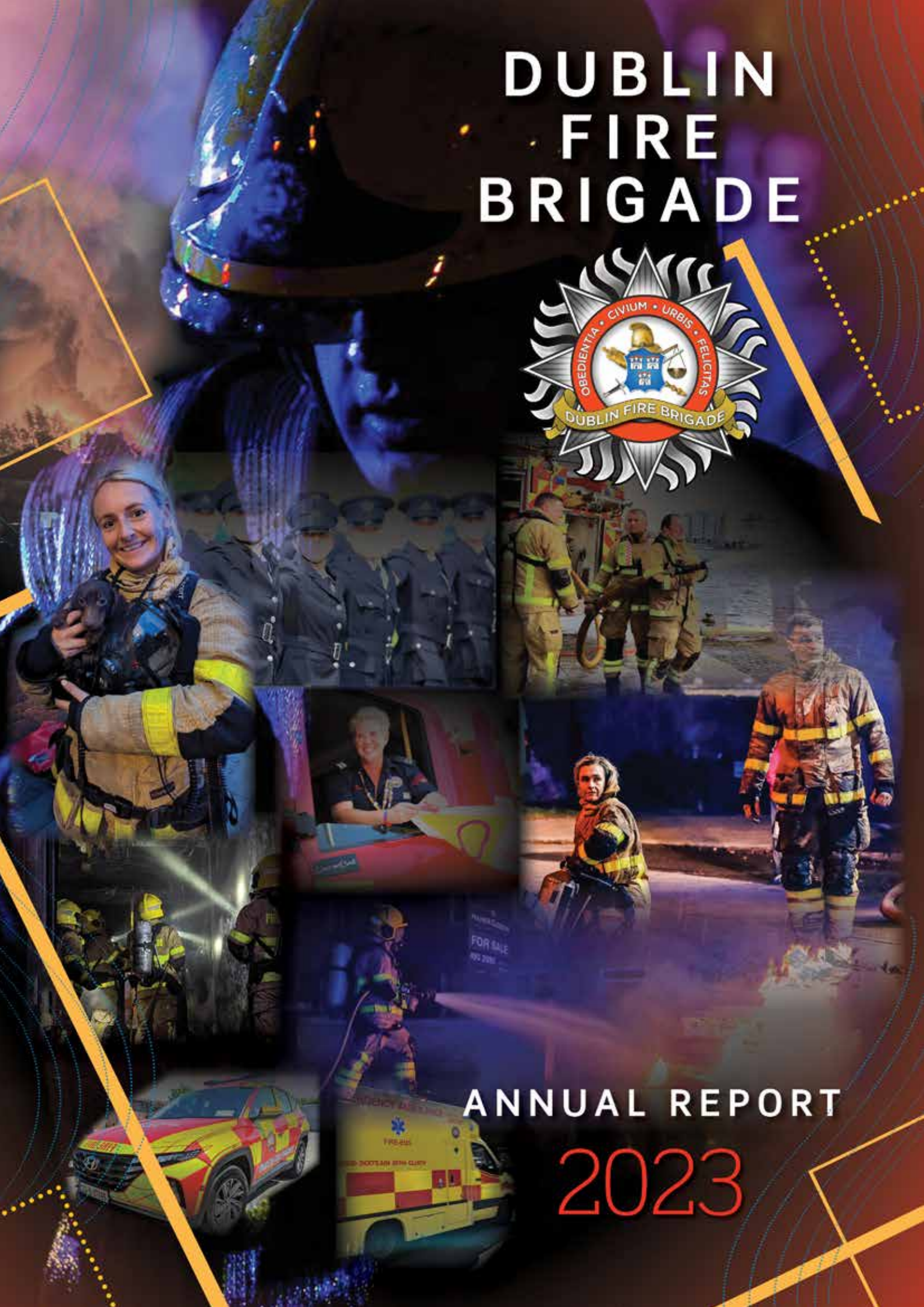


DUBLIN FIRE BRIGADE



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

DUBLIN FIRE BRIGADE ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



Comhairle Contae County Council

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

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Welcome to Dublin Fire Brigade's Annual Report which includes an overview and some highlights from what was another challenging year for DFB. 2023 has been an important year for the Service and we use our annual report to explain how we are keeping people safe, protecting our communities and managing our budgets and spending. The report also provides an account of the remit and broad spectrum of Fire Safety, Operational, Planning and Strategic Service activities performed throughout the year.

Our mission is to make Dublin a safe place to live, work and travel. All of us share a common goal in that we want to be one of the best fire and rescue services in the country. By continually raising our standards and improving what we do, we are providing the best protection we can to keep people safe.

We achieved a huge amount last year and capturing that activity in our annual report only highlights this more. Despite extra pressures and challenging situations we've continued to work incredibly hard to keep the people of Dublin safe.

During 2023 we have welcomed new staff into the Service across the Operational, Eastern Regional Communications Centre, Technical and professional administrative services. New staff bring diverse experiences, a fresh outlook and new skills, which we embrace and also look forward to the additional recruits who will join our ranks in 2024. We are increasing the diversity of our workforce year on year which will only help to further improve our service to all communities.

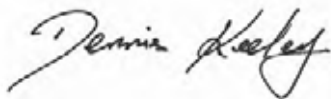
The report highlights the incredible amount of work completed in 2023 and we are proud of all Members, staff, and volunteers who have contributed to making it possible. Over the next 12 months, we will continue to work hard to ensure that the Service has the right resources, people, and plans to build on the work completed in 2023.

A sincere thank you to everyone that has supported us in 2023, whether that was attending one of our events, sharing our safety messages, sending us feedback, visiting our stations

or working with us in whatever capacity. I am particularly grateful for the ongoing support from the Management and Councillors of Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council and Fingal County Council, our public safety partners, and the different operational divisions within the various councils, we are extremely grateful and we really value that support.

Since its inception in 1862, DFB has had a proud tradition of providing excellent service to the community and as Chief Fire Officer I am proud of the commitment shown by all those involved in delivering the quality service. Our greatest asset is our workforce and I wish to acknowledge the dedication, hard work and professionalism from all our staff without which we could not have provided the service the public have come to expect.

I believe we are well placed to meet the challenges and I look forward to continuing to serve our community in the upcoming year and on behalf of the men and women of the Dublin Fire Brigade, I am happy to present you with our 2023 Annual Report.



DENNIS KEELEY
Chief Fire Officer | Dublin Fire Brigade



2.1 ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

ERCC Activity

- Processed 207,575 Emergency Calls
- 167,832 Ambulance & 39,743 Fire Rescue
- Maintained Accredited Centre of Excellence

Emergency Medical Interventions

- 4,631 Critical Medical Emergency Incidents
- 552 Cardiac Arrest Interventions
- 55,532 patients treated & transported to hospital

Fire Prevention

- 1,472 Fire Safety Certificate Applications
- 48 Petroleum Vapour emissions certificates issued
- 145 inspections of flammable fuel stores carried out
- 67 Dangerous Substance Licence applications processed

Training

- Largest Fire, Rescue & Emergency Medical Services Training facility in Ireland
- 84 Recruits - 37 trained & 47 in training
- 11,010 Training Days for DFB personnel of all grades (excluding recruits)

Total Fire / Ems Intervention

- 80,357 Emergency Medical Mobilisations
- 34,927 Fire & Emergency Mobilisations

Community Fire Safety Interventions

- National Fire Safety Week 2023
- 2970 smoke detectors and 50 hard of hearing smoke detectors distributed as part of a national Smoke Alarm Programme
- 180 post primary schools contacted for bfiresafe@school

Fire Safety Protection

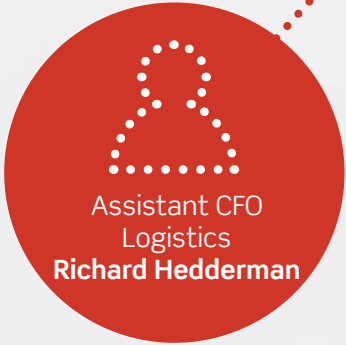
- 56 large and 294 smaller Events processed
- 1,360 notifications received
- 10 Fire Safety Notices served
- 4 prosecutions taken
- 70% of licensed premises inspected
- 2,036 inspections carried out

Major Emergency Management

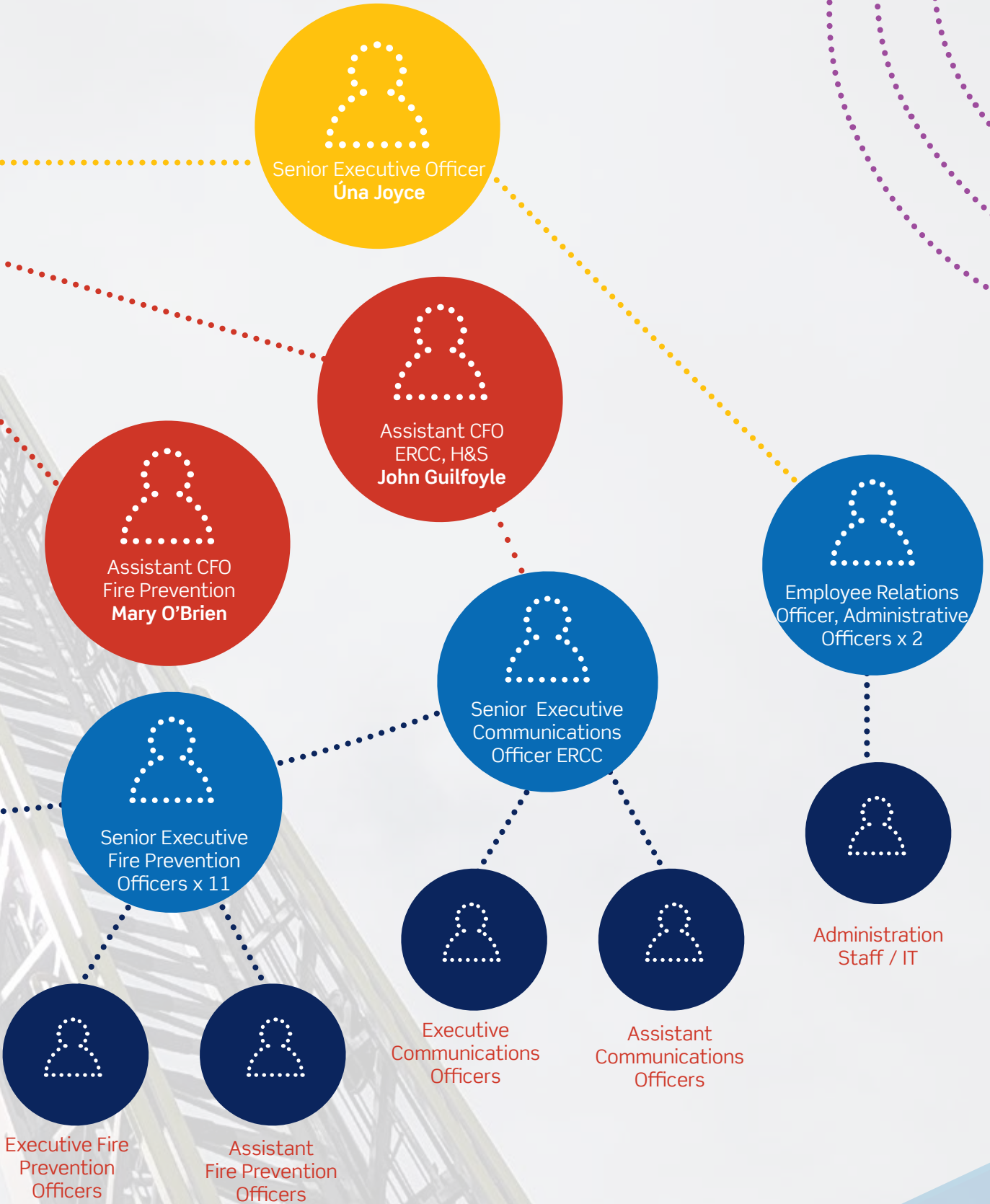
- On-going Inter-Agency Liaison & Training
- 5 Seveso Inter-Agency Exercises Held







2.2 ORGANISATIONAL CHART



2.3 OPERATIONAL RESOURCE ALLOCATION

No.1 Station (D1)

ALPHA DISTRICT Donnybrook, DCC

2 x Water Tenders (DN11A1 & DN11A2)
1 x Haz Mat Unit (DN11G1)
1 x Ambulance (DN11D1)
1 x District Officer Command Vehicle (DN11R1)

No.2 Station (D2)

BRAVO DISTRICT Dolphins Barn, DCC

2 x Water Tenders (DN12A1 & DN12A2)
1 x Emergency Rescue Tender (DN12B1)
1 x Ambulance (DN12D1)
1 x District Officer Command Vehicle (DN12R1)

No.3 Station (D3)

CHARLIE DISTRICT Phibsboro, DCC

2 x Water Tenders (DN13A1 & DN13A2)
1 x Water Tanker (DN13K1)
1 x Emergency Rescue Tender (DN13B1)
1 x Ambulance (DN13D1)
1 x District Officer Command Vehicle (DN13R1)

No.4 Station (D4)

DELTA DISTRICT North Strand, DCC

2 x Water Tenders (DN14A1 & DN14A2)
1 x Tunnel Response Vehicle (DN14A5)
2 x Ambulances (DN14D1 & DN14D2)
1 x District Officer Command Vehicle (DN14R1)

No.5 Station (D5)

FOXTROT DISTRICT Finglas, DCC

1 x Water Tenders (DN15A1)
1 x Ambulance (DN15D5)
1 x District Officer Command Vehicle (DN15R1)

No.6 Station (D6)

DELTA DISTRICT Kilbarrack, DCC

1 x Water Tenders (DN16A1)
1 x Ambulance (DN16D1)

No.7 Station (D7)

BRAVO DISTRICT Tallaght, SDCC

2 x Water Tenders (DN17A1 & DN17A2)
1 x Ambulance (DN17D1)

No.8 Station (D8)

ALPHA DISTRICT Rathfarnham, DLRCC

1 x Water Tenders (DN18A1)
1 x Ambulance (DN18D1)

No.9 Station (D9)

CHARLIE DISTRICT Blanchardstown, FCC

1 x Water Tenders (DN19A1)
1 x Ambulance (DN19D1)

HQ Station (D10)

ECHO DISTRICT Townsend Street, DCC

2 x Water Tenders (DN21A1 & DN21A2)
2 x Aerial Turntable Ladders (DN21F1 & DN21F2)
1 x Mass Casualty Unit (DN21L2)
1 x Logistical Support Van (DN21L1)
1 x Incident Command Unit (DN21C1)
2 x Ambulance (DN21D1 & DN21D2)
1 x District Officer Command Vehicle (DN21R1)

No.12 Station (D12)
ALPHA DISTRICT
 Dún Laoghaire, DLRCC

2 x Water Tenders (DN22A1 & DN22A2)
 1 x HP Aerial Platform (DN22E1)
 1 x Ambulance (DN22D1)

No. 13 Station (D13)
FOXTROT DISTRICT
 Swords, FCC

1 x Water Tenders (DN25A1)
 1 x Ambulance (DN25D1)

No.23 Station (D23)
FOXTROT DISTRICT
 Balbriggan, FCC (Retained)

1 x Water Tender (DN23A1)

No.24 Station (D24)
FOXTROT DISTRICT
 Skerries, FCC (Retained)

1 x Water Tender (DN24A1)

**OPERATIONAL
 SUPPORT UNIT**

Training Centre
 Logistics
 EMS
 ERCC
 Health & Safety
 Fire Prevention
 Projects
 Administration

No.1 Station (D1)	Donnybrook, DCC
No.2 Station (D2)	Dolphins Barn, DCC
No.3 Station (D3)	Phibsboro, DCC
No.4 Station (D4)	North Strand, DCC
No.5 Station (D5)	Finglas, DCC
No.6 Station (D6)	Kilbarrack, DCC
No.7 Station (D7)	Tallaght, SDCC
No.8 Station (D8)	Rathfarnham, DLRCC
No.9 Station (D9)	Blanchardstown, FCC
HQ Station (D10)	Townsend Street, DCC
No.12 Station (D12)	Dún Laoghaire, DLRCC
No. 13 Station (D13)	Swords, FCC
No.23 Station (D23)	Balbriggan FCC (Retained)
No.24 Station (D24)	Skerries FCC (Retained)



DCC **DLRCC** **FCC** **SDCC**

3 OPERATIONS REPORT

Dublin Fire Brigade takes pride in its ability to provide an effective integrated Fire-EMS Rescue service. DFB continuously assesses the full spectrum of fire and rescue risk that our communities can reasonably expect to encounter on a daily basis.

In 2023 Dublin Fire Brigade handled 207,575 emergency 999/112 calls. There were 80,916 mobilisations of emergency medical services across the four Local Authorities and 34,927 fire and rescue mobilisations.

12 full-time and 2 retained fire stations, the Eastern Region Communications Centre (ERCC), a nationally and internationally accredited Training Centre facility, a Fire Prevention/Enforcement Section, an Administration Section and a Logistics Section are all utilised by DFB to efficiently operate this service. We focus our fire prevention and protection efforts on people who are most at risk from fires and we help ensure that fire safety legislation is upheld. DFB responds quickly with the appropriate weight of attack, skills, and equipment to deal with the event effectively when a member of the public calls

999/112 which is directed to the Eastern Region Communication Centre (ERCC).

Dublin Fire Brigade responds to all emergencies, including major incidents that might have an impact on the community. To ensure that we can deliver a professional and assured service in the event of an emergency, we continue to conduct simulation exercises in collaboration with other agencies including An Garda Síochána, National Ambulance Service, Health Service Executive, Irish Coastguard, and Irish Defence Forces.

In 2023, DFB also welcomed 84 new recruits into the operational ranks. The new recruits have taken up their new positions alongside experienced Firefighters/ Paramedics throughout the six districts and they will assist in providing emergency cover to Dublin City and County, a region with a population of 1.46 million (2022 Census) and covering an area of 921.7km².

In October 2023 in support of international 'Restart a Heart' Day, DFB introduced an initiative which aligns with its dedication to proactive community



engagement and safety. DFB installed new Public Access Automatic Defibrillators (AED) prominently outside each of its 14 fire stations across the city and county. This significant initiative is a significant step forward in enhancing community safety and will be available 24/7 to provide immediate assistance during critical moments where every second counts. These AEDs will guide an untrained person through Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation with voice prompts and encouragement while paramedics make their way to the patient and guidance is provided by Emergency Service Controllers over the 999/112 call.



