

REPORT TO THE: PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

DATE: 16th February 2009 **REFERENCE:** CS-01-12-DLS-05

SUBJECT: Fire Statistics Monitor Wales, Quarter 4 2007

SUMMARY:

The Wales National Statistics Bulletin SB 60/2008 has recently been published. The bulletin covers incidents attended in the 12 month period up to 31st December 2007 by the three Fire and Rescue Services in Wales.

The issues highlighted in this bulletin are;

- Fires
- Casualties
- False Alarms

This paper reports on the All Wales position in relation to these incidents and details the Mid and West Wales performance to these incidents.

OBJECTIVES		IMPLICATIONS	
More than an Emergency Service	Yes	Operational Risk Management	Yes
Trusted & Respected by our customers	Yes	Community Risk Reduction	Yes
Saving Lives, Protecting Communities	Yes	Learning & Development	
Managing within Budget	Yes	Service Control	Yes
Allocate Resources to Priorities	Yes	Civil Contingencies & Resilience	
Efficiency savings	Yes	Finance & Procurement	Yes
Alternative funding & resources		H.R.	
Managing People	Yes	ICT	
Risk Reduction Planning	Yes	CCMS	
Partnership Working	Yes	Transport	
Effective & Empowered People	Yes	Health & Safety	
		Premises	
		Sustainability & Environment	
		Welsh Language	
		Legal	
		Governance	
		Equality & Diversity	
		Representative Body Consultation	

COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS ON THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES/IMPLICATIONS:

RECOMMENDATIONS:
 Members are asked to note the contents of the bulletin and the good performance reported by Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT:
 Fire Statistics Monitor Wales, Quarter 4, 2007

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The statistics used in this paper are compiled by the Welsh Assembly Government from reports submitted by all Fire and Rescue Services in Wales to the department for Communities and Local Government. They cover all fires attended in the 12 month period up to 31st December 2007, to be known as “current period” in this paper.

The bulletin covers three main areas;

Fires:

The Welsh Fire and Rescue Services attended 44,700 fires and false alarms in the year ending 31st December 2007, which represents a decrease of 5 percent on the previous period.

Members will be pleased to note that Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service had an 11 percent reduction in Primary Fires for this period which was better than the Welsh average of 10 percent for the period. The Service showed a 13 percent reduction in primary fires in dwellings which was mirrored in a 13 percent reduction in accidental primary fires in dwellings.

Casualties:

There were 26 fatal casualties from accidental dwelling fires in Wales in the year ending 31st December 2007, which is an increase of 4 in the previous period. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service regrettably also showed an increase in fatalities during this period from 1 to 7.

There were around 650 non-fatal casualties from fires recorded compared with around 660 in the previous period for Wales. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service has made considerable progress in this area with reductions above the Welsh average. There was a 1 percent reduction in non-fatal casualties in accidental fires in dwellings for this period across Wales however, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service show a reduction of 15 percent, the only Service to reduce.

False Alarms:

There were 19,700 false fire alarms in Wales, which is a decrease of less than 1 percent from around 19,800 in the previous period. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service showed an increase of 2 percent which equates to an additional 101 false fire alarms.

This increase is being tackled by a number of initiatives within our Service in order to bring these figures down. Our policy for unwanted fire alarm signals is being reviewed in conjunction with North and South Wales’ policy looking for examples of best practice. In addition the strategic planning and performance department provides detailed incident analysis to County Commanders to allow them to target problem premises in order to reduce false alarm calls.

There were 1,600 malicious false fire alarms during the period which is a decrease of 6 percent when compared with the previous period. The Service showed a 5 percent decrease in malicious false fire alarms, the Service has a robust ‘Call Challenge’ policy in place which challenges calls received to test their validity. Service Control operators successfully challenged 69 percent of malicious false fire alarms during 2006/07 enabling resources to be targeted more efficiently.

It should be noted that this paper reports on performance information up to 31st December 2007, the Service reports in greater detail quarterly to the Performance Board and Performance Review and Audit Committee.