



**NORTH YORKSHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY**

ANNUAL REPORT
2013/14



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Front cover photo is of Grassington Station opening, showing Chairman of the Fire Authority Cllr John Fort and Chief Fire Officer Nigel Hutchinson

SECTION 1: **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the Annual Report for the year 2013/14. The Annual Report is published in September each year in order to incorporate the outturn performance information for the previous financial year.

The tables and narrative in Section 2, supported by the graphs in the appendix, help us to compare our performance in 2013/14 with previous years and to highlight any medium and long term trends, which will inform our future plans.

One very significant achievement was the cumulative number of lives saved against our 10 year Vision “125 Alive” which concluded in 2013/14. Over the 10 years since 2004, 170 lives have been saved, against a target of 125. Whilst the Vision has now been delivered, the 125 Alive brand will continue as a legacy of our continued focus on safeguarding lives from fire and other emergencies.

However, there is no room for complacency. Whilst accidental fire deaths are in low single figures the recent trend in accidental fire injuries is upwards, having remained relatively stable between 2008 and 2012. The number of malicious (hoax) calls is showing a similar worsening trend in recent years. We will continue to focus on our prevention and education initiatives in an attempt to halt, and hopefully reverse, these trends.

The Authority has continued with its savings and efficiency drive which assisted in allowing it to once again keep Council Tax for 2013/14 at the level set in 2010. There are now only 7 out of 30 Fire Authorities in England which raise a lower level of Tax.

Despite the tight financial climate we continue to perform well and a key feature of our approach is the continuous development of the Service and our staff. In addition to our long term success in saving lives from fire and other emergencies, this year saw our Service achieve the Emergency

Services Sector Major Award issued by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). This ‘top place’ position is testament to our proven track record of our commitment to continuous improvement in accident and ill health prevention. We are proud of this award as it reflects not only our low levels of accidents and ill health, but also the strong leadership and workforce involvement that is so important in maintaining a healthy and safe workforce.

As part of our commitment to continually improve how we can deliver our services we requested an external operational assessment and peer challenge. The assessment was undertaken by a team of senior fire officers and elected members from five other Fire and Rescue Services in England. Their report can be viewed on our website here:

www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/about-us/key-documents/plans_reports. Overall their findings were positive, but most usefully, several suggestions for further improvements were

SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITIES FROM FIRE AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

highlighted and these have been taken into account in our future planning.

A new Fire Station in Grassington became operational in February 2013 and the official opening ceremony took place in July 2013. This station replaced the temporary buildings that had served as the Fire Station on the same site for a number of years. The new station was built with the community and the environment in mind and is a real benefit for us to deliver our service in this rural area.

Although we aim to prevent emergencies we strive for excellence in our response to them when they happen. We have invested in advanced training techniques and equipment for dealing with wildfires and we now have four 4X4 appliances and two specialist vehicles, (Argocats), which allow the Service to access remote wildfires. We have also purchased specialist back pack water sprays for every fire engine which will increase our capability to deal with wildfire incidents.

We have also developed the techniques and equipment that we use as part of our response to flooding emergencies and we have

recently played a major part in the joint national response during some of the most severe flooding experienced in other parts of the country for some years.

Alongside the development of techniques for responding to flooding emergencies, we increased our capacity to undertake water rescue in 2013/14 with the training of a specialist team at Selby. This brings the number of specialist water rescue teams across the Service's area to five. The team at Selby can be deployed anywhere in the country as they have also been provided with a new rescue boat as part of the Government's national resilience programme. In addition to this we still provide a water rescue boat in York to cover the risk, specifically in the river Ouse.

Although it is frequently our response to emergencies that makes the headlines, much of our success in reducing deaths and injuries comes from our prevention and protection work. As ever, we could not have achieved these results without the continued support of our dedicated staff, and without our close partnership working with other agencies and local

communities in our aim to keep reducing risks and saving lives.

We are working closely with North Yorkshire Police to provide an enhanced community safety service (Safety Service) to local communities in Hambleton, Richmondshire and Scarborough Districts as a pilot scheme. The purpose of the Safety Service is to provide early identification of vulnerable persons and to give advice and guidance on safety in and around the home, local environment, and the local community with the aim of reducing the likelihood of individuals, businesses and schools becoming victims of fire, crime and anti-social behaviour. The pilot scheme is due to be evaluated in the current year and a decision taken as to its further rollout to other parts of the Service area.

It will come as no surprise to you that the Service has experienced periods of strike action by the Fire Brigades Union as a result of a national dispute between them and Government over pensions. Since September 2013 the Fire Authority has operated its business continuity plans to ensure that our communities

continue to receive an emergency response service throughout periods of strike action, albeit with significantly reduced resources when compared to normal. It is important to note that despite the strike action, our plans are designed to ensure that all 999 calls were answered and an emergency response made.

We would value any feedback you have on this report and hope that you find it a useful resource. If you wish to learn more about our work, please visit our website at

www.northyorksfire.gov.uk

Working together, we can make North Yorkshire and the City of York safer still and an even better place to live, work and visit.

SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Key Performance Indicators are a measure of the community outcomes delivered by the Service and its partners. General Performance Indicators are a lower level of indicators, designed to provide an indication of the performance of the Service. These are supported by a range of Internal Management Indicators.

Further information about the Performance Indicators can found in the Appendix.

Key Performance Indicators	Baseline 2004	Target 2013/14	Actual 2013/14	Performance In Year 2013/14	Performance 3 Year Trend	Performance 10 Year Trend
Number of accidental fire deaths	7	2	3	Red	Red	Green
Number of accidental fire injuries	93	26	41	Red	Red	Green
Number of road traffic deaths at incidents attended by the Fire and Rescue Service	45	28	27	Green	Green	Green
Number of road traffic injuries at road traffic collisions attended	648	388	289	Green	Green	Green
Cumulative number of lives saved against the "125 Alive" Vision	0	125	170	Green	Green	Green

General Performance Indicators	Yearly Target 31/03/14	Actual 2013/14	Performance Current Year	Performance 3 Year	Performance 10 Year
Number of accidental primary fires	850	813	Green	Green	Green
Number of deliberate primary fires	306	189	Green	Green	Green
Number of malicious calls	130	207	Red	Red	Green
Number of false alarms from automatic fire alarms apparatus	2360	1907	Green	Green	Green
Number of working days lost due to sickness absence for wholtime uniformed staff (average per person)	6.2	6.36	Red	Green	Green
Number of working days lost due to sickness absence for all staff (average per person)	6.2	6.61	Red	Green	Green

Green On or exceeding this year's target **Red** Off target this year and worse than last year's target
 The annual targets are not a figure that we are aiming to achieve, but a maximum that we hope to undercut each year.

