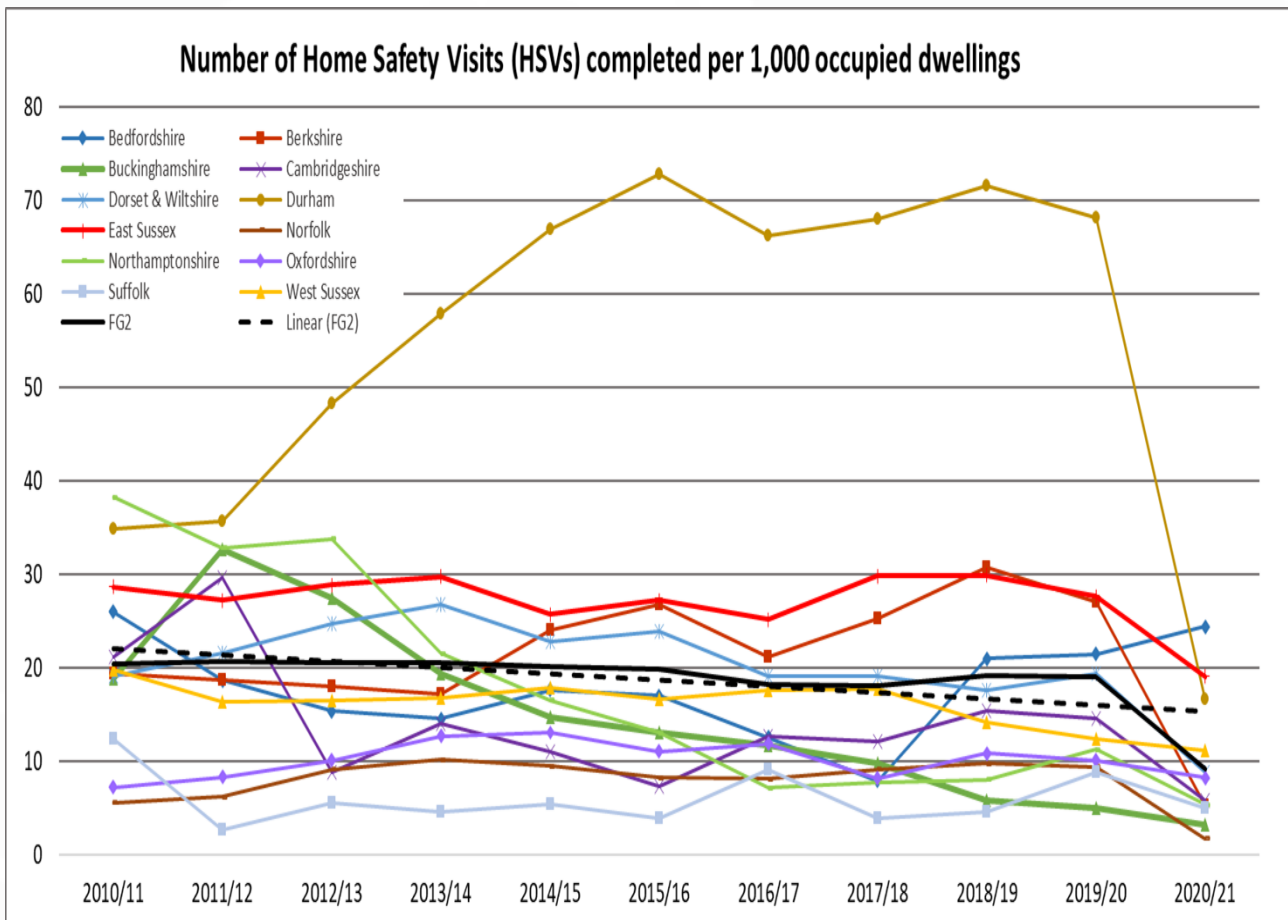


Chart 16: Number of HSVs completed per 1,000 occupied dwellings. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1201: Home Fire Risk Checks carried out by fire and rescue authorities and partners, by fire and rescue authority & LG Inform/Ministry of Housing, Community & Local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

Number of Fire Safety Audits completed

Chart 17 shows the total number of Fire Safety Audits completed by FG2 in 2020/21. ESFRS had the 3rd lowest with 356, compared to Durham and Northampton with 995. The FG2 average was 507. (NB, COVID 19 restrictions would have reduced the number of audits carried out across FG2.)