DFB continues to provide a multi-faceted service including the:

Prevention

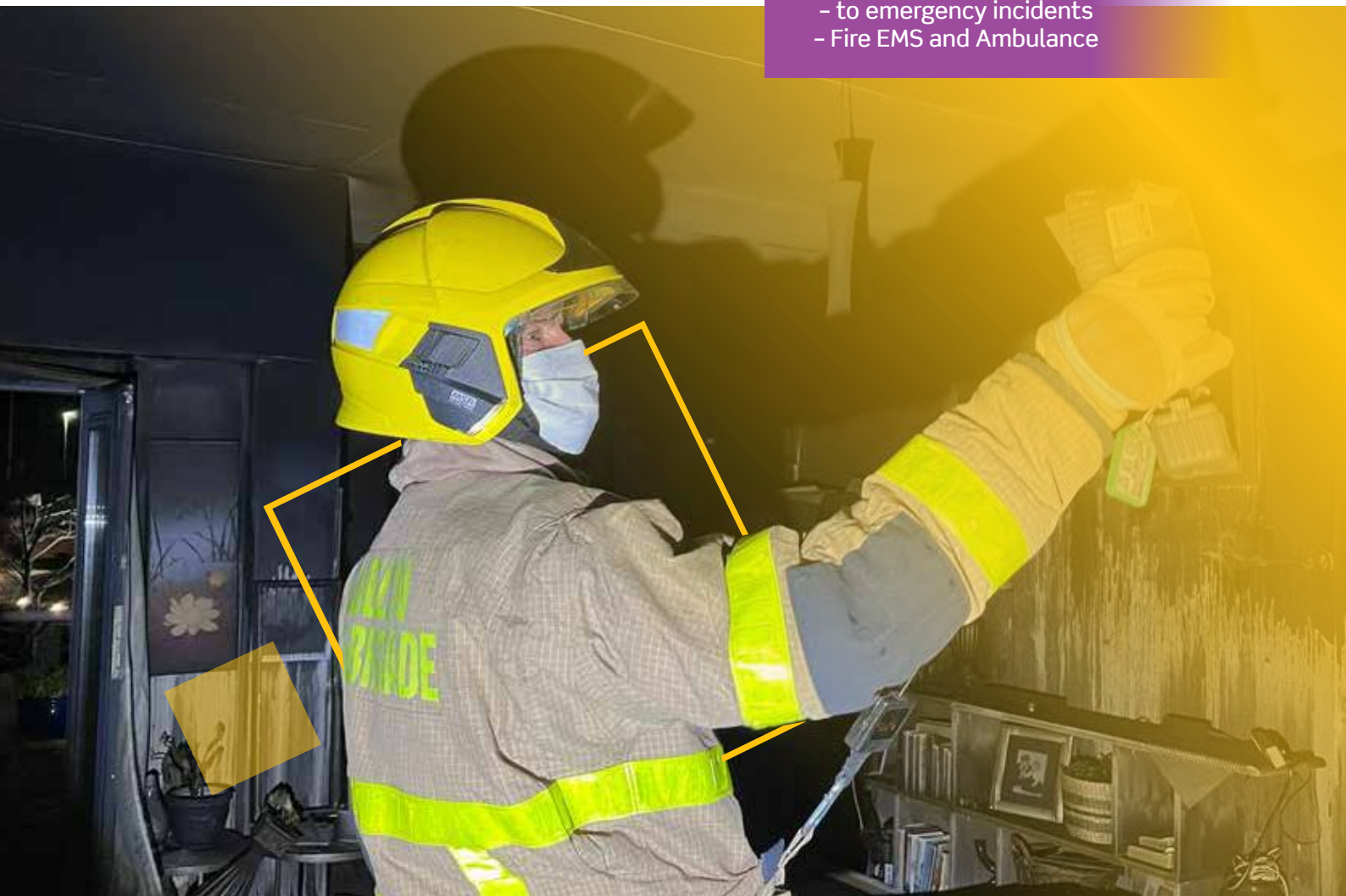
- community safety advice and education

Protection

- Technical Fire Safety

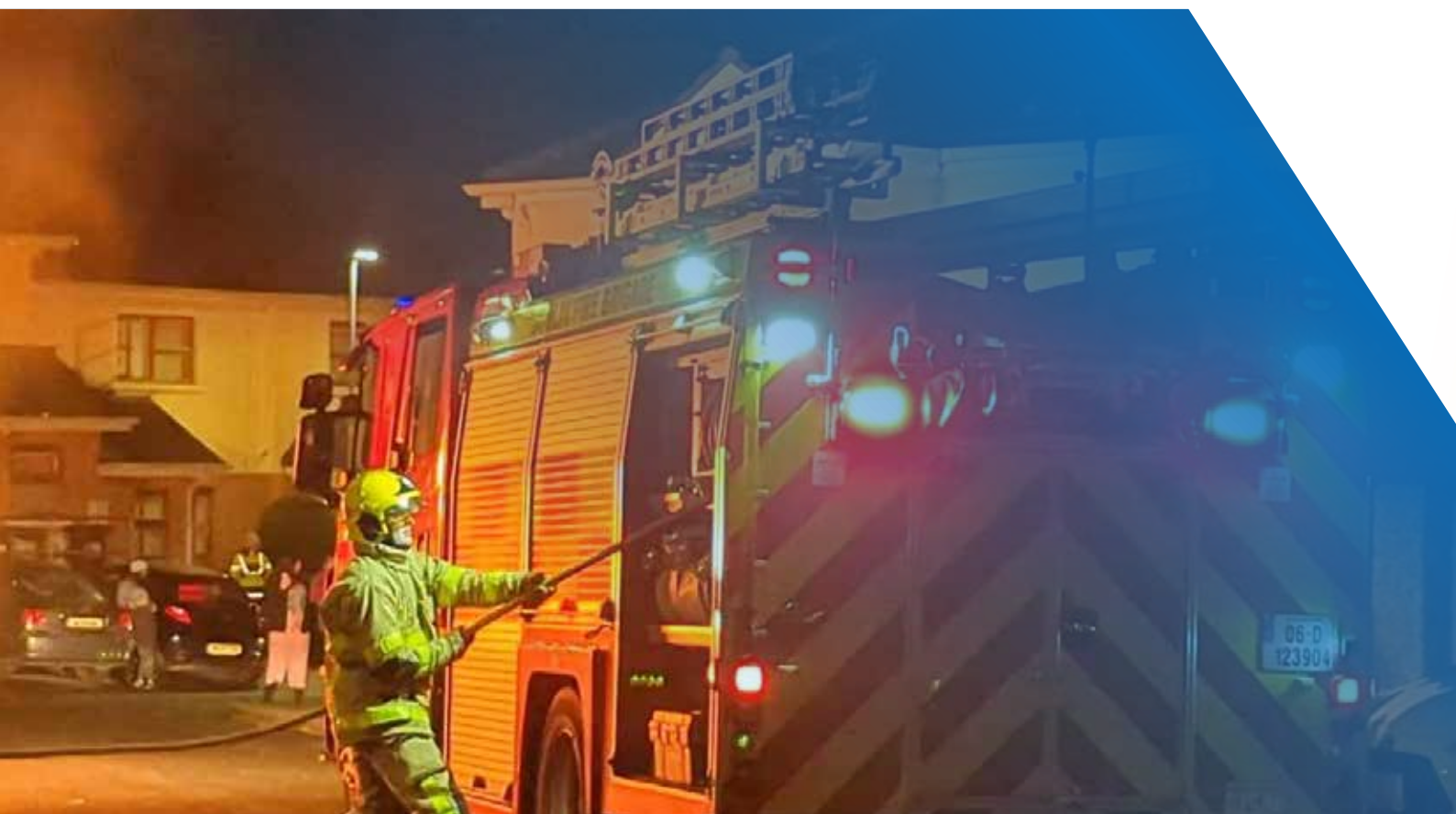
Response

- to emergency incidents
- Fire EMS and Ambulance

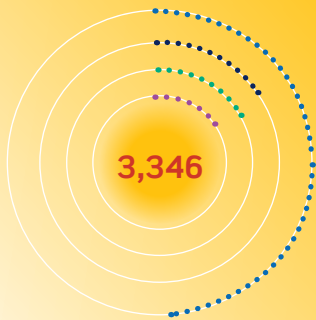


3.1 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY DATA

INCIDENT CLASS	Dublin City	Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	Fingal	South Dublin County	Grand Total
Fires - Alarms	1695	508	595	548	3346
Fires - Commerical	135	22	41	48	246
Fires - Domestic	532	148	193	193	1066
Fires - Other	8	6	80	12	106
Fires - Small	1375	308	653	611	2947
Fires - Vehicles	312	52	175	195	734
Flooding	67	16	18	19	120
Medical Service Intervention	158	142	58	55	413
Road Traffic Collisions	1138	150	549	578	2415
Special Services	1041	177	318	231	1767
Grand Total	6461	1529	2680	2490	13160
No of Appliances Mobs to support incidents	17712	4002	6954	6259	34927

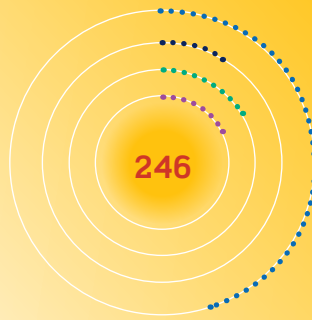


FIRES - ALARMS



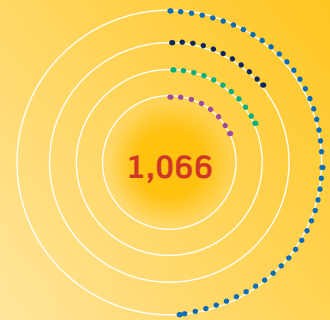
DCC 1695	DLR 508	FCC 595	SDCC 548
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FIRES - COMMERCIAL



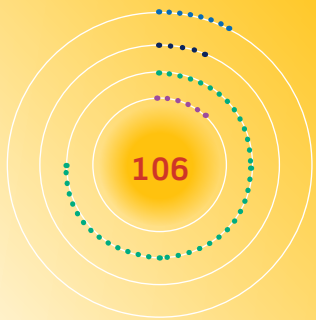
DCC 135	DLR 22	FCC 41	SDCC 48
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FIRES - DOMESTIC



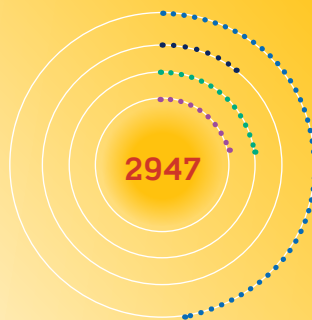
DCC 532	DLR 148	FCC 193	SDCC 193
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FIRES - OTHER



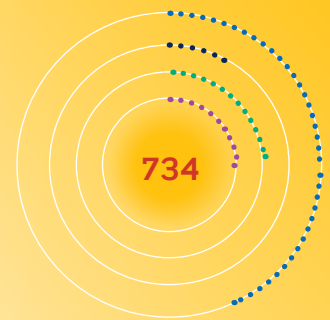
DCC 8	DLR 6	FCC 80	SDCC 12
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FIRES - SMALL



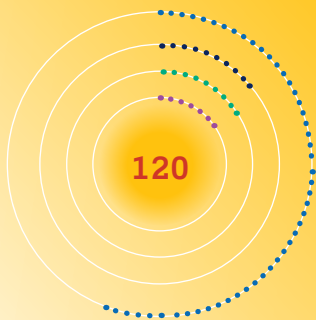
DCC 1375	DLR 308	FCC 653	SDCC 611
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FIRES - VEHICLES



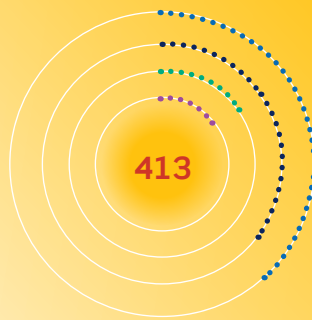
DCC 312	DLR 52	FCC 175	SDCC 195
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FLOODING



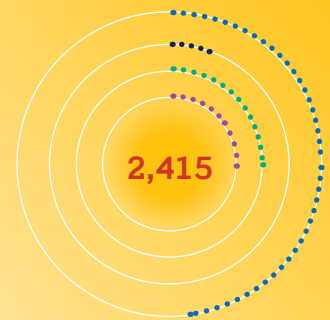
DCC 67	DLR 16	FCC 18	SDCC 19
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MEDICAL SERVICE



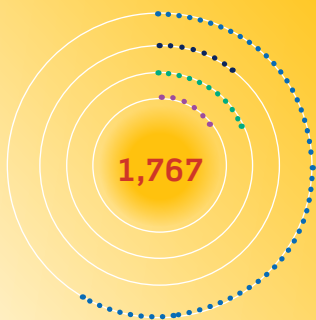
DCC 158	DLR 142	FCC 58	SDCC 55
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ROAD TRAFFIC



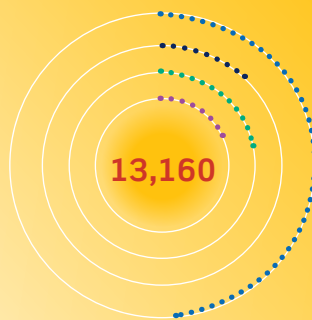
DCC 1138	DLR 150	FCC 549	SDCC 578
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SPECIAL SERVICES



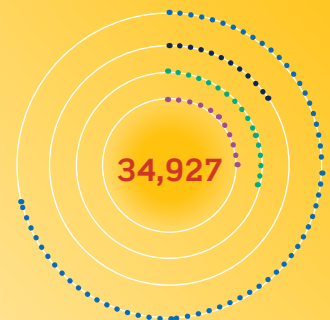
DCC 1041	DLR 177	FCC 318	SDCC 231
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TOTAL NO. INCIDENTS



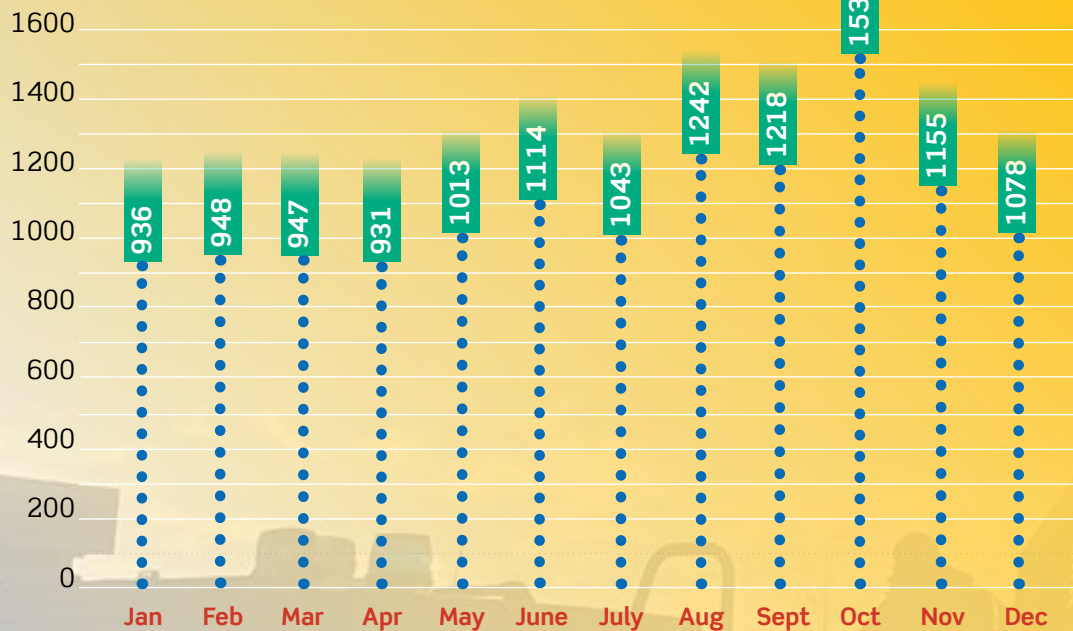
DCC 6461	DLR 1529	FCC 2680	SDCC 2490
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TOTAL NO. MOBILISATIONS



DCC 17712	DLR 4002	FCC 6954	SDCC 6259
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FIRE INCIDENTS BY MONTH

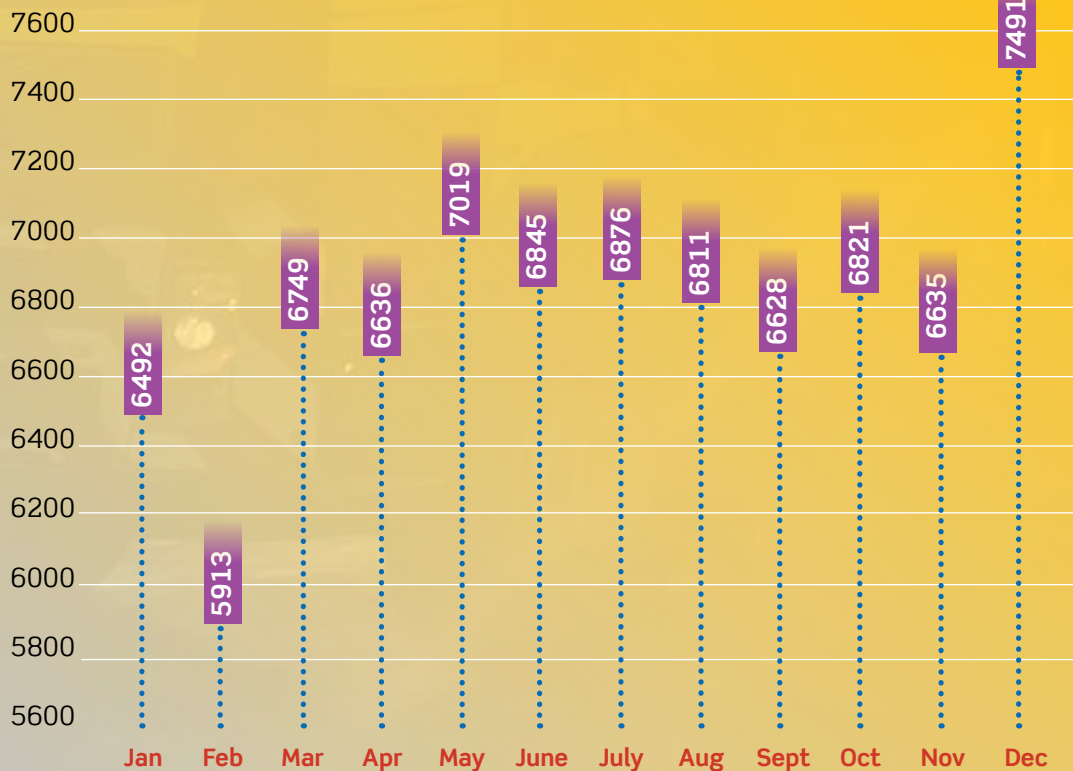


Grand Total
13160

ERCC - Received 167,832 emergency calls in 2023.

This is a decrease of 12,514 (-6.94%) calls on 2022.

AMBULANCE INCIDENTS BY MONTH



Grand Total
80916

INCIDENT TYPE ACTIVITY DATA

Fire Alarms	3346
ProQa 29 (Traffic)	2225
Fire Domestic	555
Fire Aircraft	2
Fire AircrB	15
Fire AircrC	27
Fire AircrD	4
Fire Bus	15
Fire Car	604
Fire Caravan	22
Fire Chimney	202
Fire Domestic Persons	260
Fire Fire	105
Fire Forest	4
Fire Gorse	18
Fire Grass	24
Fire Hay/Barn	5
Fire High-rise	26
Fire Industrial	127
Fire Institution	114
Fire Luas	0
Fire Motorbike	45
Fire Small	2842
Fire Truck	48
Fire Tunnel	3
Fire Under	23

S/S Ambass	413
S/S Anres	35
S/S Biklck	22
S/S Carbon	117
S/S Chemical	6
S/S Electrical	89
S/S Entrapment	30
S/S Explosion	1
S/S Flooding	53
S/S Gas	35
S/S Garda Assistance	101
S/S High	2
S/S Lockout	314
S/S Lift	2
S/S Lift Persons	185
S/S Luas	10
S/S MER	1
S/S MKSCSF	136
S/S Oil	21
S/S Other	434
S/S River Rescue	90
S/S RTA	190
S/S SGAS	20
S/S STBAIR	2
S/S STORMD	1
S/S Trees Down	111
S/S Water	67

**Grand
Total**

13160

3.2 ORGANISATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

The Fire Authority is legislatively obligated, as stipulated in Section (10) (3) of the Fire Services Act (ACT No. 30, 1981 & 2003), to consider the nature of fire hazards and the likely occurrence and scope of fires within its jurisdiction. Additionally, Chapter 8 of the Fire Safety in Ireland Task Force Report recommends the gathering and integration of “operational intelligence,” which comprises information collected on buildings through various fire service processes. This integration is deemed crucial for effective pre-incident planning and response to fire incidents by the fire service. In line with this recommendation, Dublin Fire Brigade established an Organisational Intelligence Unit (OIU) in 2022. The OIU’s mandate includes an ongoing initiative to gather data on risk categorisation for the city and county, as well as prioritising premises inspections to collect essential risk information. Special attention is given to premises identified as major fire risks, aiming to support the protection of life and property while enhancing the

safety and effectiveness of responding personnel. The OIU is headed up by a District Officer (Projects) and three specific skilled Station Officers who report to the Assistant Chief Fire Officer with responsibilities for Projects. Additional skills in data management, data analytics and GIS etc. will continue to be developed within the unit.

The OIU are developing digital solutions on an industry leading GIS, data collection, data analysis and data visualisation software platform. Procurement of a full enterprise licencing agreement is at an advanced stage and should be available in 2024. Access to this licencing agreement will enhance the ability of the OIU to develop a variety of digital data acquisition, visualisation and intelligence platforms making these available across the organisation, enabling greater strategic decision-making.



