


Report to	Executive Panel	
Date	11 February 2019	
Lead Officer	Shân Morris, Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate Policy and Planning)	
Contact Officer	Pippa Hardwick, Corporate Planning Manager (03303 132 683)	
Subject	Performance Monitoring April – December 2018 (Financial Year 2018/19)	

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To provide members with information relating to North Wales Fire and Rescue Service activity and performance against improvement objectives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 The Service attended a total of 4,209 fires, false alarms and special service incidents in North Wales during the months of April to December 2018.
- 3 The number of secondary fires attended by the Service fluctuates from year to year. Between April and December 2018 the Service attended 1,019 secondary fires which was 42% higher than the average number attended in the preceding three years.
- 4 Between the months of April to December 2018 the number of calls for assistance that later turned out to be false alarms increased by 8% to 1,760 compared with 1,625 during the same period in 2017.
- 5 Between April and December 2018, the Service attended 407 accidental grassland, woodland and crop fires, compared with 159 fires in the same period of 2017. During the same period the number of deliberate grassland, woodland and crop fires increased from 152 to 181.
- 6 Attendances to automatic fire alarms (AFAs) in purpose built flats increased from 220 incidents (April to December) in 2017 to 272 incidents during the same period in 2018.
- 7 During the months of April to December 2018, there has been a 43% reduction in attendances to special service incidents compared with the previous year. This reduction in incidents can be attributed to the cessation of Community Assistance Team (CAT) and co-responding activity.

- 8 Between April and December 2018 the number of accidental fires in dwellings reduced by 16% compared with the same period in 2017 (291 to 244).
- 9 There were 5 fatalities at accidental dwelling fires in North Wales between April and December 2018, compared with 1 for the same period in 2017. Between April and December 2018, 11 people were recorded as having slight injuries and 2 people sustained serious injuries in accidental dwelling fires.

RECOMMENDATION

- 10 That members note the contents of the performance monitoring report.

INFORMATION

- 11 Attached at Appendix 1 for members' information is the monitoring report for the period from 1 April 2018 to 31 December 2018.

IMPLICATIONS

Wellbeing Objectives	Assists the Authority to monitor its performance against the improvement and well-being objectives set in the combined improvement and well-being plan 2018/19.
Budget	Assists to highlight any potential impacts on budget due to unanticipated incident activity.
Legal	Assists the Authority with ensuring that there are sufficient resources to meet the altering demands placed on it with changes in incident activity.
Staffing	No implication identified.
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	No implication identified.
Risks	Not satisfying legal requirements to report on and monitor performance that may impact on the ability to ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet demand.

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Fire and Rescue Service

PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

9 Months
April 2018 – December 2018

Figures are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.

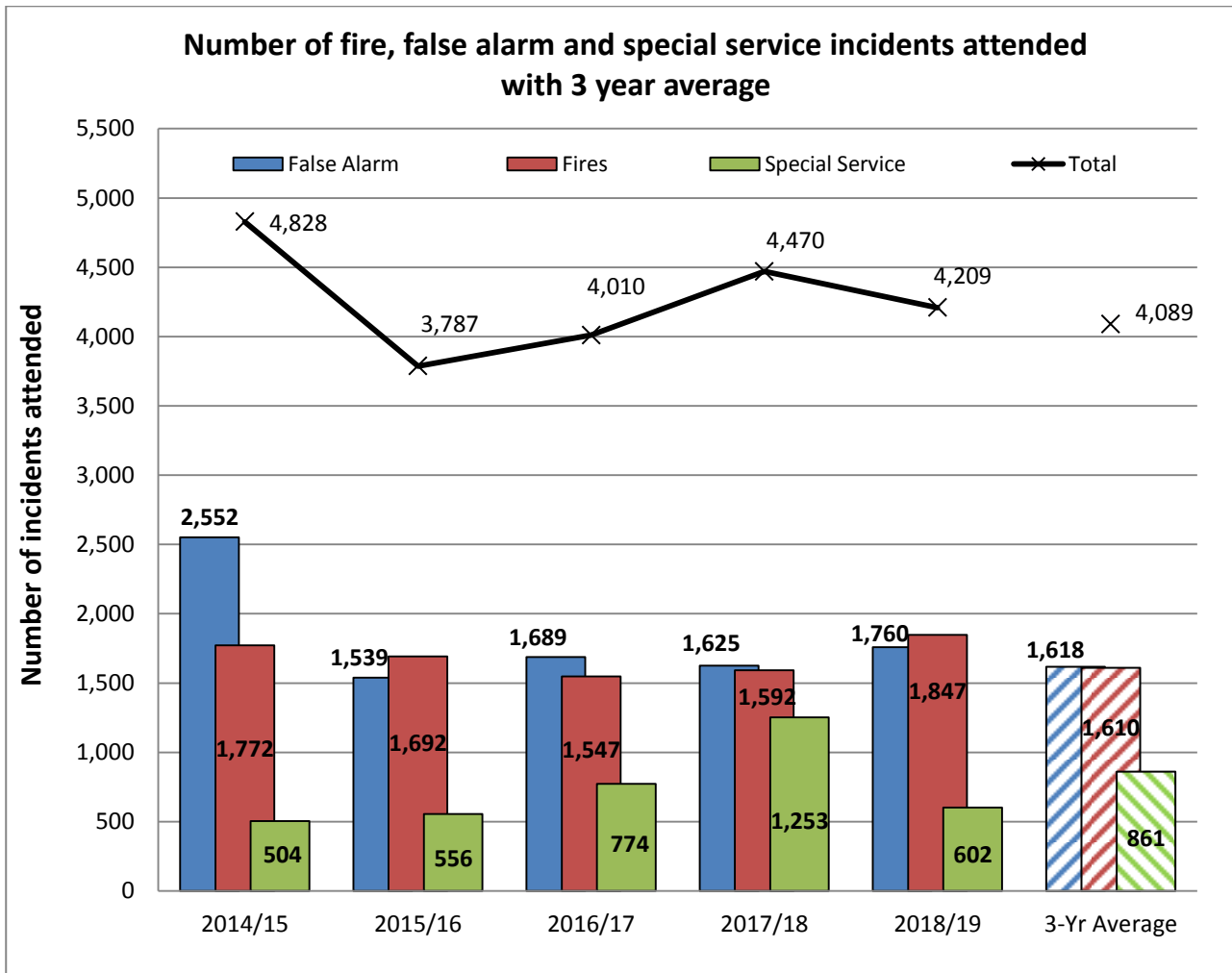
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1.0 All Incidents

1.1 The Service attended a total of 4,209 fires, false alarms and special service incidents in North Wales during the months of April to December 2018/19. There has been a 6% reduction in incidents attended in 2018/19 compared with the same period in 2017/18, with an overall reduction of 13% over the last 5 years.

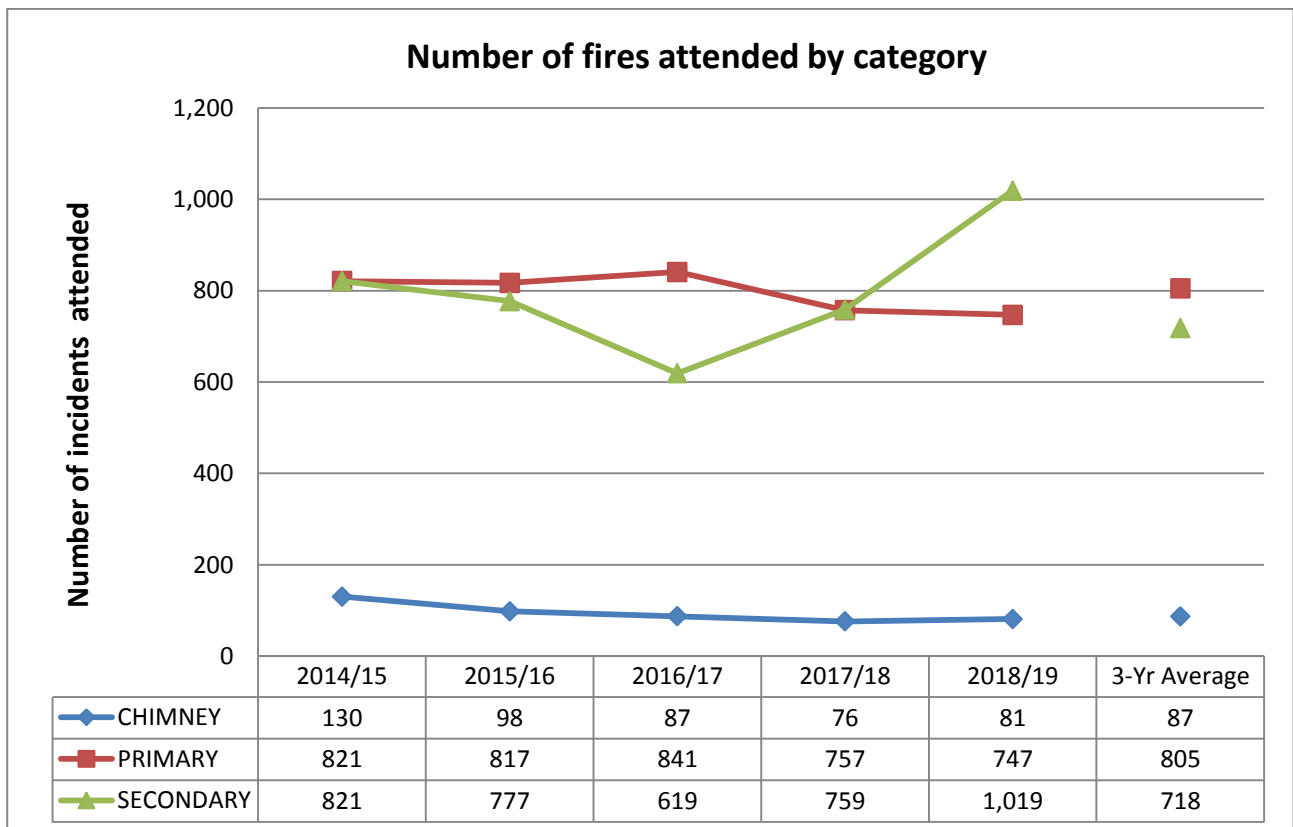
Chart 1. Number of fire, false alarm and special service incidents attended with 3-year average, April to December