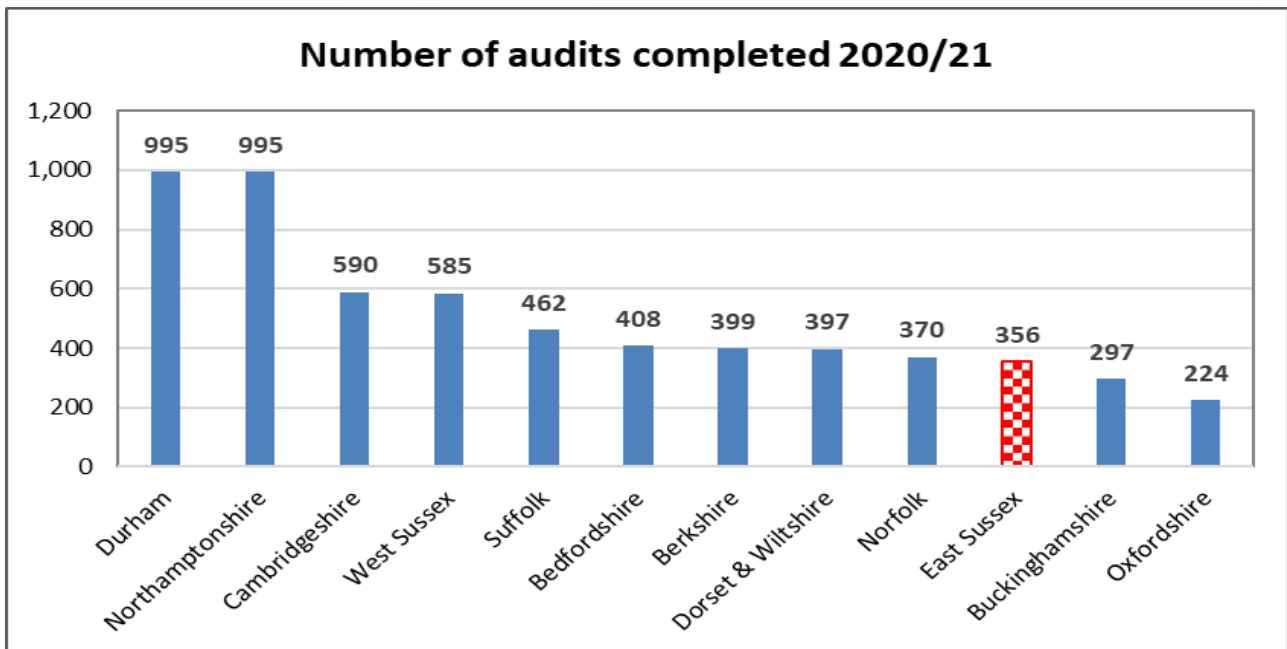
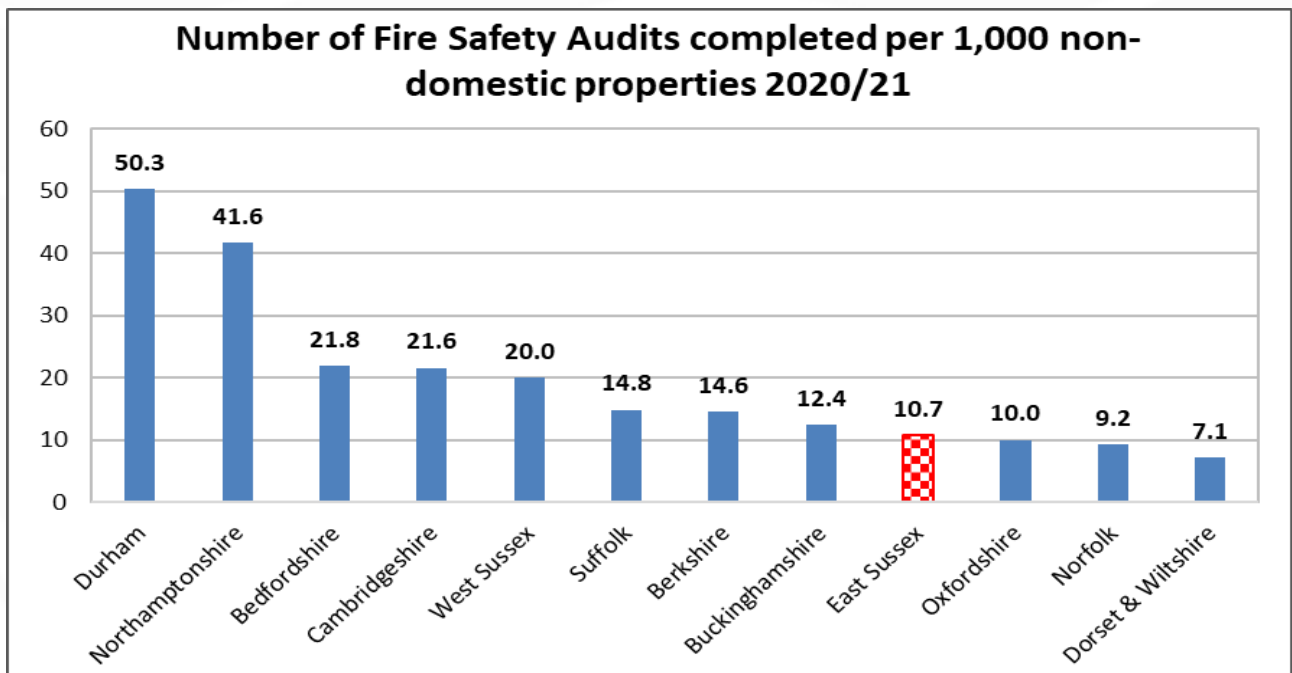


Chart 18 shows the number of Fire Safety Audits completed per 1,000 non-domestic properties in 2020/21. ESFRS completed the 4th lowest recorded number of audits per 1,000 non-domestic properties with 10.7, whereas Durham completed the most with 50.3 per 1,000 non-domestic properties. The FG2 average at 19.5 was nearly twice that of ESFRS.



Charts 17 & 18: Number of Fire Safety Audits completed & Non-domestic properties. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1202: Fire Safety Audits carried out by fire and rescue authorities, by fire authority & Gov UK – Non-Domestic Rating Stock of Properties 2020.)

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 62.9% less fires (5,352 in 2001/02 down to 1,987 in 2020/21). 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 2020/21.