DATA COMMUNICATION

The processes by which key operational and tactical information can be pushed into the hands of the incident commander continue to be examined by the OIU. The focus is on accurate, relevant and timely information, with a tiered approach where the key facts about a site and situation are presented immediately, along with the capability to perform a deep dive into the information relevant to that site. A digital pre-incident planning platform which will streamline and enhance the pre-incident planning process is currently being evaluated with an operational pilot due to commence by mid 2024. This aspect of the project is heavily dependent on the Data Governance and Data Capture elements.

DATA ANALYSIS

Several projects are ongoing with respect to data analysis, again very heavily dependent on the Data Governance and Data Capture elements. Some of these are listed below;

- Automation of Scheduled Reports – the creation of repeatable processes to create reports that are issued on a regular basis ensures consistency across time, a standardised understanding of what is being reported and frees up time which can be directed at more value-adding activities.
- Data Visualisation – dashboards and visualisations to present key management KPIs and metrics are being developed
- A comprehensive data model has been formulated to integrate risk information, drawing from OSI and Geodirectory sourced reference data. This holistic approach will establish a master dataset, providing Dublin Fire Brigade with a thorough understanding of the built environment. This already supports the Area Risk Categorisation model and will eventually allow integration of all datasets used within the organisation.

The OIU continues to support Senior Management on key strategic decisions and developments with analysis and document preparation.



PRE-INCIDENT PLANNING AND PREMISES RISK MODELLING

Dublin Fire Brigade conducts Pre-Incident Planning for premises by undergoing a risk categorisation and prioritisation procedure. Pre-Incident Plans are then crafted in advance of any incident, offering an overview of the facility along with tabulated risk information, highlighting critical aspects for fire service response. Presently, Pre-Incident Plans are accessible for high-risk, complex, and prioritised premises across the four Local Authorities in the greater Dublin Region. Prior knowledge of these potential work environments is vital for enhancing firefighter safety and firefighting effectiveness, referred to in the Fire Service as Operational Intelligence.

Pre-Incident Planning involves gathering, managing, and presenting operational intelligence, or risk-critical data, from pertinent sources concerning premises that may pose a hazard during emergencies. Dublin Fire Brigade tactically selects premises in the Dublin region for this process, with these plans proving invaluable to Fire Officers during fire or emergency responses. This entails evaluating factors such as Emergency Vehicle and Firefighter access, building type, life risks, onsite hazards, hydrant and dry-riser locations, as well as passive and active fire safety systems, building management systems, and other pertinent details.

In 2023 the OIU conducted a comprehensive review of the Pre-Incident Planning process. A new digital platform is currently under development which allows for the current library of roughly 1,400 premises to be transferred, and fully digitise the pre-incident plans so that they can be utilised both for operational and strategic decision-making. There is an estimation of over 44,000 buildings in Dublin that are Fire Safety Act applicable based on information available via the postal database Geodirectory (buildings that have at least one commercial address-point, more than one residential address point, or a

combination of the two). While it is obvious that not all of these will need a comprehensive pre-incident plan the new platform will allow building occupiers to submit risk critical information related to their premises which will inform the Brigade's strategic and tactical response. A systematic review and prioritisation process has been developed based on information that is available from other sources, such as Ordnance Survey Ireland, Residential Tenancies Board and the Valuation Office, which will allow the prioritisation of sites for comprehensive Pre-Incident Planning and other interventions. It is intended to run a full-scale Pre-Incident Planning digitisation pilot programme in DFB's Charlie District (Phibsborough and Blanchardstown Station areas) in 2024.

Another development area on preparedness for emergency incidents is an innovative collaboration between DFB, DCC, DCU and an industry partner, Bentley Systems, to examine the use of Digital Twin technology in the emergency response environment, with a particular focus on ensuring high levels of automation and data reuse in the creation of these plans, as well as the end-user interface for interacting with this information.

1,400+ premises
fully digitised pre-incident plans

44,000+ buildings
Fire Safety Act applicable



3.3 OPERATIONAL SAFETY REVIEWS

Operational Safety Reviews (OSR) is a “During Performance” monitoring programme implemented by Dublin Fire Brigade. Specifically, the Incident Command System and Standard Operational Guidelines/Procedures are evaluated as part of the Brigade’s Incident Safety Management Systems. It serves as an incidental aide memoir to guarantee compliance and a uniform level of implementation and application.

To enable Officers to approach, complete, and record the results of each review in a standard, thorough, and consistent manner, the OSR form was developed. To ensure the Incident Command System is being properly followed and to maintain safe methods of work at all incidents, the review process has been

created to allow for an assessment of all Incident Command System components on the scene.

Dublin Fire Brigade’s review procedure requires that OSR forms be submitted once they have been completed to the Health and Safety Unit at DFB Headquarters.

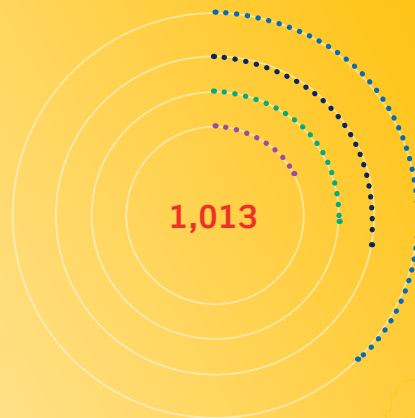
It is necessary for District Officers, under the guidelines of the OSR to conduct a safety evaluation on a portion (20%) of all incidents that have occurred in their district each month. Reviews must be conducted for all incidents involving a single pump, not just fire calls. Consideration is also given to RTC’s and Special Services etc.

COUNT OF INCIDENTS BY WATCH:

(Highest to Lowest)

D Watch	311
B Watch	283
C Watch	267
A Watch	182
Total:	1013

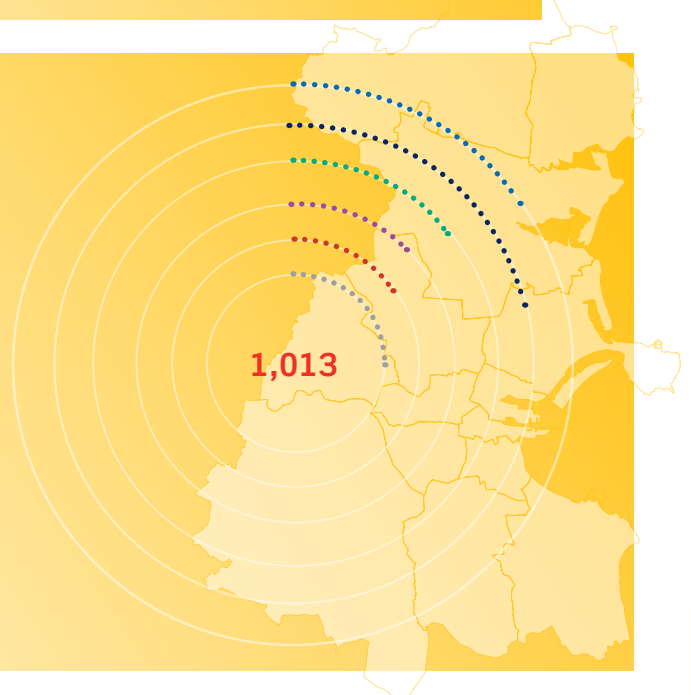
(2022 Total: 1142)



COUNT OF INCIDENTS BY DISTRICT:

Alpha	148
Bravo	212
Charlie	134
Delta	124
Echo	147
Foxtrot	248
Total:	1013

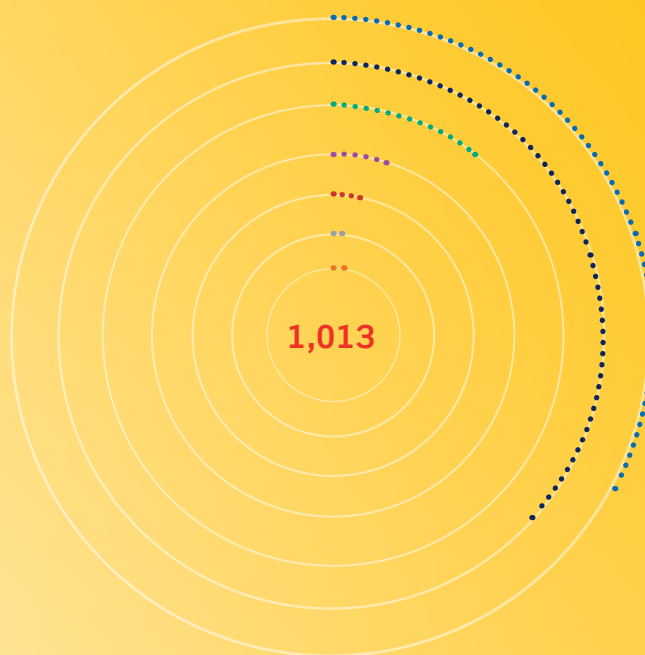
(2022 Total: 1142)



COUNT OF INCIDENTS BY TYPE:

(Highest to Lowest)

Fire Alarm	434
Fire	367
RTC	105
Ambulance Assist	50
S/S	36
SRT	20
Aircraft	12
Total:	1013



DFB RESCUE ESTIMATES 2023

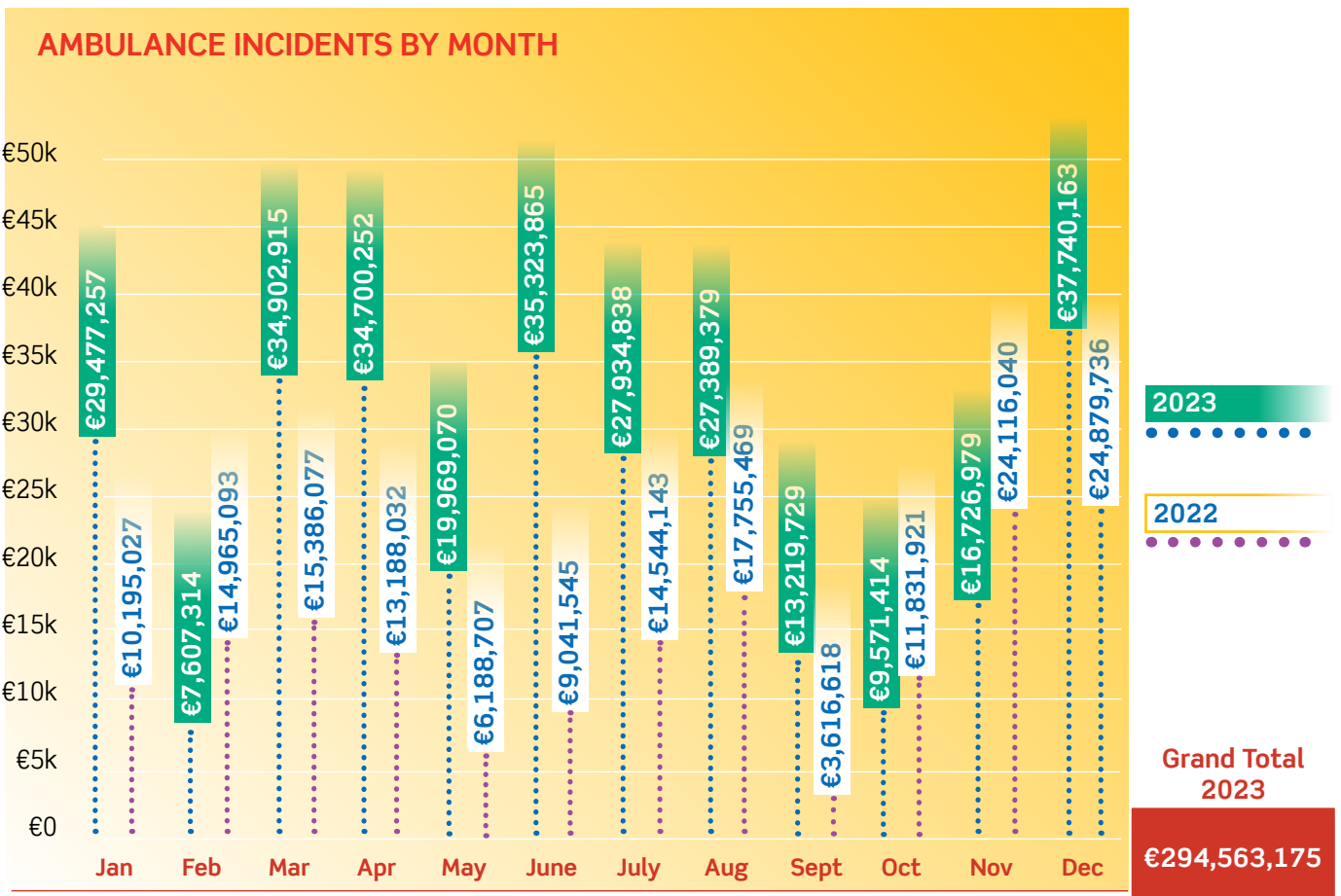
VALUE OF STATISTICAL LIFE (VSL)

Month	Rescue Estimate
January	€29,477,257.00
February	€7,607,314.00
March	€34,902,915.00
April	€34,700,252.00
May	€19,969,070.00
June	€35,323,865.00
1st Half 2023	€161,980,672.00
July	€27,934,838.00
August	€27,389,379.00
September	€13,219,729.00
October	€9,571,414.00
November	€16,726,979.00
December	€37,740,163.00
Total 2023	€294,563,175.00

2021 – Total was
€197,897,454.00

2022 – Total was
€165,708,458.00

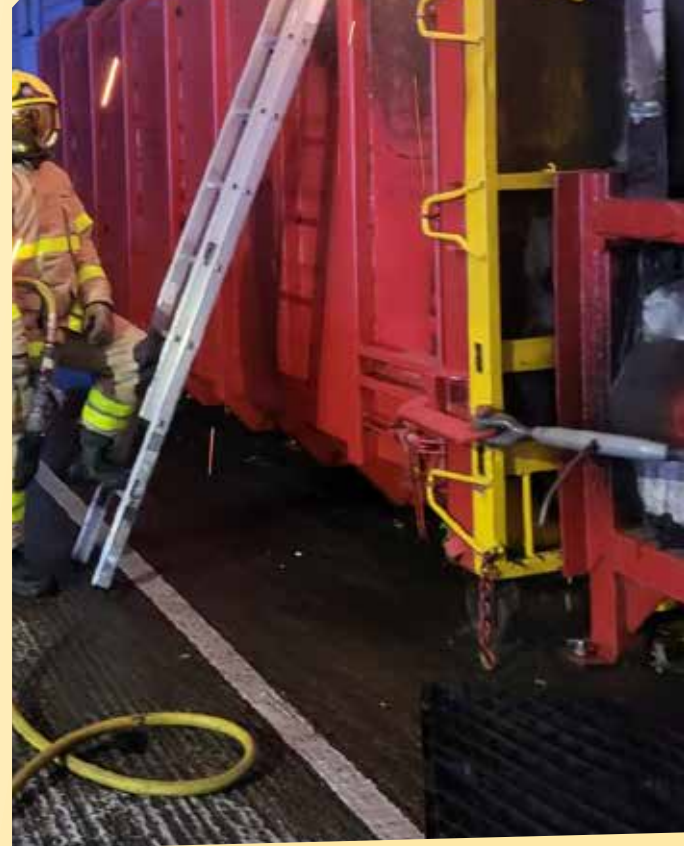
2023 – An increase of
€128,854,717
of Value of Statistical Life (VSL)



MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH CARE RISK WASTE: (HCRW)

In 2022 Dublin Fire Brigade completed the rollout of new measures to enhance the processes surrounding the management of Health Care Risk Waste (HCRW). These new measures allowed for Dublin Fire Brigade to continue to enhance the management of HCRW in 2023.

The new measures included a uniform secure cage system for marshalling HCRW receptacles in each station of Dublin Fire Brigade. The new system for recording HCRW container serial numbers is available at the station office computer which assists Dublin Fire Brigade in tracking. A new infographic was designed and appropriately positioned in each location to assist staff in adhering to the process. An e-learning module was developed on our e-learning platform "LearnPro" on HCRW management in Dublin Fire Brigade. This was rolled out to relevant staff for completion.



3.4 STAKEHOLDER LIAISON & INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION 2023

Dublin Fire Brigade is proud and appreciative of an excellent working relationship with multiple stakeholders, with whom we liaise and collaborate on a regular basis.

This interaction happens through regular communication, agreeing Memorandums of Understanding, co-ordination on policy issues and, most importantly, training and exercising together. This regular Inter-Agency collaboration ensures the most efficient deployment of resources and simultaneous activity at operational incidents, which enhances our combined ability to respond to and serve the community in an effective manner. DFB's stakeholders include the following:

- The National Ambulance Service (HSE)
- An Garda Síochána
- The Irish Coastguard & The RNLI
- The Four Dublin Local Authorities
- Other Regional Local Authorities
- The Civil Defence
- All Dublin Hospital Emergency Departments
- Government Departments & Agencies
- Department of Defence
- Transport Agencies - Dublin Bus, Luas, Irish Rail, Dublin Port Tunnel, Dublin Airport

Dublin Fire Brigade coordinates major inter-agency exercises and local district exercises to improve co-ordination of service delivery across multi-agencies and ensures a co-ordinated and consistent response to large scale emergencies.



3.5 EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE

All fulltime Firefighters are trained as Paramedics and rotate continuously between firefighting and EMS duties. DFB's fleet of 14 emergency ambulances are each staffed by two paramedics available to respond 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

In addition, there are 21 frontline fire appliances with up to 120 paramedics available to respond on a daily basis. All fulltime Firefighters are trained to paramedic standard and are required to maintain PHECC registration as paramedic practitioners with 105 at Advanced Paramedic level. All retained firefighters are trained to Emergency First Responder level. Tangible clinical outcomes in 2023 illustrating the Fire Based Emergency Medical Service include:

Dublin Fire Brigade celebrated 125 years of providing the Emergency Ambulance Service for the citizens of Dublin. For the full history of the service please follow the link dublincity.ie/sites/default/files/2024-04/125-booket-fa-spreads-for-display-003.pdf



80,357 emergency medical incidents responded to

55,532 patients treated and transported to hospital

4,631 critical medical incidents managed

552 cardiac arrests managed

151 STEMI (ST elevation myocardial infarction) patients, transported to a PPCI facility within 90 minutes of having an ECG

605 FAST Positive Stroke patients transported to a facility that performs stroke thrombolysis

ST ELEVATION MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION (STEMI) - ACUTE HEART ATTACK

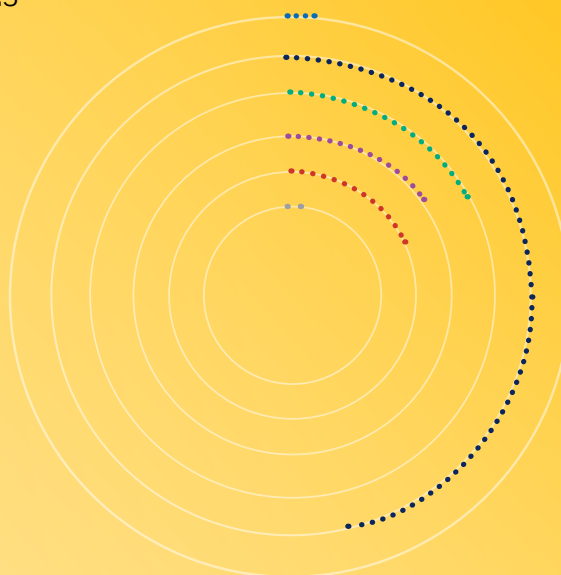
Although the majority of patients are transported to emergency departments, patients suffering an acute heart attack or ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) are transported directly to a Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention centre within 90 minutes of recognition of this event by Paramedics. DFB Paramedics consult with the cardiologist directly

by phone from the scene. This fast track approach for this patient group saves precious heart muscle from being further damaged and makes for better patient outcomes. Due to this patient-centric initiative in 2023 DFB Paramedics had almost 243 direct consultations with cardiologists in relation to STEMI patients.

