

Fire Statistics Review

Justice Analytical Services (JAS)

June 2014

Fire and Rescue Service Statistics – User Consultation

April 2014

Contents

Scottish Government	1
1. Introduction and Aim	4
2. The Consultation Report	4
3. Responses – all	4
3.1 Respondents – who replied?	4
4. Fire Statistics, Scotland	5
4.1 How do people use the statistics	5
4.1.1 Using the publication	5
4.1.2 Using extra datasets	7
4.2 Changes to <i>Fire Statistics, Scotland</i>	7
4.2.1 Publication format	8
4.2.2 Detail in the Commentary section	8
4.3 Priorities of topics	9
4.4 Changes to data presentation	9
4.4.1 Geographic levels of data	9
4.4.2 Presenting long term trends	11
4.4.3 Publication date	11
4.4.4 More or less data	11
4.5 General Comments about Fire Statistics, Scotland	13
5. Overview of Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland	14
5.1 Changes to publication format	15
5.2 Prioritising Topics	16
5.3 Changes to data presentation	16
5.3.1 Responsibility for publishing Fire and Rescue Service Statistics	17
5.3.2 More or less data	17
5.4 General Comments about Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland	18
6. Discussion	19
6.1 Respondents	19
6.2 Format	19

6.3	Topics	19
6.4	Publication presentation	19
6.5	Geographic level of presentation	20
6.6	Long-term trends	20
6.7	Publication date	21
6.8	Publication responsibility	21
6.9	Extra data requests	21
6.9.1	Incident data	21
6.9.2	Fire and Rescue Service Data	27
6.10	Remove data fields	28
6.11	General comments	29
7.	Conclusions	29
	Appendix A - Fire Statistics User Consultation 2014 – questionnaire	31

1. Introduction and Aim

Scottish Government is responsible for two main statistical publications relating to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service:

- *Fire Statistics, Scotland* - the publication reporting on fires and incidents attended by the FRS. The publication is a [National Statistics](#) Product.
- *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* - reporting on the FRS data – workforce, stations and vehicles, fire safety audits, home fire safety visits and attacks on firefighters. This publication is an official statistics product.

Following transition to the single Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in April 2013, it is no longer meaningful to present the fire publications data for the 8 legacy Scottish Fire and Rescue Service areas. This means we need to make some changes to how we provide the information and the format we provide it in. To decide the future format, Scottish Government invited users to provide feedback, by means of a consultation, on how they would prefer to receive data in relation to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

From this stakeholder consultation, we aim to identify users' needs and ensure that they are being met. Responses to the consultation will be used to inform Scottish Government decision making on changes to the publications, including their format and content.

This report contains sections first of all reporting the responses to the consultation and then a discussion of the Scottish Government action based on those responses. A final section sets out the recommendations that we plan to implement in the statistical publications.

2. The Consultation Report

On 15th January 2014, a stakeholder consultation on fire statistics was published on the Scottish Government website; this was closed on 7th March 2014. A copy of the questionnaire is attached as Appendix A.

3. Responses – all

3.1 Respondents – who replied?

Statistics users signed up to the ScotStat¹ website were all notified of the consultation along with known stakeholders including staff of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and board, policy teams in Scottish and other government departments and members of relevant working groups.

The person responding could reply as an individual or on behalf of an organisation. Where people responded on behalf of an organisation these responses were presumed to be the collective views of more than one individual.

¹ ScotStat is a network for users and providers of Scottish Official Statistics. It aims to improve communication amongst those interested in particular statistics and facilitate the setting up of working groups on specific statistical issues. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>

There were 35 respondents to the consultation. 66% responded as individuals and 34% representing their organisations, including one respondent providing views for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

We asked about the sector that most accurately describes respondents' work. They said:

Fire and Rescue Service (Scotland)	20%
Fire and Rescue Service (non-Scotland)	6%
Central Government	14%
Local Government	11%
Other public sector	6%
Education/Further Education	3%
Other	40%
Total respondents	35

Table 1 : Respondents' backgrounds

4. Fire Statistics, Scotland

In this section of the report we focus on *Fire Statistics, Scotland*, reporting on fire and non-fire incidents attended by the Fire and Rescue Service. The data is currently produced annually, with supporting datasets of key data at local authority level and long term trends. The data is collected through a web-based Incident Recording System (IRS) managed by DCLG, which allows data to be compared across the UK.

4.1 How do people use the statistics

4.1.1 *Using the publication*

63% of respondents said they use the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* publication, 31% said they do not but may do so in the future and 6% said no, they do not use it.

The next questions in this section were answered by the 22 respondents who said that they use the publication.

We asked how they view the publication – **online or in print, and HTML or pdf**. Users could select more than one option. Most respondents used an online pdf version of the publication, though they also used the HTML and printed pdf formats. No one printed out the HTML version of the publication.

How do you normally view the publication (please select all that apply)?	Per cent
Online as HTML	32%
Online as PDF	82%
Printed version of HTML	0%
Printed version of PDF	32%
Total respondents	22

Table 2 : Viewing the publication

We also asked whether respondents use the spreadsheets containing tables and charts from the publication. 77% answered that they do, another 14% said that they may do in the future and 9% said no they do not.

We wanted to know approximately **how often** users referred to the statistics in the publication.

In general, how often do you refer to information within Fire Statistics, Scotland on the following topics?						
	Per cent					
	Weekly	Monthly	3 or 4 times a year	Twice a year	Once a year	Never
Main Points (highlight report)	5%	9%	36%	18%	23%	9%
Total number of fires	5%	14%	45%	14%	14%	9%
Fire casualties	5%	9%	55%	14%	9%	9%
False alarms	5%	9%	55%	0%	18%	14%
Special service incidents	5%	5%	36%	5%	27%	23%
Building fires	5%	9%	41%	9%	23%	14%
Outdoor fires	5%	5%	41%	9%	18%	23%
Fire rescues	5%	5%	41%	14%	18%	18%
Deliberate & accidental fires	5%	5%	50%	18%	18%	5%
Smoke alarms	5%	5%	59%	0%	18%	14%
Fire cause/source of ignition	5%	5%	55%	0%	18%	18%
Spread of fire and appliances attending	5%	5%	32%	14%	23%	23%
Fires by time of call	5%	5%	27%	9%	32%	23%

Table 3 : Frequency of use

There were 22 respondents to each of these questions. The most common frequency of using the data was 3 or 4 times a year. All topics were used, to some extent, by some respondents. Around a quarter of people who use the data never use data on special service incidents, outdoor fires, spread of fire and appliances attending or fires by time of day. The most used category was deliberate and accidental fire numbers.

4.1.2 Using extra datasets

Additional datasets providing **long-term trend data** for casualties, fires and false alarms are supplied alongside the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* bulletin. These datasets are supplied as Excel spreadsheets. We asked the 22 respondents who used the publication whether they used the datasets. 59% had used them, 32% had not but would do so in the future and 9% would not use them.

Further datasets provide data on fires, casualties, false alarms and special services at **Local Authority level**, and are supplied after publication. These datasets are supplied as Excel spreadsheets. We asked the 22 respondents who used the publication whether they used the datasets. In this case 46% had used the datasets, 27% had not, but would do so in the future and 27% would not use them.

Of the 22 users of the publication, we asked what they used the data for. The distribution of responses is shown below.

