

The Fire Brigades Union



A fair deal for the Fire Service

FBU submission to the
Government's Comprehensive
Spending Review (CSR07)
September 2007

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General Secretary's Introduction

The Government's Comprehensive Spending Review is central to fire service funding until 2011. The Fire Brigades Union's submission to the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review raised a number of key concerns including:

The proportion of fire and rescue service spending paid by central Government has dropped from 80% of the total to around 70% since 1997;

This drop has coincided with far greater demands being placed on the fire and rescue service, particularly with regard to providing a significant national resilience capacity as well as being focussed on providing a local emergency response;

The service has developed into an all-round rescue service which extends well beyond fire and there is a high degree of high public confidence in the service at present;

In the summer of 2007, as the service was very stretched by flooding, there were two attempted terrorist atrocities;

The number of wholtime firefighters in England has dropped from 32,033 in 1997 to 30,774 in 2006;

This drop has coincided with a 40% increase in the number of support staff, a significant shift in emphasis away from the frontline service;

There are already increasing demands on the fire and rescue service by changes in weather patterns with 2006 having a large number of major outdoor fires and 2007 having widespread flooding;

There has been a significant increase in police and paramedic numbers, the other two services which have to respond to major emergencies. But the fire and rescue service is the only blue light service singled out for cuts to frontline personnel.

There is a fine line between being very stretched by incidents and being overwhelmed by them. No one will be able to predict precisely when that will happen, but those who work on the frontline of response have genuine concerns that the fire and rescue service is close to that tipping point.

The Fire Brigades Union believes that a relatively small amount of additional central Government funding could make a world of difference to what remains a world class public service. It is unsustainable for ever more work to be piled onto the service without all of the funding needed to deliver that work with the necessary numbers of personnel, training and equipment to carry it out safely and efficiently.

We think there is a good case for seeing a better deal for the fire service. The FBU will continue to press the case for this to happen.

M. Wrack

Matt Wrack
General Secretary



Introduction

The UK fire and rescue service is facing unprecedented challenges while maintaining a first class service to the public. This is in the midst of ever increasing statutory responsibilities, expectations and demands placed on it by natural and man-made emergencies.

The work being undertaken by the fire and rescue service is expanding and this needs to be addressed in this round of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The fire and rescue service is the key responder to a wide range of emergencies and the FBU feels it is critical for the public's high degree of confidence in the service to be maintained and built upon.

While the number of some types of fires is dropping, the range of emergencies being attended is expanding and the scale of some of those emergencies is growing. This was recognised by former Fire Minister Angela Smith MP in a speech to the Fire Brigades Union conference in May 2007.

In that speech she said: "We are seeing an increasing demand for fire and rescue services. The scale is also changing and increasing. We also need to look at the challenges climate change brings, not only flooding but heathland fires. And we have to accept that terrorists will go on plotting to perpetrate atrocities in ways we can only – but must – imagine. We have to expect the unexpected."

The CSR07 sets out 5 major challenges:

- demographic and socio economic change, including a rise in the old age dependency ratio and rising expectations of public services;
- intensification of cross border economic competition, and a change in the balance of the world economy;
- innovation and technical diffusion, which will transform the way people live, and open up new possibilities for public services;
- continued global uncertainty with ongoing threats of international terrorism and conflicts;
- increasing pressures on natural resources and global climate.

The Fire and Rescue Service has a role in responding to all of these challenges. The first three have a direct impact on risk patterns at a local level. The fourth challenge is the driving force behind New Dimension. The Service already has a major job in dealing with the natural global changes and will play an increasingly influential role in sustaining the environment – both of which are the subject of the fifth challenge.

Spending Concerns

The service is playing a central role in providing national resilience in the event of major incidents or series of major incidents. This was under-scored this summer when an already over-stretched fire and rescue service was close to having to deal with at least two significant terrorist incidents which may have been the start of a major campaign.

While we are playing a key role in providing national resilience, the service is still being funded as if it were an exclusively local public service and not the key regional and national provider of the first response to a wide range of major emergencies. It is essential this is fully and properly addressed in this spending review with national Government – reversing recent trends – taking responsibility for a greater slice of the proportion of fire and rescue service funding.

The early findings of a funding analysis carried out for the FBU by the Institute of Public Finance in an as yet unpublished report has found that national Government's proportion of fire service funding has fallen from 80% to 70% since 1997.

No one would expect Government to be in a position to fill that entire gap instantly. But the FBU feels that some steps need to be taken to fully recognise the new pressures now being placed on the service by Government, by climate change, by demographic change and by the New Dimension of terrorism.

There has been unparalleled capital investment provided by national Government to provide the equipment necessary to help deal with New Dimension and other major incidents. In the floods this year some of that equipment prevented almost unquantifiable damage in Yorkshire (at the dam) and in Gloucestershire a few weeks later.

In the view of the FBU, the capital investment in this new equipment paid for itself many times over at those two incidents alone. There may need to be more capital investment of this kind, but this has been money well spent.

While the capital investment has been very welcome, there has not been the revenue funding to keep pace with this new national resilience requirement. As highlighted earlier, the Government's proportion of fire and rescue service funding has been cut substantially.

There may be greater challenges to national resilience than this year's floods and the service needs properly trained and fully equipped personnel in sufficient numbers to continue to make a real difference.

Any additional revenue funding would be money well spent on a highly regarded and respected public service which delivers results the public can see and appreciate. In the aftermath of the July floodings *The Times* published a Populus poll which included the following findings:

Response to Flooding

Now I'd like you to say how good or bad a job you think various people have done in responding to the severe flooding in many parts of the country? Please give each one a mark out of ten, where 1 means they have done a very bad job in responding to the floods and 10 means they have done a very good job. If you don't have a view either way, please say so.

(Average mark out of 10)	All	Men	Women	Lab	Con	LD
The fire service	8.72	8.68	8.75	8.50	8.93	8.58
The armed forces	7.82	7.79	7.85	7.63	8.23	7.64
Local authorities in the affected areas	6.14	6.13	6.14	6.23	6.31	6.25
The Environment Agency	5.94	5.74	6.12	6.03	5.93	5.96
Gordon Brown	5.05	4.96	5.14	6.47	4.52	5.11
The government as a whole	4.89	4.89	4.88	5.97	4.60	4.85
David Cameron	3.75	3.56	3.94	3.44	4.82	3.73

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Gordon Brown	5.05	4.96	5.14	6.47	4.52	5.11
The government as a whole	4.89	4.89	4.88	5.97	4.60	4.85
David Cameron	3.75	3.56	3.94	3.44	4.82	3.73

All voters	8 out of 10 or higher	3 out of 10 or lower
The fire service	77%	3%
The armed forces	58%	6%
Local authorities in the affected areas	25%	12%
The Environment Agency	21%	11%
Gordon Brown	17%	23%
The government as a whole	14%	26%
David Cameron	5%	35%

