

SDR 24/2008

28 February 2008

Fire and Rescue Service Operational Statistics for Wales, 2006-07

Introduction

This Release contains statistics relating to operational issues affecting Fire and Rescue Services in Wales for the financial year 2006-07 and previous years. The issues highlighted in this release consist of Personnel, Equality and Diversity, Health and Safety and Operational Activities. The source of these data is the Welsh Assembly Government fire and rescue service performance and management information database, which holds operational statistics received from all Fire and Rescue Services in Wales. [StatsWales](#) tables accompany this release.

Summary

Fire and Rescue Service personnel

- There were 2,327 fulltime equivalent staff employed across the three Welsh Fire and Rescue Service Authority areas as at 31 March 2007, in addition to 1,567 retained duty system staff compared, to 2,353 and 1,528 respectively as at 31 March 2006.
- There were 1,956 applications received in Wales in 2006-07.

Equality and diversity

- At 31 March 2007, males accounted for 87 per cent of all staff, and for 97 per cent of wholetime and retained duty system staff.
- Minority ethnic staff in Wales accounted for 0.7 per cent of all staff, a slightly higher proportion than the previous 2 years.
- During 2006-07 women accounted for 19 per cent of all successful applications whilst people from ethnic minority backgrounds accounted for 1.8 per cent.

Health and safety

- During 2006-07, 7.0 shifts/days were lost per person to sickness for wholetime firefighters and 12.4 shifts/days for fire control staff.
- The total number of injuries sustained by wholetime and retained duty system firefighters decreased by 10 per cent to 266 in 2006-07.

Operational activities

- During 2006-07 there were 10,185 non-fire incidents in Wales, an increase of 11 per cent on the previous year.
- The number of front-line appliances increased by 6 to 333 at 31 March 2007 compared with the previous year, whilst reserve appliances decreased by 1 to 48.

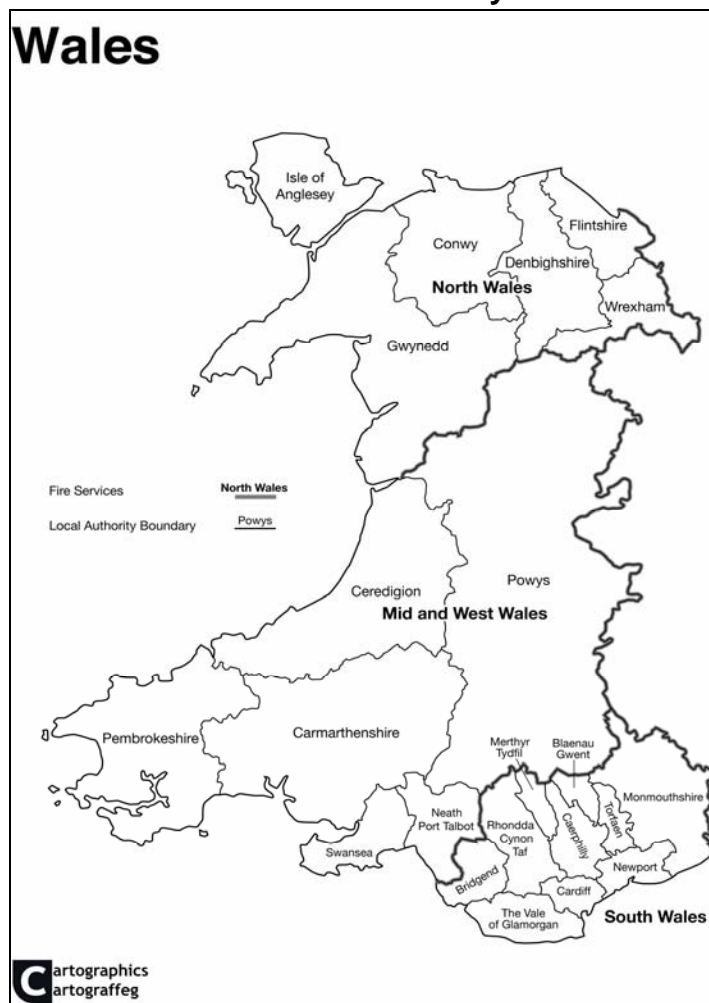
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Fire and Rescue Service authority areas in Wales



Section 1: Fire and Rescue Service personnel

1.1 Number of staff in post

There were 2,327 fulltime equivalent (FTE) staff employed across the three Welsh Fire and Rescue Service Authority areas as at 31 March 2007. In addition to this 1,567 retained duty system staff were also employed. In general staff numbers across Wales have remained broadly unchanged over the last three years as shown in chart 1.1 below.

Table 1.1 Number of staff in post at 31 March (a)(b)

	Wholetime	Retained duty system	Fire control	Non-operational
2004-05				
North Wales	294	533	31	92
Mid & West Wales (c)	470	666	35	139
South Wales	943	312	53	237
Wales	1,707	1,511	119	468
2005-06				
North Wales	294	521	30	110
Mid & West Wales	467	669	32	146
South Wales	968	338	54	253
Wales	1,729	1,528	116	508
2006-07				
North Wales	298	540	32	106
Mid & West Wales	444	672	29	147
South Wales	962	355	51	259
Wales	1,704	1,567	111	512