2.0 Fires by Category

- 2.1 Of the 4,209 attendances between April and December 2018/19, 747 were primary fires (18%), 1,019 were secondary fires (24%) and 81 were chimney fires (2%).
- 2.2 Since 2014/15 there has been a gradual reduction in the number of primary fires attended, equating to a 9% reduction in 2018/19 compared with the same period in 2014/15.
- 2.3 Between the months of April to December, chimney fires almost halved with a 38% reduction compared with the same period in 2014/15.
- 2.4 During the same period the number of secondary fires attended has been fluctuating, with the lowest figure observed in 2016/17 (619) and the highest in 2018/19 (1,019). This is most likely due to the high summer temperatures experienced during the summer of 2018/19 that resulted in an increase in grassland, woodland and crop fires.

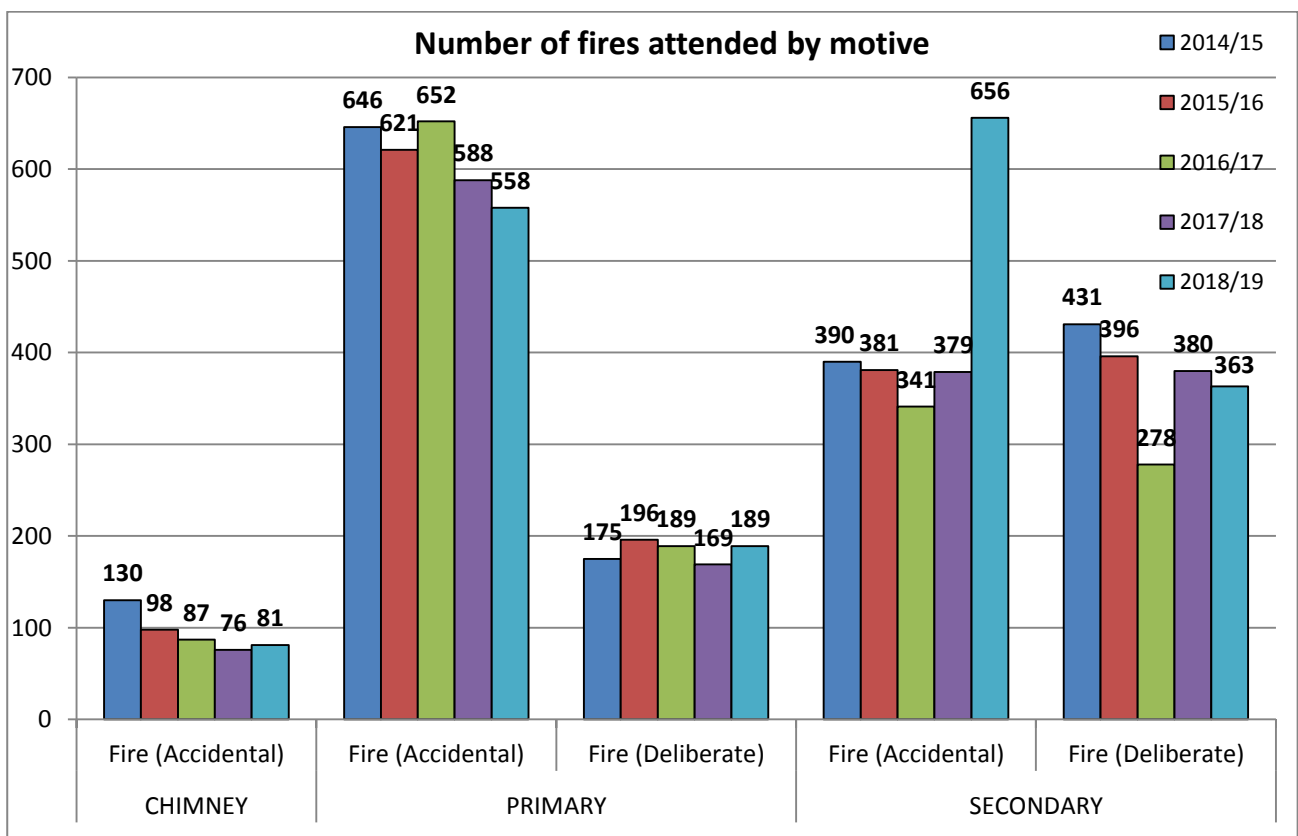
Chart 2. Number of fires attended by category, April to December



3.0 Fires by Motive

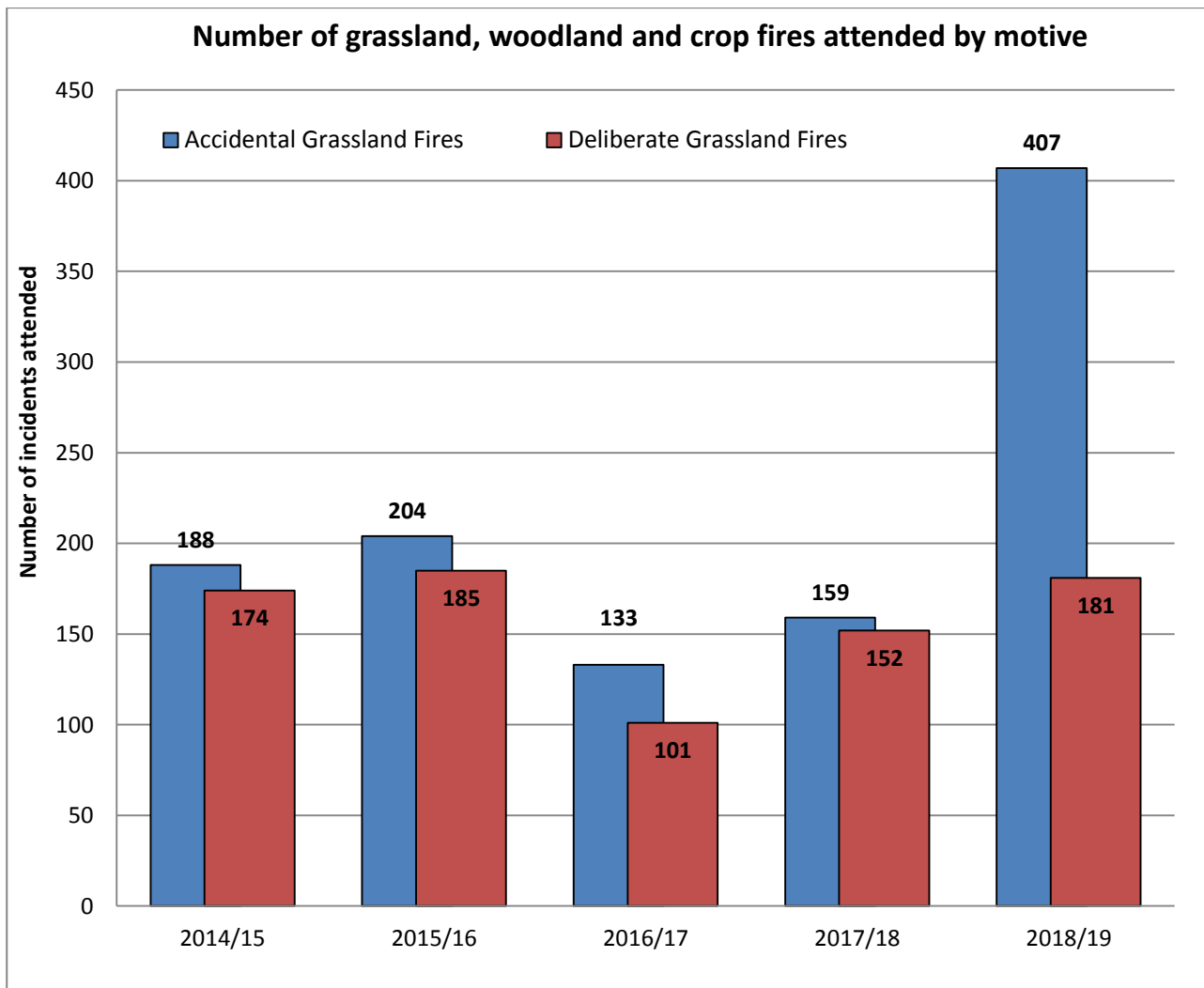
- 3.1 Comparing April to December 2017/18 to the same period in 2018/19, the number of accidental fires has increased by 24% from 1,043 to 1,295 fires. In comparing the same time frames for deliberate fires, there has been an increase of 1% from 549 to 552 fires.
- 3.2 Chimney fires have decreased by 38% or 49 fewer fires when comparing 2018/19 with 2014/15. There was however a 7% increase or 5 more fires in 2018/19 compared with the same period in 2017/18.
- 3.3 Since 2014/15 accidental primary fires have reduced from 646 in 2014/15 down to 558 fires in 2018/19. Deliberate primary fires have been fluctuating with the highest number seen in 2015/16 (196 incidents). Between 2017/18 and 2018/19 deliberate primary fires increased by 12% or by 20 incidents.
- 3.4 The number of accidental secondary fires has remained fairly consistent with the lowest number seen in 2016/17 (341). There was however, a significant increase (277 more fires) in 2018/19 compared with the same period in 2017/18. This increase may be attributed to the increased temperatures and prolonged dry weather experienced in the summer of 2018/19. Deliberate secondary fires have been showing a downward trend with a 30% reduction seen in 2016/17 compared with 2015/16. In 2017/18 numbers increased by 102 fires, however this again decreased in 2018/19.

