



STATISTICAL NEWS FOR FIRE AND RESCUE INCIDENT STATISTICS

31 October 2018

The 2017-18 downloadable workbook contains scheduled revisions as well as revisions or corrections addressing the below issues.

Fatality Revision

Due to the importance of the fatality statistics series we have chosen to revise the 2014-15 figures although this is beyond our usual revisions timeframe. We received new information that the death of a casualty at a fire incident was not related to the fire, therefore we have revised the figures down by 1. The following tables are amended: Long-Term Trend, 2, 2a, 3, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21b, 21c, 25.

Non-fatal Casualties

Non-fatal casualty figures for 2016-17 has been revised up by 77 casualties in total. At 6.5% of the reported figure this increase is unusually large. This is as a result of a quality assurance project to improve the reporting of casualties in the East Service Delivery Area using control room data, the local authority breakdowns have larger proportional changes in the East of Scotland. Control room data is already used to quality assure the North and West Service Delivery Areas.

Incidents at Military Barracks

A small counting issue in our tabulation scripts has been uncovered resulting in the double counting of incidents at Military Barracks (classed as Other Buildings for these statistics). These incidents are rare and so the impact on these statistics is very low (well below 1%). The issue has been resolved and figures for 2015-16 and 2016-17 have been revised. We have not revised years previous as it is presently a significant administrative task and the change is unlikely to have a material impact for users.

Non-operational Smoke Alarms in Dwelling Fires

A historic scripting error led to instances of multiple counting effecting Table 19b: Number of smoke alarms present in dwelling fires, which did not operate by reason. The total number of dwelling fires in which smoke alarms were present but they did not operate, has been correctly reported in Table 19. The lower level breakdown presented in Table 19b now aggregates correctly and the revisions have been backdated to 2013-14. The table name has now been changed to reflect that it presents a count of the total number of incidents where smoke alarms did not operate, rather than a count of the smoke alarms themselves.

Fire Appliances in Attendance

Primary Fires

In the 2016-17 downloadable workbook, the breakdown by Local Authority of fire appliances in attendance at primary fires, Table 23a, did not include a breakdown of attendance by 16 or more appliances due to a data entry error. These figures are presented in the 2017-18 downloadable workbook.

Secondary Fires

For a very small number of incidents we had reported, in Table 23 and 23a, that six or more appliances had been in attendance at a secondary fire. While it is possible that this could occur without the appliances attending simultaneously and thus qualifying as primary fires, this is unlikely. We have revised these incidents and now include them in 'Unknown' until such time as they are further quality assured.

Rate of Non-fatal Casualties by Age

The figure presented in Table 17c of the 2016-17 downloadable workbook as the full Scotland rate of non-fatal casualties was incorrect due to a cell referencing issue, please see the 2017-18 downloadable workbook for the revised figure.

Minor Underreporting of Non-fire Incident Subcategories

Three subcategories of non-fire incidents had been missed from our reporting due to a scripting error. The three subcategories were Animal Assistance – lift heavy animal – wild (ID 95), Medical Incident – choking (ID 355), Rescue or Evacuation from Water – person assisted from mobile home surrounded by moving or rising water greater than two foot deep (ID 39). This has been resolved for the revisions published in 2017-18. We have not revised years previous to 2015-16 as it is presently a significant administrative task and these incidents are very rare so the change is unlikely to have a material impact for users.

Decimal Places for Rates and Percentages

In order to present figures which be more easily compared year-to-year and which can be mapped with higher precision we have modified existing series to include an additional decimal place. This has the added benefit that figures correctly aggregate without substantial rounding errors. The following tables are amended: 4, 4a, 5, 5a, 11a, 14g, 19, 19a, 21, 22, 23, 23a.

English Official Statistics

The statistics in tables 10, 10a, 10b and 10c have been updated to reflect the most recent ONS estimates of the England population and the revised England Incident Statistics published by the Home Office. We have revised further back to accommodate multiple years of revisions. Please see the 2017-18 downloadable workbook for the revised figures.

Scottish Population Estimates

The statistics in tables 15 and 15a have been revised to reflect the most up to date population series published by National Records Scotland. We have revised further back to accommodate multiple years of revisions.

Non-fatal Fire Casualties

A spreadsheet referencing issue led to rates which were off by a small proportion in tables 17 and 17a in 2016-17. Please find the revised figures in the 2017-18 downloadable workbook.

Where Gender or Age is Unknown

Tables 15, 15a, 15b, 15c, 15d, 17, 17a, 17b, 17c, 17d and 18b provide casualty rates by gender and age with full casualty rates also provided. There had been some inconsistency in providing the all category totals; in some cases these included individuals with unknown age or gender and in others these did not. We have now adjusted where necessary to provide the full casualty rates including casualties where gender or age is unknown in the totals. This means that the rates for genders and age groups are slightly lower than the true value as we have not allocated unknowns to any gender or age category. The language used in the titles of these tables has been amended to clarify what is presented.

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