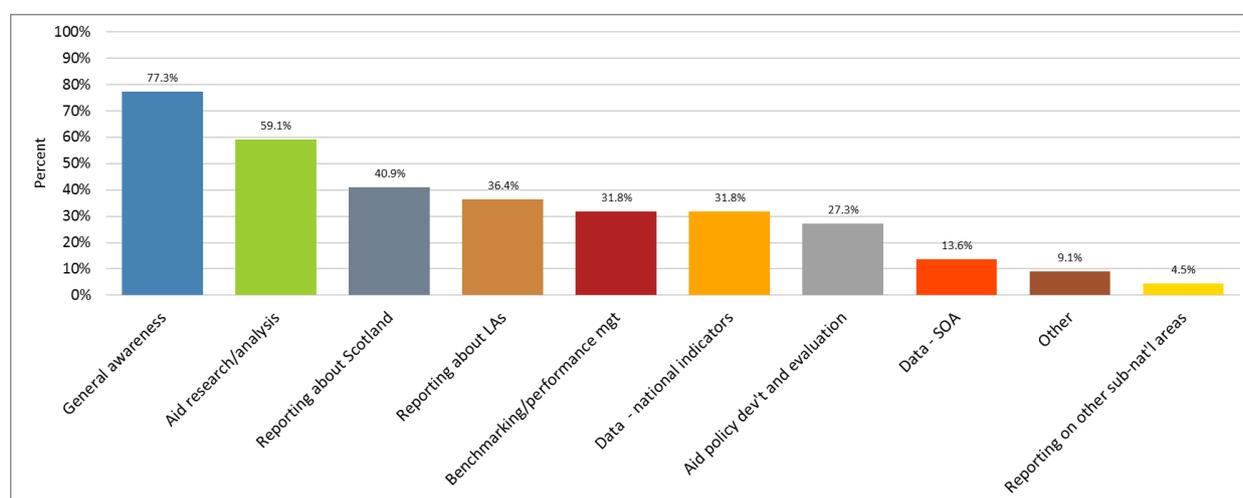


Figure 1 : Purpose of the data

General awareness of trends and issues was the most common use of the statistics, followed by aiding research and analysis, reporting at national and local authority levels, benchmarking and performance management.

In support of the response of 'other sub-national areas' the user stated a need for data that covers Scotland, Wales, England and Northern Ireland.

Other reported uses of the data include 'Training and teaching fire safety and in publications', and 'to inform publicity and media campaigns'.

4.2 Changes to *Fire Statistics, Scotland*

The format of the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* bulletin has evolved over time and we took this opportunity to propose some changes. The intention is to provide the information in the most useful way, providing an appropriate balance between commentary and tabular data. In the first instance we asked users about levels of detail in the publication and associated data on the web.

4.2.1 Publication format

We are considering reducing the level of detailed information in the Commentary section of *Fire Statistics, Scotland* and providing this more detailed information in the format of Excel tables, published alongside the main report. This would result in a more concise “Commentary” section summarising key points and statistics with the underlying data being accessible for users to carry out their own analysis.

In section 4.1, we explored users’ preference for viewing the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* publication. Here we consider how they use the data tables and charts. These are currently published in two main formats:

- i) The main HTML/PDF document, containing written commentary on the main statistical findings with an appendix of statistical tables, also in HTML/PDF format; and
- ii) A spreadsheet containing all tables and charts from the publication in Excel format

We are aware that many users choose to access the tables and charts directly from Excel, possibly because they find it easier to analyse the information in this format. For this reason, we are proposing that in future *Fire Statistics, Scotland* publications we will:

- i) remove the HTML/PDF copies of tables and charts from the Appendix
- ii) publish a spreadsheet containing Excel copies of all tables and charts

We started by asking respondents whether this proposed new publication format would meet their requirements and whether they have any concerns about whether the publication will still meet their needs.

88% of respondents said they had no concerns and 12% did have concerns.

Of the respondents with concerns, one respondent cited technical difficulties they have had in the past with Excel spreadsheets on a website. Another appreciates a single document which incorporates tables for quick reference, supported by the Excel tables for deeper analysis. Without the tables in the publication, users would have to open the spreadsheets even for a single number. Another user cites the need for information at local authority level.

4.2.2 Detail in the Commentary section

We believe that the Commentary section of *Fire Statistics, Scotland* may contain more detailed statistical information than many users require. As a result, we intend to streamline this section of the publication so that it provides users with a more concise summary of key findings and statistics, leaving the more detailed data easily accessible in the format of Excel sheets for those users who require it.

Only one respondent had any concerns that this change would prevent the publication from meeting their needs. These concerns were tentative, expressing the possibility that statistics without commentary may fail to provide the necessary detail required to complete analysis of the data.

4.3 Priorities of topics

So that we could better decide on the **content** of future *Fire Statistics, Scotland* publications, we asked respondents to select the three most important information topics of those currently provided.

THREE topic areas which are of MOST value to users	Per cent
Total number of fires	61%
Fire casualties	55%
Main points (highlight report)	45%
Fire cause/source of ignition	30%
False alarms	27%
Building fires	24%
Deliberate and accidental fire numbers	21%
Smoke alarms	18%
Fire rescues	6%
Spread of fire and appliances attending	6%
Special service incidents	3%
Fires by time of call	3%
Outdoor fires	0%
Total responses	33

Table 4 : Users' priority of the topics

Unsurprisingly, fires and fire casualties were most often cited in the three most important topics, with no one selecting outdoor fires amongst their top three.

4.4 Changes to data presentation

4.4.1 *Geographic levels of data*

As we noted at the start of this report, it is no longer meaningful to present data for the 8 legacy Scottish Fire and Rescue Service areas. This means we have to decide the geographic level at which we provide the information in *Fire Statistics, Scotland*. Having asked respondents about the topics they find most useful, we then asked about the geographic level they would like to see.

While two thirds of respondents would like to see reporting at Scotland and Local Authority level data, 12% requested other geographic breakdowns.

What level(s) would you find the key fire information useful at (please select all that apply)?	
Scotland	66.7%
Local Authority	66.7%
Other (please specify)	12.1%
Total	33

Table 5 : Geographic breakdowns

Respondents additionally requested data in the following geographic levels.

- Prison Fire Statistics
- LSO area
- IMG zones or Scottish data zones
- Wards

In the table below a short definition of the geographic areas, and the number of the areas within Scotland are detailed to provide more context for deciding about reporting levels.

Geography	Definition	Number in Scotland
Current options		
Scotland		1
Local Authority		32
Consultation responses		
LSO area	The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is organised into aggregations of local authorities, each headed by a Local Senior Officer. Currently there are 17 LSO areas, though fluctuation is possible at the discretion of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.	17
Intermediate geographies (IMG)	IMG are geographies used in Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS). They are aggregations of datazones within local authorities with each zone containing between 2,500 and 6,000 people. The intermediate geography was introduced because not all statistics are suitable for release at the data zone level due to the sensitive nature of the statistics or for reasons of reliability.	1,235
Scottish data zones	Data zones were created by combining 2001 Census output areas. The data zone geography covers the whole of Scotland and nests within local authority boundaries. Data zones have populations of between 500 and 1,000 household residents, and some effort has been made to respect physical boundaries.	6,505
Wards	Multi member electoral wards replaced the 1,222 existing wards, each electing one councillor, which were in use from 1999. Within SNS the 353 wards are defined in terms of 2001 data zones and statistics relating to these areas are 'best-fit'.	353

Table 6 : Geographic area definitions and numbers

4.4.2 *Presenting long term trends*

We asked users about ways of presenting additional datasets **containing long-term trend data**. These have previously provided casualties, fires and false alarms data at Fire and Rescue Service level. We wanted to know if the data would be used at Scotland level if no FRS level data was available. Most respondents would use Scotland level data, either often or occasionally, with just under 10% not using Scotland level data.