Chart 3. Number of fires attended by motive, April to December



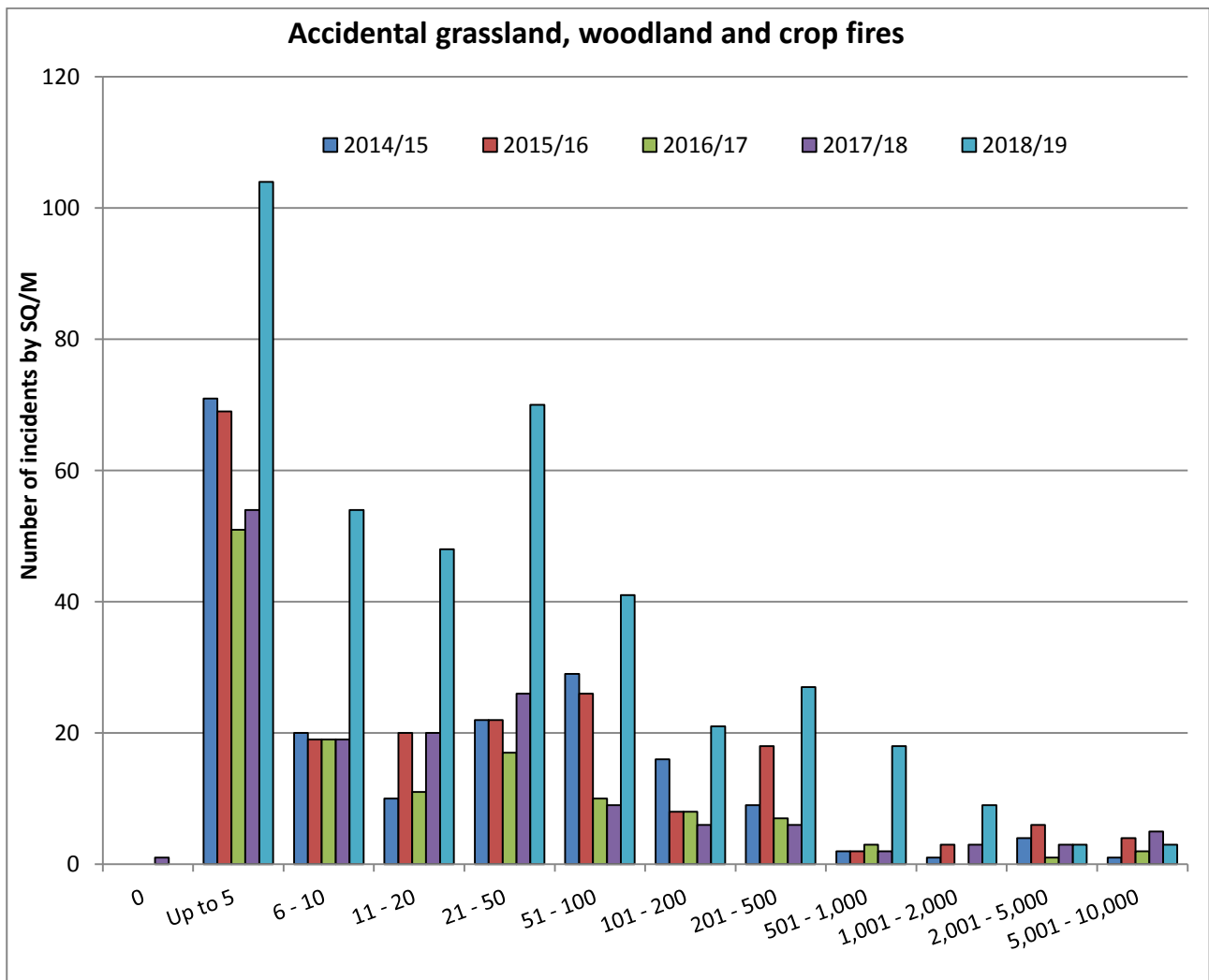
- 3.5 During April to December 2018/19, the Service attended 588 grassland, woodland and crop fires, 407 of these were accidental which is significantly more than the previous year (159), an increase of 39%.
- 3.6 During the same period, the number of deliberate grassland, woodland and crop fires increased from 152 to 181 fires. It is likely, the hotter than average temperatures during the summer months of 2018/19 may have been a significant contributory factor.

Chart 4. Number of grassland, woodland and crop fires attended by motive, April to December



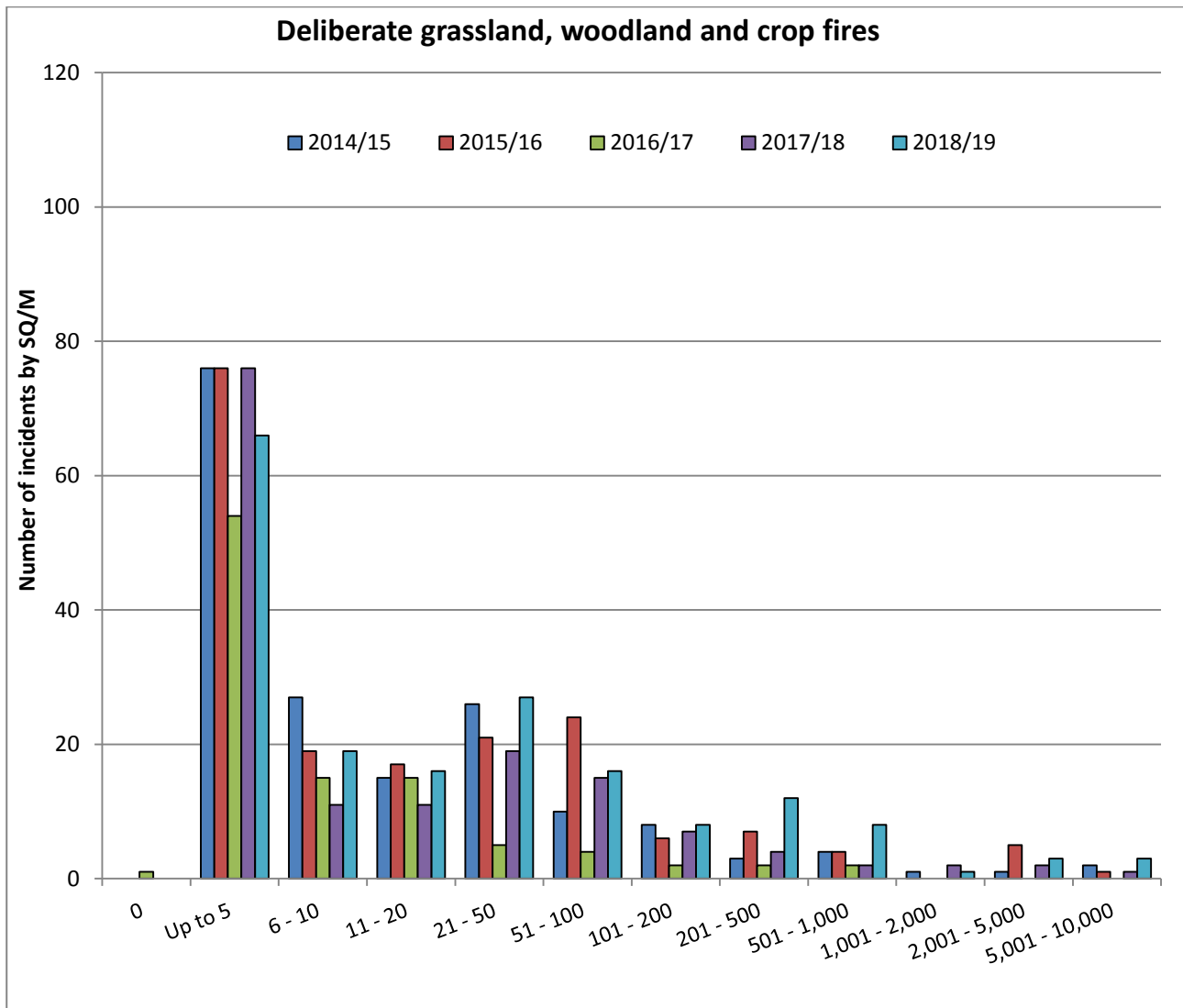
- 3.7 The majority of attendances to grassland, woodland and crop fires started accidentally during 2018/19 were in the category of 'up to 5 square metres'. Between 2017/18 and 2018/19 figures have almost doubled from 54 attendances to 104 attendances.
- 3.8 Comparing April to December 2017/18 to the same period in 2018/19, the number of fires that were between 5,001 and 10,000 square metres has decreased from 5 fires to 3 fires.