As the table opposite shows although the number of accidental fire deaths remains relatively low, our performance is 'red' against the 'target' set for 2013/14. We are undertaking work to develop a data warehouse which will allow us to use data from other agencies to identify those most at risk from fire and target community fire safety initiatives, such as home fire safety visits, appropriately.

Accidental fire injuries are also over 'target' and further analysis of the causes of the fires is being used in the development of District Plans which will enable the community fire safety work of our operational crews and community safety staff to focus on these issues.

Over the year, sickness levels have crept up slightly, narrowly missing the challenging target we set ourselves, although the actual figures (see appendix) do show an overall downward trend since 2006. We have made changes to our Occupational Health Unit which we believe will reduce levels of long term sickness for 2014/15.

Although the other Key Performance Indicators are green, this does not mean we are complacent. In particular we will continue our work to reduce road traffic collision deaths and injuries, which have seen an increase during 2013/14. As we only record road traffic collision figures for deaths and injuries that have been attended by the Service, they do not match the figures reported by North Yorkshire County Council and North Yorkshire Police which have been significantly higher.

Both the number of accidental and deliberate primary fires figures are lower than the target level. Further analysis of the causes of accidental primary fires has highlighted an increase in those caused by cooking and work is being undertaken to focus prevention on this issue.

False alarms from automatic fire alarms are within the target set, although there has been an increase during 2013/14 compared to the previous year. Malicious (hoax) calls are over the target. However, our control room staff challenge calls they believe to be hoaxes and in these instances fire engines are not dispatched.

SECTION 3: **PREVENTION AND PROTECTION PERFORMANCE**

‘Prevention’ is the activity that the Service undertakes to reduce the likelihood of fires and other emergencies, or to mitigate the effect of them if they do occur. This is a long term programme that seeks to effect a cultural change over many years. The Service has been engaged in Prevention activities since 2003, and over that period we have seen a significant reduction in deaths and injuries from fire and other emergencies in the Authority area.

The Fire Authority is the responsible body for enforcing current fire safety legislation. ‘Protection’ is the activity that the Service undertakes, seeking to reduce fire risk in non-domestic properties and businesses by carrying out risk-based inspections, giving advice and where necessary serving enforcement notices.

The outcomes of Prevention and Protection are measured in the Performance Indicators on page 12, but the activity

levels are included here to provide a flavour of the work the Service carries out in this respect.

CASE STUDY

In September 2009 a severe fire occurred at Buckrose Court, Malton, North Yorkshire as a result of an arson attack and at which the lives of two young jockeys were tragically lost. Following that fire our officers spent a great deal of time and energy on the case. Initially working with North Yorkshire Police to establish the cause of the fire. This resulted in a successful prosecution of the person who started the blaze. Then working with North Yorkshire County Council Legal Services in securing a prosecution under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO) in relation to two properties; Buckrose Court and Buckrose

House. The Authority has maintained throughout this case that the serious breaches of fire safety legislation contributed to the tragic and unnecessary loss of life. Following a lengthy period of case preparation, the responsible person pleaded guilty to four counts and not guilty to five counts of breaches of the RRO at Leeds Crown Court on Monday 22nd April 2013.

At the sentencing hearing on 16th May, the judge issued a custodial sentence of 12 months imprisonment to the responsible person, due to the seriousness of the offences. He went on to commend the Service and in particular the officers involved for their meticulous investigation in relation to the case.

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The accounts for 2013/14 were considered and approved by the Authority's Audit & Performance Review Committee in September 2014. Copies of the accounts are available on our website at www.northyorkshirefire.gov.uk or on request.

The Authority incurred net service expenditure of £30,620,700 during 2013/14 against an approved budget of £30,742,400. Details of the Authority's expenditure and income can be found within the Explanatory Foreword in the Statement of Final Accounts.

A summary leaflet of the accounts will also be available on the website following the completion of the audit.

Capital expenditure was £5,063,200 which included £126,500 of grant funded expenditure on the Control Project. Expenditure on Property schemes totaled £3,354,300 of which £2,263,200 was funded from the capital reserve, with the remainder funded from grant and also capital receipts.

Table 1: 2013/14 budget, actual and 2014/15 budget

	2013/14 Budget £000	2013/14 Actual £000	2014/15 Budget £000
Expenditure			
Community safety	2,933.9	2,983.6	2,909.8
Firefighting & rescue	25,847.4	25,958.7	25,634.8
Management & support	601.9	501.4	597.0
Total	29,383.2	29,443.7	29,141.6
Pensions	3,023.6	3,032.6	3,029.8
Total expenditure	32,406.8	32,476.3	32,171.4
Income	-1,679.7	-1,855.6	-1,535.0
Net service expenditure	30,727.1	30,620.7	30,636.4
Met by			
Revenue Support Grant	8,324.8	8,325.2	7,279.4
Baseline Funding	5,376.8	5,449.7	5,542.0
Precepts	17,040.8	17,040.9	17,815.0
	30,742.4	30,815.8	30,636.4
(Surplus)/Deficit in year before transfer (to)/from Reserves	-15.3	-195.1	0.0

SECTION 5: **SUMMARY OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The Authority is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Authority also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Authority has approved and adopted a Code of Corporate Governance, a copy of which is available on the website at **www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/about-us/key-documents/governance-codes** or can be obtained from the Central Administration Office, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Headquarters, Thurston Road, Northallerton DL6 2ND. Regulation 4(3) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 requires all relevant bodies to prepare an Annual Governance Statement. The Statement explains how the Authority has complied with the Code.

Monitoring against the Local Code of Corporate Governance was considered by the Audit and Performance Review Committee at its meeting on 23rd April 2014.

