



*Fire and Rescue Service  
Operational Statistics Bulletin  
for England: 2005/06*

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June 2007

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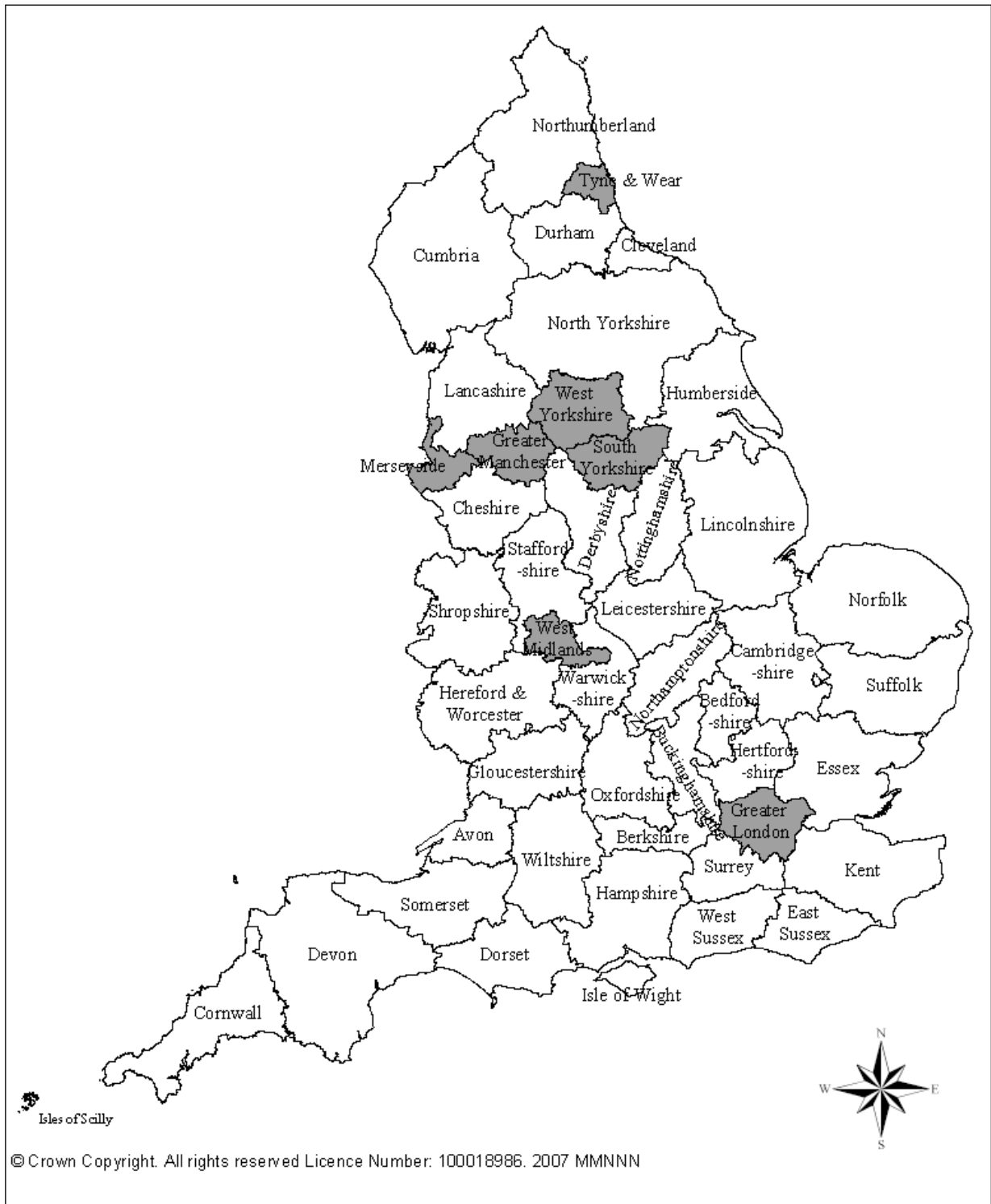
## Introduction

This Bulletin contains operational statistics relating to the Fire and Rescue Services in England for the financial year 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006. This bulletin focuses mainly on Personnel, Equality & Diversity, Health & Safety and Operational Activities. The source of the data is the Fire and Rescue Service Performance and Management Information Database which holds operational statistics received from all fire and rescue services in England. Detailed Accompanying tables to this bulletin are provided in the Appendices at: [http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded\\_object.asp?id=1511049](http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1511049)

In addition to this Bulletin, the Fire Research Statistics Division of Communities and Local government published 'Best Value Performance Indicators for 2005/06'. These are available electronically at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1509028>

*Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 2005*, published in March 2007, is an analysis of fire incident statistics in the UK. This can be found electronically at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1124893>

## Fire Authorities in England



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# 1 Fire and rescue service personnel

## Number of staff in post on 31 March 2006

Table 1.1 Number of staff in post on 31 March 2002–2006					
Number of staff in post (FTE) <sup>1</sup>					
	Wholetime	Retained duty system <sup>2</sup>	Fire control	Non-uniformed	Total
2002	31,761	10,613	1,379	5,669	49,422
2003	31,699	10,716	1,388	5,802	49,604
2004	31,826	10,853	1,435	6,220	50,334
2005 <sup>3</sup>	31,097	11,037	1,448	6,762	50,344
2006 <sup>4</sup>	30,596	11,321	1,470	7,231	50,618

1. In full time equivalents (FTEs) except retained duty system firefighters.
2. In 24-hour units of cover.
3. Retained duty system figures not available for Leicestershire, Merseyside, Royal Berkshire and fire control figure not available for Essex, estimates used instead.
4. Retained duty system figures not available for Buckinghamshire, estimates used instead

1.1 On 31 March 2006, the estimated total number of staff in post (strength) across all four duty systems increased slightly (up 0.7 per cent) compared with the total on 31 March 2005. Overall staff numbers have been largely unchanged over the last 5 years.