4.4.3 *Publication date*

The changes being made to *Fire Statistics, Scotland* mean the 2013-14 publication will take additional time to prepare. Whilst *Fire Statistics, Scotland* has previously been published annually in October, it is likely that the 2013-14 publication will not be ready until November or December 2014. We asked users if this later publication date would meet their requirements. Of 33 responses, one said that it would be helpful to have the data available in August to feed into the Single outcome agreement (SOA) for the local authority.

4.4.4 *More or less data*

We asked users whether they would like to see extra data included that was not already there or whether they would like some of the existing data removed.

Almost half the respondents (45%) said they would like to see new fields, many of which were specific to their particular interests.

The table below contains all of the comments. These have been grouped into categories for analysis purposes, but have not been aggregated in any way (i.e. if two respondents proposed a change there are two bullet points in the table). These will be examined more closely in the Discussion section of this report.

Premises information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about dwelling fires by housing tenure • Accidental dwelling fires, details of where the fires took place i.e. tenure breakdown • Incidents in listed buildings - causes, spread of fire, etc • Incidents in Scotland's statutorily protected heritage buildings • Fires involving timber framed residential and commercial buildings. • Details of construction type and age of buildings involved in fires.
Cause	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed causes of fires. • Cause factors • More information on identified contributory/underlying factors • More detailed information concerning causes of false alarms
Detection and suppression systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fires involving automatic fire suppression systems • Kind of commercial fire system in operation at a site and if it worked effectively • More information about the type and nature of the fire detection and warning system/devices • Information about fires controlled by automatic fire suppression (sprinkler) systems • Information about incidents involving the actuation of carbon monoxide alarms and/or suspected carbon monoxide poisoning.
Research projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about seasonal variations/peaks in fire demand • A breakdown of fires involving rubbish/refuse by type • More about the trend in the severity of dwelling fires and dwelling fire casualties • Had portable extinguishers been deployed? • Damage to equipment and injuries to staff as a result of antisocial behaviour
Specialist topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of the percentage for each category of IRS incident type has been quality assured for accuracy before publication • Detail on the number of fire incidents and fire false alarms at prison establishments • Where fires originate from commercial kitchens we would like it to be recorded when the fire spreads to other parts of the building via the grease extract duct system.
FRS data - not incident data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had the premises a proper fire risk assessment in place? - to see impact of Fire (Scotland) Act conformance. • Policing of Fire (Scotland) Act, notices issued and audits carried out. • Home Safety Visits • Electric Blanket Safety Testing • Proactive Preventative Work

Table 7 : Extra data fields requested in the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* publication

Users did not want to see anything excluded from the publication.

4.5 General Comments about Fire Statistics, Scotland

We asked respondents to provide any additional comments about *Fire Statistics, Scotland*. Of those who did, two respondents said that annual reports were suitable, two felt quarterly updates would be useful and one emphasised the need for timely data, published as soon as possible after it is collected.

The long term trend data was noted as important, particularly the ability to look back at the trends and consider the transition to a single service.

There were detailed comments on technical terms (e.g. 'smoke alarms' should be reviewed to comprise both smoke and heat alarms) and the provision of rates in addition to numbers. One comment expressed general appreciation for keeping the statistics within the publication, as it helps to put the content into context.

5. Overview of Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland

In this overview we wanted to establish how much the *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* publication is used, which subjects are most important to users and how often they use it.

It is worth reiterating that *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* is the publication containing information on staffing, fire safety and community safety activity, stations and equipment and attacks on firefighters. Some of the responses indicate that people may have confused this publication with *Fire Statistics, Scotland* which reports on the incidents the FRS attended.

Just under half of the 33 respondents to the consultation use *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* and just under half do not, but would consider using it in the future. Six per cent will not.

We asked how users normally view the publication.

How do you normally view the publication? (please select all that apply)	
Online as HTML	35.3%
Online as PDF	88.2%
Printed version of HTML	0.0%
Printed version of PDF	29.4%
Total Respondents	17

Table 8 : Viewing the publication

Most people view the publication online, either as a pdf document or HTML. About a third of users print out the pdf version, though no one prints out the HTML version.

Of the people who said they use the FRS statistics, 70% also use the spreadsheets and another 18% may do, though 12% do not use them.

We asked users how often they use the various topics in the publication. Most use the information annually or quarterly, with few using it more frequently than that.

	Weekly	Monthly	3 or 4 times a year	Twice a year	Once a year	Never
Main points (highlight report)	5.9%	5.9%	29.4%	11.8%	41.2%	5.9%
Number of fire stations	5.9%	0.0%	17.6%	35.3%	17.6%	23.5%
Type of equipment	5.9%	0.0%	17.6%	23.5%	29.4%	23.5%
Number of staff	5.9%	0.0%	23.5%	17.6%	29.4%	23.5%
Gender, age, ethnicity and disability of staff	5.9%	0.0%	23.5%	23.5%	11.8%	35.3%
Attacks on firefighters and injured personnel	5.9%	0.0%	23.5%	23.5%	17.6%	29.4%
Home Fire Safety Visits	5.9%	5.9%	35.3%	29.4%	11.8%	11.8%
Non-Domestic Fire Safety	5.9%	5.9%	35.3%	29.4%	23.5%	0.0%

Table 9 : Frequency of use (there were 17 respondents to each question)

We also asked users what they use the information for. Most users stated that they use the data for research and analysis, and keeping up with trends.

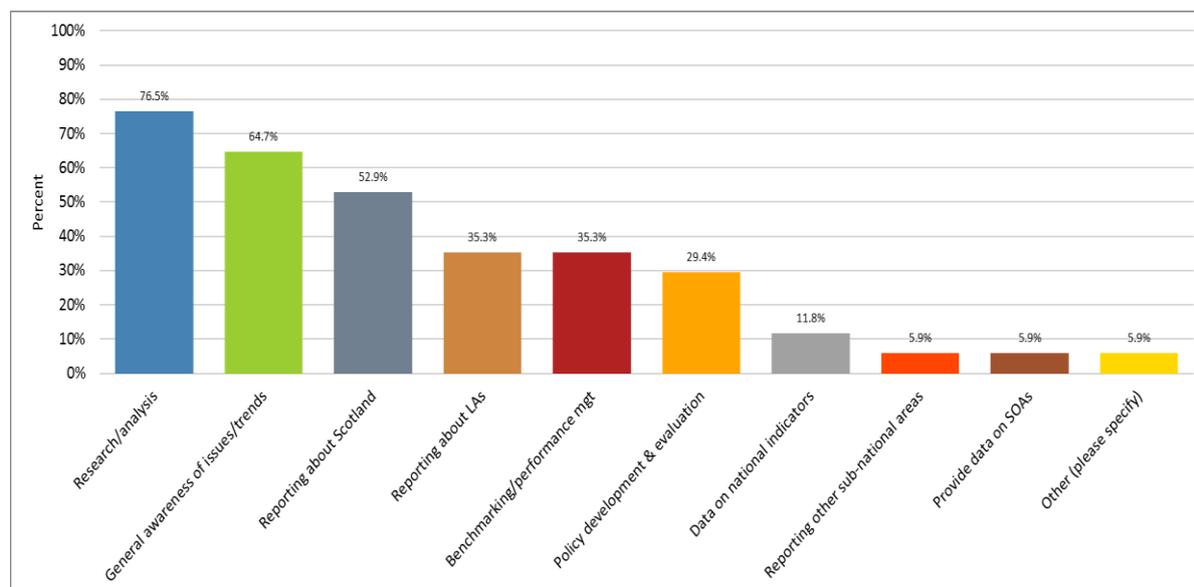


Figure 2 : Purpose of the data

The explanation for the response of 'other sub-national areas' is a need for data that covers Scotland, Wales, England and Northern Ireland. The 'other' use of the data was in training and writing publications.