Full details can be found at **www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/useruploads/files/committee-papers/performance-review/2014/aprc_april_14/11_annual_governance_statement.pdf**

The Authority has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the Corporate Management Board, which has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Head of Internal Audit's annual report, and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates. The review process is overseen by the Authority's Audit and Performance Review Committee as the body charged with governance in this Authority for the purposes of the International Standard on Auditing.

The Internal Auditor's overall conclusion that the system of internal control provided **Substantial Assurance** was issued on 9th April 2014. This means that, in overall terms, management of risk is satisfactory but with a number of weaknesses identified.

An acceptable control environment is in operation but there are a number of improvements that could be made. These weaknesses and improvements are being addressed. Where possible, full details of the audit reports are published on the Authority's website as part of the Audit and Performance Review Committee papers at **www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/about-us/key-documents/committee-papers/performance-review**

No significant weaknesses in governance or internal control have been identified by the reviews for 2013/2014. The External Auditor's report for 2013/2014 was received in September 2014.

The Statement was approved by the Authority at its meeting on 25th June 2014.

SECTION 6: **ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE**

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England requires Fire and Rescue Authorities to provide annual assurance on financial, governance and operational matters through the publication of an annual statement of assurance

Guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) allows that where fire and rescue authorities have already set out relevant information that is clear, accessible and user friendly within existing documents, they may wish to include extracts or links to these documents within their statement of assurance. The Authority believes that it can discharge the requirements of the Framework by providing links to the various documents contained within its Publication Scheme.

The broad headings for the contents of the assurance statement are set out by DCLG.

Financial

Fire and Rescue Authorities are responsible for ensuring that their business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

Summary level detail is provided on page 9 whilst detailed information can be found at

www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/about-us/financial-information/accounts

As part of its transparency agenda, the Authority publishes details of all payments at

www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/about-us/financial-information/transparency

The independent external auditor's reports on assurance, compliance and value for money can be found at

www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/about-us/key-documents/governance_codes

Regular reports on financial matters are considered by the Authority and can be found at **www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/about-us/key-documents/committee-papers/fire-authority**

Governance

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 also require authorities to prepare an annual governance statement in support of the statement of accounts.

The Authority's Annual Governance Statement was approved at the Authority meeting 25th June following consideration by the Audit and Performance Review Committee in April. Full details can be found at

www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/about-us/key-documents/committee-papers/performance-review

Operational

Details of Operational Performance against the Authority's Key and General Performance Indicators can be found at:

www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/about-us/key-documents/committee-papers/performance-review

Details of Consultations can be found at **www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/news-events**. This link includes consultations on both Integrated Risk Management Plan Proposals and the forthcoming wide ranging Fire Cover Review.

SECTION 7: **WORKFORCE PROFILE**

Fire and Rescue Authorities, as public bodies, are required to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Workforce Profile for 2013/14 and for 2012/13 identifying these protected characteristics in respect of the Service's workforce can be found at **www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/about-us/equality**

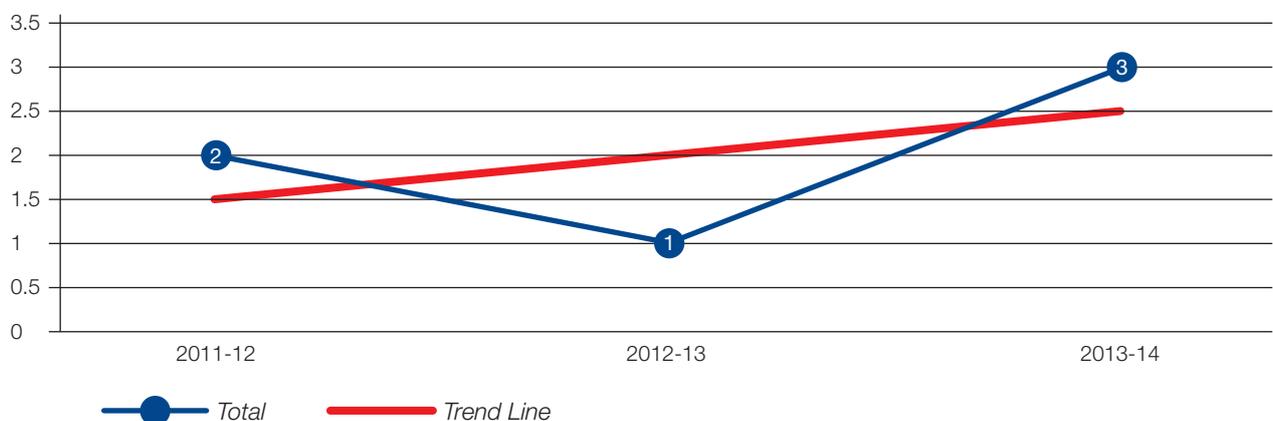
APPENDIX: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Accidental Fire Deaths

10 Year Trend – Accidental Fire Deaths



3 Year Trend – Accidental Fire Deaths



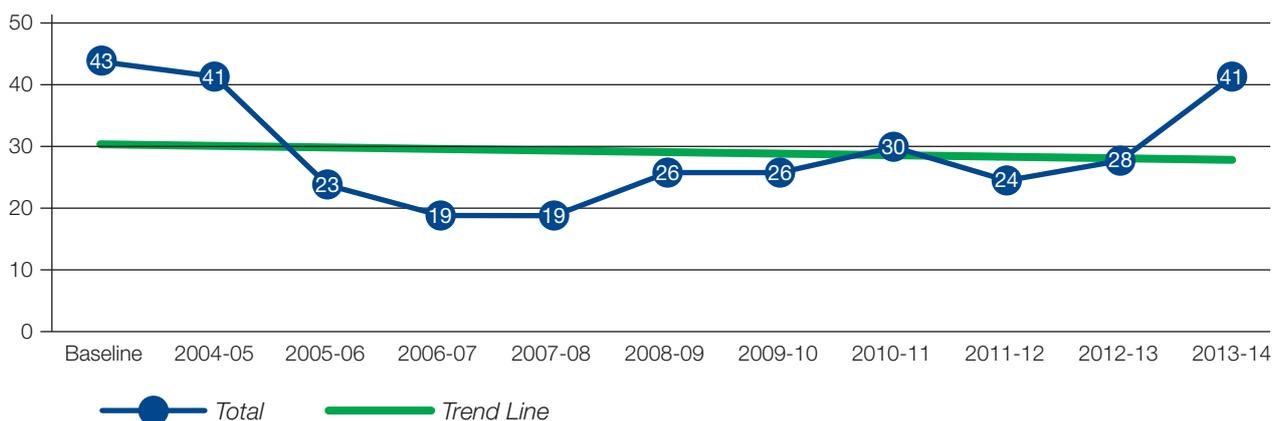
Since 2004 the number of accidental fire deaths has ranged from 1 to 3 with one exception in 2009/2010. Recently fire deaths have involved older people but the actual causes of the fires have involved a number of contributory factors including hoarding, heating, and smoking.

