



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

Fire Safety and Organisational Statistics 2022-23

An Official Statistics
publication for Scotland

31 August 2023

Working together for a safer Scotland

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This publication and associated statistics are designated as Official Statistics.

This means that it is produced to high professional standards set out in the **Code of Practice for Official Statistics**. It is produced free from any political interference.

In 2019 the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was named in legislation as a Producer of Official Statistics which allows us to classify this series.

This publication is accompanied by the following documents:

- Tables and Charts Workbook
- Guidance Notes on Statistics
- Statistical News 2022-23

1. Main Points

Fire Stations and Capabilities

- **357** fire stations across Scotland, comprised of:
 - **74** Wholetime fire stations
 - **240** Retained Duty System fire stations
 - **43** Volunteer fire stations
- **471** crews, comprised of:
 - **116** Wholetime crews
 - **1** Day crew
 - **311** Retained crews
 - **43** Volunteer crews

Vehicles

- **1,628** vehicles in the fleet, including:
 - **782** appliances, of which **637** are operational, **55** are for training and **90** are in reserve

Workforce

- **7,619** staff were employed by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service at the end of 2022-23
- **3,490** staff are Wholetime Operational. This is down **40 (1.1%)** on last year
- **5,533** staff are scheduled to crew appliances, **72.6%** of all staff
- **22.4%** of Wholetime Operational staff are over **50** and **61.1%** are over **40**
- Since 2013-14, Full-Time Equivalent for uniformed staff has decreased from **6,879** to **6,043** in 2022-23 (**12.2%** decrease).

Attacks on Fire and Rescue Personnel

- **80** attacks in 2022-23, up from **76** last year
- None of these attacks resulted in an injury

Home Fire Safety Visits

- **38,677** Home Fire Safety Visits conducted, down from **44,196 (12.5%)** last year.
- **10,430** visits to households in the most deprived areas and **4,765** visits to households in the least deprived areas
- Over the last **5** years, **7.7%** of all Scottish households were visited

Non-domestic Fire Safety

- **6,712** audits were completed, up from **5,688** last year
- **29.2%** of audits were in houses of multiple occupation
- **23.9%** of audits were in care homes



2. Fire Stations and Capabilities

There are 357 stations across Scotland. There are three types of uniformed staff that crew these stations: Wholetime (24-hour staffing), Retained (on-call staffing) and Volunteer. In recent years, there has been no changes to the station crewing models. There are 74 Wholetime stations, 240 Retained stations and 43 Volunteer stations.

There are five station primary crewing models in use in Scotland: Wholetime, Wholetime and Day, Wholetime and Retained, Retained, and Volunteer. Two of these models include additional Retained staff to supplement the 24-hour Wholetime crew at the station. The 'Wholetime and Day' station has a 24-hour Wholetime crew and a second crew with Wholetime staff during the day (Monday to Friday) and Retained staff during the night and at the weekend. Of the 74 Wholetime stations, 50 are Wholetime only, 23 are Wholetime and Retained and 1 is a Wholetime and Day Station.

In total, there are 116 Wholetime crews, 311 Retained crews¹, 1 Day crew and 43 Volunteer crews in Scotland across the 357 stations.

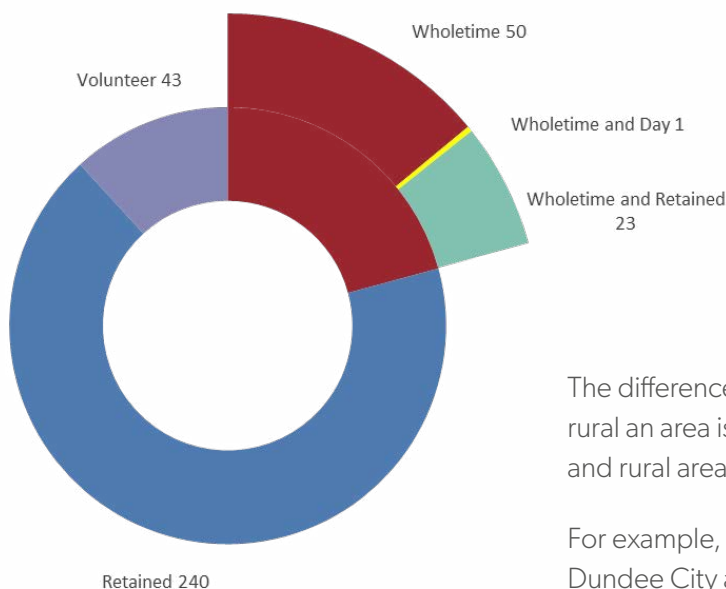


Figure 1: Fire stations by crewing model

The difference in crewing depends on how urban or rural an area is. Urban areas have more Wholetime crews and rural areas have more Retained crews.

For example, in the urban local authority areas of Dundee City and Glasgow City, all crews are Wholetime. In more rural areas such as Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands all crews are Retained.

¹ The actual number available varies depending on staffing levels.

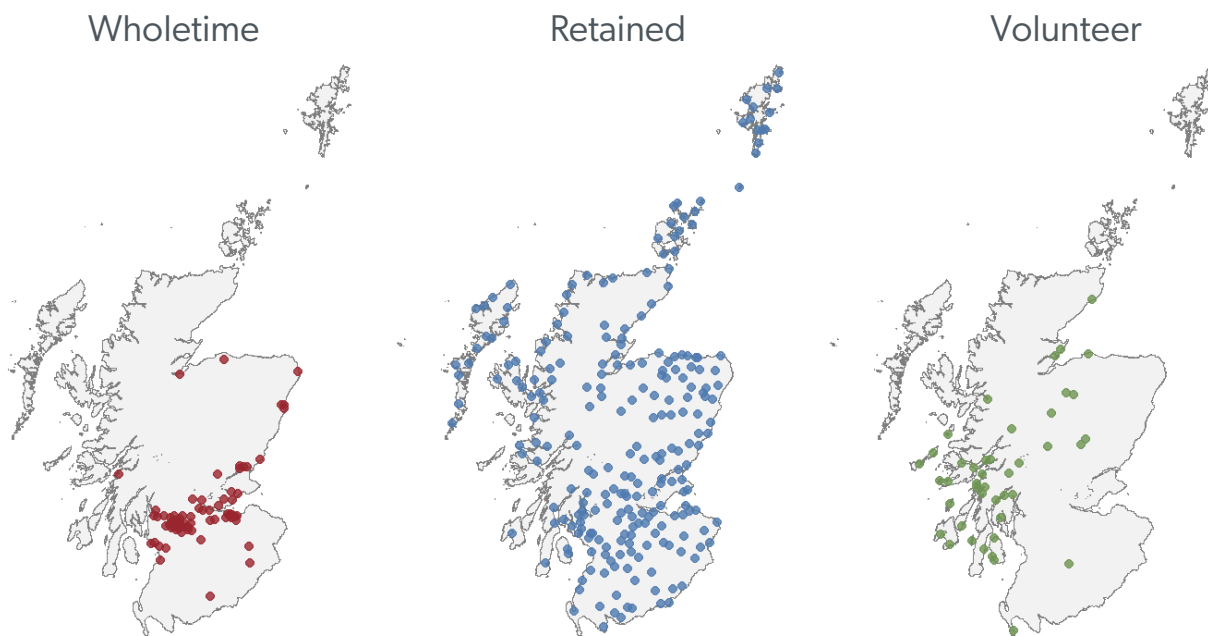


Figure 2: Map of fire stations by primary crewing

The operational capabilities of stations expand beyond firefighting. To see more information on operational response, please refer to the 'Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics'.

347 stations have water pumping capabilities used in firefighting. Flood response capability increased from 83 last year to 91 in 2022-23. Urban Search and Rescue decreased from 7 in 2021-22 to 6 this year. Environmental Protection Unit decreased from 5 last year to 4 in 2022-23. Further details can be found in the Tables and Charts workbook.

There are three regional control centres in the North, East and West Service Delivery Areas. These determine the most appropriate response for operational incidents. It is likely that incidents will be attended by crews from the closest station.

However, as all fire stations form part of the operational network, crews frequently attend incidents in other areas.

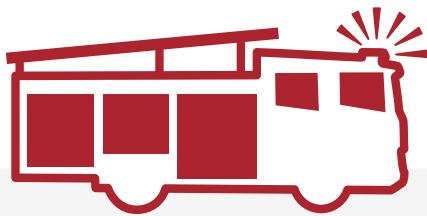
3. Vehicles

In 2022-23, there were 1,628 vehicles in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on 31st March 2023, down from 1,677 last year (2.9% decrease).

637 OPERATIONAL APPLIANCES

429

Pumping appliances



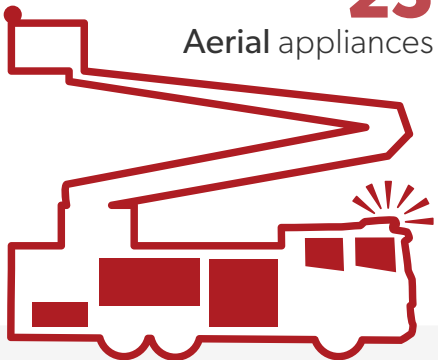
23

Resilience appliances



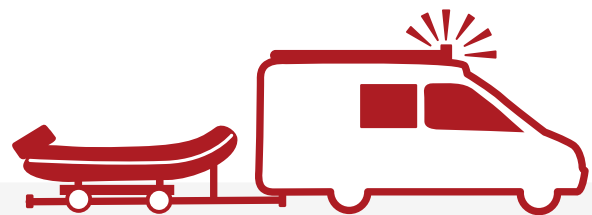
25

Aerial appliances



160

Other appliances



The number of appliances ready for operational use is higher than the total response capability as some stations have additional appliances. Please see section 2 for details of operational capabilities.

