



Northamptonshire Commissioner (Fire Authority)

Fire and Rescue Statement 2023/24

Introduction and Background

Fire and rescue services play a crucial role in making our communities safer, whether it be preventing and protecting people from fire and other risks or responding swiftly and effectively to the incidents and emergencies that occur. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018) provides overall strategic direction and guidance with how fire and rescue authorities discharge their functions. Within the framework, there is a requirement for the authority (NCFRA) to provide annual assurance on financial, governance, and operational matters by publishing an Annual Statement of Assurance.

In addition, strategic direction is also provided by other plans for which the annual assurance is also required to show due regard to:

- The Police, Fire and Crime Plan
- The Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP)

Performance

The Authority monitors fire and rescue performance through the OPFCC Accountability Board. This board maintains oversight of key delivery areas including operational response, prevention and protection. This board holds strategic leads accountable for the delivery of community outcomes, improvement actions and performance outcomes.

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service

Key Performance Indicators 2023-24

Year End Outturn Assessment



The outcome measures we will prioritise:		2022/23 Baseline	2023/24 Performance	Outturn
KPI1	Number of deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population	3.15	3.00	Below
KPI2	Number of deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population	7.90	6.11	Below
KPI3	Number of primary fires per 100,000 population	119.6	114.41	Below
KPI4	Total number of fatalities due to primary fires per 100,000 population	0.13	0.38	Above
KPI5	Total number of non-fatal casualties in fires (excluding precautionary checks and first aid) per 100,000 population	3.43	3.18	Below
KPI6	Number of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 dwellings	10.69	10.12	Below
KPI7	The number of deaths arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population	0.13	0.38	Above
KPI8	The number of injuries (excluding precautionary checks), arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population.	1.90	1.52	Below
KPI9	Number of fires in non-domestic premises per 1,000 non-domestic premises	5.49	6.93	Above
KPI10a	Killed or Serious Injury (KSI) Road Traffic Accidents attended by NFRS	261	213	Below
KPI10b	People killed in road traffic accidents (STATS 19 fatal data)	42	34	Below

The Input measures we will track and understand:		2022/23 Baseline	2023/24 Performance	Outturn
KPI11	Standards of Operational Response – Average (mean) Full Response Time (attended incidents)	00:10:30	00:10:23	In line
KPI12	Standards of Operational Response – Average (mean) Call to Mobilise Time	00:01:45	00:01:51	In line
KPI13	Average Appliance Availability (including flexi)	18.4	18.5	In line
KPI14	Home Fire Safety Visits and refits completed.	5675	5659	In line
KPI15	% of Home Fire Safety Visits completed in target groups	71.8%	78.9%	Above
KPI16	Total number of Protective Full Risk Inspections (FI) and Re-Inspections (RI) completed.	1228	1158	Below
KPI17	Full Fire Safety Audits (RBIP)	860	653	Below

Financial assurance

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner acting as Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority is responsible under legislation for ensuring all financial activities are carried out in accordance with statutory and professional requirements. This includes safeguarding public money, receiving all income due to the organisation and meeting all financial obligations in respect of for Northamptonshire Fire.

As a corporation sole, NCFRA is required to have a Section 151 Officer. In line with the options set out within the Home Office Financial Management Code of Practice, the role of NCFRA Section 151 Officer in Northamptonshire is also undertaken by the PFCC and Group Section 151 Officer for Policing.

The PFCC delegates financial arrangements within NCFRA to ensure day to day activities can be undertaken and decisions can be made by those who have the knowledge and authority to do so. The PFCC delegates the operational Fire service budget to the Chief Fire Officer and sets out the requirements of this allocation in an annual strategic outcomes letter. Delegation arrangements and levels are set out within NCFRA's Corporate Governance Framework.

Regular financial monitoring reports are considered monthly by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and regularly throughout the year at the Accountability Board. Financial updates are considered by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel throughout the year. Financial performance, level of reserves and medium-term financial outlook is included within the annual NCFRA Statement of Accounts and is subject to external audit.

The 2023/24 Draft Statement of Accounts were published on the OPFCC website in line with statutory deadlines and it is anticipated the audit opinion will be issued in the coming months. The Statement of Accounts were produced ensuring compliance with Codes of Practice issued by CIPFA and include within it an Annual Governance Statement which assesses controls and makes recommendations for changes in the following year.

Governance assurance

The governance of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service is the responsibility of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire in her role as NCFRA.

Governance is concerned with how NCFRA manages its affairs on a day-to-day basis including its business practices, standards of conduct and overall management procedures. These arrangements are set out within the Corporate Governance Framework, a copy of which is available on the OPFCC website.

Governance of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service is carefully managed through regularly reviewed policies, procedures and assurance systems managed by the Commissioner's office, Statutory Officers and Senior Leadership Officers. Effective systems of internal control are assured through a Corporate Governance Framework (CGF).

