

Audit Commission Performance Information Profile Tool 2008

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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1 Purpose of Report

This report provides Members with details of a performance information profile tool recently provided by the Audit Commission (AC) to support their auditors in undertaking this year's Direction of Travel (DoT) audit which forms part of the fire and rescue performance assessment for 2008/09.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the findings of an analysis conducted by officers of the performance information profile tool developed and provided by the Audit Commission.
- b) Consider areas where they feel officers should concentrate resources to maintain the culture of continual improvement in performance.

3 Background

On 22nd August 2008 the Audit Commission released a performance information profile tool which they intend to use to support their work with Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) forthcoming DoT audit's. The profile tool will provide a starting point for the AC auditors to assess improvement or deterioration in FRA's performance.

A copy of the performance improvement profile tool is contained at Appendix A to this report.

This paper summarises the key findings of an in depth analysis of the tool undertaken by officers. In addition to the key findings, detailed commentary of all the performance indicators included within the tool is contained within appendix B of this report.

4 Performance Improvement Profile Tool

Members will note that the tool (as appended) is divided into three sections as follows:

Introduction – summarises the purpose of the tool;

Improvement Report – sets out the DoT for each Performance Indicator (PI). It is presented alongside a quartile analysis for further background information on current performance; and

Detailed Performance Information – sets out DoT, quartiles and thresholds to provide more detail on individual indicators.

It should be noted that performance is measured across three areas:

- Operational Response;
- Fire Prevention;
- Corporate Health

Members are asked to note that the tool contains the latest available data, which in most cases is 2007/08 data. The Audit Commission also highlight that any conclusion drawn from this tool must be effectively triangulated with other evidence sources and as consequence state the following:

“The indicators selected for use in this tool are intended to give an overall picture of performance without giving particular weight to any one aspect of the fire and rescue service. It is emphasised that the tool is only one source of evidence and should not be considered in isolation.”

5 Summary of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority (S&WFA) Performance

The performance information tool summarises this Authority's performance as follows:

- Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority has 35 percent of PI's above the best quartile breakpoint.
- On average, Fire Authorities have 34 percent of PI results that are in the best quartile.
- Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority has 60 percent of PI's improved in the last year which is below the average for fire authorities (69 percent).

- Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority is ranked 37th out of 48 (Fire Authorities for which data is available) for percentage of PI's improved in the last year.

Initial reaction to the above statements was one mixed with some considerable disappointment, especially in view of this Authority's consistently strong track record of performance across, not only DOT, but all elements of the Audit Commissions performance framework audit regime. As a consequence officers have undertaken a detailed analysis of the Performance Information tool to clarify further the summary findings.

6 Further Analysis of the Summary Findings

Upon further analysis of the data that supports the summary findings of the profile tool, Members are advised that the summary findings should be considered in conjunction with the following points:

1. Of the 8 indicators that have experienced deterioration in performance 6 have deteriorated by less than 2.5%. The deterioration in the remaining 2 indicators is related to changes in data capture following a data quality audit rather than a performance related issue.
2. Only 20 selected performance indicators for Operational Response and Fire Prevention support the summary findings. Corporate Health indicators, although included within the profile tool do not supplement the summary findings. This is surprising in light of the importance CLG gives to FRA's embedding Equality and Diversity across the service.
3. No weighting has been applied to any of the selected 20 indicators. As a consequence Fire Deaths and Injuries are considered in the same vein as malicious calls and false alarms.
4. The summary findings are constrained to performance against 2007/08 reporting year only. DoT by its very nature considers a medium to long term view of continual improvement of performance.
5. The Audit Commission has obtained 2007/08 data from all FRA's Annual Reports/Performance Plans which is currently unverified, as a consequence this data maybe subject to change until final verification by Communities and Local Government (CLG).
6. By considering performance over one year the summary discounts previous history where large performance gains have been achieved. As performance starts to plateau based on minimal numbers behind the PI the difference between improvement and deterioration is negligible.

7. A recent report commissioned by CLG¹ reinforces the view that the number of fire deaths within individual FRA's is very volatile and difficult to assess or predict.
8. Of the 20 selected indicators 9 relate to a combination of two lower-level² Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI), namely arson and smoke alarms. As a consequence these two indicators heavily influence the result of the summary findings.
9. An indicator which has anomalies surrounding its calculation has been included within the selected 20 indicators.³

7 Overall Performance: Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority

To present a more balanced picture for DoT, officers have considered performance not only against fire prevention and operational response indicators but also against corporate health indicators. This takes the overall total of indicators up to 33 and reflects the investment the service has made in recent years to reduce staff sickness levels, ill health retirements and embedding equality and diversity across the service.

As well as providing performance data for 2007/08 for all 33 indicators the performance information profile tool also includes data back to 2004/05 on 15 of 33 performance indicators. During the analysis officers considered the other 18 indicators where data has been collected since 2005/06 and have included it in performance charts below. By including the additional 18 indicators it is felt that a more comprehensive picture emerges of longer term improvement.