(Average mark out of 10)	SE	Midlands	North	Wales & SW	Scotland
The fire service	8.63	8.85	8.57	9.01	8.46
The armed forces	7.84	7.98	7.58	8.27	7.27
Local authorities in the affected areas	6.33	6.29	5.75	6.22	5.99
The Environment Agency	6.16	5.88	5.64	6.02	6.14
Gordon Brown	4.96	4.92	5.00	5.10	5.81
The government as a whole	4.69	4.85	5.00	5.06	4.98
David Cameron	3.88	3.74	3.68	3.65	3.74

Populus interviewed a random sample of 1511 adults aged 18+ by telephone between 27th July 2007 and 29th July 2007. Interviews were conducted across England and the results have been weighted to be representative of all English adults. Populus is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

Source: *The Times*/Populus

The public clearly has very high confidence and faith in the fire service's ability to respond to the major incidents thrown at it. The FBU wants to see that continue and be built on. Addressing the revenue funding gap would be a major step in achieving that aim.

Climate Change is Here and Now

The FBU welcomes the Government's interest in how climate change affects the fire and rescue service and hopes that the Government will no longer ignore the growing pressures already placed on fire and rescue services by climate change.

The perception among frontline firefighters is that the UK weather is already more extreme, varied and unpredictable. We first said this in the summer of 2006, a year before the floodings in the summer of 2007.

Statistics for the number of outdoor fires have been collected since 1986. These incidents often needed hundreds of fire crews working for many days, and sometimes weeks.

The recent increase in hotter, drier summers have created tinder-dry conditions. Met office figures show the average land temperature has risen by 1°C since the 19th century with a noticeable rise from the early 1990s onwards (see Environment Agency fact sheet and Fire and Rescue Service research paper 1/2006, appendices A and B respectively).

Our own analysis of official figures for grassland and heathland fires, show that between 1986 and 1993 there were on average 37,371 grassland and heathland blazes a year in Britain. But in the 11 years from 1994 to 2005 the average rose to 60,332 a year with a number of significant "spikes".

This, in our view, strongly suggests that the number of grassland and heathland fires is especially sensitive to even small increases in average land temperatures. According to the national fire statistics 2004: "The number of grassland and heathland fires is very dependent on weather conditions." In short, the more hot and dry the weather the greater the number of outdoor fires.

This is not a prediction of change in the future, but a measure of the change which has already happened and which directly impacts on the work of the fire service.

Such was the spike in numbers in 2003 that the official fire statistics recorded in 2004 that "there were 61,400 such fires [grassland and heathland fires] recorded, 60% less than the previous year. This was due to a return to more seasonally average weather conditions after a dry 2003 saw 152,700 grassland fires". (Source: Fire Statistics 2004, page 55. 5.3)

A year's 'respite' in 2004 was followed by an 80% increase in grassland fires in the third quarter of 2005

compared to the same period in 2004. This was also put down to warm weather conditions. In 2005, the number of grassland fires rose by 18% overall.

There are no finalised figures for 2006 but the quarterly Fire Service Monitor which covers the period up to the end of September 2006 (published on 9 August 2007) recorded, without further comment, a UK-wide increase of 37% in grassland and heathland fires to 88,400 when compared to the same quarter in 2005.

In our view there is no question that changing weather patterns are placing huge stress on personnel and resulting in considerable additional costs for fire authorities. One fire authority – Norfolk – resorted in 2006 to raiding its pension fund 'pot' to pay for the increased demand on resources caused by these "unseasonal" weather patterns which had brought major outdoor fires to significant areas of Norfolk.

Many of the major grass and heathland fires in 2006 were so dangerous and spread so quickly that members of the public had to be evacuated from nearby homes. The incidents affected whole areas of the UK, including a significant number of well known sites such as at Ilkley Moor and Arthur's Seat in Scotland. 90% of Ilkley Moor was destroyed by fire.

Please see Appendix C which sets out the statistics since 1986 (when the figures started to be collected) in the rise in outdoor grassland and heathland fires. Leaving aside arguments about the cause of the warm, dry weather which creates the conditions for such fires, the statistics show an increase in the number of these fires and media and other reports point to very large incidents.

The implication for fire service resources is enormous. In 2006 fire crews were working up to 14 hours without a break, well beyond accepted safe limits. The result was heat exhaustion, dehydration and at some incidents firefighters trapped in heathland and grassland fires had to be airlifted to safety.

The strain on officers was severe and emergency fire control operators also handled thousands of extra calls and were placed under major pressure. In some areas the fire service was stretched so much in dealing with these incidents there were almost no crews or appliances to deal with other emergencies.

Floodings

The summer of 2007 was wetter, the number of outdoor fires receded and the floods came. While predicting the exact location of flooding may be impossible, predicting that the fire service will be stretched by significant flooding is not.

Cumbria faced significant and widespread flooding in January 2005 and the centre of Carlisle was very badly hit. Over 2,000 homes were flooded as were Carlisle's police and fire stations.

This followed flash flooding at Boscastle only a few months before which resulted in a major multi-agency rescue operation.

The summer of 2007 brought another combination of challenges: major flooding severely stretched the fire service – although responding to such flooding is not a statutory duty – and there were two attempted terrorist atrocities, one in London, the other in Glasgow. The chronological proximity of these events highlight to the service, and to Government, that terrorists may strike when the fire and rescue service is already severely stretched.

A key lesson to be learned by the events of the summer of 2007 is that a combination of major natural incidents and attempts at man-made disasters is foreseeable. Such events can be planned for and response to them must be fully and properly funded.

The Government does not collate national statistics on the impact on/response of the fire service to flooding, despite it being a major issue. Floodings are very resource intensive, tying up crews and equipment for very long periods of time.

Based on information the FBU received in late June 2007, the UK fire and rescue service undertook the biggest rescue effort in peacetime Britain. The Service was stretched to its very limits but it rescued as many as 3,500 people from the floods in June alone. Thousands were evacuated to safe areas although their homes and businesses had been flooded.

Huge areas of the UK were hit, not once but twice, with a second set of flooding only weeks later. Fire crews and officers were again working at the very limits of capacity. Emergency fire control operators were under major pressure with thousands of extra calls for assistance from the public. Fire crews and officers from other brigades were moved in to help their colleagues in the flooded areas.

Boscastle, Cornwall, was among the areas flooded again in 2007. The much vaunted new flood defences were found wanting, underlining the need for an adequate, properly resourced, emergency response in addition to steps to mitigate the impact of floods.

The Chief Fire Officers Association has expressed a note of concern about the lack of clarity over who is responsible for responding to flooding incidents, and a lack of co-ordination between the agencies currently responsible. Currently fire and rescue services have no specific statutory duty with respect to flooding incidents although in Scotland this is, technically, different.