### Wholetime

1.2 The total number of wholetime firefighters in post at 31 March 2006 fell by 434 to 30,596 a decrease of 1.4% in full time equivalent staff. Since 2002 wholetime staff in post have decreased by 3.7 per cent.

### Retained duty system

1.3 The number of retained duty system firefighters in post (in 24-hour units of cover) at 31 March 2006 increased by 284 to 11,321 – an increase of 2.5 per cent on last year.

### Fire control

1.4 On 31 March 2006, the number of fire control staff in post increased by 1.6 per cent compared to the same time last year, raising the total to 1,470.

### Non-uniformed

1.5 On 31 March 2006, Non-uniformed staff numbered 7,231 – an increase of 0.8 per cent compared to last year.

## Job applicants and successful applicants

<b>Table 1.2 Number of applicants in 2001/02–2005/06</b>					
	Wholetime	Retained duty system <sup>2</sup>	Fire control	Non-uniformed	<b>Total</b>
2001/02 <sup>1</sup>	28,728	3,103	3,210	12,480	47,521
2002/03 <sup>2</sup>	31,471	2,646	1,875	15,748	51,740
2003/04 <sup>3</sup>	21,587	3,077	1,897	18,101	44,662
2004/05 <sup>4</sup>	15,683	3,268	1,132	17,252	37,335
2005/06	15,805	3,582	2,410	21,237	43,034

1. Wholetime applicants not available for Lancashire.
2. Wholetime, retained duty system, fire control and non-uniformed applications not available for Royal Berkshire.
3. Wholetime, fire control and non-uniformed applications not available for Gloucestershire.
4. Figures for retained duty system applicants were not provided by Hampshire and Warwickshire non-uniformed applicants not provided by Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire

1.6 The number of applications received in 2005/06 was 43,034 compared with 37,335 in 2004/05. In 2005/06, a total of 14 FRS did not recruit for wholetime firefighters, 4 FRS did not recruit retained duty system staff and 16 did not recruit fire control staff for the year.

## Successful applicants

<b>Table 1.3 Number of successful applicants and leavers in 2001/02–2005/06</b>											
	Wholetime		Retained duty system		Fire control		Non-uniformed		<b>Total</b>		
	Successful applicants	Leavers	Successful applicants	Leavers	Successful applicants	Leavers	Successful applicants	Leavers	Successful applicants	Leavers	
2001/02 <sup>1</sup>	1,530	1,512	1,312	1,356	155	98	972	756	3,969	3,722	
2002/0 <sup>3</sup>	1,489	1,572	1,265	1,302	110	67	1,098	807	3,962	3,748	
2003/04 <sup>2,3</sup>	1,282	1,529	1,335	1,406	146	88	1,514	837	4,277	3,860	
2004/05 <sup>4</sup>	803	1,791	1,227	1,112	117	91	1,372	914	3,519	3,908	
2005/06	1,087	1,943	1,172	1,042	136	88	1,242	799	3,637	3,872	

1. successful wholetime applicants not available for Lancashire.
2. Successful wholetime, fire control and non-uniformed applicants are not available for Gloucestershire.
3. The number of successful applicants, retained duty system and fire control are not available for Lancashire.
4. Successful applicants not provided by Royal Berkshire. Retained duty system successful applicants not provided by Hampshire and the number of non-uniformed successful applicants was not provided by Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire.

1.7 There were a total of 3,637 successful applications in 2005/06. In some cases, outcome of recruitment from the previous year might be recorded in the current reporting year.

## Leavers

1.8 In 2005/06, there were 3,872 staff that left the service compared with 3,908 in 2004/05. Retained duty system firefighters leaving the service dropped from 1,112 in 2004/05 to 1,042 in 2005/06, leavers in the wholetime duty increased from 1,791 to 1,943.

**Table 1.4 Reasons for leaving the fire and rescue service, 2005/06**

Reasons for leaving the fire service	Number of staff leaving				Total
	Wholetime	Retained duty system	Fire control	Non-uniformed	
Dismissal on disciplinary grounds/ poor performance	31	37	2	18	88
Medical discharge	284	13	9	23	329
Resignation to take other employment	288	155	38	346	827
Personal/work commitments*		311			311
Moving away from catchment area*		85			85
Compulsory/voluntary age retirement	1,047	96	10	80	1,233
Other reasons	293	345	29	332	999
<b>Total number of staff leaving the fire service</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>3,872</b>

\*Reasons for leaving applicable to retained duty system firefighters only.

## Retirements

1.9 The number of compulsory/voluntary age retirements in 2005/06 was 1,233 compared to 1,252 in 2004/05, a decrease of 1.5 per cent. Compulsory/voluntary age retirement for wholetime firefighters rose by 6 per cent to 1,047 from 986 last year, while retirement in the retained duty system, on the same grounds, fell by 32 per cent, from 142 to 96.

1.10 The total number of staff who retired on grounds of ill health (medical discharge) in 2005/06 fell by 63 compared with the previous year, to 329.

## Resignations

1.11 Staff who resigned to take up other employment, decreased from 923 in 2004/05 to 827 in 2005/06. Of the total who resigned to take other employment, 42 per cent were in non-uniformed duty, 34 per cent were wholetime firefighters, 19 per cent were retained duty system firefighters and the remainder fire control staff.

