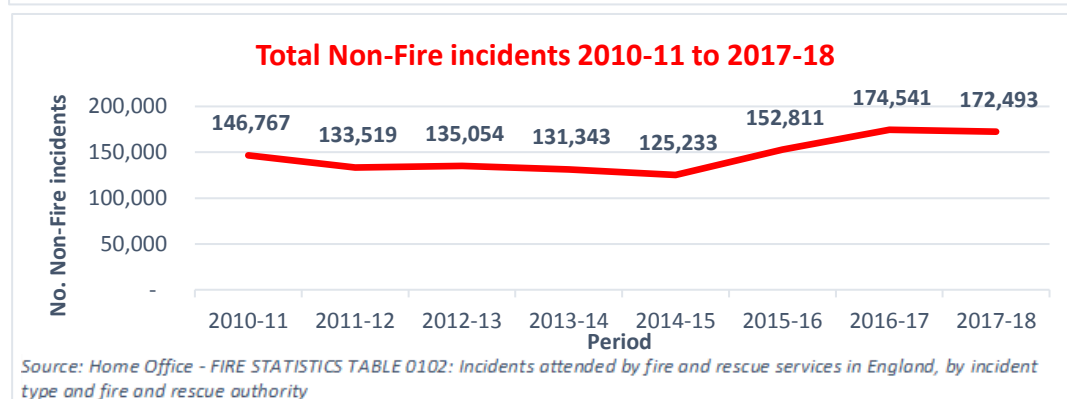
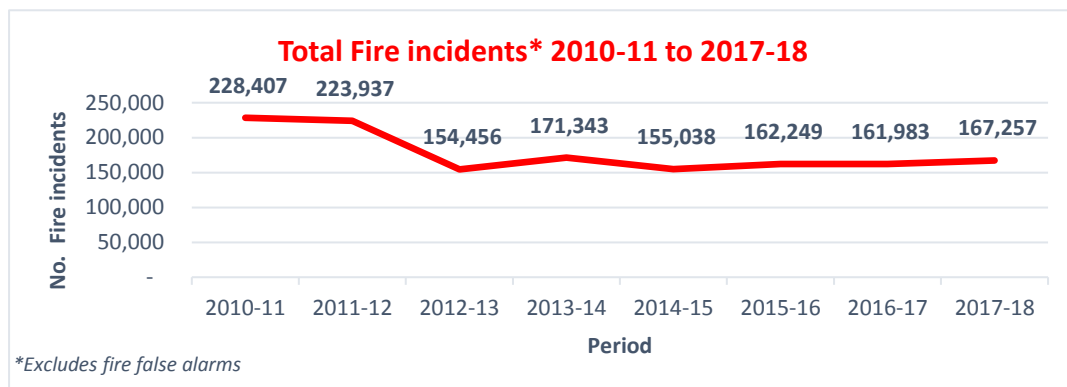




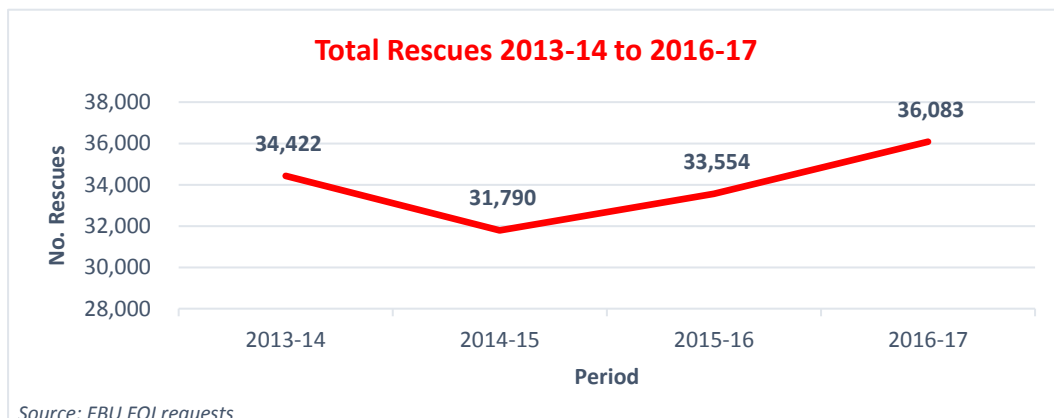
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE MATTERS