We note that on Monday 2 July, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Hilary Benn, in recognising that fire and rescue services "contribute enormously" to the response to flooding, told the House of Commons: "We are prepared to consider giving the fire and rescue services a flood rescue duty, if and when full equipment and training are in place..."

The FBU believes issues around equipment and training – and the appropriate funding to provide appropriate numbers of personnel – need to be addressed if there is to be a proper national preparedness for response to flooding by the fire service in the future. But equipment and training are not enough on their own, we also need sufficient numbers of personnel.

No Business Like Snow Business

The Government does not collate statistics on the impact on/response of the fire service to other outdoor incidents, such as those related to snow or other extreme weather events such as tornadoes and other high wind events. Yet Operation Snowflake – the fire and rescue service response to the “freak” snowstorm on Bodmin Moor, Cornwall, in November 2005, saw around 1,000 people trapped in the freezing temperatures in their cars on the A30, stuck in six-mile tailbacks.

Royal Marine and two RAF and Navy helicopters and a convoy of four-wheel drive vehicles organised by Devon and Cornwall police had to be drafted in to help in the rescue effort, taking stranded drivers to leisure centres and emergency shelters for the night. The year 2005 saw 25 heavy snowfall days, which is the joint highest year with 1876 for the heaviest snowfalls across the United Kingdom between the years 1861-2005.



New Duties and Responsibilities

New duties and responsibilities were laid down in law in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and in a similar, although not identical act, a year later in Scotland:

- Promote fire safety, hitherto carried out on a discretionary basis, in their area. This duty is the subject of formal targets in the National Framework which includes the aim to reduce fire deaths in the home by 20% by 2010. This could include: fire safety education (especially for vulnerable groups), smoke alarm installation, chip pan safety demonstrations and fire safety checks for householders and others. Training programmes for young people and work with local businesses, agencies and partnerships (such as crime and disorder partnerships and local strategic partnerships);
- Road traffic accidents, hitherto carried out on a discretionary basis;
- Emergencies other than fire and road incidents – in response to an event or situation that causes or is likely to cause death, injury, illness; as well as harm to the environment (including the life and health of plants and animals). Subsequent fire and rescue services have been given a specific duty to respond to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents and terrorist incidents. It has no specific duty to respond to flooding incidents, although that is technically different under the Scottish legislation;
- Incidents on or under water, in agreement with the Maritime Coastguard Agency.

The Local Government White Paper 2006 sets out to add to the Service's statutory responsibilities. It states:

"... We ... propose ... a new duty for the local authority and named partners [includes fire and rescue authorities] to cooperate with each other to agree the targets in the LAA [Local Area Agreement]; and a new duty for the local authority and named partners to have regard to relevant targets in the LAA – as set out by the relevant Secretary of State in directions. (5.26, Volume 1)

"The named partners [includes fire authorities] ... will be placed under a duty to co-operate with each other to agree relevant targets in the LAA (5.27)

"We want to put community safety at the heart of the place-shaping role of local authorities – reflecting the

high priority that local communities place on these issues. And we want to make it easier for all local partners – including local authorities, chief constables, police authorities, youth offending teams, probation boards and fire and rescue authorities – to work together in delivering improved community safety and building respect. This White Paper provides a sustainable framework for local action which will strengthen partnership working and give communities a bigger say in identifying and tackling local safety priorities." (A1, Volume 2)

There will be a "strengthening of partnership working...:

- a duty on the local authority to prepare the LAA [Local Area Agreement] as well as the Sustainable Community Strategy in consultation with others;
- a new duty on the local authority and named local partners (including chief constables, police authorities, local probation boards, youth offending teams, and fire and rescue authorities) to co-operate with each other in agreeing the relevant targets in the LAA... (A15)

"In addition to crime and policing issues, we will expect local partners, local probation boards, youth offending teams, fire and rescue authorities representatives from the voluntary and private sectors, to continue working together in agreeing and delivering on priorities for reducing re-offending, managing migration, youth justice and fire and other safety risks. (A18)

"Many local authorities are already providing strong strategic leadership on community safety, backed by successful partnerships with their key partners: chief constables, police authorities, fire and rescue authorities, youth offending teams and probation boards. This White Paper removes barriers to collaborative working, and offers a powerful new set of levers to allow every local authority to meet the community's expectations for a safer environment in which to live and work. (A23)"

Funding Concerns

The result of these new duties has been a major expansion in the work of the fire and rescue service. The work of the service is now so diverse that we are an increasingly all-round community rescue service combined with providing the frontline response to major national-level incidents such as terror attacks.

While work is expanding, the proportion of Central Government funding for the fire and rescue service has dropped from covering 80% of total FRS expenditure in 1997 to 70% of total expenditure today. (Source: early findings of Institute of Public Finance analysis of 10-year fire service funding trends).

This is a significant drop, with a greater proportion of the financial burden being placed on local authorities. The "gearing" effect of even a 1% cut in the proportion being funded by central government can mean that many times – up to five times – that percentage has to be found from increases in local council tax to fill the gap.

While some elements of some new duties – such as those that come under the New Dimension programme – have had specific central government capital spending and some revenue funding, many, especially in regard to community safety initiatives, have not, or have been working on a pilot basis. Even the funding of the New Dimension programme has not been without concerns, with London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) having to buy additional specialist vehicles from its own revenue.

Issues around the long-term funding of the New Dimension programme have not reached a definitive conclusion. The FBU does not feel it is either fair or realistic to have local fire authorities under-writing the long-term funding of national resilience programmes pre-dominantly from local council tax payers.

There are also serious concerns about being able to maintain current commitments, let alone new duties as outlined in the Local Government White Paper. This is compounded by issues like changing weather patterns, as discussed in more detail earlier, that are having a major impact on resources.

All this at a time of increasing demands for "Gershon" efficiency savings. The result has been pressure to cut and actual cuts on the very frontline fire and rescues services which are having ever greater demands being placed upon it.

The Treasury's focus on efficiency through cashable gains is also an issue of serious concern. As the LGA says: "While non-cashable gains can be collected and monitored, these do not count towards the target. Many Authorities regard this as unfair, on the grounds that it excludes some very significant capacity improvements which have enabled the Service over the years to take on wider roles without specific additional funding. (1.1)

The LGA warns:

The CSR07 period could rewrite the guidelines for Fire Service funding, at a time when the Service's modernisation plans are in place and starting to deliver benefits. Over the next few years, the Service will be facing new demands from two directions – to participate in the sustainable communities programme arising out of the recent White Paper; and to play a leading role locally and regionally in the Civil Contingencies and Counter Terrorism response. If resource levels are cut back, and the capacity to use internally generated savings is reduced, it is essential that the Service and the Government recognise the risks involved."