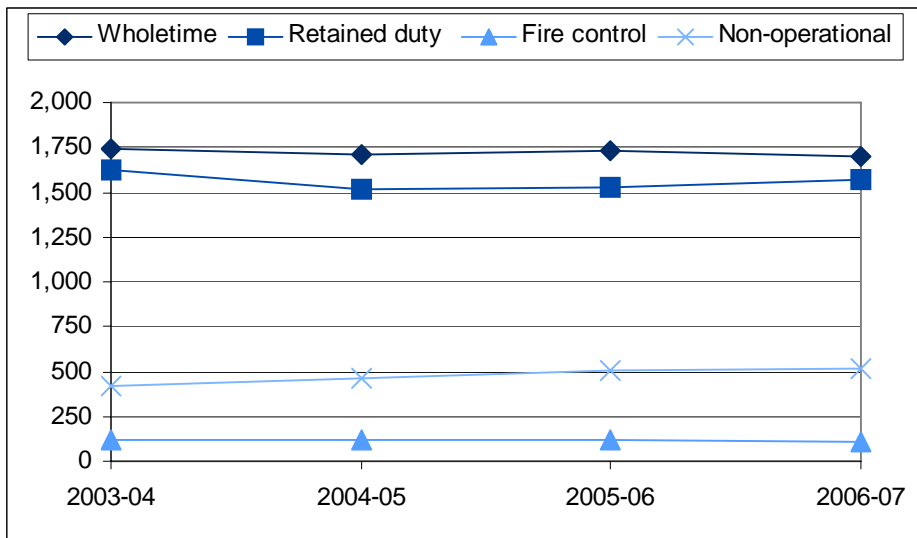
Source: HRF1-4.

(a) In full time equivalents (FTEs) except retained duty system firefighters, which relates to 24-hour units of cover.

(b) Figures are rounded therefore the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals.

(c) Actual return figures used for Mid & West Wales rather than estimates used in department for Communities and Local government's 2004-05 publication.

Chart 1.1 Number of staff in post at 31 March (a)(b)



(a) Number of staff in post (FTE) for wholetime, fire control and non-operational duty systems.

(b) Number of staff in post, expressed in units of 24-hour cover for retained duty system.

Wholetime

At 31 March 2007 there were 1,704 wholetime firefighters in post, a decrease of 25 staff (1 per cent) compared with the previous year.

Retained duty system

The number of retained duty system firefighters in post (in 24-hour units of cover) at 31 March 2006 was 1,567. This is an increase of 3 per cent on the previous year's figure of 1,528.

Fire control

At 31 March 2007, there were 111 fire control staff in post, a slight decrease of 4 per cent compared with the previous year.

Non-Operational

The total number of non-operational staff in post continued to increase. At 31 March 2007 there were 512 non-operational staff in post, an increase of 1 per cent compared with the previous year.

Table 1.1.1 Headcount of staff at 31 March by age,2006-07

		16-34	35-54	55+	All ages
North Wales	Wholetime	79	217	2	298
	Retained	221	345	12	578
	Fire control	9	23	1	33
	Non-operational	44	68	17	129
Mid and West Wales	Wholetime	83	357	4	444
	Retained	287	413	15	715
	Fire control	8	22	0	30
	Non-operational	50	84	30	164
South Wales	Wholetime	264	701	6	971
	Retained	254	318	15	587
	Fire control	21	32	1	54
	Non-operational	61	162	56	279
Wales	Wholetime	426	1,275	12	1,713
	Retained	762	1,076	42	1,880
	Fire control	38	77	2	117
	Non-operational	155	314	103	572

Source: HRF0

This is the first time that age data has been collected for the Welsh Fire and Rescue Services. 32 per cent of staff are aged 16-34, 64 per cent are aged 35-54 and 4 per cent are aged 55 or more.

1.2 Job applicants and successful applicants

Recruitment in the Fire and Rescue Services varies from year to year as can be seen below in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 Number of applicants and successful applicants (a)(b)

	Wholetime		Retained duty system		Fire control		Non-operational		Total	
	Applicants	Successful applicants	Applicants	Successful applicants	Applicants	Successful applicants	Applicants	Successful applicants	Applicants	Successful applicants
2004-05										
North Wales	0	12	0	0	7	2	78	11	85	25
Mid & West	0	0	143	70	120	2	261	13	524	85
South Wales	1,585	73	293	54	78	9	609	61	2,565	197
Wales	1,585	85	436	124	205	13	948	85	3,174	307
2005-06										
North Wales	994	73	0	0	7	2	226	27	1,227	102
Mid & West	1,183	65	193	80	0	0	260	12	1,636	157
South Wales	2,026	51	389	78	84	8	992	44	3,491	181
Wales	4,203	189	582	158	91	10	1,478	83	6,354	440
2006-07										
North Wales	0	10	250	106	0	2	219	14	469	132
Mid & West	0	0	100	65	0	0	167	10	267	75
South Wales	0	28	408	85	105	3	707	62	1,220	178
Wales	0	38	758	256	105	5	1,093	86	1,956	385

Source: HRF18-19, 22-23, 26-27, 30-31 (applications)

(a) Results of successful applications may not necessarily have been decided in the same financial year as the original application.

(b) There were no recruitment campaigns for wholetime duty systems for 2006-07.

There were 1,956 applications received in Wales in 2006-07, 69 per cent less than received during 2005-06. There were notable decreases for two of the four duty systems, with 4,203 less applications for wholetime and 385 less for non-operational duties. However the number of applications for fire control and retained duty system employment rose by 14 and 176 respectively. Applications are heavily influenced by the Fire and Rescue Service recruitment drives, there was no wholetime recruitment drives for all Fire and Rescue Service Authority areas in 2006-07.