There were 429 pumping appliances, up from 427 in 2021-22 (0.4% increase). There were 55 vehicles

for training purposes, down from 60 last year (8.3% decrease), and 90 vehicles held for reserve, down from 109 last year (17.4% decrease).

In total, there were 782 appliances in 2022-23, down from 804 last year (2.8% decrease).

4. Workforce

Staff Headcount

On 31st March 2023, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) had a headcount of 7,619 staff, which is 93 fewer than in 2021-22. ²

There were 3,490 Wholetime Operational staff in 2022-23, making up the largest category of staff. This is 40 fewer than in 2021-22 (1.1% decrease). Of whom:

- **2,798** were Operational Crewing, 45 (1.6%) fewer than the previous year.
- **262** were Incident Command Officers, 11 (4.0%) fewer than the previous year.
- **327** were on Office Duties, 22 (6.3%) fewer than the previous year.
- **103** were Trainees, 38 (58.4%) more than the previous year.

There were 2,735 Retained Duty staff in 2022-23, down from 2,758 (0.8% decrease). These staff provide on-call operational cover. Together with Wholetime Operational crews, there are a total of 5,533 staff to crew operational appliances. This is 72.6% of total SFRS staff.

Retained Full-time staff work in areas with a cluster of Retained Duty System stations and supplement the local on-call cover, as well as conduct local community engagement. There were 55 Retained Full-time staff in 2022-23, up 2 from the previous year (3.8% increase).

There were 266 Volunteer staff in 2022-23, down from 277 the previous year (4.0% decrease).

Control room staff answer emergency calls and manage communications and the logistics of attending emergencies. There were 172 Control staff in 2022-23, down from 174 the previous year (1.1% decrease).

Support staff are not uniformed and work in functions across the organisation. There were 901 Support staff, down from 920 the previous year (2.1% decrease).

² All workforce statistics represent the workforce on the last day of the financial year (31st March) and do not represent any fluctuations in staff numbers throughout the year.

Staff Headcount

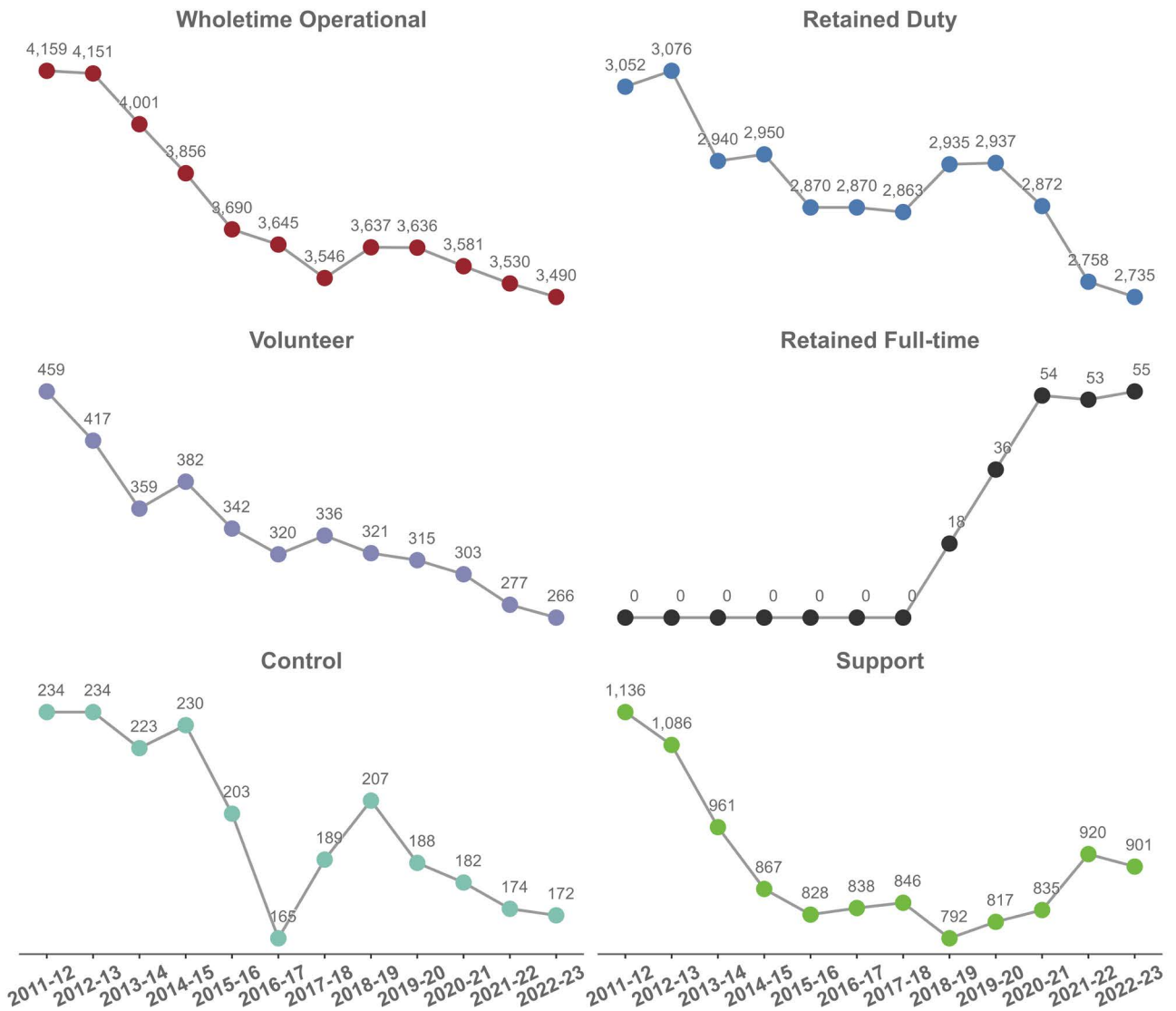


Figure 3: Headcount by staff type.

Staff Full-Time Equivalent

Not all staff work the typical hours of their staff group, i.e. people working part time in a role. For this reason, this set of statistics adjusts for the number of contracted hours to give a fair comparison of change over time.

Volunteers are not contracted to work a specific number of hours and so, they are not included in these Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) statistics.

Since 2013-14, the Full-Time Equivalent for uniformed staff (including Wholetime Operational, Retained Duty System, Retained Full-time and

Control staff) has decreased from 6,879 FTE in 2013-14 to 6,043 FTE in 2022-23 (12.2% decrease).

Wholetime Operational FTE have decreased from 3,528 last year to 3,487 in 2022-23 (1.2% decrease).

Retained Duty have FTE decreased from 2,375 last year to 2,333 in 2022-23 (1.8% decrease).

Control FTE have decreased from 170 last year to 168 in 2022-23 (1.2% decrease).

Support FTE have decreased from 862 last year to 850 in 2022-23 (1.4% decrease).

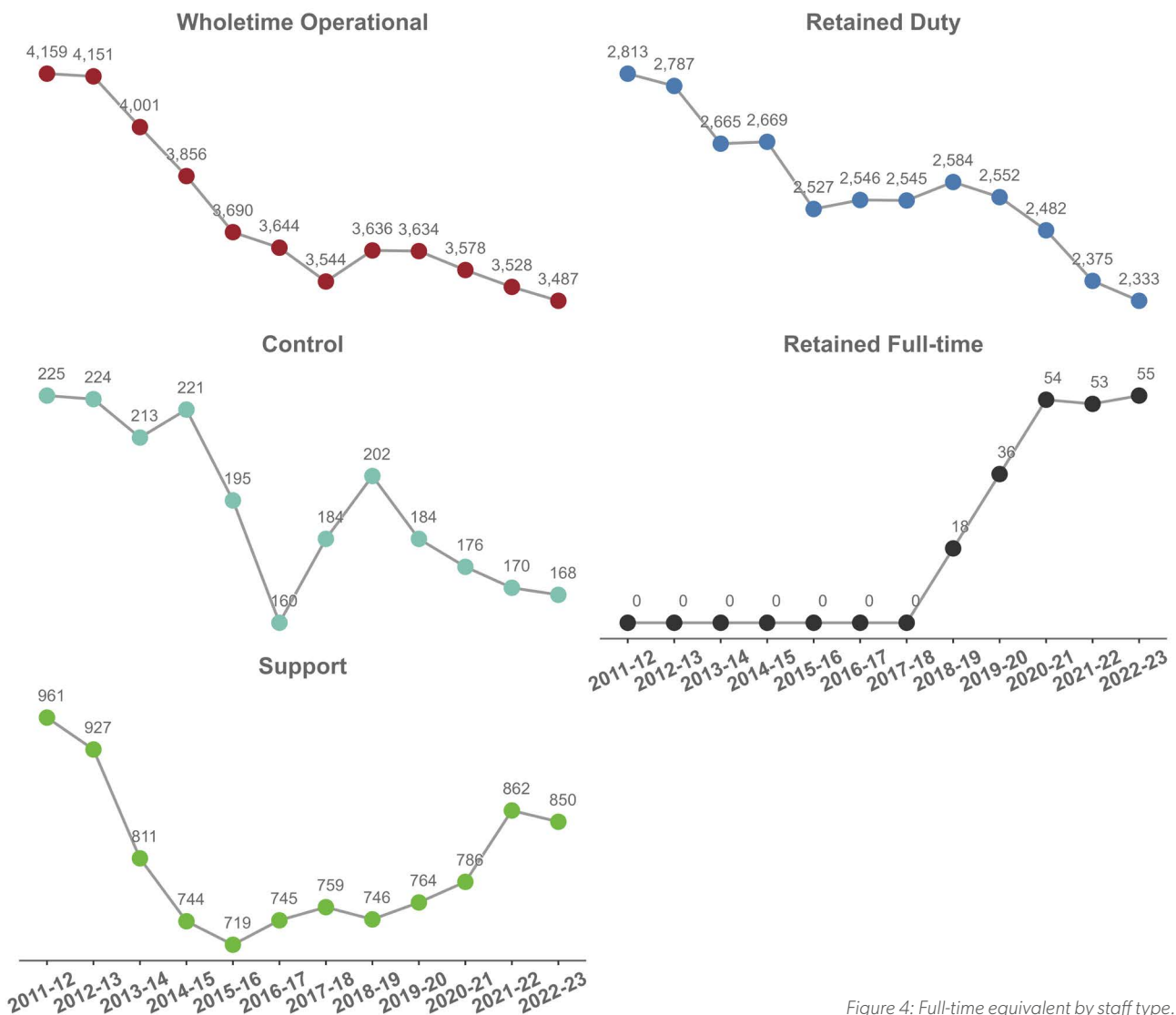


Figure 4: Full-time equivalent by staff type.