There are a range of warnings which include:

- Lower funding levels could lead to cuts in service;
- The Service may be unable to sustain the current level of cashable and non cashable efficiencies now that the initial IRMP linked gains have been released;
- ... this will cut off the flow of new resources to support CFS and partnership projects;
- Expectations from partners – most of whom will face the same resource constraints – will remain at present levels, leading to loss of momentum, direction and morale when the Fire Service is unable to respond;
- Funding shortfalls could force the Service to refocus towards its original core role, leaving new initiatives unfunded;
- Continued expansion of CFS and Partnership work may weaken basic fireground skills;
- The local implications of New Dimension could pre-empt resources which would ultimately be directed to CFS;

- Ending of DCLG specific grant funding streams, or uncertainties about future availability, may put local projects at risk;
- An essentially short term view of future resourcing conflicts with the aim of setting a medium term vision for the Service;
- Capital/PFI funding streams may be insufficient to enable the Service to modernise (4.3).

Source: LGA (LGA submission with regards to Fire Service to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 – Safety First – The case for resourcing the Fire and Rescue Service 2008/9 to 2010/11)

A Success Story

The fire and service is a real success story when it has the personnel and other resources to do the job. The latest available figures showed that there were 3,868 people rescued by the fire service from fires in the home in England and Wales alone (answer by Jim Fitzpatrick to parliamentary question by Andrew Dismore MP, 16 June 2005). Of 20 people alive and trapped in fires, nineteen are being rescued alive by the fire service, nearly half of them uninjured.

This year, at least 3,500 people were rescued from devastating floods. Many more – as yet unspecified – were rescued in the floods that struck in July and August. Flash flooding continued to hit some communities – Torbay suffered one fatality – well into August.

Fire deaths, according to Government statistics (Fire Statistics, 2005), hit the lowest level since 1959 in 2005 as 491 fatalities were recorded, 16 fewer than in 2004. It is to be noted, however, that deaths in dwelling fires did actually increase, by 2, to 376.

The fire service is increasingly stretched amid concerns that lives are being saved while livelihoods are being lost. Rising fire losses could increasingly have a significant impact on business.

Insurers have faced the five most expensive years of fire losses in history since 2000. (Source ABI and Parliamentary questions). In a contribution to this year's Fire Conference they noted that large fires are on the increase, as are total losses at such fires.

They see a "lack of consistency" of fire cover, a lack of consistency of fire safety inspections and are worried about the "different methods" of approaching responses to automatic fire alarms (AFAs).

At the Fire Conference insurers outlined concerns about whether IRMPs are making enough recognition of:

- The special features of reduced structural protection;
- Increased presence of foreign labour within our commercial buildings – Hotels, security guards in offices, construction sites;
- Predictions for climate change and the rapidly changing threats of major flooding events.

One major insurer at the conference said it fully supports the central principles behind the changes to the fire service:

- Focus on life safety;
- Move to meet the different challenges (Road Accidents etc);
- Prevention as the main driver.

But it said that the industry needs "to fully understand the consequences of each change and have time to react. We want to see prevention working before we see reductions in response levels, timing is crucial. We need to be able to track changes easily."

It notes that with each of the UK's 58 fire and rescue authorities having a different integrated risk management plan – many with several parts, only making sense if all previous plans are read – for national organisations like insurers, understanding the modern fire service and calculating the potential consequences is not practical. It argues that without being able to assess the impact on a commercial risk, it "must assume the worst."

Its fear is that as a consequence it will lose money, pass the costs on to UK business and this will effect their viability and damage the competitive position of 'UK PLC'.

One potential example of this is in Cornwall, where proposed cuts to fire cover – night time cuts at Camborne and Falmouth fire stations that would leave Cornwall as the only county in England without any around-the-clock, immediate emergency response – under the fire authority's IRMP could threaten the local ship retro-fitting industry as rising insurance premiums undermine the sector's competitiveness vis-à-vis foreign ports. This would be a major blow to the local economy, which until recently was among the least developed in the whole of the UK, and would have a negative impact on jobs.

Some insurers are even thinking of removing insurance cover completely for some risks. This indeed would be an extremely serious development and not something the Treasury or Government should take lightly.

What is clear is that – and Cornwall is a case in point – many fire authorities are not properly assessing risk in their brigade areas but are simply using IRMPs to make savings because of budgetary pressures. We believe that this is potentially extremely dangerous in terms of perceptions of public safety and increase in large fires and fire losses flagged up by the insurance industry.

Professional Concerns of the Workforce

It is notable that since 2001, the year of the attacks on the Twin Towers in the US, the police and ambulance service have seen their staffing levels increase by 13% (police officers and community support officers) and 17% (paramedics) respectively. In contrast, the number of firefighters has been cut (See appendix A).

A report commissioned by the FBU from the Institute of Public Finance has made early findings that the number of wholetime firefighters has dropped by 3.4% since 1997 while the number of support staff has increased by more than 40%. And while the number of firefighters working the retained duty system has increased, there remains a UK-wide shortage of at least 3,000 firefighters working retained duty with the FBU's own estimates suggesting the shortage may now be as high as 5,000.

As an organisation representing the concerns of frontline fire crews in the UK fire and rescue service, we are also concerned about budget-driven staff cuts, which along with other pressures related to budget constraints and ever-demanding responsibilities, may be having a negative impact on safe working conditions.

It should be noted that in recent years we have seen an upsurge in the deaths of firefighters. There have been firefighter deaths every year since 2002 (see appendix B). We lost another firefighter, Sub Officer Paul Mallaghan of Hertfordshire fire and rescue service, in early June and this death remains under investigation.

The resources must be made available to fire and rescue authorities to continue to maintain standards at a time of ever great responsibilities and demands on the Service. Otherwise they risk failing to protect both the communities they serve and their own workforces.

Demographic and Socio Economic Change

Statistics

The most recent UK census (2001) revealed that there were now 1.1 million people aged over 85 – a fivefold increase on the 1951 survey. By mid-2007 the census estimated that 11,000 people would be aged 100 and over. In 2005, it was estimated, there were more than 11m people aged 60 or more – this will rise to 12.2 million by 2011 and over 15.3 million by 2031.

It is a fact that the older you are, the more likely you are to die as a result of a fire.

According to the latest Fire Statistics (2005), the fatality rates among people over 80 years of age in England and Wales are the highest of any age group, and this has been the case for at least the last five years that these figures cover. The statistics also show that the next most vulnerable group is the 65-79 age group, and after that, the 60-64 age group.

The death rate – measured as fatalities per million – for the over-80s in 2005 was more than twice that of the 30-59 age group and in 2004 it was four times higher.

Response

An aging population requires a twin response from the fire service – improved prevention and improved emergency response.

Government thinking on care for the elderly, as set out by Dr Stephen Ladyman MP, Parliamentary Undersecretary of State at the Department of Health in 2005, is for a two-tiered system:

The first tier consisted of a series of options:

- Adaptations to the person's home to allow them to stay for as long as they are able with care being provided from an external source as necessary;
- Move or even buy into a sheltered housing scheme with care and communal facilities available;
- "Extra care" scheme consisting of super sheltered flats or bungalows with central communal facilities including nursing and medical care on site.