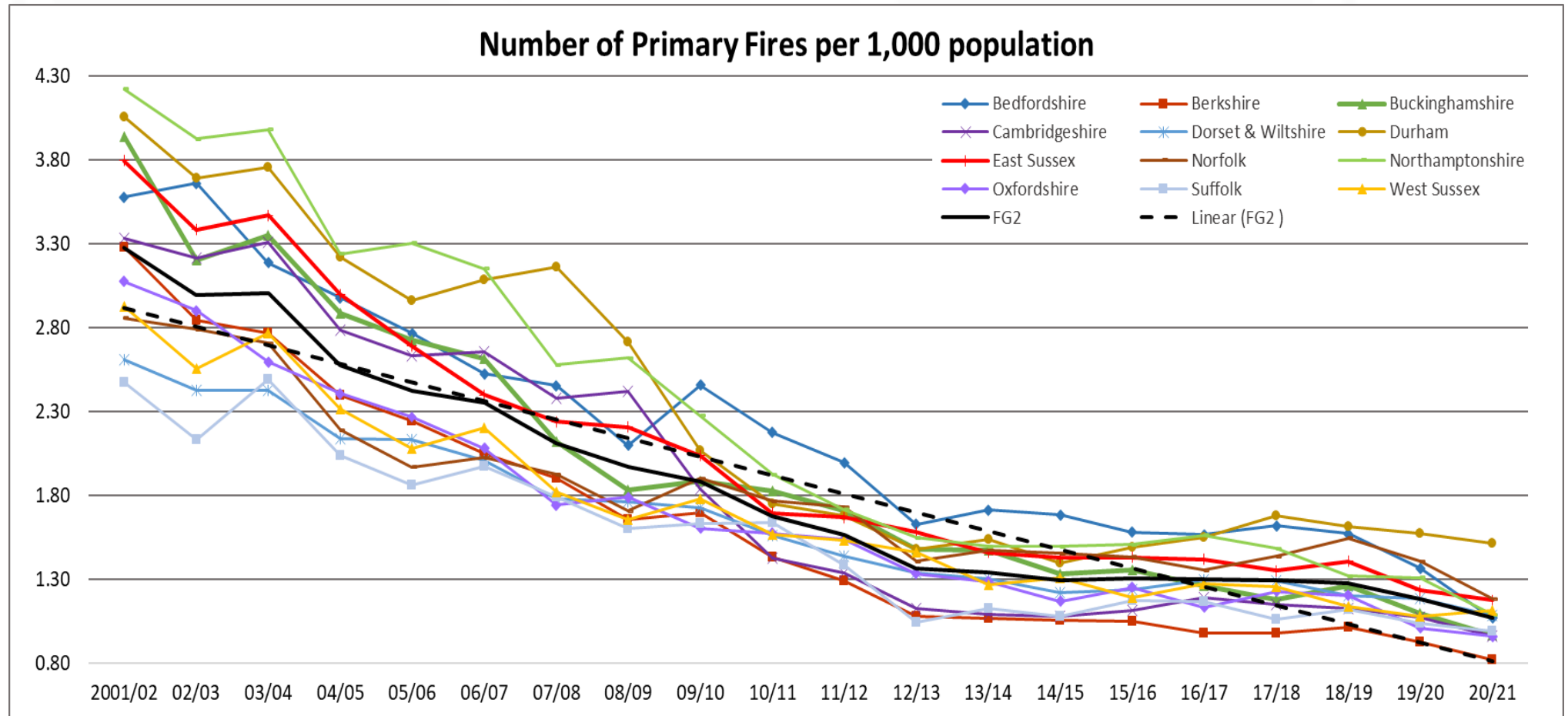


Chart 19: The number of Primary Fires per 1,000 population. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 0102: Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority.)

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 2020/21, ESFRS had 0.53 Accidental Dwelling Fires per 1,000 population. This was the highest rate in FG2.

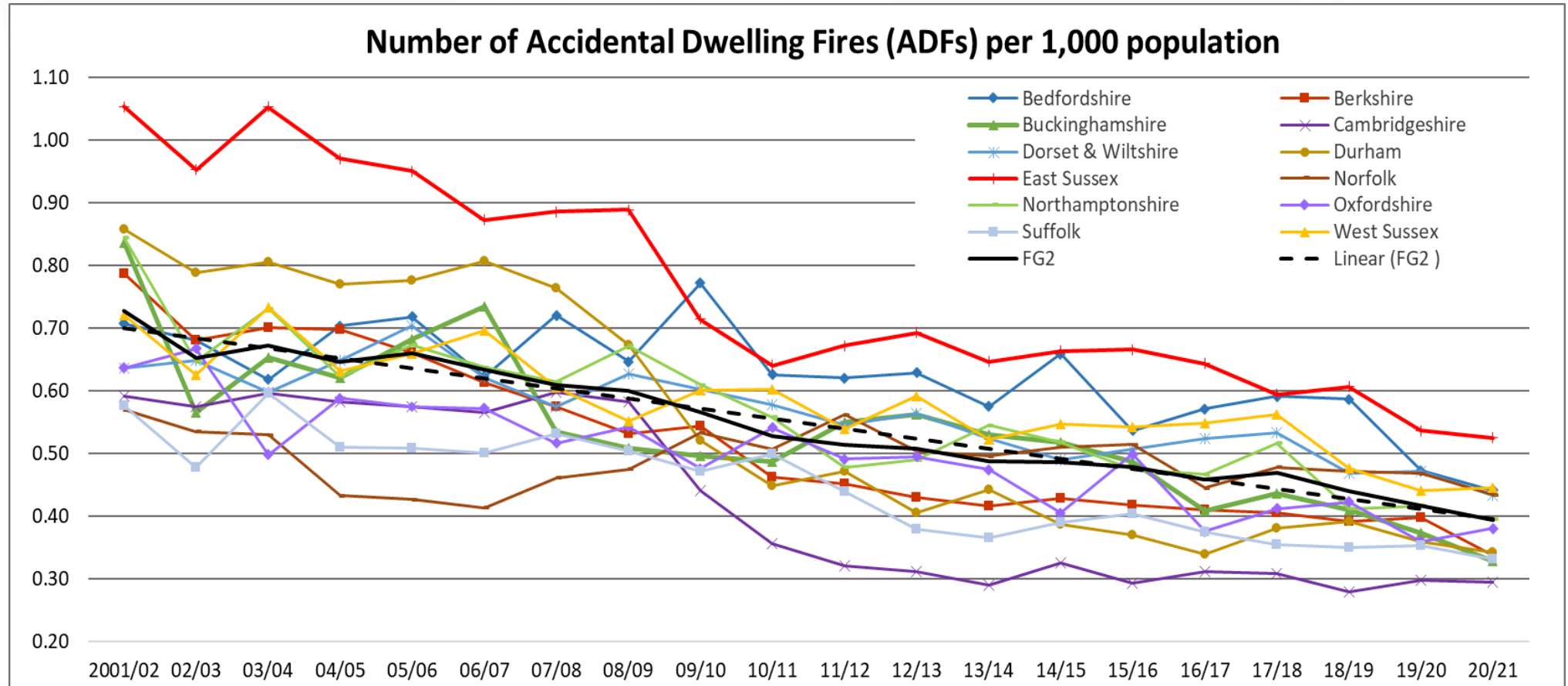


Chart 20: The number of accidental dwelling fires per 1,000 population. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 0202: Fires, fatalities and non-fatal casualties in dwellings by motive and fire and rescue authority, England.)

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 but only Durham FRS has experienced an increase over the last five years.

In 2020/21, ESFRS had 0.27 Deliberate Fires per 1,000 population. This was the 2nd highest in the FG2 group and above the FG2 average, 0.24.