Wholetime Staff Roles

There were 3,490 Wholetime staff in 2022-23, down from 3,530 (1.1% decrease).

In Operational Crews in 2022-23, there were 376 Watch Commanders (up 3 from last year), 574 Crew Commanders (up 2 from last year) and 1,848 Firefighters (down 50 from last year).

There were 262 Incident Command Officers in total in 2022-23, down from 273 last year (4.0% decrease). Of whom, there were 5 Brigade

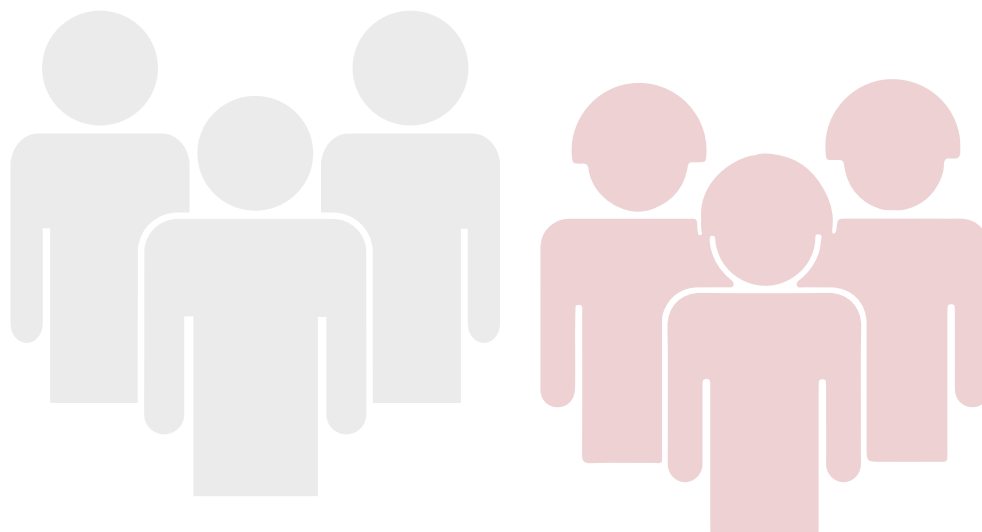
Commanders, 31 Area Commanders³, 78 Group Commanders and 148 Station Commanders.

In Office Duty roles, there were 225 Watch Commanders (down 9 from last year), 81 Crew Commanders (down 7 from last year) and 21 Firefighters (down 6 from last year).

There were 103 Trainees, up from 65 last year (58.5% increase).

Type	Brigade Commander	Area Commander ³	Group Commander	Station Commander	Watch Commander	Crew Commander	Firefighter
Incident Command Officers	5	31	78	148	-	-	-
Office Duties	-	-	-	-	225	81	21
Operational Crews	-	-	-	-	376	574	1,848
Trainees	-	-	-	-	-	-	103

Figure 5: Wholetime staff by role and duty system, 2022-23.



³ Area Commander also includes Deputy Assistant Chief Officer posts.

Gender

Overall, in 2022-23, 85.7% of staff are male. This is up slightly from the 85.5% reported in 2021-22. Gender balance within SFRS staff has shown little variance over the years.

Wholetime Operational, Retained Duty System, Volunteer and Retained Full-time are predominantly male staff, making up 93.5%, 93.2%, 85.0% and 83.6% respectively.

Control staff are predominantly female staff, with 83.7% of staff being female in 2022-23.

Support staff have historically had a more even gender balance. The same is true in 2022-23, with 53.7% of staff being female and 46.3% of staff being male.

Since 2017-18, the number of female Wholetime Operational staff has risen by 29.8% and male Wholetime Operational staff has decreased by 3.2%. The number of female staff in Retained Duty System roles has increased by 8.1% since 2017-18. The number of male staff in Retained Duty System roles has decreased by 5.3% over the same time period.

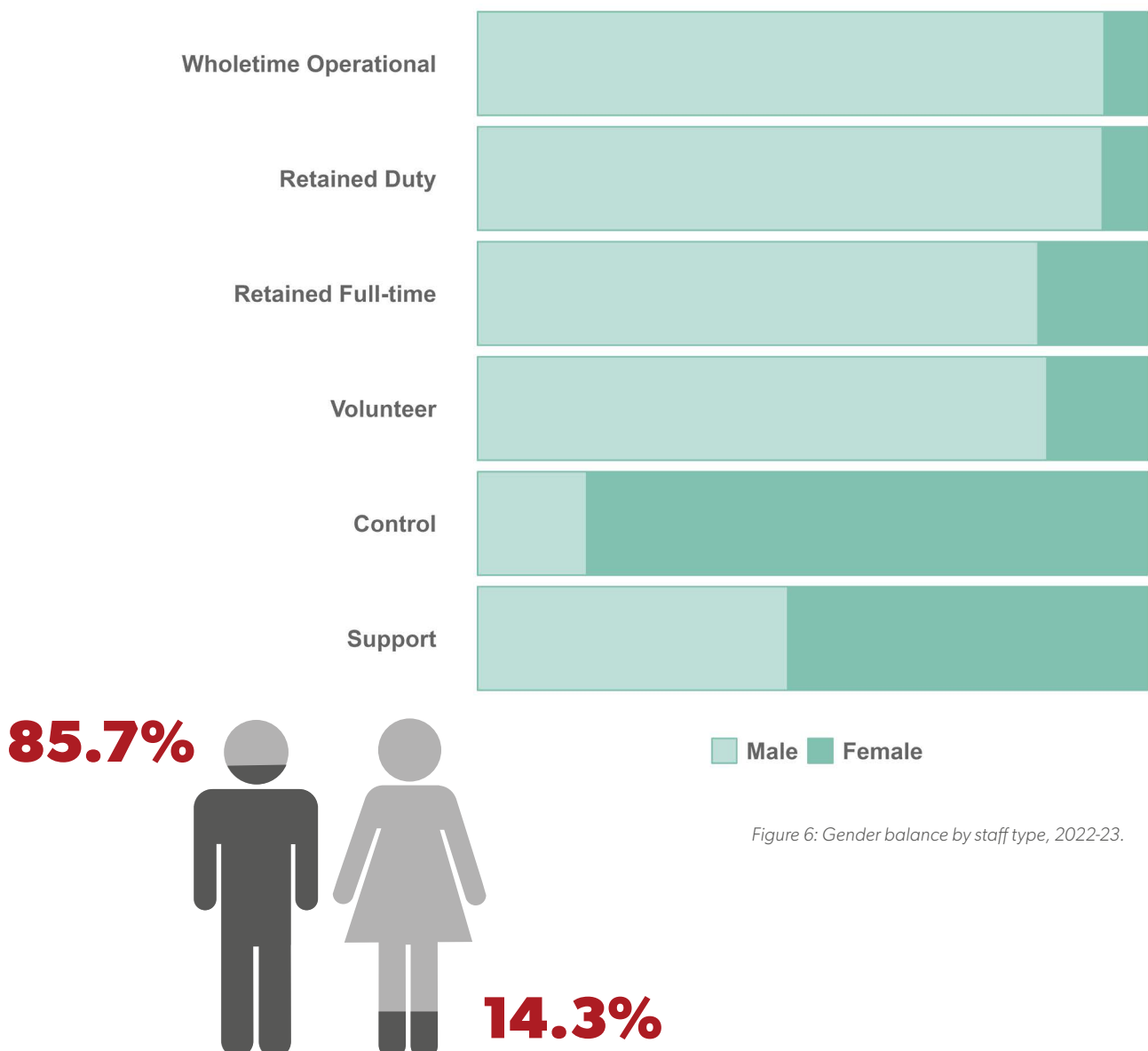


Figure 6: Gender balance by staff type, 2022-23.

Staff Headcount by Age

Overall, in 2022-23, 30.5% of staff were over 50 years. This is down from 32.6% recorded in 2021-22.

Staff over 40 years make up 61.3% of staff in 2022-23, down from 64.0% last year.

There were 781 Wholetime Operational staff over 50 years this year, down from 930 in 2021-22 (16.0% decrease). There were 2,132 Wholetime Operational staff over 40 years this year, down from 2,326 in 2021-22 (8.3% decrease).