The second tier of care, which would be for the most care-dependent persons and at their choice, is to move into a residential care home.

For those who chose to stay in their own home, fire protection needs to be considered very carefully – and

any home improvement process for this and other safety, security and accessibility issues has to include appropriate funding. If not, there is the risk that some elderly people living in their own homes may not be able to afford the necessary degree of safety. They should not be at any more risk than those that choose to move into sheltered accommodation and their homes should have the same safety facilities present.

For purpose built sheltered or extra care accommodation units, in addition to effective fire separation measures, the FBU believes that residential sprinkler systems should be mandatory in purpose built sheltered or extra care accommodation units. Scotland has given a lead by making, from April 2005, sprinkler systems mandatory in all new build sheltered accommodation through its Building Regulations.

This should be part of a solution that involves the harnessing of the latest technology – advanced and integrated electronic fire alarm, safety and security systems which are remotely monitored and linked to personal alarms carried by residents

Prevention plus intervention

In addition to such "preventative" measures, an effective emergency response must be maintained. The elderly must not become yet another fire statistic.

Continuous attempts by fire authorities – driven by budgetary considerations – to cut back emergency response – in a number of cases during night-time hours – will only increase the risk of death and injury to the elderly, who will suffer disproportionately due to their lack of mobility and isolation. Given the growing grey population fire and rescue authorities should be maintaining and improving their emergency response.

Intensification of Cross Border Economic Competition, and a Change in the Balance of the World Economy

Migration

Migration is a significant factor in the process of intensifying global competition, as underlined the latest OECD International Migration Outlook study published 25 June 2007. This showed migration into Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries rose by 10% in 2005, with 473,800 settled in the UK that year. These figures do not include temporary migration or illegal immigration.

Accurate figures

The UK Government figures have been criticised heavily by local councils for underestimating immigration. Local councils say they are finding themselves under-resourced to provide for growing migrant communities and fear central government funding based on such figures will perpetuate this underfunding. The FBU would join the call for more accurate figures as an underestimation is no doubt also having an impact on the fire service.

Accommodation and fire risk

A second issue related to migration of importance to the fire service is the sub-standard accommodation of migrant workers, an area where gangmasters are known to be active. Increasing numbers of migrant workers complain of substandard accommodation, according to a number of sources, including the Citizens Advice Bureaux (2006).

Migrants are often housed in Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). In Bath and North East Somerset, for example, "a high proportion" of the HMOs "have "little or no adequate fire precautions", according to the council. The council correctly points out that the risk of being killed or injured by a fire has been estimated ten times more likely in a HMO than in a house occupied by a single household.

A report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (May 2007) on the experiences of east European immigrants to the UK found that "some migrants experienced very poor housing conditions and overcrowding" and although regulation and inspection of HMOs was strengthened since April 2006 "there is however a backlog, with many properties as yet unlicensed; and overcrowding and the poor state of repairs in some HMOs housing East European migrants has given rise

to complaints. The implications of overcrowding (fire risk, for instance) for those living in such conditions, as well as for their neighbours, suggest that serious thought needs to be given to the kinds of accommodation that could be available to migrants which would provide satisfactory living conditions at affordable rents, while ensuring enforcement of regulations regarding houses in multiple occupation."

In East Ayrshire, the local fire service has warned local authorities about the potential for a disaster in private rented sector houses of multiple occupation which are being used to house migrant workers from Eastern Europe (Feb 2007, East Ayrshire council newsletter for the private rented sector). The alarm comes amid concern over the growing strain on the private rented sector caused by migration from the EU accession countries. Fire brigade chiefs are warning councils that Eastern European migrants are living in potential death traps because increasing numbers are being crammed into houses in multiple occupation. The fire authorities fear that unlicensed HMOs carry a high fire risk as rooms are used over their full capacity.

Migrant farm workers are also housed in caravan sites. At one such site near Arbroath, Scotland there was a fire earlier this year at a caravan site housing migrant, in which a worker from the Czech Republic died and another was seriously injured.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) stated: "This tragic fire highlighted the dangers that migrant workers' accommodation can pose if some basic precautions are not taken, as well as the need for workers with often a limited knowledge of English to be provided with help and advice in their own language.... We know that caravans and other types of accommodation have and continue to be used to house seasonal workers, often on farms where migrants provide a valuable labour force. The recent fire highlighted the fact that some farmers are diversifying by providing accommodation for migrants who work elsewhere." (30 May 2007)

The HSE takes a voluntarist approach to the problem, however, limiting itself in this case to providing, in conjunction with the local fire service and housing association in this case, to advice to migrants and farmers providing accommodation. The FBU does not believe this approach will prevent such tragedies occurring in the future.

The FBU in Tayside, prior to the above mentioned caravan fire, raised concerns with Tayside Fire and

Rescue about the number of migrant workers living in Tayside — in particular the fire safety status of their accommodation. It has also called for a register of the locations of migrant workers to be established so that the Fire and Rescue Service can carry out safety checks. This may be an initiative that needs to be rolled out nationally, or in areas where there is a high concentration of migrant workers.

The FBU also believes there is, in the absence of the HSE stepping in, a role for inspection for the fire service in such instances. This will of course need appropriate funding, but the potential gains in terms of protecting lives and properties would justify this expanded role. We believe this role could also support the Government's campaign against Gangmasters, following the passing of The Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004 (Amendment).

New broader responsibilities

A third matter linked to migration is the twin task of promoting community cohesion and fire safety in migrant communities which the UK fire and rescue service is currently involved in. In addition to this, the Local Government White Paper 2006 has proposed local fire services, along with other public services, the responsibility of "managing migration" (paragraph A18):

These new responsibilities, like a range of other new responsibilities placed on the UK fire and rescue service in the Local Government White Paper, will need to receive specific funding and any existing projects will need to see their central government funding maintained.

As the LGA points out:

"DCLG funding for Community Safety initiatives has been particularly valuable across the country in kick starting new initiatives and providing the core funding which often generates the momentum to open up other funding streams.

If the Fire Service is to enhance its contribution to local and community partnerships, it is essential that funding streams such as these are protected. Many valuable initiatives are now in place, but need continuation funding to guarantee their success. Funding need not come direct to the Fire Service. There are many initiatives which are sponsored by Local Authorities or the Police Service which would benefit from greater Fire Service involvement.

