



DUBLIN FIRE BRIGADE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022





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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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1 FOREWORD from the Chief Fire Officer



As the Chief Fire Officer, Dublin Fire Brigade, I am pleased to present this annual report which includes an overview and some highlights of what was an extraordinary and challenging year for everyone. In this year's report we set out our commitments to improve community safety, response and resilience, 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. The annual report provides details on our finances and resources and gives an insight into our future plans. This report also demonstrates, how the service is emerging stronger following the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. DFB learned a lot from our experiences since the pandemic began and have adapted and introduced new ways of working which will benefit us all in the future. I would like to welcome the 107 new recruits who entered into our service during 2022 and look forward to the almost 100 recruits who we expect will join our ranks in 2023. 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.

Looking ahead to 2023, we will continue to reach out and engage with the wider public on a range of safety issues all with the aim of protecting our community from the dangers of fires, road traffic collisions and other types of emergency incidents. I believe that while recognising that there is still much work to be done, DFB is well placed to meet the challenges of forthcoming years. We will continue to explore more effective and efficient ways of working. We will balance how we make efficiencies against the very real need to invest in our personnel as well as critical areas of the organisation.

A key repeating narrative within this report is that our greatest asset is the women and men who serve in DFB. They serve the community with professionalism, and make a progressive, inclusive and effective Fire & Ambulance Service. I'm also thankful 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.

I believe that the Councils and residents alike can be proud of their Fire & Ambulance Service and I am happy to present you with our 2022 Annual Report.



DENNIS KEELEY

Chief Fire Officer | Dublin Fire Brigade



2.1 ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

ERCC Activity

- Processed 221,410 Emergency Calls
- 180,346 Ambulance & 41,064 Fire Rescue
- Maintained Accredited Centre of Excellence

Emergency Medical Interventions

- 4,387 Critical Medical Emergency Incidents
- 453 Cardiac Arrest Interventions
- 52,165 patients treated & transported to hospital

Fire Prevention

- 1,326 Fire Safety Certificate Applications
- 101 Petroleum Vapour emissions certificates issued
- 184 inspections of flammable fuel stores carried out

Training

- Largest Fire, Rescue & Emergency Medical Services Training facility in Ireland
- 107 Recruits trained
- 8,569 Training Days for DFB personnel of all grades (excluding recruits)

Community Fire Safety Intervention

- National Fire Safety Week 2022

Total Fire / Ems Intervention

- 82,450 Emergency Medical Mobilisations
- 34,693 Fire & Emergency Mobilisations

Fire Safety Protection

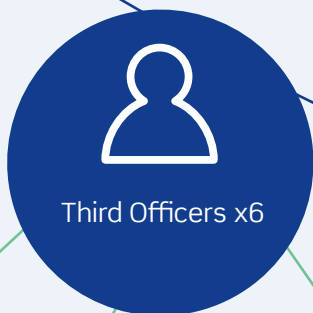
- 74 Dangerous substance licence applications received

Major Emergency Management

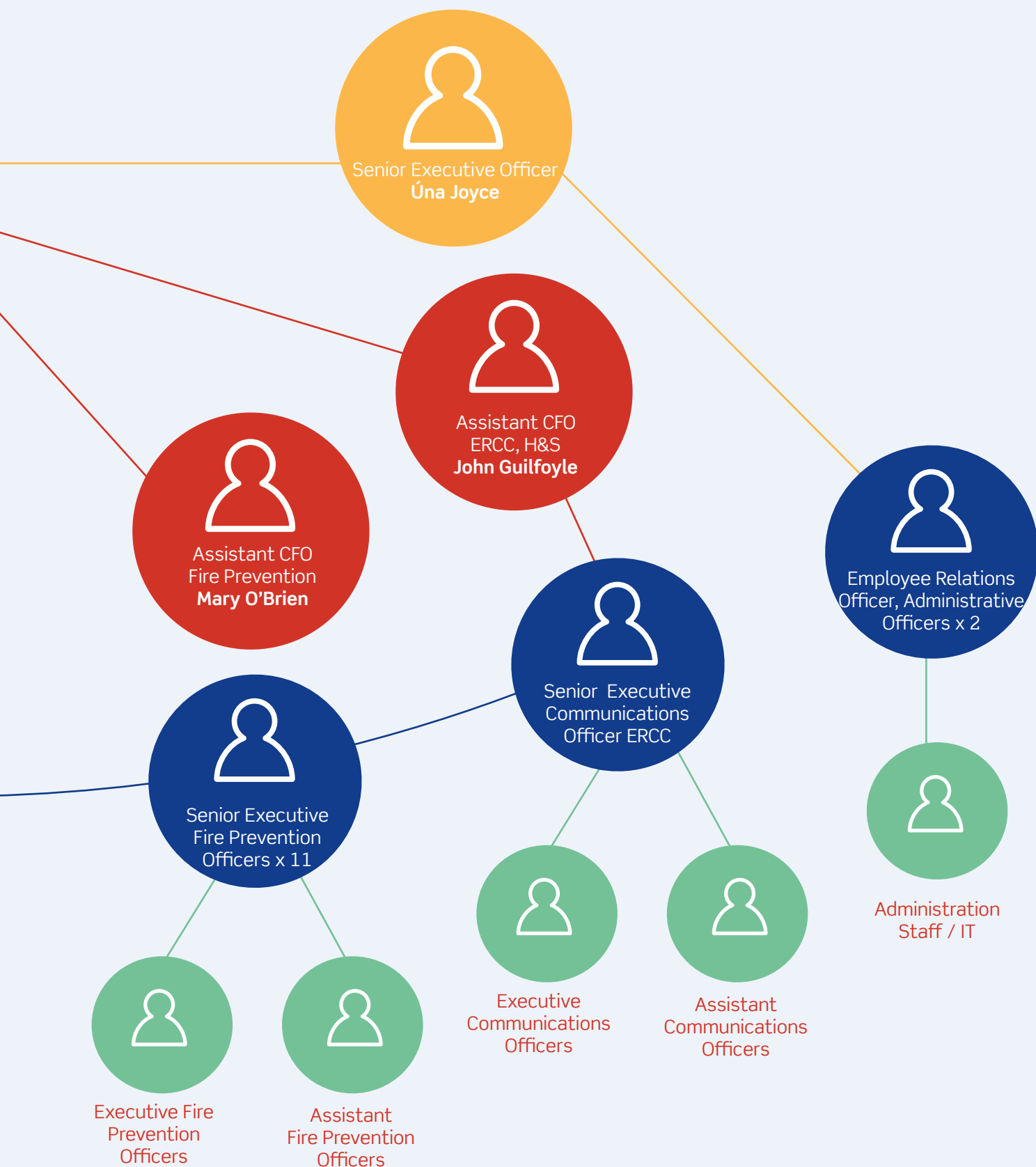
- On-going Inter-Agency Liaison & Training
- 4 Seveso Inter-Agency Exercises Held







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)

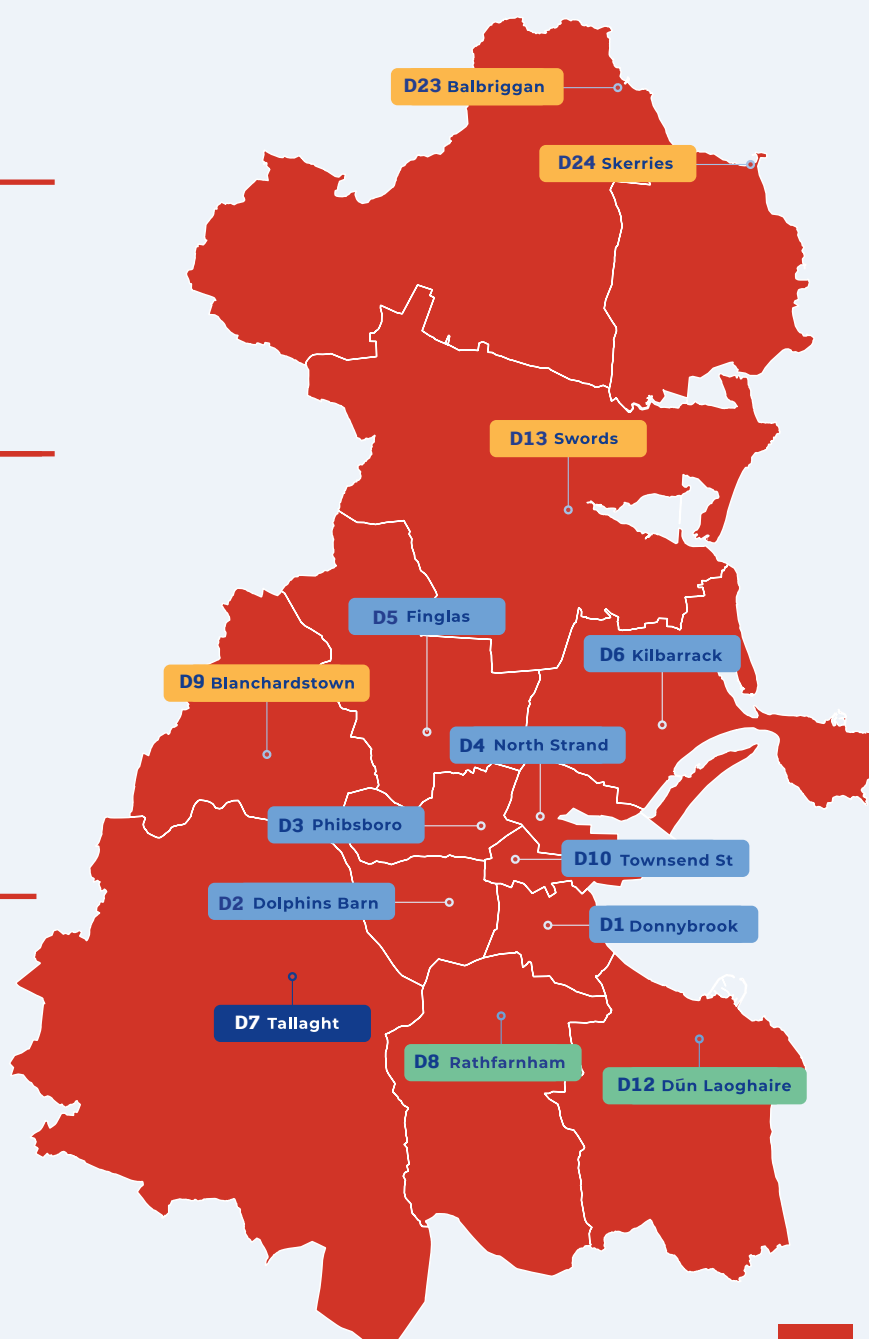
1 x Water Tender (DN24A1)

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT UNIT

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

DCC	DLRCC	FCC	SDCC
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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)



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 2022 Dublin Fire Brigade handled 221,410 emergency 999/112 calls. There were 82,450 mobilisations of emergency medical services across the four Local Authorities and 34,693 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 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 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.

Online training has played an integral part in helping DFB personnel achieve higher education, training, and new skill sets without the constraints of a set location. 2022 was a year in which DFB enhanced online training for all personnel, which enabled personnel to experience realistic

incident scenarios which are essential to ensure DFB personnel are competent and confident in how they approach the wide variety of incidents that they are faced with on a daily basis.

In 2022, DFB also welcomed 107 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 1.35 million and covering an area of 921.7km².

New technology has allowed DFB to introduce battery powered rescue tools in 2022. It has expanded our capability to deliver maximum power even faster, with more flexibility and control during road traffic collisions. In addition to saving time at the scene of a rescue, battery powered tools save time at station level. They're easier to clean, and with no hydraulic hoses to replace or generators to service, they require less maintenance and have zero fuel costs. The new battery powered tools also help crews avoid exposure to toxic exhaust fumes from combustible engines that power hydraulic tools.

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

Prevention

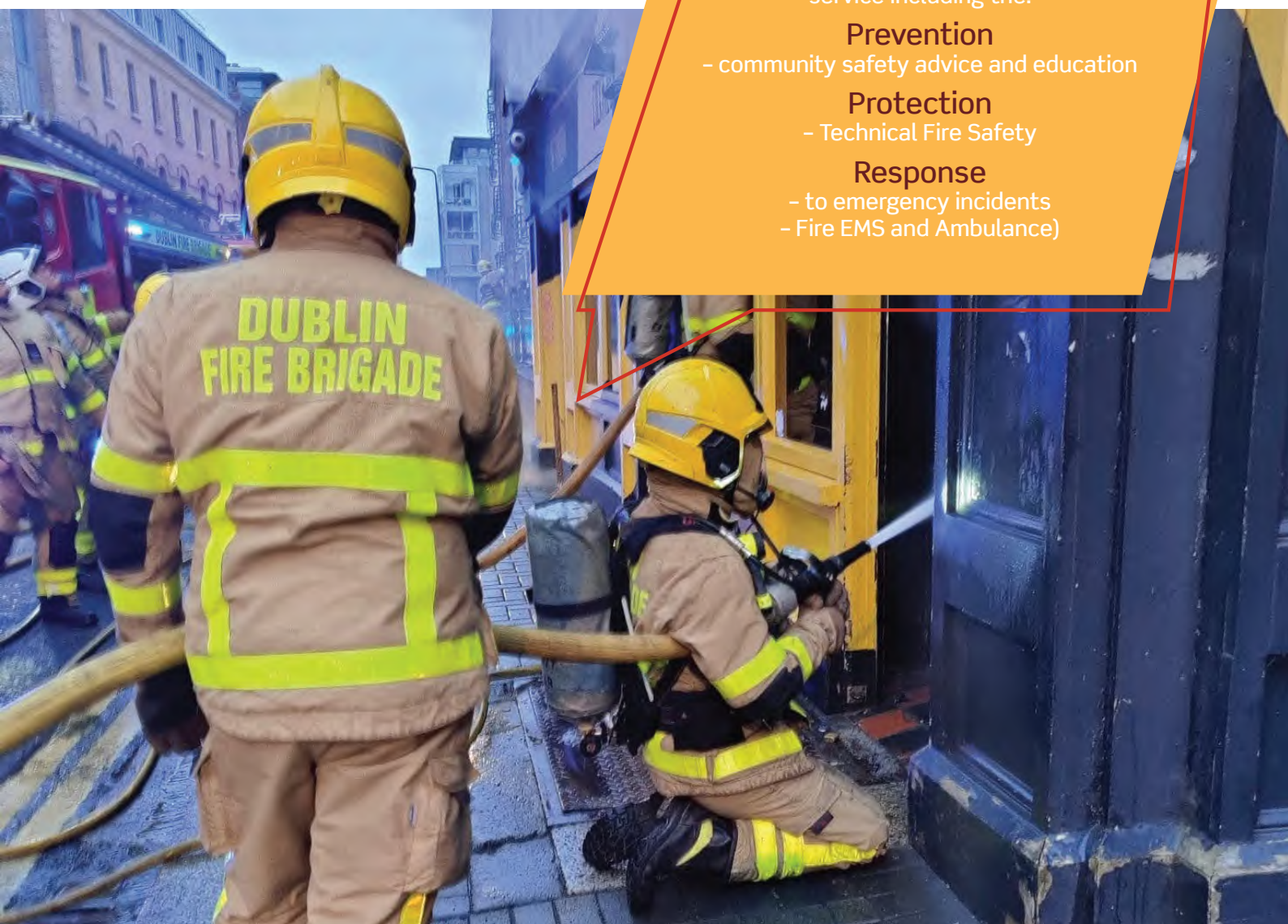
- community safety advice and education

Protection

- Technical Fire Safety

Response

- to emergency incidents
- Fire EMS and Ambulance)

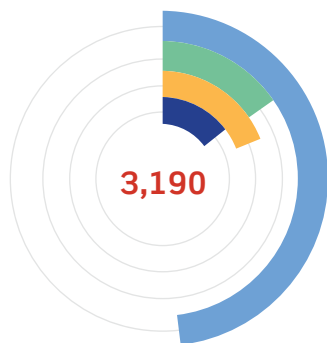


3.1 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY DATA

Incident Class	Dublin City	Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	Fingal	South Dublin County	Grand Total
Fires - Alarms	1546	539	615	490	3190
Fires - Commerical	111	29	56	27	223
Fires - Domestic	516	145	194	200	1055
Fires - Small	1732	441	787	791	3751
Fires - Vegetation	25	54	50	23	152
Fires - Vehicles	288	41	140	234	703
Flooding	61	13	18	16	108
Medical Service Intervention	165	168	45	58	436
Road Traffic Collisions	1041	132	535	522	2230
Special Services	1015	192	267	241	1715
Grand Total	6500	1754	2707	2602	13563
No of appliance mobilisations to support fire service	17041	4558	6894	6200	34693