Successful applicants

There were 385 successful applications in Wales during 2006-07, 13 per cent less than in 2005-06. Of the applicants for each of the duty systems, 34 per cent¹ were successful as retained duty system firefighters, 5 per cent¹ as fire control staff and 8 per cent¹ as non-operational staff. 38 applicants from the previous year were successful as wholetime firefighters.

¹ Based on all known successful applicants during the year.

1.3 Leavers

During 2006-07, 256 staff left the service, compared to 313 in the previous year. Of those that left, just over half were retained duty system firefighters.

Table 1.3 Reasons for leaving the Fire and Rescue Service, 2006-07

Dismissal on disciplinary grounds/poor performance	2	8	0	1	11
Medical discharge	14	5	1	2	22
Resignation to take other employment	2	22	0	24	48
Compulsory/ voluntary age retirement	52	9	0	3	64
Other reasons(a)	4	91	1	15	111
Total leaving the fire service	74	135	2	45	256

Source: HRF 34-41 (leavers).

(a) See glossary for definition of 'Other reasons'.

(b) 40 of the 91 'Other' reasons were due to 'Personal/work commitments'

Retirements

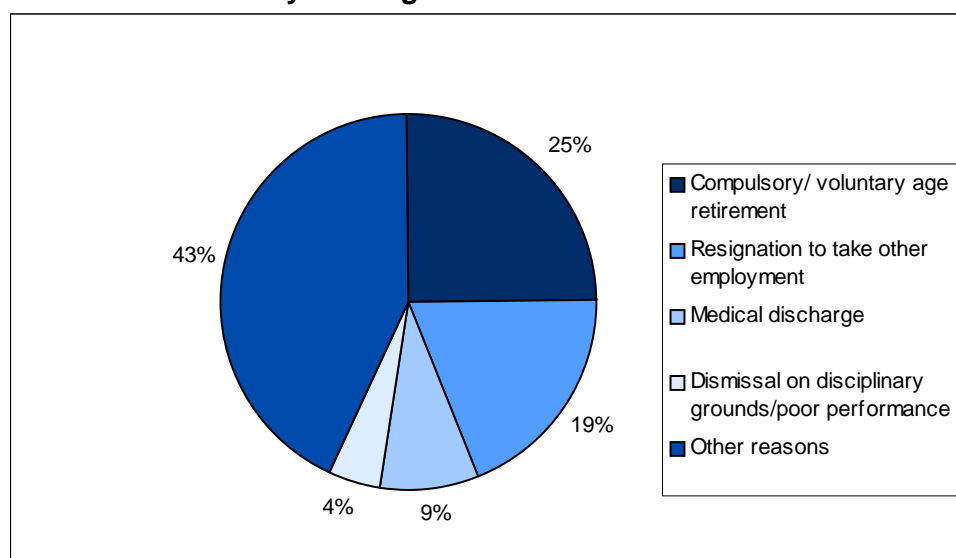
There were 64 compulsory/voluntary age retirements during 2006-07 compared with 96 during 2005-06, a decrease of 33 per cent. Compulsory/voluntary age retirements for wholetime and retained duty system firefighters fell by 27 per cent and 50 per cent respectively.

The number of staff who retired on grounds of ill health (medical discharge) decreased from 40 in the previous year to 22 in 2006-07.

Resignations

In 2006-07, 48 staff resigned to take up other employment, a decrease of 6 per cent on the previous year. Of the total that resigned to take other employment, 50 per cent were non-operational staff and 46 per cent were retained duty system firefighters.

Chart 1.2 Leavers by leaving reason.



Section 2: Equality and diversity

2.1 Gender

The majority of Fire and Rescue Service staff are male. At 31 March 2007 males accounted for 87 per cent of all staff and for 97 per cent of wholetime and retained duty system staff.

Table 2.1 Gender of Fire and Rescue Service personnel at 31 March (a)

	Wholetime		Retained duty system		Fire control		Non-operational		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
	2004-05									
Male	1,689	99	1,725	98	17	14	220	44	3,651	89
Female	25	1	40	2	103	86	278	56	446	11
Total	1,714	100	1,765	100	120	100	498	100	4,097	100
2005-06										
Male	1,693	98	1,760	97	20	16	233	42	3,706	88
Female	36	2	51	3	102	84	321	58	510	12
Total	1,729	100	1,811	100	122	100	554	100	4,216	100
2006-07										
Male	1,667	97	1,818	97	19	16	236	41	3,740	87
Female	46	3	62	3	98	84	336	59	542	13
Total	1,713	100	1,880	100	117	100	572	100	4,282	100

Source: HRF10-17

(a) Percentages based on total personnel within each duty type

Whilst the number of women employed has increased, the female workforce still only accounts for around 13 per cent of all staff. The number of female wholetime and retained duty staff has seen an increase of 24 per cent when compared to the previous year. The proportion of female wholetime and retained duty staff has also increased to 3 per cent of all wholetime and retained duty staff from 2 per cent in the previous year. Of the 542 women employed across Wales, the majority (62 per cent) were in non-operational posts.

2.2 Ethnicity

At 31 March 2007, minority ethnic staff in Wales accounted for 0.7 per cent of all staff, a slightly higher proportion than the previous two years. This followed increases of minority ethnic staff in both wholetime and retained duty employment. There continues to be no fire control staff employed from ethnic minority backgrounds.