"Authorities will be looking to mainstream those [pilots] which do deliver benefits, and this will require the funding to be earmarked within CSR07. (point 1.35)

"Progress has been achieved through the efforts of the Service itself at local and regional level, but also through positive direction from the centre, and a supportive approach to resourcing the Service through block grants and targeted funding for special initiatives. The risk for the Service in the tighter financial environment envisaged for the CRS07 period is that momentum will be lost and that the Service will be forced to retreat back towards its core roles." (point 2.2)

(Source: LGA (LGA submission with regards to Fire Service to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 – Safety First – The case for resourcing the Fire and Rescue Service 2008/9 to 2010/11)

Possible funding source

The FBU notes new Treasury figures showing that migrant workers are responsible for around 10% of economic growth and recent research by the Trade Union Congress (TUC, June 2007) that migrant workers pay more in taxes than the value of public services they receive.

We support the proposal of the TUC that a share of the extra prosperity that migrant workers are contributing to the economy is used to ensure local public services – and that includes fire and rescue services – can deal with these new workers without such additional responsibilities diverting vital funding away from the Service's core functions.

Travel

An upshot of the intensification of cross border economic competition is increased travel of goods and people, for which the fire service needs to better prepared than ever.

Roads

There are an ever increasing number of people and vehicles travelling in the UK, according to the Department for Transport website. The numbers of foreign vehicles on UK roads – presumably driven by trade, labour migration and tourism – has increased

substantially in recent years, according to the Freight Transport Association (September 6, 2006). It is now estimated that something like one in seven of the heaviest vehicles on UK roads is from abroad.

The fire service has shown itself to be effective at dealing with road traffic accidents in this context of rising traffic: the number of road traffic incidents attended by the fire service involving persons rescued has increased by 30% between 1994/5 and 2004/5 (Parliamentary answer from Angela Smith MP to question from Michael Clapham MP, 18 December 2006).

Despite this, "slow progress" has been made on cutting deaths, according to the Department of Transport (Tomorrow's roads – safer for everyone: The second three-year review, Feb 2007). The overall number of deaths in 2005 was 3,201 – only 11% below its 1994–1998 baseline. Despite major publicity campaigns on the issue, large numbers of deaths are linked to people not wearing seat-belts and drink driving. Some 37,000 people were killed or seriously injured in road accidents in Britain (Department of Transport, 2003).

Given this context, ensuring the fire and rescue service can provide an effective emergency response will clearly be crucial to limit the carnage on our roads and the chances of survival of those involved in road traffic accidents.

Air

The latest available statistics (Parliamentary answer from Jim Fitzpatrick to question from Andrew Dismore MP, 14 June 2005) shows just a small drop in aircraft incidents attended by the fire service in England. However air travel has been and is expected to continue to increase very rapidly. The Civil Aviation authority says the UK has one of the lowest rate of 'near misses' in the world and the number is falling at a time when aircraft 'movements' are increasing. However, we must not be complacent. Just one aircraft incident can be devastating in terms of damage to property and deaths and injuries.

The investment under the New Dimension programme in new specialist equipment (see above/below) such as Urban Search and Rescue Module 2 to tackle major incidents including those involving aircraft is a welcome move. But the broad emergency response of the fire service must also be built upon.

Innovation and Technical Diffusion

The FBU supports the diffusion of new technologies to improve the effectiveness of the UK fire and rescue service in protecting communities and fulfilling its statutory duties.

Firelink, FireControl

However, new technologies that are being bought for or imposed by central government on the fire and rescue service – notably Firelink radio communications project and the £1bn+ FireControl project for regional control centres – represent a major financial burden for Fire and Rescue Authorities without offering any improvement in emergency response.

The FireLink Project will bring a much-needed new radio system although there are serious concerns about the costs and pricing model in the contract signed by national Government with the winning bidder, O2. FireControl, on the other hand, is being imposed in all but name and is neither needed nor desirable.

Thanks to the contracts signed by central government, Firelink, and above all FireControl, could be a drain on the finances of fire and rescue authorities for years to come, and may force them to cut back on their core emergency response capability. This would clearly be counterproductive as the Government has been claiming (with little supporting evidence) that FireControl will make communities safer from emergencies through faster response times.

The FBU is not the only organisation saying this. A number of fire authorities have questioned whether FireControl will improve the effectiveness of the fire service to deal with emergencies. And the Local Government Association points out that there are "substantial additional costs arising from the introduction of Firelink. An issue common to both Fire Control and Firelink is the cost of national resilience, and where the costs should fall."

So unless fire authorities are given extra flexibility outwith current arrangements to raise additional finance locally, significant additional resources should be made available by national Government.

There is little credibility left in the Government's claim that savings will be made through FireControl. The increasing financial burden, which most in the fire service accept will be placed on fire authorities as a

result of FireControl, must be met in full by Government if the project goes ahead.

Fire suppression systems

There are technologies that could make a difference to the operational effectiveness of the UK fire and rescue service and the safety of communities.

Fire suppression systems can have a significant impact on cutting fire deaths.

In terms of fire safety:

- all new build and refurbished schools and housing of multiple occupation should be fitted with sprinklers systems, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable members of our communities eg the elderly (see above);
- every home should have a working smoke alarm and the Government's and local authorities should make this a priority. The FBU welcomes initiatives such as the supply and fitting of free smoke alarms.

But we caution against the naïve view that fitting smoke alarms solves all problems. Smoke alarms detect fires and warn occupants, they do not prevent fires, perform rescues or put fires out. They are invaluable when their detection capability allows self-evacuation of premises or gives the early warning needed in order to carry out rescues, save life and prevent injury and further fire damage.

But between 36% and 44% of dwelling fires attended annually in 1994-2003 by the fire and rescues service where a smoke alarm was present did not raise the alarm (answer by Jim Fitzpatrick to parliamentary question from David Drew MP, 27 June 2005). While the majority of cases it was because of a missing or flat battery, the statistics show that there is an increasing trend of the alarms simply not detecting the fire.

In Harrow Court, Stevenage, where three people (including two firefighters) tragically lost their lives in a fire at the high rise block of flats, there was a hard-wired fire alarm in the flat which failed to go off. One person was rescued and others were evacuated.

The key message here is that technology can play a role and fire detection and prevention are important, but they cannot be a substitute for an adequate emergency response. If resources are diverted away

from emergency response to fire prevention, or expensive technology projects, then communities are put at increased risk at all the emergency incidents – not only fires – which our all-round fire and rescue service performs.

THE MINIMUM WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE:

- an immediate end to cuts in personnel at a fire authority level;
- a cash injection of between £60 million and £100 million– over and above any general settlement – to be distributed fairly between fire authorities in recognition of the additional pressures and substantial cost increases they are now facing as a result of the changing weather patterns we are seeing already and to address the increased and on-going threats we are facing. This would work out at an average of between £1 million to £1.5 million for each fire and rescue authority;
- a proper review of the medium to long-term impact of climate change on the fire service and the long-term requirements of the cost of preparedness for major terrorist incidents;
- the injection of a substantial amount of fresh funding into recruitment to the retained duty system. There is a major shortage of these frontline firefighters and addressing this with appropriate funding should be a priority.