BREAKDOWN % PER CATEGORY OF DUBLIN FIRE BRIGADE AMBULANCE ACTIVITY - reference 2023

Percentage of incidents ordered to per Code in 2023

Echo	2%
Delta	46%
Charlie	16%
Bravo	15%
Alpha	19%
Omega	2%



Clinical Status	Code	Description
Clinical Status 1	Echo	Life threatening – Cardiac or respiratory arrest
	Delta	Life threatening other than cardiac or respiratory arrest
Clinical Status 2	Charlie	Serious not life threatening – immediate
	Bravo	Serious not life threatening – urgent
Clinical Status 3	Alpha	Non serious or non-life threatening
	Omega	Minor illness or injury



NUMBER OF INCIDENTS ORDERED TO PER CODE IN 2023

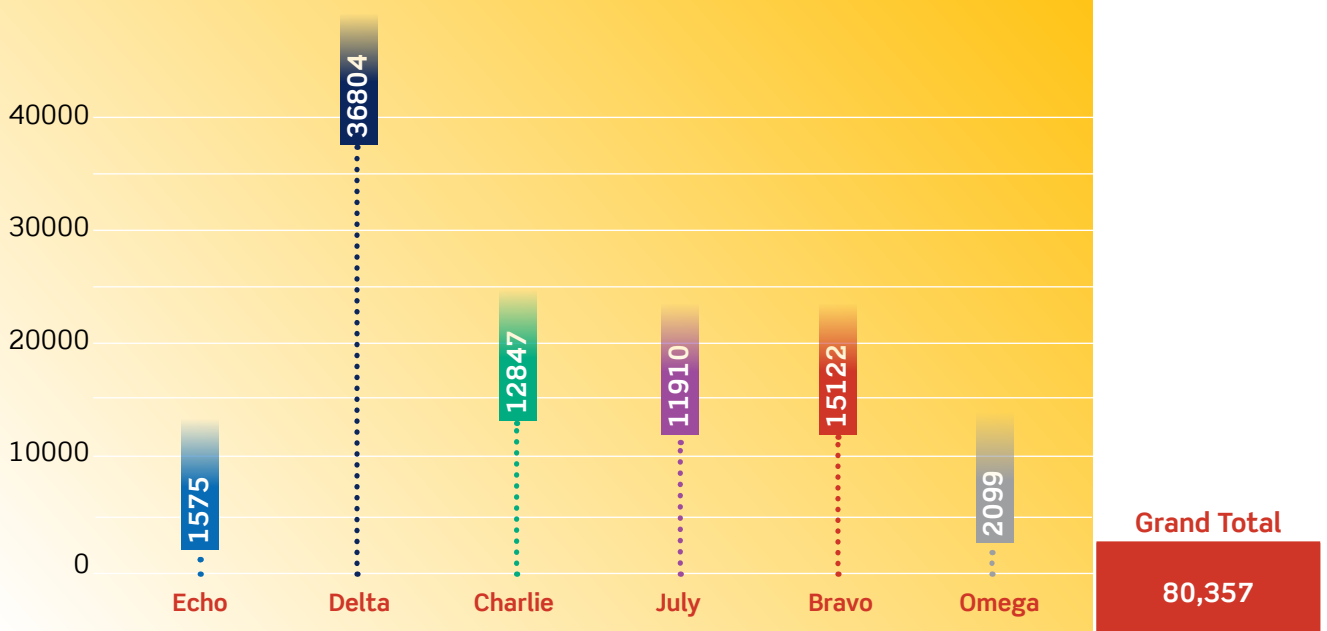


Figure above depicts a breakdown of DFB Activity for 2023 for Emergency Ambulance (DA) Incidents attended. While the figures show DFB ordered to 80,357 Emergency Ambulance (DA) unique incidents, that equates to 109,507 mobilisations to these incidents, e.g. certain incidents requiring the attendance of multiple units. The breakdown gives a percentage to the type of emergency incident, with Echo cases being the most serious life-threatening, to Omega being the least serious type. These PHECC and HIQA recognised incident type categorisations are used by Emergency Dispatch personnel to prioritise the level of call as part of DFB's Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS). The largest percentage of calls are Delta (46%), which are serious life-threatening calls. DFB have a policy to always assign a Fire Appliance to Echo calls and some

Delta calls in addition to an Ambulance, aligned to the principle of sending the nearest available resource and to assist the Ambulance crew in administering the most effective intervention.

The demand for ambulance services has been increasing year on year in conjunction with the recovery in the economy. The demand is driven by an increase in the overall population and increasingly in the population aged 65 and older. Although there is an obvious and immediate requirement for additional ambulance resources in Dublin, there is also the need to advocate health promotion and disease prevention strategies, and look at the expansion of primary and community services in line with the recommendations in the Sláintecare Report.

ALTERNATIVE CARE PATHWAY - PATHFINDER

Dublin Fire Brigade continues to be involved with the Pathfinder, a Sláintecare funded initiative. In the Dublin area Pathfinder is a collaborative project with colleagues in the National Ambulance Service, Beaumont and Tallaght Hospital's Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Departments. The team consists of an Advanced Paramedic and an occupational/physio therapist.

The purpose of the service is to provide a safe alternative to emergency department attendance, where possible. The Pathfinder Team is dispatched to certain low acuity EMS calls received in East Region Communications

Centre involving patients 65 years or older in Beaumont and Tallaght Hospital catchment area or to incidents where the attending ambulance crew determine that the patient may be appropriate for referral the team's services.

The Pathfinder services include; home based rehabilitation (Occupational Therapy + Physiotherapy), essential equipment and home modifications, liaise with GP & Primary Care Team, Referral to Geriatrician Day Hospital and specialist outpatient clinics for suitable patients.



COVID - 19

2023 was the fourth year of the COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic. Dublin Fire Brigade's emergency medical personnel have been on the frontline of the public health emergency, providing pre-hospital emergency care to COVID-19 patients in Dublin. Dublin Fire Brigade personnel have implemented the relevant risk assessments, infection prevention and control (IPC) guidelines and treatment procedures that were required to manage suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients.

In December 2023 we received a high level of calls to our East Region Communications Centre for emergency ambulance services.

This increase may be attributed to an increased level of COVID-19 in the community as well as RSV, flu and winter viruses circulating in the community.

As hospital emergency departments come under pressure, this impacts on their ability to complete the handover of patients arriving by ambulance in a reasonable timeframe, leading to off load delays at hospitals. Obviously, increased demand and offload delays at emergency departments impacts on our ability to provide an efficient service to the public.



TRAUMA CARE IN IRELAND

Some of the recommendations of the Trauma Steering Group report “A Trauma System for Ireland” are as follows;

- The HSE should implement an inclusive hub-and-spoke Trauma System in Ireland comprising of two regional Trauma Networks.
- Two Major Trauma Centres corresponding to the two Trauma Networks (Central and South) should be located in the most populated areas, namely Dublin city and Cork city, in order to optimise access and ensure the minimum caseload required for better outcomes.
- Patients with suspected major trauma are taken directly to a Major Trauma Centre where travel times are within 45 minutes or if travel times exceed this, to the nearest Trauma Unit for rapid stabilisation and subsequent transfer to the Major Trauma Centre if the complexity of their injuries exceeds the capability of the Trauma Unit.

In 2021 the Mater University Hospital, Dublin was designated as the Major Trauma Centre for the Central Network.

It will be some time before the infrastructure and guidelines are in place to enable DFB’s practitioners bypass catchment area hospitals to bring trauma patients to the nearest Trauma Unit or Major Trauma Centre. DFB look forward to working with our colleagues in the National Ambulance Service, the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council and the Central Trauma Network in achieving this important goal.

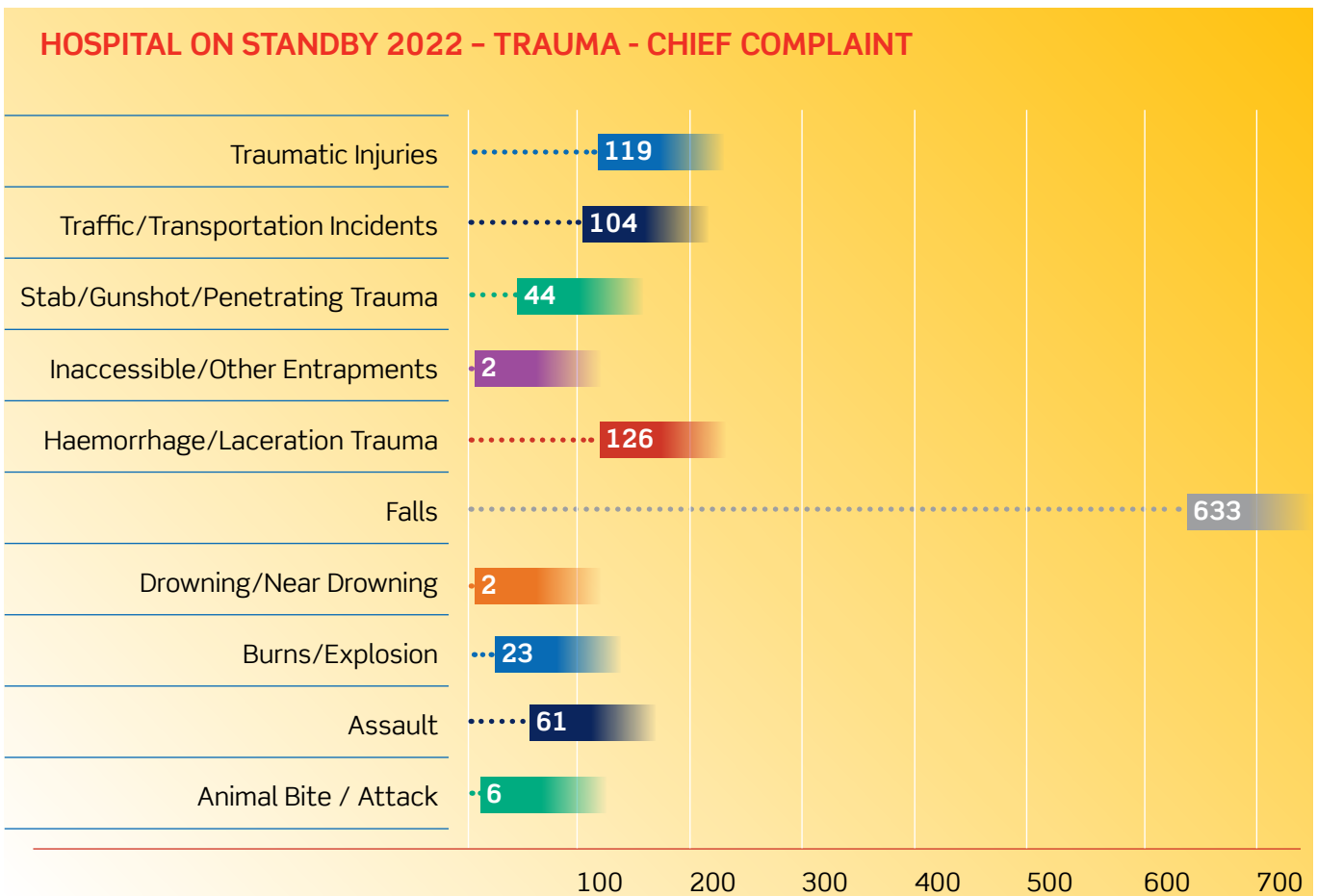


HOSPITAL ON STANDBY 2023 - TRAUMA INCIDENTS

Hospital on Standby is a term used when the attending Paramedics determine the patient may need a resuscitation team to manage the patient on arrival at the emergency department and radio a pre-alert message to control.

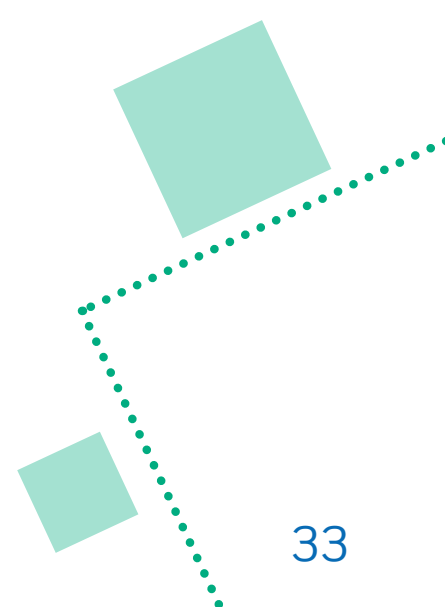
The following data relates to pre-alert messages to

request the hospital emergency department to be on standby for incidents which were originally coded under the chief complaint headings in the table below. These figures give some context in relation to the amount of activity that DFB may expect when interacting with the Trauma Network when it becomes operational.



DUBLIN FIRE BRIGADE EMS INTERVENTIONS

Each year DFB personnel, through their Fire based EMS interventions are successful in many cases, leading to several of our citizens still being alive and well, when their incidents and prognosis predicted otherwise. On many occasions cards are received, well wishes are posted on social media and visits are made to stations to say thank you. This is DFB's greatest performance metric and greatest reward.



4

EAST REGION COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE (ERCC)

The East Region Communications Centre (ERCC) which is operated by DFB processes emergency fire and ambulance calls for the Dublin area. A regional service is also provided for which also sees the ERCC processing emergency fire calls for 13 fire authorities in Leinster, Cavan and Monaghan.

The process of emergency fire call handling is to quickly and accurately identify with the caller the location of the incident and to establish what exactly the issue is including additional relevant details which may assist responding crews. Depending on what details the caller may give, an ERCC operator will select the relevant incident type and will mobilise the Pre-Determined Attendance (PDA) which is the fire authorities agreed number of fire resources to initially attend the reported incident. This PDA will differ depending on the level of risk associated with each incident type and will always include the nearest

available resource.

For ambulance calls, an internationally recognised Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) called ProQa is used to determine the acuity of the patient ensuring that ambulance and EMS resources utilised on a patient needs basis. It also allows operators give medically appropriate pre-arrival instructions to callers including potentially lifesaving directions to persons who may be dealing with a Cardiac Respiratory Arrest. In 2023, the ERCC was reaccredited as a Centre of Excellence by the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch (IAED) as medical calls are both internally and externally validated to ensure both adherence to MPDS standard.

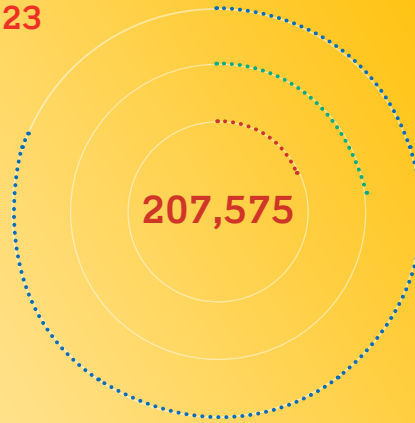
In 2023, the ERCC processed 207,575 emergency calls received which are broken down as follows.





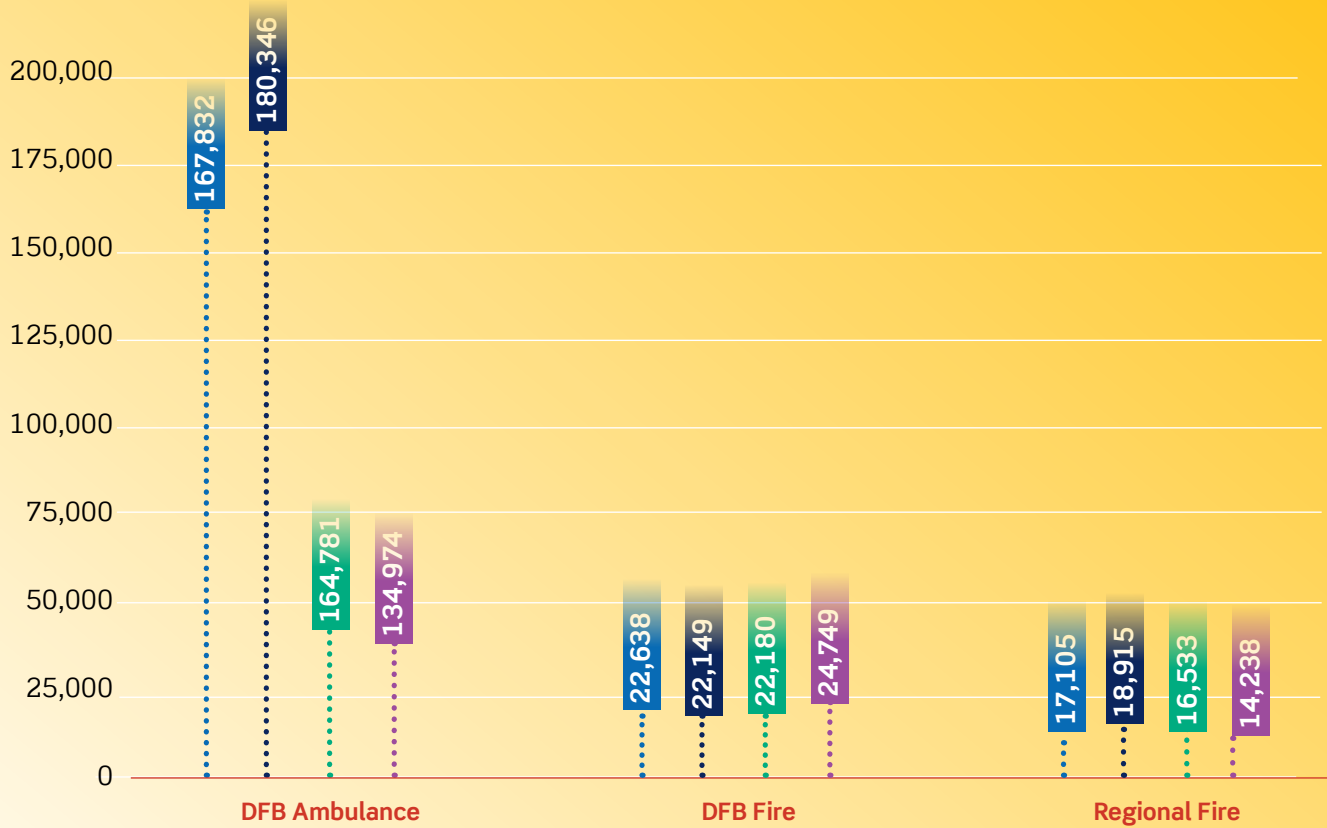
ERCC BREAKDOWN OF 112/999 CALLS 2023

DFB Ambulance	167,832
DFB Fire	22,638
Regional Fire	17,105
Total:	207,575



ERCC ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN 2020-2023

2023	2022	2021	2020
------	------	------	------



	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total ERCC	207,575	221,410	203,494	173,961

In 2023, the daily average number of emergency calls received was 569 with the average duration of fire calls being 121 seconds, however the daily level of calls processed can vary significantly depending on the demand for both ambulance and the fire service.

Halloween is traditionally the busiest night of activity for the fire services and the 31st of October yet again was the busiest day of year with 948 calls processed. 325 calls were processed between 18 hrs and 21 hrs which equates to 1.8 calls per minute over a 3 hour period.

The busiest hour of the year was recorded on the 28th of May when 134 emergency calls were processed over a 1 hour period. A single incident generated in excess of 100 calls from members of the public reporting a high rise apartment fire in the

vicinity of Blanchardstown which was visible over a wide distance. Fires in prominent locations which the public transverse or gather can generate a lot of emergency calls often reporting on the same incident. For example, on a sunny Saturday afternoon in May, a fire reported near Bray Head saw 95 calls received for a relatively small vegetation fire which was dealt with a single pump.

569 - the daily average number of calls received in 2023

121 seconds - the average duration of fire calls





There was a slight reduction in the total number of calls received in 2023 when compared to 2022. Some of this was related to weather. During the summer, Met Eireann recorded that July was the wettest on record with 217% of rain recorded over the Long Term Average. This wet weather reduced the number of vegetation and wildfires resulting in less demand for the fire services and ultimately less emergency calls. Ambulance call volumes reduced by 7% compared to 2022 with a major contributory factor being a reduced winter flu season especially during the months of November, December and January.

All ERCC staff are required to work in an environment which operates on a continuous basis 365 days per year. Key attributes for staff processing calls is the ability to illicit key information from callers in a calm and reassuring manor while ensuring the highest standard of customer care. ERCC Sub Officers working in the centre also have a responsibly to ensure that incidents are serviced with the appropriate levels of fire service response and meet the needs of operational fire service staff attending incidents.

