



REPORT TO: POLICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 20 FEBRUARY 2020

SUBJECT: UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SIGNALS

**BY: LSO MARTIN TAIT, LOCAL SENIOR OFFICER,
ABERDEENSHIRE & MORAY**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To inform the Committee of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal reduction methodology.

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (J) (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to Police and Fire and Rescue Services in Moray.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee consider and note the contents of the thematic report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 A key priority within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Moray is the reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

3.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with information on this priority both in relation to past performance and how the SFRS intend to deliver against this priority now and in the future. The report will be delivered in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.

3.3 The SFRS aim is to reduce the impact of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals generated by automatic fire detection systems on service delivery, business and commerce. By doing this the aim is to improve the safety of Moray communities and businesses by ensuring that the service is more readily available for genuine emergencies. An Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS) is defined as a signal transmitted by an Automatic Fire Detection (AFD) system reporting a fire where, upon arrival of the fire service, it is found that a fire has not occurred. The majority of UFAS are entirely avoidable through good system design, management practice, procedure, maintenance and the appropriate use of space within buildings.

- 3.4 Key building types will be identified and monitored closely by the Fire Safety Enforcement staff with supportive interventions offered to duty holders and responsible persons.

The current structure of the Fire Safety Enforcement Team is;

1 x Group Commander

1 x Station Commander

3 x Fire Safety Enforcement Officers (1 x UFAS Champion)

1 x Auditing Officer

- 3.5 The incidents attended by local staff not only impacts on local business but also on part time retained duty system firefighter's primary employment.
- 3.6 All operational response crews provide advice to occupiers on every occasion a UFAS incident is attended. Fire Safety Enforcement Staff monitor UFAS calls and take appropriate action at the various stages as stipulated in SFRS policy.
- 3.7 Expected outcomes are that the reduction of unnecessary demand and impact on the public and business sector through lost working time including employers releasing RDS staff to respond to such calls, reduce the road risk to staff and the wider community and reduce unnecessary costs to the SFRS.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan supports the outcomes contained within the Moray LOIP

(b) Policy and Legal

An equality impact assessment is not required because this report refers principally to advice to Committee on the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for the relevant periods. There will be no detrimental impact, as a result of the report, on people with protected characteristics.

(c) Financial implications

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no Risks directly identified in respect of this matter in terms of the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers as the Committee is monitoring the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as required under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no specific staffing implications arising from this report.

(f) Property

There are no specific property implications arising from this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

There are no specific implications arising from this report.

(h) Consultations

No consultations were undertaken in writing the report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will continue to work to reduce the number of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals as a key priority.

5.2 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will continue to reduce the number of blue light journeys to automatic fire alarm signals based on pre-determined attendance reduction methodology.

Author of Report: Area Commander Martin Tait,
Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Background Papers: PowerPoint presentation.

Ref: