

DERBYSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

FACING THE FUTURE

A Statistical Analysis



Derbyshire
Fire & Rescue Service
Making Derbyshire Safer

Executive Support

27 June 2013

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SIR KEN KNIGHT 'FACING THE FUTURE'

Statistical Analysis

Introduction

In May 2013 Sir Ken Knight released his report '[Facing the Future](#) - *Findings from the review of efficiencies and operations in fire and rescue authorities in England*'.

The report was broken down into five main chapters which outlined options for efficiency savings which could be implemented in fire and rescue services across the country. Much of the report is built upon statistics which identify that while incidents of all types have reduced over the last decade, the cost of running fire and rescue services has not seen the same reduction.

'Facing the Future' uses statistics that are publicly available and as recent as possible; the majority used are from the CIPFA Fire and Rescue Statistics 2011/12.

This document ****compares the national average statistical data from the Sir Ken Knight report 'Facing the Future', with statistical data produced by Derbyshire Fire and Rescue (DFRS) to illustrate the performance of DFRS against the national averages.**

*****Please note that DFRS are working on the ten fiscal years between 2003/4 – 2012/13 and not 2002/3 – 2011/12 as in the 'Facing the Future' Report.***

Total Incidents Attended

'Facing the Future' states that incidents attended by fire and rescue services nationally have seen an overall reduction of 40%.

Figure 1

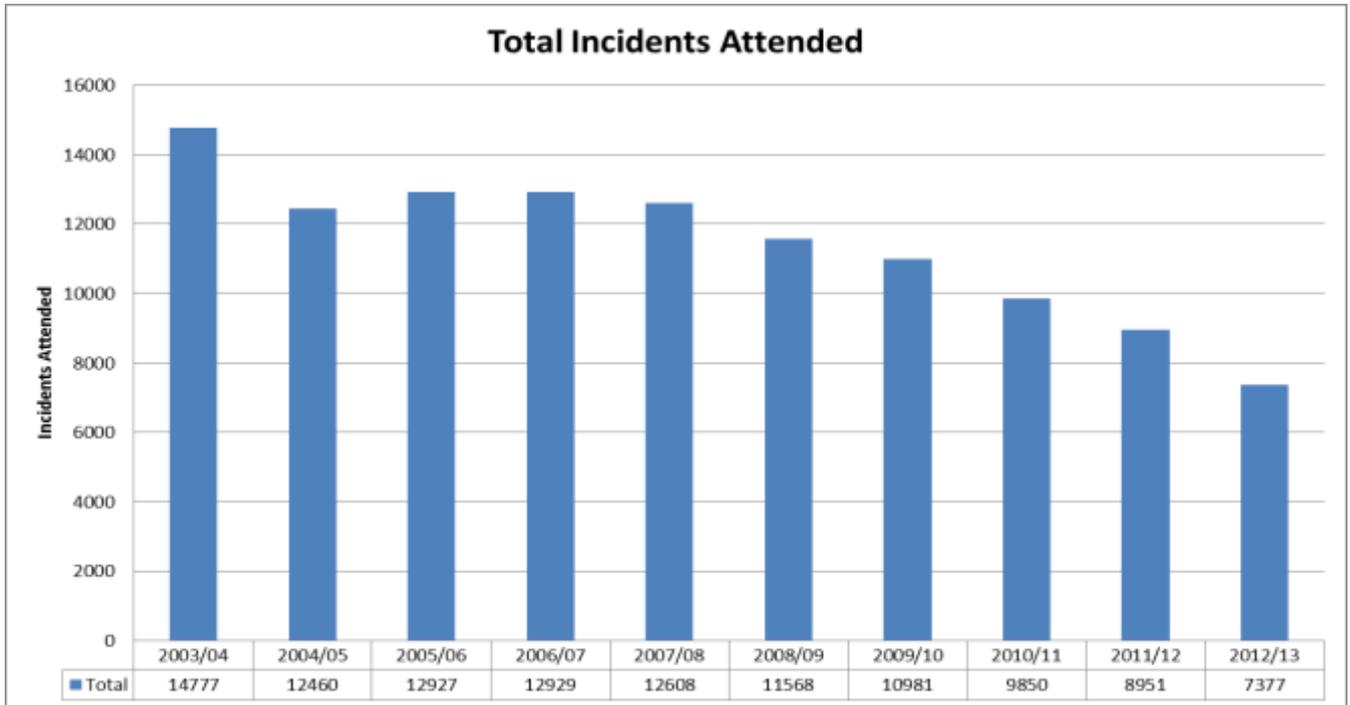


Figure 1 illustrates a reduction of Total Incidents DFRS attended from 14,777 (2003/04) to 7,377 (2012/13): a reduction of 50% over 10 years, which is higher than the national average of 40%.

