

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		
DATE:	10TH MAY 2022	REPORT NUMBER	CFO/013/22
PRESENTING OFFICER	ACFO MOTTRAM		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	AM GARY OAKFORD EXT 4616	REPORT AUTHOR:	GM CRAIG WHITFIELD
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	HEALTH & SAFETY DEPT., STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE DEPARTMENT, LEGAL SERVICES, H&S COMMITTEE.		
TITLE OF REPORT:	HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21		
APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A:	HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE REPORT 2020/21	

Purpose of Report

1. To request that the Authority note the content of the Annual Health, Safety & Welfare Report which details the performance of the Authority against its performance indicators for Health Safety and Welfare during 2020/21.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Authority note the performance outcomes of the Authority against its Health Safety & Welfare performance targets for the period April 2020 to March 2021.

Introduction and Background

3. The Annual Health, Safety & Welfare (HS&W) Report updates Members of SLT on Health, Safety & Welfare performance against the Authority set LPI's for 2020/21.
4. This report ensures that the Authority is informed about the current HS&W performance so it can be assured that it continues to comply with its corporate policy, legal and performance requirements. This report has been prepared using data from the Authority's HS&W Management System OSHENS. While this report has been delayed due to the impact of COVID-19 Members can be assured that the reporting and management of health and safety has continued to be actioned accordingly.
5. The MFRS Health, Safety and Welfare Committee meets on a quarterly basis. The Committee membership includes a Principle Officer, Representative Bodies, Senior Managers and a member of the Fire Authority. The Committee is chaired by the Assistant Chief Fire Officer Dave Mottram. The local performance indicators (included in this report) are reviewed and scrutinised at each meeting with actions taken to maintain or improve performance.

6. The Authority allocate a target to the Health & Safety Departments LPI's in line with the MFRS Service plan. It should be noted that not all graphs in Appendix A are given a target and these are presented for information and a broader understanding of local H&S departmental performance management.
7. Some of the key areas for Authority members to note are contained in the following sections.

8. Staff injuries:

- i. A brief overview of the performance indicators identified that there were 35 injuries to staff members during the 2020/21 with 27 of the individuals remaining in work and 3 returning to work within 7 days. This identifies the majority of injuries to be minor in nature.

- ii. Injuries related to operational activity ([WR33](#))

MFRS attended 15,858 operational incidents in 2020/21, which was supported by 27,406 appliance movements. 13 injuries are related to operational activity although only 4 staff members went off duty with 3 returning within 12 days; 1 remained on long term sickness due to injuries sustained through manual handling activities.

Working on a ridership of 4.4 people per appliance x 27,406 appliance movements for the operational incidents, this equates to approximately 120,449 occasions when individual operational staff were exposed to a risk critical environment, with only four lost time injuries occurring during this activity.

- iii. Injuries related to risk critical training ([WR34](#))

In 2020/21, 173 days of core training were completed, 7 off site exercises along with 3 recruit courses of 15 weeks each. Individual training periods are aligned daily to the training planner across all stations and amounts to approximately 8000 x 2.45 hour periods per year across all locations.

5 individuals were injured during risk critical training of which no one went off duty and booked sick.

The total duty days lost for operational staff whilst at incidents or risk critical training was 0 days, which is equal to the previous year.

- iv. Injuries related to staff conducting routine duties ([WR22](#))

MFRS currently employ 641 operational staff and during routine activity in 2020/21, 17 injuries occurred which is an increase of 10 from the previous year.

Of the 17 individuals who were injured, 13 remained on duty highlighting their injuries were minor in nature. 4 individuals went off duty which is 50% increase on the previous year, however relative.

v. Non-operational staff injuries ([WR32](#))

There were 15 non-operational staff injuries in 2020/21, an increase of 1 from 2019/20.

Although there has been an increase in the number of injuries, all individuals remained on duty.

vi. Riddor reportable injuries Major & Minor

Major - there was 1 reportable major injury during 2020/21 which was an injury to a firefighter who suffered a broken wrist after falling down some stairs.