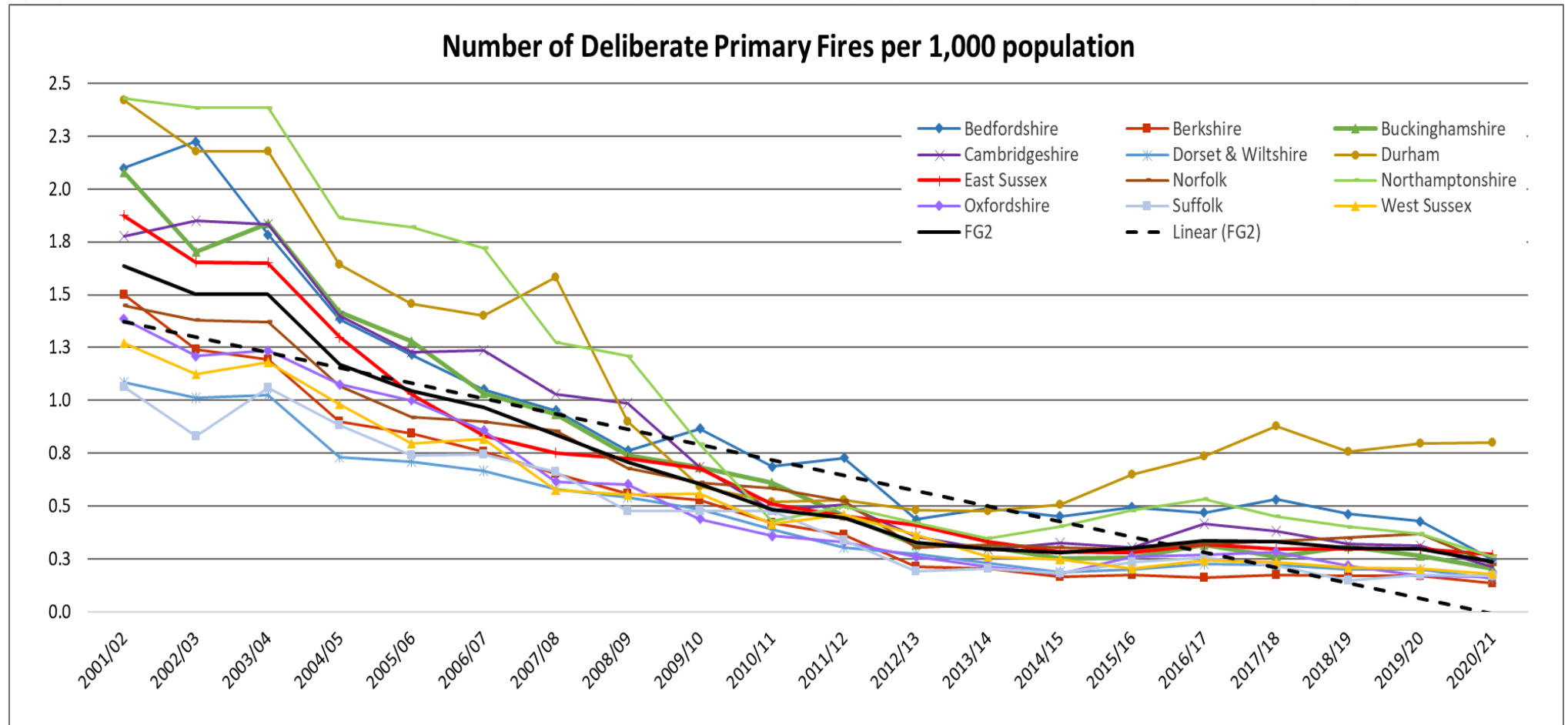


Chart 21: The number of Deliberate Primary Fires per 1,000 population. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 0401: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority.)

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

Chart 22, below, 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 (70.7%). However, three FG2 members experienced an increase last year including ESFRS. ESFRS is still below the FG2 average, which is distorted by the considerable difference in numbers of deliberate secondary fires in Durham.