England FRS Statistics Bulletin
December 2018

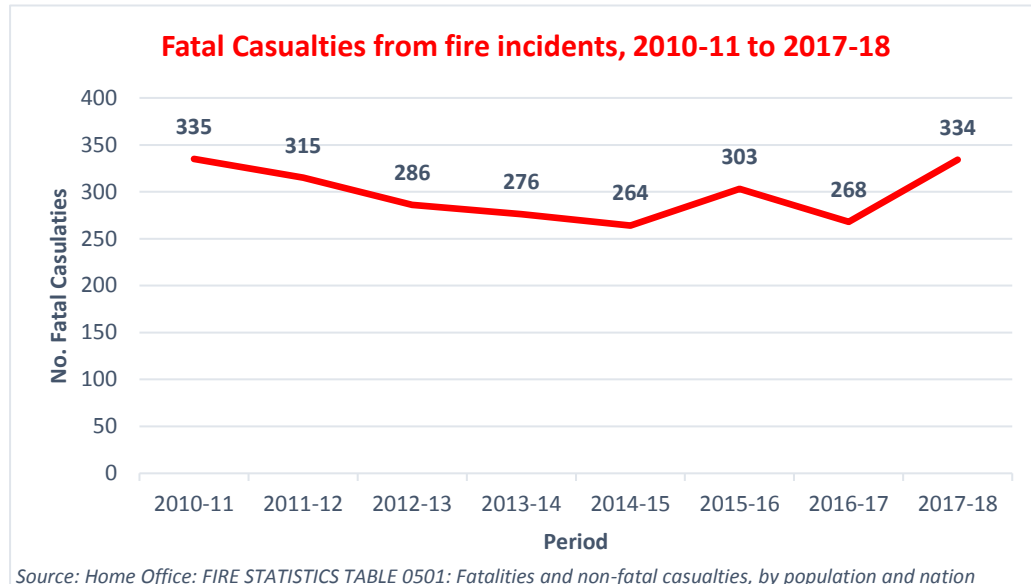
In 2017-18 fire and rescue services in England attended just under 170,000 fire incidents – a 3% increase since last year; during the past five years - total fire incidents has plateaued. Non-fire incidents have seen a large increase with firefighters responding to over 170,000 incidents - a significant 18% increase since 2010-11. The demand on fire and rescue services is still as high as ever.



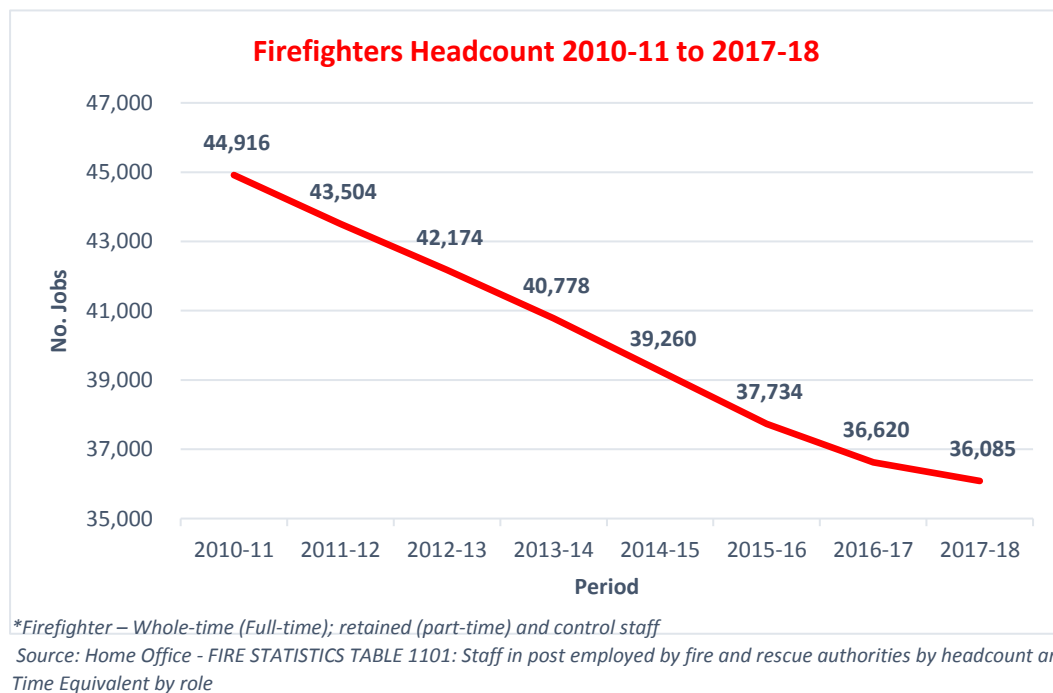
Total rescues carried out in 2016-17 were just over 36,000 increasing by over 2,500 from the previous year – an 8% increase. Rescues conducted by fire and rescue services are on the rise and show no sign of stopping.



