



FIRE PROTECTION PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

One of the cornerstones of the work of the Fire and Rescue Service is in the area of Fire Protection. This work is focused on supporting compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 so that the non-domestic buildings in which people work, visit and enjoy leisure time are provided with facilities that will ensure a safe means of escape in the event of a fire starting. This assistance may take the form of educational events, signposting to relevant guidance and the checking or auditing of fire protection measures.

North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority's mission statement is to make 'North Wales a safer place to live, work and visit'. We are committed to improved, smarter regulation that promotes business growth and, where non-compliance is identified, provides support and the opportunity for dialogue in relation to guidance, requirements or decisions to achieve compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This approach is in line with the principles of the Regulators' Code 2014¹.

There are approximately 28,000 non-domestic properties in North Wales and our Business Fire Safety activities are targeted at those premises that we believe present the greatest risk of death or injury from fire.

The following information gives an overview of the cost of fire protection activities completed together with the outcomes of this work. Performance information is broken down into six easy to read categories that you can access by clicking on the links below².

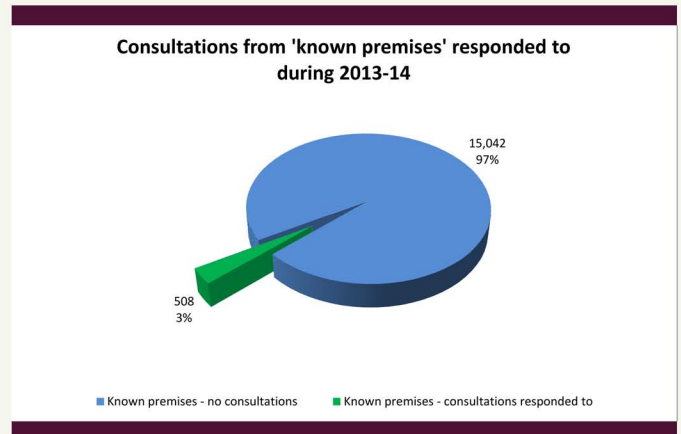
OUR ACTIVITIES

Consultations regarding relevant non-domestic premises

Fire and Rescue Services must by law respond to certain organisations when they seek our expert opinion on fire

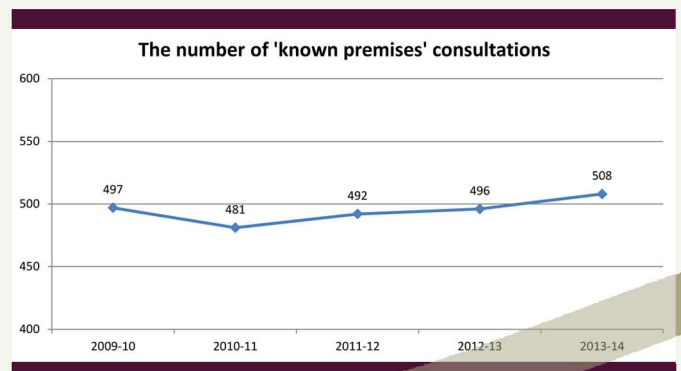
safety matters. These consultations generally take the form of Building Regulations applications for new buildings or alterations to existing buildings. We are also consulted in respect of licensing applications and also occasionally about planning applications.

The chart below illustrates that in 2013-14 North Wales Fire and Rescue Service responded to 508 such consultations, or the equivalent of 3.27% of the 15,500 premises for which we hold records. The total number of these 'known premises' has continued to increase annually since the introduction of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.



Note: 'Known premises' is a term used to denote those non-domestic premises for which the Service holds records. These premises would include e.g. offices, shops, factories and hospitals.

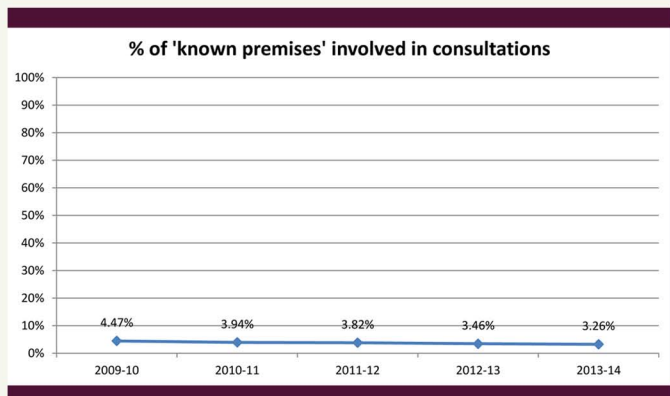
The number of consultations from 'known premises' has remained relatively constant in recent years. This is illustrated in the graph below:



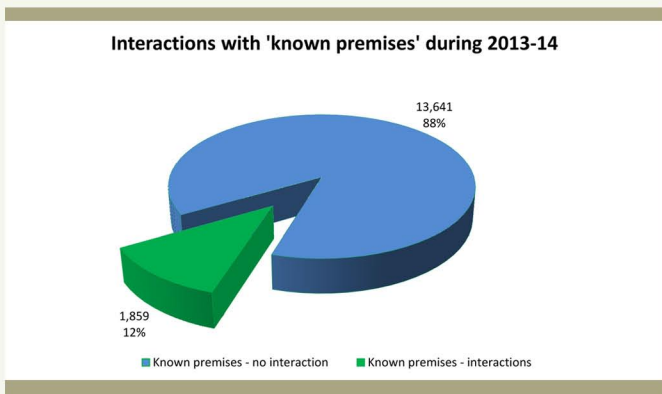
¹https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/300126/14-705-regulators-code.pdf. The Regulators' Code came into effect on 6th April 2014. It aims to provide a clear, flexible and principles-based framework for how regulators should engage with those they regulate.

²Definitions and calculation methods for the information in this document are broadly consistent with the recommendations of the Chief Fire Officers Association Circular 2013-37 The outcomes and impact of community fire protection activities <http://www.cfoa.org.uk/10041>.

However, as the number of premises for which we hold records increases, so the percentage of 'known premises' that have been involved in consultations is seen to gradually decrease - from 4.47% in 2009-10 to 3.26% in 2013-14.



The chart below illustrates that in 2013-14 North Wales Fire and Rescue Service interacted with 'known premises' on 1,859 occasions. In other words, the Service had some form of dialogue with just under 12% of all the non-domestic premises recorded on its Records Management System.



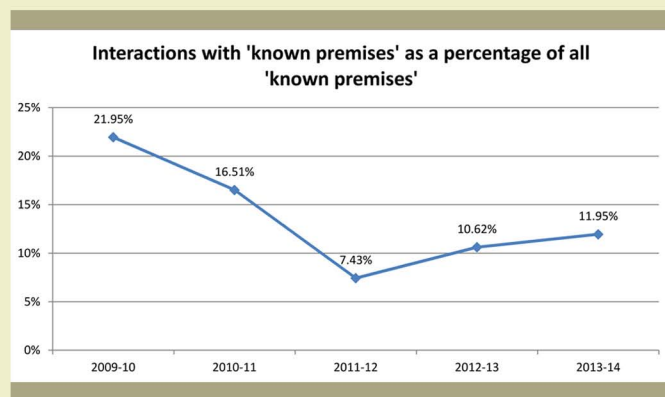
Interactions with premises could be for the purpose of:

- a formal fire safety audit or a specific visit to premises;
- the provision of advice or for the education of businesses.

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The graph below illustrates how the annual increase in 'known premises' is reflected in the percentage of non-domestic properties interacted with in recent years.



OUR IMPACTS

Impacts are the longer term effects of our fire protection activities on the wider community of North Wales.

We believe that the fire protection work we undertake has a positive impact on the communities, businesses and people who live in, work in and visit North Wales. We work closely with our partner agencies to reduce the risk to life from fire in buildings that are subject to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Fire Safety activities are targeted at those premises that we believe present the greatest risk to communities in North Wales.

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, in accordance with the expectations of UK and Welsh Governments, is committed to reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens through its regulatory activities. By supporting compliant business growth through the development of an open and constructive relationship between ourselves and the people who are affected by regulation, we contribute to a safer Wales where businesses have the confidence to invest and grow and so citizens and communities are better protected³.

Healthier lives

Helping people to be healthier by preventing harm to them should there be a fire.

Supporting economic growth

Assisting businesses to grow, thrive and prosper by the provision of education and advice and tackling poor compliance to ensure fair competition.

Public safety

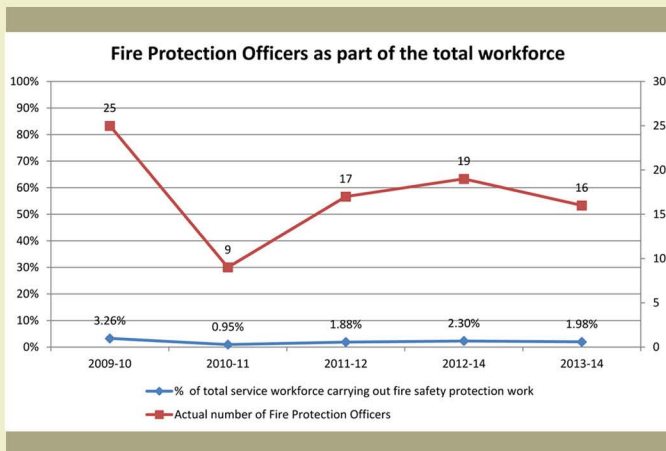
Ensuring the public are confident for their own and others' safety in places that they work and visit.