This level of accidental fire deaths remains stable and as a result it would seem that while general community safety activity may maintain the low levels, something different is required to reduce fire deaths further. The most effective way to reduce these unfortunate events is to use more accurate information

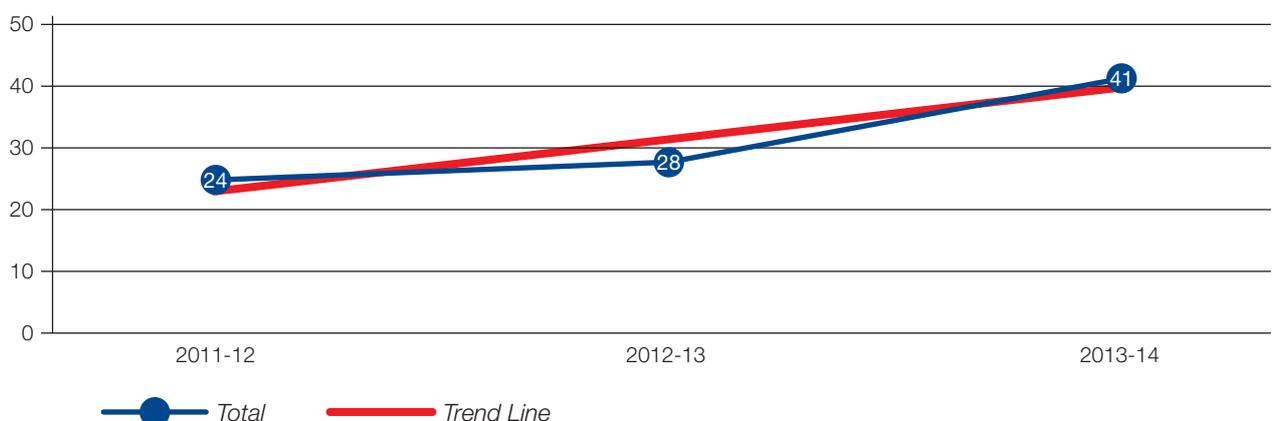
down to household level to identify those people most at risk of fires. A data warehouse will be developed over the coming year to enable the use and analysis of other partner's data to facilitate this approach.

Accidental Fire Injuries

10 Year Trend – Accidental Fire Injuries



3 Year Trend – Accidental Fire Injuries



24 (59%) of these accidental fire injuries were caused by fires that started in kitchens and 18 of these were from cooking-related items. A breakdown of injuries by District is set out to the right.

The recent trend in accidental fire injuries is upwards having previously remained relatively stable between 2008 and 2012. More detailed analysis has been undertaken in respect of the cause of each

of the fires by the Information and Intelligence section and broken down by geographic District. This is now informing the development of District plans to allow our operational crews and community safety staff to target the issues around kitchen safety. The aim will be to reduce kitchen and cooking related fires that should, in turn, reduce fire injuries in the future.

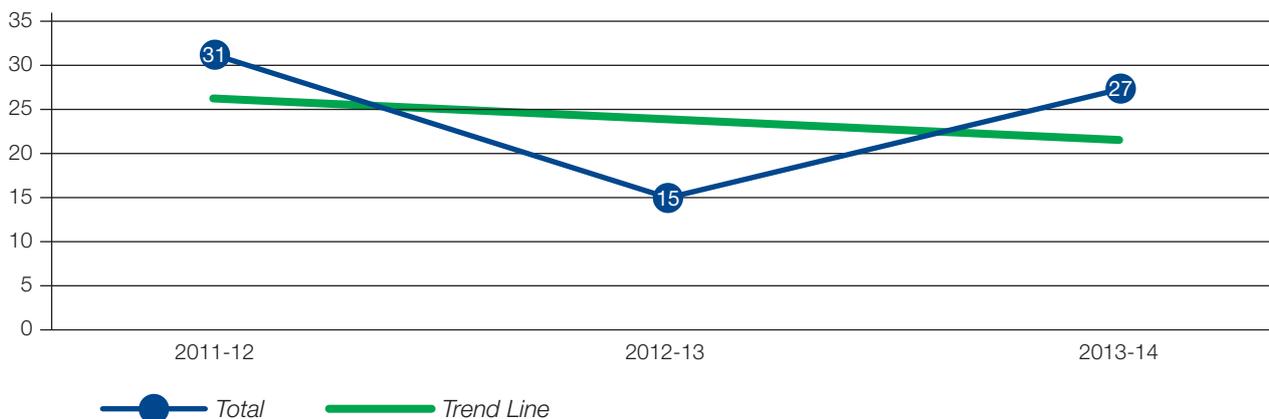
District	Total
Craven	2
Hambleton	5
Harrogate	10
Richmondshire	2
Ryedale	0
Scarborough	8
Selby	3
York	11
Total	41

Road Traffic Collision Fatalities

10 Year Trend – Road Traffic Collision Fatalities



3 Year Trend – Road Traffic Collision Fatalities



We only record the road traffic collision deaths for those incidents we attend (for historic reasons) and as a result these figures do not match with the recent publicity around high numbers of road casualties within North

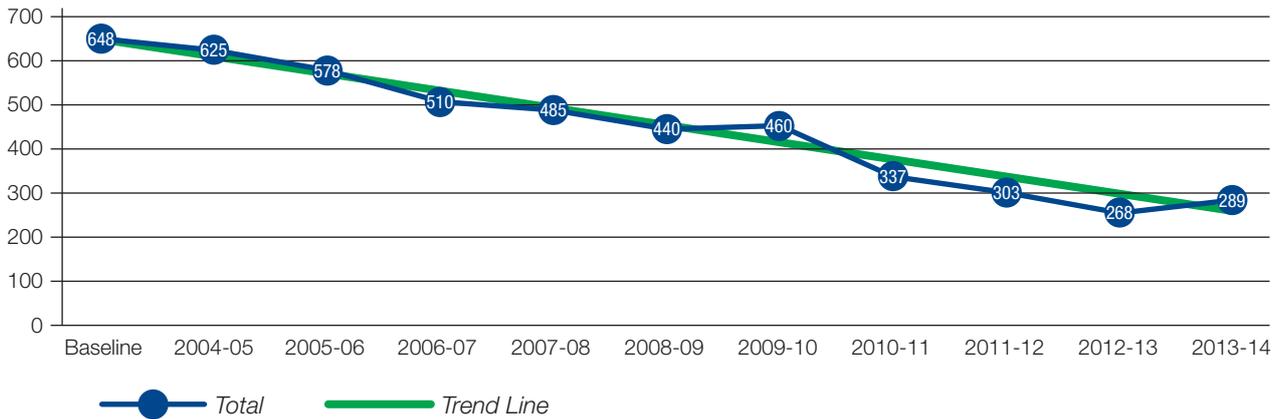
Yorkshire, many of which we do not attend.

The recent trend may indicate that the dramatic year on year reductions, that have more than halved the number of road traffic collision fatalities

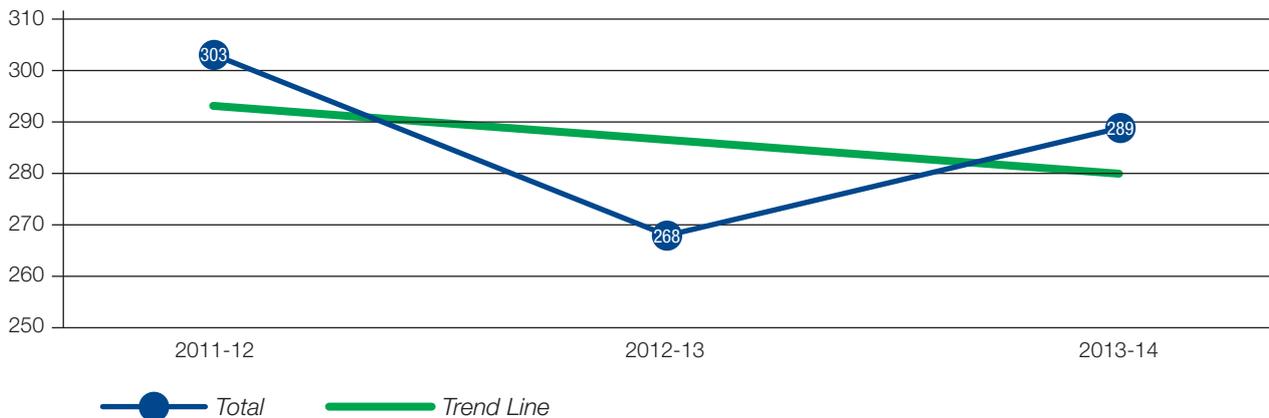
over the previous 10 years, are levelling off and further reductions will be much more difficult to influence.

