



Title: Changes to the Home Office's 2017/18 Operational statistics collection

Date Issued: 12 March 2018

For the attention of: Chief Officers and Statistical collection teams

Following the CFA circular in December 2016, the Home Office (HO) has been working on improving their current non-incident data collection.

The HO circulated a questionnaire at the end of 2016 asking about how useful their Operational Statistics collection is to fire and rescue services as well as comments on the process of collecting and supplying the data and how the collection could be improved.

Responses to this, along with discussions with other stakeholders, fed into a paper that was presented at the newly reinstated Fire Central and Local Information Sharing Partnership (CLIP) last summer. The meeting was co-chaired by Deborah Lader (HO) and Neil Odin (NFCC) with representatives from all types of fire and rescue services as well as the LGA, Chair of the Fire and Rescue Statistics Users Group and other key stakeholders. The recommendations for changes to the collection, and whether they constituted new burden, were discussed and agreed. These changes were then discussed at DCLG's Single Data List Gateway Group, and it was agreed they did not add a new burdens on FRSs.

The CLIP group agreed the following changes:

- Make the previously voluntary 'new joiners' diversity collection mandatory.
- Make the previously voluntary question on short fire safety audits mandatory.
- Keep the headline questions on vehicle incidents, but drop the rest of the collection.
- Amend RIDDOR definition in the firefighter injuries collection to match that used by the Health and Safety Executive.
- Addition of a diversity collection for apprenticeships (voluntary for 2017/18, mandatory for 2018/19).
- Change categories for reasons for leaving (for 2018/19 collection); in addition HO will no longer be collecting this information broken down by type of role.

More details of these changes, and the 2017/18 collection templates, will be sent out by HO statisticians in the next few weeks.

The CLIP group will be continuing to look at different aspects of the fire statistics collections and will be asking for fire and rescue services input as appropriate.

The NFCC and the HO have also been working with HMICFRS on the data collection programme they are running to inform inspections. Together we are working to ensure we align data collections to avoid unnecessarily increasing the burden on fire and rescue services.

My thanks for your support in this and do please get in touch with the contacts below if you have any questions.

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