## 2 Equality and Diversity

### Gender and minority ethnic representation in the Fire and Rescue Services

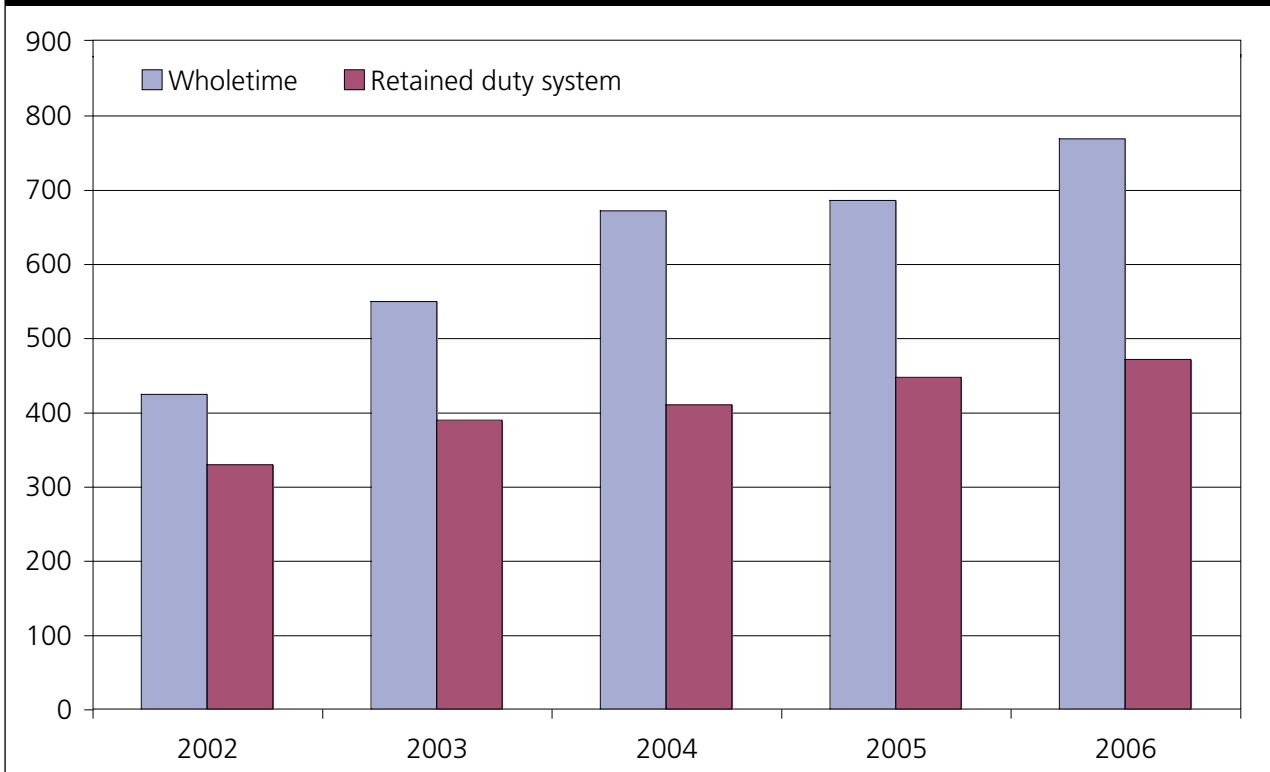
2.1 Operational staff (wholetime and retained duty system firefighters) in England are mostly male and white. At 31 March 2006, males in England accounted for 97.2 per cent of operational personnel. *Table 2.1* and *table 2.2* show the gender and ethnicity profile in the four duty categories in England over the period 2002-2006.

<b>Table 2.1. Gender profile of fire and rescue service personnel in England at 31 March 2002–2006</b>													
<b>Operational personnel</b>													
		Wholetime		Retained duty system		Total		Fire control		Non-uniformed		All personnel	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Male	2002	31,168	98.7	12,684	97.5	<b>43,852</b>	<b>98.3</b>	299	21.1	2,762	41.0	<b>46,913</b>	<b>88.9</b>
	2003	31,065	98.3	12,655	97.0	<b>43,720</b>	<b>97.9</b>	302	20.8	2,879	41.4	<b>46,901</b>	<b>88.4</b>
	2004	31,185	97.9	12,605	96.8	<b>43,790</b>	<b>97.6</b>	313	20.6	2,918	40.3	<b>47,021</b>	<b>87.7</b>
	2005	30,366	97.8	13,096	96.7	<b>43,462</b>	<b>97.5</b>	314	20.7	3,300	42.1	<b>47,076</b>	<b>87.3</b>
	2006	29,976	97.5	13,456	96.6	<b>43,432</b>	<b>97.2</b>	323	21.0	3,410	42.2	<b>47,165</b>	<b>86.9</b>
Female	2002	424	1.3	329	2.5	<b>753</b>	<b>1.7</b>	1,118	78.9	3,981	59.0	<b>5,852</b>	<b>11.1</b>
	2003	549	1.7	389	3.0	<b>938</b>	<b>2.1</b>	1,147	79.2	4,075	58.6	<b>6,160</b>	<b>11.6</b>
	2004	671	2.1	410	3.2	<b>1,081</b>	<b>2.4</b>	1,206	79.4	4,325	59.7	<b>6,612</b>	<b>12.3</b>
	2005	685	2.2	447	3.3	<b>1,132</b>	<b>2.5</b>	1,206	79.3	4,537	57.9	<b>6,875</b>	<b>12.7</b>
	2006	768	2.5	471	3.4	<b>1,239</b>	<b>2.8</b>	1,215	79.0	4,678	57.8	<b>7,132</b>	<b>13.1</b>
Total	2002	31,592	100	13,013	100	<b>44,605</b>	<b>100</b>	1,417	100	6,743	100	52,765	100
	2003	31,614	100	13,044	100	<b>44,658</b>	<b>100</b>	1,449	100	6,954	100	53,061	100
	2004	31,856	100	13,015	100	<b>44,871</b>	<b>100</b>	1,519	100	7,243	100	53,633	100
	2005	31,051	100	13,543	100	<b>44,594</b>	<b>100</b>	1,520	100	7,837	100	53,951	100
	2006	30,744	100	13,927	100	<b>44,671</b>	<b>100</b>	1,538	100	8,088	100	54,297	100

## Gender

2.2 At 31 March 2006, women formed 2.8 per cent of the operational workforce, continuing a gradual improvement in the representation of women in the service over the last four years – *see figure 1*. Target set by the Home Office in 2000, was to increase the percentage of women amongst uniformed operational staff (wholetime and retained duty system firefighters) to 15 per cent by 2009.