948 calls on 31st October 2023
Busiest night of the year

132 calls on 28th May 2023 in 1 hour
Busiest hour of the year

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UNIT (QIU)

The ERCC QIU Unit is responsible to ensure that all ERCC staff are trained to an appropriate level and to ensure the overall quality relating both call taking and overall service delivery is to a high standard. In 2023 following a successful recruitment campaign, the ERCC trained 20 new Emergency Service Controllers (ESC's) with a 10 week training course which was delivered over 2 classes. In addition, dedicated Sub Officer training classes were delivered to ensure that staff could act in supervisory roles. The training provision is provided by members of the QIU and by secondment of ERCC staff plus guest lectures from outside agencies to ensure ERCC get rounded training on this vital public facing service provided by the ERCC.

Another key element of the QIU is the internal audit process of calls including medical calls under the MPDS system to ensure both a continuous and high level of quality is achieved. This function includes interaction and feedback with staff to help ensure standards are maintained.

ERCC SUPPORT STAFF

The operation of the ERCC is dependent on supporting staff including ICT and administration staff. The ICT and technical support function ensures continuous availability of the ERCC with support and maintenance of all systems in place and in a wide area of different locations including the ERCC, Disaster Recovery site and the 95 fire stations in the east region. In addition ERCC ICT technical staff work on specific projects including a CAD & comms upgrade which is currently on-going. Supplier management and reporting to both DFB and the wider 13 fire authorities covered under the ERCC operational area is a key element of supporting both the ERCC and the fire service staff whom engage with control on a daily basis.



5 FIRE PREVENTION & COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY

Dublin Fire Brigade provides the Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety service to the four Dublin Local Authorities, this service is underpinned by The Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003 (FSA), the Building Control Act 1990 and the Dangerous Substances Act 1972.

Our objective is to promote fire safety through the design stage and construction of buildings, and then through advice, to ensure compliance with Building

Regulations is achieved through good building design practice by competent professional designers and finally to help ensure fire safety standards are being adhered to in existing buildings. Consequently, our role is to ensure best practice in terms of fire safety in both new and existing buildings. We are guided by the “engineer, educate and enforce” approach to fire safety in Ireland.

NEW BUILDINGS AND BUILDING CONTROL

Dublin Fire Brigade’s Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety Section work in conjunction with the Building Control Authorities in the four Dublin Local Authorities - Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council and Fingal County Council.

Building Control Regulations apply to the construction of new buildings and to existing buildings, which undergo an extension, a material alteration or a material change of use, with some exceptions. A Fire Safety Certificate application is required where these changes occur, to demonstrate compliance of the works with Building Regulations Part B (Fire). Fire Prevention Officers process Fire Safety Certificate applications, to establish if compliance with the

Building Regulations B1-B5 is demonstrated, for all the newly constructions or extended buildings in the Dublin region since 1992.

A Fire Safety Certificate once granted indicates that a building if built in accordance with the design which was submitted, will be in accordance with Building Regulations. It is the responsibility of the designer, the builder and the owner to ensure that the building is built in accordance with the Fire Safety Certificate and the Building Regulations.

The Building Control Regulations 1997 to 2015 set out procedures and controls which require owners, builders, and registered construction professionals to demonstrate that the works or buildings concerned have been designed and constructed in compliance with Building Regulations.

With the advent of the Building Control Amendment Regulations (BCAR) in 2014, there is now greater oversight and accountability of the construction of building and works.

The Building Control Management System was created by the National Building Control Office (NBCO), to enable online applications of Fire safety Certificate applications. The BCMS can be accessed here <https://nbco.localgov.ie/>

We currently receive 99% of all applications on the BCMS.



5.1

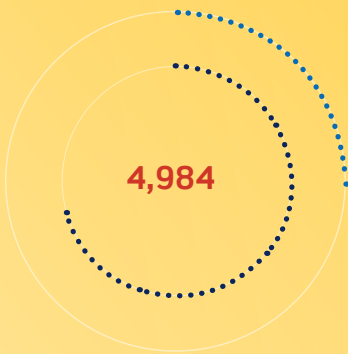
FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATE APPLICATIONS

In 2023 working with our colleagues in the four Dublin Building Control Authorities, 1,472 Fire Safety Certificate Applications were processed, including a number of major developments across the Dublin region.

FSC Applications Received:
1472 (99% on BCMS)

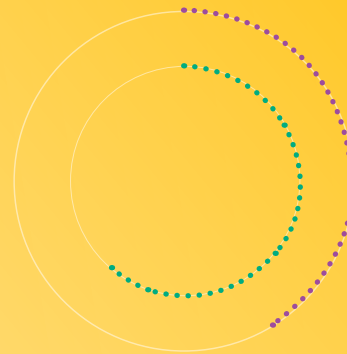
Decisions Made: **1,244**
this is **41%** of the national total on the BCMS

FSC'S RECEIVED - NATIONAL TOTAL



DFB	3,512
Rest of Country	1,472
Total:	4,984

TOTAL DECIDED BY DFB AS % OF NATIONAL TOTAL ON BMS 2023



Decisions made by DFB	41%
Nationally	59%

We fully support innovative design and development across the city and county, we work closely with applicants, and their technical advisors to ensure the Fire Safety Certificate application and the design demonstrate compliance with Building Regulations, to ensure that the application can be granted. We refuse a very small percentage as is evident in the statistics.

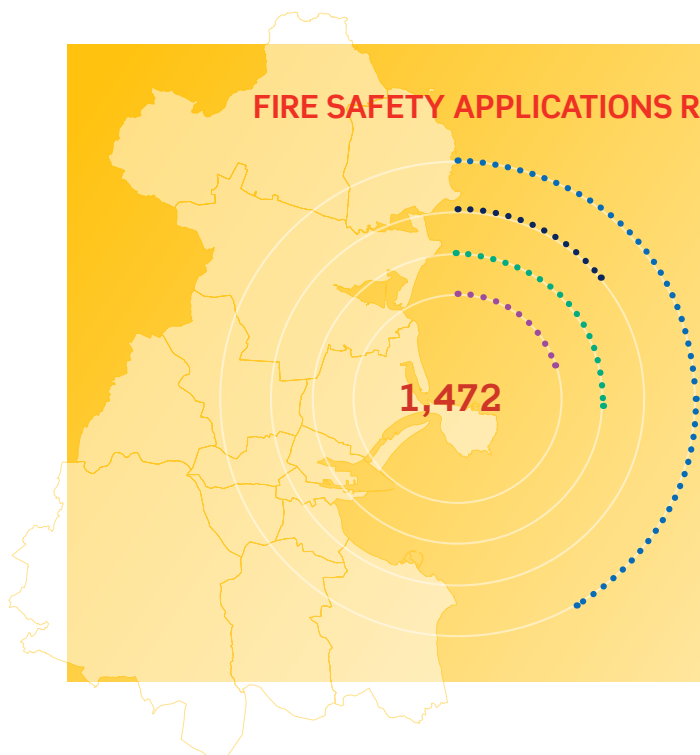
Development plans for Tall and Complex buildings has also increased and we work closely with our Operations Section and with developers and designer to improve the fire safety provisions at the design stage of these buildings.

There are concerns about fires in car parks, and cognisant of international incidents in car parks, DFB has consistently required the installation of sprinkler systems in the design of new car parks.

We face more challenges with the advent of Lithium ion batteries and energy storage systems and work closely with our Operations Section in this regard.

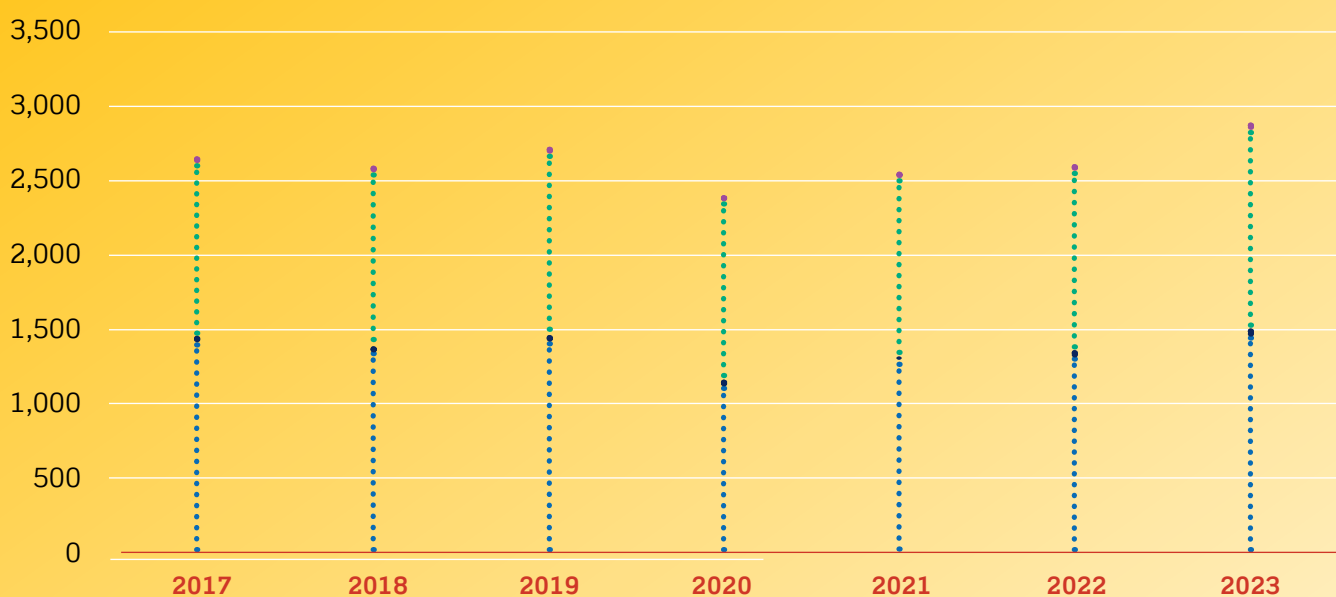
We continue to ensure that that compliance with Building Regulations is demonstrated and achieved in the Built Environment in the Dublin Region.

FIRE SAFETY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED ACCROSS DUBLIN 2023



Total FSC's	1,472	%
DCC	599	41%
DLR	197	13%
FCC	379	26%
SDCC	297	20%

FIRE SAFETY APPLICATIONS PER YEAR



YEAR	FSC's Received	Invalid	GRANTED	REFUSED
2017	1,423	32	1,187	28
2018	1,363	17	1,187	29
2019	1,438	10	1,256	18
2020	1,136	15	1,228	18
2021	1,303	8	1,223	19
2022	1,326	14	1,244	12
2023	1,472	20	1,390	15

5.2 EXISTING BUILDINGS ADVICE & ENFORCEMENT

The main focus of DFB Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety Section is to help people stay safe from the danger of fire. The responsibility for fire safety rests with the person in control of a building to ensure a reasonable fire safety standard as outlined in the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003. DFB provide advice and work with stakeholders to improve fire safety and ensure a high fire safety standard in buildings.

In 2023, we received 1,360 notifications raising concern about fire safety in buildings.

Every case is processed and we advise and engage with people to ensure fire safety standards are achieved.

DFB have promotional fire safety advice campaigns in the media and on our social media platforms, including advertising campaigns so we can reach as many people as possible to address the many different fire risks that we encounter.

Inspections of premises are carried out on a risk based prioritisation to assess compliance under the relevant regulations i.e. nursing homes, hotels, schools, pubs, restaurants.

We carried out 2,036 inspections in terms Technical / Building / During Performance Inspections Management Inspections in 2023.

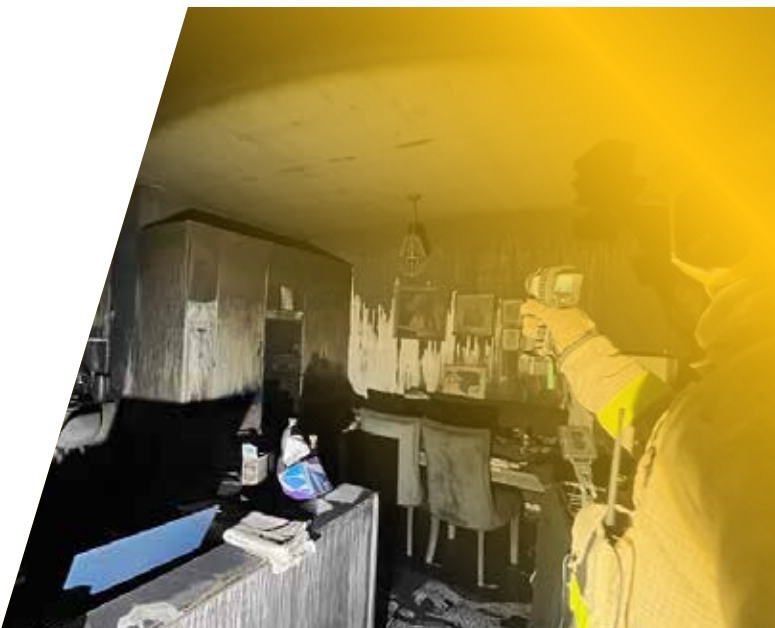
Communication is key in the area of enforcement, whilst Dublin Fire Brigade actively engage with persons to advise and improve the fire safety in their premises on a voluntary basis, DFB frequently request a competent person be appointed to undertake a fire safety assessment in accordance with section 18(6) of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2023. On review of the information, our response will be escalated depending on the fire safety deficiencies noted, including that remedial works be carried out and the fire safety shortcomings addressed.

Advice and inspection programmes are prioritised relative to the risk. Powers of inspection and enforcement are used judiciously when required, including Prosecutions, Fire Safety Notices, High Court Orders and Closure Notices provided in the Fire Services Act.

In 2023, DFB issued 10 Fire Safety Notices on different types of buildings relating to different fire safety deficiencies, and we brought 4 prosecutions before the courts.

2,036 Inspections

carried out in 2023



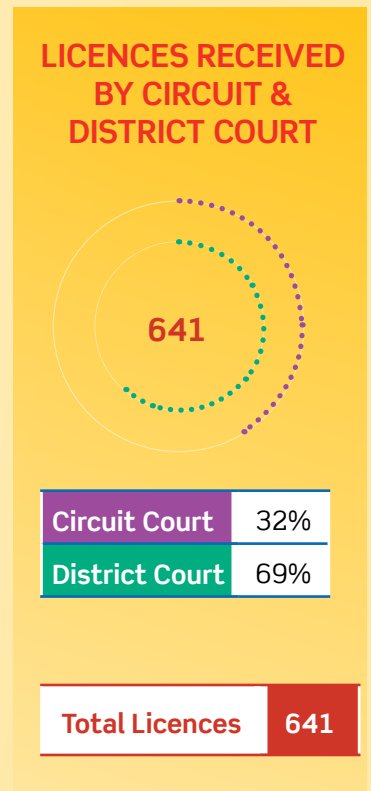
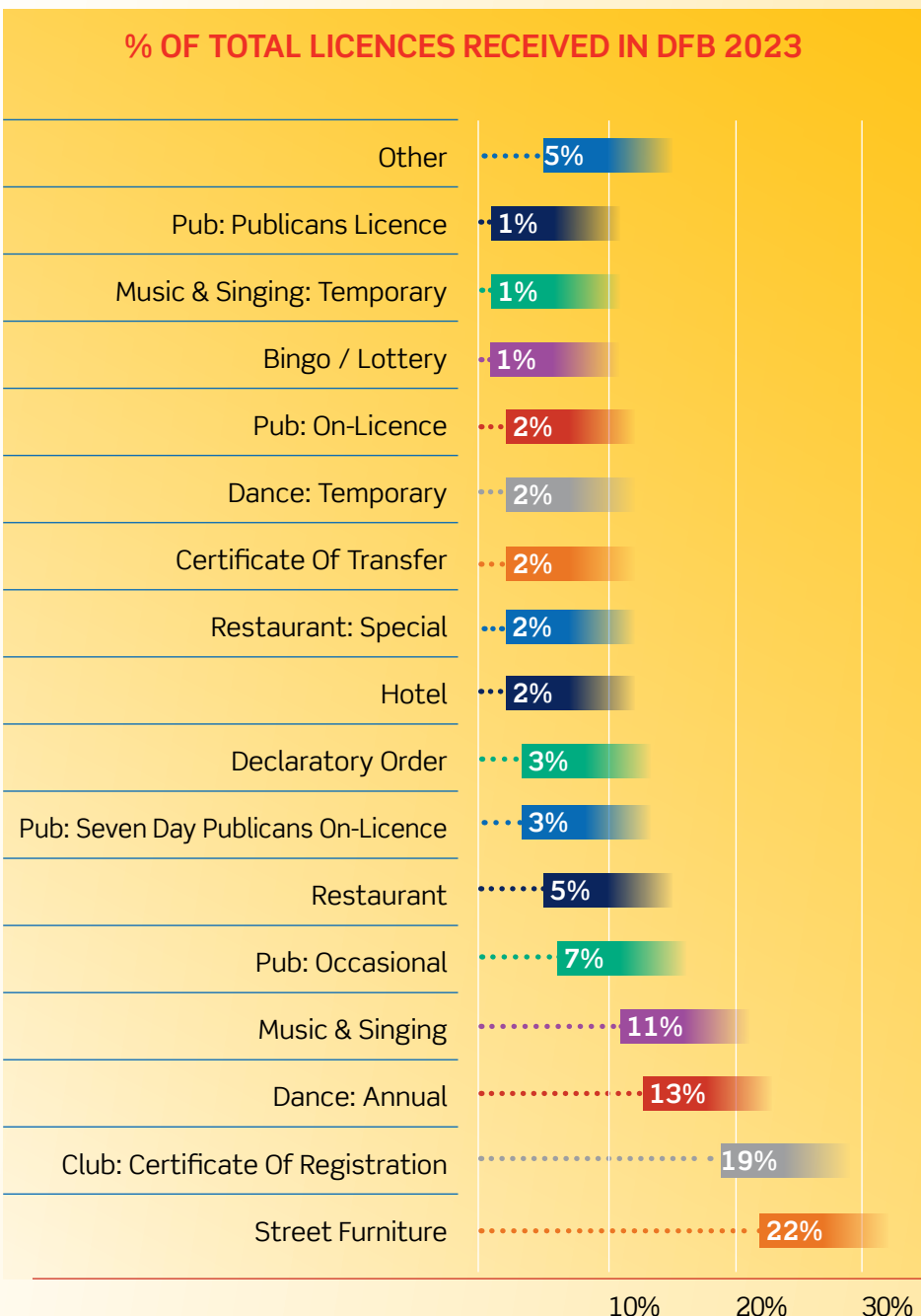
5.3 LICENCING & STREET FURNITURE

DFB Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety Section have statutory responsibilities for Licencing of places of public assembly. DFB are a notified party in a number of Licence applications to the District Court and also inspect and comment to the Circuit Court for all these licence applications.

We carried out 552 During Performance Inspections / Management Inspections of Licenced premises in 2023, this is part of a rolling two-year inspection

programme of Licenced premises in Dublin. This inspection programme informs our comments to the District Court.

An application to the Circuit court is made in respect of a new building or a new licence, we inspected 100% of Circuit Court Licence applications and provided comments to the court, this was in advance of these establishments being able to open and operate.



STREET FURNITURE LICENCING

As our city has emerged from the effects of a global pandemic, and businesses have endeavoured to recover, Dublin City Council has continued to support business recovery by merging the COVID19 Temporary Seating Application process with the ongoing Street Furniture process throughout the city. This allows businesses to apply for the use of an outdoor seating area outside their premises, on a more permanent basis.

Dublin Fire Brigade are proud to continue supporting this response, and in 2023 a team within the Fire

Prevention and Community Safety Department, represented Dublin Fire Brigade at Outdoor Dining Committee Meetings, in addition to commenting on over 140 Street Furniture Applications, in respect of Fire Safety.

This work will continue in 2024, in order to support and assist business recovery in this challenging environment.

140 Applications in 2023

5.3 DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

(DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE ACT 1972) Dublin Fire Brigade currently receive and process licence applications for the storage of fuel for sale and commercial supply at 262 flammable fuel stores in the Dublin County area. These licences are normally valid for three years.

67 licence applications were processed in 2023. Some licence applications roll over from the previous year or run into the following year if works are required to be completed following an inspection.