5.1 Changes to publication format

As with the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* publication, we are considering reducing the level of detailed information in the commentary section of *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics Scotland*. We would remove some of the HTML and PDF copies of tables and charts and also refresh the "Commentary" section - summarising key points and statistics. We would continue to provide the more detailed information in the Excel tables, published alongside the main report. This would result in a more concise

publication, with the underlying data being more accessible for users to carry out their own analyses.

We asked users if this proposed new publication format would meet their requirements.

90% of respondents said that this would not cause them any problems, though 10% had concerns. These were similar to those expressed for the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* publication where one respondent cited technical difficulties they have had in the past with Excel spreadsheets on a website and another appreciates the value of a single document which incorporates tables for quick reference, supported by the Excel tables for deeper analysis.

5.2 Prioritising Topics

We wanted to understand how users prioritise the information currently provided. We asked them to select the 3 topic areas of most value to them.

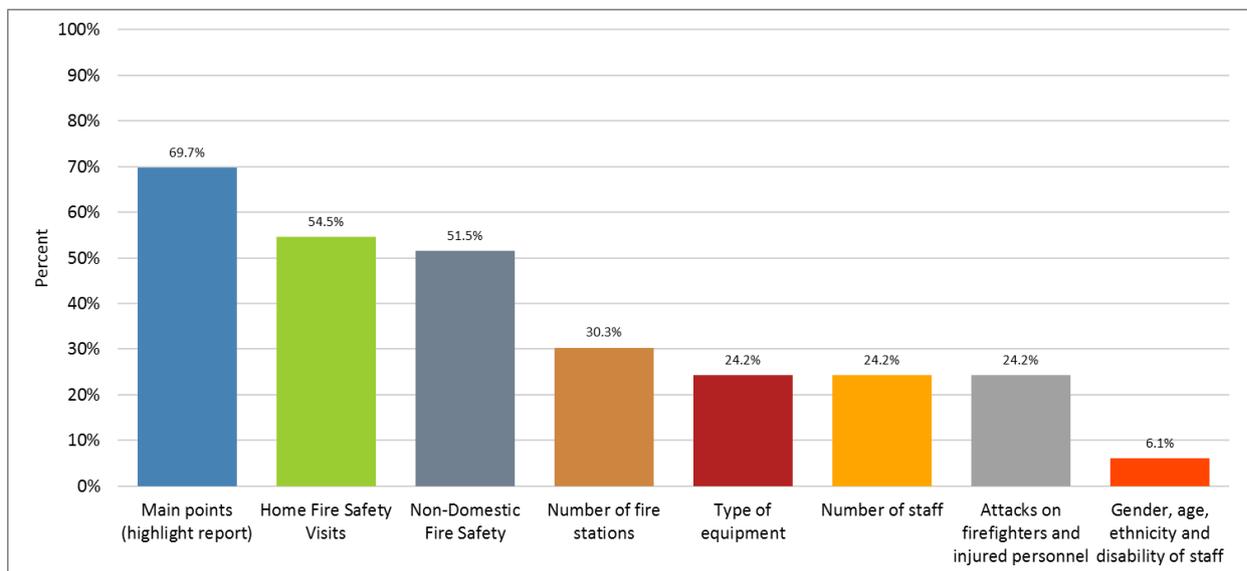


Figure 3 : Users' priority of the topics

The favourite topic was the Main points followed by home fire safety visits and non-domestic fire safety. Few respondents cited the equalities data as one of their priority topics.

5.3 Changes to data presentation

As with the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* publication, data will no longer be provided at Fire and Rescue Service level. We asked users whether they want a sub-national breakdown of the *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* data and what sub-national levels they would find useful for the key fire and rescue service information.

What level(s) would you find the key fire and rescue service information useful at (please select all that apply) ² ?	
Scotland	23.5%
Local Authority	58.8%
Other (please specify)	17.6%
Total respondents	17

Table 10 : Geographic reporting level

Of those who said they would prefer 'other' levels for reporting, one user required both Scotland and local authority level, one would like service delivery area (hub) level and another would like LSO area.

5.3.1 Responsibility for publishing Fire and Rescue Service Statistics

Due to the operational nature of the information contained in *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics Scotland*, the Scottish Government has proposed that responsibility for this publication should transfer to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service after the 2013-14 publication. The content and collection method are not expected to change, but a data steering group is planned to oversee the data. While arrangements are yet to be finalised, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and their fire board have agreed to this proposal in principle.

We asked users whether this change in responsibility would cause them any concern. 90% said it would not and 10% said it could. The concerns expressed were around data quality and continuation.

5.3.2 More or less data

We asked users whether there is any information that they would like to see included in *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* publications in future. 80% of respondents said there was not and 20% said there was.

Three of the requests for extra data referred to incident data and were therefore not relevant to the *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* publication.

One request was for more simplified reporting of fire safety activity that would better enable benchmarking, and another two were for *more* detail about fire safety activity, particularly in heritage buildings.

One response related to the recording systems used by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and how Scottish Government will work with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to ensure data sharing is as efficient as possible.

The only response about information users would like to see **excluded** from *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* was to say that the times allocated to non-domestic fire safety audits should be excluded because they were too variable.

² Although the question asked respondents to tick all that applied, a technical error meant that respondents were only able to select one answer option for this question.

5.4 General Comments about Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland

There were two general comments on the publication, one criticising the reporting of fire safety audits on HMOs and one requesting quarterly updates to align with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service performance management reporting and enabling closer tracking of trends.

6. Discussion

In this section, the main responses are summarised and any that differed from our proposed solution are discussed and our revised solution is explained.

6.1 Respondents

The range of respondents gave a reasonable coverage of the users of both the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* and *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics Scotland*. We are content that users' views are represented.

6.2 Format

For both publications the electronic formats (HTML and PDF) were equally used, though the HTML format is not printed out by users. Most users also either used, or would use in the future, the accompanying datasets for both publications.

6.3 Topics

Of the topics covered and the frequency of use, all topics were used, to some extent, by some respondents.

6.4 Publication presentation

For the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* (incident data) publication we proposed streamlining the publications so that we:

- i) remove the HTML/PDF copies of tables and charts from the Appendix
- ii) publish a spreadsheet containing Excel copies of all tables and charts

Similarly for the *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* we plan to reduce the level of detailed information in the commentary section, summarising key points and statistics, but maintaining the more detailed information in Excel spreadsheets.