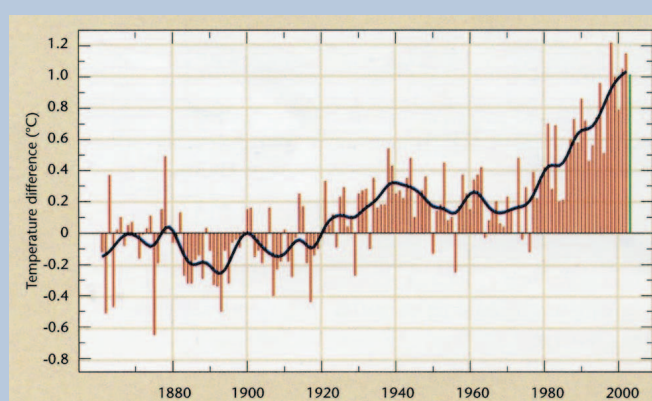
Appendix A



Adaptation

- **Flood Defences** - millions of pounds are being invested in the region's flood defences and early warning systems to ensure that they provide protection against the predicted increase in flooding events.
- **Humber setback schemes** - with sea levels projected to rise by up to 6 mm per year throughout the 21st century, existing flood defences around the Humber estuary

will require raising and strengthening. In some places it has been decided to move defences further inland and to encourage the sea to breach existing defences. This creates inter-tidal mudflats and creeks that both absorb the energy of high tides and provide valuable habitats for wading birds. Figure 5 shows the effect of setback at Paull Holme Strays, near Kingston-upon-Hull.



Global near-surface temperatures averaged over the land. Differences are expressed relative to the end of the 19th century. Source: Hadley Centre

The evidence for climate change

According to recent published data from the Hadley centre for climate research, globally, the average surface temperature in 2003 was 0.8°C above the annual average temperature at the end of the 19th century. The land temperature for the first eight months of 2003 was 1°C above the annual average over land at the end of the 19th century. In England, the warmest January to September period was recorded since records began in 1659 and on the hottest day of the year, temperatures reached 38.5°C (101.3°F), exceeding previous United Kingdom records by the substantial margin of 1.4°C

Global Warming Potential

The ability of greenhouse gases to warm up the Earth differs. The length of time the gases remain in the atmosphere varies between one and 50,000 years. In order to assess the individual severity of the six most important gases their *Global Warming Potential (GWP)* has been calculated. This is the climate change impact of each gas relative to that of carbon dioxide, usually over 100 years. The GWP can also be expressed as 'carbon dioxide equivalent', where the potential impact of the gases is compared with that of carbon dioxide.

The GWP of the six main greenhouse gases is shown below:

Carbon dioxide, (CO ₂)	GWP 1
Methane (CH ₄)	GWP 21
Nitrous oxide (N ₂ O)	GWP 310
Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)	GWP 2,260
Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)	GWP 6,920
Sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆)	GWP 23,900



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Appendix B

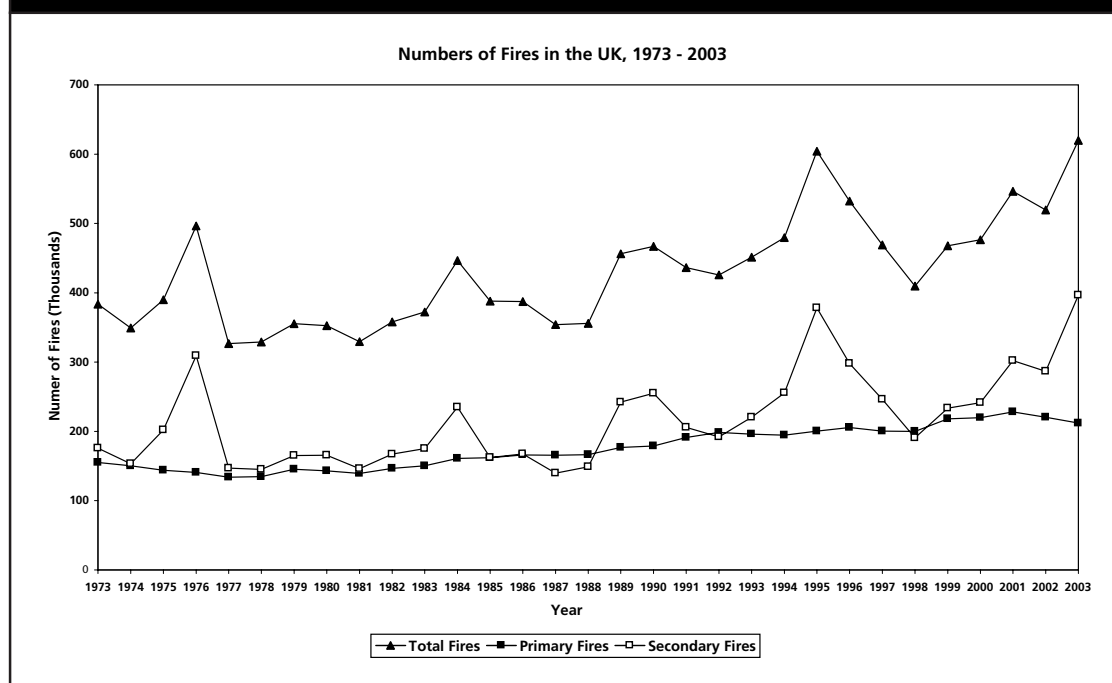
Primary and Secondary Fires

- Outdoor structure
- Refuse, refuse container
- Derelict vehicle

From this list, it can be seen that secondary fires are exactly those that we would expect to be affected by a hot dry summer: they include grass and heathland fires, and straw or stubble burning.

This relationship can be investigated by analysing the numbers of primary and secondary fires with the climate variables for that year. The number of fires in the UK between 1973 and 2003 is shown in Figure 1. Analysis was carried out by the authors of the Department of the Environment report⁽³⁾, who analysed the data for secondary fires between 1984 and 1995, and found that there was a clear upward trend with time. They fitted the data with a linear trendline, and the years containing the hot summers of 1989, 1990 and 1995 were clearly present as large positive anomalies.