**Figure 1 Women firefighters; England 2002–2006**



## Ethnicity

**Table 2.2 Ethnic profile of fire and rescue service personnel in England at 31 March 2002–2006**

		Wholetime		Retained duty system		Fire control		Total uniformed personnel <sup>1</sup>		Non-uniformed		Total personnel <sup>2</sup>	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
White	2002	30,446	96.4	12,274	94.3	1,368	96.5	<b>44,088</b>	95.8	6,241	92.6	<b>50,329</b>	95.4
	2003	29,599	93.6	11,799	90.5	1,376	95.0	<b>42,774</b>	92.8	6,326	91.0	<b>49,100</b>	92.5
	2004	30,240	94.9	12,250	94.1	1,475	97.1	<b>43,965</b>	94.8	6,721	92.8	<b>50,686</b>	94.5
	2005	29,303	94.4	12,770	94.3	1,460	96.1	<b>43,533</b>	94.4	7,179	91.6	<b>50,712</b>	94.0
	2006	28,698	93.3	12,714	91.3	1,478	96.1	<b>42,890</b>	92.8	7,317	90.5	<b>50,207</b>	92.5
Minority ethnic	2002	627	2.0	59	0.5	13	0.9	<b>699</b>	1.5	327	4.8	<b>1,026</b>	1.9
	2003	781	2.5	49	0.4	15	1.0	<b>845</b>	1.8	354	5.1	<b>1,199</b>	2.3
	2004	882	2.8	56	0.4	20	1.3	<b>958</b>	2.1	384	5.3	<b>1,342</b>	2.5
	2005	924	3.0	63	0.5	20	1.3	<b>1,007</b>	2.2	470	6.0	<b>1,477</b>	2.7
	2006	1,018	3.3	78	0.6	22	1.4	<b>1,118</b>	2.4	511	6.3	<b>1,629</b>	3.0
Not stated	2002	519	1.6	680	5.2	36	2.5	<b>1,235</b>	2.7	175	2.6	<b>1,410</b>	2.7
	2003	1,234	3.9	1,196	9.2	58	4.0	<b>2,488</b>	5.4	274	3.9	<b>2,762</b>	5.2
	2004	734	2.3	709	5.4	24	1.6	<b>1,467</b>	3.2	138	1.9	<b>1,605</b>	3.0
	2005	824	2.7	710	5.2	40	2.6	<b>1,574</b>	3.4	188	2.4	<b>1,762</b>	3.3
	2006	1,028	3.3	1,135	8.1	38	2.5	<b>2,201</b>	4.8	260	3.2	<b>2,461</b>	4.5
<b>Total personnel</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>31,592</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13,013</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>46,022</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6,743</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>52,765</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>2003</b>	<b>31,614</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13,044</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>46,107</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6,954</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53,061</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>2004</b>	<b>31,856</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13,015</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,519</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>46,390</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7,243</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53,633</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>2005</b>	<b>31,051</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13,543</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>46,114</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7,837</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53,951</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>2006</b>	<b>30,744</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13,927</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>46,209</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8,088</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>54,297</b>	<b>100</b>

1. Uniformed personnel – wholetime, retained duty system and fire control staff.

2. Wholetime, retained duty system, fire control and non-uniformed staff.

Percentages are rounded and the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded total percentages.

2.3 At 31 March 2006, minority ethnic staff formed 2.4 per cent of uniformed staff and 6.3 per cent of non-uniformed staff. Overall the 3 per cent of fire service staff are minority ethnic. Despite the steady increase in the proportion of minority ethnic staff, figures are still below the targets set by the Home Office in 1999 – see *figure 2*.

## Milestones for measuring success

The ethnicity target set by the Home Office in 1999 was to increase the percentage of minority ethnic representation within the Fire and Rescue Service to 7 per cent by 2009 (see *table 2.3* for details).

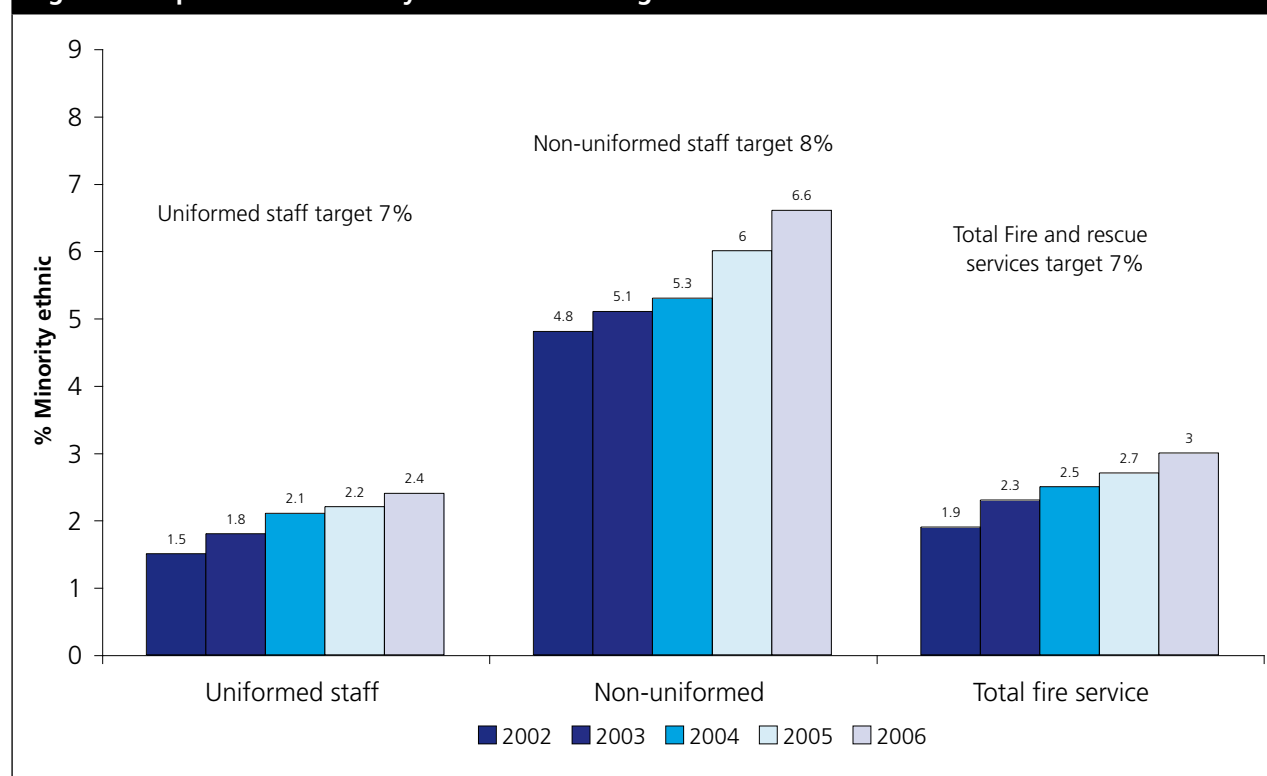
**Table 2.3 Minority ethnic targets and milestones**