Chart 5. Number of accidental grassland, woodland and crop fires attended by estimated fire damage in square metres, April to December



3.9 In the years 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2017/18 the Service attended 76 incidents to deliberate grassland, woodland and crop fires where the estimated size of damage was up to 5 square metres. This reduced to 66 fires in 2018/19. The majority of deliberate grassland, woodland and crop fires are less than 100 square metres in size.

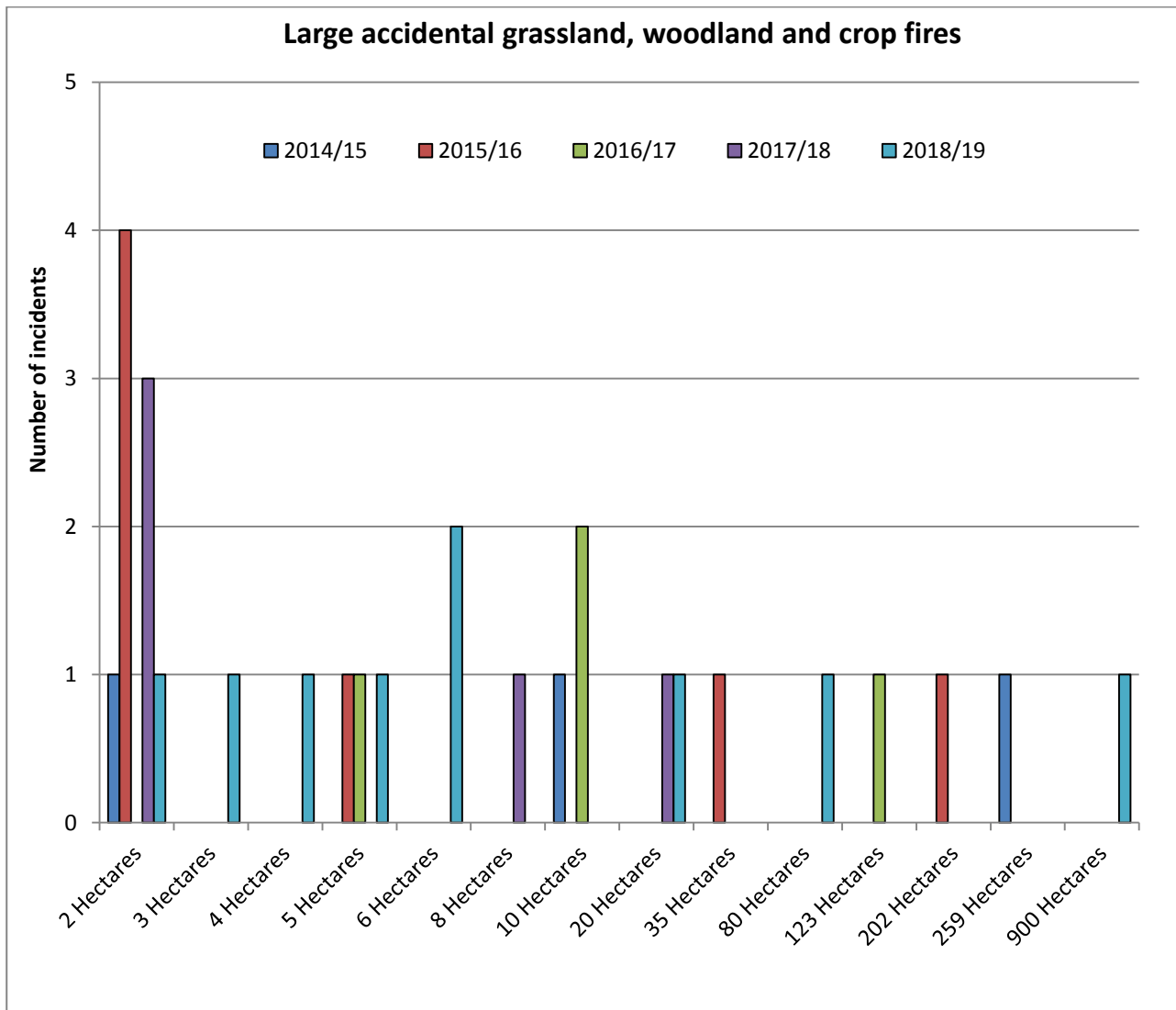
Chart 6. Number of deliberate grassland, woodland and crop fires attended by estimated fire damage in square metres, April to December



3.10 Thankfully, very large grassland, woodland and crop fires are limited to one or two per year, with most being no more than 2 hectares in size.

3.11 In 2018/19 there were 2 incidents where accidental grassland, woodland and crop fires affected 6 hectares of land, one that affected 20 hectares and one that affected 80 hectares. The largest area over the 5 year time frame from April to December 2014/15 to 2018/19 was in 2018/19 where 900 hectares of land was damaged.

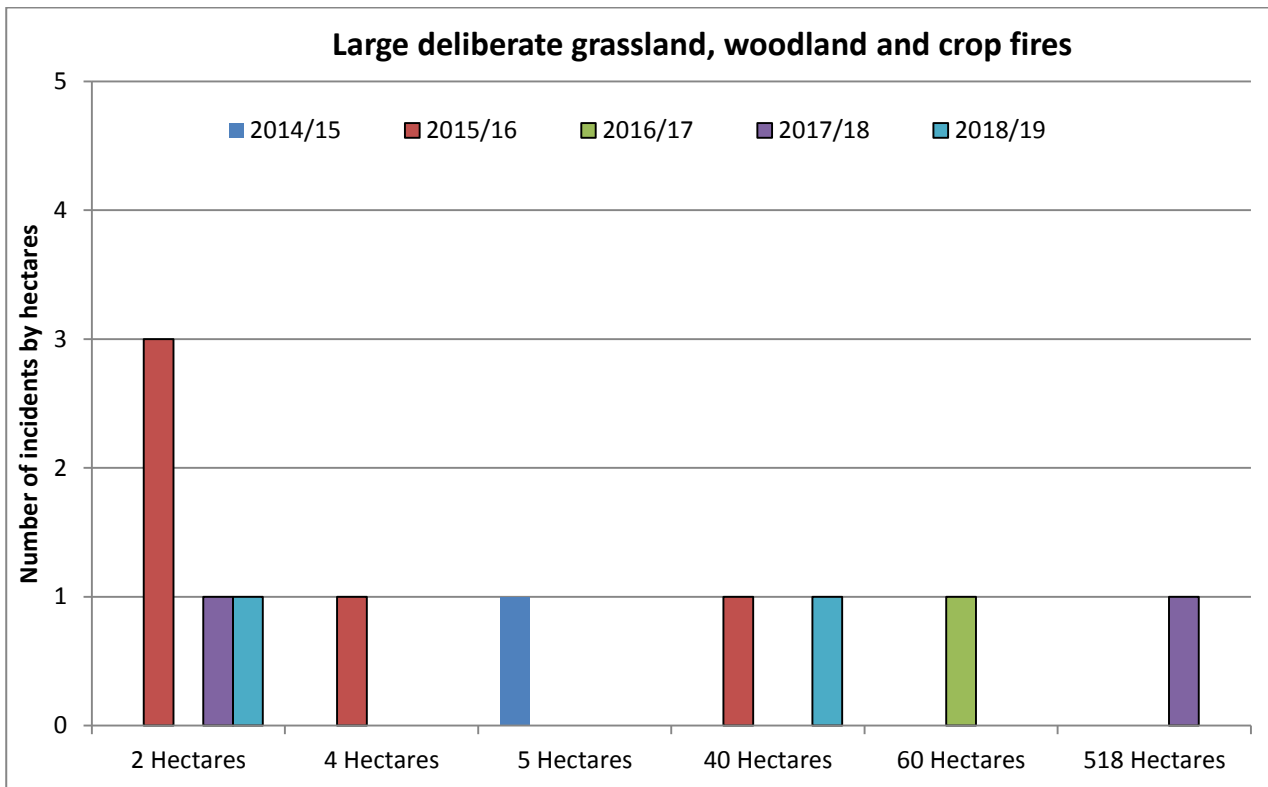
Chart 7. Number of large accidental grassland, woodland and crop fires attended by estimated fire damage in hectares, April to December



3.12 Again incidents where large areas of grassland, woodland and crops have been damaged due to deliberate fire settings are infrequent. In 2015/16, there were 3 fires that affected up to 2 hectares of land, one attendance where damage was caused to 4 hectares of land and another where 40 hectares were affected.

3.13 In 2017/18 there was one incident in North Gwynedd where 518 hectares were damaged. In 2018/19 the Service attended one incident affecting 2 hectares and one where damage was caused to 40 hectares of land.