Fire Incident Types

Figure 2

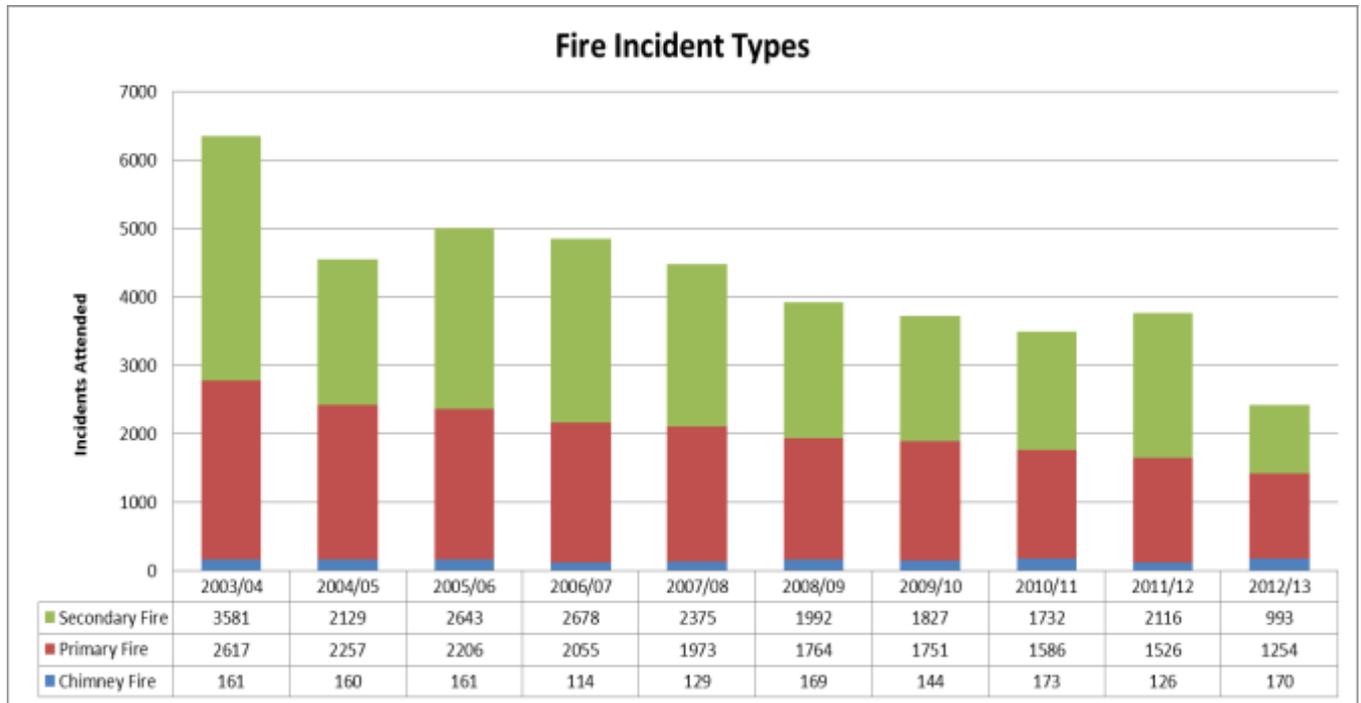


Figure 2 breaks down Fire Related Incidents over the same period into Types; Primary Fires, Secondary Fires, and Chimney Fires.

The total fire incidents have reduced from 6,359 (2003/4) to 2,417 (2012/13), a reduction of 62% which is higher than the national average of 48%.

Road Traffic Collisions

'Facing the Future' states that there has been a 24% reduction nationally of attendances to Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) since 2003.