Similar concerns were expressed on both publications which we plan to address as below:

Concern	Action
Technical difficulties with Excel spreadsheets on a website.	Monitor the published spreadsheets, provide error reporting facilities and react quickly if difficulties are identified
Single document with tables for quick reference, supported by the Excel tables for deeper analysis. Inconvenient to open the spreadsheets even for a single number.	Maintain high level data tables within the document
Need information at local authority level.	This is, and will be, provided in the supporting data

Table 11 : Comments on electronic format of the publications

We therefore plan to rationalise the publications, and acknowledge the value of including *some* data in the printed or on-screen report. We will include tables to an appropriate level for viewing.

6.5 Geographic level of presentation

We plan to present data for both publications at Scotland and local authority level. Most users would find this useful, though there were some requests for other geographies.

In this arena it is important to remember the quantity and therefore the value of incident and FRS data at lower geographic levels. In addition to this is the requirement to ensure that the data is non-disclosive.

We do, and will continue to, provide data to Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics³ (SNS) at datazone level. The data provided at datazone level is Number of all fires, Rate of accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population and Rate of deliberate fires (excluding chimney fires) per 100,000 population. This data is carefully screened and managed to ensure it is not disclosive.

We do not plan to publish incident data at geographies smaller than local authority in the national publication, though for specific purposes, for example providing prison fire statistics, we will consider individual data requests.

We will also look into systems which can aggregate local authority data into LSO or service delivery areas if the demand for that continues.

We will publish data at Scotland and local authority level in both *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* and *Fire Statistics, Scotland*, and look into aggregating the data for higher levels.

We will continue to provide datazone level data for SNS.

6.6 Long-term trends

Long-term trend data is published within the additional datasets on <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/DatasetsFire>. We will continue to provide long-term trend data at Scotland level. Continuing the sub-national data may be more difficult since it was published at Fire and Rescue Service level. We will now supply the data at Scotland level and explore providing it at local authority level with some conversion method to allow comparisons of other sub-national geographies.

We will supply the long term trend data at Scotland level and explore providing it at local authority level with some conversion method to allow comparisons of sub-national data.

³ <http://www.sns.gov.uk/>

6.7 Publication date

Publishing later than previous years because additional time will be needed to prepare both of the publications due to the required changes is acceptable to most users. For the one request for incident data in August, this would not have been feasible even without the changes.

6.8 Publication responsibility

Handing over responsibility of *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has the potential to cause concern to some data users who feel that there is a risk of losing data quality and consistency. These risks were considered during the decision process on the future of fire data in Scotland. In the first instance a data steering group is proposed to provide balanced oversight of the scope and content of the publication. In the longer term it is hoped that Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will become an official provider of statistics under the UK Statistics Authority badge. This would mean complying with their Code of Practice for Official Statistics, thus ensuring that the data is recognised as having “a stamp of assurance that the statistics have been produced and explained to high standards and that they serve the public good.”⁴

Scottish Government will continue to work with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and other stakeholders to transfer responsibility for *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The risks raised will be noted and actions taken to mitigate them as far as possible.

6.9 Extra data requests

6.9.1 *Incident data*

We asked users what they would like to see published in the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* (incident) data . There was a considerable list of extra data requests which are considered here.

Some general points about our response to the requests are:

- i) It is important to bear in mind that the question was asked about a **national, annual publication** with similar tables published each year. There is limited space in the publication and finite resource to produce it and so some rationalisation of requests was needed. We have therefore tried to reach an acceptable compromise which will include areas of widest interest and at a level of detail of most use to the widest audience.
- ii) Data is captured using the electronic IRS data collection system, which is managed by DCLG and is currently under review. Scottish Government and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are represented on the review group. The data collected by the system is therefore out of scope for this consultation, which focuses on how to report the data that is already collected.

⁴ Code of Practice for Official Statistics

- iii) The IRS report is intended to be the first stage of a fire or incident investigation, collecting initial information from all incidents. The data collection needs to remain focused on that purpose, and stay within a limited scope. However, for some of the extra data requests, linking incident data with data from other sources may help to provide the information required.
- iv) Within the extra data requested there was a degree of confusion over whether the data was in *Fire Statistics, Scotland* or in *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland*. We are aware of the confusingly similar titles of these publications and have allocated the requests to the appropriate publication.
- v) Several of the requests were for data that is already presented in the current publications. This suggests that it can be difficult to locate the data required. Providing more tables covering every possible aspect that is available in the data is likely to exacerbate this. However, we have noted the issue and will work to find ways of making the data easier to find and understand.

Responding to the specific respondents' points:

Premises information

There were several requests for increased information about the **premises** where the incident occurred, including:

- Tenure
- Structure (in particular timber framed construction)
- Age
- Heritage/listed status

While some of this information is captured in the data, not all of it is. To produce annual tables at this degree of detail depends on quality of the data returns and the level of demand for the information. Table 12 shows the detailed analysis supporting our decisions.

Tenure	This information is not recorded in IRS.
Listed/heritage buildings	Such buildings are not defined within IRS. The "Location of fire" field can be filtered to show the number of fires in typical listed buildings (e.g. castles, stately homes etc.) but such filters will not catch all listed buildings, nor would they return only listed buildings.
Age	This information is not recorded in IRS.
Construction type	IRS asks for all building fires "Was there any special method of building construction involved?" (Q8.18) with responses categorised as: None, Timber framed, Cladding, Sandwich panels, Atria, Thatch, Large single storey retail premises, Other, Not known. Tables could be produced to summarise comparisons of fires in timber-framed construction buildings to those of other construction methods. We carried out some analysis to assess the data that might be available:

	<p>Findings: Over 95% of dwelling fires have special construction method “none”, 1.5-2.5% are timber framed. A more detailed table combining construction method with other IRS fields (e.g. fire damage) or a special report would provide further information <i>but would not be suitable for a national publication.</i></p> <p>Suggest: This could be a research project or the focus of separate analysis - datasets to be provided upon request to researchers.</p>
--	--

Table 12 : Requests for premises information

We will monitor the outcomes of the IRS review and consider whether to include extra tables on the basis of that.

Specific detailed datasets can be provided on request

Cause information

There were several requests for increased information about the **causes of fires and false alarms**. The 2012-13 publication was extended to include a commentary section on ‘*Causes and source of ignition of fires*’ while Tables 21 to 25 of the publication all contain data on causes of ignition, sources of ignition, spread of fire and where impairment due to suspected alcohol/drugs use was a contributory factor.

In terms of annual, national reporting, we feel that there are sufficient tables already produced. While establishing the causes and contributory factors to fires is a prime example of benefitting from this data, we feel that further benefit would be derived from research rather than more tables.

We will publish datasets including the cause, source of ignition, fire spread and impairment in tables similar to those provided in the 2012-13 *Fire Statistics, Scotland* publication.

Detection and Suppression

There were several requests for increased information about **detection and suppression systems**. The 2012-13 *Fire Statistics, Scotland* publication contained tables showing fires and casualties by presence and operation of smoke alarms. In terms of the less common detection and suppression data, some may be suitable for regular reporting, though some contain so few instances that extracting general findings would be more appropriately achieved through research projects.