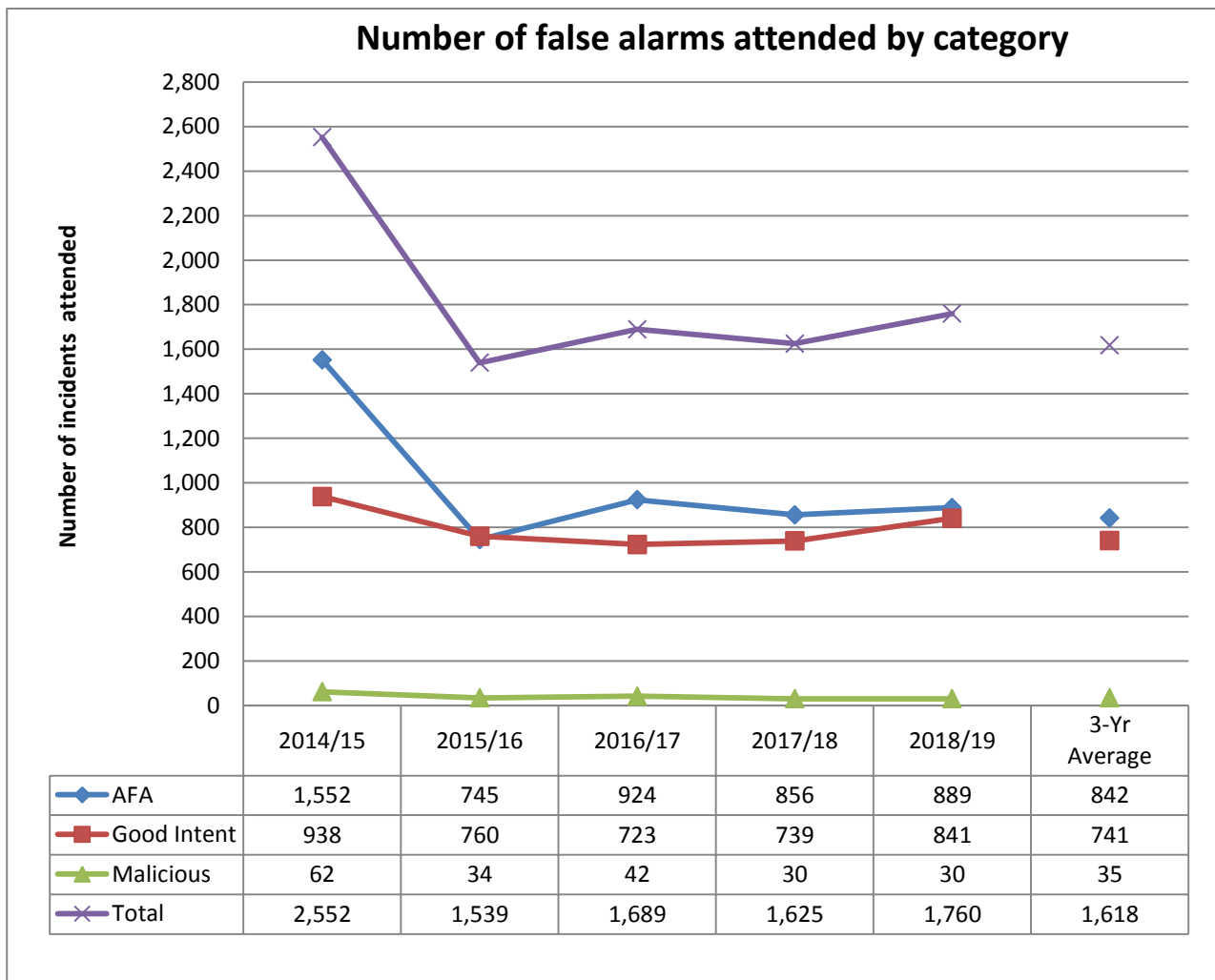
Chart 8. Number of large deliberate grassland, woodland and crop fires attended by estimated fire damage in hectares, April to December



4.0 False Alarms

- 4.1 Of the 4,209 incidents attended between April and December in 2018/19, 42% (1,760) were false alarms, which is higher than the 3 year average.
- 4.2 False alarms in the categories of: automatic fire alarms (AFA) and good intent have increased this year compared with 2017/18. False alarms from AFAs increased by 3.9% or 33 incidents, while those due to good intent increased by 13.8% or 102 incidents. The increases in both categories have brought the numbers almost in-line with each other. For the same period, the number of false alarms that were malicious has remained the same.

Chart 9. Number of false alarms attended by category



5.0 AFAs in Premises by Type and Year (Attended Only)

5.1 Following the introduction of the new AFA policy in April 2015, the number of attendances to many types of properties have been reducing. Comparing the months of April to December 2017/18 to the same period in 2018/19, AFAs in non-residential premises reduced (from 183 to 172). The number of AFA attendances to hospitals and medical care premises and education and public buildings remains the highest (see table below).

Table 1. Non Residential

Property Type	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total
Hospitals and Medical Care	131	89	146	140	133	639
Education and Public buildings	188	24	40	30	30	312
Retail	116	7	4	1	3	131
Offices and Call Centres	47	1	1	1	1	51
Food, drink & leisure	91	10	9	6	1	117
Industry	125	0	2	5	2	134
Other Private Non-Residential Building	2					2
Sporting Venues & Changing Facility	25	0	0	0	0	25
Warehouses and Bulk Storage	12		1		1	14
Public Utilities	13					13
Laboratory/Research Establishment	8					8
Other Buildings/Use not known	4				1	5
Religious	5					5
Car Parks	1		2			3
Transport Buildings	3					3
Animal Boarding/ Breeding/ Kennels (not farm)/Animal shelter		1				1
Total	771	132	205	183	172	1,463

5.2 Comparing the months of April to December 2017/18 to the same period in 2018/19, AFA attendances to dwellings increased (see table below). Overall attendances to dwellings have increased by 10% from 606 incidents to 666 incidents. AFAs increased by 24% or 52 incidents in purpose built flats, while attendances to houses reduced by 4% or 6 incidents. AFA attendances to bungalows also increased from 136 to 161 incidents (18%) between 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Table 2. Dwellings

Property Type	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total
Purpose Built Flat	209	210	223	220	272	1,134
Houses	172	144	183	162	156	817
Bungalow	91	108	147	136	161	643
Sheltered Housing (Self-contained)	67	38	42	57	44	248
Converted Flat	23	22	37	29	21	132
Castle	3	2	1		5	11
Stately Home		5	1		3	9
Other Dwelling	3		2		3	8
HMOs	1	2	2	2	0	7
Mobile Homes	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	569	531	638	606	666	3,010

5.3 Between the months of April to December 2018/19 there has been a decrease in the number of AFA attendances to other residential premises compared with the same period in 2017/18 (67 to 50). AFA attendances to other premises are consistently low (see below tables).

Table 3. Other Residential

Property Type	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total
Holiday Accommodation	4	3	2	0	1	10
Hotels, hostels & B&Bs	30	18	17	15	12	92
Student accommodation	83	21	29	20	14	167
Other non-dwellings	92	38	31	32	21	214
Sheltered Housing (not self-contained)	3		2		2	7
Total	212	80	81	67	50	490

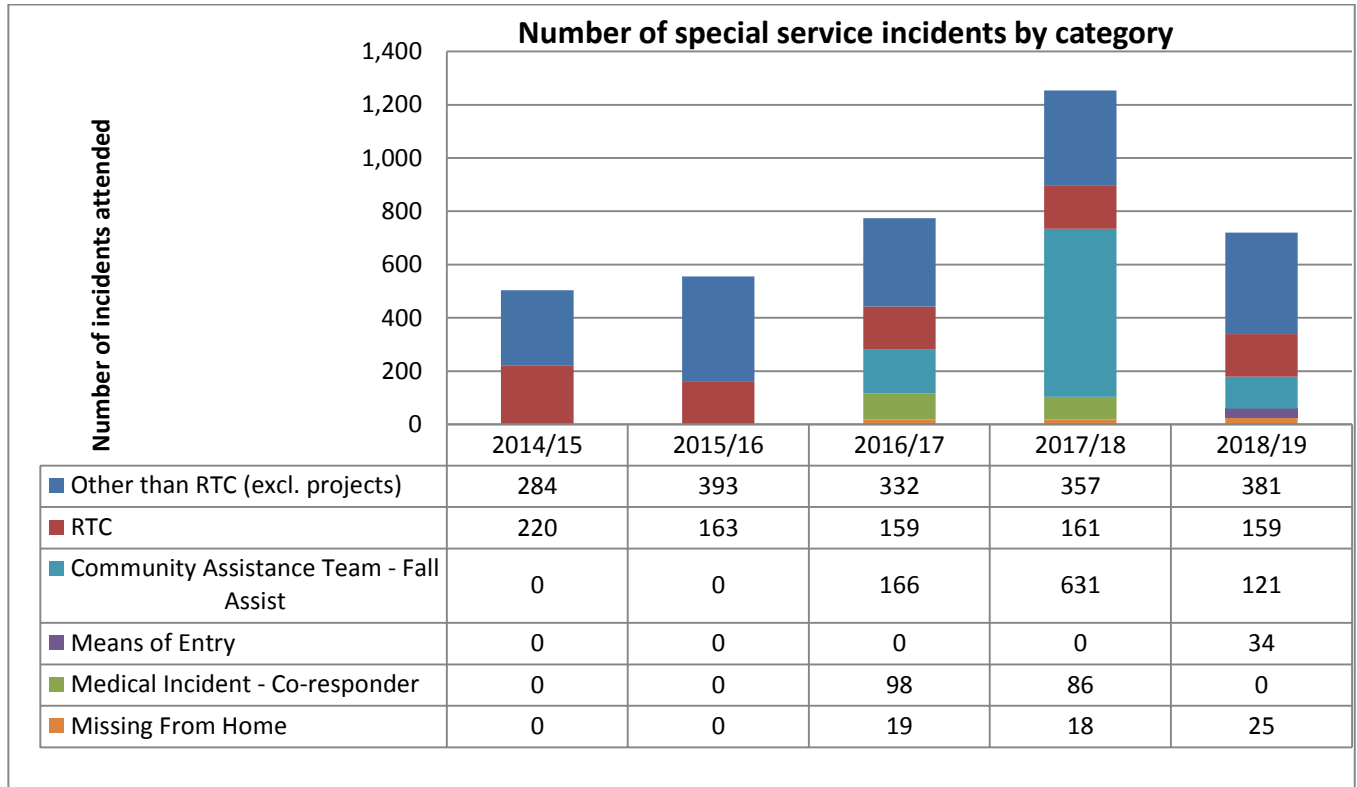
Table 4. Other

Property Type	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total
Small refuse/rubbish/recycle container (excluding wheelie bin)	0	1	0	0		1
Unknown	0	1	0	0	1	2
Total	0	2	0	0	1	3