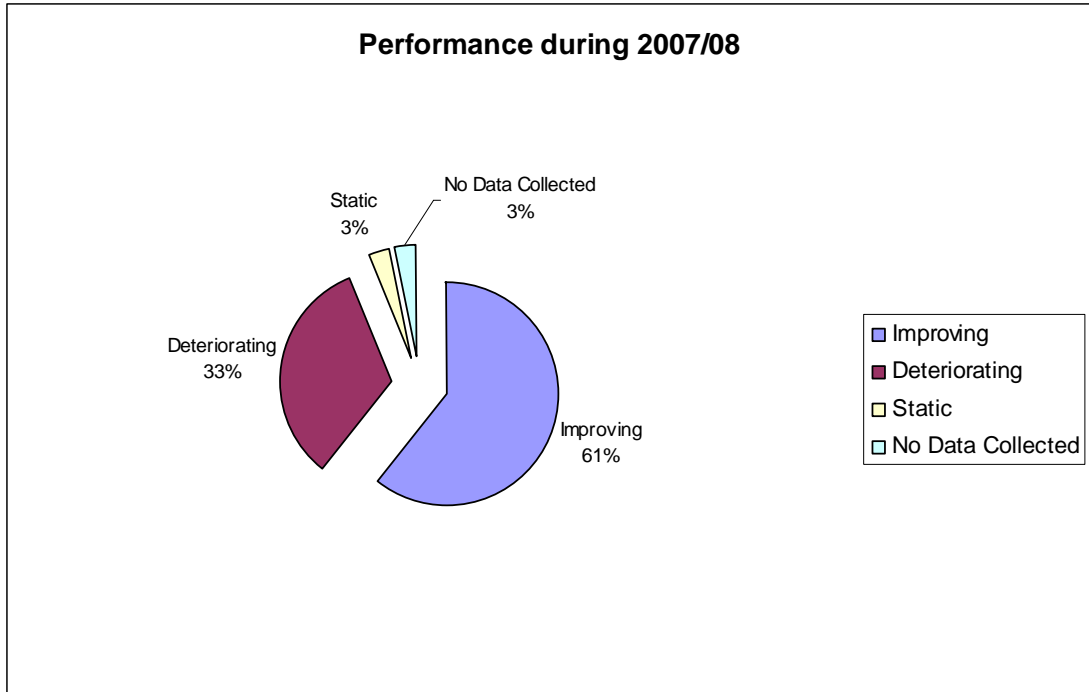
¹ Analysis of fire and rescue service performance and outcomes with reference to population socio-demographics. Fire Research Services 9/2008 - 22 July 2008.

² BVPI 206 Total number of deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population and BVPI 209 percentage of fires attended in dwellings where a smoke alarm had activated are considered as single indicators by the Audit Commission for the Operational Assurance element of the Performance Framework.

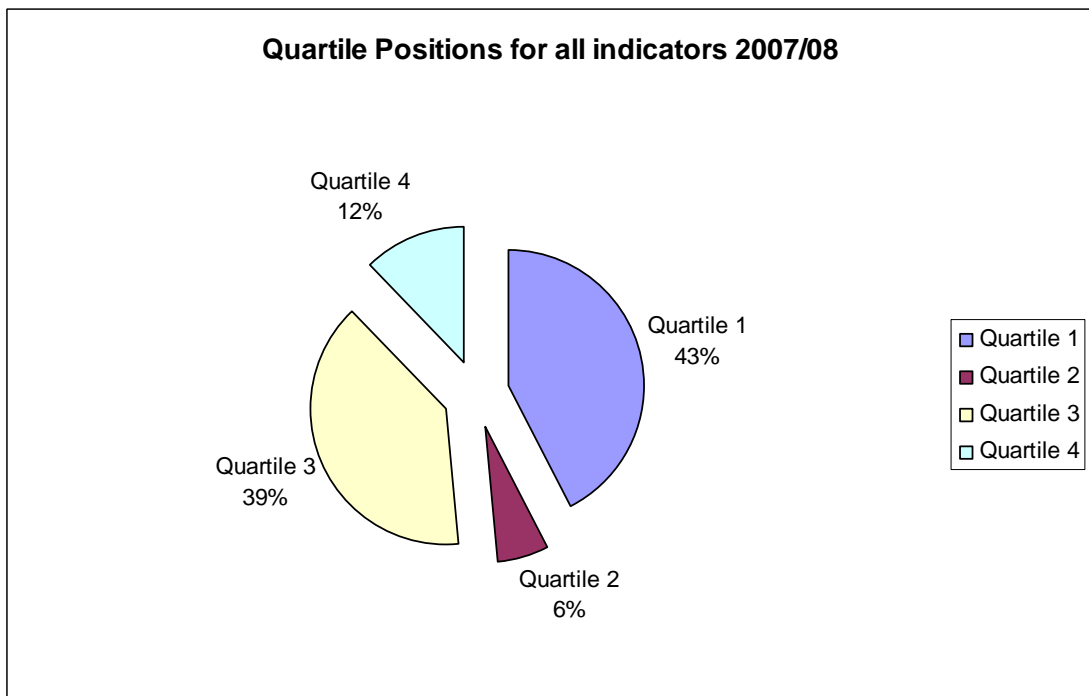
³ BVPI 207 Fires in non domestic properties per 1,000 non-domestic properties. The Authority wrote to the Audit Commission on 16th March 2007 expressing concerns surrounding this indicator. The calculation of which penalises more rural FRA's.

Performance Charts

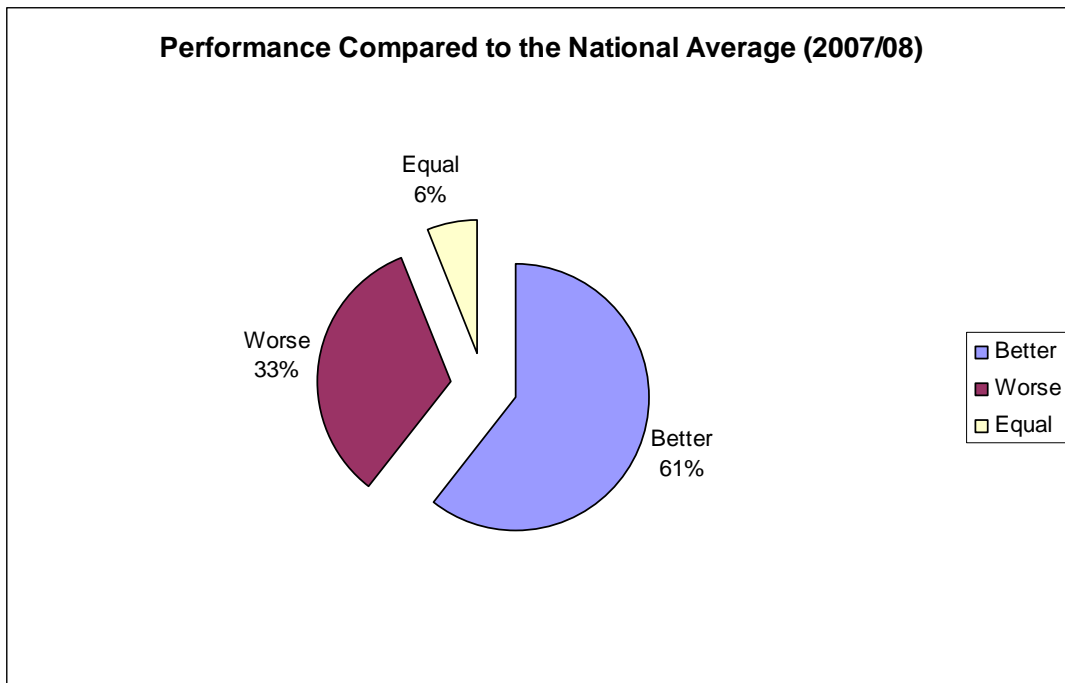
The following chart identifies the percentage breakdown of how the 33 PIs have performed during 2007/08. 20 (61%) have improved, 11 (33%) have deteriorated, 1 (3%) has remained static and 1 (3 %) data wasn't collected.