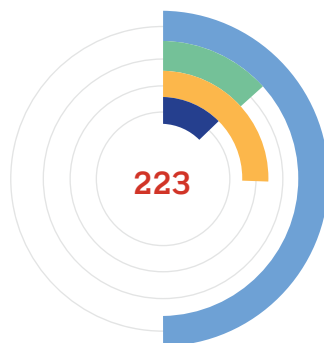


Fires - Alarms



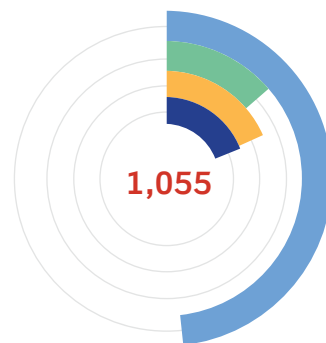
DCC	DLRCC	FCC	SDCC
1546	539	615	490

Fires - Commercial



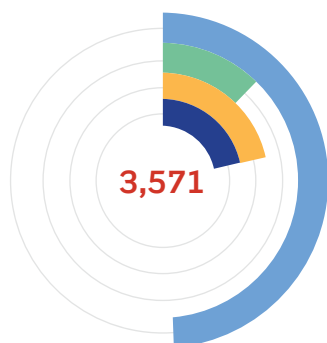
DCC	DLRCC	FCC	SDCC
111	29	56	27

Fires - Domestic



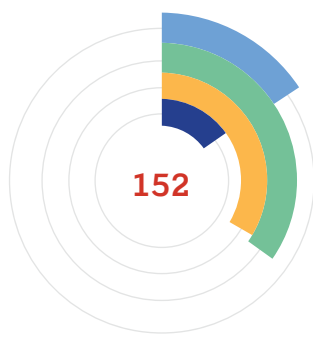
DCC	DLRCC	FCC	SDCC
516	145	194	200

Fires - Small



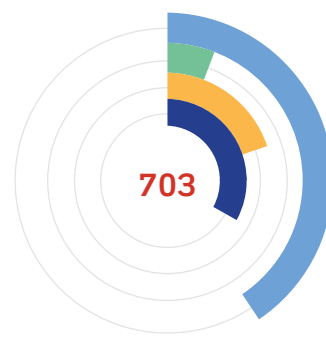
DCC	DLRCC	FCC	SDCC
1732	441	787	791

Fires - Vegetation



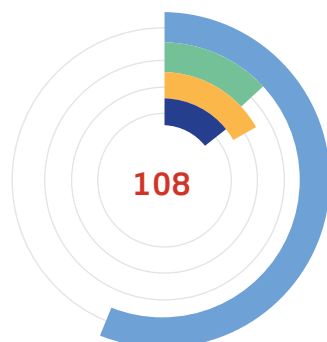
DCC	DLRCC	FCC	SDCC
25	54	50	23

Fires - Vehicles



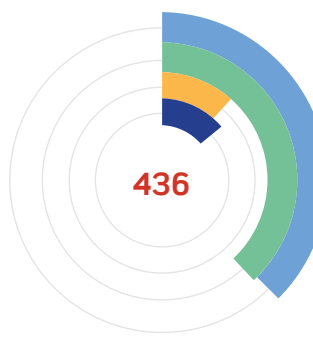
DCC	DLRCC	FCC	SDCC
288	41	140	234

Flooding



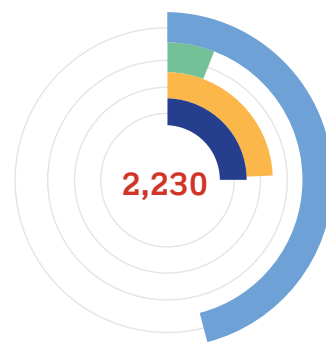
DCC	DLRCC	FCC	SDCC
61	13	18	16

Medical Service



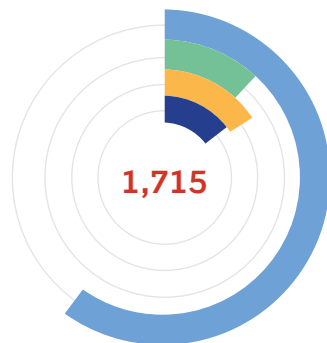
DCC	DLRCC	FCC	SDCC
165	168	45	58

Road Traffic



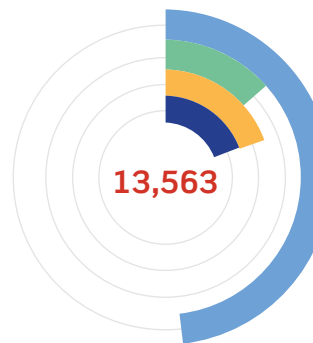
DCC	DLRCC	FCC	SDCC
1041	132	535	522

Special Services



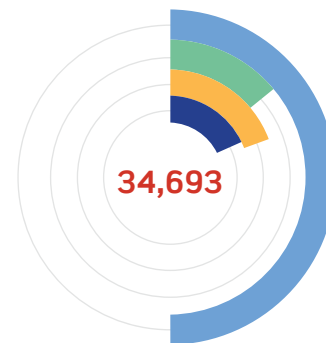
DCC	DLRCC	FCC	SDCC
1015	192	267	241

Total No. Incidents



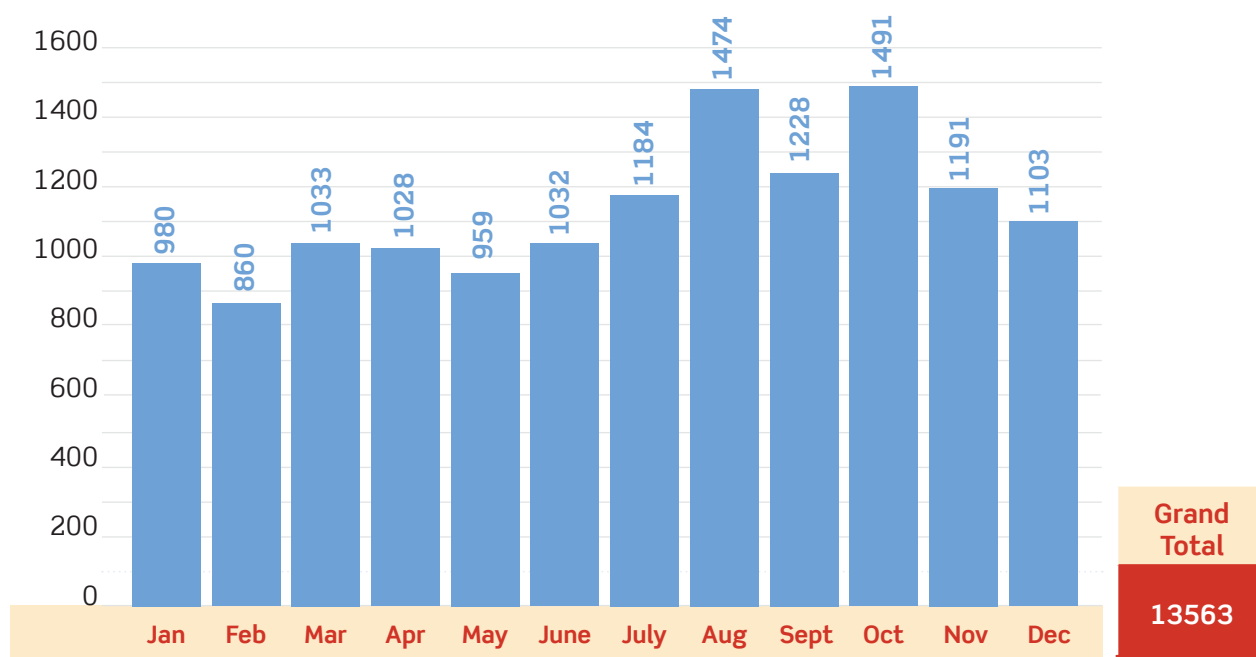
DCC	DLRCC	FCC	SDCC
6500	1754	2707	2602

Total No. Mobilisations



DCC	DLRCC	FCC	SDCC
17041	4558	6894	6200

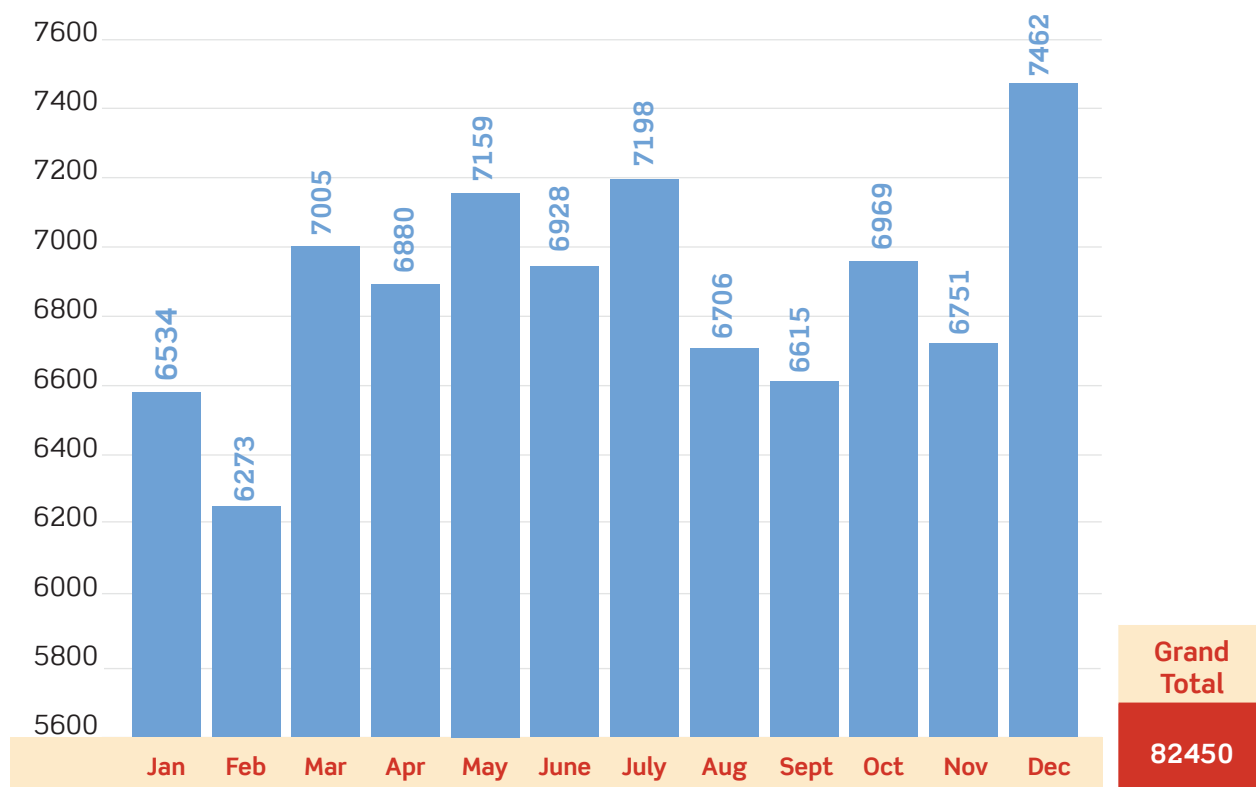
Fire Incidents by Month



ERCC - Received 180,346 emergency calls in 2022.