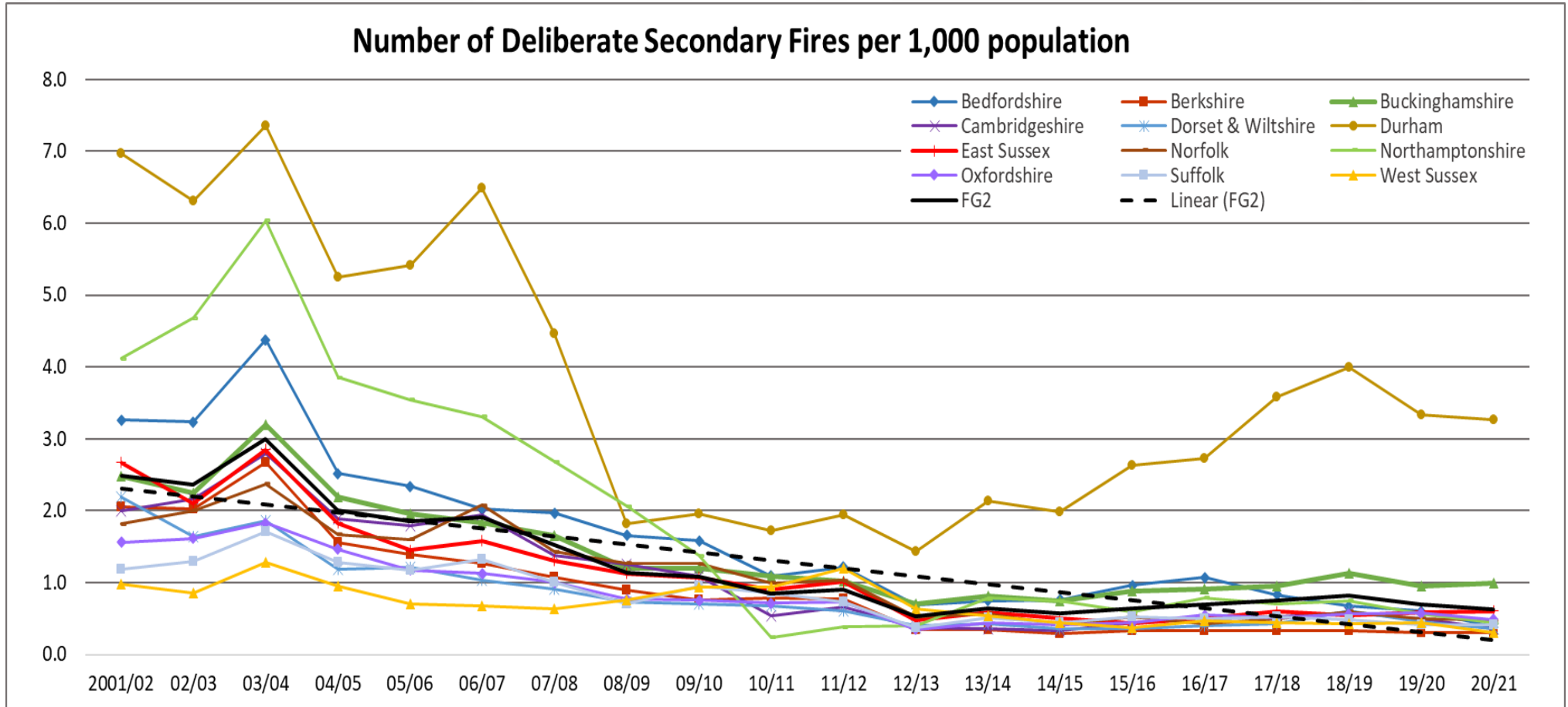


Chart 22: The number of Deliberate Secondary Fires per 1,000 population. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 0401: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority.)

Chart 23 shows that FG2 average attendances at Automatic Fire False Alarms (AFAs) 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 with the ESFRS having the highest rate at 5.25 compared to the FG2 average of 3.74 AFAs per 1,000 population.

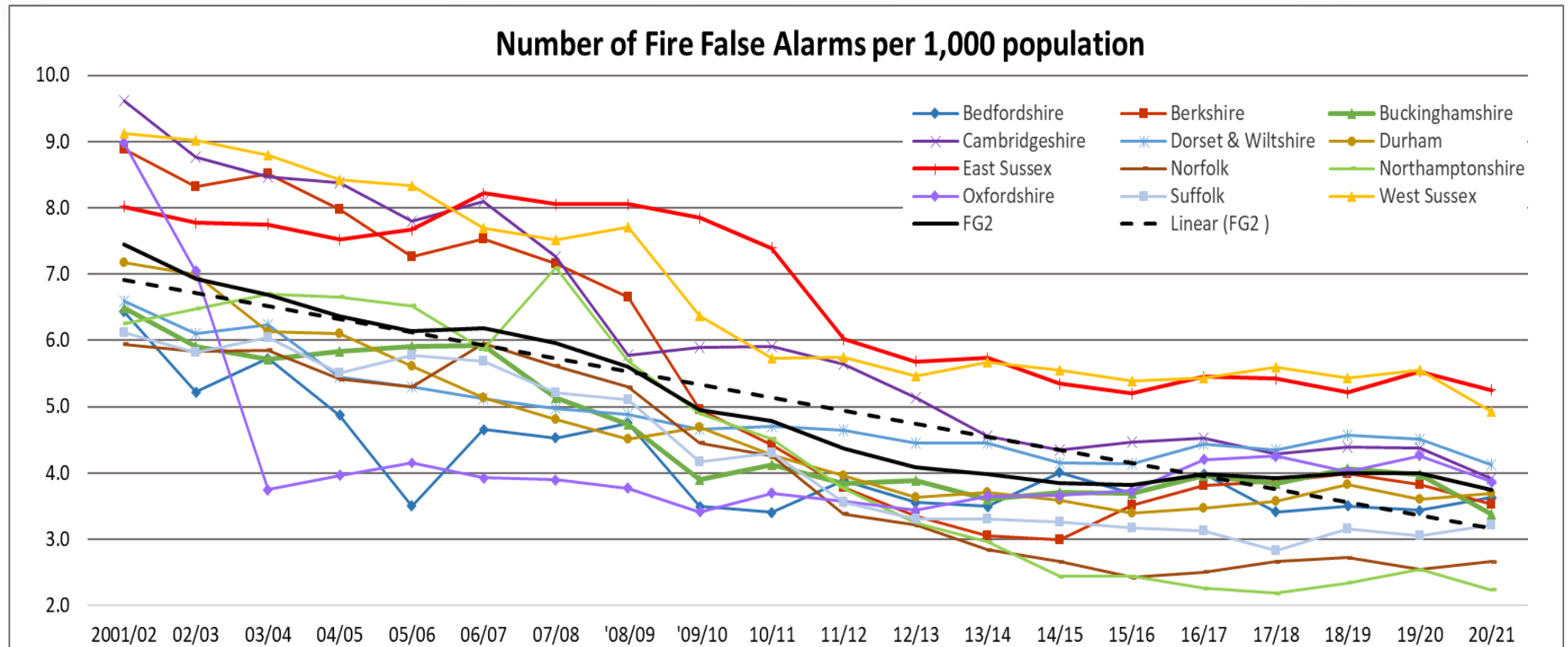


Chart 23: The number of Fire False Alarms per 1,000 population (total of false alarm good intent, false alarm malicious and false alarm due to apparatus calls). (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 0102: Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident 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 up to 2019/20 with the exception to Norfolk, which has experienced considerable variation during this period.

In 2020/21, ESFRS attended 0.39 RTCs per 1,000 population a decline from 0.53 in 2019/20. This was the 6th highest among the FG2 members and below the FG2 average (0.40). This considerable decline from 2019/20 was owing to COVID 19 restrictions, which included the working from home rule. This significantly reduced the number of vehicles on the road for large parts of 2020/21, resulting in a decline of RTCs for all FG2 services by 29% compared to the previous year.