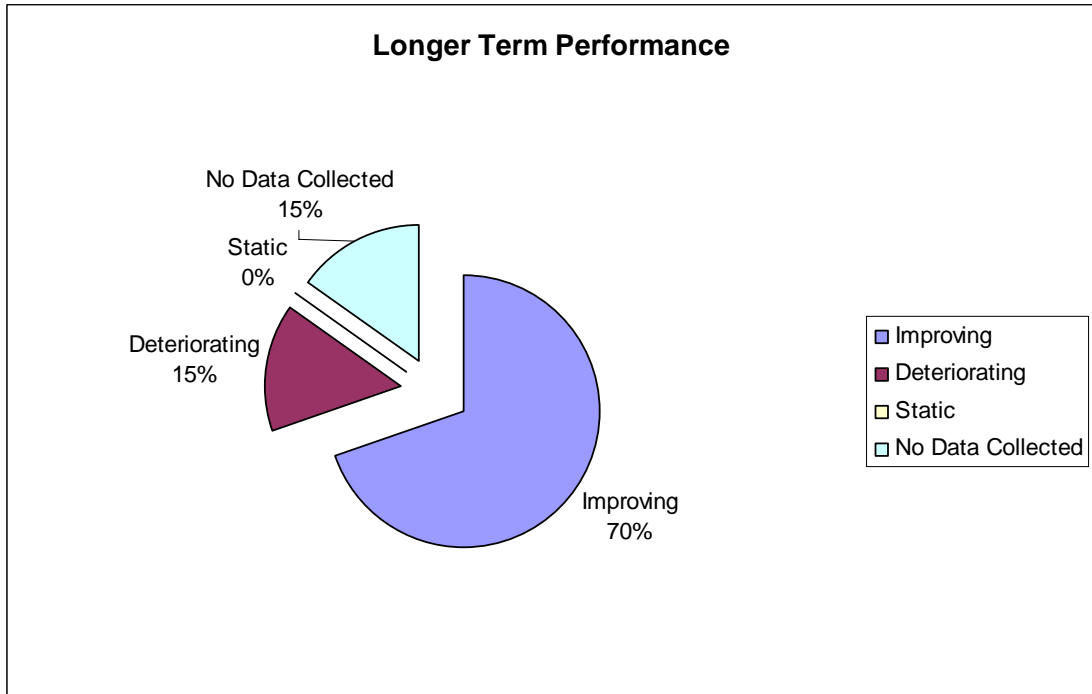
The following chart identifies the percentage breakdown of quartile positions for the 33 PIs during 2007/08. 14 (43%) were in the first quartile, 2 (6%) in the second quartile for, 13 (39%) in the third quartile and 4 (12%) in the fourth quartile.



The following chart identifies the percentage breakdown of the 33 indicators against the national average for 2007/08. 20 (61%) performed better than the National Average, 11 (33%) were below the national average and 2 (6%) were equal to the national average.



The following chart identifies longer term performance and is based on at least 3 years worth of historical data. Of the 33 PIs, 23 (70%) are improving, 5 (15%) are deteriorating and 5 (15%) data has not been collected. Of the 5 not previously collected internal service systems indicate an improving trend in 4 of the indicators⁴ whilst the fifth indicator is collected once every 3 years and is likely to be discontinued.⁵



8 Summary

Although the performance profile tool does offer some useful pointers into the performance of the Authority this report has clearly highlighted its limitations. As such it would be inadvisable to consider the tool as the only means by which this Authority's DOT will be assessed. During the forthcoming DOT audit it is envisaged that the Audit Commission will recognise the limitations of the tool and assess the Authority's against its strong track record across all elements of the performance framework.

9 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

10 Legal Comment

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

⁴ BVPI's refer to disability performance indicators which weren't previously prior to the rollout of Resourcelink HR system and the recruitment of female fire fighters .

⁵ BVPI refers to the public opinion survey

11 Equality Impact Assessment

Officers have considered the Service's Brigade Order on Equality Impact Assessments (Personnel 5 Part 2) and have decided that there are no discriminatory practices or differential impacts upon specific groups arising from this report. This is a factual report based on historical statistical data, therefore has no direct impact on people. An Initial Equality Impact Assessment has not, therefore, been completed.

12 Appendix

Appendix A – Audit Commission Performance Information Profile Tool
Appendix B – Detailed Breakdown of Corporate Health, Fire Prevention and Operational Response indicators

13 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.

Implications of all of the following have been considered and, where they are significant (i.e. marked with an asterisk), the implications are detailed within the report itself.