6.0 Special Service Calls

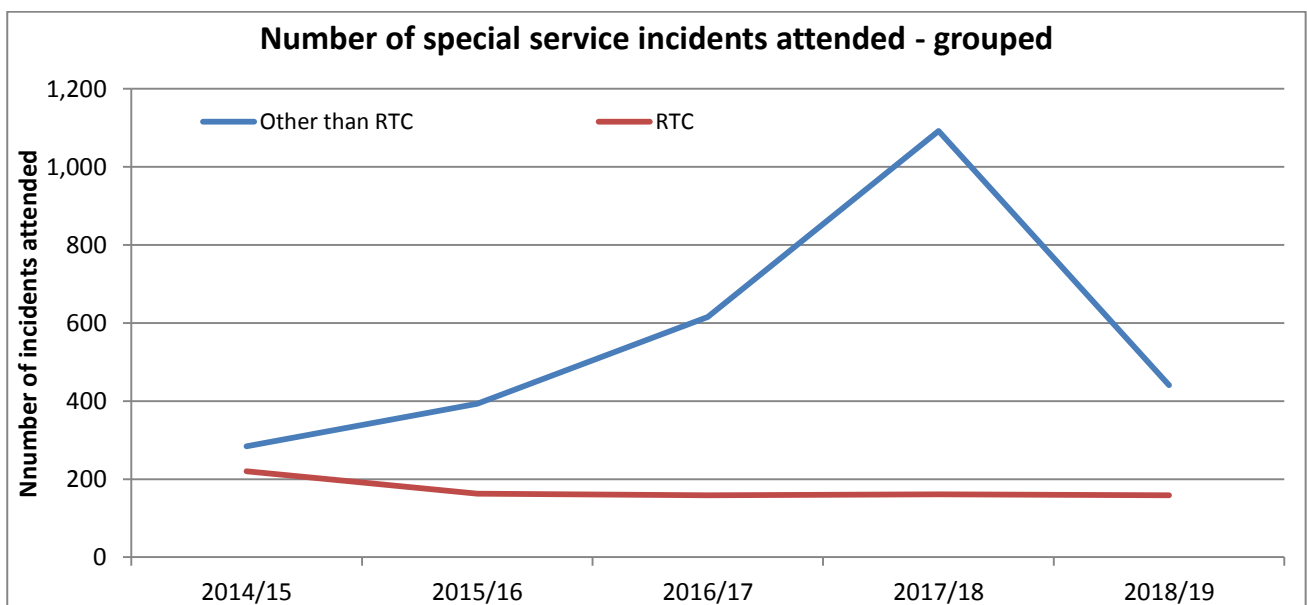
6.1 Attendances to special service incidents have reduced by 43%, from 1,253 down to 720 in 2018/19 compared with 2017/18. This reduction is due to the cessation of the CAT project in May 2018 and Co-responding activities in September 2017.

Chart 10. Number of special service incidents category



6.2 Over the last 5 years the number of attended special service incidents has fluctuated. Figures for the period in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18 for the grouped category of 'other than RTC' reduced by 60% (from 1092 attendances to 441 attendances).

Chart 11. Number of special service incidents attended (grouped)

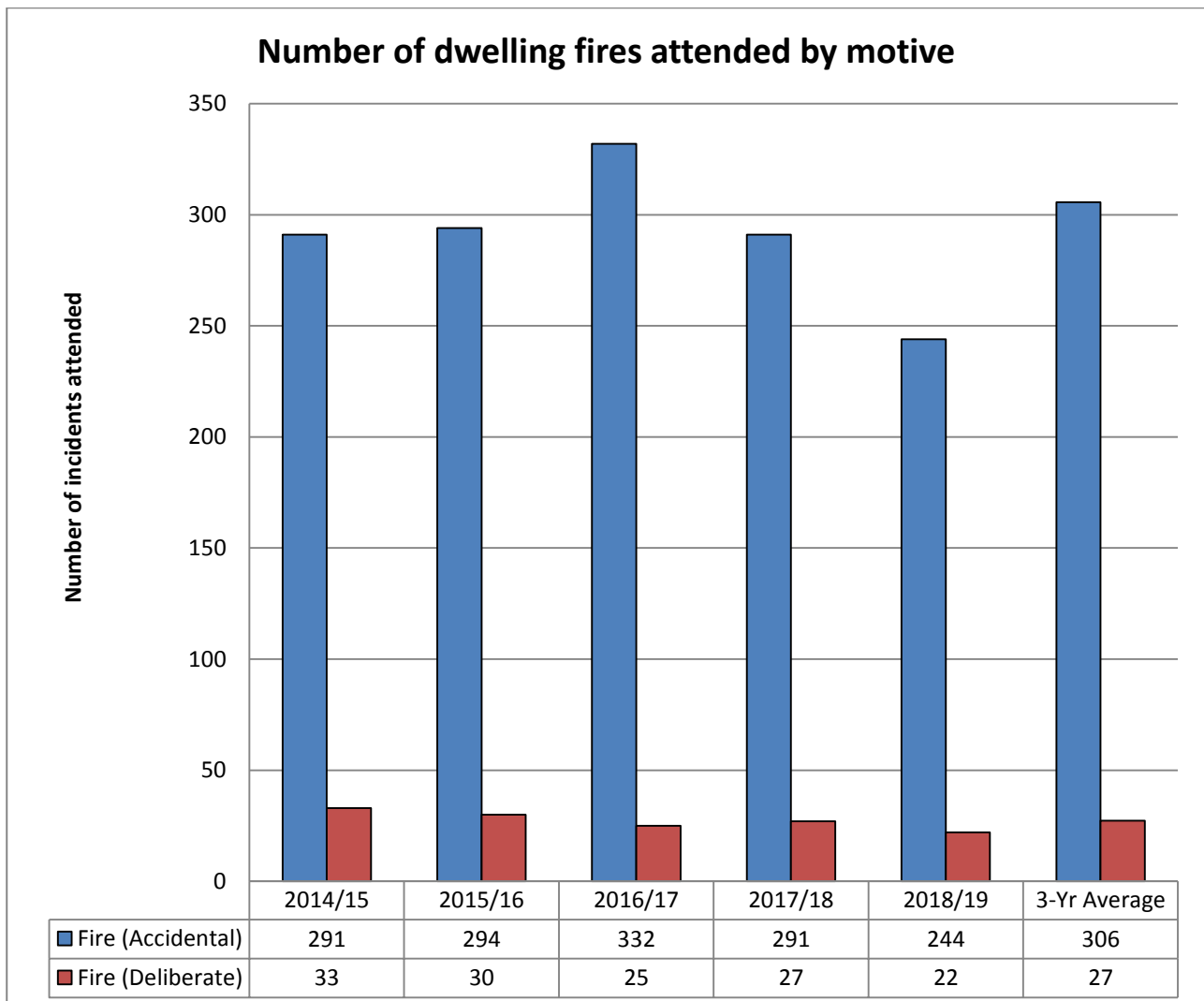


7.0 Monitoring against Improvement and Well-being objective A: *To support people to prevent accidental dwelling fires and stay safe if they do occur.*

7.1 Between April and December 2018/19 there has been a decrease in the number of accidental fires in dwellings compared with the same period in 2017/18 (291 to 244) – this is also 16% lower than the same period in 2014/15 and below the 3-year average.

7.2 Numbers of deliberate fires in dwellings have also reduced over the same period in 2018/19 compared with 2017/18, from 27 fires to 22 fires. This figure is also below the 3 year average.