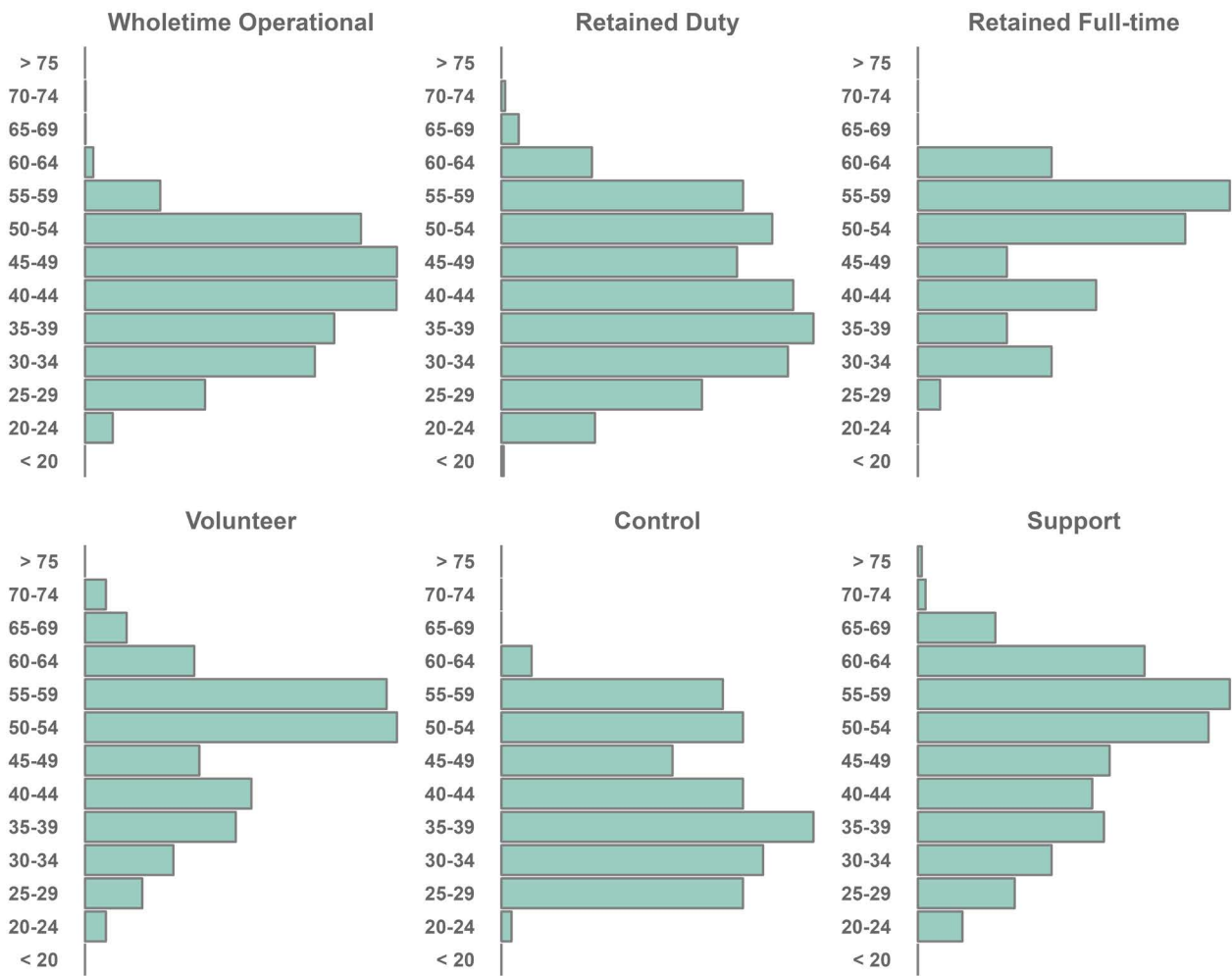


Figure 7: Age bracket by staff type, 2022-23.

Years of Service

Within Wholetime Operational staff, 775 had a service length of 15-19 years, making up 22.2% of all Wholetime Operational staff. There were 714 Wholetime Operational staff that had a service length of 20-24 years, making up 20.5% of this staff group.

Within Retained Duty System staff, the largest service length category is under 5 years, with 25.7% of staff in this category. Staff with a service length of 5-9 years makes up 21.4% of staff in this staff group.

The largest category of service length for Retained Full-time staff is 15-19 years, with 13 staff in this category, making up 23.6% of staff.

For Volunteer and Control Staff, the service length category of 5-9 years makes up the largest category. There are 22.6% of Volunteer staff and 29.1% of Control staff in this category.



Figure 8: Service Length by staff type, 2022-23.

Leavers

In total, in 2022-23, 703 people left SFRS. This is a turnover of 9.2%, up from 7.7% last year.

There were 336 Wholetime Operational staff who left. This is a turnover of 9.6%, up from 5.6% last year.

There were Retained Duty System, 216 people left. This is a turnover of 7.9%, down from 8.8% last year.

Within Wholetime Operational staff, the largest reason for leaving was retirement due to age, with 289 staff leaving for this reason (86.0% of all Wholetime Operational leavers).

Within Retained Duty System staff, the largest reason for leaving was resignation, with 145 staff leaving for this reason (67.1% of all Retained Duty System leavers).

Overall, the largest reason for leaving was retirement due to age, with 53.0% of staff leaving for this reason. The second largest reason was resignation with 42.1% of staff leaving for this reason.

5. Attacks on Fire and Rescue Personnel

In 2022-23, there were 80 attacks on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Personnel. This is up from 76 in 2021-22 (5.2% increase). The most common type of attack was verbal abuse, with 41 of these types of attacks recorded this year (down 6.9% from last year). This is followed by objects thrown at firefighters/appliances, with 35 of these attacks (up 9.4% from last year). There was 1 attack categorised as other acts of aggressions (up from 0 last year).



There were 66 attacks on SFRS staff related to operational incidents. This is the same amount as was recorded the previous year. Of these incidents, 34 were objects thrown at firefighters or appliances, up from 27 (26.0% increase) in 2021-22. 29 were verbal abuse (25.7% decrease from the previous year) and 3 were physical abuse (up from 0 recorded the previous year).

There were 14 attacks not related to operational incidents in 2022-23. This is an increase from 10 (40% increase) from the previous year. There were 12 attacks that were verbal abuse (up from 5 last year), 1 was objects thrown at firefighters/appliance and 1 was other acts of aggression.

The number of attacks related to operational incidents vary across local authority areas. Since 2018-19, 20.6% of attacks related to operational incidents have occurred in Glasgow City, 12.5% occurred in City of Edinburgh, and 8.8% have occurred in both Dundee City and North Lanarkshire.

There were no injuries recorded this year, down from 1 last year.

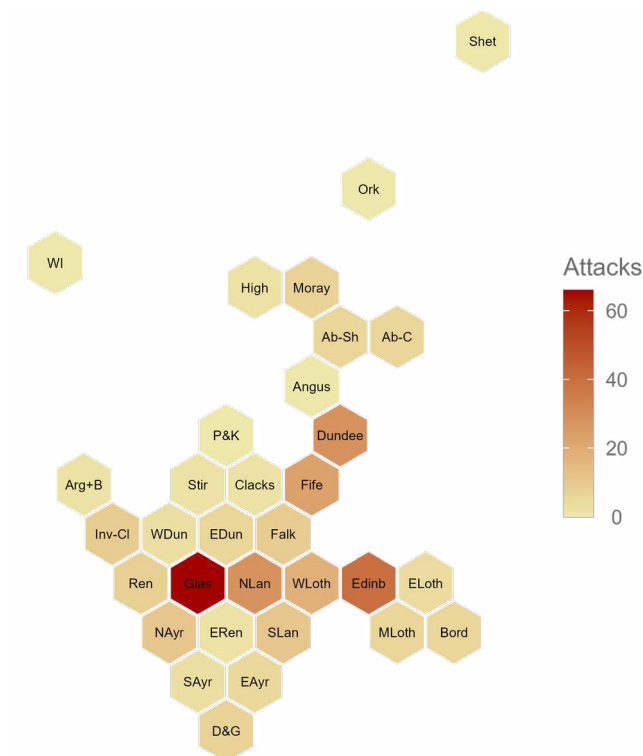
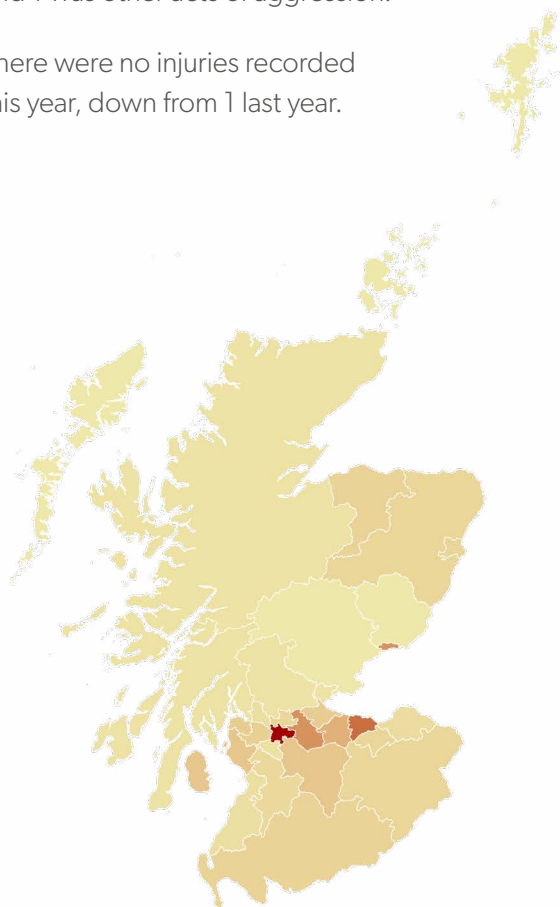


Figure 9: Attacks on SFRS staff 2018-19 to 2022-23, choropleth and area normalised cartogram.