Balanced Score Card	*	Integrated Risk Management Planning	
Business Continuity Planning		Legal	
Capacity		Member Involvement	*
Civil Contingencies Act		National Framework	
Comprehensive Performance Assessment	*	Operational Assurance	*
Efficiency Savings		Retained	
Environmental		Risk and Insurance	
Financial		Staff	
Fire Control/Fire Link		Strategic Planning	
Information Communications and Technology		West Midlands Regional Management Board	
Freedom of Information / Data Protection / Environmental Information		Equality Impact Assessment	*

Appendix A - Performance information profile for Fire and Rescue Authorities

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority Introduction

This tool draws together performance information that is relevant to improvement and current performance and will help to inform The Audit Commission's assessment of direction of travel and corporate assessment. It may assist Fire and Rescue authorities in completing their own self assessments for the direction of travel or corporate assessment.

This tool contains information on performance indicators identified as relevant evidence to assess progress and performance in the following areas:

- Fire Prevention
- Operational Response
- Corporate Health

This tool contains the latest available data, which in most cases is 2007/08 data. In order to produce a comprehensive picture of improvement where possible we have included data back to 2004/05. Pre 2007/08 data is BVPI data published by CLG. The 2007/08 data contained in this version of the tool has been drawn from Fire and Rescue Authorities' (FRAs) own Best Value Performance Plans and as such is subject to final verification and could change.

The indicators selected for use in this tool are intended to give an overall picture of performance and improvement without giving particular weight to any one aspect of the fire and rescue service. It is emphasised that the tool is only one source of evidence and should not be considered in isolation.

Improvement and current performance

This tool has been designed to help consider the areas(s) and extent of improvement.

The areas of improvement (e.g. whether improvement is seen in areas of previous weak performance) can be considered using information in this tool alongside information provided by the FRA, for example about its priorities for service improvement. The extent of improvement can be considered by looking at the proportion of indicators that are improving.

This tool also contains quartile information to provide context about current performance.

For more information about this tool or CPA please email:
cpa@audit-commission.gov.uk.

Content

This tool is divided into three sections:

Introduction - summarises the purpose of the tool

Improvement Report - sets out the direction of travel for each indicator. It is presented alongside a quartile analysis for further background information on current performance.

Detailed performance information - sets out direction of travel, quartiles and thresholds to provide more detail on individual indicators. This is based on the latest available data, which in most cases is 2006/07 data. A number of indicators are shown as a grey background with white arrows - these are context indicators.

Improvement Report - Fire Prevention and Operational Response

The charts below show the extent of improvement for this Fire Service for fire prevention and operational response indicators. They show the proportion of PIs selected for analysis that improved, compared to what has been achieved by all other fire services in England. The horizontal lines on the chart indicate the average extent of improvement across all services. As there are a large number of corporate health indicators these are not included in the improvement charts as they could produce an unbalanced picture.

The extent of improvement analysis only uses data that is available for both of the years being analysed (the most recent year and the year that improvement is being measured against). If data is not available for either year the indicator is excluded from the analysis. Please be aware that this analysis is based only on the performance indicators used in this profile. Different evidence sources may give a different picture of extent of improvement. Any conclusions drawn from this pack must be effectively triangulated with other evidence sources.

Proportion of performance indicators that have improved in the last year

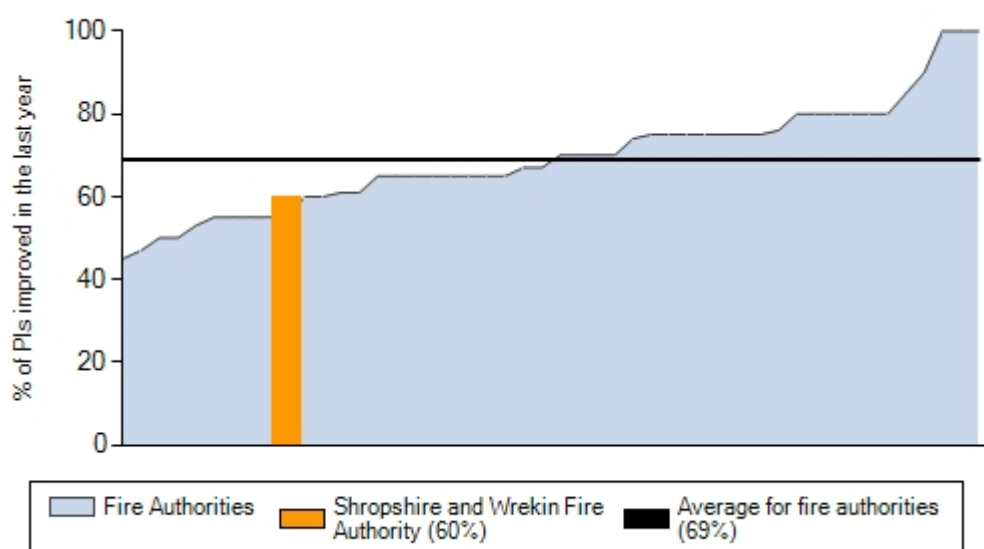


Chart Summary

- Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority is ranked 37th out of 48 (Fire Authorities for which data is available) for % of PIs improved in the last year.
- Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority has 60 % of PIs improved in the last year which is below the average for fire authorities (69%).