		Milestones for Measuring Success (years)		
Target		2002	2004	2009
<b>Fire Service</b>				
Fire Service	7%	2.5%	3.6%	7%
Uniformed	7%	2%	3.2%	7%
Non-uniformed	7%	6.1%	6.6%	8%

Source:

Home Office (2000) Race Equality: The Home Secretary's Employment Targets, First Annual Report, October 2000.

**Figure 2 Proportion of minority ethnic staff in England FRS 2002–2006**



## Recruitment and retention

2.4 In 2005/06, 8.5 per cent of applications were successful in general, with 9.3 per cent of male applicants successful compared to 6.7 for women. Over 9 per cent of white applicants were successful compared to 5.7 per cent for minority ethnic applicants.

**Table 2.4 Gender and ethnicity of applicants to the Fire and rescue service and the proportion successful , 2005/06**

	Whole time		Retained duty system		Fire control		Non-uniformed		Total	
	Applicants	% successful	Applicants	% successful	Applicants	% successful	Applicants	% successful	Applicants	% successful
Male	14,681	6.9	3,217	34.3	1,121	4.2	9,739	5.4	28,758	9.3
Female	1,124	7.2	365	18.6	1,289	6.9	11,498	6.2	14,276	6.7
White	14,276	7.0	2,572	42.0	2,156	5.9	17,029	6.3	36,033	9.1
Minority ethnic	1,105	7.7	78	16.7	127	7.1	2,602	4.5	3,912	5.7
Not stated	424	1.2	932	8.4	128	0.0	1,606	3.6	3,090	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,805</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>3,582</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>21,237</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>43,035</b>	<b>8.5</b>

### Leavers

2.5 During 2005/06 a total of 84 women firefighters left the fire service (68% were retained). All women firefighters who left in 05/06 were white.

2.6 The main reason for wholetime women firefighters leaving the Fire and Rescue Service was to take other employment (67%), while personal commitments (44%) was for retained duty system – see table 2.5

**Table 2.5 Gender and ethnicity of Leavers to the fire and rescue service in England, 2005/06**

	White	Minority ethnic	Not stated	Total
<b>Wholetime</b>				
Men	1812	32	68	1912
Women	29	0	2	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>1841</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1943</b>
<b>Retained duty system</b>				
Men	872	8	105	985
Women	54	0	3	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>1042</b>
<b>Fire control</b>				
Men	22	1	0	23
Women	64	0	1	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Non uniformed</b>				
Men	308	21	14	343
Women	404	32	20	456
<b>Total</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>799</b>

**Table 2.5 Gender and ethnicity of Leavers to the fire and rescue service in England, 2005/06  
(continued)**

	White	Minority ethnic	Not stated	Total
<b>All staff</b>				
Men	3014	62	187	3263
Women	551	32	26	609
<b>Total</b>	<b>3565</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>3872</b>

## Top 5% of earners

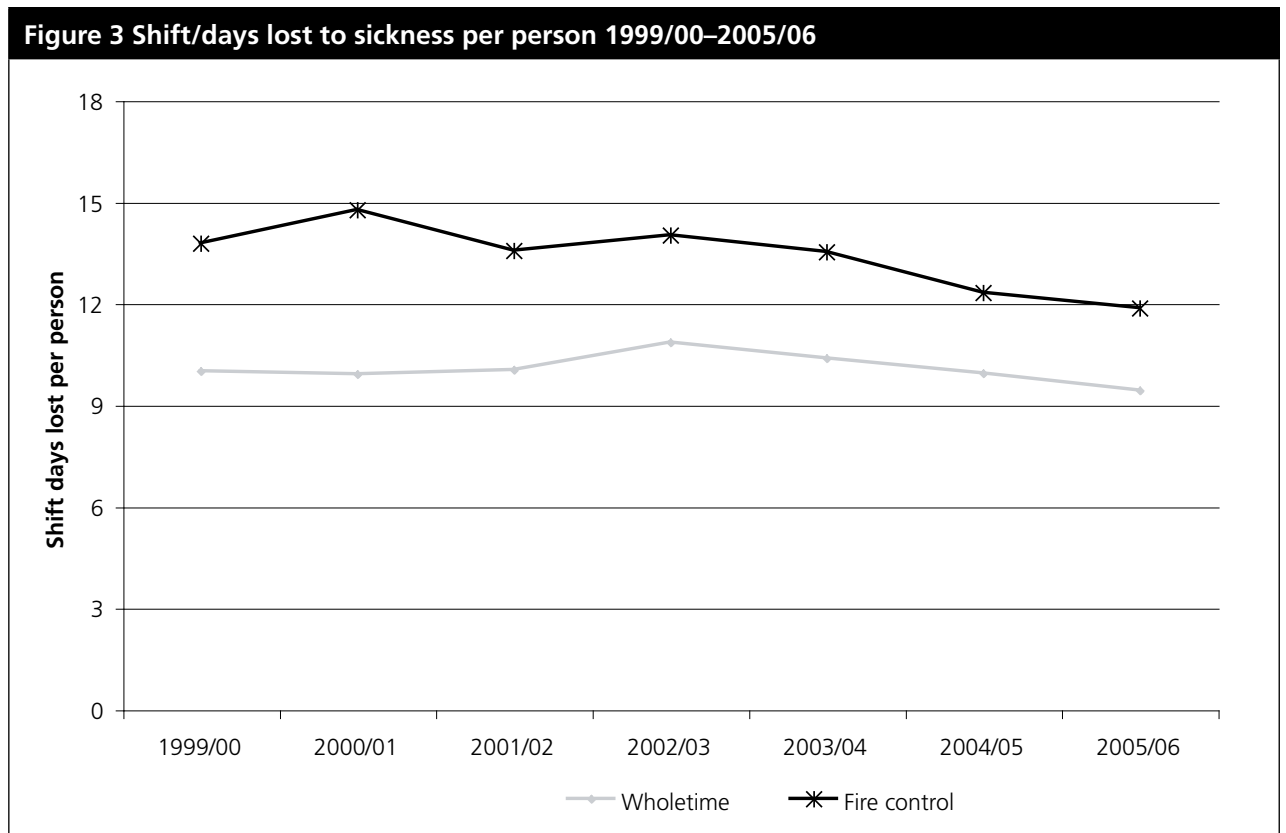
2.7 2005/06 showed a slight improvement in the number of top 5% of earners that are women compared to 2004/05, an increase of 0.2 percentage points. However, 8 Fire Rescue Services in England had no women and 28 had no minority ethnic staff in their top 5 per cent of earners.