Fire safety/ suppression systems

For all primary fires in “other buildings” (non-dwellings) and some “outdoor structures”, IRS provides information on the presence (Q7.11) and type of fire safety system (e.g. sprinkler, water mist, foam) present (Q7.12), if any, and whether it operated (with reason for not operating where applicable) (Q7.14).

Further details on the location (Q7.13) of the fire safety system, how many sprinkler heads operated (Q7.15) and the system’s impact on the fire can also be obtained (Q7.16).

We explored the data to establish whether providing a new table was required.

Findings:

In 2012-13, of the 1,850 fires where Q7.11 (were active safety systems in place?) was asked, the answer was “yes” for 89 (~0.5%) fires. When split into the different types of active safety systems, the numbers become very small and therefore of limited analytical value. In some cases it appeared the routing rules used to determine whether this question was asked for an incident were not correctly applied e.g. the question was asked for some non-primary fires

Suggest:

There is not enough data to produce a robust analysis. We will Investigate IRS recording inconsistencies.

Fire Detection Systems

For all primary building fires, IRS asks if an alarm system was present (Q5.8). If the answer is yes, Q5.9 asks about the type of alarm system (battery operated, mains, combination etc.). Information can also be extracted on the location of the alarm (Q5.10) system, whether it operated and raised the alarm (Q5.11) and where it didn’t operate, the reason for this(Q5.12).

We already provide a breakdown of fires and type of casualty by whether an alarm system was present, operated and if it raised the alarm.

Findings:

Breakdown by type (battery/mains) could be provided on request but *is not suitable for national publication*.

A breakdown of alarms which did not operate, by reason for alarm failure, could be provided although preliminary analysis shows that the majority were “Due to alarm not being close enough to fire or located where the fire occurred”. Small numbers in each of the remaining categories may be of limited value to users.

Suggest:

Datasets to be provided on request or made available for users to access directly.

<p>Specific detailed datasets can be provided on request. We will explore ways of providing more of the raw data for analysis</p>

Research projects

Several of the extra data requests were looking to examine specific hypotheses. Broadly we would propose that these are the subject of research projects, extracting specific data relevant to the hypothesis, however, some data is already published that supports the request. These requests were:

<p>Information about seasonal variations/peaks in fire demand</p>	<p>Monthly trend data is published as a separate dataset on http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/DatasetsFire/datamonthlytrend though we accept that this can be difficult to locate and we will try and make it more obvious.</p> <p>Primary fires and casualties by time of call are reported in Table 27 of the 2012-13 publication.</p>
<p>A breakdown of fires involving rubbish/refuse by type</p>	<p>In Table 9 and 9a on secondary and outdoor fires, Refuse fires are reported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Refuse - small/rubbish container (e.g. wheelie bin)" • "Refuse - large/ rubbish container (e.g. skip)" • "Refuse - loose/ rubbish tip"
<p>More about the trend in the severity of dwelling fires and dwelling fire casualties</p>	<p>This is being explored in the current UK-wide review of IRS data. We will monitor the outcomes of the review and include them in later publications or datasets if appropriate.</p>
<p>Had portable extinguishers been deployed?</p>	<p>IRS records information on the '<i>Main action taken by the public prior to FRS arrival (including use of fire extinguisher)</i>' (Q7.2), the '<i>Main action taken by FRS</i>' (Q7.3) and the '<i>Type of firefighting equipment used by FRS</i>' (Q7.5) (both including use of portable extinguishers).</p> <p>Findings: We could produce a table showing the breakdown of fires by '<i>Action taken by public prior to FRS arrival</i>'. In 60-65% cases, no action is taken and, where action is taken, no information is recorded on the direct impact. It may be more useful to show this in combination with other fields though it would be difficult to show a direct link between the action taken by public and fire suppression.</p> <p>We could produce a table showing the breakdown of '<i>Main action taken by the FRS</i>' at two levels of detail (e.g. with all portable extinguisher use grouped as one category, or broken down by type of portable extinguisher used). Given the drawbacks of data overload and the finite nature of the report, we would need to assess demand level/utility (if using in conjunction with other fields).</p> <p>A table showing the breakdown of '<i>Manual systems used by FRS</i>' shows <i>none</i> to be recorded in 99% of cases.</p>

	<p>Suggest: Table showing breakdown of manual system used would not be useful as only 1% of primary fires have a manual system type recorded.</p> <p>Currently Tables 26 and 26a contain the number and percentage of fires by the number of appliances in attendance.</p>
Damage to equipment and injuries to staff as a result of antisocial behaviour	Data on attacks on firefighters at an incident is extracted from IRS data, checked by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff and included in the <i>Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland</i> publication. Data on damage to equipment is not collected.

Further investigation into the utility value of providing tables of fires broken down by public/FRS action required before including in national publication. Data to be provided on request or published as dataset for users to access.

Specialist topics

Some of the data requests were for topics of particular interest to a small group of people. Data on prison fires and in kitchen grease extract systems were examples of this. This data is more suitably provided for specific research projects.

One respondent requested quality assurance data. Since IRS data undergoes multiple QA processes before and after it is received by Scottish Government, the quality of the published data has to be taken to be as good as it can be. If the request covers internal fire service processes, these are the responsibility of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, who have to register an incident report as 'Published' in the IRS system before it is available to Scottish Government.

Specific, ad hoc data requests will be considered by Scottish Government

FRS data – not incident data

Some of the extra data requested is not collected under the IRS data collection system. The items requested are not reported as part of the initial investigation focus of the incident data, so much as being associated with related data. Examples of this are:

- Had the premises had a fire risk assessment or home fire safety visit?
- Were any notices issued or audits carried out under the Fire (Scotland) Act?

In these cases, data linkage may help to provide the information required and *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* would provide one source of the data.

6.9.2 Fire and Rescue Service Data

Fire and Rescue Service Data

As with the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* (incident) data, there was a considerable list of extra data requests. Table 13 shows all of the comments (i.e. if a comment is repeated by more than one respondent it will be in the table more than once) grouped.

Non-domestic fire safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reporting of non-domestic fire safety activity should be simplified. The existing arrangement is complex and does not readily allow benchmarking or meaningful analysis. • More information with regard to enforcement visits
Data sourcing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFRS has other data sources that would be of use (for example, the Community Safety Engagement Toolkit (CSET) which records the number and type of home fire safety visit conducted, and other community safety initiatives) • Consideration should be given to transferring / incorporating summaries of the following statistical data into the <i>Fire Statistics, Scotland</i> publication. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HFSV information and data (obtained from CSET) ○ Recorded attacks on SFRS personnel ○ Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 audit and inspection information and data. <p>This would consolidate all relevant prevention and protection related data into a single reporting document.</p>
Incident data (i.e. not related to this section of the consultation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More detail on fire incidents and fire false alarms in prisons • Detail of where fire has spread beyond a commercial kitchen via the grease extraction system and fire spread via ducting e.g. high rise social housing extract systems, factory extract systems etc. • Statistics for fire incidents in Scotland's statutorily protected heritage buildings (Category A, B & CS). This will assist in the protection of this vital national resource through tailored fire safety management guidance and to inform future research.

Table 13 : Extra data requests for the Fire and Rescue Service Statistics

There were several responses here that referenced incident data. Although these are shown in Table 13, they will not be discussed as they were all already mentioned in section 6.9.1 above.