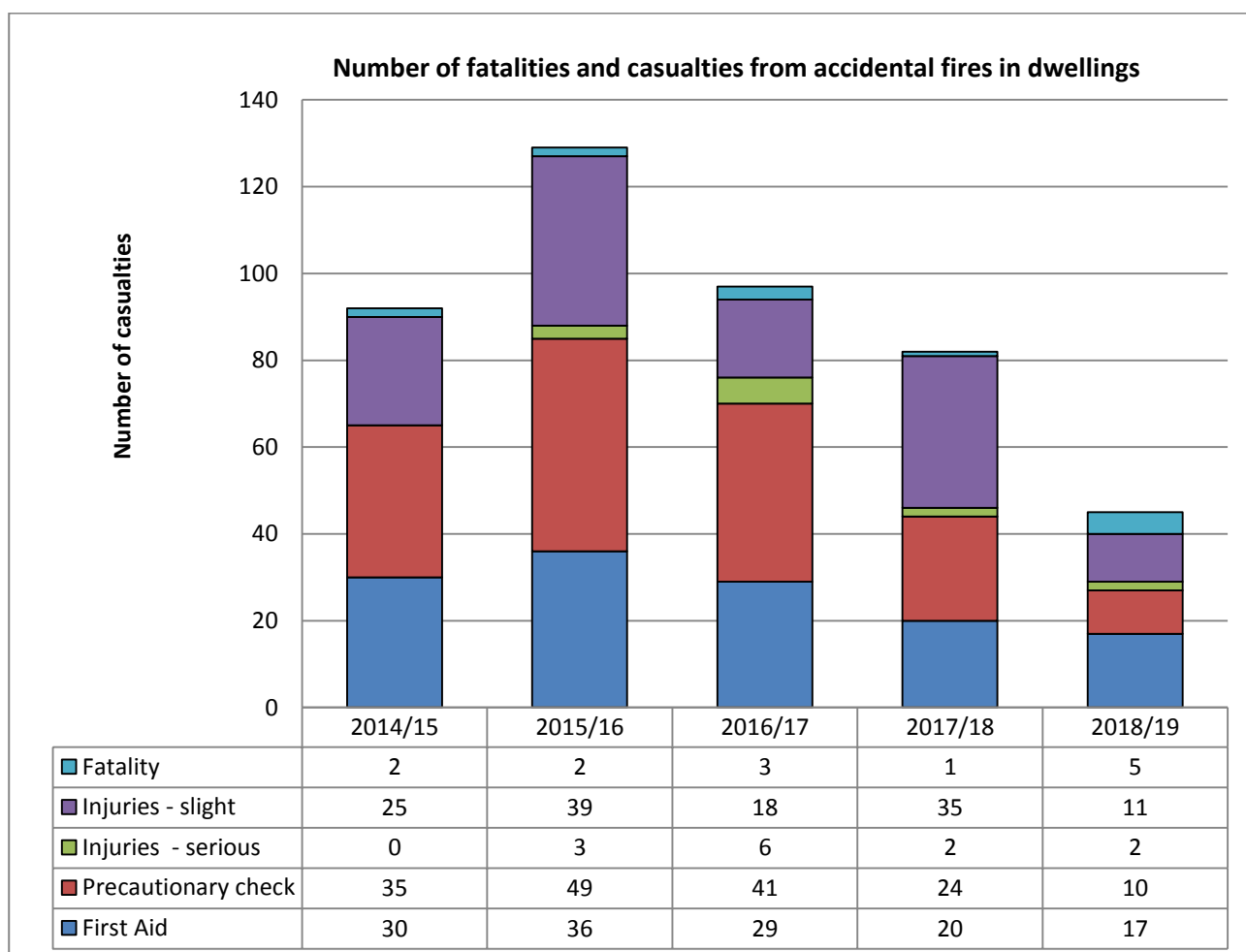
Chart 12. Number of dwelling fires attended by motive



8.0 Casualties from Accidental Dwelling Fires

- 8.1 During the months of April to December 2018/19 there were 5 fatalities at accidental dwelling fires in North Wales, compared with 1 for the same period in 2017/18.
- 8.2 During the same period in 2018/19 there were 2 serious injuries which is the same as that recorded over the same period in 2017/18. There were 11 people recorded as having slight injuries, compared with 35 in 2017/18.
- 8.3 The number of people receiving first aid at the scene decreased by 3 compared with 2017/18, whilst the number of people who either received a precautionary check, or were advised to see a doctor as a precaution decreased from 24 in 2017/18 to 10 in 2018/19.

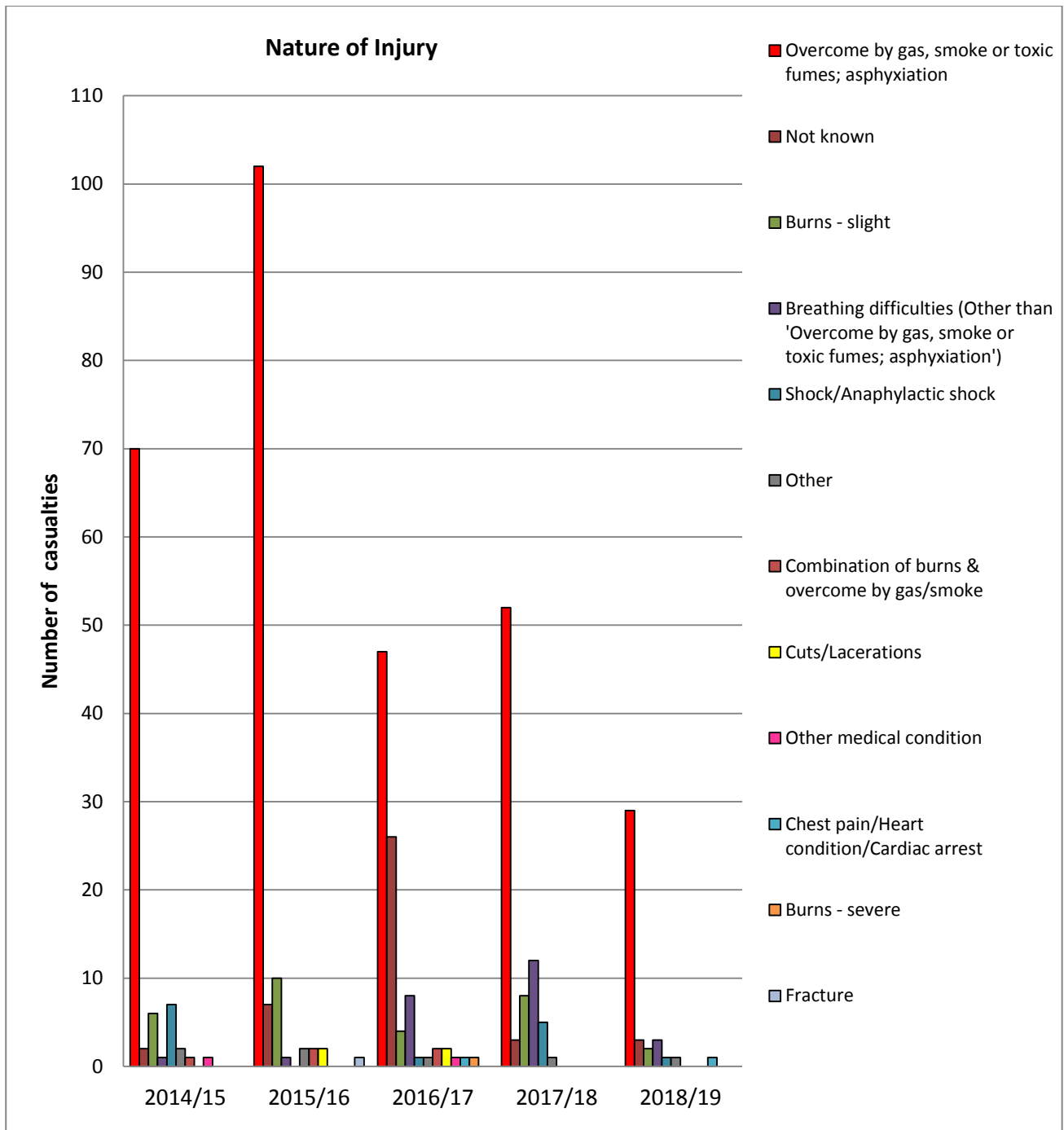
Chart 13. Number of fatalities and injuries from accidental dwelling fires



9.0 Nature of injury

9.1 Between the months of April to December for the years 2014/15 to 2018/19, there were a total of 445 casualties in accidental dwelling fires. Of these, 300 casualties were overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation. Within this category, the highest number of incidents occurred in 2015/16 (102 casualties) and the lowest number occurred in 2018/19 (29 casualties).

Chart 14. Nature of injuries in accidental dwelling fires



10.0 Casualties by Property Types – North Wales

- 10.1 Casualties per 100 fires in North Wales has been based on data for all accidental fires where the fire related flag in the database for victims is 'yes' or 'unknown'.
- 10.2 Over the last 5 years, the highest casualty rate per 100 fires was found within the category of dwellings, specifically converted flats, with the lowest rates in HMOs.
- 10.3 Within the category of non-dwelling residential premises, the highest casualty rates are in holiday accommodation. For non-residential premises, the highest rates are in the food, drink and leisure category.