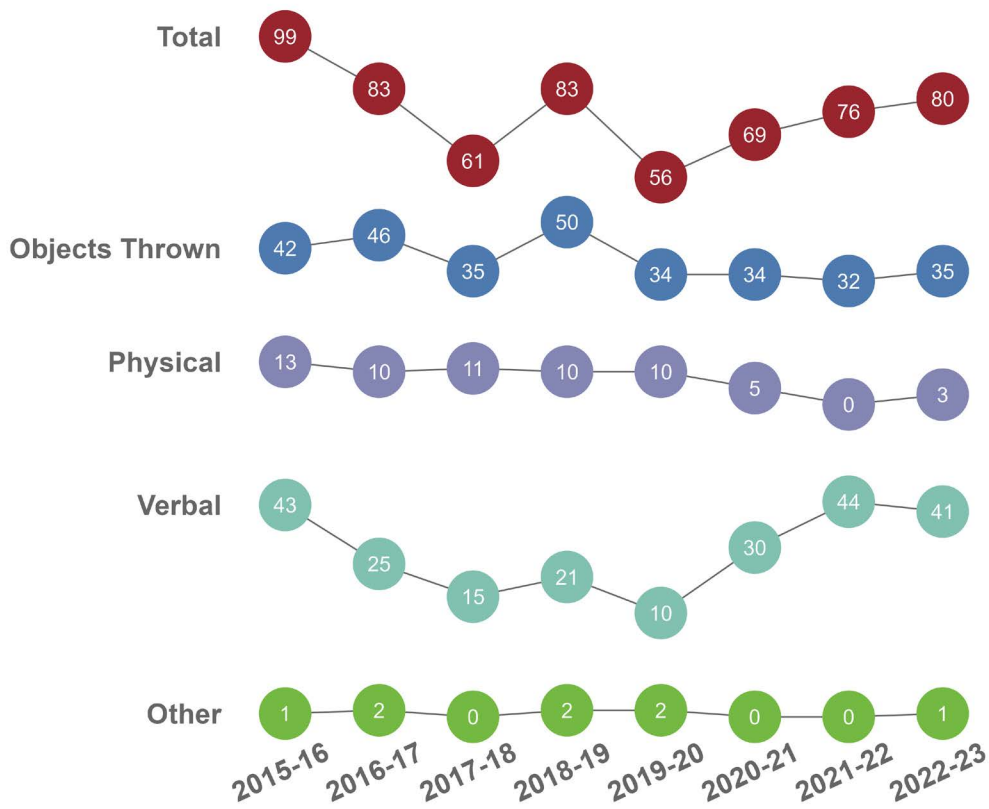


Figure 10: Incidents of attacks on SFRS staff by type of attack.

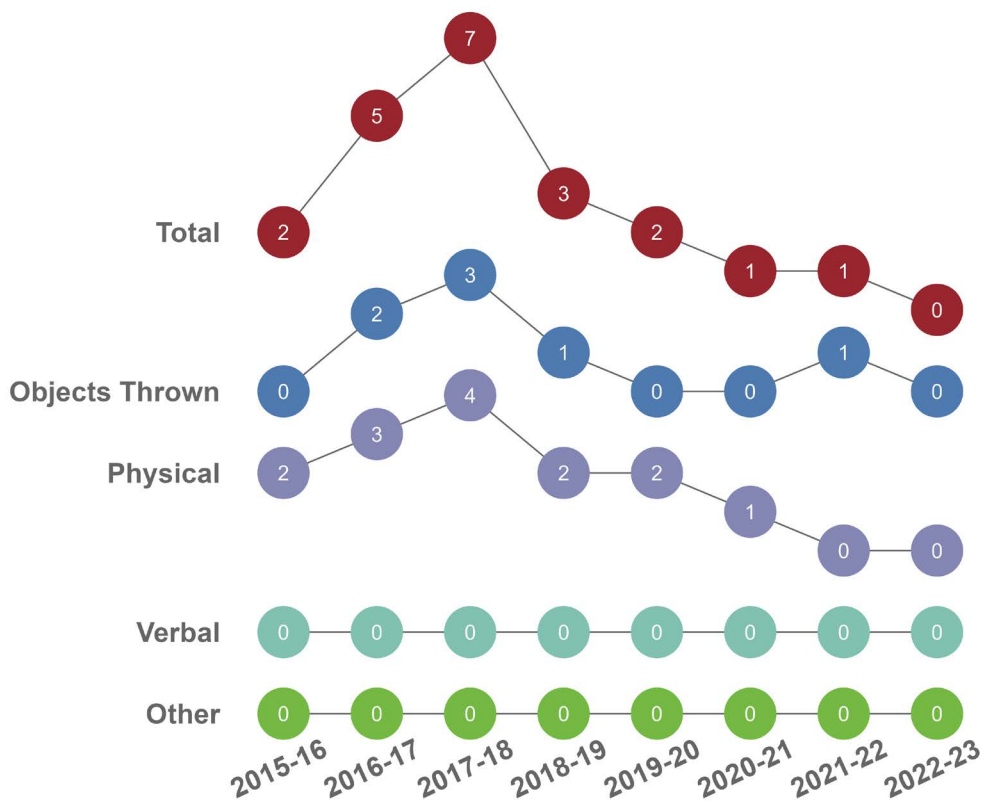


Figure 11: Incidents of attacks with injuries by type of attack.

6. Home Fire Safety Visits

In 2022-23, there were 38,677 Home Fire Safety Visits conducted by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), down from 44,196 conducted in 2021-22 (12.5% decrease). This is lower than was conducted before the Covid-19 pandemic, with 69,237 Home Fire Safety Visits recorded in 2019-20 (44.1% decrease).

In 2022-23, there were 36,937 distinct properties visited. In the last three years, Home Fire Safety Visits have been carried out in 87,981 distinct properties. In the last five years, 193,525 distinct properties have been visited by SFRS. This is 7.7% of all households.



38,677

HOME FIRE SAFETY VISITS

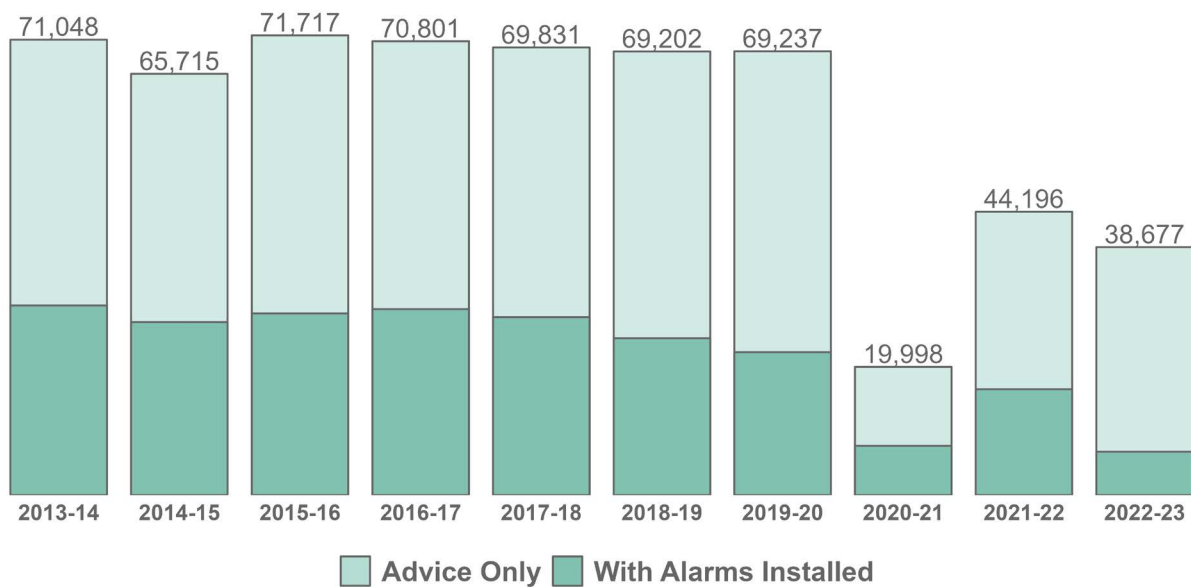


Figure 12: Home Fire Safety Visits by outcome. Please note that figures for 2021-22 and 2022-23 are potentially an underestimate of the true figures for smoke alarm installations. [Please see page 17 for details.](#)

Alarms Installed

In February 2022, the law on fire alarms changed in Scotland, meaning that all Scottish homes are required to have linked alarms. To help protect the most vulnerable, SFRS now only fit interlinked alarms into owner-occupied homes where the individual/household is assessed as "high-risk". This meant that more alarms were installed during a Home Fire Safety Visit than would have been installed in previous years.

There were 17,519 alarms installed during Home Fire Safety Visits in 2022-23, down from 50,924 in 2021-22 (65.6% decrease). There were 6,750 Home Fire Safety Visits where an alarm was installed, down from 16,504 visits the previous year (59.1% decrease).

Please note that the figures reported in 2021-22 and 2022-23 are potentially a substantial underestimate of the true figure of alarms installed due to a system change taking place in 2021-22.