Firefighter safety

Reducing the exposure of firefighters to the inherent risks that fires in large commercial buildings bring.

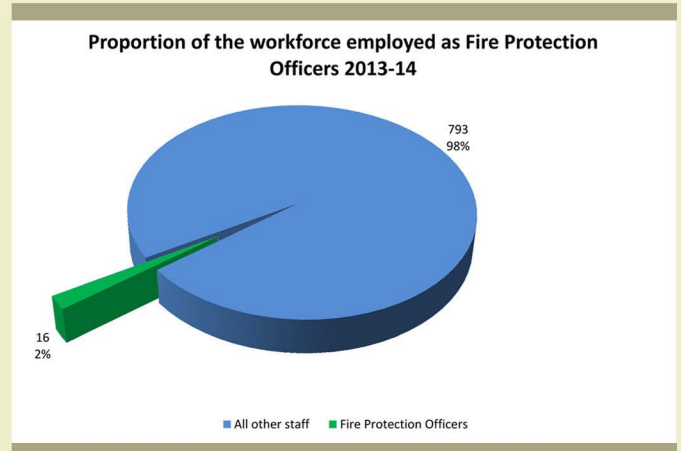
THE INPUTS

The graph below represents Fire Protection Officers as actual numbers and as a percentage of the Service's total workforce in recent years. All are as at 31 March in each year.



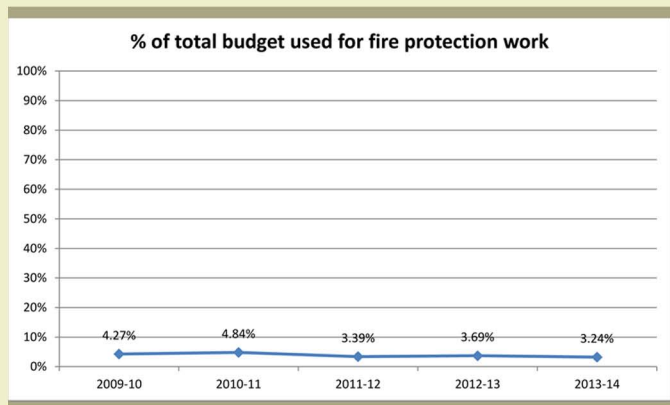
Note: The temporary reduction in staff in 2010-11 arose from to an internal Fire Safety department restructuring which included a period of development for staff employed under new ("Green Book") terms and conditions.

The chart below illustrates that during 2013-14 there were 16 dedicated full time Business Fire Safety Compliance Officers and Managers which equated to 1.98% of the total workforce of 809 personnel.

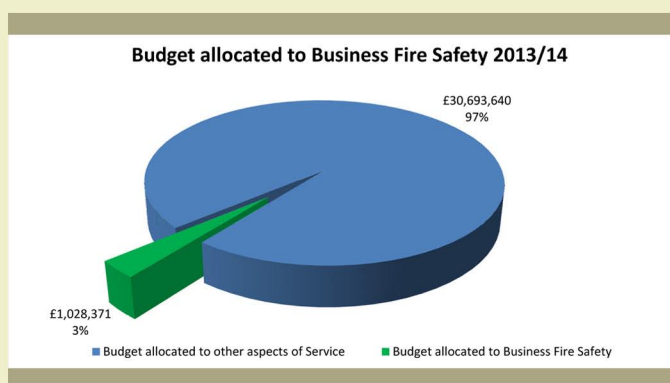


Note: Fire Protection Officers are those employed in the Business Fire Safety department and having no other remit (except any operational Flexi Duty System commitment).

The graph below illustrates the proportion of the Authority's total budget that was allocated to Business Fire Safety in recent years.