Figure 3

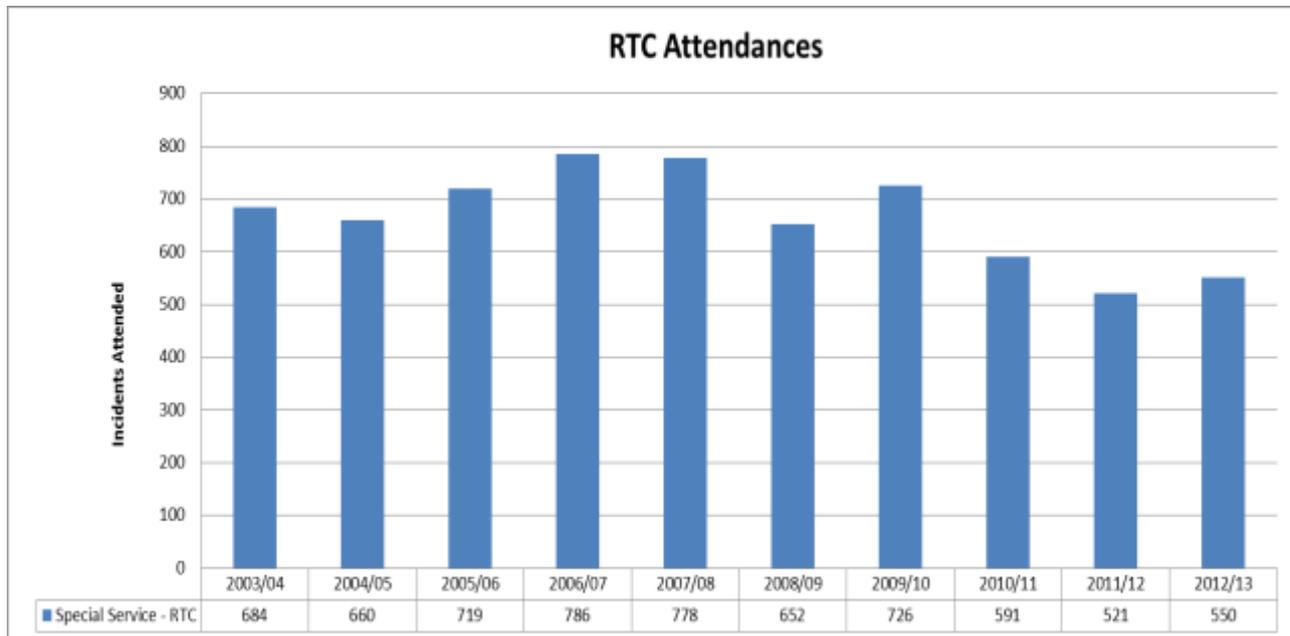


Figure 3 shows the attendance to RTC's for DFRS. The total of Special Service RTC Incidents has reduced from 684 (2002/3) to 550 (2012/13), giving a 20% reduction, lower than the national average of 24%.

Attendance at Automatic Fire Alarms

“Facing the Future” states that while overall there has been a reduction in attendances at automated fire alarms since 2003, it is only since 2006 that this reduction has been significant and even by 2011/12 the reduction was only 28%.

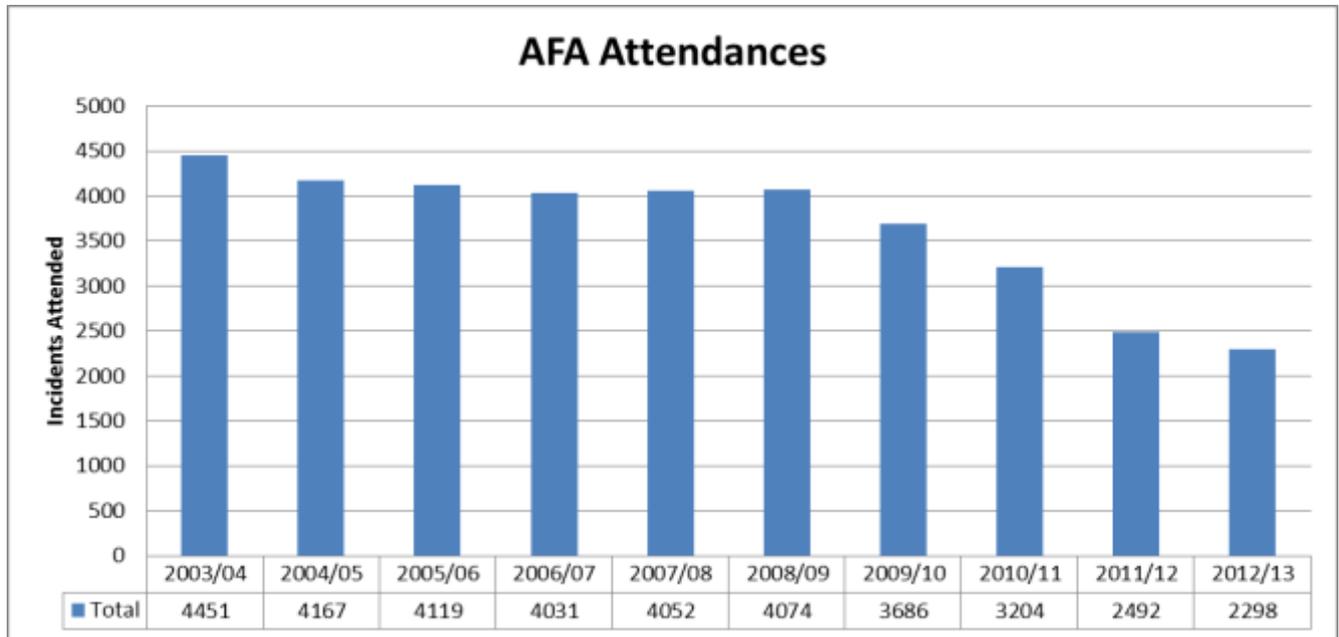


Figure 4

Figure 4 shows the attendance to AFA’s for DFRS. The total AFA attendances has reduced from 4,451 (2002/3) to 2,298 (2012/13), giving a 48% reduction, higher than the national average of 28%.