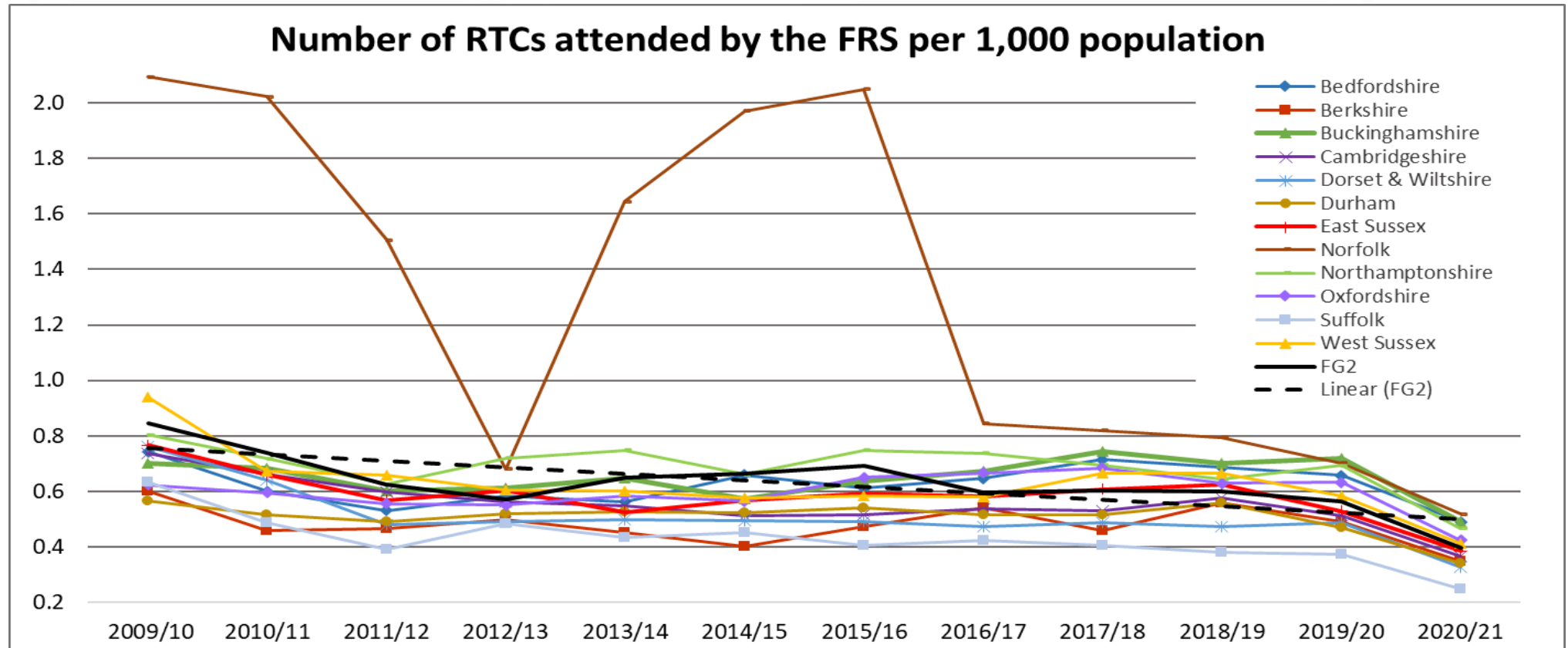


Chart 24: The number of Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) per 1,000 population. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 0901: Non-fire Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority.)

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 2020/21, ESFRS had the second highest number of incidents with 0.44 per 1,000 population and above the FG2 average of 0.28. However, since 2009/10 barring three years, ESFRS has had the highest number of incidents and remains significantly above the FG2 average.

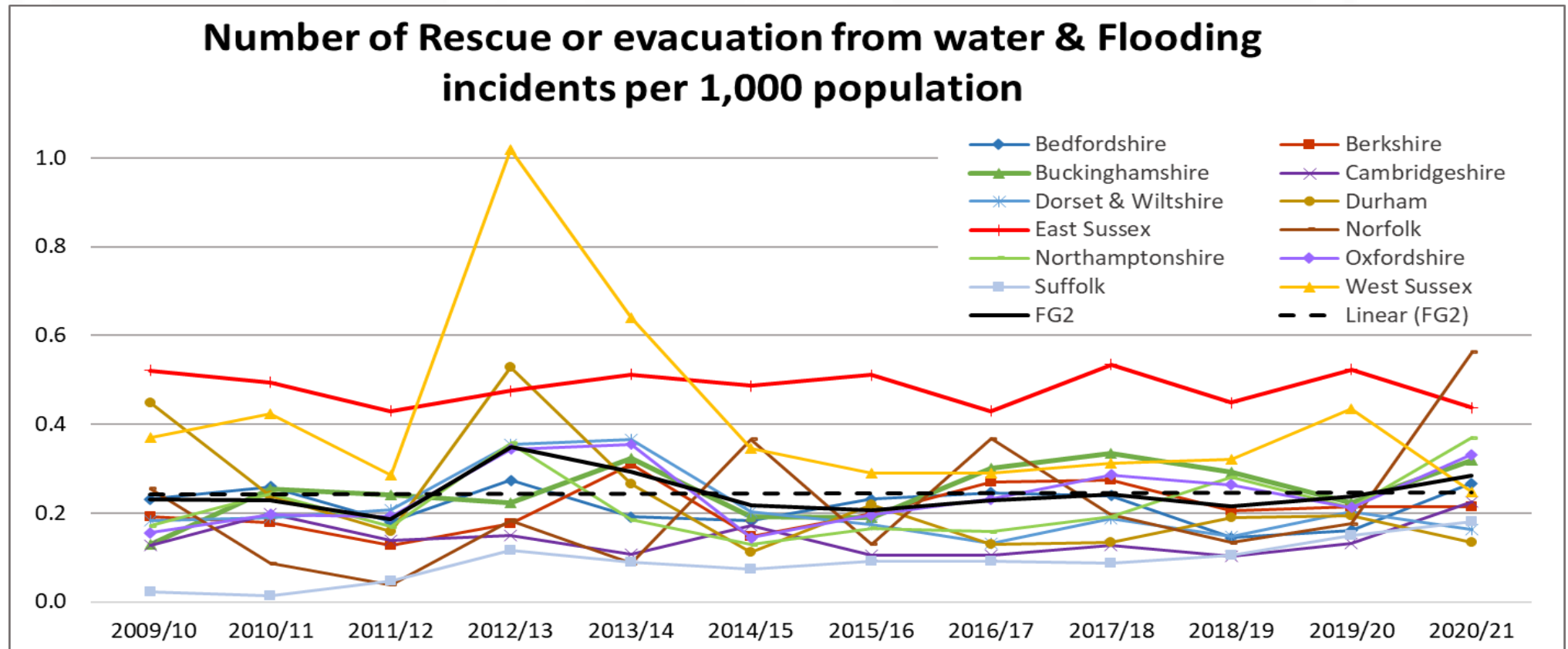


Chart 25: The number of Rescue or evacuation from water and Flooding incidents per 1,000 population. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 0901: Non-fire Incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority.)