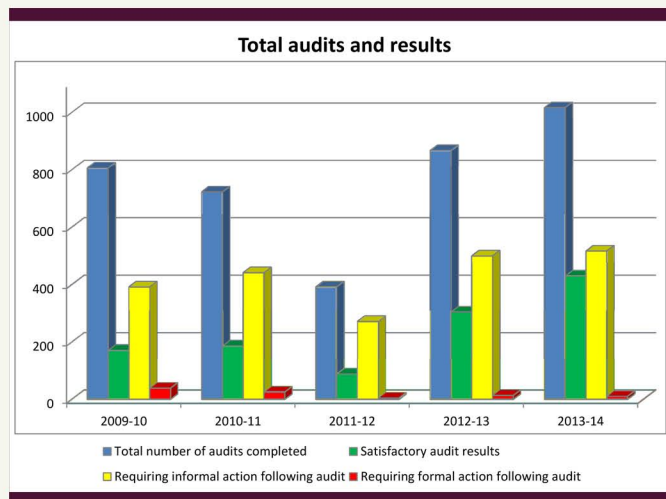


The chart below illustrates that in 2013-14, £1,028,371 of a total annual Service budget of £31,722,011 (3.24%) was allocated to Business Fire Safety.



OUR OUTPUTS

North Wales Fire & Rescue Service uses the national fire safety audit process developed by the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA)⁴ to complete inspections of premises. This process aims to ensure consistent, auditable and transparent enforcement that can withstand challenge. This audit process looks at the level of compliance across a range of areas required by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and produces an enforcement outcome that ranges from providing verbal advice to the issuing of a formal notice.



Note: The comparatively lower number of audits completed in 2011/12 arose as a result of an internal restructuring in that year.

By accurately risk profiling the non-domestic premises in North Wales, we are able to make best use of our resources and target our advice more effectively. In most instances our interaction with the responsible person will result in some form of informal or formal action to assist them to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

The actions that we could take are:

- **Satisfactory Audit** - If an inspection has taken place and the premises are broadly compliant with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 then a satisfactory audit will be recorded.
- **Informal Notice** - If an inspection has taken place and a few issues have been identified then we could issue an Informal Notice by way of a letter to the responsible person informing them of necessary remedial work to ensure that the premises comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
- **Formal Notice** - If an inspection has taken place and the premises have been deemed to pose a significant risk of death or serious injury, or where the matters raised in a previously issued Informal Notice have not been satisfactorily addressed, we could issue either an Enforcement Notice or a Prohibition Notice which would require the responsible person to undertake the necessary remedial work within a set timescale.

- Prosecutions – In certain circumstances of extreme non-compliance we can prosecute, although in practice this happens only occasionally. As part of our decision to prosecute we would carefully assess against evidential and public interest factors.

THE OUTCOMES

Outcomes are the results and consequences of activities and outputs.

Despite the best efforts of responsible persons at non-domestic premises and the targeted work undertaken by the Service to drive compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, it is not possible to guarantee that fires and associated casualties will not happen. Every year we attend a number of accidental and deliberate fires in non-domestic premises, and regrettably people are harmed by them.

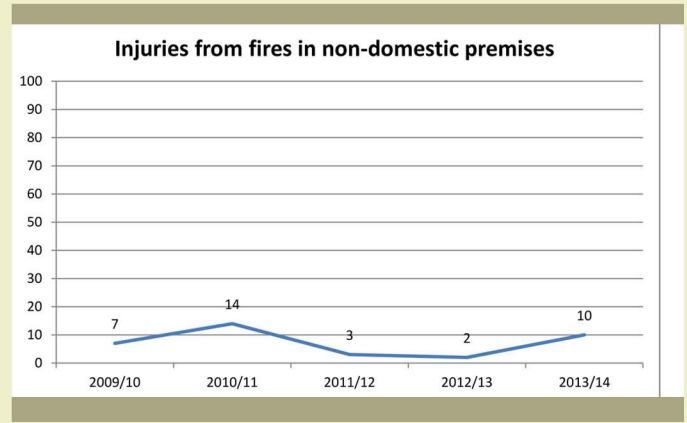
Between 2009/10 and 2013/14 we were able to contribute through our fire protection work to a reduction in the number of fires that occurred in non-domestic premises in North Wales. During that period, too, the number of fire injuries arising from fires in non-domestic premises remained very low.

We will continue to work hard to maintain these excellent outcomes and strive to protect the communities of North Wales from the risk of death and injury caused by fire.

There were no deaths from fires in non-domestic premises in North Wales between 2009/10 and 2013/14.

Injuries

The graph below illustrates the number of injuries sustained in fires in non-domestic premises in North Wales between 2009/10 and 2013/14. Between those years the resident population of North Wales grew from 677,971 to 690,434.



Fires

The graph below illustrates the downward trend in the number of fires in non-domestic properties in North Wales in recent years, falling from 205 in 2009/10 to 115 in 2013/14.