Fire Related Deaths

'Facing the Future' reports a reduction of 60% in fire related deaths; this percentage is worked out against figures seen "annually in the 1980's". The trend of referencing figures from the last ten years used throughout 'Facing the Future' is not used to account for any movement, up or down, on fire related deaths. There are no specific numbers quoted and the graph used to illustrate this is difficult to attach a correct value to.

Figure 5

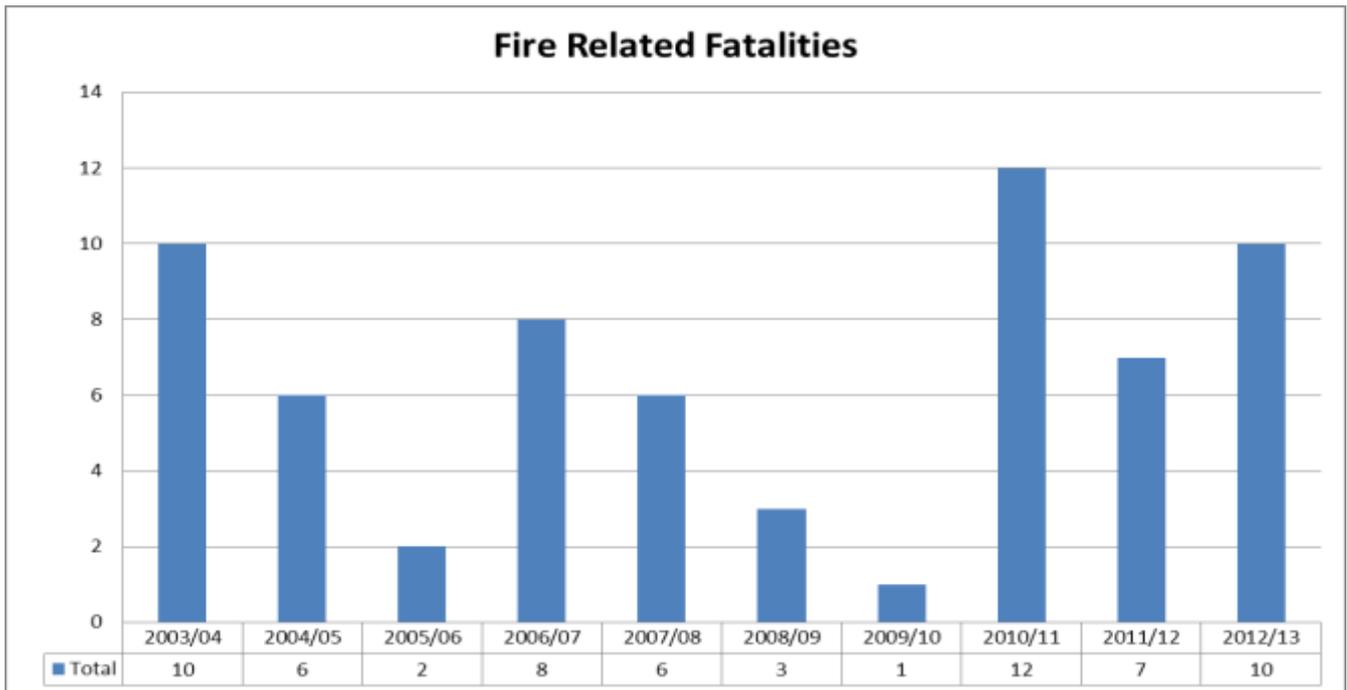


Figure 5 illustrates that fire deaths within Derbyshire over the past decade have peaked and troughed. The total figure of 65 fire deaths equates to an average of 6.5 deaths per year. It must be taken into consideration when the fire death figures are analysed, that there is no differential between accidental and deliberate that resulted in fire deaths.

Establishment Figures

'Facing the Future' reports that while incidents have considerably decreased, expenditure and firefighters have remained broadly the same, 'reducing just 6% in the last 10 years'.

Figures shown below are taken on the 31 March each year.