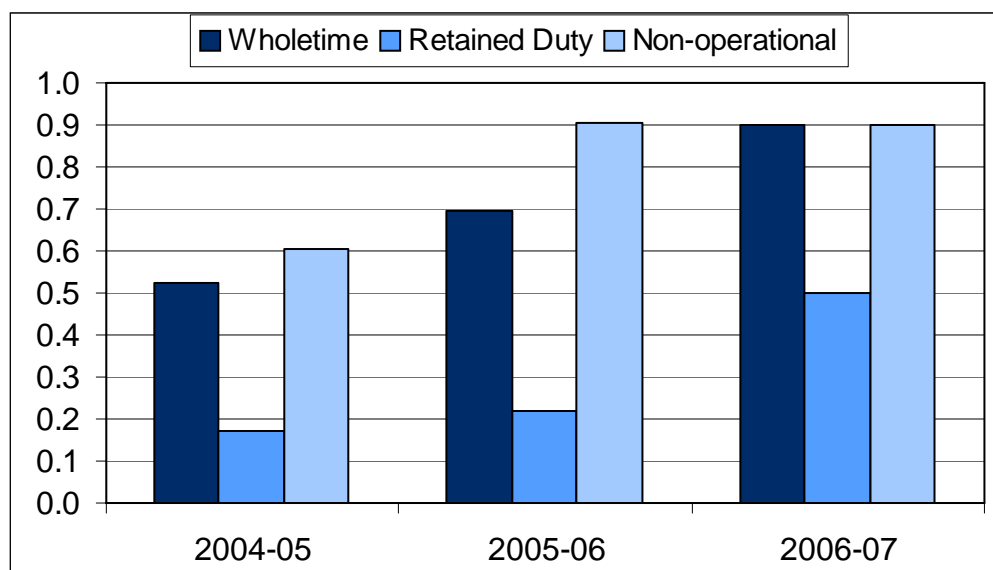
Table 2.2 Ethnicity of Fire and Rescue Service personnel at 31 March

	Wholetime		Retained duty system		Fire control		Non-operational		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
2004-05										
White	1,705	0.0	1,762	0.0	120	0.0	495	0.0	4,082	99.6
Minority ethnic	9	0.5	3	0.2	0	0.0	3	0.6	15	0.4
Not stated	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	1,714	100.0	1,765	100.0	120	100.0	498	100.0	4,097	100.0
2005-06										
White	1,716	99.2	1,805	99.7	122	100.0	549	99.1	4,192	99.4
Minority ethnic	12	0.7	4	0.2	0	0.0	5	0.9	21	0.5
Not stated	1	0.1	2	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.1
Total	1,729	100.0	1,811	100.0	122	100.0	554	100.0	4,216	100.0
2006-07										
White	1,696	99.0	1,842	98.0	117	100.0	558	97.6	4,213	98.4
Minority ethnic	16	0.9	10	0.5	0	0.0	5	0.9	31	0.7
Not stated	1	0.1	28	1.5	0	0.0	9	1.6	38	0.9
Total	1,713	100.0	1,880	100.0	117	100.0	572	100.0	4,282	100.0

Source: HRF10-17

There has been an increase in staff from minority ethnic backgrounds from 21 in 2005-06 to 31 in 2006-07. There has been a measurable increase in "Not stated" in 2006-07 from 3 to 38 mainly due to non-returned forms from North Wales FRS being classified as "Not-stated".

Chart 2.1 Percentage of minority ethnic personnel(a)



(a) There are no minority ethnic personnel in the Fire Control duty system

2.3 Job applicants by gender and ethnicity

During 2006-07 there was an overall decrease in the number of applications received, compared with 2005-06. The proportion of female applicants increased from 22 per cent in 2005-06 to 31 per cent in 2006-07.

During 2006-07, 1.5 per cent of all applications were from people from minority ethnic backgrounds. This was a slight decrease when compared to 2005-06, when minority ethnic applicants accounted for 1.6 per cent. The proportion of minority ethnic applicants only increased for non-operational duty system.

Table 2.3 Gender and ethnicity of applicants(a)

	Wholetime		Retained duty system		Fire control		Non-operational		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
2005-06										
Male	3,810	90.6	549	94.3	26	28.6	572	38.7	4,957	78.0
Female	393	9.4	33	5.7	65	71.4	906	61.3	1,397	22.0
White	4,120	98.0	571	98.1	91	100.0	1,412	95.5	6,194	97.5
Minority ethnic	83	2.0	11	1.9	0	0.0	9	0.6	103	1.6
Not stated	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	57	3.9	57	0.9
Total	4,203	100.0	582	100.0	91	100.0	1,478	100.0	6,354	100.0
2006-07										
Male	0	..	697	92.0	46	43.8	600	54.9	1,343	68.7
Female	0	..	61	8.0	59	56.2	493	45.1	613	31.3
White	0	..	739	97.5	105	100.0	1,070	97.9	1,914	97.9
Minority ethnic	0	..	11	1.5	0	0.0	18	1.6	29	1.5
Not stated	0	..	8	1.1	0	0.0	5	0.5	13	0.7
Total	0	..	758	100.0	105	100.0	1,093	100.0	1,956	100.0

Source: HRF18-19,22-23,26-27,30-31

(a) There were no recruitment campaigns for wholetime duty systems for 2006-07.

Successful applicants by gender and ethnicity

In 2006-07, 20 per cent¹ of all applications were successful in Wales. Amongst the male applicants, 23 per cent¹ were successful, whilst 12 per cent¹ of females were successful.

The number of successful applicants in Wales decreased from 440 in 2005-06 to 385 in 2006-07. The number of successful female applicants decreased and females also accounted for a smaller proportion of successful applicants. Female applicants were mainly successful in fire control and non-operational areas, accounting for 60¹ per cent and 55¹ per cent respectively of all successful applicants. Whereas male applicants were most successful in wholetime and retained duty system categories, accounting for 79¹ and 93¹ per cent respectively.