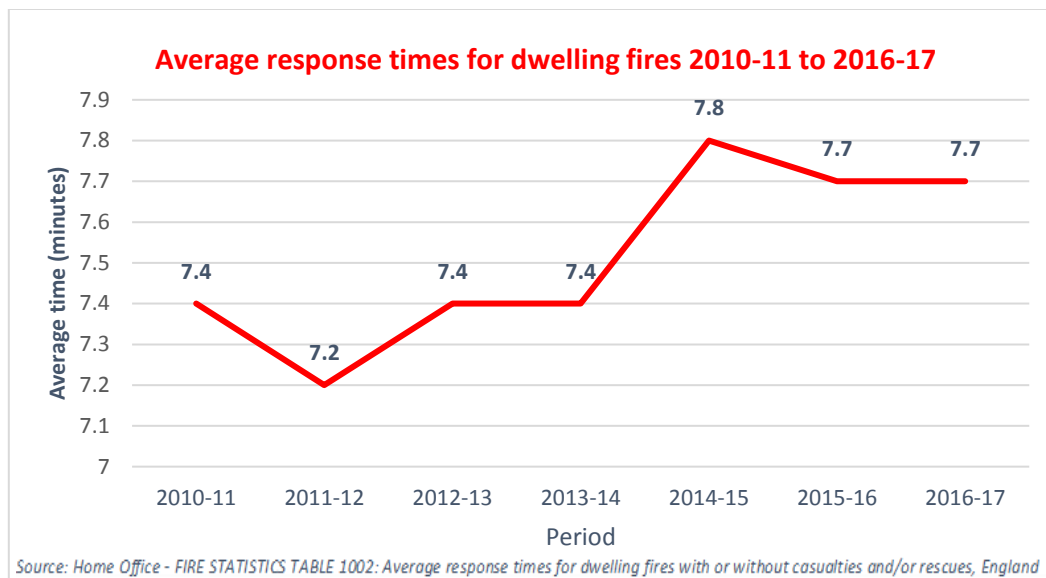
There were 334 fatal fire casualties in 2017-18, an increase of 66 deaths – a significant 25% since 2016/17, in part because of the disastrous Grenfell Tower fire that led to 72 lives being lost; this is the worst year for fire deaths since 2010-11 – yet the government continues to go down the wrong path. The long period of fewer fires and fewer deaths has plateaued over the last five years – with cuts the most likely explanation.



Since 2010-11 there has been a total reduction of almost 9,000 FRS staff – a 20% cut. In addition, the amount of whole time operational firefighters has fallen by just under 6,500 – a significant 22% drop (2010-11: 29,136 – 2017-18: 22,749). Moreover, nearly a third of control staff have been cut since 2010-11 – 433 jobs. England fire and rescue services needs investment - not job cuts.



Average response times for dwelling fires has increased since 2010-11 to 2016-17 from 7.4 minutes to 7.7 minutes – a 4% increase, this looks likely to rise further without increasing investment. Moreover, response times recorded often don't capture the full extent of incidents firefighters attend and thus risks underestimating the average response time. Furthermore, the metric records when the first appliance arrives on the scene – which could be a van for example – these are not capable to fight a dwelling fire alone; the metric does not reveal when a minimum of two fire engines arrive – the necessary standard to fight a dwelling fire.



FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES ARE BEING ASKED TO DO MORE WITH LESS

England fire and rescue services need investment. Since 2010, incidents, rescues, casualties and response times have either plateaued or increased significantly; whilst at the same time funding is being slashed and frontline jobs cut. England fire and rescue services are expected to do more with less – public safety is at risk - this situation cannot go on.