Percentage of indicators that are in the "best" quartile

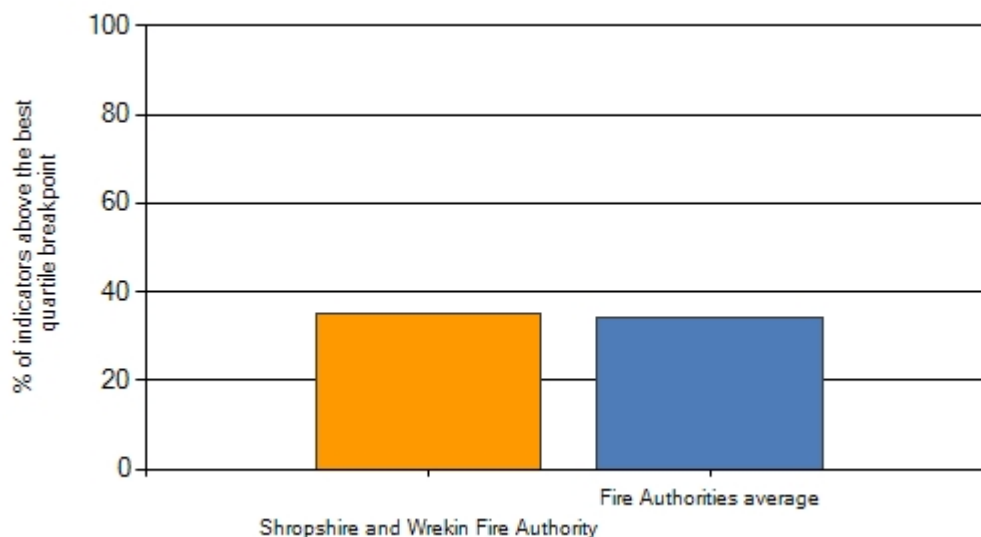


Chart Summary

- Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority has 35 % of indicators above the best quartile breakpoint.
- On average, fire authorities have 34% of PI results that are in the best quartile.

This section sets out the direction of travel for each indicator. It is presented alongside a quartile analysis for further background information on current performance. Improvement is set out over three years and one year. In both cases the improvement is measured against performance in 2007/08.

Note 1

The following symbols are used to show different categories of improvement at the individual PI level.

△	Improving
◁▷	No change
▽	Deteriorating
	No improvement trend available

In some cases it is not appropriate to show whether a PI has improved. The following symbols are used to in those cases where it is not appropriate to show an improvement.

Q	One or more of the data in the calculation is qualified
M	One or more of the data in the calculation is missing
NC	Either the PI was not collected in one or both of the years under comparison, or the council was not required to provide the PI in one or both years.
NA	It is not appropriate to show an improvement for this PI

Fire Prevention

Indicator	Improvement in		Current Quartile			
	1 year	3 years	Best	2 nd	3 rd	Worst
BV142(ii) – Number of primary fires per 10,000 population – <i>adjusted for deprivation</i>	△	△			*	
BV142 (iii) – Number of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 dwellings – <i>adjusted for deprivation</i>	△	△	*			
BV206(i) + (ii) Total number of deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population (including vehicles)	△	△			*	
BV206(iii)+(iv) - Total number of deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population (including vehicles)	▽	NC			*	
BV206(i) - Number of deliberate primary fires (excluding vehicles) per 10,000 population	△	NC			*	
BV206(ii) - Number of deliberate primary fires in vehicles per 10,000 population	△	NC			*	
BV206(iii) - Number of deliberate secondary fires (excluding vehicles) per 10,000 population	▽	NC			*	
BV206(iv) - Number of deliberate secondary fires in vehicles per 10,000 population	△	NC	*			
BV207 - Number of fires in non-domestic properties per 1,000 non-domestic properties	△	NC			*	
BV209(i) - percentage of fires attended in dwellings where a smoke alarm had activated	▽	NC			*	

BV209(ii) - percentage of fires attended in dwellings where a smoke alarm was fitted but not activated	▽	NC			*	
BV209(iii) - percentage of fires attended in dwellings where no smoke alarm was fitted	▽	NC			*	

Operational Response

Indicator	Improvement in		Current Quartile			
	1 year	3 years	Best	2nd	3rd	Worst
BV143(i) - number of deaths arising from accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population	▽	▽				*
BV143(ii) - number of injuries arising from accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population - <i>adjusted for deprivation</i>	△	△	*			
BV144 - Percentage of accidental dwelling fires confined to room of origin	△	△	*			
BV146(i + ii) – total number of malicious false alarms per 1,000 population <i>adjusted for deprivation</i>	△	NC			*	
BV146(ii) / BV146(i + ii) - proportion of calls to malicious false alarms attended	△	NC	*			
BV149(i) - number of false alarms caused by automatic fire detection per 1,000 non-domestic properties	△	△	*			
BV149(iii) - percentage of false alarms caused by automatic fire detection which are to a non-domestic property with more than 1 attendance	▽	NC				*
BV208 - Percentage of people in accidental dwelling fires who escape unharmed	▽	NC	*			

Corporate Health

Indicator	Improvement in		Current Quartile			
	1 year	3 years	Best	2nd	3rd	Worst
BV2b – Duty to promote race equality	△	△	*			
BV3 – Percentage of citizens satisfied with the overall service provided by the fire and rescue service	NC	NC		*		
BV8 – Percentage of invoices paid within 30 days	▽	△	*			
BV11(i) – Percentage of top 5% earners who are women	▽	△			*	
BV11(ii) – Percentage of top 5% earners who are from an ethnic minority	▽	△	*			
BV11(iii) – Percentage of top 5% earners who have a disability	△	NC	*			
BV12(i) - Working days / shifts lost due to sickness absence by whole-time uniformed staff	△	△	*			
BV12(ii) - Working days / shifts lost due to sickness absence by all staff	△	△	*			
BV15(i) - Percentage of whole-time fire fighters retiring on grounds of ill health as a percentage of total workforce	△	△				*
BV15(ii) - Percentage of control and non-uniformed staff retiring on grounds of ill health as a percentage of total workforce	△	△	*			
BV16A (i) - Percentage of whole-time and retained duty fire fighters with a disability	△	NC		*		

BV16A (ii) - Percentage of control and non-uniformed staff with a disability	△	NC			*	
BV210 - percentage of women fire fighters	◁▷	NC				*

Notes

The following notes have been added automatically to your printout as they are referred to in the sections you have printed.

Note 1 - Identifying improvement and deterioration

An indicator is classified as improving when either:

There is a change in the result between two time periods in a direction of the polarity of the indicator; or

The result is the same in both time periods and both results equal the best possible result for the indicator, e.g. 100%.

An indicator is classified as deteriorating when either:

There is a change in the result between two time periods in the opposite direction of the polarity of the indicator; or

The result is the same in both time periods and both results equal the worst possible result for the indicator, e.g. 0%.

Calculations of improvement are based on rounded data.

If one or both of the data items for the calculation are missing or qualified no result will be calculated.