Road Traffic Collision Injuries

10 Year Trend – Road Traffic Collision Injuries



3 Year Trend – Road Traffic Collision Injuries

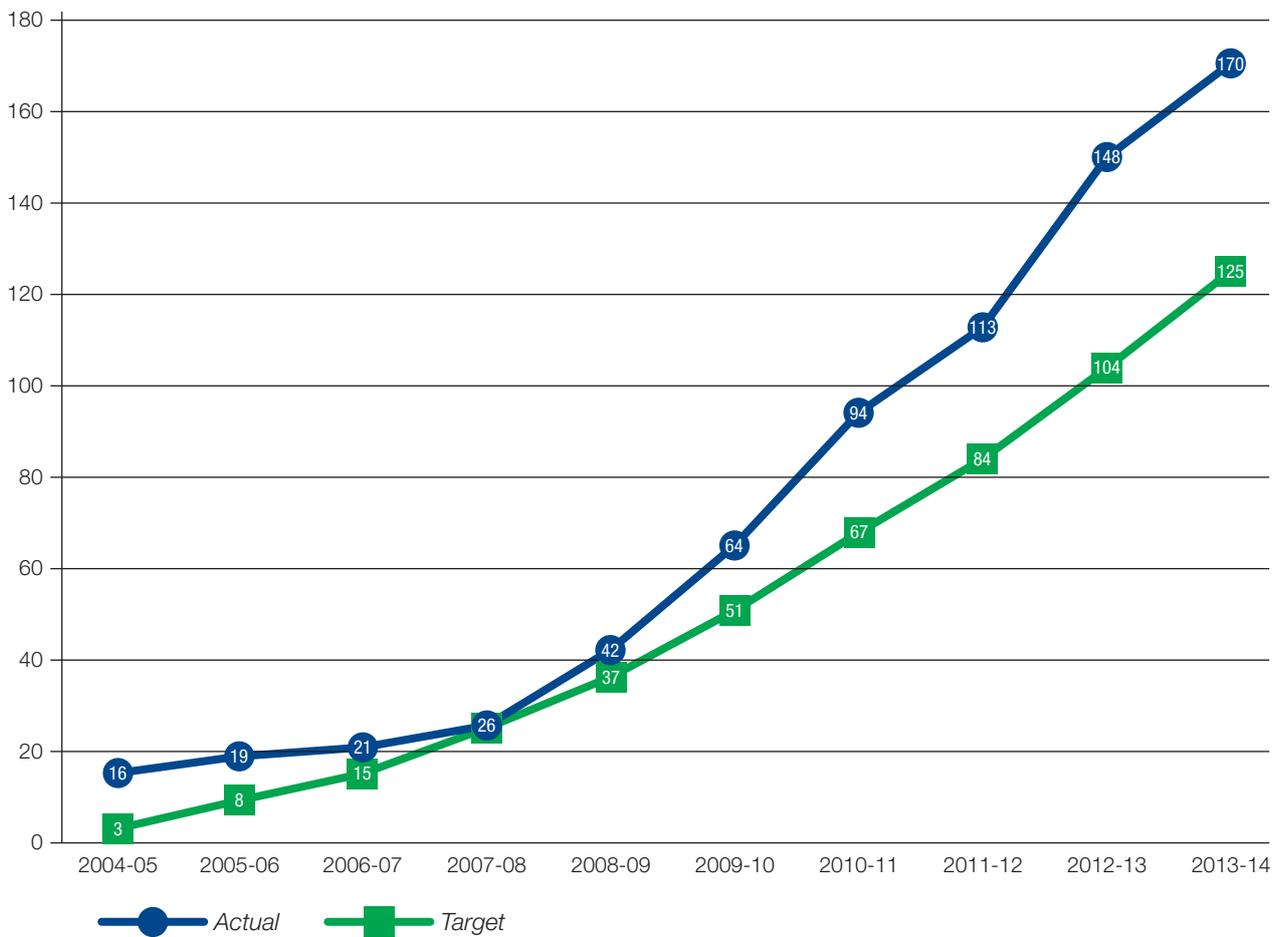


Road traffic collision injuries have increased by 21 to 289, compared to the previous year. The majority of those people who were injured were taken to hospital with 188 believed to have serious injuries. The overall trend is still

down, although, as with other indicators, the reductions are less significant.

125 Alive Vision

125 Alive Vision



The 10 year vision of “125 Alive” has now concluded. The target after 10 years was 125. The actual number as at March 2014, is 170.

Accidental Primary Fires

10 Year Trend – Accidental Primary Fires



3 Year Trend – Accidental Primary Fires



There have been 813 accidental primary fires¹ during 2013/14.

The recent trend in accidental fires continues to show a gradual reduction, although some individual causes have seen an increase. Cooking

related fires are the main increase as described in Accidental Fire Injuries, on page 15, with 41% of the incidents occurring in residential dwellings with a significant proportion (193) being cooking related.

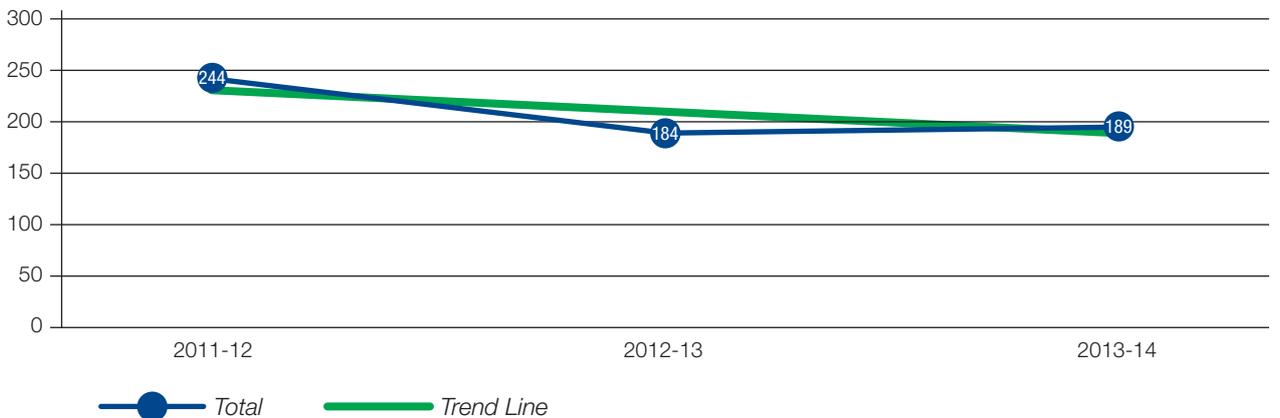
¹ Primary fires are defined as fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures; fires involving casualties or rescues; fires attended by five or more appliances.

Deliberate Primary Fires

10 Year Trend – Deliberate Primary Fires



3 Year Trend – Deliberate Primary Fires

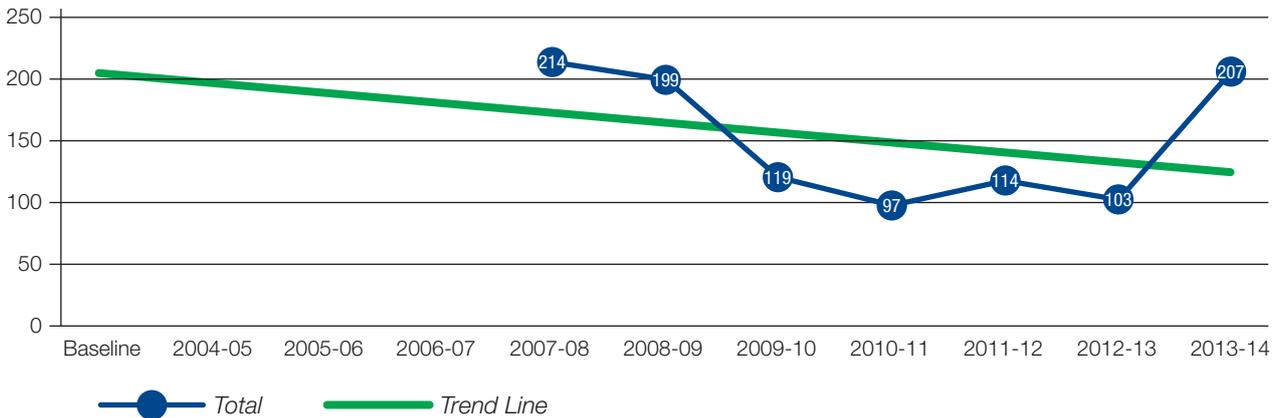


There have been 189 deliberate primary fires during 2013/14. The recent trend in deliberate fires is also showing a levelling off and this suggests significant further reductions are unlikely.