Figure 6

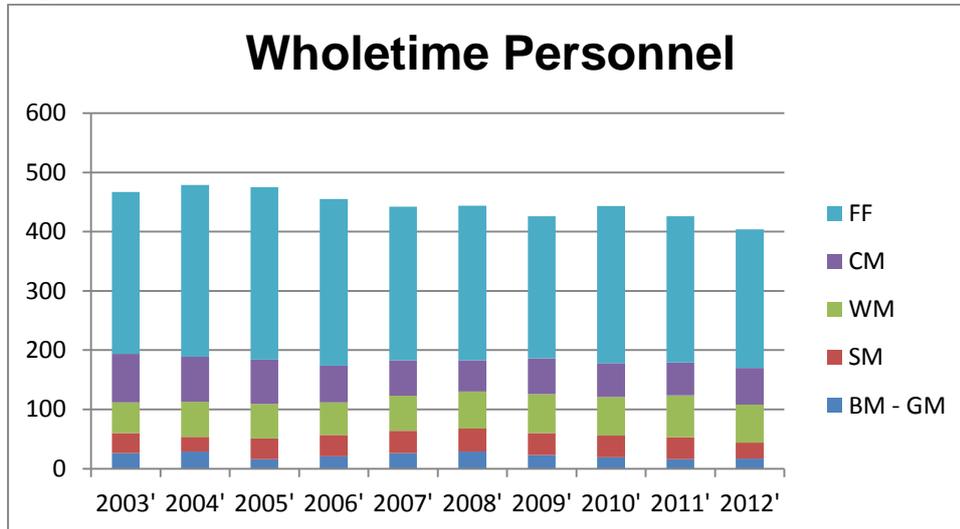


Figure 6 shows the Wholetime establishment within DFRS over the last decade and illustrates that the number of Wholetime Firefighters within DFRS has fallen by 13.5%.

Figure 7

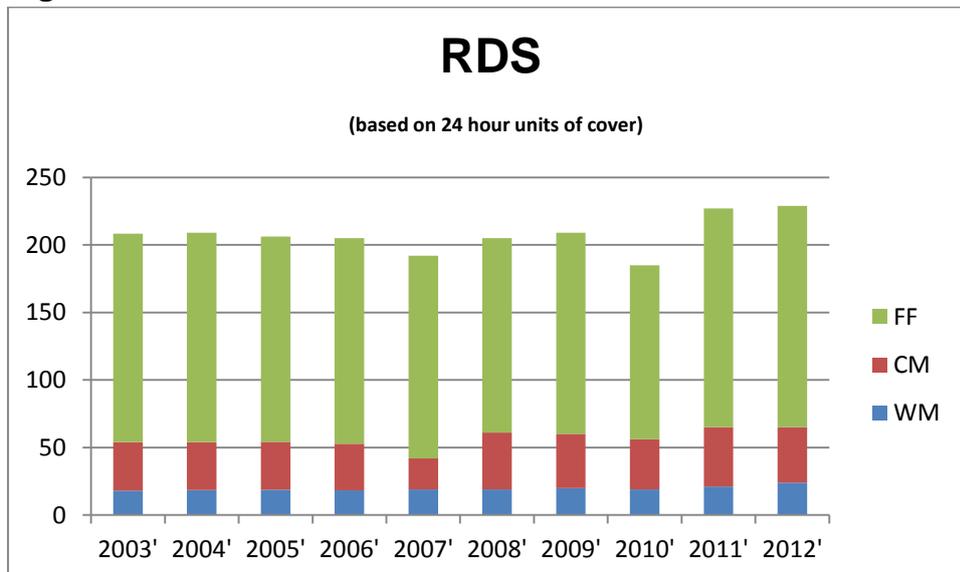


Figure 7 shows the number of Retained Duty System (RDS) Firefighters (based on 24 hour units of cover) within DFRS. There is a 10% increase in RDS within DFRS. This is representative of 24 hour units of cover and not personnel numbers.

Figure 8

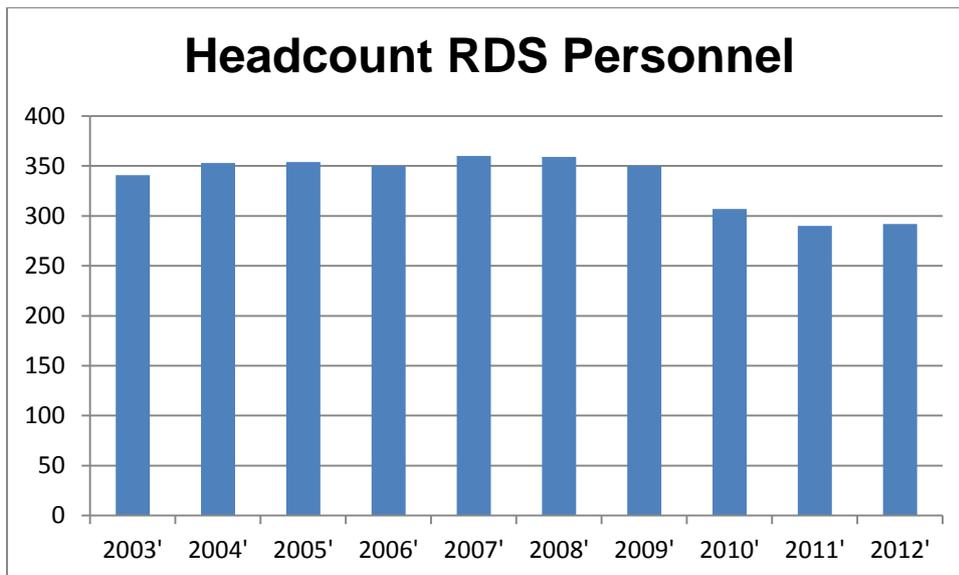


Figure 8 shows the RDS numbers as a headcount. This illustrates a reduction of 14% in actual RDS personnel in the last 10 years within DFRS, against the national average of 6%.