Over the last year the number of successful minority ethnic applicants as a proportion remained unchanged, accounting for 1.8¹ per cent of all successful applications.

¹ Based on all known successful applicants during the year.

Table 2.4 Gender and ethnicity of successful applicants (a)(b)

	Wholetime		Retained duty system		Fire control		Non-operational		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
	2005-06									
Male	174	92.1	145	91.8	3	30.0	26	31.3	348	79.1
Female	15	7.9	13	8.2	7	70.0	57	68.7	92	20.9
White	184	97.4	155	98.1	10	100.0	80	96.4	429	97.5
Minority ethnic	5	2.6	3	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	1.8
Not stated	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	3.6	3	0.7
Total	189	100.0	158	100.0	10	100.0	83	100.0	440	100.0
2006-07										
Male	30	78.9	239	93.4	2	40.0	39	45.3	310	80.5
Female	8	21.1	17	6.6	3	60.0	47	54.7	75	19.5
White	35	92.1	251	98.0	5	100.0	84	97.7	375	97.4
Minority ethnic	3	7.9	4	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	1.8
Not stated	0	0.0	1	0.4	0	0.0	2	2.3	3	0.8
Total	38	100.0	256	100.0	5	100.0	86	100.0	385	100.0

Source: HRF18-19,22-23,26-27,30-31.

(a) Results of successful applications may not necessarily have been decided in the same financial year as the original application.

(b) There were no recruitment campaigns for wholetime duty systems for 2006-07.

Unsuccessful applicants by gender and ethnicity

The number of unsuccessful applicants in Wales fell significantly to 1,392 over the last year. The number of unsuccessful female and ethnic minority applications decreased. However the proportions for both increased to 37 per cent and 1.8 per cent respectively.

Table 2.5 Gender and ethnicity of unsuccessful applicants (a)(b)

	Wholetime		Retained duty system		Fire control		Non-operational		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
	2005-06									
Male	3,592	90.5	289	93.8	23	28.4	546	39.1	4,450	77.4
Female	376	9.5	19	6.2	58	71.6	849	60.9	1,302	22.6
White	3,890	98.0	304	98.7	81	100.0	1,332	95.5	5,607	97.5
Minority ethnic	78	2.0	4	1.3	0	0.0	9	0.6	91	1.6
Not stated	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	54	3.9	54	0.9
Total	3,968	100.0	308	100.0	81	100.0	1,395	100.0	5,752	100.0
2006-07										
Male	0	..	414	92.2	36	44.4	422	49.0	872	62.6
Female	0	..	35	7.8	45	55.6	440	51.0	520	37.4
White	0	..	434	96.7	81	100.0	842	97.7	1,357	97.5
Minority ethnic	0	..	7	1.6	0	0.0	18	2.1	25	1.8
Not stated	0	..	8	1.8	0	0.0	2	0.2	10	0.7
Total	0	..	449	100.0	81	100.0	862	100.0	1,392	100.0

Source: HRF20-21,24-25,28-29,32-33

(a) Results of successful applications may not necessarily have been decided in the same financial year as the original application.

(b) There were no recruitment campaigns for wholetime duty systems for 2006-07.

2.4 Top 5 per cent of earners

The proportion of women in the top 5 per cent of earners has continued to increase over the last few years, with women accounting for 8 per cent during 2006-07.

The number of people from minority ethnic backgrounds within the top 5 per cent of earners has remained unchanged at one.

Table 2.6 Gender and ethnicity of top 5 per cent earners(a)

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Number:			
Total	143	123	159
Male	134	114	146
Female	9	9	13
Minority ethnic	1	1	1
White	142	122	158
Percentage:			
Male	93.7	92.7	91.8
Female	6.3	7.3	8.2
Minority ethnic	0.7	0.8	0.6
White	99.3	99.2	99.4

Source: HFR4 for 2004-05,2005-06,HRF4b for 2006-07

(a)Data is not collected for retained duty staff

Section 3: Health and safety

3.1 Sickness absence

Table 3.1 Shifts/days lost to sickness(a)

	Wholetime			Fire control		
	Average FTE strength (b)	Shifts/days lost to sickness	Shifts/days lost per person	Average FTE strength (b)	Shifts/days lost to sickness	Shifts/days lost per person
2004-05	1,727	16,978	9.8	120	1,622	13.5
2005-06	1,718	16,262	9.5	117	1,423	12.2
2006-07	1,717	12,095	7.0	113	1,404	12.4

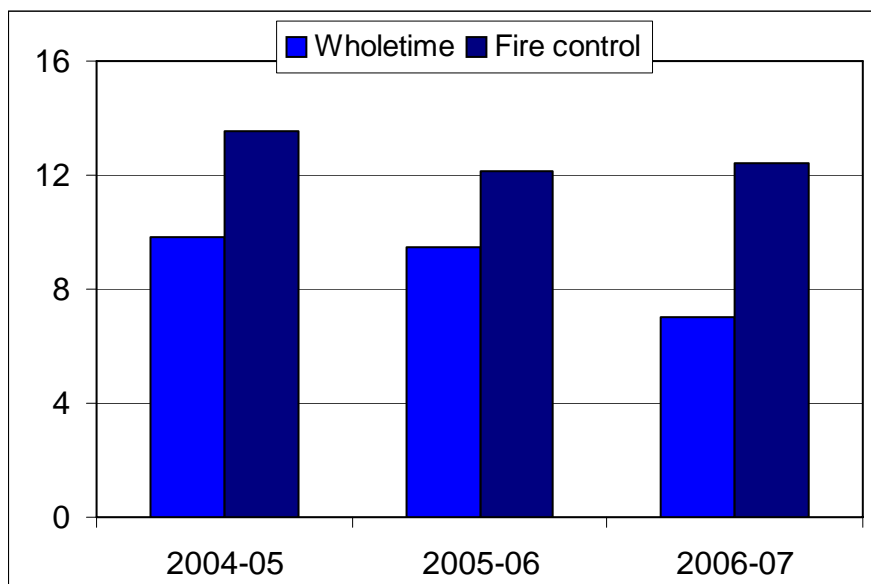
Source: HRF1,3,4,7

(a) For comparison purposes previous years data has been recalculated in line with methodology used for 2006-07 data as data were no longer available on HRF4 data collection form for wholetime and retained duty systems .