Actual incidents: % reduction from 2001/02 to 2020/21 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 - 2020/21		
FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2020/21	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2020/21
Bedfordshire	-64.1%	7
Berkshire	-71.3%	1
Buckinghamshire	-70.8%	2
Cambridgeshire	-65.0%	4
Dorset & Wiltshire	-52.0%	12
Durham	-59.4%	8
East Sussex	-64.5%	5
Norfolk	-52.5%	11
Northamptonshire	-69.0%	3
Oxfordshire	-64.1%	6
Suffolk	-54.6%	10
West Sussex	-56.1%	9

All Fire False Alarms by Fire and Rescue Service: 2001/02 - 2020/21		
FRS Area	% change from 2001/02 - 2020/21	FG2 Position 2001/02- 2020/21
Bedfordshire	-32.4%	10
Berkshire	-54.5%	2
Buckinghamshire	-38.5%	8
Cambridgeshire	-50.9%	3
Dorset & Wiltshire	-28.1%	11
Durham	-44.2%	6
East Sussex	-25.1%	12
Norfolk	-48.8%	5
Northamptonshire	-57.1%	1
Oxfordshire	-50.6%	4
Suffolk	-40.3%	7
West Sussex	-37.9%	9

Accidental Dwelling Fires by Fire and Rescue Service: 2001/02 - 2020/21		
FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2020/21	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2020/21
Bedfordshire	-25.1%	10
Berkshire	-50.9%	3
Buckinghamshire	-53.5%	2
Cambridgeshire	-39.9%	6
Dorset & Wiltshire	-21.8%	11
Durham	-56.9%	1
East Sussex	-42.9%	5
Norfolk	-12.7%	12
Northamptonshire	-43.9%	4
Oxfordshire	-31.5%	8
Suffolk	-34.5%	7
West Sussex	-28.9%	9

Deliberate Secondary Fires by Fire and Rescue Service: 2001/02 - 2020/21		
FRS Area	% Change from 2001/02 to 2020/21	FG2 Rank 2001/02 - 2020/21
Bedfordshire	-85.9%	2
Berkshire	-82.9%	3
Buckinghamshire	-52.5%	11
Cambridgeshire	-78.4%	5
Dorset & Wiltshire	-81.3%	4
Durham	-49.2%	12
East Sussex	-74.1%	6
Norfolk	-69.9%	7
Northamptonshire	-87.3%	1
Oxfordshire	-64.3%	8
Suffolk	-60.4%	10
West Sussex	-64.2%	9

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 2020/21. ESFRS is currently ranked 3rd.

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 2020/21, England's response rate increased to 7.6 minutes, whereas ESFRS increased to 8.1 minutes, therefore, now above the national average. The chart below shows that there is a slight decrease in Average Response Times for FG2 experienced in 2020/21. ESFRS is below the FG2 average of 8.6.

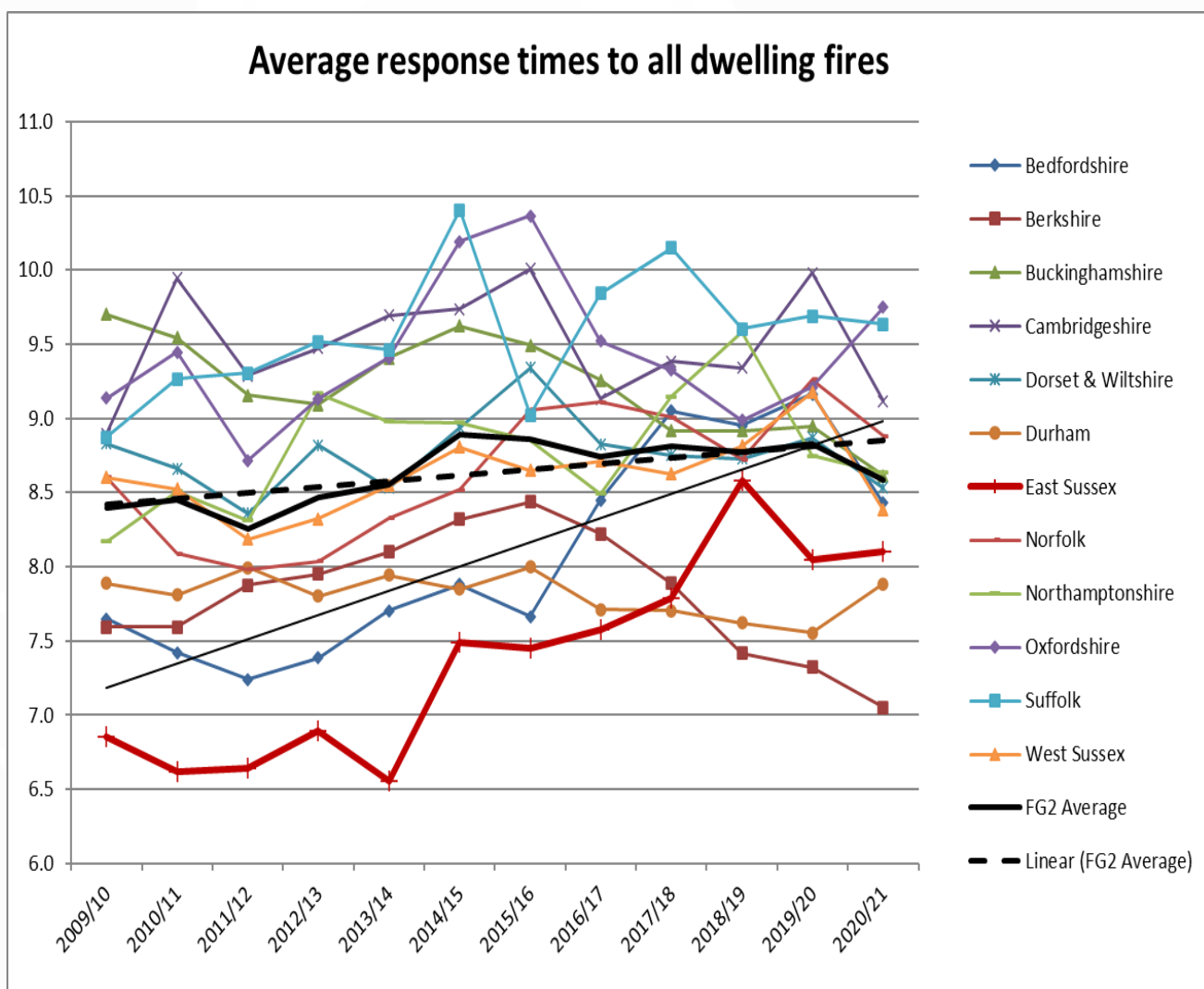


Chart 26: Average Response Times to dwelling fires. (Source - Home Office Incident Recording System, Fire statistics table 1001: Average response times for dwelling fires by fire and rescue authority, England)