For the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 24, NCFRA have prepared an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) as part of the Statement of Accounts. This is published on the PFCC's website at:

<https://northantspfcc.org.uk/2023-24-2/>

In their draft annual report for the year, the Chief Internal Auditor concluded that NCFRA's framework for 2023/24 was assessed as "Moderate". This Chief Internal Auditor's opinion was considered by statutory officers charged with governance in the formulation of the Annual Governance Statement. In line with the approach undertaken in previous years, the report and opinion will be considered in full at the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) in July 2024.

Operational assurance

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service functions within a clearly defined statutory and policy framework. We address these core functions through our Community Risk Management Plan which identifies and assesses foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect our community.

Community Risk Management Plan 2022 – 2025

Published following both internal and public consultation, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service has produced a detailed CRMP outlining how we will reduce risk to the people of Northamptonshire via our prevention, protection and response priorities which take account of current and future risks. The plan also outlines how we will carry out our statutory responsibility to support national emergencies in other parts of the UK.

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Fire and Rescue Services report 2022

The service was inspected in April and May 2024 and is currently awaiting the outcome of the inspection. NFRS was subject to a previous inspection by HMICFRS in January 2022, providing a 'good' rating for 8 out of 11 areas inspected. The report findings were published in September 2022 and can be found here along with any associated public facing action plan.

<https://www.justiceinspectores.gov.uk/hmicfrs/frs-assessment/frs-2021/northamptonshire/>

Prevention activity

The Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) Community Engagement team are actively involved in working with educational settings, community groups and partners with the aim of keeping our community safe through education and advice.

In addition to our schools education, we also work in the community with groups that support vulnerable people or those organisations that would benefit from increased safety awareness, and our sessions are adapted and delivered in an engaging way to suit the audience. Fire safety messages are delivered to younger children in a way that educates and empowers them on the importance of home fire safety.

We also have targeted engagement work covering areas such as Home Fire Safety Visits where fire service staff visit people in their homes and provide advice on staying safe and well, often working with other organisations to ensure we reach the most vulnerable and are able to provide a comprehensive service which includes health information alongside safety education.

Youth intervention work with young people to ensure they develop a safe understanding of hazards and risk and understand the impact of nuisance behaviour and hoax fire calls.

And working alongside the Arson Task Force to tackle fire-setting and work with partners to reduce fire related crime.

Fire Protection activity

With a blended approach of face-to-face visits along with innovative technological solutions, the fire protection team work with our communities business owners to support and advise them, ensuring they comply with fire safety legislation.

Using our highly skilled and specially trained staff, NFRS visit commercial premises using a risk-based inspection programme to monitor and where required, enforce compliance with the relevant safety legislation, keeping our communities safe and helping businesses to thrive.

Emergency Response

Our fire station locations, fire engines and other resources, response staff, working patterns, and well-established service practices enable NFRS to have a flexible approach to fires and other emergencies. Regular monitoring of our response to incidents ensures we maintain good levels of cover and meet the strategic direction set out in our CRMP.

Collaboration arrangements

The Authority contributes to national resilience and can make a number of its assets available to support a national emergency.

Whilst the Authority is primarily a locally based service, mutual aid arrangements are in place with other services where incidents occur near our borders and to provide resilience for large scale or complex incidents where additional resources need to be called on.

Training and Development

NFRS recognises the importance of highly skilled and knowledgeable operational staff, enabling them to respond to different types of emergencies at any time. Our centralised training teams ensure safety critical areas of operational training continues to be maintained, and a robust training delivery and recording process (the Competency Based Training Framework CBTF) has been established to manage and monitor all staff competence.

National Operational Guidance and Learning

National Operational Guidance provides industry good practice for fire and rescue services within the UK to develop local policies and procedures. NFRS have aligned our hazard, risk and training information with nationally agreed operational standards.

The Service ensures it maintains an overview of learning from local training and incidents along with national events and embeds National Operational Guidance and National Operational Learning (NOL) into all aspects of training and development.

Fire Standards

The National Fire Standards are a set of professional expectations for fire and rescue services in England. The standards establish what good practice looks like and are a benchmark that HMICFRS Inspectors use to measure performance against. Embedding the Fire Standards remain a core part of the Services organisational strategy.

You can read more about the [National Fire Standards](#).

Overall assurance arrangements

The assurance arrangements that the Authority had in place are considered to meet the requirements set out in the National Framework.

The Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority has carried out its functions in accordance with the defined statutory and policy framework in which it is required to operate. The key documents setting this out are:

- [The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004](#)
- [The Civil Contingencies Act 2004](#)
- [The Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005](#)
- [The Fire and Rescue Services \(Emergencies\) \(England\) Order 2007](#)
- [The Localism Act 2011](#)
- [The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England](#)
- [The Health and Safety Act at Work etc Act 1974](#)

A copy of the current Police, Fire and Crime plan, CRMP and related documents can be found on our website at: <https://northantspfcc.org.uk/>



**Northamptonshire
Police, Fire and Crime
Commissioner**

www.northantspfcc.org.uk