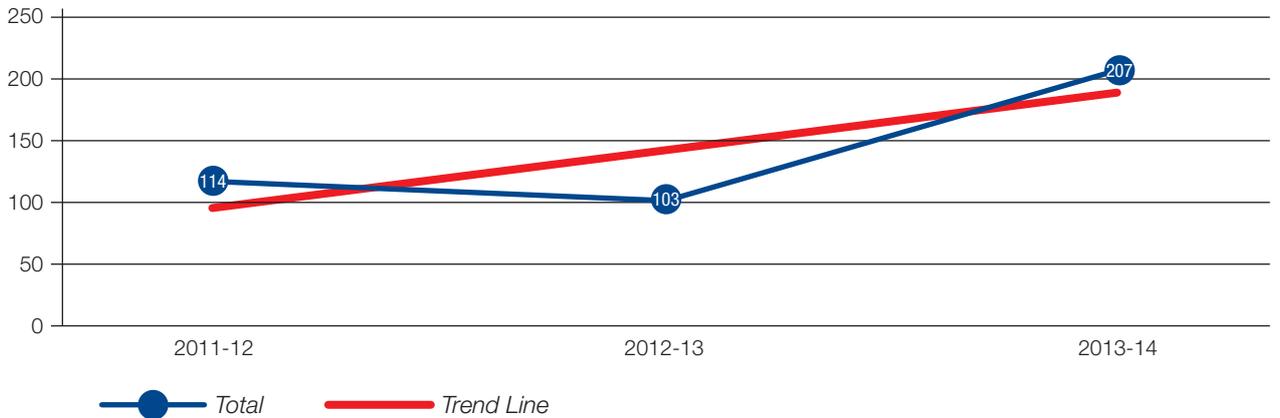
Individual firesetters can have a significant negative affect on this indicator until they are apprehended. The Service continues to work with Police colleagues to facilitate early intervention in such cases.

Malicious Calls

10 Year Trend – Malicious Calls



3 Year Trend – Malicious Calls



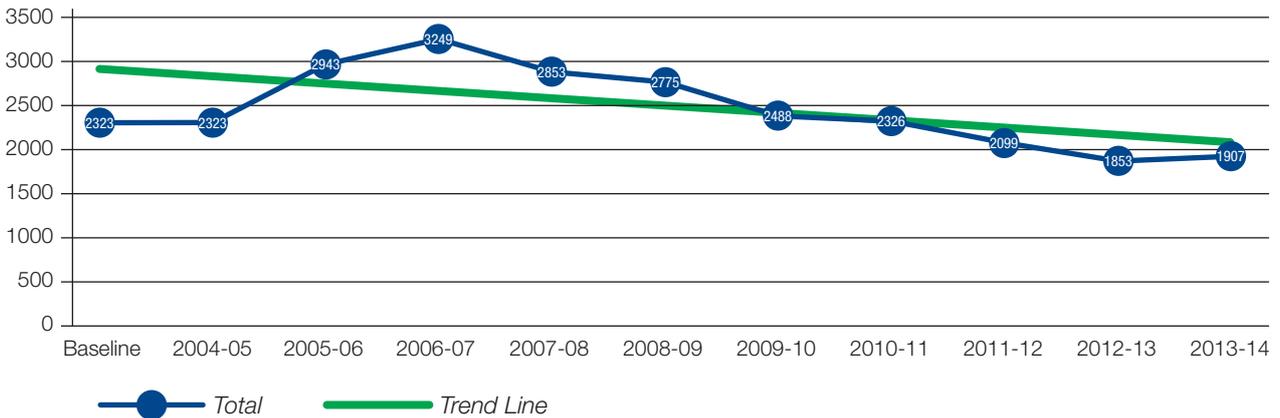
A malicious call is also called a hoax call. It is when a person, usually young people, make a call to the control room to report a fire or maliciously breaks a break glass point when there is no incident.

These calls waste significant amounts of our time and can cause delays when responding to real emergencies. Our control room operators will challenge these calls and if the call is

obviously a hoax they will not send a fire engine to respond.

False Alarms from Automatic Fire Alarms

10 Year Trend – False Alarms from Automatic Fire Alarms



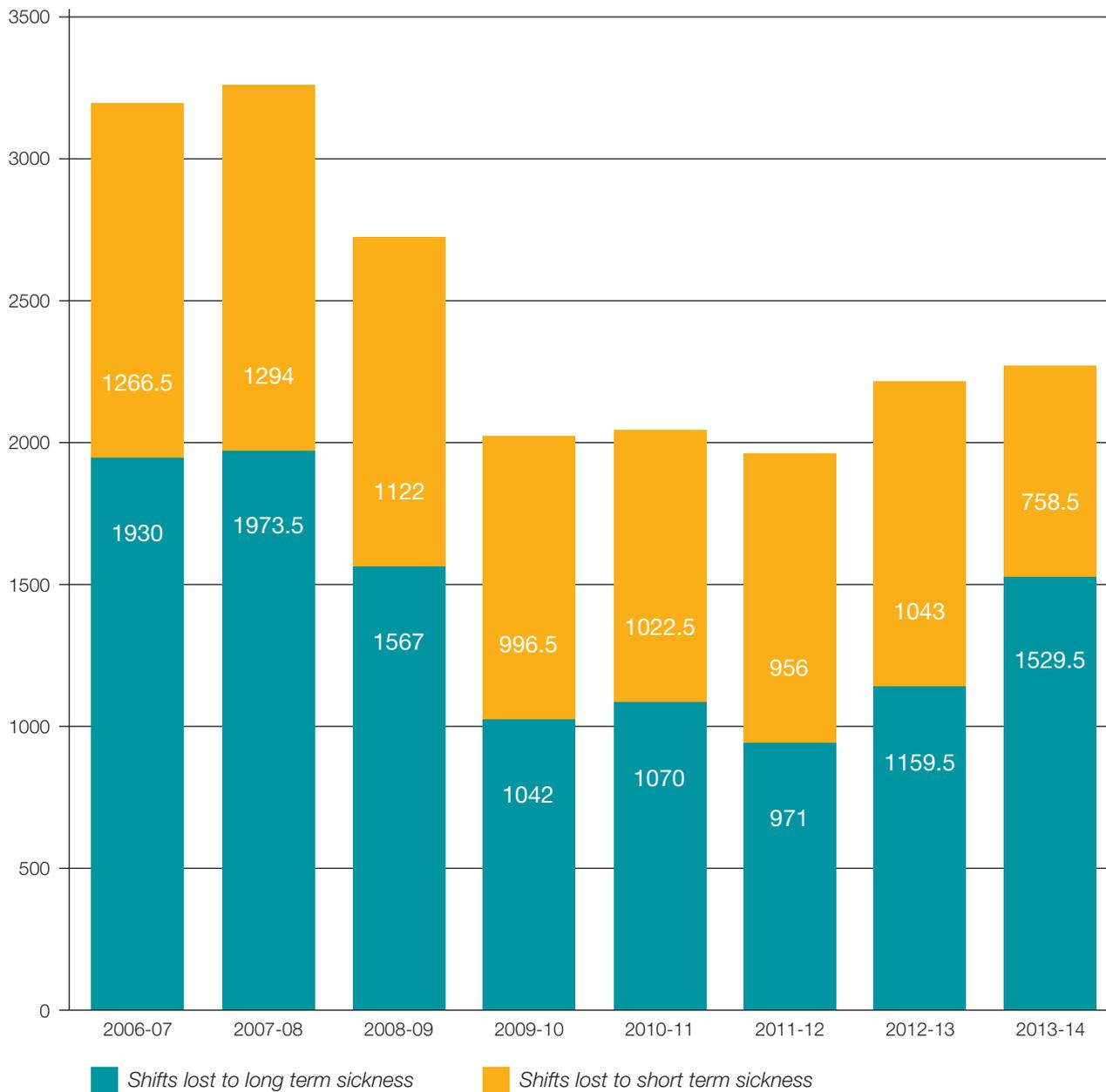
3 Year Trend – False Alarms from Automatic Fire Alarms