**Table 2.6 Gender and ethnicity of top 5% earners, 2004/05 and 2005/06**

	2004/05	2005/06
Female	132	150
Minority ethnic	48	43
Total top 5% earners	<b>2,386</b>	<b>2,625</b>
<i>Percentage</i>		
Female	5.5	5.7
Minority ethnic	2.0	1.6

### 3 Health and safety

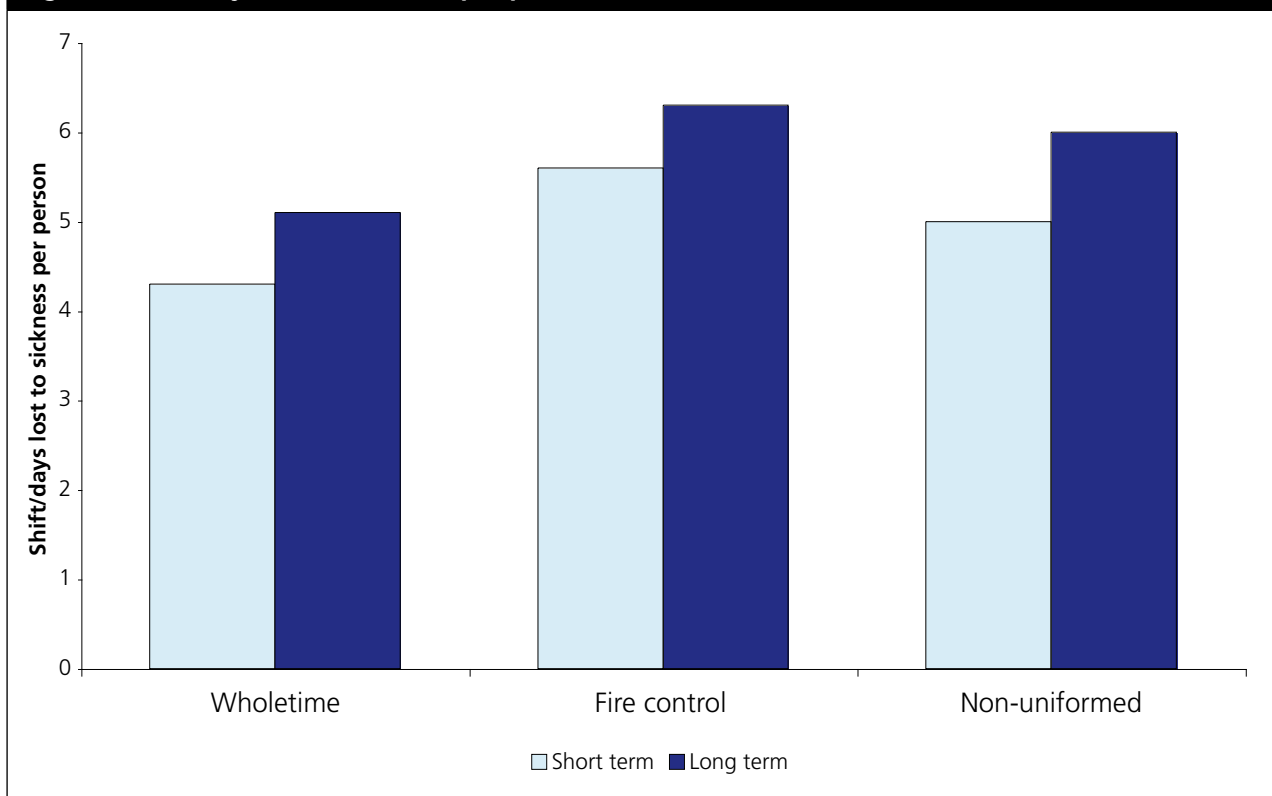
#### Sickness absence



- 3.1 During 2005/06 there were 9.4 shifts/days lost per person by wholetime firefighters and 11.9 shifts/days lost per person by fire control staff.
- 3.2 In 2005/06 sickness level for fire control duty was at its lowest since 1999/00. Over the same period, sickness level for wholetime personnel was stable at around 10 shifts/days. In both cases, figures remain high- see *figure 3*.

#### Short/long term sickness\*

- 3.3 In 2005/06, the number of shifts/days lost per person to long term sickness were higher compared with short term sickness absences. Shifts/days lost to sickness are not measured for retained duty system firefighters.