This is an increase of 15,565 calls on 2021.

Ambulance Incidents by Month



Incident Type Activity Data

Fire Alarms	3190
ProQa 29 (Traffic)	2027
Fire Domestic	590
Fire Aircraft	1
Fire Aircrb	5
Fire Aircrc	10
Fire Bus	6
Fire Car	638
Fire Caravan	23
Fire Chimney	183
Fire Domestic Persons	229
Fire Fire	155
Fire Forest	7
Fire Gorse	57
Fire Grass	88
Fire Hay/Barn	2
Fire High-rise	9
Fire Industrial	118
Fire Institution	83
Fire Luas	3
Fire Motorbike	32
Fire Small	3596
Fire Truck	26
Fire Tunnel	1
Fire Under	21

S/S Ambass	436
S/S Anres	56
S/S Biklck	19
S/S Carbon	128
S/S Chemical	16
S/S Confin	1
S/S Electrical	76
S/S Entrapment	36
S/S Explosion	1
S/S Flooding	45
S/S Gas	28
S/S Garda Assistance	115
S/S High	3
S/S Lockout	311
S/S Lift	3
S/S Lift Persons	178
S/S Luas	5
S/S MER	1
S/S MKSCSF	92
S/S Oil	20
S/S Other	499
S/S River Rescue	69
S/S RTA	203
S/S SGAS	9
S/S STBAIR	5
S/S Trees Down	41
S/S Water	63


**Grand
Total**

13563

3.2 ORGANISATIONAL INTELLIGENCE & PRE-INCIDENT PLANNING

The Fire Authority has a duty, outlined in Section (10) (3) of the Fire Services Act, (ACT No.30, 1981 & 2003) to have regard to the nature of fire hazards and the probable incidence and extent of fires in the functional area. In addition the Chapter 8 recommendation of the Fire Safety in Ireland Task Force Report states that the task of assembling and integrating “operational intelligence” – information which is accumulated on buildings through different fire service processes – is seen as vital for effective pre-incident planning and fire service response in case of fire incidents. To this end Dublin Fire Brigade in 2022 established an Organisational Intelligence Unit (OIU) to pursue an ongoing programme of gathering risk categorisation data for the city and county and continuing premises inspections to gather critical risk information, paying particular attention to those premises which are considered to be major fire risks, in order to support life & property protection and to enhance the effectiveness & safety 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 be developed within the unit. The OIU have secured new GIS, data collection, data analysis and data visualisation software platforms. In the OIU's development phase it has identified several key components by which it will achieve its objectives:



operational intelligence
is seen as vital for
effective pre-incident
planning and fire service
response

Data Communication

The processes by which key operational and tactical information can be pushed into the hands of the incident commander are being 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. Key enabling technologies being assessed are Annotated 3D Reality Models and Incident Ground Management Software.

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
- Predictive Modelling - a collaboration with the Irish Centre for High-End Computing is ongoing, which is looking at predictive modelling of fire events in buildings.

The OIU also supports Senior Management on key strategic decisions and developments with analysis and document preparation.



Pre-Incident Planning and Premises Risk Modelling

Pre-Incident Planning is carried out by Dublin Fire Brigade on premises through a risk categorisation and prioritisation process. Pre-Incident Plans are then prepared in advance of an incident and contain an overview of the facility and tabulated information about the risk, summarising the critical aspects of a building from a fire service response perspective. Pre-Incident Plans are currently available for high risk, complex and risk prioritised premises in the four Local Authorities in the greater Dublin Region.

Forehand knowledge of these potential working environments is essential to enhancing Firefighter safety and firefighting effectiveness, known in the Fire Service as Operational Intelligence. Pre-Incident Planning is one of the processes of gathering, managing and presenting of operational intelligence, or risk-critical information, from relevant sources of knowledge regarding premises that pose a potential hazard, in the event of an emergency.

As part of its normal operations, Dublin Fire Brigade selects premises in the Dublin region for this process, these plans are of use to Fire Officers when responding to a fire or emergency. This includes assessing issues such as access for Emergency Vehicles and Firefighters, building type, life risks,

on-site hazards, locations of hydrants, dry-risers, passive and active fire safety systems, building management systems and other relevant details.

The OIU is undertaking a comprehensive review of the Pre-Incident Planning process, and aims to greatly increase the current library of roughly 1400 premises, and to fully digitise the pre-incident plans so that they can be utilised both for operational and strategic decision-making.

An estimation has been made of around 43,000 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 pre-incident plan, 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 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 (Phibsboro and Blanchardstown Station areas) in the first half of 2023.

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 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.

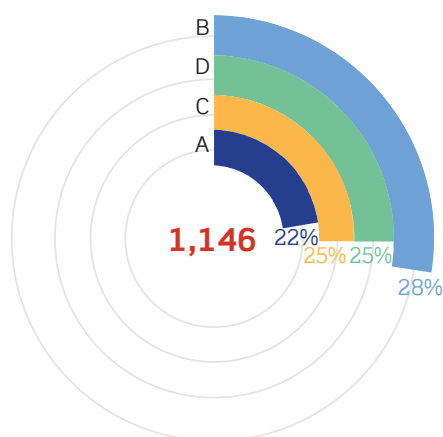
Dublin Fire Brigade’s review procedure requires that OSR forms be submitted once they have been completed to the Health and Safety Unit at DFB Headquarters.

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:

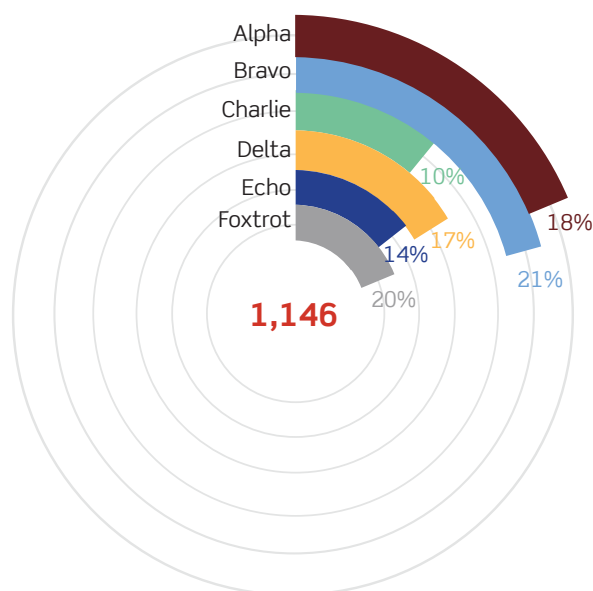
(Highest to Lowest)

B Watch	314
D Watch	290
C Watch	289
A Watch	253
Total:	1146



Count of Incidents by District:

Alpha	209
Bravo	242
Charlie	119
Delta	193
Echo	160
Foxtrot	223
Total:	1146

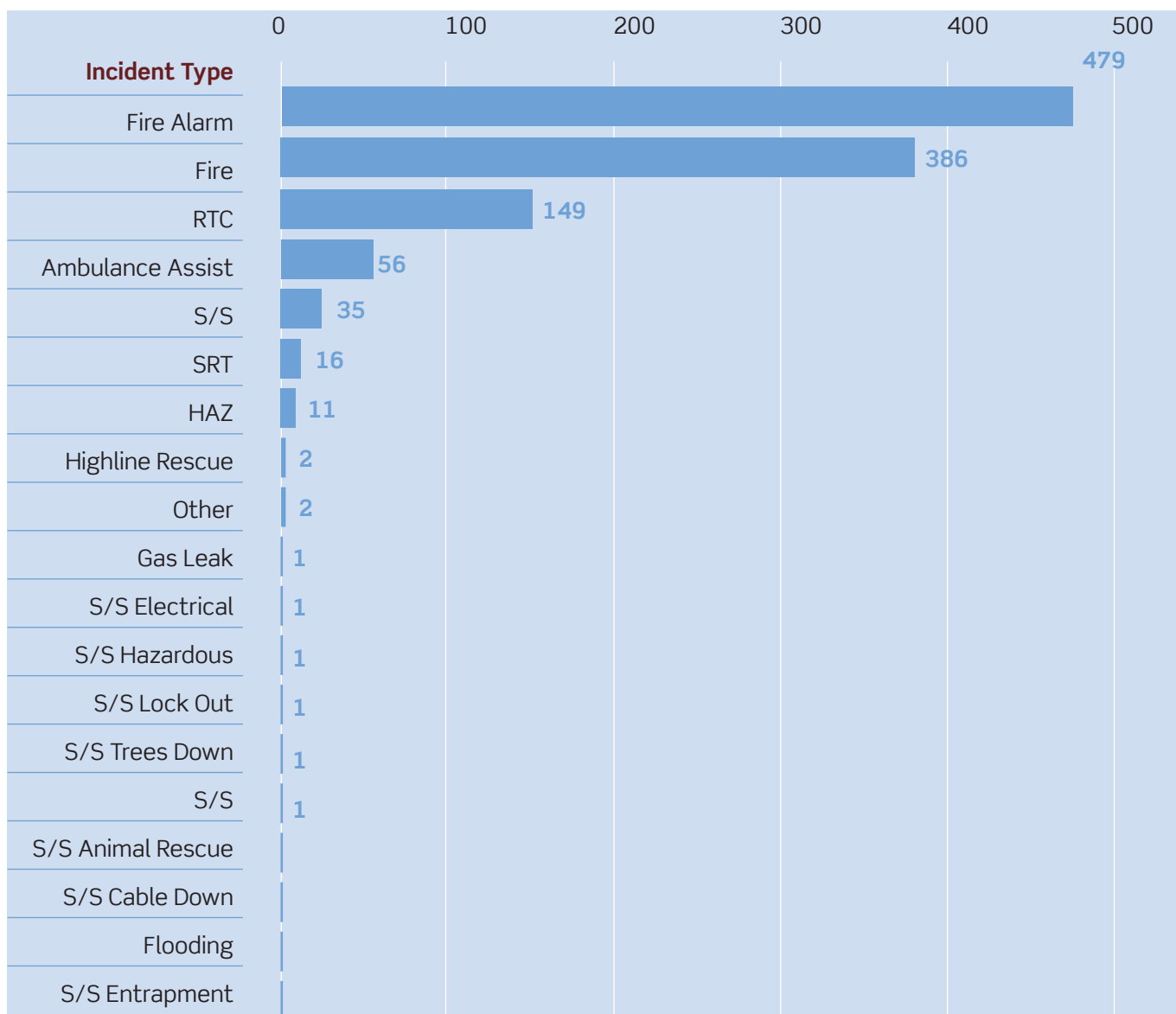


(2021 Total: 1269)

Count of Incidents by Type:

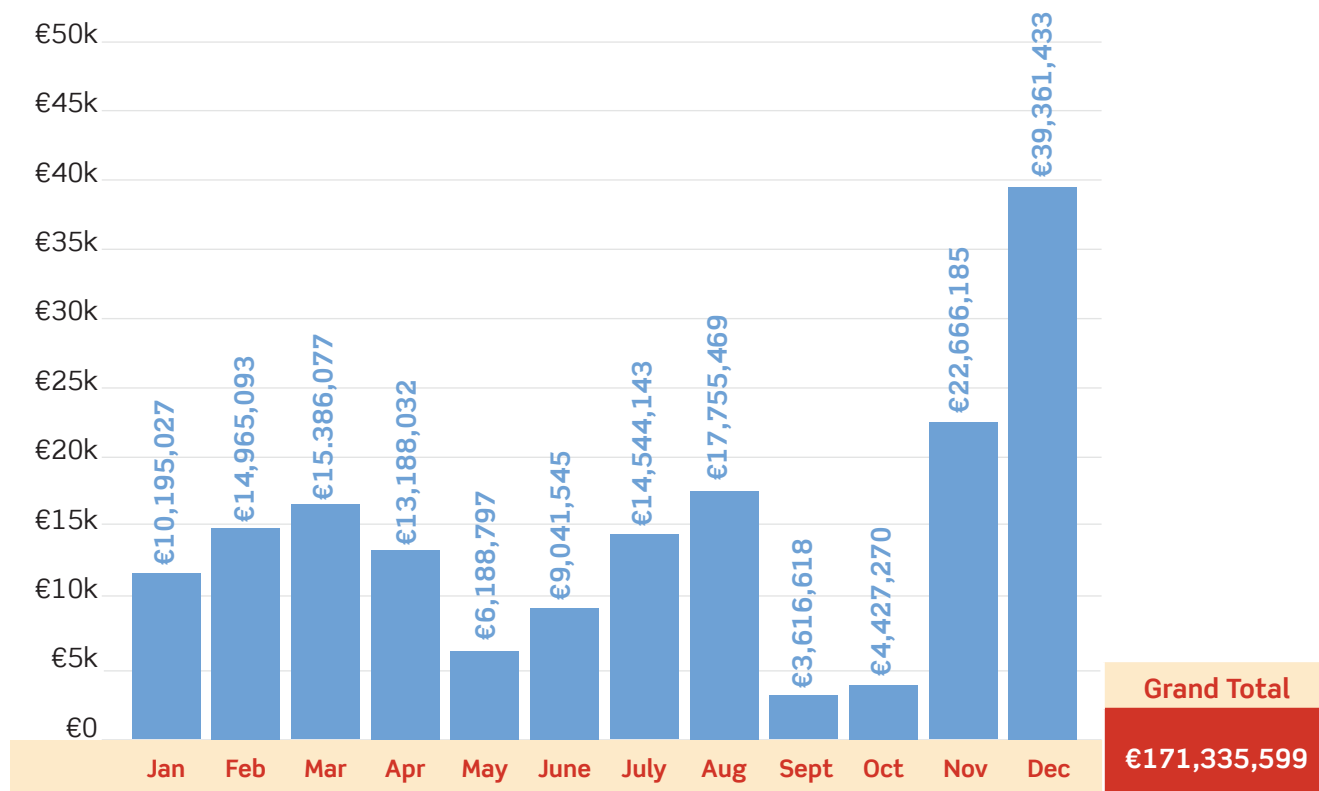
(Highest to Lowest)

Fire Alarm	479	S/S Electrical	1
Fire	386	S/S Hazardous	1
RTC	149	S/S Lock Out	1
Ambulance Assist	56	S/S Trees Down	1
S/S	35	S/S	1
SRT	16	S/S Animal Rescue	1
HAZ	11	S/S Cable Down	1
Highline Rescue	2	Flooding	1
Other	2	S/S Entrapment	1
Gas Leak	1	Total:	1146



DFB Rescue Estimates 2022 – Value of Statistical Life (VSL)

Month	Rescue Estimate
January	€10,195,027.00
February	€14,965,093.00
March	€15,386,077.00
April	€13,188,032.00
May	€6,188,797.00
June	€9,041,545.00
July	€14,544,143.00
August	€17,755,469.00
September	€3,616,618.00
October	€4,427,270.00
November	€22,666,185.00
December	€39,361,433.00
Total 2022	€171,335,599.00



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 HCRW.

These measures included a uniform secure cage system for marshalling HCRW receptacles in each station. A new system for recording HCRW container serial numbers on the station office computer to assist with 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.





New TTL:

Earlier this year, DFB took delivery of a 42-metre hydraulic turntable ladder (TTL). DFB's current TTL's are 30 metre examples. Training was required on the new TTL which continued throughout the year in various different locations throughout the city.

The Scania P500 6x2 crew cab chassis houses a Magirus M42L-As articulated turntable ladder which is the highest ladder in the world. The ladder features a rescue cage with 400kg payload, holding up to four people and/or a stretcher supporting up to 270kg. It also features a water/foam monitor up to 2,500 litres per minute that is electronically adjustable at the front of the cage.



Foam Procedures 2022:

In 2022 Dublin Fire Brigade designed a policy to provide a framework for the storage, use and disposal of foam and any associated support mechanisms.

In the past 5 years, Dublin Fire Brigade has been working towards replacing all foam stocks to PFAS free foam. This transition to fluorine free foams included modifications to equipment, storage considerations and training of staff. Dublin Fire Brigade recognises that all operational foam will have a varying contaminating effect on the environment and as such will seek to draw a balance between impact and benefit. In all instances, Dublin Fire Brigade will seek to minimise the effect to the environment.

3.4 STAKEHOLDER LIAISON & INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION 2022

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 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 99 at Advanced Paramedic level. All retained firefighters are trained to Emergency First Responder level. Tangible clinical outcomes in 2022 illustrating the Fire Based Emergency Medical Service include:

81,984 emergency medical incidents responded to



52,165 patients treated and transported to hospital

4,387 critical medical incidents managed



453 cardiac arrests managed

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

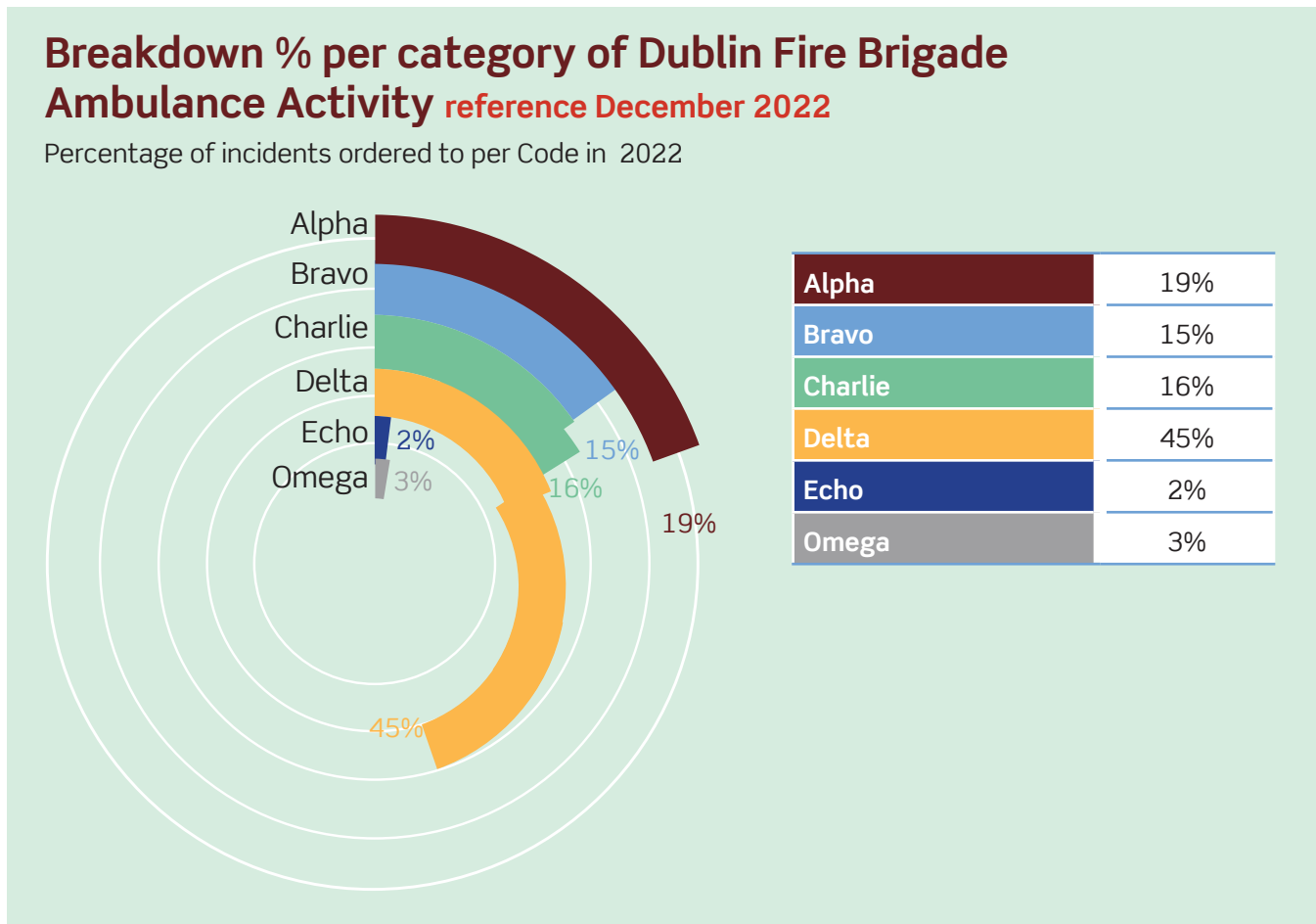


483 FAST Positive Stroke patients transported to a facility that performs stroke thrombolysis



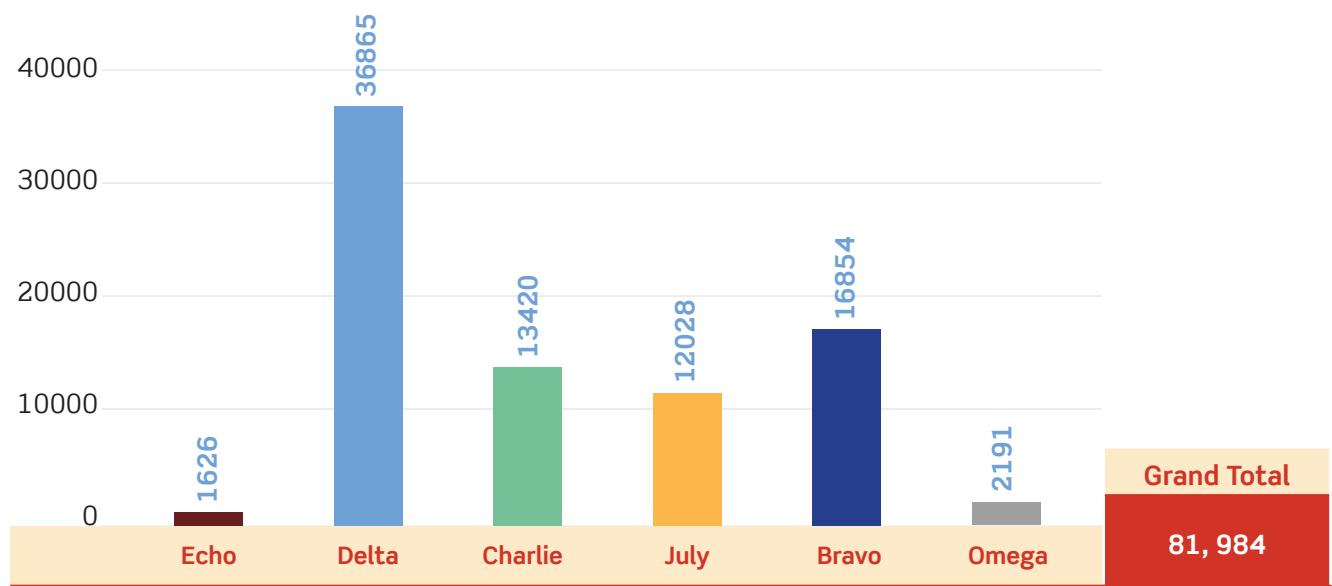
ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) - Acute Heart Attack

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 2022 DFB Paramedics had almost 238 direct consultations with cardiologists in relation to STEMI patients.



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 2022



The table above depicts a breakdown of DFB Activity for 2022 for Emergency Ambulance (DA) Incidents attended. While the figures show DFB ordered to 81,984 Emergency Ambulance (DA) unique incidents, that equates to 104,210 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 (45%), 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. 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 2017 Sláintecare Report.

The largest percentage of calls are **Delta (45%)**, which are serious life-threatening calls.

Alternative Care Pathway - Pathfinder

Dublin Fire Brigade continues to be involved with the Pathfinder, a Sláintecare funded initiative. Pathfinder is a collaborative project with colleagues in the National Ambulance Service and Beaumont Hospital 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, liaison with GP & Primary Care Team, Referral to Geriatrician Day Hospital and specialist outpatient clinics for suitable patients.



COVID – 19

2022 was the third 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 2022 we received the highest level of calls ever experienced 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 manage the handover of patients arriving by ambulance. Increased demand and offload delays at emergency departments can impact 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.

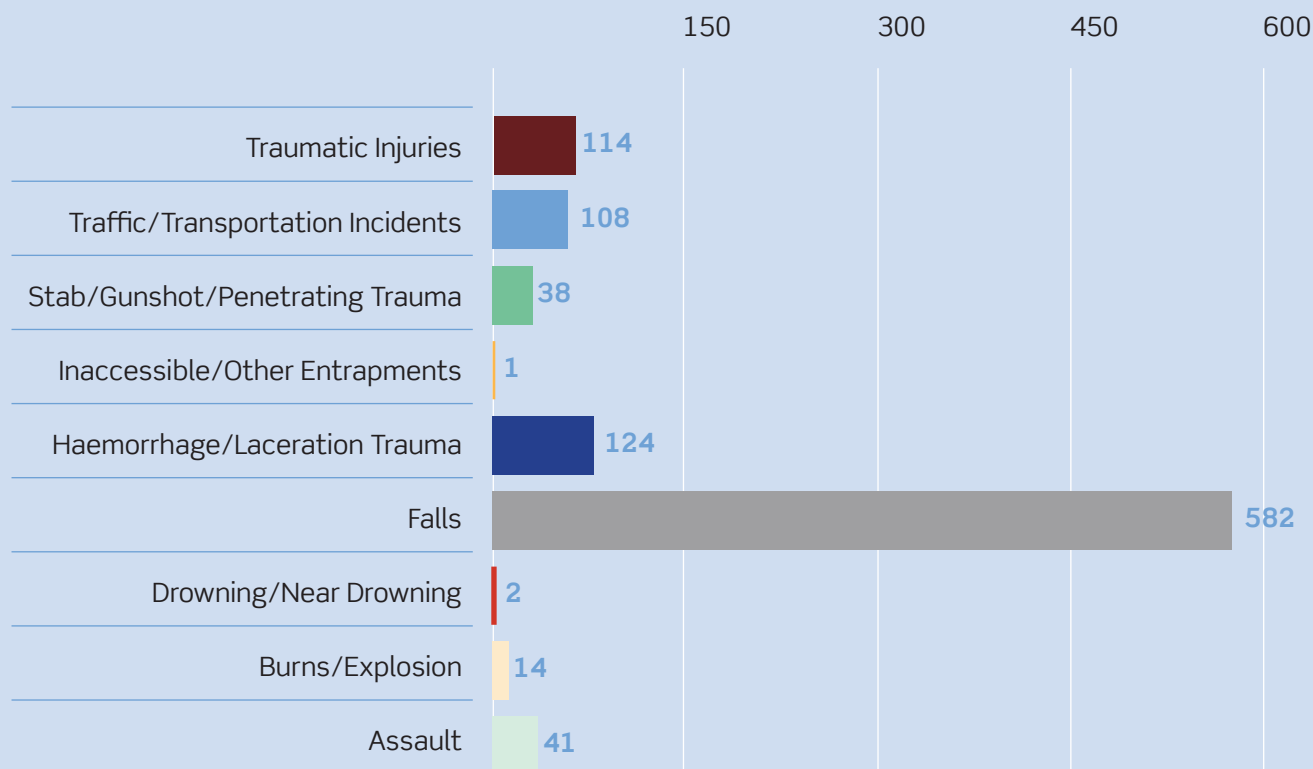
It will be some time before the infrastructure and guidelines are in place to enable DFB's practitioners bypass catchment area hospitals to bring trauma patients to the nearest Trauma Unit or Major Trauma Centre. DFB look forward to working with our colleagues in the National Ambulance Service, the Pre-Hospital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

Hospital on Standby 2022 – 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 data relates to pre-alert messages for 112/999 calls which were originally coded under the chief complaints during 2022. 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.