Appendix B – Detailed Breakdown of Corporate Health, Fire Prevention and Operational Response indicators

Corporate Health Detail

BV2a – Level of equality standard to which the FRA conforms in respect of gender, race and disability

Year	This Authority
2004/05	2
2005/06	2
2006/07	2
2007/08	3
Commentary	
<p>SWFA achieved Level 3 of the Equality Standard for Local Government in August 2008 and is one of only a handful of FRA's who have achieved the level.</p> <p>This is clearly an important PI to both the Government and AC <i>"FRA will not normally be assessed as improving strongly without reaching ESLG level 3."</i>⁶</p>	

BV2b – Duty to promote race equality
Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2004/05	89	↑	1	47	68	84	66
2005/06	89	↔	1	63	79	89	77
2006/07	89	↔	1	70	79	89	79
2007/08	95	↑	1	75	80	95	83
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years ▪ SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator ▪ Achievement of 100% would require a complaint from a member of the BME community. 							

⁶ Fire and Rescue Service Equality and diversity strategy 2008-2018 p19



BV3 – Percentage of citizens satisfied with the overall service provided by the fire and rescue service

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2006/07	64		2	53	59	66	59
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator ▪ Performance on this indicator is not collected annually, and the question asked changed from the previous survey therefore no comparison is available 							

BV8 – Percentage of invoices paid within 30 days
Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2004/05	97.4	↓	1	86.4	91.7	97.2	90.3
2005/06	97.1	↓	2	88.7	93.1	97.5	89.4
2006/07	98.4	↑	1	92.7	96.4	98.3	93.9
2007/08	98.3	↓	1	91.2	94.7	97.3	93.0
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 3 years ▪ Although SWFA is showing deterioration over 1 year the difference is 0.1% ▪ SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator ▪ SWFA is in the Upper Quartile for this indicator 							



BV11(i) – Percentage of top 5% earners who are women
Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2004/05	4.55	↓	2	0.0	4.55	6.08	4.37
2005/06	7.14	↑	1	2.96	4.76	7.14	5.34
2006/07	6.25	↓	3	2.89	6.35	8.50	6.36
2007/08	5.56	↓	3	3.55	6.46	11.25	8.84
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWFA is showing deterioration over 1 SWFA is showing an improvement over 3 years on this indicator (based on averages) The most recent drop in performance is due to an increase in the establishment of retained FF. The actual number of women in top 5% of earners is the same as the previous year. 							

BV11(ii) – Percentage of top 5% earners who are from an ethnic minority
Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2004/05	0.0	↓	2	0.0	0.0	2.36	1.24
2005/06	7.14	↑	1	0.0	0.0	1.91	1.22
2006/07	6.25	↓	1	0.0	0.0	2.53	1.56
2007/08	5.56	↓	1	0.00	0.00	3.03	1.48
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 3 years Although SWFA is showing deterioration over 1 year the difference is ?% SWFA is in the Upper Quartile for this indicator SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator The most recent drop in performance is due to an increase in the establishment of retained FF. The actual number of BME in top 5% of earners is the same as the previous year. 							



BV11(iii) – Percentage of top 5% earners who have a disability
 Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	0.0		1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47
2006/07	0.00	↔	2	0.00	0.00	1.59	1.13
2007/08	11.11	↑	1	0.00	1.04	3.55	2.11
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 years ▪ Data not collected over 3 years ▪ SWFA is in the Upper Quartile for this indicator ▪ SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator ▪ Overall strength has increased, therefore, the number of top 5% earners has also increased. An internal survey of the top 5% has enabled figures to be reported for this indicator 							

BV12(i) - Working days / shifts lost due to sickness absence by whole-time uniformed staff
 Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2004/05	9.06	↑	2	10.90	9.62	7.93	9.64
2005/06	8.59	↑	2	10.88	9.51	7.85	9.51
2006/07	9.79	↓	4	9.61	8.53	7.34	8.35
2007/08	5.67	↑	1	8.92	7.69	6.68	7.90
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years ▪ SWFA is in the Upper Quartile for this indicator ▪ SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator 							



BV12(ii) - Working days / shifts lost due to sickness absence by all staff
Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2004/05	9.17	↑	2	11.05	10.01	8.92	10.24
2005/06	9.65	↓	3	10.86	9.63	8.55	9.65
2006/07	10.48	↓	4	9.44	8.73	7.60	8.60
2007/08	6.07	↑	1	9.23	8.16	6.96	7.97
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years ▪ SWFA is in the Upper Quartile for this indicator ▪ SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator 							

BV15(i) - Percentage of whole-time fire fighters retiring on grounds of ill health as a percentage of total workforce
Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2004/05	2.36	↓	4	1.63	0.84	0.54	1.04
2005/06	0.0	↑	1	1.32	0.67	0.21	0.87
2006/07	0.96	↓	4	0.69	0.32	0.00	0.40
2007/08	0.47	↑	4	0.28	0.10	0.00	0.18
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years (based on averages) ▪ Note the figure of 0.47 for 2007/08 relates to 1 retirement 							



BV15(ii) - Percentage of control and non-uniformed staff retiring on grounds of ill health as a percentage of total workforce
 Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2004/05	0.00	↑	1	0.80	0.38	0.00	0.51
2005/06	0.00	↑	1	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.29
2006/07	0.00	↑	1	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.18
2007/08	0.00	↑	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years ▪ SWFA is in the Upper Quartile for this indicator ▪ SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator 							

BV16A (i) - Percentage of whole-time and retained duty fire fighters with a disability
 Comparison group:

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	DNR			0.00	0.26	0.64	0.44
2006/07	0.00		3	0.00	0.30	0.97	0.57
2007/08	1.49	↑	2	0.32	1.01	1.82	1.28
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 year ▪ Data is not collected over 3 years, however the trend suggests improvement ▪ SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator 							



BV16A (ii) - Percentage of control and non-uniformed staff with a disability
Comparison group:

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	DNR			1.14	2.18	3.72	2.63
2006/07	0.00		3	0.00	1.72	4.06	2.51
2007/08	2.04	↑	3	0.87	2.61	4.30	3.42
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 year ▪ Data is not collected over 3 years however the trend suggests improvement 							

Context : BV150 – expenditure per head on the provision of fire and rescue service
Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Increasing / Decreasing	Quartile Position	Lowest 25%	Median	Highest 25%
2004/05	34.6	↑	3	31.5	36.0	38.9
2005/06	35.8	↑	3	33.2	38.0	41.2
2006/07	39.6	↑	2	36.5	39.6	44.4
2007/08	42.2	↑	2	37.4	39.6	44.0

BV210 - percentage of women fire fighters
Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	2.2		3	2.2	2.7	3.2	2.9
2006/07	2.3	↑	3	2.3	2.9	3.6	3.1
2007/08	2.3	↔	4	2.7	3.3	4.0	3.4
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has remained static on this indicator ▪ Data is not collected over 3 years however the trend suggests improvement 							



Fire Prevention Detail

BV142(ii) - Number of primary fires per 10,000 population - adjusted for deprivation
Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2004/05	15.8	↑	2	20.7	17.2	12.9	17.6
2005/06	14.2	↑	2	18.1	15.5	12.4	15.6
2006/07	14.2	↔	3	15.7	14.1	10.9	13.9
2007/08	12.6	↑	3	15.2	11.2	8.9	11.6
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years 							

Note 2

Context : BV 142 (ii) – Number of primary fires per 10,000 population
Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Increasing / Decreasing	Quartile Position	Lowest 25%	Median	Highest 25%
2004/05	26.5	↓	2	22.8	26.3	32.4
2005/06	24.9	↓	2	21.4	24.9	31.0
2006/07	24.9	↔	2	20.4	23.8	28.3
2007/08	23.3	↓	2	19.1	21.9	25.4



BV142 (iii) - Number of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 dwellings - adjusted for deprivation

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2004/05	8.9	↓	2	12.4	9.5	7.7	10.7
2005/06	8.3	↑	2	12.3	9.4	7.1	10.1
2006/07	7.1	↑	2	11.0	9.3	6.8	9.2
2007/08	6.0	↑	1	9.5	8.5	6.5	8.4

Commentary

- SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years
- SWFA is in the Upper Quartile for this indicator
- SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator

Note 2

Context : BV 142 (iii) – Number of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 dwellings

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Increasing / Decreasing	Quartile Position	Lowest 25%	Median	Highest 25%
2004/05	15.0	↑	3	14.0	15.6	17.6
2005/06	14.4	↓	3	13.9	15.7	17.9
2006/07	13.2	↓	3	12.6	14.5	17.3
2007/08	12.1	↓	4	12.3	13.9	16.6



BV206(i) + (ii) Total number of deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population
(including vehicles)

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2001/02	18.5		3	22.3	16.0	12.9	19.4
2002/03	DNA						
2003/04	DNA						
2004/05	11.8	M	2	16.3	11.8	9.1	13.7
2005/06	10.4	↑	3	15.3	10.2	8.0	12.4
2006/07	10.5	↓	3	13.4	9.4	7.5	11.2
2007/08	9.3	↑	3	11.3	9.1	6.2	9.7
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years ▪ SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator 							

Note 3

BV206(iii)+(iv) - Total number of deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population
(including vehicles)

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	9.9		1	42.9	20.2	13.1	31.2
2006/07	5.1	↑	1	38.3	18.9	11.1	27.2
2007/08	21.2	↓	3	33.0	17.6	10.7	24.4
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Although SWFA is showing a deterioration in performance in this indicator it is still above the national average 							

BV206(i) - Number of deliberate primary fires (excluding vehicles) per 10,000 population

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities



Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	5.6		3	5.9	4.4	3.5	5.0
2006/07	5.1	↑	3	5.6	4.3	3.3	4.8
2007/08	4.3	↑	3	4.9	3.7	3.1	4.3
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years ▪ SWFA is equalling the National Average on this indicator 							

BV206(ii) - Number of deliberate primary fires in vehicles per 10,000 population
Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	4.8		2	9.6	5.9	4.6	7.4
2006/07	5.5	↓	3	7.6	5.3	4.0	6.5
2007/08	5.0	↑	3	6.2	4.6	3.4	5.4
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 year ▪ SWFA showing a deterioration over three years ▪ SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator 							



BV206(iii) - Number of deliberate secondary fires (excluding vehicles) per 10,000 population

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	9.5		1	44.2	21.3	14.0	32.5
2006/07	5.0	↑	1	40.7	19.7	12.3	29.8
2007/08	21.2	↓	3	33.3	17.9	11.5	25.6
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The deterioration in 2007/08 is due to how the PI which was identified as part of internal data quality checks and is not a performance issue. 							

BV206(iv) - Number of deliberate secondary fires in vehicles per 10,000 population

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	0.4		1	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.9
2006/07	0.1	↑	1	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.5
2007/08	0.00	↑	1	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.4
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years SWFA is in the Upper Quartile for this indicator SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator 							



BV207 - Number of fires in non-domestic properties per 1,000 non-domestic properties

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	15.2		4	15.0	12.9	10.6	13.0
2006/07	14.7	↑	4	14.6	12.0	10.7	12.6
2007/08	12.9	↑	3	13.2	11.2	9.8	11.8
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years ▪ SWFA is improving its Quartile position in this indicator ▪ This indicator has been subject to challenge by this Authority. The calculation of the PI includes farms in one part of the indicator but excludes it in another part. This discrepancy disadvantages rural FRA's. 							

BV209(i) - percentage of fires attended in dwellings where a smoke alarm had activated

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	36.3		3	36.2	40.4	45.3	40.5
2006/07	45.1	↑	1	39.7	42.5	44.9	42.0
2007/08	42.9	↓	3	38.4	43.5	46.7	43.4
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Although SWFA has deteriorated in performance over 1 year it is by 2.2% improvement over 3 years has improved by 6.6% 							



BV209(ii) - percentage of fires attended in dwellings where a smoke alarm was fitted but not activated

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	15.7		4	15.4	12.3	11.1	13.1
2006/07	14.1	↑	3	15.8	13.2	10.3	13.4
2007/08	15.1	↓	3	18.2	14.4	10.9	14.9
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although SWFA has deteriorated in performance over 1 year it is by 1% there has been improvement over 3 years. 							