**Figure 4 Shift/days lost to sickness per person**

\*A short term sickness absence is a continuous period of sickness of at most 28 calendar days while a long term sickness absence refers to a continuous period of sickness of more than 28 calendar days

## Retirements

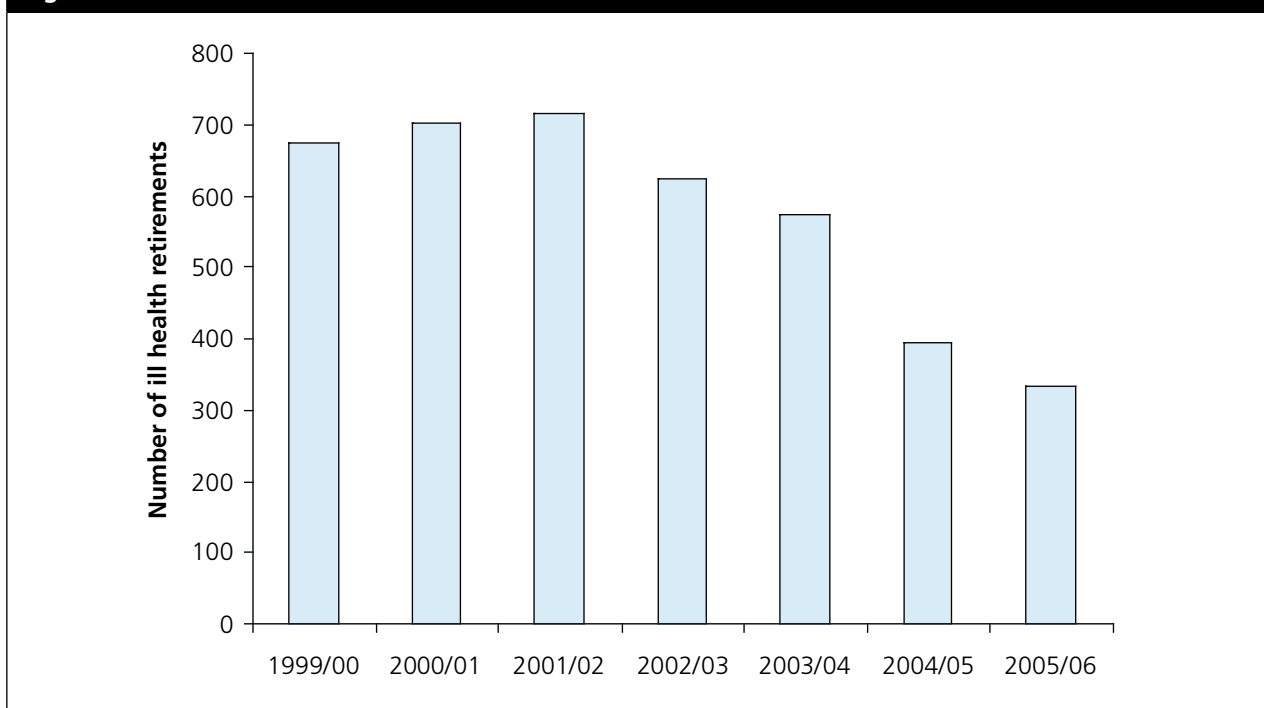
- 3.4 Ill health retirement for the Fire and Rescue Service in England and continued to decline and was at its lowest level in 2005/06 since its peak in 2001/02. In 2005/06, the number of ill health retirements dropped from 394 in 2005/06 to 332.
- 3.5 The firefighters' pension scheme has been amended to enable firefighters to be redeployed rather than being retired on ill health grounds. Ill health retirements are therefore expected to reduce in future years.

**Table 3.1 Retirements per 1,000 employees, England 2003/04–2005/06**

	2003/04			2004/05			2005/06		
	Average strength <sup>1</sup>	Retirements Normal	Retirements Ill health	Average strength <sup>1</sup>	Retirements Normal	Retirements Ill health	Average strength <sup>1</sup>	Retirements Normal	Retirements Ill health
Wholetime	31,735	17.6	15.3	31,455	31.3	10.3	30,847	33.9	9.3
Retained duty system	13,032	13.0	3.5	13,298	10.5	1.8	11,188	10.5	1.3
Fire control	1,484	4.0	8.1	1,522	8.5	9.2	1,459	6.9	6.2
Non-uniformed	7,099	14.1	4.5	7,542	14.7	4.2	6,973	11.5	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,350</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>53,817</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>50,467</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>6.6</b>

<sup>1</sup> Average strength figure taken over 2 years, at 31 March.

**Figure 5 Ill health retirements – all staff, 1999/00–2005/06**



### Causes of ill health retirements

3.6 In 2005/06, musculo skeletal injury accounted for about 51 per cent of all ill health retirements for wholetime firefighters, of which 40 per cent were due to back injuries. Mental health illness accounted for 18 per cent of ill health retirements.

**Table 3.2 Ill health retirements by cause in 2005/06 – England**

Injury type	Wholetime			Retained duty system			Fire control			Non-uniformed		
	Due to service	Not due to service	Total	Due to service	Not due to service	Total	Due to service	Not due to service	Total	Due to service	Not due to service	Total
Musculo skeletal	42	103	145	7	3	10	1	4	5	0	9	9
Mental health	21	30	51	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Respiratory	2	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Cardiovascular	0	13	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
Senses	4	16	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Gastro intestinal	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neurological	3	19	22	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Cancer	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Endocrine	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dermatological	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urological	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reproductive	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 3.2 Ill health retirements by cause in 2005/06 – England (continued)**

Injury type	Wholetime			Retained duty system			Fire control			Non-uniformed		
	Due to service	Not due to service	Total	Due to service	Not due to service	Total	Due to service	Not due to service	Total	Due to service	Not due to service	Total
Other	2	7	9	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Cases undecided at end of year	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>

## Firefighters' injuries

3.7 There were no fatal firefighter injuries during 2005/06. The number of injuries sustained by firefighters in 2005/06 decreased by 979 to 4,593 (a drop of 17 per cent). There was also a 21 per cent reduction in injuries requiring over three days off work compared to 2004/05 and the number of RIDDOR<sup>1</sup> major injuries also fell, by 23 per cent in 2005/06 – see table 3.4.