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES LICENCES

2023 marked the third full year of a new licencing regime for these sites due to updated regulations. These updated regulations have increased the number of sites now requiring a licence. Previously, only sites storing petrol for sale required a licence. Now, the majority of sites that store any liquid or gaseous fuel for sale or commercial supply require a licence. In addition, the revised regulations have also made the information submission required in order to apply for a licence considerably more comprehensive. This has significantly increased the workload in dealing with each application and progressing it with the applicant to a point where a licence can be granted.

262 Stores

- 85 stores are located in the Dublin City Council area
- 70 stores are located in the South Dublin County Council area
- 72 stores are located in the Fingal County Council area
- 35 stores are located in the Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown Council area

FLAMMABLE FUEL STORES DUBLIN 2023



Dublin City Council area	30%
South Dublin City Council	29%
Fingal County Council	28%
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Council	14%

PETROLEUM VAPOUR EMISSIONS REGULATIONS

Dublin Fire Brigade also issue Certificates of Installation and Testing on behalf of the relevant Local Authority in regard to petrol service stations under the Petroleum Vapour Emissions Regulations in pursuance to the Air Pollution Act 1987, and the European Communities Act 1972. This is in relation to the offloading of petroleum at service stations from the road tanker into the service station storage tanks and the dispensing of petroleum into vehicles. Certificates are normally valid for three years.

48 Certificates

issued in 2023

- 16 For service stations located in the Dublin City Council area
- 10 For service stations located in the South Dublin County Council area
- 20 For service stations located in the Fingal County Council area
- 2 For service stations located in the Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown Council area

EXPLOSIVES STORES

Dublin Fire Brigade also assess and issue permits and licences for premises used for the storage of explosives, as prescribed under the Explosives Act 1875 and its secondary regulations. These are valid for a period of between one and five years depending on the type of permit or licence required.

Dublin Fire Brigade carried out 145 dangerous substances inspections (petroleum and explosives) in 2023.

145 Inspections

carried out in 2023



5.5 COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY 2023

Providing advice to help people stay safe from the danger of fire is the focus for our Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety section, we use every opportunity to engage with the community in order to spread the fire safety message. Our aim to help people stay safe from fire in their homes to protect their business.

In 2023 we again built on our engagement with stakeholders and development of partnerships. We have reached into communities across the Dublin region to advise and provide helpful fire safety information. We attended a number of community events in each of the local authorities and where not possible to attend we supported the community groups and our operation full-time or retained colleagues in their efforts.

Fire Prevention again worked closely with our colleagues in DFB's Communications Unit promoting our fire safety message on all our social media platforms as well as in printed media and on radio. We maintained delivering a consistent message i.e. #TestitTuesday

We responded to information received in the aftermath of fires, as appropriate, to promote safety

and used our social media platforms to promote our advice.

Together, we produced messages and tweets on the following topics;-

- Fire doors and their correct use
- Safe use of BBQ, gas
- Fire risks associated with candles
- Fire risks in the kitchen
- Advice to close all doors at night
- Safety advice on electrics
- Working smoke detector saves lives
- Have an escape plan and concerns over old persons and fire.
- Advice to not block fire escape routes [In particular to businesses such as shops]
- E-scooter fire safety

Recently, following a small number of fires, advice has been provided on the safe use and charging of Lithium-ion batteries that are used for E-scooters and E-bikes.

Information has been distributed on all our social media channels and also on the DCC website, this can be accessed here [E-Scooters, E-Cycles and Hoverboards | Dublin City Council](#).





DFB SMOKE ALARM PROGRAMME

In 2023, in conjunction with the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management, we received smoke alarms for distribution to communities to promote the use of smoke alarms in homes. With the help of our partnerships in communities throughout Dublin, 2970 of these smoke alarms were delivered to community groups and people in need of an alarm. This year we engaged with more than 48 different groups across County Dublin to distribute the smoke alarms into the heart of communities. This year the NDFEM also made available 50 hard of hearing smoke detectors sets. We arranged a very successful training session organised in conjunction with EI Electronic Ireland out in the OBI in November, with representatives from Alone, Age Action, Chime-deafness Advocacy Group and South Dublin County Partnership. It was very beneficial to all. These hard of hearing smoke alarm units were distributed and installed.





NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY WEEK 2023 – AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

In 2023, we expanded our awareness campaign across the Dublin Region in support of the National Campaign by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management.

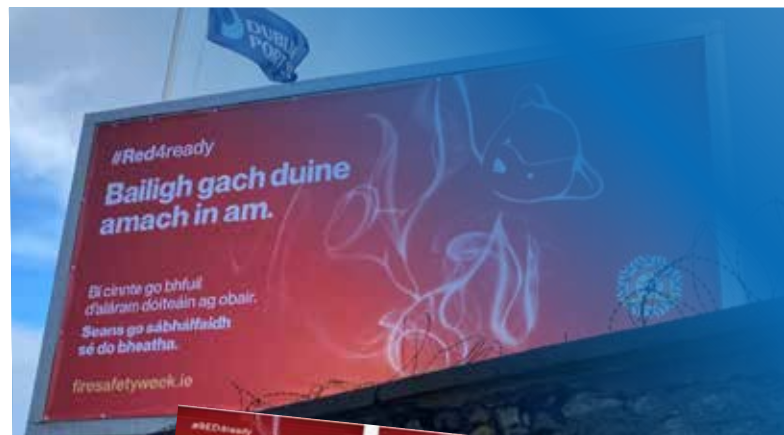
Our six fire safety advertisements captured the main messages that we wanted to promote and we re-introduced the #RED4ready light the buildings responsibly red i.e. The OPW were very supportive of this energy saving aspect and again Dublin looked wonderful with iconic buildings in red.

We used our drone to good effect and with the help of our Communications Section produced an eye-catching video with music of the iconic buildings red on Twitter and Instagram.

The #RED4ready campaign was showcased on Digi-panels, Digi-boards, billboards, print media [Articles and ads], social media, cinema screen, national and local radio station and bus shelters across the 4 Local Authorities during fire safety week.

Engagement from businesses, organisations, colleagues from the four Dublin Local Authorities and the public at large was very well received.

We relied heavily on our social media platforms and worked closely with our Communications Unit to achieve this. A large number of people and business were very helpful and supportive in promoting the fire safety messages.



EVENTS

DFB Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety Section have a role in the licencing of Outdoor Public Events, where more than 5,000 people will be in attendance, and work closely with the Planning Department of Dublin City Council and the other Local Authorities to provide fire safety advice and comment on these applications.

This area has grown over the last few years and had recovered very fast post pandemic with the number of events now matching if not greater than pre pandemic numbers.

In 2023, we were integrally involved and provided advice for a large number of events across the Dublin Region.

This involves reviewing the Event Management Plan, engagement with stakeholders to ensure an adequate fire safety standard is included, will be implemented and the event will be managed by the Event Controller. We also attend during the event to monitor the implementation of the Event Management Plan. We liaise with operations in relation to large-scale events and possible road closures that may affect the response.

Additionally advice is provided to unlicensed events in the four Local Authorities. In DCC, there were 206 events in their parks and along with these we offered advice to 294 community events.

	Licenced Events > 5000 persons	Un-Licenced Events < 5000 persons
DCC	38	206
FCC	12	41
SDCC	0	9
DLRCC	6	38
Total Events	56	294



MAJOR PROJECTS

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Special Projects are also a role of DFB's Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety Section. We are actively involved in these projects to bring technical and fire safety advice to enhance Dublin Fire Brigade's response to major projects.

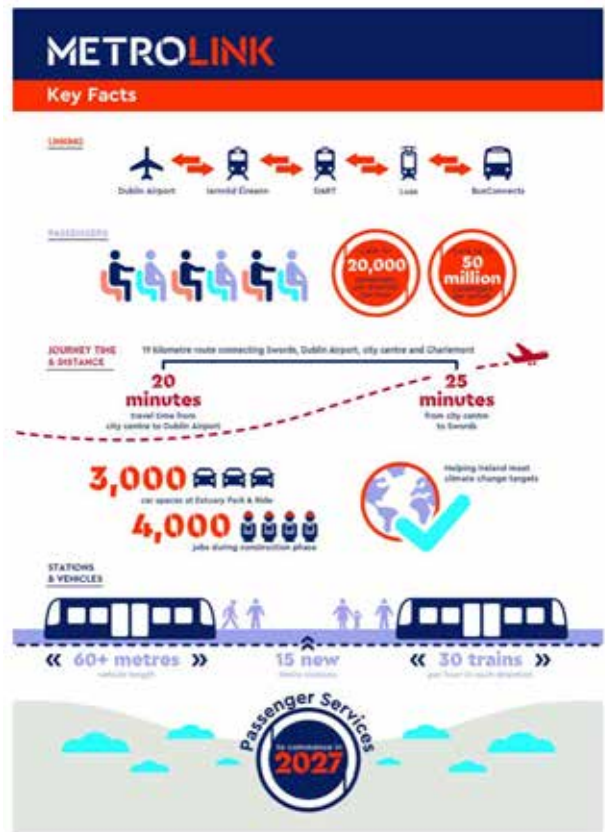


- Some of the main projects currently are;-
- the MetroLink project in conjunction with DFB Operations Section and in liaison with Transport Infrastructure Ireland TII;
 - Heritage and Fire Safety in Buildings project in conjunction with Fingal County Council; P
 - Post Fire Review Process;
 - working with DRHE on emergency homeless accommodation in response to the housing crisis
 - Accommodation for International Protection persons

METROLINK PROJECT

Dublin Fire Brigade are a key stakeholder in the development of the MetroLink project.

Together with our Operations Section and with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) we have reviewed and discussed the proposed Fire Safety Strategy for the MetroLink project, to consider the safety of patrons and to our operational response from the risk from Fire.



HERITAGE

In 2023, the Heritage Project continued and DFB Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety Section continued to work in collaboration with Fingal County Council and Shannon Heritage focusing on developing solutions for fire risk mitigation in heritage properties.

The case study chosen for the project was Newbridge House and Demesne, Donabate. The aim of the project was for firefighting personnel and risk reduction specialists to enhance their knowledge and skills for

managing fire risk to heritage places, while heritage professionals would be able to better understand the fire risk and probable impacts on heritage.

The project enabled all to enhance their knowledge and skills for managing fire risk to heritage places and better understand the fire risk and probable impacts on heritage.

EMERGENCY HOMELESS ACCOMMODATION

DFB supports DCC in the response to the Housing Crisis and provide fire safety advice to ensure fire safety standards in the buildings used to provide emergency accommodation for the homeless.

We work closely with Dublin Regional Homeless Executive DRHE to provide advice to the operators of emergency homeless hostels. This service is provided by both the Private and Voluntary sector.

In the past number of years, the number of buildings being used to provide this service has increased to

in excess 200 emergency homeless hostel across Dublin. We are currently monitoring 217 services in total including 93 Services provided by Private Parties, 116 Services provided by Charitable organisations and 8 self- accommodation.

We risk assess each case and provide technical advice. We carry out inspections and engage with stakeholders and their technical advisors. In many cases a regularisation Fire Safety Certificate application is required. We have used our enforcement powers as appropriate.





ACCOMMODATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION PERSONS

Local Authorities have been tasked in helping to provide assistance to the Government in response to the increased numbers of persons seeking international protection. We engage and provide advice and regulatory approval as necessary for any applications we receive and we work closely with operators to ensure fire safety management is in place. We liaise with our Operations Section with information on these locations.

Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety Section actively supports and works closely with all stakeholders to ensure that all buildings required in the response to this crisis meet the statutory responsibilities and achieve a fire safety standard.

POST FIRE REVIEWS

In 2023 Dublin Fire Brigade Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety Section continued to carry out Post Fire reviews of building fires, these have been most valuable and a great source of information.

A Post Fire review generally consists of the following:

- Active Fire Safety Systems review
- Passive Fire Safety Systems review
- Compartment Fire Behaviour / Fire Spread

Senior Fire Prevention Officers liaise closely with the Operations Section, who have been on the ground of such fires, to gain a better understanding of the location of the fire origin, how it developed and how the fire was dealt with tactically using various firefighting techniques.

Post Fire reviews provide great learning outcomes for future training within all sections of Dublin Fire Brigade. Key learning outcomes from such post fire reviews in 2023 are as follows:

- Importance of Implementing Robust Fire Safety Management Plans
- Importance of maintaining the Fire Detection and Alarm System
- Ensuring Fire Doors are kept shut
- Fire risks associated with Lithium-Ion Batteries
- Effectiveness of sprinklers

STAKEHOLDER LIAISON

With the focus on our service delivery, DFB Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety Section works collaboratively with a number of internal and external stakeholders.

We have been very effectively working with our Communications Unit to drive our community fire safety campaigns.

We liaise and consult with these parties to ensure that we promote fire safety as effectively as possible.

Some of these stakeholders are;-

- National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management
- National Building Control Office
- Engineers Ireland
- Royal Institute of Architects Ireland
- Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland
- Building Control Authorities in the four Dublin Local Authorities
- Government Departments
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Land development Agency
- Community Groups and committees
- Business and organisations



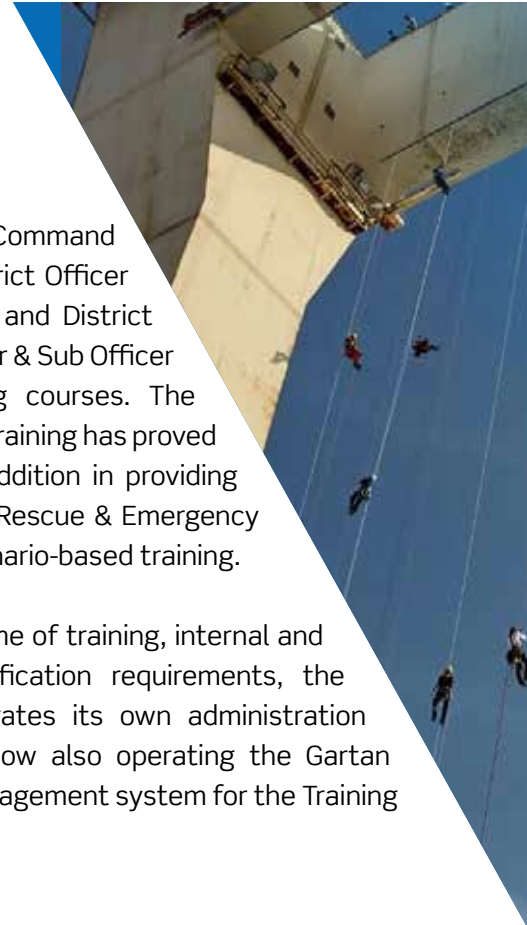
6 TRAINING

The Dublin Fire Brigade Training Centre (The O'Brien Institute); located on the Malahide Road is the largest Fire, Rescue & Emergency Medical Services Training facility in Ireland. It facilitates training in many disciplines and provides expert tuition for both internal and external programmes. These include Dublin Fire Brigade Fire, Rescue and Paramedic training, courses for local authority staff and training for other fire services nationally.

Incident Command Virtual Reality Training Suite was utilised during the Paramedic Course, simulating mass casualty incidents and the introduction of a virtual ambulance salon. This innovation allows trainee paramedics partake in scenario based training, working alone in an ambulance while being observed remotely by the tutors. The system was also utilised

during the Incident Command Elements of the District Officer Promotional process and District Officer, Station Officer & Sub Officer development training courses. The use of virtual-reality training has proved to be an excellent addition in providing state of the art Fire Rescue & Emergency Medical Services scenario-based training.

Due to the high volume of training, internal and external record verification requirements, the Training Centre operates its own administration section, which are now also operating the Gartan Human Resource Management system for the Training Centre.





The Learning & Development Section is managed by a Station Officer who has oversight of the following platforms.

- Learn Pro is the organisation’s e-learning platform. All DFB staff now have an eLearning account, this platform also allows for the distribution of notifications of varying degrees of importance to be sent directly to an individual or group.
- Pdr Pro is the organisation’s platform for the recording of training events on station and also facilitates the recording of operational incidents for training and competency purposes.
- CAB-i-NET, is a digital storage facility which is utilised to ensure the tracking of changes and correct version-control of all learning materials.
- Share point & Power Apps from the Office 365 suite have been utilised to help achieve the goal of a paperless training environment. This has been particularly useful with Paramedic Course work now being submitted online.
- The Training Centre is now using over 40 Computer tablets on daily basis. Digitisation of learning materials & training records; last year 2022, DFB Training Centre achieved 75% percent digitisation of all course materials and records.

Digitisation of learning materials & training records; is now at an advanced stage with support now being provided by DCC Digital Services. Last year 2023, DFB Training Centre achieved 80% percent digitisation of all course materials and records.

In 2023 - DFB Training Centre utilised 11,010 training days (excluding Recruits) for DFB personnel.

Digitisation

of course materials and records

75% in 2023

80% in 2023

11,010
Training Days in 2023

NEW ENTRANT RECRUIT PROGRAMME

The programme includes basic Firefighter skills, Road Traffic Collision, Breathing Apparatus & Fire Behaviour, Tactical Ventilation, Water Awareness / Flood Responder, Hazardous Materials & Environmental Protection, Rope Rescue, Fire Pump Operation modules, Tall & Complex firefighting techniques and Wild Land Firefighting. Alongside this number of candidates we facilitated the training of 5 new entrants to Louth Fire & Rescue Service with 1 entrant from Waterford Fire & Rescue Service.

The Paramedic Programme in association with the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland included theory and psychomotor skills sessions, mass casualty exercise, high fidelity simulation training and use of cadaveric specimens.

Standard Operational Guidelines are produced, reviewed and updated through a collaboration between H&S Unit, Training Centre and Operations. NSAI officials conducted a safety management audit of ISO 45001 & ISO 9001. DFB Training Centre achieved both standards.

37 Candidates
completed the
programme.



TYPES OF TRAINING CONDUCTED OVER 2023

- Breathing Apparatus Training
- Continuous professional development for Paramedics & Advanced Paramedics
- ESDS Instructor & Assessor training in collaboration with the RSA
- Driver Training Basic and Advanced to RSA standards
- Emergency Dispatch Controller training
- Swift Water Rescue technician
- Station & Sub Officer Development Courses
- High Line Rope Rescue technician
- Tall & Complex Building Firefighting
- Wild Land Firefighting
- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Break away / self-defence
- Child Welfare & Safeguarding
- Turntable Ladder Instructor
- Turntable Ladder Operator / Driver
- TTL Cage Operator
- Fire Water Pumping
- Ariel Ladder Platform Instructor
- People/Patient Handling
- International Trauma Life Support / Emergency Medical Services
- Emergency First Responder / Emergency Medical Services
- Forklift Operator



DUBLIN FIRE BRIGADE MUSEUM

The DFB Museum which is housed in the Training Centre, opens on request only. It was entirely managed by retired members of Dublin Fire Brigade. This is a very valuable and rich resource and is increasingly sought after. It is part of our corporate memory yet is cost neutral, due to the free time and expertise of the archivists.



The Logistics Section of the Dublin Fire Brigade is fully committed to the procurement policies and procedures of Dublin City Council's Procurement Section and through the close guidance and co-operation of both sections ensure efficient service delivery, using compliant equitable transparent procurement processes that not only meets our procurement regulations obligation, but also delivers value for money.