Hospital on Standby 2022 – Trauma - Chief Complaint



Dublin Fire Brigade EMS Interventions

Each year DFB personnel, through their Fire/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.

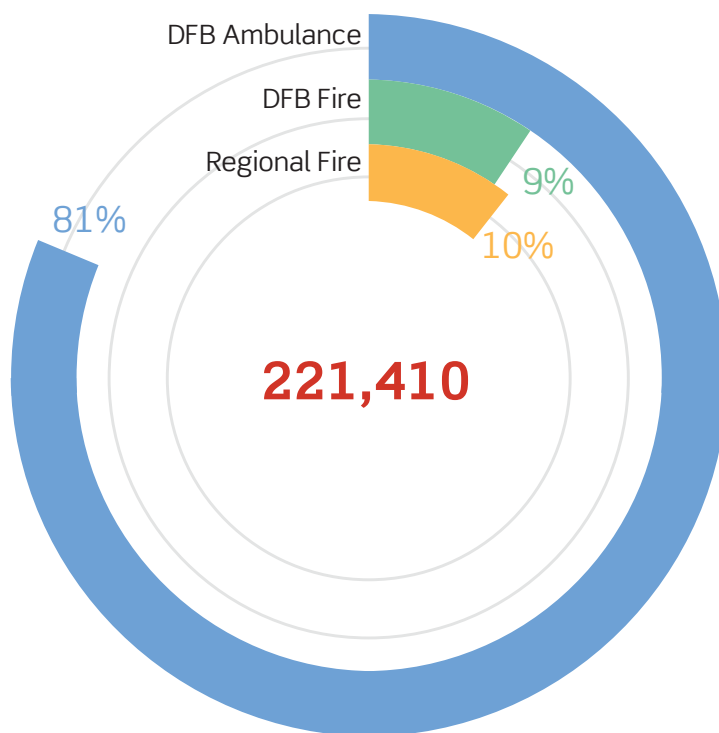
4 EAST REGION COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

The East Region Communications Centre (ERCC) which is operated by Dublin Fire Brigade processes emergency service calls for Dublin and 13 other fire authorities in the East Region which comprises of all counties in Leinster plus Cavan & Monaghan. As DFB, operate an emergency ambulance service, the ERCC also processes emergency ambulance calls for the Dublin area.

The primary role of the ERCC is to ensure that all emergency fire and ambulance calls are processed in a timely manner while ensuring that all the relevant details are ascertained from the caller and to mobilise the appropriate fire service resource and/or other relevant agency such as AGS or the HSE as appropriate. In 2022, the ERCC received 221,410 emergency calls which breakdown as follows

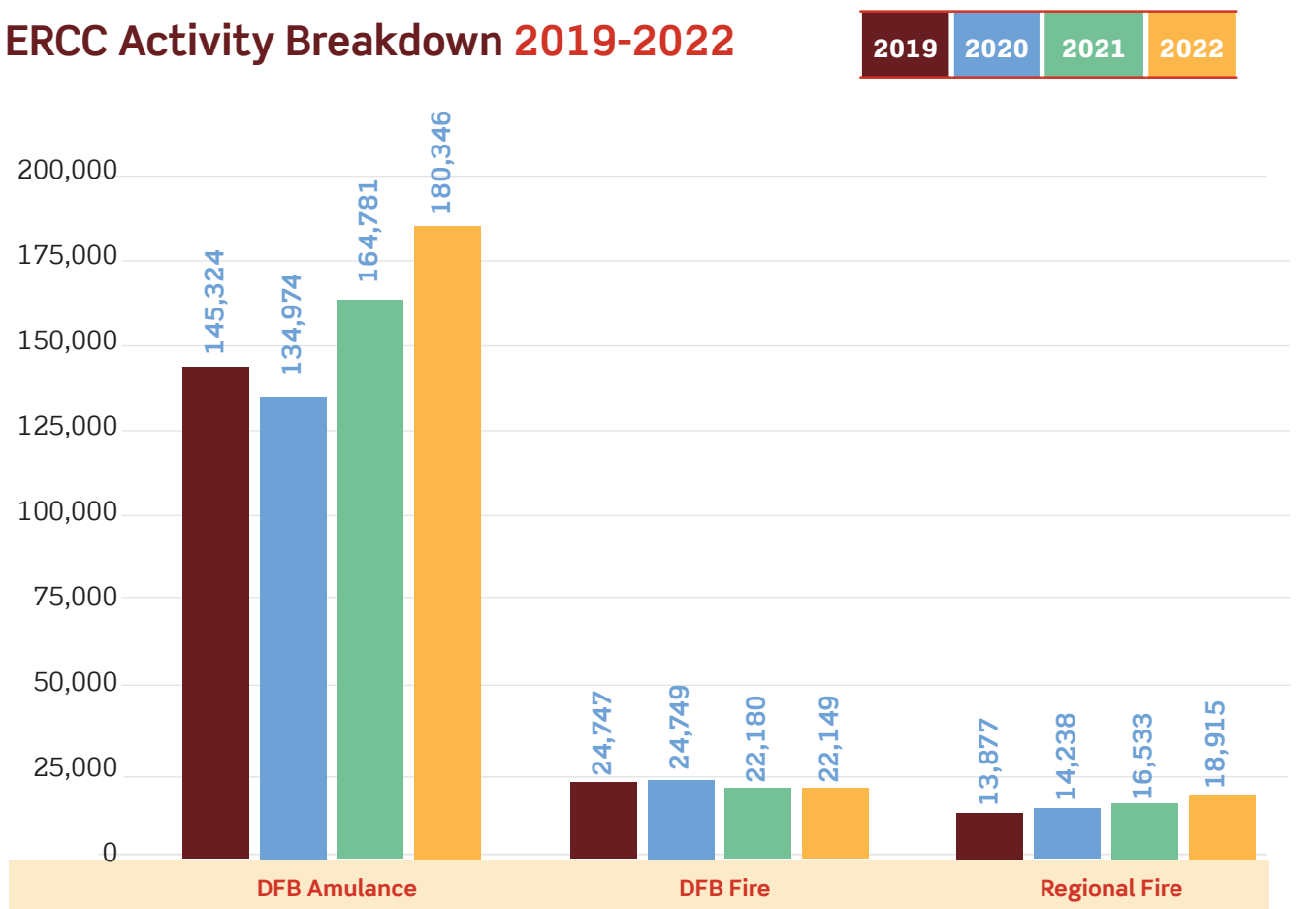
Category	2019	2020	2021	2022
DFB Ambulance	145,324	134,974	164,781	180,346
DFB Fire	24,747	24,749	22,180	22,149
Regional Fire (Leinster, Cavan & Monaghan)	13,877	14,238	16,533	18,915
Total ERCC	183,948	173,961	203,494	221,410

ERCC Breakdown of 112/999 calls 2022





ERCC Activity Breakdown 2019-2022





The December average of ambulance calls was **618 per day - 25% greater than the 2022 annual daily average**



January 2022 saw the last of the COVID-19 restrictions being eased with society returning to normal resulting in more normal patterns of emergency calls being received. The entertainment, hospitality & tourism industries which were severally impacted both in 2020 and 2021 returned to unrestricted opening coupled with near normal amounts of visitors and tourists since the onset of the pandemic all of which contributed to the overall increases in emergency call volumes.

The demand for ambulances has seen a record high number of emergency ambulance calls routed to the ERCC in 2022 with 180,346 calls routed to the centre representing an increase of 9.4% compared to 2021.

Like most countries in Europe, Ireland experienced a record flu season in December 2022 with a large number of respiratory viruses circulating within the general public. The December average of ambulance calls was 618 per day which is 25% greater than the 2022 annual daily average of ambulance calls at 493 calls. The volume of ambulance calls peaked on the 19th of December with 806 calls being processed.

The ERCC process fire service calls both for DFB and 13 fire authorities in Leinster, Cavan & Monaghan (known as the east region) and covers a population of 2,998,000 which represents 58% of the population of the state. In 2022, the ERCC processed 41,064 112/999 emergency fire calls for the east region which equates to a daily average of 114 calls per day being processed.

27% of fire service calls received were classed as primary incidents which are fires or reported incidents which might require the rescue of persons or are potentially life threatening incidents.