(b) Average full time equivalent strength at 31 March taken over a period of 2 years

During 2006-07 the number of shifts/days lost per person by wholetime firefighters decreased to 7.0 shifts/days lost per person. Shifts/days lost per person by fire control staff increased slightly to 12.4 shifts/days. Shifts/days lost to sickness are not measured for retained duty system firefighters.

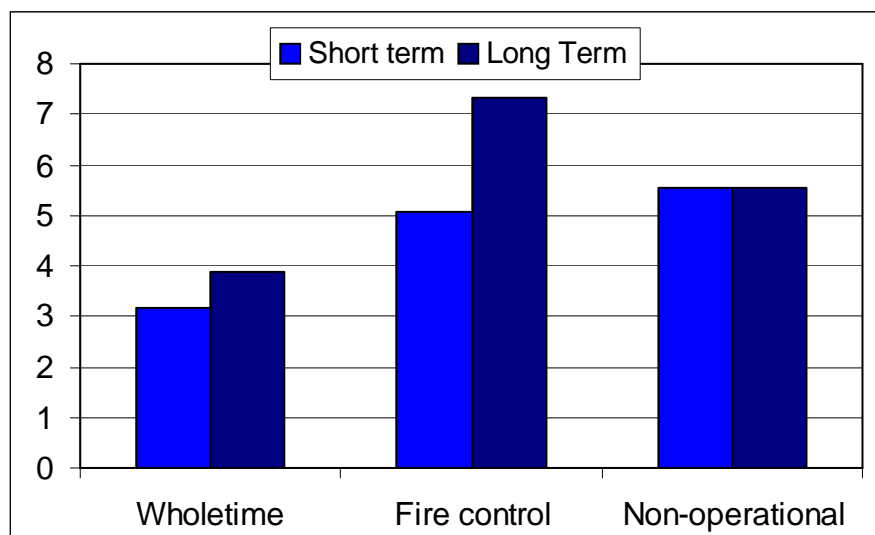
Chart 3.1 Shifts/days lost to sickness per person



3.2 Short/long term sickness

During 2006-07 the number of shifts/days lost per person due to long term sickness was higher than for short term sickness, for both wholetime firefighters, fire control and non-operational staff. Shifts/days lost to sickness are not measured for retained duty system firefighters.

Chart 3.2 Numbers of shifts/days lost to sickness per person, 2006-07



3.3 Ill health retirements

Over the last few years ill health retirements in Wales have decreased. During 2006-07, 5.2 of retirements per 1,000 employees were due to ill health.

Table 3.2 Retirements

	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
	Retirements per 1,000 employees			Retirements per 1,000 employees			Retirements per 1,000 employees		
	Average strength(a)	Normal(b)	Ill-Health(c)	Average strength(a)	Normal(b)	Ill-Health(c)	Average strength(a)	Normal(b)	Ill-Health(c)
Wholetime	1,731	32.4	11.0	1,722	41.2	14.5	1,721	30.2	8.1
Retained duty system	1,747	9.2	6.9	1,788	10.1	5.0	1,846	4.9	2.7
Fire control(d)	122	0.0	24.6	121	16.5	33.1	120	0.0	8.4
Non-uniformed	496	6.0	6.0	526	9.5	3.8	563	5.3	3.6
Total	4,096	18.3	9.0	4,157	23.1	9.6	4,249	15.1	5.2

Source: HRF10-17, HRF34-41

(a) Average strength at 31 March taken over a period of two years .

(b) Compulsory/voluntary age retirements.

(c) Medical discharge (either due to harassment/discrimination or due to other reasons).

(d) The 2004-05 figure for average strength may differ from the department for Communities and Local Government figure due to rounding

3.4 Firefighters' injuries

Table 3.3 Total injuries sustained by wholetime and retained duty system firefighters during training, operational incidents and routine activities, 2006-07

	Total number of personnel injured	RIDDOR injuries(a)		
		Number of 'over 3 day' injuries	Number of major injuries	Number of fatal injuries
North Wales	93	17	0	0
Mid & West Wales	83	17	4	0
South Wales	90	11	0	0
Wales	266	45	4	0

Source: HRF79-82

(a) Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

See glossary for definition of RIDDOR "major injuries".

The total number of injuries sustained by wholetime and retained duty system firefighters decreased by 10 per cent to 266 in 2006-07. There was also a 30 per cent decrease in injuries requiring more than three days off work. The number of RIDDOR major injuries decreased from 28 in 2005-06 to 4 in 2006-07. There were no fatalities reported during 2006-07.