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 3rd smallest area in FG2.
- ESFRS has a senior management structure similar in size, distribution and overall numbers to West Sussex and Dorset & Wiltshire.
- ESFRS has the 5th highest percentage change in WT firefighters, this 0.3% decrease equates to 1 WT operational post.
- ESFRS is 21.5% above the average number of WT firefighters with 356 (average 293) as of 31 March 2021 and has 15.2% less than the average On-call firefighters.
- ESFRS is above the FG2 average (19:1) for the ratio of firefighters to senior managers with 20:1. This is the joint 4th highest ratio of the group.
- ESFRS has a rate of 4.7 operational appliances per 100,000 population, this is above the average for FG2 with a rate of 4.2.
- ESFRS has a rate of 2.82 stations per 100,000 population this is the 5th lowest in FG2.
- ESFRS has one station for every 74.8 km², which is the 2nd highest density of stations per km² in FG2.
- ESFRS has the 3rd average net expenditure cost per domestic household and the 3rd highest cost per Council Tax Band D.
- ESFRS is currently (per 100 firefighters) above the FG2 average in operational injuries, currently ranked 2nd highest (same as in 2019/20) and below the average in training injuries, ranked 3rd lowest (7th lowest in 2019/20).
- ESFRS has the 4th highest proportion of female firefighters across FG2, with 8.1% of WT firefighters. This figure is above both the national average of 8.0% and the FG2 average of 6.8%. In terms of actual numbers, ESFRS has the highest number of female WT firefighters with 29 among FG2 down 2 from 2019/20.
- ESFRS has the 5th lowest proportion of ethnic minority staff across the FG2 with 2.4%. This is below the proportion of ethnic minority residents in the ESFRS service area of 6.4%.
- ESFRS has the equal 5th highest number of ethnic minority WT firefighters with 8.
- ESFRS lost 7.04 duty days per employee among WT and Control staff due to sickness in 2020/21, down from 10.77 in 2019/20. The FG2 average for 2020/21 is 6.89 duty days lost per employee.
- ESFRS lost 5.56 shifts per employee among non-uniformed staff due to sickness in 2020/21, which is above the FG2 average of 4.82.
- ESFRS completed 19.1 Home Safety Visits per 1,000 occupied domestic dwellings in 2020/21, the 2nd highest among FG2.
- ESFRS completed 10.7 Fire Safety Audits per 1,000 non-domestic properties. This is the 4th lowest among FG2.
- ESFRS has attended to 62.9% less fires (5,352 in 2001/02 down to 1,987 in 2020/21). Each FRS across the country has experienced similar reductions.
- ESFRS in 2020/21 had 0.53 Accidental Dwelling Fires per 1,000 population, which was the highest rate among FG2.
- ESFRS attends the 2nd highest numbers of incidents overall among FG2. The incidents most attended by ESFRS involve Fire False Alarms, accounting for 45.9% of all incidents (see table 6 overleaf for total incidents attended by FG2).
- ESFRS ranks 3rd for average response times to all dwellings with 8m 06s among FG2 but is above the national average of 7m 36s.

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	730	847	24	1,576	55	842	335	9	113	114	163	19	314	51	32
Berkshire	756	912	37	2,042	55	1,146	322	15	21	38	181	16	415	136	51
Buckinghamshire	795	1,083	39	2,184	62	516	402	17	14	863	233	27	284	71	38
Cambridgeshire	830	875	30	2,150	41	1,170	315	12	12	39	160	34	82	20	55
Dorset & Wiltshire	1,637	1,548	173	3,931	132	2,144	491	23	31	217	214	32	819	125	138
Durham	973	2,336	62	1,012	40	1,315	220	5	49	2	78	8	117	13	25
East Sussex	1,002	900	85	3,134	71	1,262	328	9	46	61	361	11	557	243	66
Norfolk	1,085	878	105	1,363	58	1,008	475	20	27	1	451	63	440	44	93
Northamptonshire	826	665	47	653	67	972	354	18	9	164	253	27	96	39	59
Oxfordshire	670	552	80	2,110	23	561	296	13	9	139	199	32	253	43	24
Suffolk	754	886	93	1,582	51	817	189	4	22	0	104	33	88	16	61
West Sussex	971	789	92	3,222	95	963	358	7	26	8	204	10	475	116	84
FG2 Average	919	1,023	72	2,080	63	1,060	340	13	32	137	217	26	328	76	61
National results - England	61,912	86,069	3,105	140,148	4,815	71,186	22,522	882	3,995	9,848	14,921	1,470	24,241	7,931	3,996

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	80	49	31	17	29	12	4	0	454	23	2	35	1	83	6,044
Berkshire	62	62	56	17	36	19	3	0	130	40	0	87	0	107	6,762
Buckinghamshire	62	84	61	28	27	19	6	0	149	16	0	111	2	91	7,284
Cambridgeshire	132	64	29	19	19	32	15	2	280	5	3	58	0	24	6,507
Dorset & Wiltshire	182	136	79	75	72	56	10	1	575	47	8	108	9	199	13,212
Durham	65	95	44	20	41	35	4	0	71	2	6	56	0	55	6,749
East Sussex	177	102	32	67	153	32	4	1	812	42	3	101	0	72	9,734
Norfolk	165	78	60	61	88	78	4	1	735	23	2	30	1	72	7,509
Northamptonshire	67	72	54	43	36	26	2	2	178	27	2	47	1	57	4,863
Oxfordshire	50	48	50	23	28	13	2	0	98	8	0	80	1	71	5,476
Suffolk	98	53	35	7	16	14	2	0	280	7	2	76	0	19	5,309
West Sussex	108	121	45	86	71	25	4	0	637	29	7	71	0	53	8,677
FG2 Average	104	80	48	39	51	30	5	1	367	22	3	72	1	75	7,344
National results - England	5,159	5,632	3,017	2,677	3,737	2,095	670	24	20,017	2,223	243	9,048	189	6,491	518,263