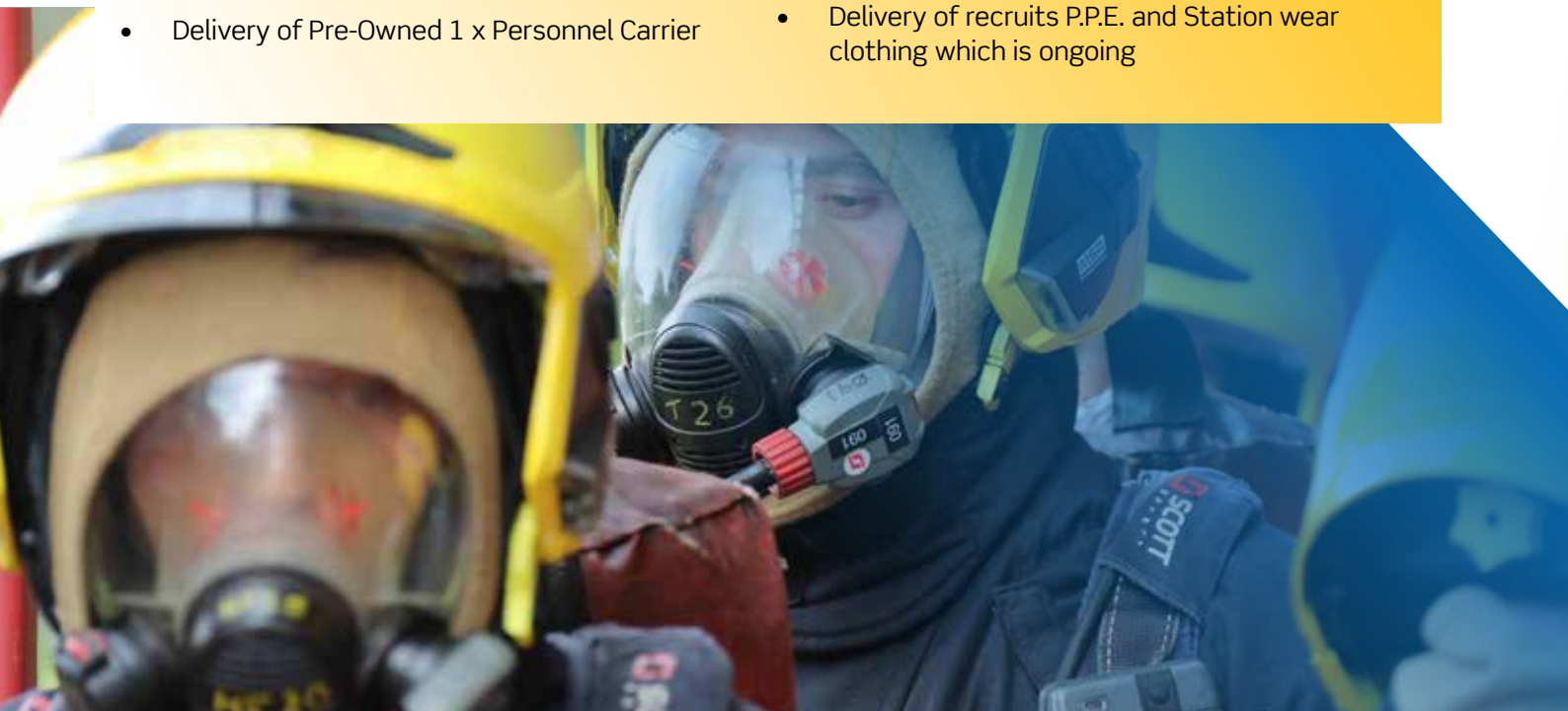
The year 2023 proved to be another very challenging one with the exit of the U.K. from the European Union and the war in Ukraine. Suppliers were having difficulty in securing supply chains for the equipment. However with the co-operation and dedication of


our staff and our suppliers, Dublin Fire Brigade were able to overcome these difficulties and ensured the Emergency operational service delivery to the public continued uninterrupted.

In 2023 in preparation for grassland fires, grassland and wildfire equipment were supplied to the relevant stations including overall's, beaters, backpacks, shovels, 19mm hose-line and welfare facilities. We had a delivery of a specialist wild fire vehicle which will be stationed in Dún Laoghaire station. In preparation for winter, snow socks and chains were supplied for all vehicles and salt for use on the exits of all fire stations were put in place.

KEY INVESTMENTS IN NEW OPERATIONAL EQUIPMENT IN 2023:

- New 1 x 42 metre Ladder
- New 4 x Class "B" appliances
- New 3 x Ambulance Vehicles
- New 3 x Cetan Fleet. vans
- Delivery of Pre-owned 2 Class "B" appliances
- Delivery of Pre-Owned 3 x Turntable Ladders
- Delivery of Pre-Owned 2 x Emergency Tender Vehicles
- Delivery of Pre-Owned 1 x Personnel Carrier
- Delivery of Pre-Owned 1 x Driver Training Vehicle
- Delivery of Wild land fire vehicle
- Replaced all of the Lifejackets
- Issued Milwaukee Battery operated tools
- Delivery of new Battery Operated R.T.C. equipment complete
- Delivery of Battery operated Ventilation Fans
- Delivery of recruits P.P.E. and Station wear clothing which is ongoing





In addition to researching and implementing new equipment, our staff also carried out / co-ordinated the following:

- Secured and distributed supplies of vital E.M.S. P.P.E.
- Distribution of 2022 station wear clothing issue to all stations
- Upgraded our procurement practices
- Completed tender documents for various purchases- Published and awarded
- Managed our clinical waste disposal contract
- Managed our “Med. Consumables Contract”
- Implemented clinical waste disposal systems
- Implemented foam use and control procedures.
- Purchased radios (Hand held) for Operational use
- Over 2600 deliveries / collections were carried out to all DFB locations.
- Processed the cleaning, inspection and repair of firefighting PPE
- Managed statutory equipment tests and certification on specialist critical equipment.
- Processed all requests from operations for supplies, medications, equipment repairs and consumables.
- Managed the hazmat recovery process for operational equipment
- Assisted Operations at large incidents with scene lighting, oxygen and diesel for vehicles
- Assisted in the roll-out of the Asset Management system
- Assisted in the interior design of the Fire Brigade workshop
- Reviewed contracts of 13 of our largest suppliers



7.1

DFB FLEET MANAGEMENT

Dublin Fire Brigade operates and maintains a large fleet of 143 vehicles, which includes 46 frontline Fire Appliances, Rescue Units and Ambulances etc. In 2023, a number of vehicles were ordered both new and Pre-Owned to enhance and upgrade the fleet including:

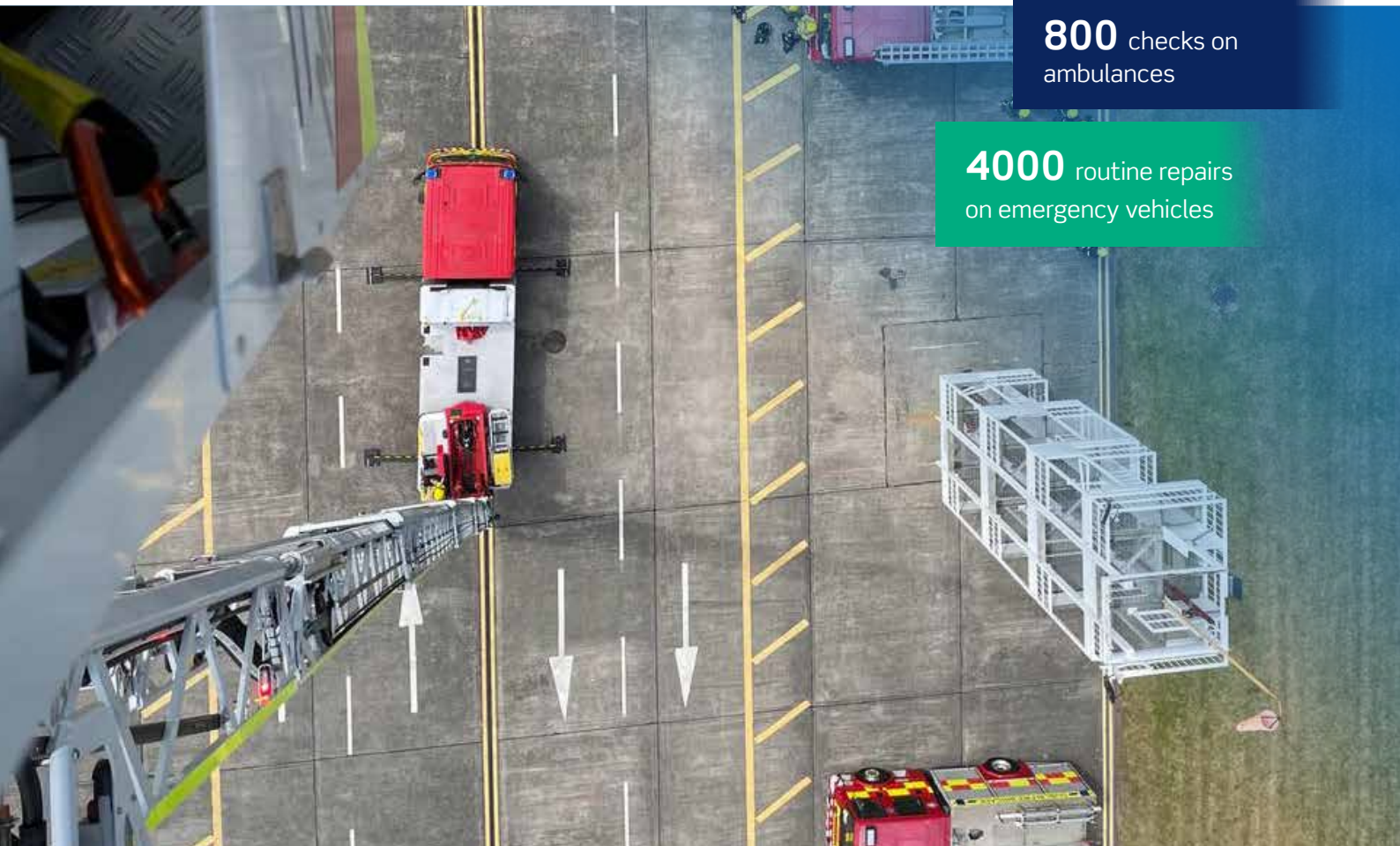
- 1 x 42m T.T.L. New
- 3x Cetan-Vans New
- 3 x Ambulances New
- 1 x Wildland fire Pump New
- 4 x Class B Water Tenders New
- 2 Class “B” Water Tenders Pre-Owned
- 2 x Emergency Rescue Tenders Pre-Owned
- 3 Turntable Ladders Pre-Owned
- 1x Driving Instruction Vehicle Pre-Owned

In 2023, the DFB fleet of 143 vehicles were available to respond to emergency calls from the public. In order to ensure maximum availability of our vehicles, DFB has a rigorous service and maintenance schedule in place. As part of the maintenance schedule, we carry out over 300 engine services on our emergency vehicles, workshop staff co-ordinated and conducted over 800 checks on emergency ambulances, carried out over 4000 routine repairs on emergency vehicles and ensured all CVRT Testing requirements were carried out successfully and on time. This system was audited by the RSA and approved our mechanics attended over 250 out of hours call outs this year to attend breakdowns of emergency vehicles and ensure the uninterrupted delivery of the emergency response service.

300 engine services
on emergency vehicles

800 checks on
ambulances

4000 routine repairs
on emergency vehicles



7.2 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The Property Maintenance Section is responsible for the maintenance of all 18 DFB's properties.

KEY ACTIVITY IN 2023 INCLUDED:

Development of the new logistics and workshop building in Finglas with the property developer

Assisted with the design and development of the new Alfie Byrne Road Station

- Maintaining full functionality of all existing properties in the DFB
- Co-ordination of non-routine / emergency works to DFB properties.
- Ensured all locations passed the relevant statutory inspections.
- Co-ordinating maintenance contractors to ensure all planned maintenance is carried out to the highest standards and in line with H&S legislation.
- Conduct ongoing reviews and inspection of maintenance contractors.
- Processing / Approvals of contractor payments
- Identifying future DFB requirements for fire stations and logistics facilities.
- Liaising with other Dublin City Council departments as required, to organise work programmes and respond to requests for inspections or related services.
- Supervision of building works carried out under the contract, including budget management and reporting to the Assistant Chief Fire Officer.
- Liaising with Dublin City Council & consultants appointed for new works projects in DFB

THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE SECTION ADDRESSED:

- Over 920 maintenance requests.
- Over 170 were deemed to require immediate attention.
- A number of medium size renovation projects in various locations were carried out.

In conjunction with Dublin City Council's energy conservation advisors DFB have exceeded its energy usage reduction target for its building stock in 2023 with a further 3% reduction in consumption (KWhs) and a 1% reduction in carbon (tonnes) these figures added with last year's reduction keeps DFB on target with Dublin City Council's overall energy reduction targets.

CONSUMPTION (KWHs) - 2022



Gas

Electricity

Projected figure 7,486,603
kWhs Per Year
3% decrease on 2021

CARBON (TONNES) - 2022



Gas

Electricity

Projected figure 1,839.8 Carbon
(tonnes) Per Year
1% decrease on 2021

Over 920
maintenance requests

Over 170
deemed to require
immediate attention



STATION CONSTRUCTION UNDER CONSIDERATION

The relocation of the brigade workshop to newly built facility in North City Business Park commenced construction in Q4 of 2023.

The redevelopment & replacement of North Strand Fire Station to new location on Alfie Byrne road is currently at detailed design stage with the aim of achieving PART 8 planning in 2023.

A new station in West Dublin- Liaising with South Dublin County Council & Land Owners to identify preferred location for a new one pump station serving the West Dublin area.



7.3 HEALTH SAFETY & WELFARE UNIT

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Dublin Fire Brigade is committed to providing safe places and systems of work by maintaining legislative and regulatory compliance and encouraging standards and standardisation in the area of occupational health and safety management. The DFB Health and Safety Unit (HSU), which reports directly to an Assistant Chief Fire Officer, supports and advises the senior management team and works closely with Dublin City Council's Corporate Health Safety Office and also liaises with peer groups in Ireland and the UK.

In 2023, 242 accidents were reported to the HSU from across all sections of Dublin Fire Brigade, this indicated a decrease of 26% on the previous year, patient handling incidents increased by 24% this area shall be addressed in 2024. It should be noted that Dublin Fire Brigade operates on a 24 hour basis over 365 days of the year. Throughout the year, the Health and Safety Unit received and processed 20 Good Catch Safety Observations during 2023. The Good Catch System allows staff to identify and report issues of concern which may otherwise go unnoticed and potentially result in an incident. All staff members are encouraged to bring their health and safety concerns to our attention.

The DFB HSU assisted in the development and presentation of the occupational health and safety modules included in the training programmes training programmes of both newly promoted ERCC Sub Officers, Sub Officers and Station Officers. The HSU assist DCC HR with the recruitment process by providing pre-employment physical tests for potential candidates, they also provide safety induction training and have designed and provided comprehensive physical fitness training modules to new DFB recruits.

The HSU guided Dublin Fire Brigade in its objective to successfully maintain its ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Safety Management System certification following a recertification audit conducted by the National Standards

Authority of Ireland (NSAI) in June 2023. The updated Dublin Fire Brigade Ancillary Safety Statement was published in February 2023. The HSU continue to contribute to an ongoing rolling review of Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs).

The DFB HSU advises and supports senior management through its engagement in the process of Safety Representatives consultation and participation. Scheduled quarterly meetings of the Safety Committee, involving members of senior management and the safety representatives group, provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to feed into the continual improvement of workplace health and safety.

In 2023, members of the HSU in conjunction with subject matter experts have conducted multiple risk assessments of new equipment, training courses, EMS and work locations. The HSU actively engaged with firefighter PPE standards and selection. Throughout 2023 the HSU provided ongoing advice to managers and officers on matters relating to health and safety.



QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Dublin Fire Brigade's Quality Management System is managed by a dedicated Quality office based in DFB HQ. As a part of the ongoing maintenance of the Quality Management System, a surveillance audit was conducted by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) in October 2023 to ensure compliance with the Quality Management Standard, ISO 9001:2015. The auditor visited numerous work locations and spoke with many staff members. The audit was successfully concluded and paved the way for ongoing certification to the standard into the future.

The DFB Quality Office is also responsible for the management of Internal ISO9001 Quality Audits. These audits are conducted independently and take place on a scheduled basis, throughout all sections within Dublin Fire Brigade over the three year certification cycle. Feedback from these audits is analysed to ensure that the appropriate standards are being maintained throughout the Brigade and this process allows for Dublin Fire Brigade to monitor the operation and effectiveness of all of its processes, benchmarked against the Quality Management Standard.

Process Mapping is in place for all key functional areas within DFB and assist us in the identification of inputs, outputs, controls, risks and the monitoring of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each DFB section.

In 2023, the DFB Quality Office conducted stakeholder surveys for the Fire, EMS and Call taking and Dispatch functions of Dublin Fire Brigade. These surveys were hosted on the Dublin City Council feedback platform and publicised through the DFB X (Twitter) platform. The results of the surveys were communicated to DFB senior managers and assist each section to improve DFB service-user satisfaction.

Nineteen (19) Corrective Action Reports (CARs) were submitted by members of staff during 2023. The Corrective Action Reports process allows staff to directly identify issues to the Quality Office and demonstrates the commitment of our staff to Quality within Dublin Fire Brigade. Each CAR is assigned to the appropriate senior manager for review, and many have resulted in new or amended processes being adopted.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Dublin Fire Brigade is committed to following best practice in child safeguarding and to fulfilling all of its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015. All Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics in Dublin Fire Brigade are classed as 'Mandated Persons' under the Act due to their registration with the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC).

Our Child Safeguarding Coordinator, with guidance from Dublin City Council's Safeguarding Officer for Children and Vulnerable Adults, leads a team of 'Designated Liaison Persons' (DLPs). These are trained peers who are available across our four Watches to assist members of our staff who may have experienced incidents causing concern. During 2023 we began plans to develop this team. A request for expressions of interest in DLP training was oversubscribed. This is indeed welcome and points to a keen understanding of staff members' responsibility and willingness to become involved in such a sensitive and important area. During 2023, twenty-nine (29) reports were made by members of Dublin Fire Brigade to Túsla, The Child and Family Agency. In a small number of cases our staff were required, at very short notice, to attend at the District Court where urgent protection was required for children at risk.

As mandated by the Children First Act 2015, copies of our Dublin Fire Brigade Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment are available at every fire station and DFB work location. The document can be accessed on the Dublin City Council website at <https://www.dublincity.ie/residential/dublin-fire-brigade/legislation/child-safeguarding-statement-and-risk-assessment> or from this QR code.



CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT

Dublin Fire Brigade provides psychosocial support for its staff following traumatic events through a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) system. Education around general mental health and wellbeing begins on entry to Dublin Fire Brigade and is followed by further education specifically designed to prepare members of staff to deal with the effects of traumatic incidents. Specialised training is provided to each Officer rank in order to ensure that immediate support is available. This is enhanced by members of a Peer Support Team who offer their support on a voluntary basis and can be contacted 24 hours a day on well-advertised phone numbers.

Unfortunately, we were unable to train new Peer Supporters during 2023 but hope to rectify matters early in 2024. On a brighter note, we were able to access advanced training and instructor training for senior Peer Supporters. We now have three Instructors who are fully trained to the standard of the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. We are now in a position to train our own staff. Indeed, we were also able to offer training to staff of the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive through this valuable resource.

While informal conversations with Peer Supporters are a common occurrence amongst DFB staff and not formally counted our CISM Peer Support Team was formally alerted to 38 formal CISM interventions during 2023. Some 82 incidents were directly reported to the CISM Peer Support Team by the East Region Control Centre.

Highlights of 2023 include a return to 'live' Recruit Family Evenings. These were held for two classes of Recruit Firefighter/Paramedics and two classes of Emergency Services Controllers. A large attendance from families ensured that Recruits and their loved ones had an opportunity to understand the challenges of their new role and the supports available to them. Finally, members of the CISM Peer Support Team were honoured to be present with retired members of Dublin Fire Brigade who gave evidence to the Stardust Fire Inquests in 2023.

CISM is an excellent resource where Dublin Fire Brigade staff members help each other. This is to the benefit of Dublin Fire Brigade, Dublin City Council and ultimately to the public we serve.





CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Dublin City Council as directed by the Government of Ireland Climate Action Plan 2019 is required to agree and implement an action plan to mitigate against climate change, enhance sustainability and reduce carbon footprints within the remit of the local authority.

Key targets of the plan include 33% better energy use with the council, 40% reduction in greenhouse emissions and mitigation measures required to make Dublin a climate resilient city and actively engage and educate citizens on Climate Change.