Figure 9

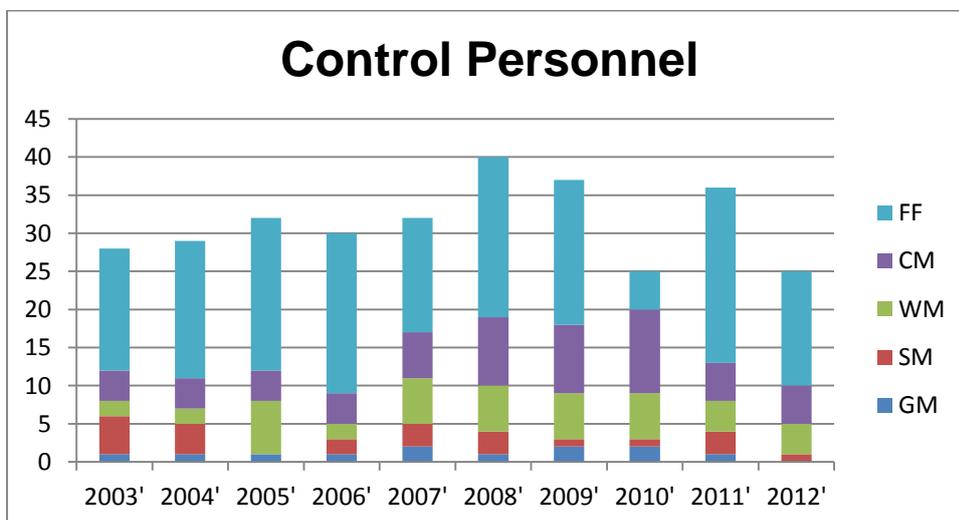


Figure 9 shows the numbers of whole-time employees who staff Command and Control. It illustrates an 11% reduction in whole-time staff over this period, against the national average of 6%. The increase in staff in 2008 is representative of Command and Control rooms nationally, employing more personnel to cover the staffing pools for the move to Regional Command and Control rooms.

Figure 10

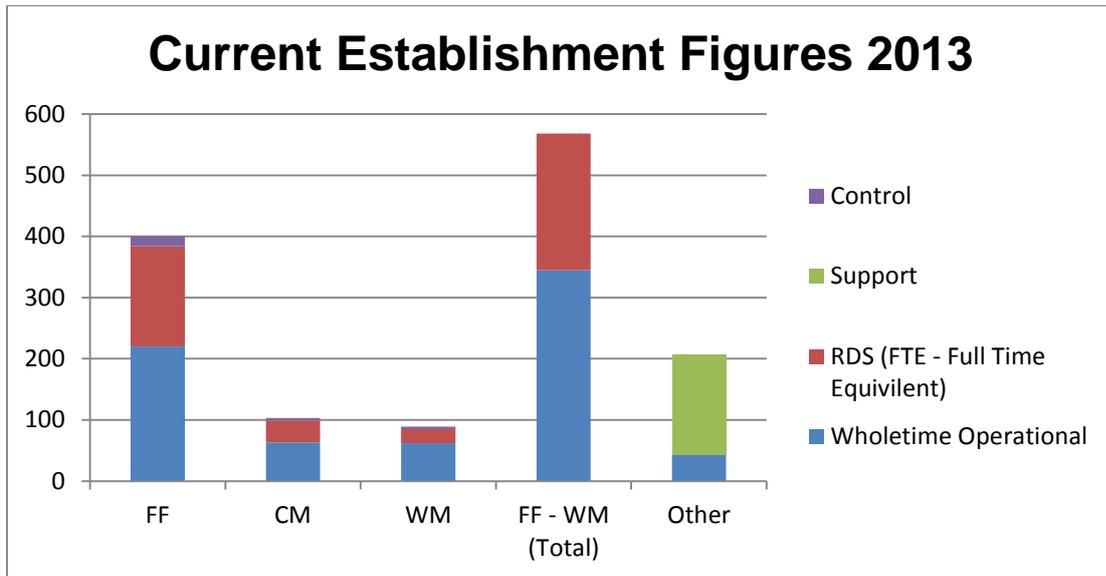


Figure 10 gives an in depth breakdown of current personnel within DFRS (all roles) as of 31 March 2013.