**Table 3.3 Total injuries sustained by wholetime and retained duty system firefighters during training, operational incidents and routine activities, 2004/05.**

	RIDDOR			
	Over 3 day injuries	Major injuries	Fatal injuries	All personnel injured
2002/03	1,307	91	3	6,299
2003/04	1,378	91	1	6,512
2004/05	1,208	92	4	5,554
2005/06	945	71	0	4,593

In 2002/03 there was a period of industrial action which lasted for 15 days. The injury figures provided by fire and rescue authorities exclude incidents that occurred during this period

## Injuries during operational activities

3.8 In 2005/06, the total number of injuries sustained by firefighters (wholetime and retained duty system) during operational activities (attending fires and special service incidents) was 2,122, a decrease of 354 (14%) on the previous year. The number of injuries per incident attended (fires and special service incidents) also decreased by 13 per cent. 79 per cent of injuries were sustained while attending fires (see appendix 17b) compared with 84 per cent in 2004/05.

## Injuries during training

3.9 In 2005/06, there were 22 per cent fewer injuries sustained during training compared with the previous year. RIDDOR<sup>1</sup> major injuries increased slightly while there was 21 per cent reduction in injuries requiring over three days off work compared to 2004/05.

**Table 3.4a Total injuries sustained by wholetime and retained duty system firefighters during operational incidents 2002/03–2005/06.**

	RIDDOR			Total number of personnel injured
	Over 3 day injuries	Major injuries	Fatal injuries	
2002/03	604	42	2	2,909
2003/04	742	45	0	3,420
2004/05	540	34	4	2,476
2005/06	423	38	0	2,122

**Table 3.4b Total injuries sustained by wholetime and retained duty system firefighters during training for operational incidents 2002/03–2005/06.**

	RIDDOR			Total number of personnel injured
	Over 3 day injuries	Major injuries	Fatal injuries	
2002/03	224	13	1	1,366
2003/04	231	24	1	1,318
2004/05	257	16	0	1,319
2005/06	200	14	0	1,027

In 2002/03 there was a period of industrial action which lasted for 15 days. The injury figures provided by fire and rescue authorities exclude incidents that occurred during this period.

<sup>1</sup> Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

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

## 4 Operational activities

### Fires and non-fire incidents

Although fires and false alarms related to fires form the majority of incidents attended by the Fire and Rescue Services every year, some 1 in 5 incidents attended are not related to fire. Non-fire incidents cover a wide spectrum of activity and include:

- road traffic incidents;
- chemical, biological and radioactive exposures and spills;
- severe weather conditions such as flooding and high winds; collapsed buildings; and
- rescue of trapped people, including those stuck in lifts.

### Fires and fire false alarms

**Table 4.1 Total incidents to which fire and rescue services responded in England, 2002/03 to 2005/06**

	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Fires<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>473,563</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>341,397</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>335,424</b>	<b>40</b>
Primary fires	172,384	17	147,224	17	137,470	16
Secondary fires	294,688	29	187,904	22	190,976	23
Chimney fires	6,491	1	6,269	1	6,978	1
<b>False Alarms<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>384,082</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>360,123</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>350,001</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Non-fire incidents<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>158,383</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>158,419</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>157,021</b>	<b>19</b>
Road traffic incidents	39,550	4	40,111	5	42,308	5
Non-road traffic incidents	118,833	12	118,308	14	114,713	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,016,028</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>859,939</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>842,446</b>	<b>100</b>

- 4.1 335,424 fire related incidents were attended in 2005/06 in England, a decrease of 1.7 per cent on the previous year. Fire accounted for 40 per cent of the total incidents attended by fire and rescue services – see *table 4.1*
- 4.2 Primary fires fell by nearly 7 per cent in 2005/06; secondary fires increased slightly by about 2 per cent to 190,976 accounting for the majority of fires attended (57%). Chimney fires also increased 11 per cent.
- 4.3 There were 350,001 call outs for fire false alarms in 2005/06; a decrease of about 3 per cent on 2004/05

## Non-fire incidents

<b>Table 4.2 Non-fire incidents in England, 2003/04–2005/06</b>						
Type of incident	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Road traffic incidents	39,550	25	43,317	27	42,308	27
Non-road traffic incidents	118,833	75	118,308	73	114,713	73
Spills and leaks	11,189	7	9,488	6	9,188	6
Water – removal/provision	9,263	6	11,685	7	10,193	6
Effecting entry	13,441	8	12,617	8	13,494	9
Lift release	26,001	16	24,105	15	24,473	16
Other	58,939	37	60,413	37	57,365	37
<b>Total non-fire incidents</b>	<b>158,383</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>161,625</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>157,021</b>	<b>100</b>

- 4.4 Attendances at road traffic incidents were down slightly, by about 2 per cent on the previous year. Attendances at non-road traffic incidents were also down – 3 per cent; they also accounted for the majority of the non-fire incidents attended by fire and rescue services (73%) – see *table 4.2*.

# Glossary of Terms

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

**Retained duty system (RDS) firefighter** A person who contracts to be available for agreed periods of time for fire-fighting purposes, but who could have an alternative full-time employment.

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

**Non-uniformed staff** Generally support/administrative staff employed by a Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA).

**Operational personnel** Staff who attend, or could be required to attend, incidents.

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

**Appliance** A fire and rescue service vehicle which attends an incident.

**Attendance** Predetermined resources mobilised to an incident, based upon risk analysis

**Integrated personal development system (IPDS)** A new training, development and assessment system for FRS personnel based on role, not rank.

**Service delivery agreement (SDA)** Sets out how a department will deliver its Public Service Agreement targets.

**Best value performance indicator (BVPI)** These are indicators which are used to assess the performance of FRAs. See <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1509028> for further information.