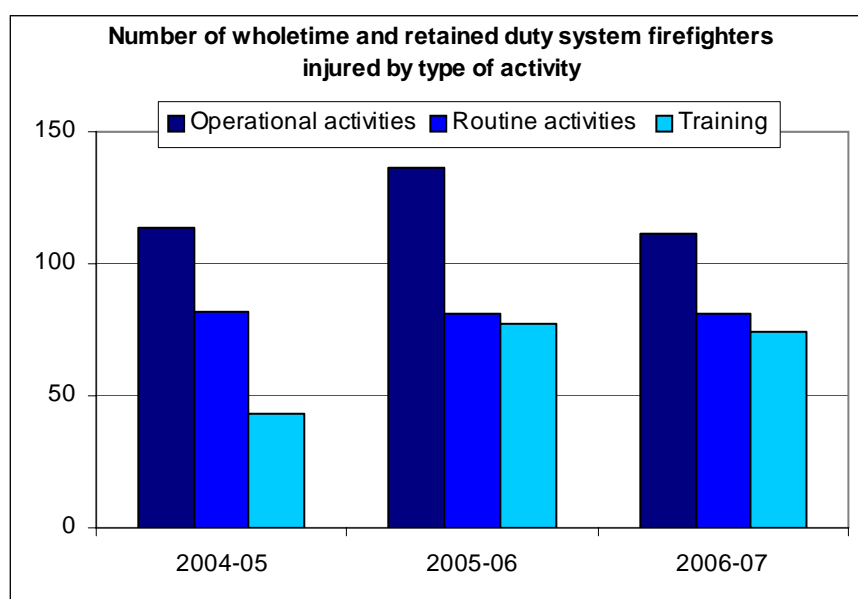
3.5 Total injuries by type of activity

Injuries sustained by firefighters (wholetime and retained duty system) during operational activities (attending fires and special service incidents) during 2006-07 decreased by 18 per cent on the previous year.

There were 81 injuries sustained by firefighters during routine activities, the same as the previous year.

During 2006-07, 74 firefighters were injured during training for operational activities. This was a decrease of 4 per cent compared with 2005-06.

Chart 3.3 Number of wholetime and retained duty system firefighters injured by type of activity



Section 4: Operational activities

This release does not contain information on primary or secondary fires attended by the Fire and Rescue Services. Information on fire incidents in Wales and England can be found at www.wales.gov.uk/statistics and www.communities.gov.uk respectively.

4.1 Non-fire incidents

Table 4.1 Non-fire incidents

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Road traffic incidents	3,206	36	3,276	36	3,186	31
Non-road traffic incidents total:	5,663	64	5,938	64	6,999	69
Spills and leaks	583	7	638	7	562	6
Water - removal/provision	364	4	543	6	384	4
Effecting entry	257	3	278	3	344	3
Lift releases	264	3	352	4	350	3
Other	4,195	47	4,127	45	5,359	53
Total non-fire incidents	8,869	100	9,214	100	10,185	100

Source: OPS4-5

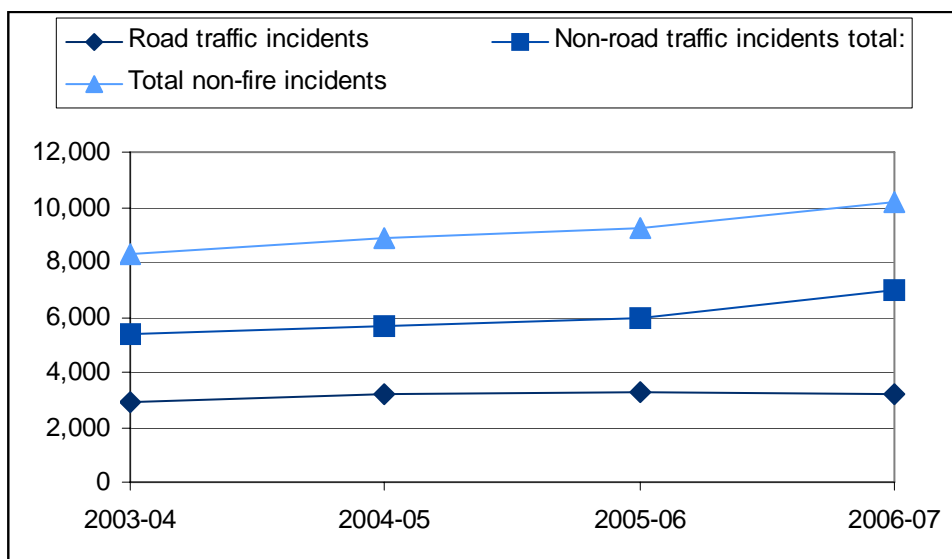
(a) See glossary for definition of 'Other non-fire incidents'.

During 2006-07 there were 10,185 non-fire incidents in Wales, an increase of 11 per cent on the previous year.

Attendance at road traffic accidents decreased to 3,186, (31 per cent of all non-fire incidents).

Non-road traffic incidents continued to account for the majority of non-fire incidents. During 2006-07 there were 6,999 non-road traffic accidents, an increase of 18 per cent on the previous year.

Chart 4.1 Non-fire incidents



4.2 Appliances

Table 4.2 Fire and rescue service appliances at 31 March

	Front-line appliances				Reserve appliances			
	Pumps	Aerials	Specials	Total	Pumps	Aerials	Specials	Total
2004-05	190	12	119	321	43	1	1	45
2005-06	190	12	125	327	47	1	1	49
2006-07	190	12	131	333	46	1	1	48

Source: OPS7

(a) See glossary for list of specials

The number of front-line appliances increased by 6 to 333 at 31 March 2007 compared with the previous year; this was due to an increase in the number of front-line special appliances.

The number of reserve appliances decreased by 1 from the previous year, because of a decrease in the number of reserve pumps.