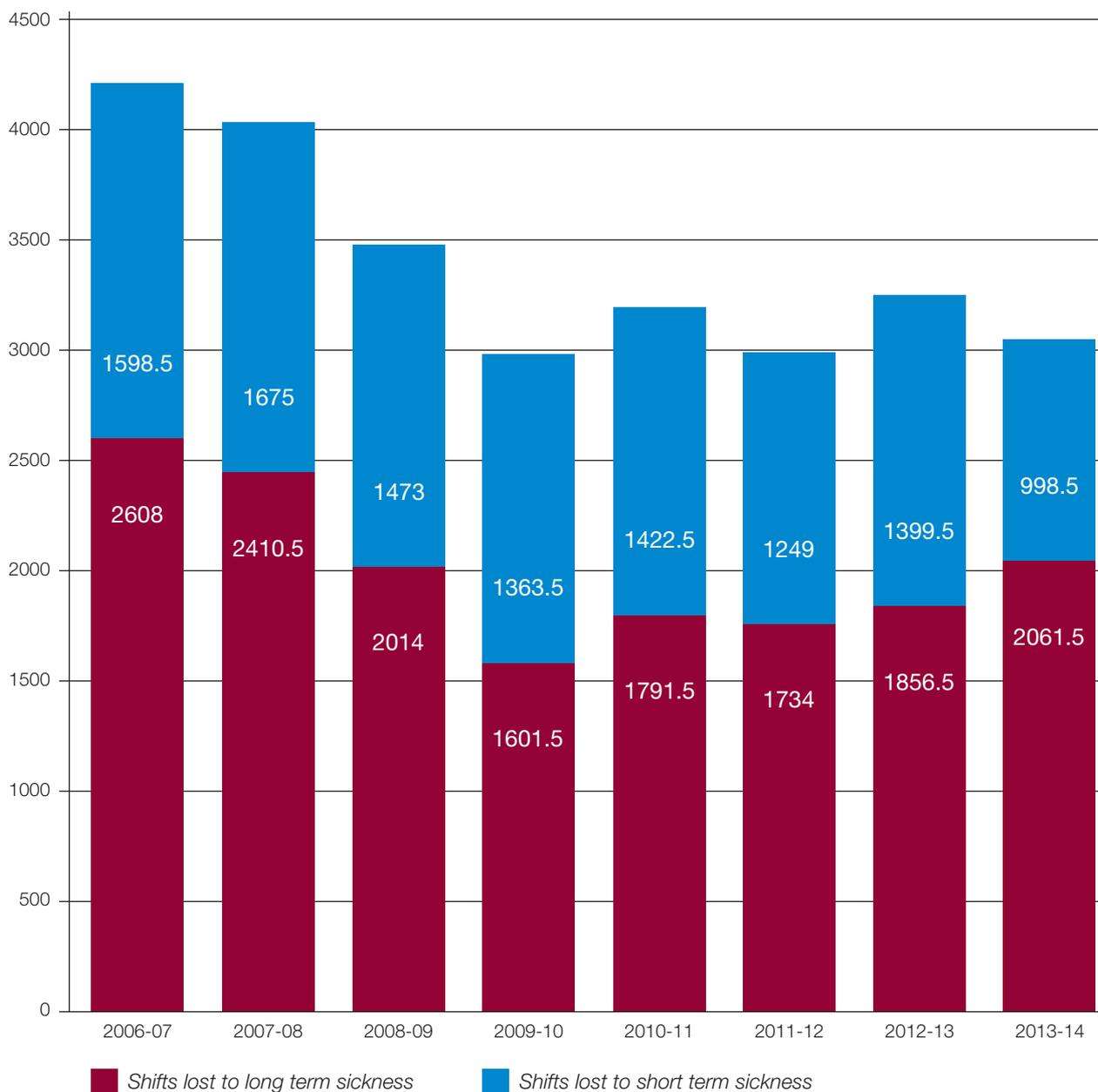
Automatic fire alarms (AFAs) are systems of fire detection and fire alarms that are, mainly, installed in non-domestic premises (buildings). There have been 1,907 false alarms due to automatic fire alarms for the year

2013/2014. This represents 81% of the target for the year. The ongoing reductions in false alarms are continuing. The top ten premises with the highest number of activations have specific plans to further reduce their false alarms.

Number of working days lost due to sickness absence for wholetime and control staff 2006 to 2014



Number of working days lost due to sickness absence for all staff 2006 to 2014



The medium term trend remains relatively static for overall sickness absence but the continued reduction in short term absence is encouraging. Recent improvements in the Occupational Health Unit will provide for a reduction in long term sickness during 2014/15.

The two performance indicators relating to sickness absence are calculated by dividing the total number of shifts lost by the number of staff (in that category).

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FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

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