Chart 15. Casualties per 100 fires, by property type, 2014/15 to 2018/19 (April – December)

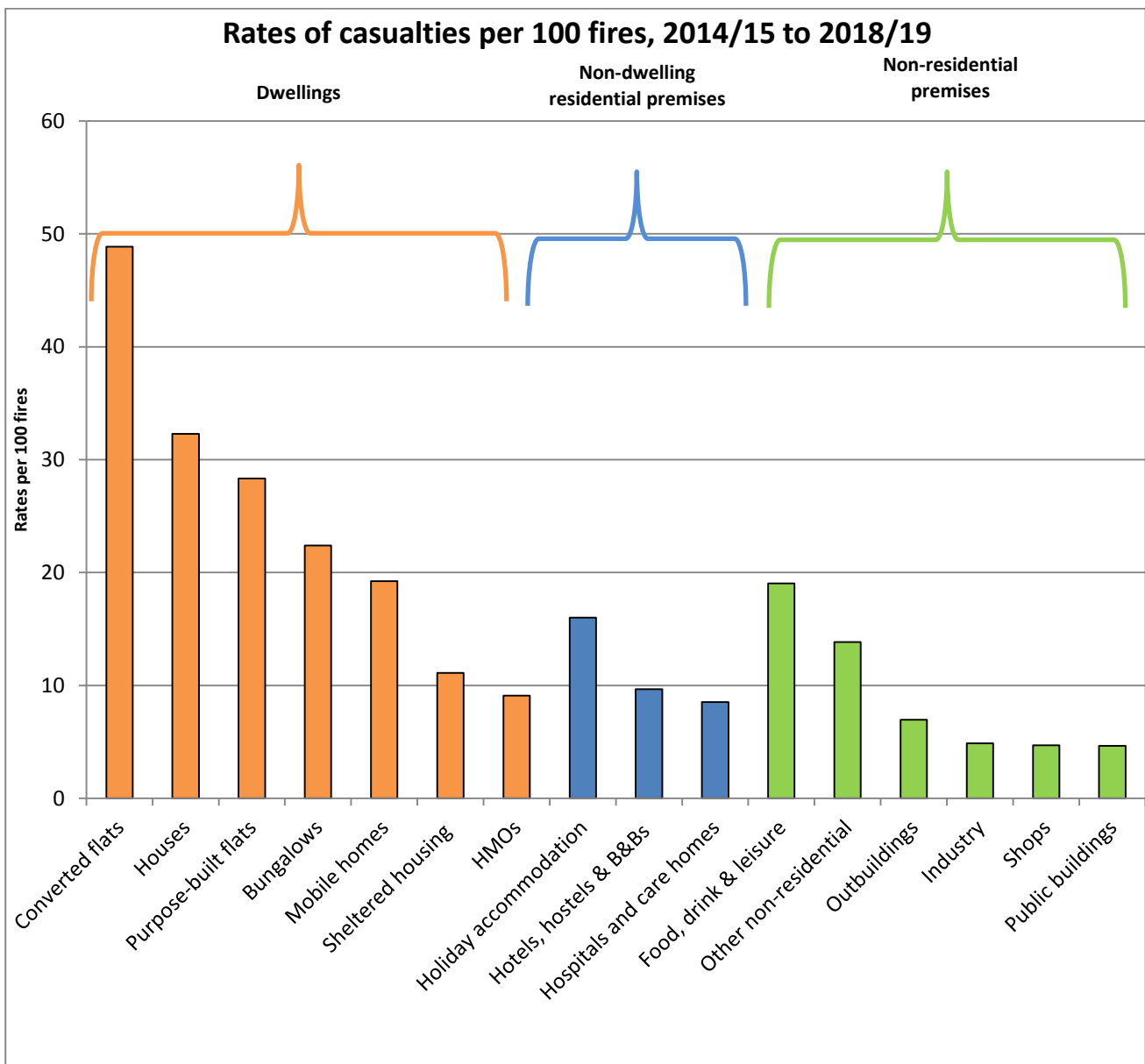
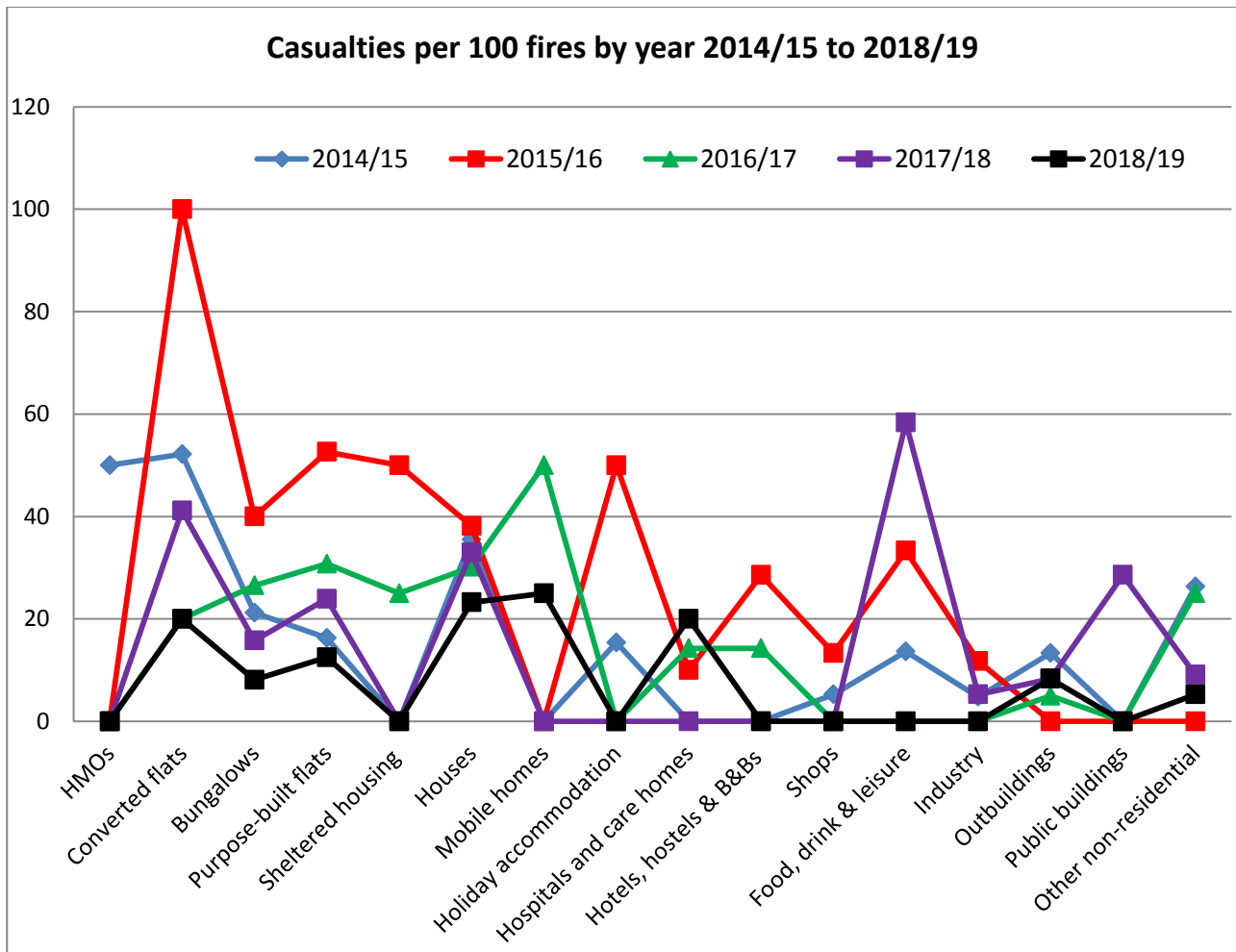


Chart 16. Casualties per 100 fires, by property type and year in North Wales (April – December)



10.4 Having examined the main cause of fire for incidents within the property type 'converted flats', the majority of fires were caused by cooking within the home.

Glossary

Fires	All fires fall into one of three categories – primary, secondary or chimney.
Primary Fires	<p>These are fires that are not chimney fires, and which are in any type of building (except if derelict), vehicles, caravans and trailers, outdoor storage, plant and machinery, agricultural and forestry property, and other outdoor structures such as bridges, post boxes, tunnels, etc.</p> <p>Fires in any location are categorised as primary fires if they involved casualties, rescues or escapes, as are fires in any location that were attended by five or more fire appliances.</p>
Secondary Fires	<p>Secondary fires are fires that are neither chimney fires nor primary fires.</p> <p>Secondary fires do not involve casualties, rescues or escapes, and will have been attended by four or fewer fire appliances.</p> <p>Secondary fires are those that would normally occur in locations such as open land, in single trees, fences, telegraph poles, refuse and refuse containers (but not paper banks, which would be considered - in the same way as agricultural and forestry property - to be primary fires), outdoor furniture, traffic lights, etc.</p>
Chimney Fires	<p>These are fires in occupied buildings where the fire is confined within the chimney structure, even if heat or smoke damage extends beyond the chimney itself.</p> <p>Chimney fires do not involve casualties, rescues or escapes, and will have been attended by four or fewer fire appliances.</p>
Special Service Incidents	<p>These are non-fire incidents which require the attendance of an appliance or officer and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Local emergencies e.g. flooding, road traffic incidents, rescue of persons, 'making safe' etc; b) Major disasters; c) Domestic incidents e.g. water leaks, persons locked in or out etc; d) Prior arrangements to attend incidents, which may include some provision of advice and inspections.
False Alarm (general guidance)	<p>Where the FRS attends a location believing there to be an incident, but on arrival discovers that no such incident exists, or existed.</p> <p>Note: if the appliance is 'turned around' by Control before arriving at the incident it is not classed as having been attended and does not need to be reported.</p>
False Alarms - Malicious	These are calls made with the intention of getting the FRS to attend a non-existent incident, including deliberate and suspected malicious intentions.
False Alarms – Good Intent	These are calls made in good faith in the belief that the FRS really would attend a fire or special service incident.
False Alarms - AFA	These are calls initiated by fire alarm and fire-fighting equipment. They include accidental initiation of alarm apparatus or where an alarm operates and a person then routinely calls the FRS as part of a standing arrangement, i.e. with no 'judgement' involved, for example from a security call centre or a nominated person in an organisation).