Section 5: Glossary

24 hour units of cover

The number of staff required, under a particular duty system adopted to provide continuous cover over a 24-hour period.

Appliance

A Fire and Rescue Service vehicle which attends an incident.

Attendance

Predetermined resources mobilised to an incident, based upon risk analysis

Fire Safety Forms (FSR)

These forms collect information on the work that FRS' carry out under Fire Safety legislation.

Best value performance indicator (BVPI)

These are indicators, which are used to assess the performance of Fire and Rescue Authority.

Fire control staff

Uniformed personnel who are employed to work in fire and rescue service control centres to answer emergency calls and deal with mobilising, communications, and related activities, regardless of rank.

Human Resource Forms (HRF)

These forms collect information on Fire and Rescue Service personnel including equal opportunities and health and safety data. Equal opportunities covers staffing issues within each FRS and health and safety covers issues relating to the health and well being of Fire and Rescue Service staff.

Long term sickness absence

A long term sickness absence refers to those individual continuous periods of sickness of more than 28 calendar days.

Non-operational staff

Generally support/administrative staff employed by a Fire and Rescue Authority .

Operational personnel

Staff who attend, or could be required to attend, incidents. This includes wholetime, retained duty system and fire control staff.

Operational Statistics Forms (OPS)

These forms collect information, which includes details of fire stations, special service incidents, calls handled by fire control and vehicles.

Other non-fire incidents

Recovery/retrieval of objects, Standby/precautionary action, Aircraft incident no fire, Assistance to Police and Ambulance, Industrial accident, Sports activity, Farming accident, Suicide/attempted suicide, Railway accident, Provision of advice - Officer and appliance/equipment, Provision of advice - Officer only, Provision of advice - use of appliance / equipment not specified, Services not required - Malicious, Services not required - Good Intent, Services not required - Other, Services not required - Call type not known, Any other special services, Animal rescue, Other rescue/release of people, Removal of objects from people, First aid, Making safe.

“Other reasons” for leaving

Resignation due to harassment or discrimination, deceased, harassment, bullying or discrimination was (or was believed to be) a factor, personal/work commitments, moving away from catchment area, hardship caused by Department for Social Security regulations

Retained duty system (RDS) firefighter

A firefighter on the retained duty system provides an on call part-time service, primarily for responding to fire and emergency calls within their communities. Firefighters on the retained duty system are on call in their homes or primary work places rather than at a fire station

RIDDOR "major injuries"

These include fracture other than to fingers, thumbs or toes; amputation; dislocation of the shoulder, hip, knee or spine; loss of sight (temporary or permanent); chemical or hot metal burn to the eye or any penetrating injury to the eye; injury resulting from an electric shock or electrical burn leading to unconsciousness or requiring resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours; any other injury: leading to hypothermia, heat-induced illness or unconsciousness; or requiring resuscitation; or requiring admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours; unconsciousness caused by asphyxia or exposure to harmful substance or biological agent; acute illness requiring medical treatment, or loss of consciousness arising from absorption of any substance by inhalation, ingestion or through the skin; acute illness requiring medical treatment where there is reason to believe that this resulted from exposure to a biological agent or its toxins or infected material.

Short term sickness absence

A sickness absence is reported as short term when an individual continuous period of sickness is less than or equal to 28 calendar days.

Specials

Van with off Road capability, Aerial ladder platform, Breathing Apparatus Pod, Breathing apparatus support unit, Breathing apparatus unit, Inflatable Boat (inshore rib rescue), Canteen Pod, Chemical Incident Unit, Unit with equipment for Diving Team, Environmental Protection Unit (Enviro Pod), Emergency Tender, Flat Back Lorry, Foam Carrier - lorry, Foam

Tender, foam pod, Hose Layer, Module that carries hose, Hydraulic platform, High volume pump, Incident Command Unit - Mobile Control Unit, Incident response unit, Light 2 wheel drive transit vehicle, Light 4 wheel drive pumping vehicle, Light 4 wheel drive transit vehicle, Light 6 wheel drive pumping vehicle, Lighting Unit, Marine Rescue Unit (Diving Unit), Pinzgauer - off road pumping vehicle, Road Rail, Rope Rescue, roll/on - roll/off vehicle, Rescue Tender, Special Rescue Unit, Turntable ladder, Turntable ladder, Road/Rail Vehicle, Water Bowser, Water Carrier, Water incident unit - carries equipment for entry into water, Incident Control point

Wholetime firefighter

A person employed full-time as a firefighter regardless of their rank.

Section 6: Quality Information

1. Data for the 2006-07 was collected by the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales (Data Unit) on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government. Prior to the 2005-06 collection, data was collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).
2. The final data was signed off by the Welsh Fire and Rescue Services following a consultation process with the Data Unit in September 2008.
3. The information included within this release was collected via the following forms; Human Resource forms (HRF), Operational Statistics forms (OPS) and Fire Safety forms (FSR).
4. The following symbols are used in the tables throughout this release:
.. = not available
. = not applicable
5. Disclosure control procedures have been agreed with the Fire and Rescue Services and applied to the relevant subject areas. The procedures have resulted in the aggregation of some detailed categories published as additional tables in 2005-06, and now shown in StatsWales.
6. Forms and guidance used to collect data are available for download from Data Unit:
<http://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/eng/home.asp>

Queries on data prior to 2005-06 should be referred to CLG:

fireresearchandstats@communities.gsi.gov.uk

More information is available in the form of StatsWales tables that accompany this release and can be found at <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/> under "Community Safety".