Figure 11

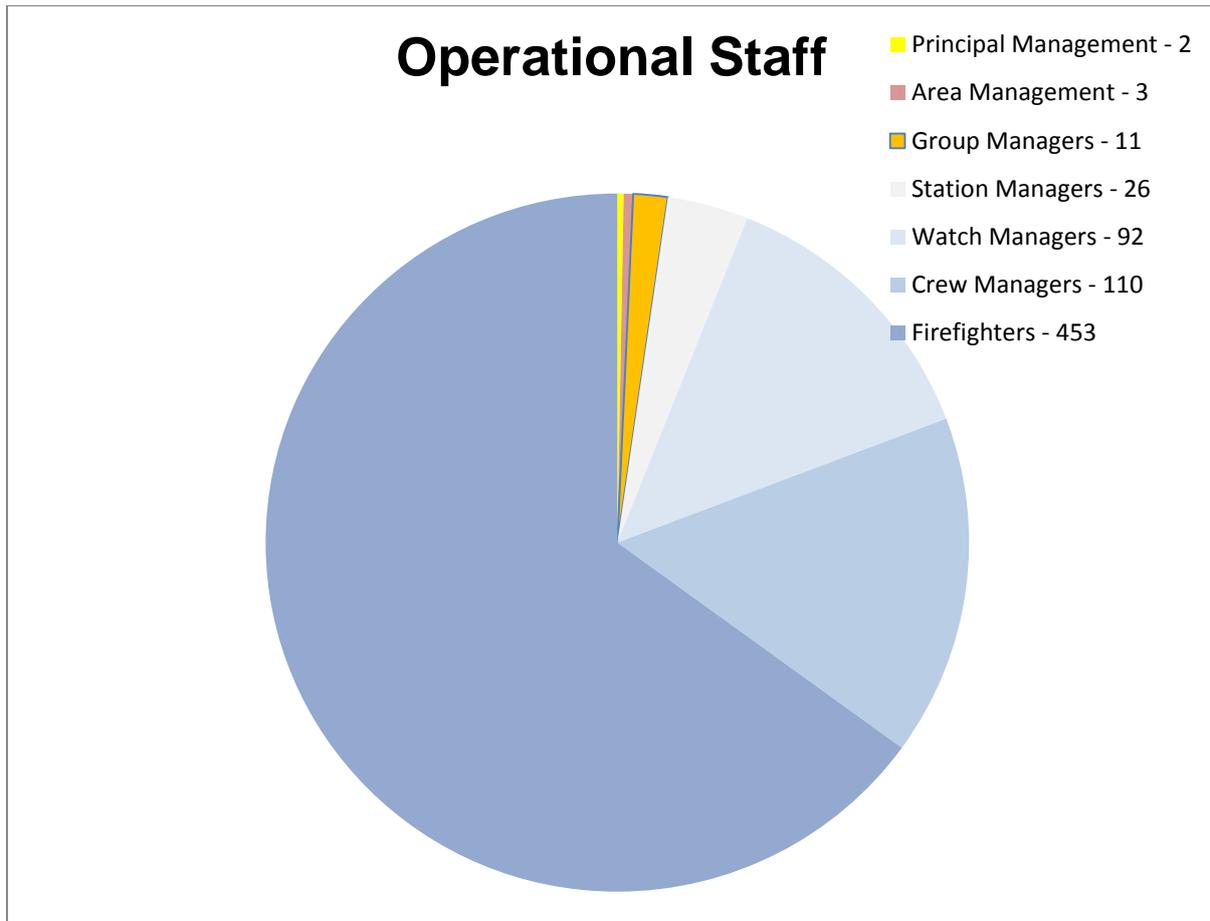


Figure 11 illustrates the breakdown of operational roles within the Service. *‘Facing the Future’* reports that there is evidence of stark differences in the ratios between senior managers and firefighters (for the purpose of the report ‘senior managers’ were operational personnel Group Manager and above).