BV209(iii) - percentage of fires attended in dwellings where no smoke alarm was fitted

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	48.0		3	54.3	45.3	40.3	46.4
2006/07	40.8	↑	1	48.7	43.3	40.8	44.6
2007/08	41.9	↓	3	46.9	39.9	36.1	41.5
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although SWFA has deteriorated in performance over 1 year it is by 1.1% there has been improvement over 3 years 							



Operational Response Detail

BV143(i) - number of deaths arising from accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2004/05	0.45		3	0.68	0.44	0.28	0.44
2005/06	0.89	↓	4	0.54	0.40	0.25	0.38
2006/07	0.44	↑	3	0.53	0.38	0.19	0.38
2007/08	0.66	↓	4	0.53	0.37	0.24	0.41
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Operational Assurance KPI's consider fire deaths over 5 years in which this Authority performs in the upper quartile. ▪ A recent report commissioned by CLG⁷ reinforces the view that the number of fire deaths within individual FRA's is very volatile and difficult to assess or predict. 							

Note 4

BV143(ii) - number of injuries arising from accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population - adjusted for deprivation

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2004/05	2.09	↑	1	8.17	5.76	3.80	6.41
2005/06	2.75	↓	1	7.45	4.91	3.16	5.45
2006/07	1.19	↑	1	5.97	3.84	2.39	4.36
2007/08	0.52	↑	1	4.81	3.25	2.00	3.42
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years ▪ SWFA is in the Upper Quartile for this indicator ▪ SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator 							

Note 2

⁷ Analysis of fire and rescue service performance and outcomes with reference to population socio-demographics. Fire Research Services 9/2008 - 22 July 2008.



Context : BV143(ii) - number of injuries arising from accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Increasing / Decreasing	Quartile Position	Lowest 25%	Median	Highest 25%	National Average
2004/05	3.56	↑	4	5.32	6.98	9.50	7.97
2005/06	4.22	↑	4	4.60	6.79	9.18	7.12
2006/07	2.66	↓	4	3.89	5.54	7.31	6.06
2007/08	1.99	↓	4	3.60	4.80	6.30	4.98

BV144 - Percentage of accidental dwelling fires confined to room of origin

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2004/05	90.0	↓	3	89.8	90.5	91.8	90.6
2005/06	90.0	↔	3	89.2	91.1	91.9	90.5
2006/07	91.6	↑	2	89.3	91.4	93.3	91.2
2007/08	94.7	↑	1	88.8	91.2	92.7	90.4

Commentary

- SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years
- SWFA is in the Upper Quartile for this indicator
- SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator

Note 5



BV146(i + ii) – total number of malicious false alarms per 1,000 population adjusted for deprivation

Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	0.5		4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.3
2006/07	0.3	↑	3	0.3	0.2	0.00	0.2
2007/08	0.2	↑	3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years ▪ SWFA is equalling the National Average on this indicator ▪ The actual figures for this indicator are improving 							

Note 2

Context : BV146 (i + ii) – total number of malicious false alarms per 1,000 population
Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Increasing / Decreasing	Quartile Position	Lowest 25%	Median	Highest 25%
2005/06	1.1		1	0.6	0.8	1.1
2006/07	0.9	↓	1	0.5	0.7	0.9
2007/08	0.8	↓	1	0.5	0.6	0.8



BV146(ii) / BV146(i + ii) - proportion of calls to malicious false alarms attended
 Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	0.36		1	0.74	0.57	0.44	0.59
2006/07	0.33	↑	1	0.70	0.50	0.38	0.55
2007/08	0.25	↑	1	0.67	0.44	0.40	0.52
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years ▪ SWFA is in the upper Quartile for this indicator ▪ SWFA is better than the National Average on this indicator ▪ The actuals for this indicator are improving 							

BV149(i) - number of false alarms caused by automatic fire detection per 1,000 non-domestic properties
 Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2004/05	83.1	↑	1	150.8	128.3	112.9	130.7
2005/06	86.5	↓	1	145.3	124.1	100.5	125.2
2006/07	64.0	↑	1	108.4	90.4	71.1	93.3
2007/08	58.1	↑	1	107.3	82.5	67.9	88.2
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SWFA has shown improvement in performance over 1 and 3 years ▪ SWFA is in the Upper Quartile for this indicator ▪ SWFA is performing better than the National Average on this indicator and better than the best performing FRA's. 							



BV149(iii) - percentage of false alarms caused by automatic fire detection which are to a non-domestic property with more than 1 attendance
 Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2006/07	77.5		4	75.9	65.6	55.2	64.4
2007/08	78.0	↓	4	72.8	62.7	47.9	59.5
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Although there has been a deterioration over the 1 and 3 years it has been slight (0.54% and <0.9 % respectively) ▪ A post in now in place to address false alarms and this has dramatically improved (see 149(i)). ▪ Consideration is being given to how this data is collected and calculated, i.e., multiple calls to places of multiple occupation. 							

BV208 - Percentage of people in accidental dwelling fires who escape unharmed
 Comparison group: All Fire Authorities

Year	This Authority	Improving / Deteriorating	Quartile Position	Worst	Median	Best	National Average
2005/06	95.9		1	89.6	92.3	94.4	91.1
2006/07	98.5	↑	1	89.2	92.8	95.4	92.0
2007/08	97.8	↓	1	90.8	93.2	95.1	92.4
Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Although there has been a deterioration over the 1 year (0.7) the indicator shows that 2 more people escaping unharmed would have meant an improvement ▪ SWFA is showing improvement over 3 years in this indicator ▪ SWFA are performing better than the National Average on this indicator 							