Non-domestic fire safety data

On the non-domestic fire safety data collection there was one request to simplify the data and one to extend it. The request to simplify it suggests reducing the quantity to improve the comparability of it. The current data is intended to assess the quantity of audits carried out, their targetting according to risk and the time taken to do this. To achieve these aims the data has several parameters, which are all relevant. The data definitions were discussed and agreed with the CFOA Scotland fire safety group prior to previous data collections (see Fire and Rescue Service – Data Review – Part 1⁵). Over 50% of respondents selected the non-domestic fire safety data as a priority topic (see Section 5.2). Overall, support for the data was felt to be strong, although the criticisms were noted.

For the current publication, we will continue to provide the non-domestic fire safety fields as they were in the previous publication. However, we note the comments and will take what quality assurance actions we can to improve the data.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service data sources

We note that the new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has developed and adopted nationally a number of data capture systems. Alignment with these systems is an activity that Scottish Government would be very willing to participate in, although under current plans this is the final year of Scottish Government collecting the Fire and Rescue Service data. Should this plan change, we will revisit the data. It is however important to note that the current data collections exist for a reason and continuity of data is important. It is for this reason that a data steering group is intended to have oversight of the future publication – a point underlined by a response in Section 5.3.1

When the Fire and Rescue Service Statistics are handed over to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, the data steering group should take into account both the continuity of existing data and alignment with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service systems.

6.10 Remove data fields

There were no requests to remove data from the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* publication. On the *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics Scotland* publication one respondent requested removing some elements of the non-domestic fire safety data collection. This request has been discussed in Section 0 above.

⁵ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/StakeCon/FRSRevPt1>

6.11 General comments

Some respondents discussed **publication timings** in the general comments of the consultation. Equal numbers stated that annual publications were suitable and that quarterly updates would be helpful. While we recognise the value of frequent data, the resources and data burden involved in providing data more frequently than once a year is prohibitive. Users also emphasised the value of timely data.

The **provision of rates** in addition to simple numbers is important to users so that benchmarking is possible, as is the provision of a **long-term trend**. Both of these are provided in the additional datasets on <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/DatasetsFire>. Because we have received several requests where respondents are asking for data that is already published, it seems that it may not be immediately clear what data exists within, and associated with, the current publications. We will consider what we can do to make it easier to know about and find all of the statistics that we publish.

Scottish Government will produce annual data publications as soon as possible after the data is collected and key statistics will continue to be provided with long-term trend data and as a rate.

We will explore ways of making published data easier to find.

7. Conclusions

Scottish Government publishes two statistical bulletins⁶:

- *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland*
- *Fire Statistics, Scotland*

Much of the extra data requests were based around specific topics of interest. It is not possible to provide tables in the annual publications that will fulfil all users' specialist requirements, even when the data exists within the collection, however, what we will explore is how we can release data in such a way that users can extract what they need themselves.

Below is the summary of our intentions for changes, made in the light of the consultation responses, for both publications.

Both Statistical Publications

We will **rationalise the bulletins**, and acknowledge the value of including some data in the printed or on-screen report. We will include tables to an appropriate level for viewing.

We will publish data at Scotland and local authority level

⁶ www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice

We will continue to provide datazone level data for Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics.
We will supply the long term trend data at Scotland level and explore providing it at local authority level with some conversion method to allow comparisons of sub-national data.
We will publish <i>Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland</i> in October 2014 and <i>Fire Statistics, Scotland</i> in November 2014
We will explore ways of making published data easier to find.
<i>Fire Statistics, Scotland – Incident data</i>
We will monitor the outcomes of the IRS review and consider whether to include extra tables on the basis of that.
We will publish datasets including the cause, source of ignition, fire spread and impairment in tables similar to those provided in the 2012-13 <i>Fire Statistics, Scotland</i> publication.
Rather than publishing annual national tables to respond to all data requirements, specific, ad hoc data requests will be considered by Scottish Government. We can provide datasets on request to researchers
We will explore ways of providing more of the raw data for analysis
We will monitor the IRS review and their decisions about the severity of fire index.
Further investigation into the utility value of providing tables of fires broken down by public/FRS action is required before including them in the national publication.
Scottish Government will produce annual data publications as soon as possible after the data is collected and key statistics will continue to be provided with a long term trend and as a rate.
<i>Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland – FRS data</i>
Scottish Government will continue to work with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and other stakeholders to transfer responsibility for <i>Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland</i> to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Concerns over quality and continuity will be noted and we will work together to mitigate the risks as far as possible.
For the current publication, we will continue to provide the non-domestic fire safety fields as they were in the previous publication. However, we note the comments and will take what quality assurance actions we can to improve the data.
When the Fire and Rescue Service Statistics are handed over to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, the data steering group should take into account both the continuity of existing data and alignment with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service systems.

Table 14 : Decisions from the Discussion Section

Appendix A - Fire Statistics User Consultation 2014 – questionnaire

This appendix contains the questionnaire text that was provided to stakeholders via an online form.

Background

1. To help us identify and interpret responses from the range of Scottish fire data users, we would be grateful if you would provide the following details:

Name (optional)
Organisation (optional)
E-mail address (optional)
Telephone number (optional)

Your email address would only be used to notify you when the results of this consultation are available - we will not use this information to contact you for any other reason unless we have your explicit consent (requested later).

2. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of your organisation?

As an individual
On behalf of my organisation

3. As required by the UK Statistics Authority, we will provide a summary of your feedback. Some of the questions in this survey provide boxes where you can provide additional comments.

Do we have your consent to include your text responses in a public document?

Yes (attributed to myself or my organisation)
Yes (anonymously)
No

5. Would you be happy for the Scottish Government to contact you if we need to clarify any of your responses?

Yes/No

Section 1 – Overview of Fire Statistics, Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubFires>

This section asks you about your use of *Fire Statistics, Scotland*.

1.1 Do you currently use the Fire Statistics, Scotland statistical bulletin?

Yes

No, but I may use it in future

No - (if No, skip to “Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland” – section 4)

1.2 In general, how often do you refer to information within *Fire Statistics, Scotland* on the following topics?

	Never	Weekly	Monthly	3 or 4 times year	Twice a year	Once a year
Main Points (highlight report)						
Total number of fires						
Fire casualties						
False alarms						
Special service incidents						
Building fires						
Outdoor fires						
Fire rescues						
Deliberate and Accidental fire numbers						
Smoke Alarms						
Fire cause/source of ignition						
Spread of fire and appliances attending						
Fires by time of call						

1.3 Additional datasets providing **long-term trend data** for casualties, fires and false alarms are supplied alongside *Fire Statistics, Scotland*. These datasets are supplied as Excel spreadsheets. Have you used these?

Yes

No, but I would use in future

No

1.4 Additional datasets providing data on fires, casualties, false alarms and special services at **Local Authority level** are supplied after publication. These datasets are supplied as Excel spreadsheets. Have you used these?

Yes

No, but I would use in future

No

1.5 What do you currently use the information from Fire Statistics, Scotland for?
(Please tick all that apply)

<i>Reporting about Scotland</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>Reporting about Local Authorities</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>Reporting about other sub-national areas (if so please state which)</i>	<i>Tick Box</i> <i>Free Text</i>
<i>Benchmarking/performance management</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>To provide data on national indicators</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>To provide data on single outcome agreements</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>To assist in policy development and evaluation</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>To assist with research/analysis</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>For general awareness of issues/trends</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>Others</i>	<i>Free Text</i>

Section 2 – Changes to Fire Statistics, Scotland

Following the move to the single Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in April 2013, it would no longer be meaningful to present the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* data for the 8 legacy Scottish Fire and Rescue Service areas. This means we need to make some changes to how we provide the information in *Fire Statistics, Scotland* and the format we provide it in.