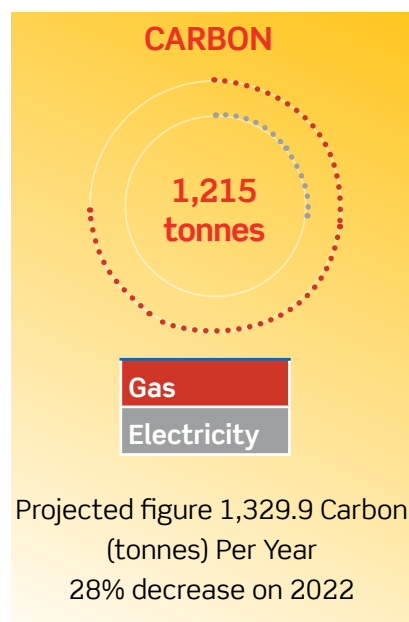
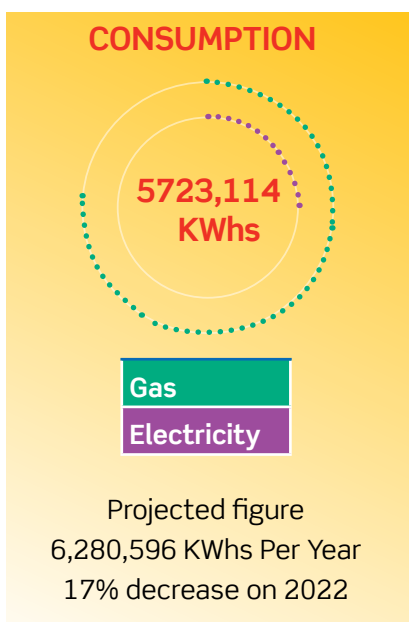
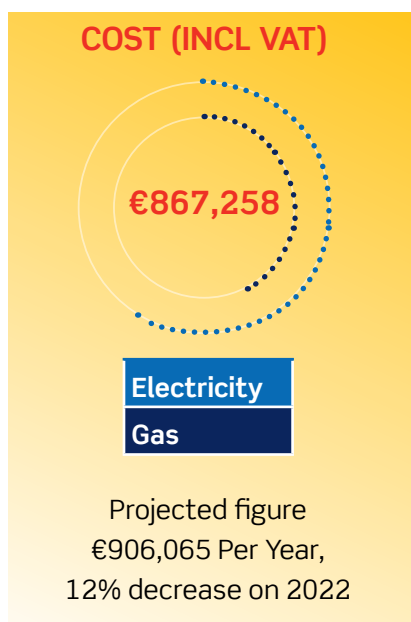
All DCC buildings including fire stations must reduce energy consumption and emissions over the coming years. As such, any new fire station will be required to be built to a Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) standard in order to help achieve this target.



In line with the DCC Climate Change Action Plan, DFB will focus a range of actions across six key areas –

1. Energy and Buildings
2. Transport
3. Flood Resilience
4. Nature-Based Solutions
5. Resource Management
6. Reduce the impact of Fire on the Environment

The following graphs indicate the Cost of Energy used by the Dublin Fire Brigade in 2023 it also includes the Consumption of energy and the Carbon produced in Tonnes





GOALS ACHIEVED IN 2023

- 5 new vehicles added to our fleet which are more economical on fuel and less carbon producing models and disposed of the older vehicles
- Introduced Battery operated Rescue tools and taken petrol operated tools out of circulation
- Extinguishing wildland fires by using smaller hoses and portable backpacks.
- Using Canal water instead of Potable Water at large fires



9 MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (MEM)

DFB ensures preparedness for a co-ordinated inter-agency response to major emergencies resulting from local and regional events, such as fire, transport accidents, incidents involving hazardous substances and severe weather at local and regional levels in line with the National Framework for Major Emergencies.

In 2023 DFB co-ordinated meetings of the Dublin City Council Crisis Management Working Group, work included review of the Dublin City Council Major Emergency Plan 2022 and the Dublin City Council Severe Weather Plan 2022. DFB also played a major role in working with the East Regional Working Group to produce an Interagency Work Programme and Regional Risk Assessment in line with the national work programme. DFB provides representatives at senior management level to all appropriate MEM regional groups.

DFB were also involved in the preparation of a number of Interagency Regional plans such as the Evacuation and Rest Centre Plan, the Media and Communications Plan and the Dublin Airport Aircraft Incident Response Plan. DFB continue to participate in inter-agency exercises testing these plans.

DFB actively participates in the East Region Emergency Management Working and Steering Groups at East Regional level with other Principal Response Agencies. The East Region consists of representatives of the four Dublin Local Authorities along with representatives of Kildare and Wicklow County Councils, An Garda Síochána and the HSE.

DFB ALSO PARTICIPATES AND CHAIRS VARIOUS MEM SUB GROUPS, INCLUDING:

- Local Authority Working Group
- Planning and Strategy Group
- Training and Exercise Sub Group
- Seveso Sub Group
- Mass Casualty Sub Group
- Mass Fatality Sub Group
- Evacuation & Rest Centres Sub Group
- Media and Communications Sub Group
- Air Incident Working Group Sub Group
- Voluntary Emergency Services Sub Group
- East Coast Oil Pollution Working Sub Group

EXERCISES

DFB led on the following interagency exercises in 2023:

Exercise	Type	Date
Guerbet	Seveso Inter-Agency Live Exercise	06/03/2023
TOP	Seveso Inter-Agency Live Exercise	30/03/2023
NORA Ringsend	Seveso Inter-Agency Live Exercise	04/05/2023
NORA Poolbeg	Seveso Inter-Agency Live Exercise	20/04/2023
Circle K	Seveso Inter-Agency Table-Top Exercise	26/10/2023

All exercises were planned, briefed, executed, debriefed, public consultation carried out and reported on by DFB. Public consultation on all revised External Emergency Plans. DFB maintained full compliance with H.S.A. and 2015 S.I. 209 regulations. One COMAH Exercise was stepped up to an ERWG Major Emergency Exercise, testing Inter-Agency On-Site Coordination.

DFB also assisted with Major Emergency Exercise and training with other Dublin Local Authorities and supported Fingal County Council in testing of the ERWG Media Sub Group Plan.



9.1 CIVIL DEFENCE

As a Statutory Voluntary Organisation 2023 was an extremely busy year for Dublin Civil Defence. We have been actively involved in the four Local Authority Community Forums, Regional Team/Zoom and National Team/Zoom meetings. We cannot overestimate the time, effort and commitment that our Staff and Volunteers have put in during the Displaced Persons crisis.

As part of our planning for a Major Emergency, we have an MEM Logistic unit consisting of 25-trained Volunteers, two dedicated Iveco Trucks preloaded with equipment to set up an Emergency Rest Centre and additional truck to provide emergency lighting/trauma bags/tentage etc. This proved invaluable when we were tasked to set up a Rest Centres by the Local Authorities for displaced persons.

We have been tasked by the Regional MEM Group to take on a Regional Response for the provision and management of a Rest Centre Response to Counties in our Region.

We were also tasked by the Regional MEM Group to source a truck for the Mass Fatality tent, this truck was purchased in the fourth quarter 2021 and became operational by the end of January 2022. The MFT equipment is in the process of being audited and we will have a full inventory of equipment and needs assessment by the end of December 2023. We will have a costing for additional equipment for approval at the first meeting of the MEM East Region Group 2024.

The provision of a New Tow Fish Sonar in, funded by the Department of Defence and the operation of our drone teams continues to be of great benefit during some of our search operations. We received additional training in the equipment in the UK in the final quarter of 2023.

We have 17 training Units across the Four Local authorities training in a wide variety of roles in order to fulfil our competencies for Emergency Management. We plan to recruit new Volunteers in the first quarter of 2023.



Volunteers as of 31st December 2022 – 336 active volunteers
 Volunteers as of 31st December 2023 – 365 active volunteers

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Dublin City	407,958
Fingal	208,496
South Dublin	197,673
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	154,226
Department of Defence Grants	469,854

€ 1,438,207 2023 Budget

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

396 requests for assistance

- Rest Centre Assistance: **Requests: 58**
- COVID-19: Operations (Patient-test centre, Patient-appointments, Hospital equipment, Medication Deliveries, Blood Transfusion Service, Food Deliveries, Assembly of PCR Test Kits for the HSE and PPE packs for DFB/HSE) **Requests: 19**
- Community/Sport Events: Arás an Uachtraráin, OPW State Events, Aviva Stadium, Tallaght Stadium, Barretstown, various community events. **Requests: 224**
- Water Shortage Assistance (Fire Appliance/ Water Tanker): **Requests: 7**
- Missing Person Searches **Requests: 18**
- K9: Searches for Missing Persons in other Counties **Requests: 16**
- Rescue Boats: Searches for Missing Persons **Requests: 6**

Apart from our basic training, in 2023 we undertook to train and certify more Volunteers in various specialist disciplines –

- Safe use of PPE.
- Safe operations during Covid19.
- Donning and Doffing.
- Cleaning and sanitising our vehicles.
- Communication Training in UHF, VHF, Tetra, and Marine Band.
- Training of Covid19 Compliance Officers.
- Critical Incident Support Management, Peer-to-Peer Support.
- Training in our new Sonar and Underwater Cameras.
- Training for our Drone Operators.
- Flood Responder Courses



10 ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

The Dublin Fire Brigade administrative team are located at DFB H.Q. - Townsend Street, the Brigade Training Centre - Marino, Civil Defence Headquarters - Wolfe Tone Quay, Logistics & Fleet Management - Stanley Street and the East Regional Communication Centre - Townsend Street. This team provides administrative support to operations in respect of Corporate Governance, Financial Management, Budget Planning, Risk Management, Human Resources, Procurement, Property Maintenance, Communications, Business Continuity and other such activities.

The administrative team facilitates the smooth operation of Dublin Fire Brigade by managing legislative, policy and other changes, through application of the changes as required to ensure that the Brigade remains an efficient, compliant organisation which can continue to carry out its service at the highest levels of excellence

Blended Working remains a feature of how the administrative team works and has been effectively rolled out. It forms part of the efficient functioning of the administrative team, through adopting a Team Charter particular to the needs of each section.

This dedicated team brings best practice and governance to Dublin Fire Brigade, always rising to any challenges presented by this fast-paced and changing environment. Dedication to its support of DFB operations remains its key function, to ensure that Dublin Fire Brigade can continue to operate to its maximum potential.



10.1 FINANCE

The gross cost of running Dublin Fire Brigade in 2023 was €161.1m

The net cost of the operation of the service is divided between the four Local Authorities: Dublin City Council contributes €59.27m, Fingal County Council contributes €24.59m, South Dublin County Council contributes €22.99m and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council contributes €18.20m



Dublin City Council area	€59.27m	47.40%
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Council	€18.20m	14.55%
Fingal County Council	€24.59m	19.67%
South Dublin County Council	€22.99m	18.38%



The ratio between payroll /pensions of €136.32m (84.63%) and non-pay of €24.76m (15.37%) reflects the manpower requirement to provide the essential Emergency Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Service on a 24 hour basis 365 days a year.

In addition to direct council subvention, DFB has a self-generated income stream of €36.0m comprises of superannuation income and fees from the services it provides. The main revenue streams are €9.18m

from the HSE for the Emergency Ambulance Service, €3.36m in superannuation income, €2.40m from the Transport Infrastructure Ireland for providing a dedicated response vehicle for the Port Tunnel, €0.34m for Fire Charges and €18.55m payroll compensation.

The net cost of €125.05m (€161.1m expenditure - €36.0m income) is divided between the four Dublin Local Authorities using an agreed formula.

EXPENDITURE RATIOS

Wages	€88.67m	55.04%
Salaries	€11.88m	7.38%
Pensions	€35.77m	22.20%
Non-Pay	€19.18m	11.91%
Support Services /Loan Charges	€5.58m	3.47%



10.2 HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resource Section (HR) of Dublin Fire Brigade is dedicated to fostering the growth of the organisation by providing comprehensive support services to its staff. The primary focus is on maintaining a culture of fairness, openness, transparency, and support in all interactions. Core values such as equality, diversity, respect, partnership, and wellness are central to the HR section's activities.

With a strategic and cohesive approach, the HR section actively manages the organisation's most valuable assets—its people. This includes collaboration with Dublin City Council's HR Department to offer employees best-practice services and facilities. The HR section plays a pivotal role in cultivating an effective work culture where employees are well-informed about their responsibilities, rights, and privileges.

Aligned with the commitments outlined in the Corporate Plan, the HR section consistently strives to meet statutory obligations and deliver best practices across all its activities. It is dedicated to fulfilling staff training and development through the PMDS process,

demonstrating ongoing support and appreciation for all Dublin Fire Brigade staff. The overarching goal is to build and promote an inclusive organisation capable of maximizing service delivery and effectively addressing future challenges.

Recognising employees as the organisation's most significant asset, Dublin Fire Brigade's HR section is committed to providing an open communication platform, fostering career growth through workforce planning, encouraging continuous learning and development for all staff, and delivering training and support to line managers in handling industrial relations and employee relations issues. Additionally, the HR section places a strong emphasis on promoting health and wellness in the workplace, underscoring the importance of health, safety, and welfare for all Fire Brigade staff. Leveraging the knowledge and commitment of its staff, the HR section collaborates with corporate HR, trade unions, medical referees, and other entities to address staff welfare, learning and development, and attendance issues in a professional and confidential manner.



- Public Sector Duty – Dublin Fire Brigade prepared a programme of action to implement the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty in 2020. A three-year implementation plan was developed and that plan expired at the end of 2023. The measurement of recommendation achievements and activities captured within the lifetime of the plan are currently under review by an external oversight partner and Dublin City Council. Going forward DFB HR are committed to continuing with this initiative to grow and expand the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion education and facilities for employees of Dublin Fire Brigade. This reflects a commitment to leadership on equality and human rights as an organisation and underpins compliance with equality and human rights legislation.
- Dublin Fire Brigade are also committed to employment equity and inclusion by working with Dublin City Council and engaging with communities and societal groups involved in Community Wealth Building.
- Dublin Fire Brigade HR also showcased the activities and services provide at multiple school events, career fairs and recruitment expos.
- Oscar District – Collaboration with Oscar’s Kids Charity. On 29th September 2023 DFB had official launch of Oscar District, DFB commenced a collaboration with Oscar’s Kids Charity in order to provide “Make a Wish” type days and honorary fire cadet events for terminally ill children. In memory of the charity’s founder’s son Oscar, we named our honorary cadetship “The Dublin Fire Brigade Oscar District”. When we have a visit scheduled, or we might travel to meet them at a suitable location in some situations, the children will be presented with some DFB merchandise (tee-shirts and hats), a certificate of membership of DFB Oscar District, a specially commissioned medal; and for the younger kids a little fire PPE suit, helmet and some fun packs etc.



10.2 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

Dublin Fire Brigade have recently embraced the Dublin City Council led Community Wealth Building programme. Dublin faces many challenges that impact on its resilience and prosperity in the future. Community Wealth Building provides a lens through which to view this changing economic and social environment and to understand how Dublin City Council can use its influence to shape and support the city's economy in the long term.

Community Wealth Building is a people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy and places control and benefits into the hands of local people. It is a collective assets of local economy – social, intellectual, cultural, financial, etc. that a community owns or controls that enables the community to care for each other and the natural environment.

Adopting Community Wealth Building as an integral part of the City Council's corporate strategy gives voice to the idea that the City's wealth should be shared. Through CWB Dublin City Council will use its economic role to influence wealth flows around our capital City in the best interest of local communities. A strong connection to the locality is a key driver for CWB.

Dublin Fire Brigade are adopting the principles behind Community Wealth Building in as many aspects of its service delivery as possible, initially through targeted recruitment drives in locations identified by our community

partnerships. In future activities Dublin Fire Brigade will be exploring other avenues, such as procurement, logistics, premises usage, training, fire prevention and community risk reduction for ways in which it can engage in a more meaningful way with our local communities.



10.3 ICT SYSTEMS

The role of the IT Section is to ensure the effective deployment of ICT systems, services, and solutions to support the delivery of the strategic business goals of DFB. The IT Section is responsible for the strategic and tactical planning, operation and deployment of all IT systems within DFB, playing a lead role in ICT strategy development and has responsibility for the support and maintenance of new and existing systems. DFB IT staff are the first point of contact for IT issues in Dublin Fire Brigade and liaise with the Information Systems Department where appropriate for the delivery and support of corporate services, 2nd level support and contract administration.

In addition, the IT section undertakes a Project Management role in respect of major new systems from procurement through to implementation.

MAIN PROJECTS EXECUTED IN 2023:

- Implementation of Change Requests to the Rostering System to enhance functionality and provide multi leave swap functionality
- Software patching and upgrade of existing systems
- Roll out of Microsoft Intune to all laptops
- Digitisation of business processes



10.4 COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Unit provides support for the delivery of key communication messages both internally, externally and through the media. This is generally carried out by internal bulletins or campaigns, social media, traditional media and working with Dublin City Council's media relations department.



INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

The 'Request to Speak' staff bulletin was produced 53 times in 2023, published each Friday evening and distributed to every staff member by email, our online learning platform and internal WhatsApp groups. The bulletin provided information to all staff regarding upcoming courses, events, memorandums, further education opportunities, internal news and charitable events.

NOTABLE EVENTS IN 2023

DUBLIN PRIDE

Dublin Fire Brigade was invited to take part in the annual Pride parade again in 2023. The Communications Unit liaised with Dublin Pride, Dublin City Council and sign writers to ensure we had sufficient material and a fire appliance from Head Quarters was wrapped in the Pride decal. There was representation from all ranks and the fire appliance proved to be a popular feature on the day, wrapped in the Pride decal for a third year running.



OSCAR DISTRICT

In 2023, Dublin Fire Brigade launched a joint initiative with "Oscar's Kids" Ireland through its Communications Unit and HR Department. The launch took place in the Brigade Training Centre in September to coincide with Childhood Cancer Awareness month. The initiative allows young children with an interest in Dublin Fire Brigade to become honorary Firefighter/Paramedics. The aim of the project is to make memories for these children and their families. Ten children were allocated with Badge Numbers in 2023, like real Firefighters, with Badge Number 1 being allocated to Oscar himself. Oscar's Kids was created in honour of Oscar who sadly passed away in 2019 from terminal brain cancer, but he has left an incredible legacy.

PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Communications Unit supported Operations several times throughout 2023 by issuing public safety announcements and follow up information at large scale fires and incidents across the city and county.

FIRE SAFETY WEEK

The annual public service information campaign once again proved to a busy period for the unit. Our Fire Prevention team contacted businesses across the city centre who agreed to light up their buildings in red to raise awareness for Fire Safety Week 2023. Our communications team went off site to photograph the buildings and used those photos on our social media platforms and internal newsletter. The Communications Unit continually assisted the Fire Prevention and Community Fire Safety section by promoting multiple fire safety messages on all platforms throughout the year.





DRONES

The Communications Unit has linked up with our Operational Intelligence Unit in the operating of drones. Two personnel from our team currently hold their drone operators' license with a third expected to finish training in Q2 2024. The use of drones allows us to assist Incident Commanders at scene and provide real time aerial footage of the scene with the capabilities of using a thermal imaging camera.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Dublin Fire Brigade's Communications Unit maintained their social media presence across all mainstream platforms. Incidents, training exercises and public service announcements proved to be the most viewed posts. The platforms continued to allow Dublin Fire Brigade to share fire safety messages to a combined total of 175k followers and our posts were viewed over 25 million times. In Q4 2023, Dublin Fire Brigade joined Instagram Threads and BlueSky in an effort to reach a wider audience.

Our Communications Unit ran many campaigns across all social media platforms throughout the year. These included Test it Tuesday, Whereabouts Wednesday, What's in a station Wednesday, Throwback Thursday, Equipment at Eleven and Factual Friday. All of these campaigns were focused on our strategy, Prevent, Inform and Promote, whilst also providing the public with an insight to what Dublin Fire Brigade do.

Our Recruit blog proved to be popular. Throughout their Firefighter training, recruit class 1/2023, reported to the communications team what they did each day. This information was then shared with the public on social media and in turn should attract more candidates to our next recruitment campaign.





PHOTOGRAPHY

The Communications Unit was pleased to attend many incidents and retirements in 2023 to capture these events by film and photograph. The photographs are used for training, social media and to present to members on their retirement.



SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY

PREVENT: Fire and incident prevention advice and public service announcements.

INFORM: Alerting the public to incidents in the city that may affect or have affected them.

PROMOTE: Highlighting the work of DFB's people not only at emergency incidents but community and charity events.

Twitter followers **98k**

Facebook followers **55k**

Instagram followers **21k**

Instagram Threads followers





Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



Comhairle Contae County Council

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council