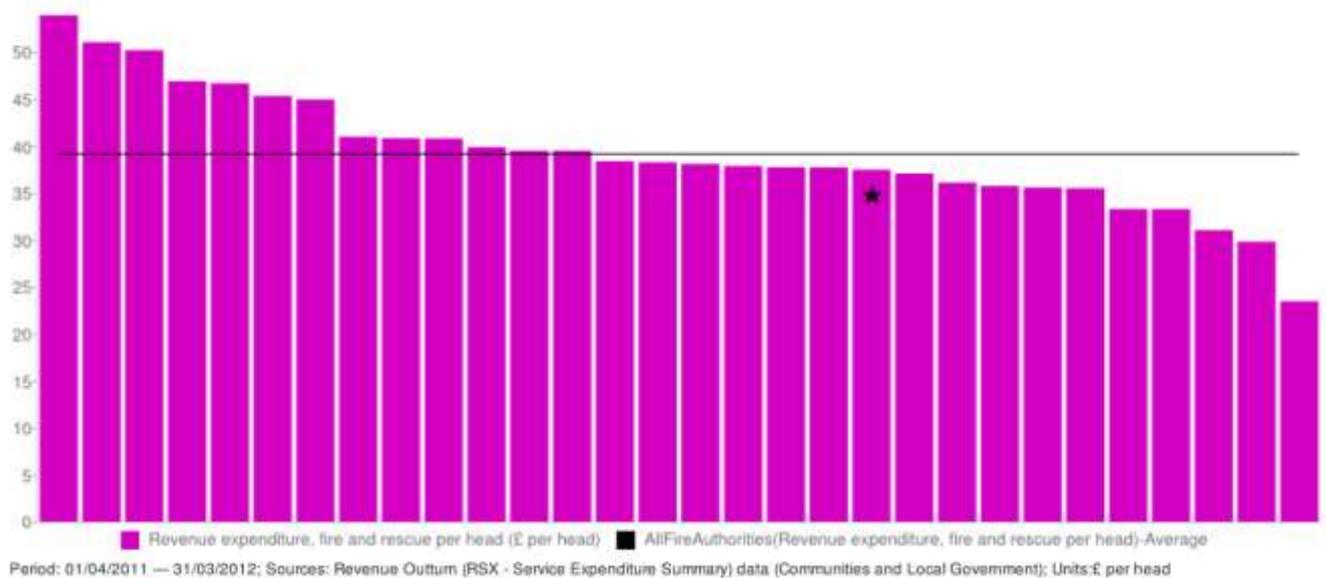
‘Facing the Future’ goes on to report that in one metropolitan authority, there are 73 firefighters per senior manager, whereas in another there are 29 and in one combined authority, there are 63, and in a nearby combined authority there are 22. DFRS currently have a ratio of one Senior Manager to 43 firefighters.

Expenditure

'Facing the Future' comments heavily on the relationship between the reduction of incident activity, firefighter numbers and Fire & Rescue Authority expenditure. The report highlights that while casualties and fatalities have fallen continually, and fires after peaking in 2003 have fallen dramatically, expenditure has actually risen and has only in recent years declined.

Figure 12

Total revenue expenditure on Fire and rescue services per head of population for Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service compared to fire Authorities



↑
 DFRS £37.57 expenditure per head
 of population 2011/2012

Figure 12 shows the variation in costs for 30 Fire & Rescue Authorities per head of population in their area of responsibility for 2011/12.

Conclusion

This statistical analysis of *'Facing the Future'* concentrates mainly on the reductions in incidents, staff numbers and expenditure. Sir Ken Knight remarks within the report:

'Can it be right that expenditure and staffing have stayed broadly the same while incidents have fallen across the board, changing the whole environment in which fire and rescue authorities operate?' DFRS have shown above national average reductions of all incident types and above average decreases in firefighter numbers. All this has been achieved against the backdrop of being one of the best 'value for money' authorities in the country, operating at a cost of £37.57 per head of population in 2011/12¹.

DFRS have achieved significant reductions in all incidents types either in line with, or above the national average. For example, the reduction in attendance to all fires since 2003/04 is 62% where the national average stands at 48%. A more startling reduction is DFRS attendances to AFA's, 48%, where the national average stands at 28%. DFRS, through a robust system of call challenging, have managed a 48% reduction to this incident type, 20% better than the national average.

Fire-related fatalities within DFRS have stayed the same when looked at as the figure in 2003/04 and 2012/13. During each of these years, DFRS sadly witnessed ten fire-related fatalities. If the decade is looked at as a whole, it must be noted that in 2009/10 there was one fatality and in 2005/06 there were two. However, this number rose to 12 in 2010/11.

'Facing the Future' reports a reduction of 60% in fire-related deaths this percentage is worked out against figures seen "annually in the 1980's". This steps away from comparing figures over a ten year period as is the trend through the rest of the report. There are no specific values given to respective years either.

The Fire Brigade Unions response document *'Facing Reality – the need for a fully-funded fire and rescue service'* states that *'Total fire deaths rose from 937 in 1981/82 to a peak of 967 in 1985/86'*. The latest DCLG figure shows the number of fire fatalities during 2012/13 fell to 271, which represents a 72% decrease when compared with 1985/86. It must also be noted that recent incidents within Derbyshire which have resulted in multiple fire deaths, step outside of the foreseeable boundaries associated with fires in domestic dwellings.

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service consistently outperform the national figures quoted within the *'Facing the Future'* report. The Service has also been very proactive in already addressing many of the issues cited within the review. The future will bring a need to do more in order to meet further budget restrictions. DFRS are currently working on our 'Transforming Service Delivery' project which aspires to

¹ Sources: Revenue outturn (RSX – Service Expenditure Summary) data (Communities and Local Government)
Units:£ per head

remodel the Service not only to meet the demands highlighted by the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2013, but to also allow the Service to meet financial constraints placed upon it by the Government's austerity program. This will ensure that DFRS remains sustainable and 'fit to respond' to meet future challenges.