Figure 1: Adapted from: Economic Impacts of the Hot Summer and Unusually Warm Year of 1995⁽³⁾ (The figure has been extended to include data from 1995 to 2003)



The numbers of “additional” secondary fires in the anomalous years were:

- 28,804 in 1989
- 37,459 in 1990
- 88,636 in 1995

Appendix C: Grassland and Heathland Fires 1986-2006

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
79,850	36,496	33,091	31,813	53,119	133,796	77,215	47,965
11,395	8,151	6,555	5,509	9,215	29,653	18,036	8,056
1,921	1,360	863	774	1,408	3,272	2,157	990
209	257	286	236	394	657	844	267
1,038	706	762	655	961	3,435	2,602	936
3,680	2,681	2,727	2,512	3,292	11,796	5,393	2,748
4,547	3,147	1,917	1,332	3,160	10,493	7,040	3,115
5,620	2,959	4,380	2,531	6,076	8,945	6,484	4,589
1,332	663	675	502	1,223	1,665	1,259	749
1,161	526	1,003	524	1,262	2,089	1,420	1,360
578	237	501	257	611	864	555	423
2,549	1,533	2,201	1,248	2,980	4,327	3,250	2,057
10,164	6,853	4,411	3,755	7,238	20,479	8,721	4,710
1,559	1,105	595	836	1,360	2,348	1,912	1,002
304	287	214	117	257	681	359	309
4,468	2,964	1,972	1,552	3,052	7,839	3,434	1,794
3,833	2,497	1,630	1,250	2,569	9,611	3,016	1,605
11,004	4,049	3,393	4,380	7,238	19,618	8,574	6,380
1,410	463	392	508	889	1,422	818	582
827	265	284	331	605	1,169	433	512
1,773	859	620	763	1,435	4,362	2,084	1,328
1,025	294	254	300	537	1,729	800	460
5,969	2,168	1,843	2,478	3,772	10,936	4,439	3,498
6,059	3,855	2,286	2,428	5,057	12,332	6,260	3,606
1,197	581	453	460	878	2,546	1,350	666
1,485	682	493	488	929	2,356	1,211	624
614	576	250	238	425	1,146	735	407
815	324	193	279	680	1,421	613	390
1,948	1,692	897	963	2,145	4,863	2,351	1,519
7,769	2,707	2,631	2,534	4,047	8,612	6,858	4,913
776	154	184	247	489	946	576	402
758	366	176	172	381	626	803	503
3,295	975	1,355	1,305	1,715	3,797	3,026	2,036
1,002	222	212	239	460	1,143	564	863
1,124	688	383	296	527	1,120	967	527
814	302	321	275	475	980	922	582
13,367	3,231	4,152	4,260	5,652	13,698	7,957	6,274
2,045	467	503	587	1,093	2,091	1,031	774
1,049	259	216	274	518	1,186	497	470
588	140	280	257	241	690	482	357
3,038	926	1,292	1,164	1,653	4,058	1,928	1,596
124	32	44	45	45	154	131	95
1,989	575	873	1,010	890	2,375	1,759	1,304
509	138	117	156	235	565	511	378
3,323	520	581	562	743	1,823	1,056	862
702	174	246	205	234	756	562	438

Source: Answer by Angela Smith to parliamentary question from David Drew MP, 30 Nov 2006 (figures placed in the House of Commons Library)

2005

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
28,542	45,284	38,661	48,848	48,022	110,719	41,066	50,750
3,970	6,227	5,821	7,298	6,842	17,994	6,566	7,410
521	772	763	1,310	1,138	2,346	922	991
113	237	294	375	284	1,014	487	457
396	560	740	974	1,556	3,276	1,388	1,345
1,078	2,147	1,703	2,176	1,948	6,408	1,550	1,857
1,862	2,511	2,321	2,463	1,916	4,950	2,219	2,760
2,326	4,569	4,121	4,562	4,458	8,644	3,051	4,001
424	764	862	993	1,194	1,979	756	1,171
659	1,070	838	1,032	859	1,894	711	934
163	397	466	413	394	968	313	332
1,080	2,338	1,955	2,124	2,011	3,803	1,271	1,564
3,317	5,697	4,173	5,986	5,833	12,901	3,889	5,682
741	947	777	836	1,062	2,277	736	929
188	269	240	315	350	662	277	360
1,520	2,319	1,755	2,309	2,511	5,009	1,399	2,114
868	2,162	1,401	2,526	1,910	4,953	1,477	2,279
3,585	5,555	6,405	6,996	7,851	15,856	5,972	7,036
293	422	456	478	601	1,217	510	521
335	472	470	652	682	1,054	525	483
827	992	1,109	1,420	1,363	2,918	1,181	1,411
274	442	397	349	466	814	307	371
1,856	3,227	3,973	4,097	4,739	9,853	3,449	4,250
2,923	4,522	3,442	4,481	5,226	11,049	4,119	5,038
436	732	640	707	760	1,607	565	1,038
574	774	712	778	860	2,055	624	678
327	513	334	443	433	998	420	458
288	302	263	476	513	1,231	439	509
1,298	2,201	1,493	2,077	2,660	5,158	2,071	2,355
3,199	3,928	3,282	3,851	4,292	10,277	3,702	4,827
231	410	248	318	371	1,143	297	456
395	440	423	372	550	990	373	530
1,429	1,663	1,384	1,687	1,586	3,834	1,584	2,216
508	700	552	617	647	2,153	578	698
333	405	366	463	629	1,137	449	444
303	310	309	394	509	1,020	421	483
3,478	5,725	4,115	6,278	5,662	13,674	5,601	5,958
437	538	461	631	657	1,550	613	696
195	388	238	279	308	820	273	261
192	314	340	438	255	820	245	224
923	1,555	1,235	2,185	1,797	4,095	1,797	1,653
55	91	65	125	83	140	54	59
899	1,401	735	1,103	1,097	2,884	1,044	1,471
202	287	233	304	327	726	334	299
351	736	465	762	710	1,775	820	898
224	415	343	451	428	864	421	397

Appendix D

FIRE SERVICE STAFFING VERSUS OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES

Staffing numbers in the emergency services since 9/11 2001 (England)

Fire and Rescue Service:

Wholetime Firefighters

2001/2: 31,592

2004/5: 31,053

Change: Loss of 539 to 2004/5 in wholetime firefighters (bulk of response to major terrorist incidents). The reduction from 1997 is even more marked with a fall of 3.4%.

Source: Answer by Angela Smith, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department for Communities and Local Government, to parliamentary question by John McDonnell MP, 27 November 2006

Police:

Police Officers and Community Support Officers

2001: 116,547

2005: 131,949

Change: Plus 13.2%

Source: Answer by Home Office Minister of State Tony McNulty to parliamentary question by John McDonnell MP, 24 January 2007

Ambulance:

Paramedics

2001: 7,075

2005: 8,311

Change: Plus 17.5%

Source: Answer by Ivan Lewis of the ministry of health to parliamentary question asked by John McDonnell MP, 11 December 2006

Appendix E

FIRE SERVICE DEATHS AT OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS IN ENGLAND SINCE 1997

1997 = 0

1998 = 0

1999 = 1, Greater Manchester

2000 = 1, Hampshire

2001 = 0

2002 = 1, Leicestershire

2003 = 1, Greater Manchester

2004 = 2, London

2005 = 2, Hertfordshire

2006 = 2, East Sussex

Source: Answer by Angela Smith to parliamentary question by Andrew Dismore MP, 1 February 2007



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