These figures may be revised in future years. Due to the uncertainty surrounding these figures, further breakdowns have been removed from these statistics this year.

Please see Statistical News document and Guidance Notes for further details.

Residents

There were 62,589 residents in households where Home Fire Safety Visits were conducted in 2022-23. This is down from 70,758 the previous year (11.5% decrease). Of these, 2,300 were aged under 5 years old and 30,775 were aged over 60 years old. There has historically been a higher proportion of visits to households with children under 5 years and to households with adults aged over 60 years.

However, this year, there has only been a higher proportion of visits to households with adults aged over 60 years when compared to any other age category. This is similar to what was seen last year and is likely due to policy changes. Policies now focus on those at the highest risk which includes risk factors associated with older age.

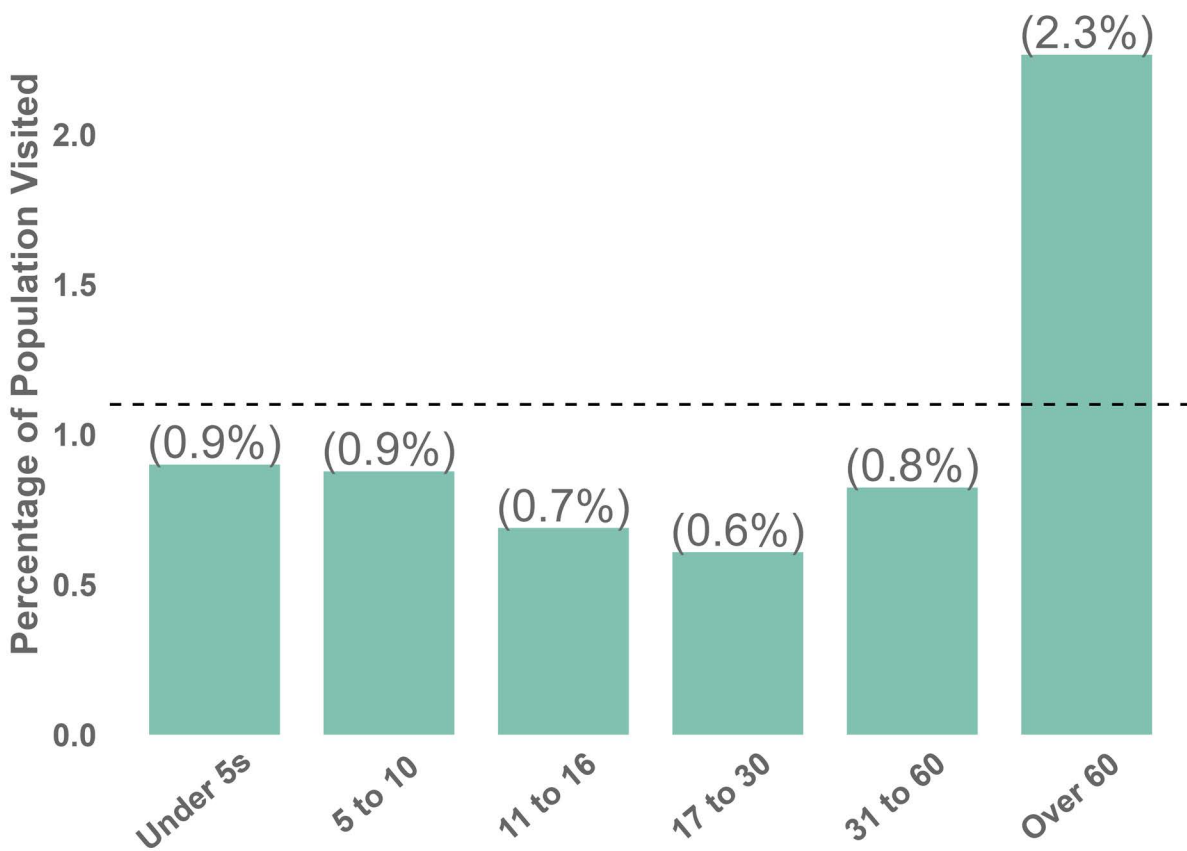


Figure 13: Percentage of population visited in Home Fire Safety Visits by age bracket.

Please note 2021 population figures were used in 2022-23. Please refer to the Statistical News and Guidance Notes for more information.

Deprivation

In 2022-23, there were 10,430 visits to households in the most deprived 20% (down 3.0% from the previous year), and 4,765 visits to households in the least deprived 20% (down 25.1% from the previous year).

Figure 14 highlights the higher rate of Home Fire Safety Visits in more deprived areas. This pattern is similar to what has been seen in previous years.

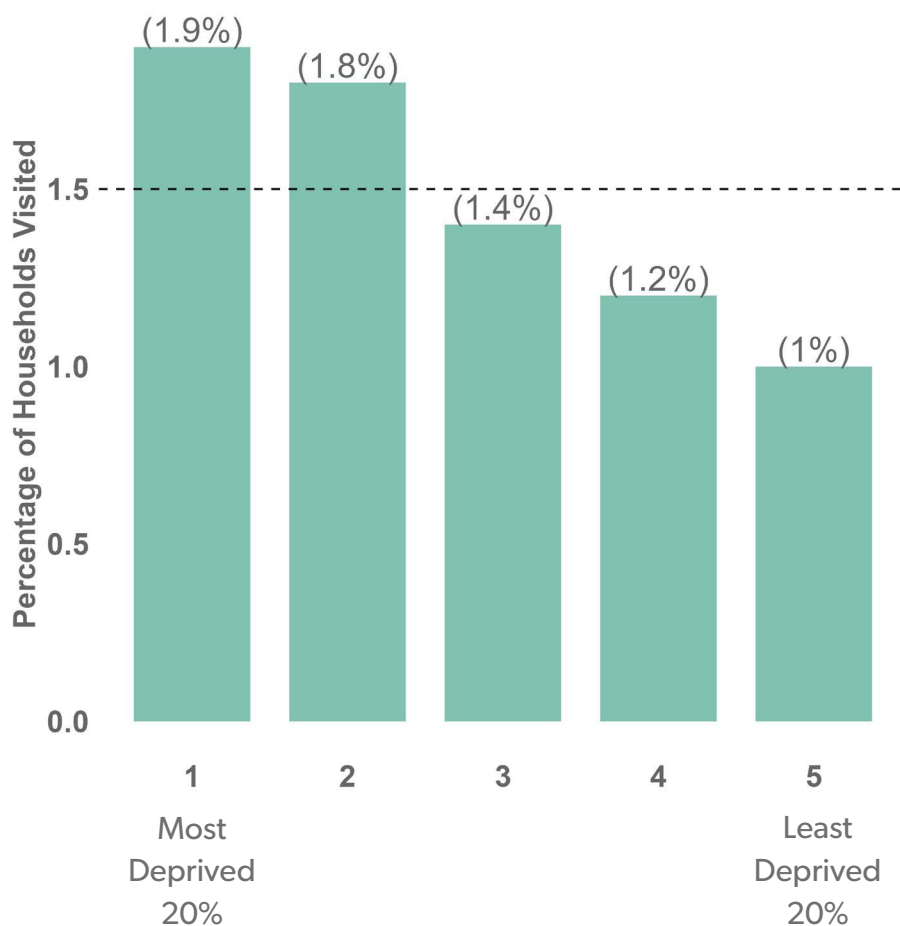


Figure 14: Percentage of occupied dwellings visited, by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintiles. The Scotland average is 1.5%.

Urban-Rural

The percentage of households visited in Other Urban Areas and Remote Small Towns are above the Scotland average of 1.5%. The percentage of households visited in Large Urban Areas, Accessible Small Towns, Accessible Rural and Remote Rural areas are below average. This is a similar pattern to what was seen last year.

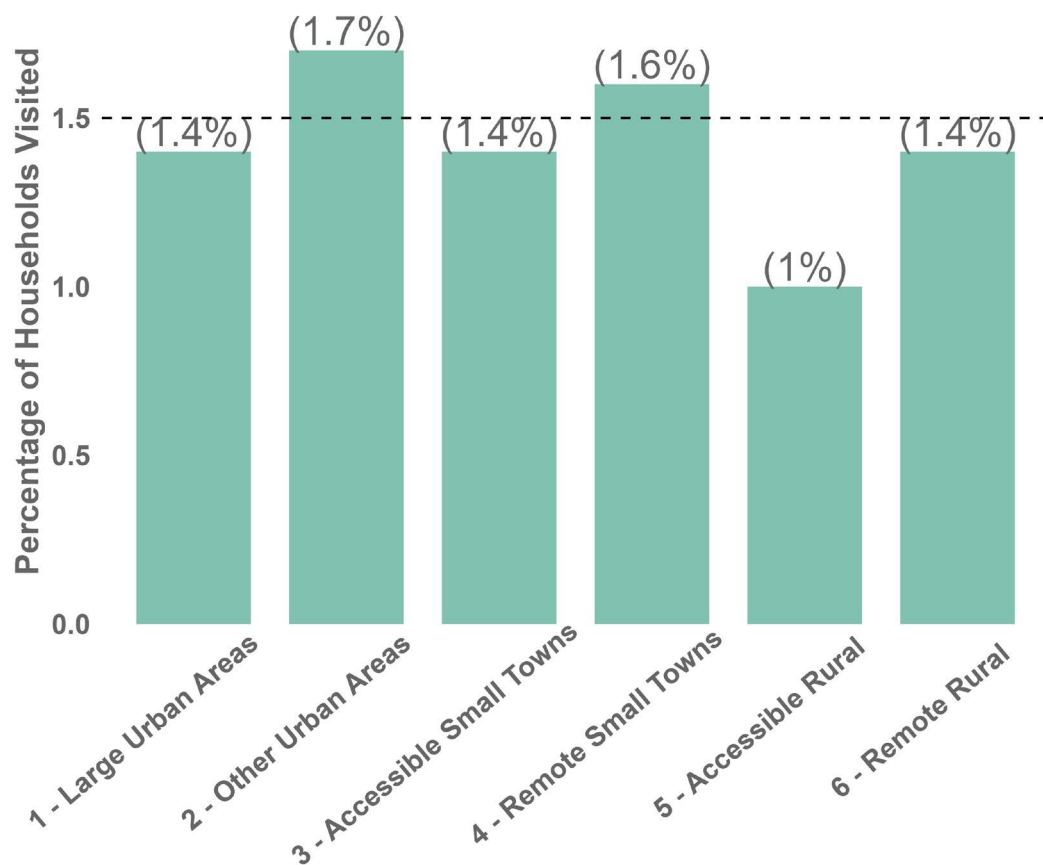


Figure 15: Percentage of occupied dwellings visited by urban-rural classification. The Scotland average is 1.5%.