There were 5 minor injuries reported to the HSE during 2020/21, an increase of 3 on previous year. Three were sprain or strain injuries. One injury was crush injury and the other a hot burn/scald.

9. Road Traffic collisions involving Authority vehicles

MFRA operate 228 vehicles across its fleet and have covered in excess of 1 million miles in 2020/21, for both blue light response and routine activity.

The total number of road traffic collisions (RTC's) involving all types of Service vehicles was 58 in 2020/21 which, although an increase of 3 from the previous year, still remained under target by 14 (19%).

i. Appliance collision whilst responding to incidents ([RR31](#))

MFRA fire appliances responded on 27,406 occasions in 2020/21 to 15,858 incidents with this activity deemed as the Services most risk critical driving category.

There were 34 collisions involving appliances responding under blue lights in 2020/21, an increase of 6 on the previous and 6 over target. This performance indicator has become a key focus for the 2021/22 period.

The Service has also introduced 41 new EFAD qualified drivers since the beginning of 2020.

The trend for this LPI is moving forward under 10mph with 27 (79%) of the 34 collisions being in this category.

ii. Appliance collision whilst engaged in routine activities/movements ([RR32](#))

MFRA appliances were involved in 47,118 routine movements in 2020/21.

The total number of appliance collisions whilst engaged in routine activities decreased by 8 to 14 and is still under target by 13.

The Service have also progressed 50 new LGV drivers into the operational environment since the beginning of 2020 so the reduction in appliance collisions reflects that their development in this area is being managed effectively by the Service.

The trend for this LPI is moving forward at low speed which is under 10mph with 13 (92%) of the 14 incidents falling into this category. This is still 13 under target

iii. Collisions involving light vehicles ([RR33 & RR34](#))

MFRA fleet consists of 154 light vehicles to service the needs of the Authority and the community.

Vehicle collision numbers remained at 10, the same as the previous year and 7 below target.

In analysing the data for trends, 5 of the 10 collisions occurred whilst moving forward, 4 whilst reversing and 1 whilst stationary. Of the 10 collisions, 8 occurred at a speed below 10mph.

Collisions involving light vehicles whilst responding e.g. Senior Officer Response remained at 0 for another consecutive year.

10. Near miss reporting ([WR31](#))

11. 94 near miss reports/safety observations were recorded for 2020/21, a reduction of 72 from the previous year and most likely attributable to the impact of COVID-19 on the Service, with lack of movement, training and less occupation of premises, subsequently showing a decline in near miss reporting.

12. The details in this report and supporting annual report/statistics provide evidence of a positive Healthy and Safety culture within the Service, which continues to be the focus of the Health & Safety Department.

Equality and Diversity Implications

13. This report informs on the Authority's performance under its Health, Safety & Welfare Policy and supporting procedures, all of which are subject to current Equality Impact Assessments.

Staff Implications

14. Health, Safety & Welfare is integral to the management of all members of staff.

Training Implications

15. No training is required in relation to this report or the annual report. H&S is integral to the day to day operation of the Service

Legal Implications

16. The Health, Safety & Welfare Report provides evidence of compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Regulations made pursuant to that Act, and other associated H&S legislation.

A failure in compliance may lead to a litigation claim with a financial impact on the Authority budget.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

17. The positive work undertaken by the H&S Department affects the amount of litigation and repair costs that the Authority is liable for. In being proactive and working closely with other internal stakeholders in reducing accident and injury, it provides a safer work environment and avoids the indirect costs of a poor H&S culture – staff absence, sick pay, legal costs, claims, reputational impacts, etc.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

18. Implicit throughout the report.

Contribution to Our Vision: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.

19. By ensuring staff are the safest they can be through suitable and sufficient provision of information, instruction, training and supervision, in line with legal and moral compliance.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA
MFRS
HS&W

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
Health Safety & Welfare