We will use your responses to this section to inform our decision making on these changes.

Changes to publication format

2.1 We are considering reducing the level of detailed information in the “Commentary” section of *Fire Statistics, Scotland* and providing this more detailed information in the format of Excel tables, published alongside the main report. This would result in a more concise “Commentary” section summarising key points and statistics and the underlying data being more accessible for users to carry out their own analysis.

Would this proposed new publication format meet your requirements?

Yes / No (if no, please provide details of the impact of these changes)

2.2 To inform our decision making on the content of future *Fire Statistics, Scotland* publications, we would like to understand how you prioritise the information currently provided. Please select the 3 topic areas of most value to you from the list below:

- *Main Points (highlight report)*
- *Total number of fires*
- *Fire casualties*
- *False alarms*
- *Special service incidents*
- *Building fires*
- *Outdoor fires*
- *Fire rescues*
- *Deliberate and Accidental fire numbers*
- *Smoke Alarms*
- *Fire cause/source of ignition*
- *Spread of fire and appliances attending*
- *Fires by time of call*

Changes to data presentation

2.3 Following single service reform, *Fire Statistics, Scotland* data will no longer be provided at Fire and Rescue Service level. We appreciate that users may still wish to see a sub-national breakdown of the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* data.

What sub-national levels would you find the key fire information useful at?

(Multiple tick)

Scotland

Local Authority

Other (free text)

2.4 The additional datasets containing long-term trend data have previously provided casualties, fires and false alarms data at Fire and Rescue Service level. Data will no longer be provided at Fire and Rescue Service level. Would you use this information at Scotland level?

Yes often

Yes occasionally

No

2.5 The changes being made to *Fire Statistics, Scotland* mean the 2013-14 publication will take additional time to prepare. Whilst *Fire Statistics, Scotland* bulletins has previously been published annually in October, it is likely that Fire Statistics 2013-14 will not be ready until November or December 2014.

Would this later publication date meet your requirements?

Yes / No (if no, please provide details of why not – free text)

2.5 Is there any information that you would like to see **included** in future Fire Statistics, Scotland publications that is not already included?

No / Yes, (if yes, please provide specific details including how this information would be used - free text)

2.6 Is there any information that you would like to see **excluded** in future Fire Statistics, Scotland publications?

No / Yes, (if yes, please provide specific details with reason)

Section 3: General Comments about Fire Statistics, Scotland

3.1 Please use the space below to provide any additional comments you may have about *Fire Statistics, Scotland* that have not been covered in this questionnaire?

For example, you may wish to comment on:

- the content
- frequency of publication
- timeliness of publication

Section 4 – Overview of Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubFireRescue>

This section asks about your use of *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland*

4.1 Do you currently use *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland*?

Yes

No, but I may use it in future

No - (if no, skip to the end – any comment)

4.2 In general, how often do you refer to information within *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* on the following topics?

	<i>Never</i>	<i>Weekly</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>3 or 4 times year</i>	<i>Twice a year</i>	<i>Once a year</i>
<i>Main Points (highlight report)</i>						
<i>Number of fire stations</i>						
<i>Type of equipment</i>						
<i>Number of staff</i>						
<i>Gender, age, ethnicity and disability of staff</i>						
<i>Attacks on firefighters and injured personnel</i>						
<i>Home Fire Safety Visits</i>						
<i>Non-Domestic Fire Safety</i>						

4.3 What do you currently use the information from *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* for?
(Please tick all that apply)

<i>Reporting about Scotland</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>Reporting about Local Authorities</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>Reporting about other sub-national areas (if so please state which)</i>	<i>Free Text</i>
<i>Benchmarking/performance management</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>To provide data on national indicators</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>To provide data on single outcome agreements</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>To assist in policy development and evaluation</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>To assist with research/analysis</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>For general awareness of issues/trends</i>	<i>Tick Box</i>
<i>Others</i>	<i>Free Text</i>

Section 5 – Changes to Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland

Following the move to the single Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in April 2013, it would no longer be meaningful to present the *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* data for the 8 legacy Scottish Fire and Rescue Service areas. This means we need to make some changes to how we provide the information included in *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* and the format we provide it in.

We will use your responses to this section to inform our decision making on these changes.

Changes to publication format

5.1 We are considering reducing the level of detailed information in the “Commentary” section of *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics Scotland* and providing this more detailed information in the format of excel tables, published alongside the main report. This would result in a more concise “Commentary” section summarising key points and statistics and the underlying data being more accessible for users to carry out their own analysis.

Would this proposed new publication format meet your requirements?

Yes / No (if no, please provide details of the impact of these changes – free text)

5.2 To inform our decision making on the content of future *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* publications, we would like to understand how you prioritise the information currently provided. Please select the 3 topic areas are of most value to you from the list below:

- *Main Points (highlight report)*
- *Number of fire stations*
- *Type of equipment*
- *Number of staff*
- *Gender, age, ethnicity and disability of staff*
- *Attacks on firefighters and injured personnel*
- *Home Fire Safety Visits*
- *Non-Domestic Fire Safety*

Changes to data presentation

5.3 Following single service reform, data will no longer be provided at Fire and Rescue Service level. We appreciate that users may still wish to see a sub-national breakdown of the *Fire Statistics, Scotland* data.

What sub-national levels would you find the key fire and rescue service information useful at?

(Multiple tick)

Scotland

Local Authority

Other (free text)

5.4 Would this change in responsibility cause you any concern?

No / Yes (if yes, please provide specific details - free text)

5.5 Is there any information that you would like to see **included** in *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* publications in future?

No / Yes, (if yes, please provide specific details including how this would be used)

5.5 Is there any information that you would like to see **excluded** in *Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland* publications in future?

No / Yes, (if yes, please provide specific details with reason)

Section 6: General Comments about Fire and Rescue Service Statistics, Scotland

6.1 Please use the space below to provide any additional comments you may have about *Fire Statistics, Scotland* that have not been covered in this questionnaire?

For example, you may wish to comment on:

- the content
- frequency of publication
- timeliness of publication

Section 7 – Communication preferences

A summary of the results and outcomes of this consultation will be publically available. If you would like to receive an email communication once this information is published, you can do so by signing up to ScotStat and selecting Fire and Rescue Service under your areas of interest. This will also allow you to receive email alerts when the latest Scottish fire publications are available.

You can register for and find out more information about ScotStat using the link below:

<http://register.scotstat.org/Subscribe/Step1>

If you are already subscribed to Fire and Rescue Service information on ScotStat then you will automatically receive this.

If you would prefer not to register with ScotStat, but would like to be notified about the results of this publication using the email address you provided earlier, please tick the box below.

(tick box)

If you have any other preferences on how the outcome of this publication are communicated, please enter these in the box below.

(free text)

Thank you very much for your feedback

© Crown copyright 2014

ISBN 978-1-78412-522-6 (web only)

APS Group Scotland
DPPAS29847 (06/14)