Geography

In 2022-23, Glasgow City had the most Home Fire Safety Visits, with 4,421 carried out. Na h-Eileanan Siar had the least with 134. East Dunbartonshire had the highest percentage of households visited, at 2.5%.

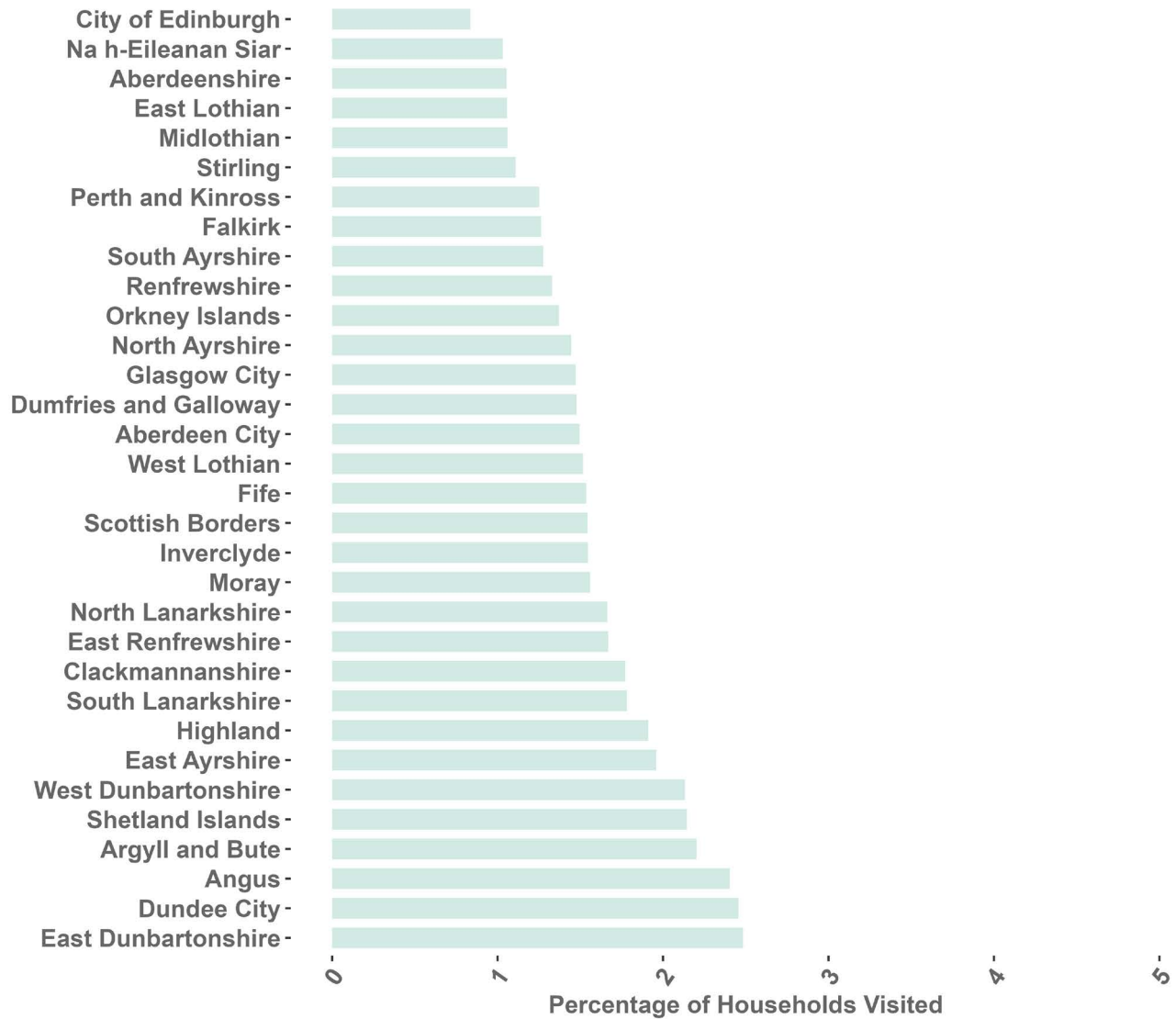


Figure 16: Percentage of households visited in Home Fire Safety Visits by local authority area.

Rate of Home Fire Safety Visits

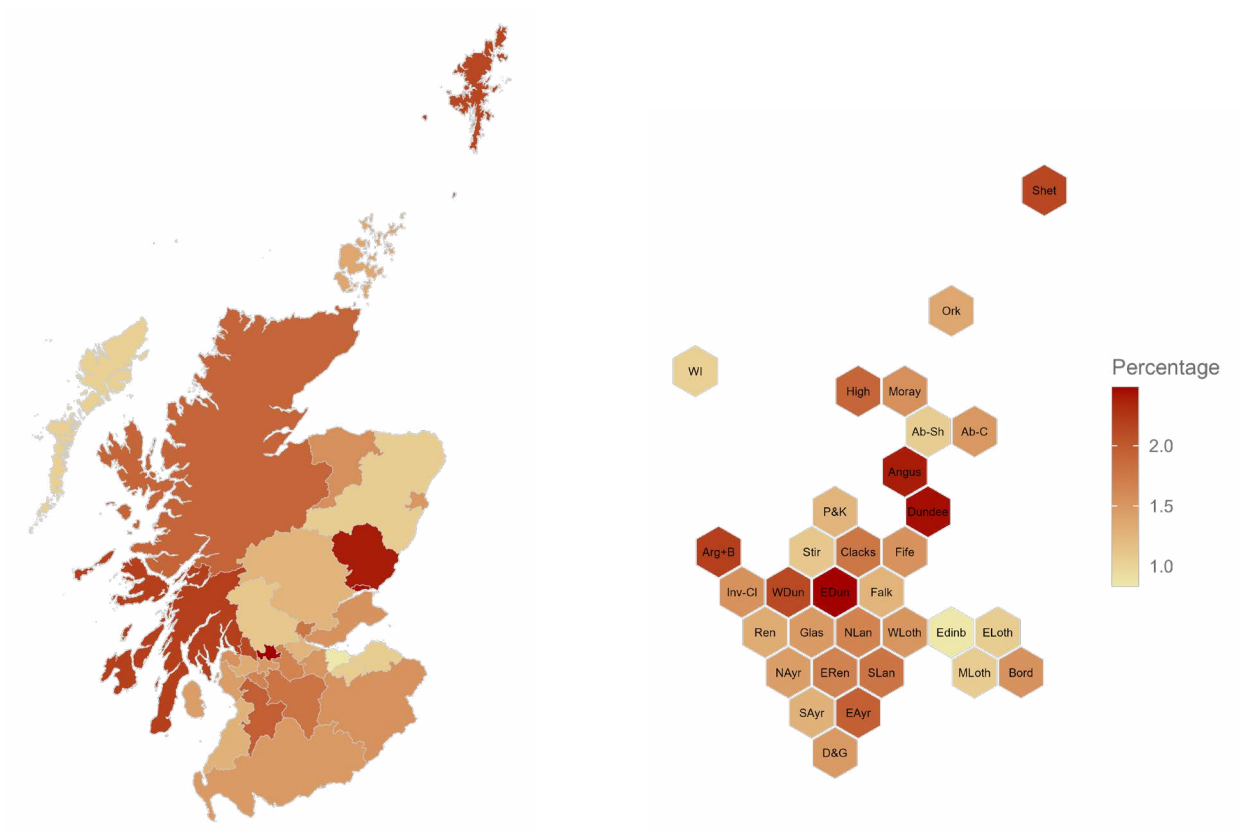


Figure 17: Rate of Home Fire Safety Visits per 100 households, choropleth and area normalised cartogram.

7. Non-domestic Fire Safety

There were 6,712 audits completed in 2022-23, up from 5,688 the previous year (18.0% increase). However, the number of audits completed in 2022-23 is still lower than pre-pandemic levels, with 7,261 audits completed in 2019-20.

There were 1,389 Site Visits carried out in 2022-23, up from 1,158 last year (19.9% increase). The number of Consultations decreased from 2,106 last year to 1,829 in 2022-23 (13.2% decrease).

Short Post Fire Audits and Fire Engineering Consultations were initiated in 2019-20. Short Post Fire Audits occur where there has been a fire in a premise which has already received a full audit recently. There were 203 Short Post Fire Audits in 2022-23, up from 192 last year (5.7% increase).

Fire Engineering Consultations are where a specialist team provides advice for new buildings. There were 812 Fire Engineering Consultations in 2022-23, up from 722 in 2021-22 (12.5% increase).

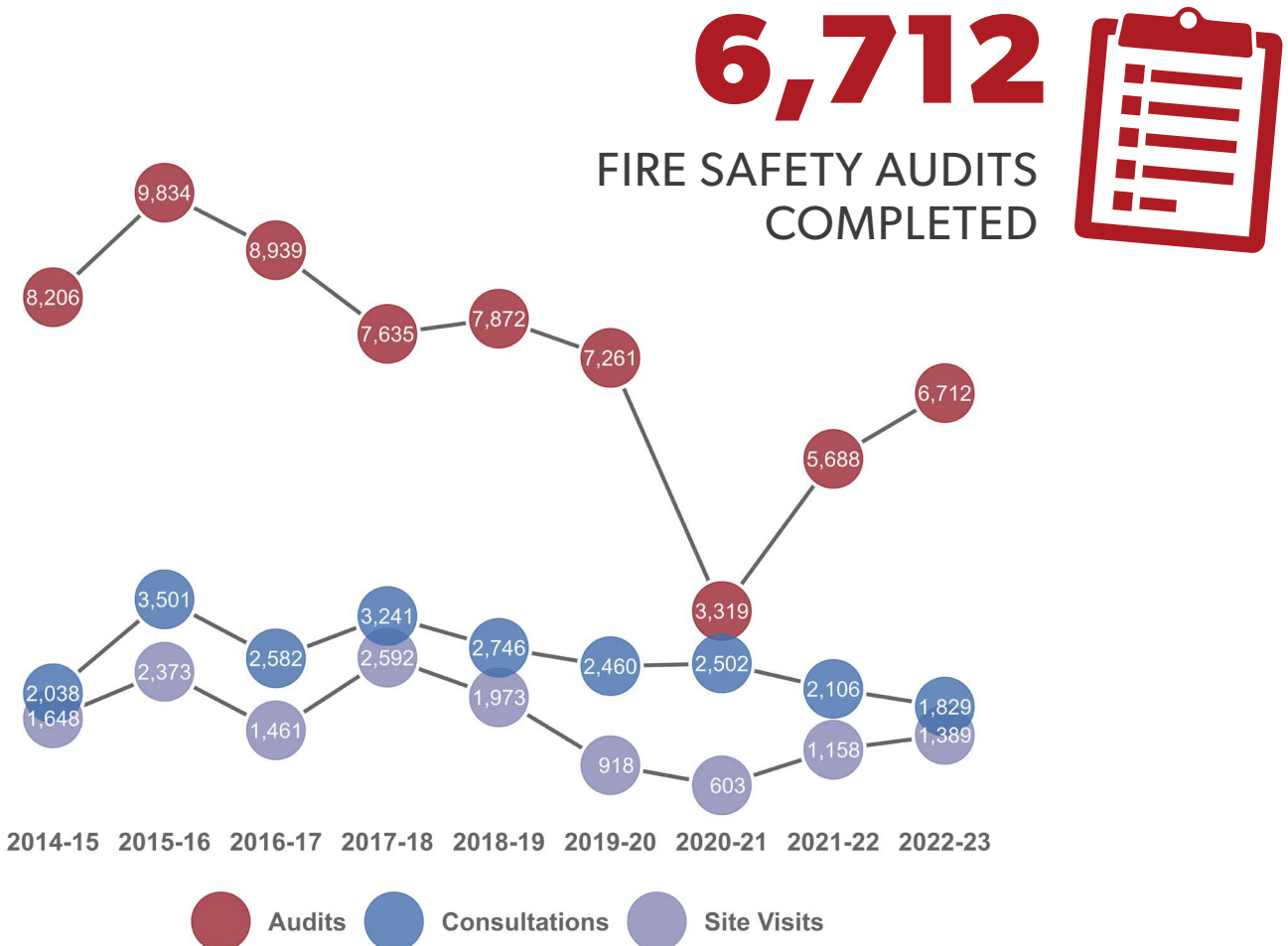


Figure 18: Non-domestic fire safety activity by type. Note that Fire Engineering Consultations and Short Post Fire Audits initiated in 2019-20 are not included.

In 2022-23, most audits were carried out in House of Multiple Occupation (HMOs), with 1,958 audits carried out in this premises type. This is down from 1,984 in 2021-22 (1.3% decrease). This makes up 29.2% of total audits carried out in 2022-23, down from 34.9% in the previous year.

Care homes were the second largest category of premises type visited, with 1,606 audits carried out in this type of premise. This is up from 1,409 audits carried out in care homes in 2021-22 (14.0% increase). This makes up 23.9% of total audits in 2022-23, down from 24.8% in the previous year.

Enforcement Notices are the most severe outcome of audits. They are only issued following a very poor audit rating. There were 6 Enforcement Notices issued in 2022-23, up from 3 in the previous year.

Prohibition Notices involve or follow a visit to a site where the use of the property is conflicting with fire safety rules. These prevent the use of part or all of a property. There were 9 Prohibition Notices issued in 2022-23, up from 6 in the previous year.

Alterations Notices prevent changing the use of a property in a way which is known to be unsafe. There were no Alterations Notices issued in 2022-23, which is the same as the previous year.

In total, 15 Notices were issued this year, up from 9 last year.

Less than 1% of properties audited resulted in a 'Very high risk' using the SFRS risk heuristic. This is similar to what has been seen in recent years. Figure 19 shows a more detailed breakdown of risk ratings for audits completed in 2022-23.

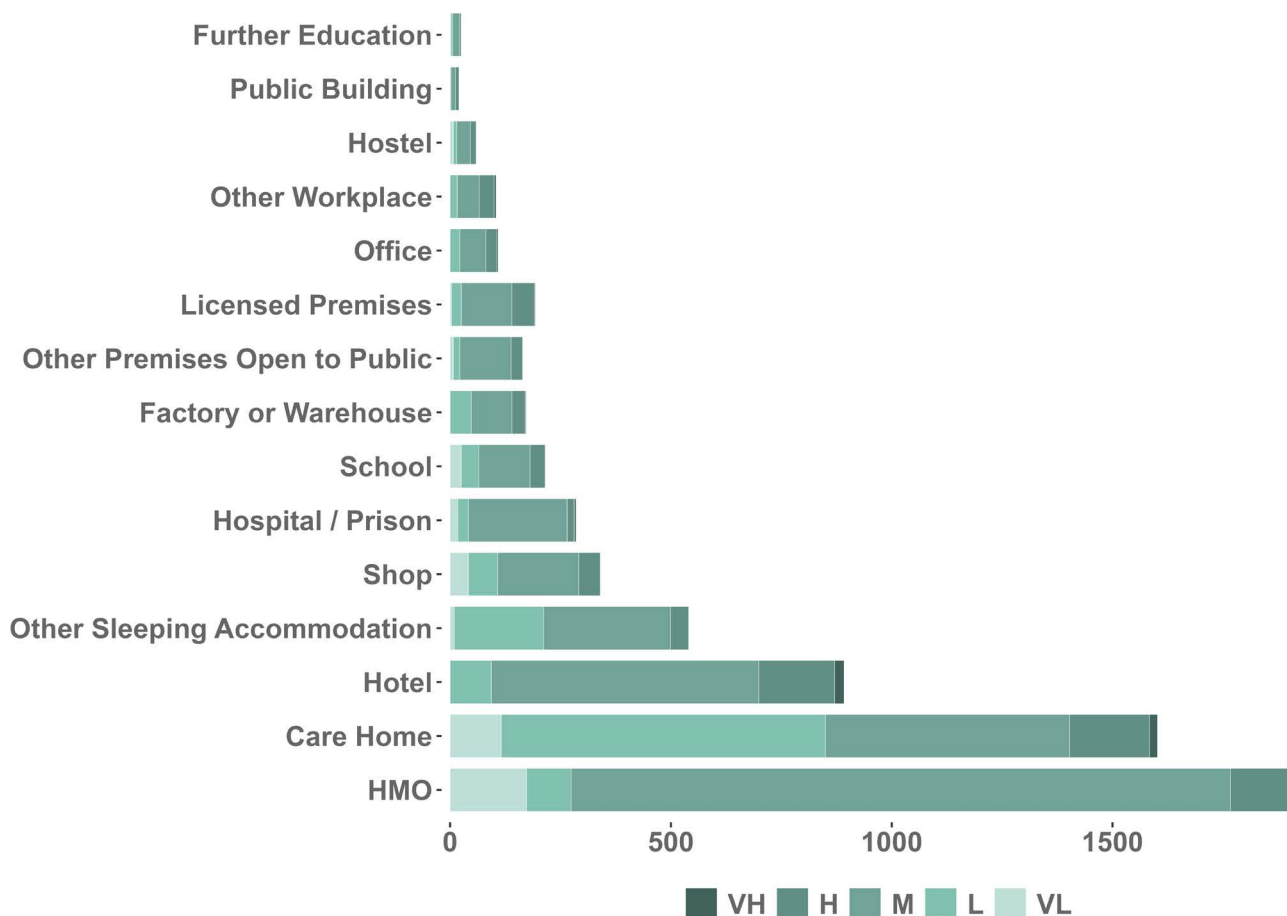


Figure 19: Number of non-domestic premises audited by premises type and risk heuristic rating.

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The next edition of Fire Safety and Organisational Statistics bulletin and associated documents is scheduled for release on 30th August 2024.



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Version 1.0 – 31 August 2023