13% of fire calls received were classed as secondary incidents which include non-car vehicle fires, traffic accidents, hazardous materials and rail & air transport incidents

59% of fire calls to which a fire appliance is mobilised were classed as Tertiary Fire Incidents and is typically a small fire and doesn't pose an immediate risk to life. Incidents typically include rubbish fires, skip fires and

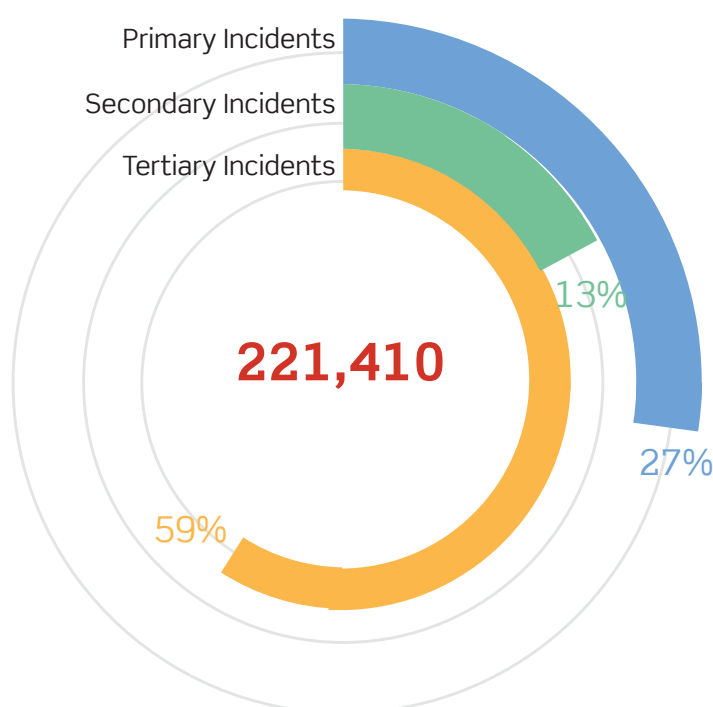
bonfires. Calls reporting tertiary fires are the most common type of fire call received in the ERCC.

During the year, visible fire incidents can generate a lot of calls to the ERCC. A single car on fire on St. Patricks Day on the M50 generated over 30 calls over a 15 minute period with all the callers reporting the exact same incident.

In May an industrial fire in Co. Meath received 22 calls by members of the public reporting a large plume of smoke in the centre of a town. ERCC operators are required to triage all calls to ensure that there is only a single incident and eliminate the possibility that a duplicate incident is also taking place nearby.

Halloween is the busiest time of year for the ERCC. 597 calls were received on Halloween night making it the busiest period in the ERCC for 2022. This also included the busiest hour of the year between 19 hrs and 20 hrs with 118 calls received during this hour period.

Fire Calls Received - Incident Type



Weather

Adverse weather has the greatest capacity to impact the number of calls received in the ERCC. Weather events such as flooding or wind events can lead to spate conditions where a large number of calls are presented to control which requires an operational response to ensure that priority is given to calls depending on the criticality of the reported incident.

Unlike other years, 2022 saw very little impact from winter storms and this resulted in the ERCC not having a spate weather event generating excess 999/112 calls.

Met Eireann reported 2022 as the warmest on record with and was dominated by periods of high pressure in July and August resulting in above average sunshine, high temperatures and lower than average rainfall. Dublin's all time temperature record was recorded at 33C on the 18th of July.

July and August saw an increase level of emergency fire calls taking the daily average of fire calls to 156 calls per day above the 2022 annual average of 114 calls per day.

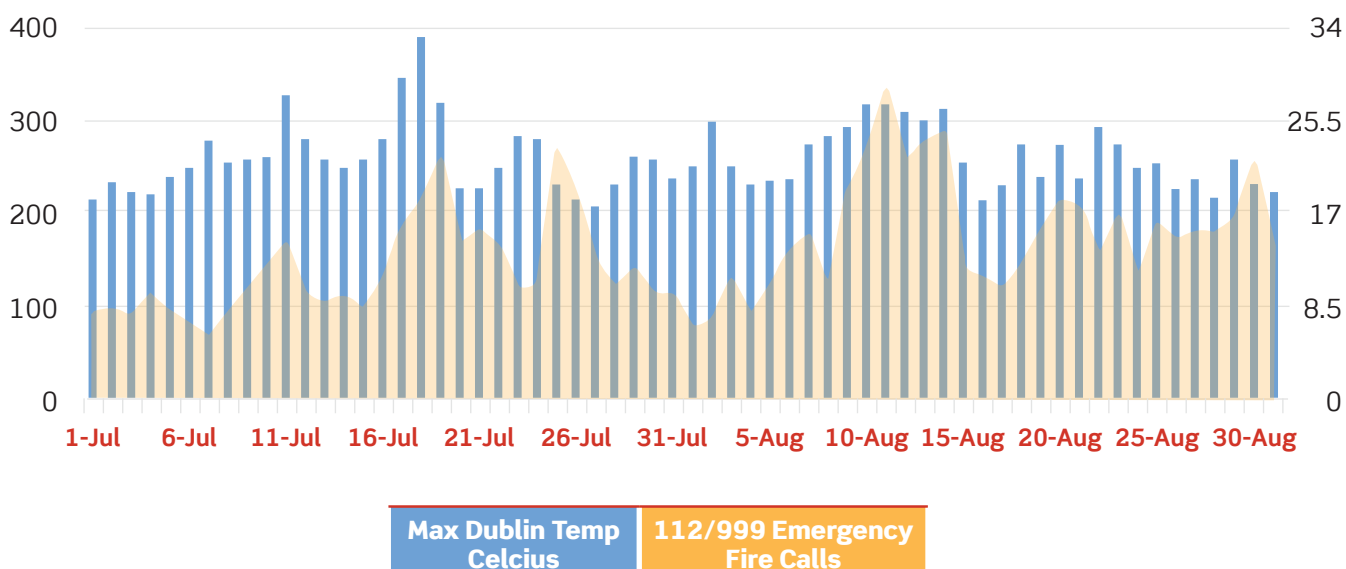
High temperatures recorded between the 8th and 14th of August coupled with near drought conditions saw elevated numbers of wildfires being reported with 331 fire calls being received on the 11th of August making it the second busiest day after Halloween for the receipt of emergency fire calls.

Urban wildfires can result in a considerable number of calls from the public. On the 25th of July, 40+ calls were received reporting a wildfire in the vicinity of Killiney Co Dublin over a 3 hour period. What is noticeable is that higher temperatures lead to an increase of the number of reported fires both in upland areas and urban areas especially if the temperature exceeds 25c.

ERCC Fire Daily 112/999 volume of calls typically increases during times when temperatures exceed 25c.

Source: Maximum Daily Temperatures Recorded in Phoenix Park by Met Eireann. Number of 112/999 calls sourced from BT ECAs

Volume of Daily Fire 112/999 calls matched against Maximum Temperature Values Dublin July 2022





Medical Priority Dispatch System

The staff whom operate the control centre, do so on a 24 hour basis continuously and deal with a myriad of different calls from a diverse background or people and often under challenging conditions. Tools which assist staff with this process include Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) which works on an international agreed protocol of medically appropriate questions to ascertain the critically of the patient and to categorise the call based on medical acuity to allow for resources being tasked based on medical priority. The ERCC is accredited as a Centre of Excellence by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED) and medical calls are continuously internally audited and externally validated to ensure the ERCC are compliant with the MPDS system.



ERCC projects

The ERCC is currently planning for the migration to a new national Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system known as C Trí and will increase its capacity to process fire calls and allow for greater mutual resilience. In addition, the ERCC is currently in Phase 1 of developing a new control area in order to facilitate the rollout of the C Trí new platform plus a new C Trí training facility in the DFB Training Centre.



5 FIRE PREVENTION & COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY

The Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003 (FSA), the Building Control Act 1990 and the Dangerous Substances Act 1972 collectively are the basis of work of the Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety Section. Dublin Fire Brigade provide this service for the four Dublin Local Authorities.

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 www.localgov.ie/en/bcms

You can also visit the NBCO YouTube Channel to see how it works.

DFB Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety Section continue to work closely with the NBCO to ensure an effective implementation and operation of BCMS in the Dublin Region

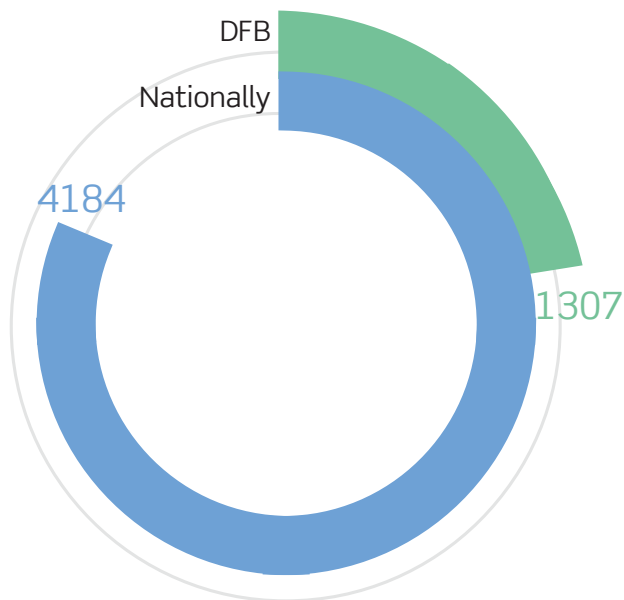
5.1 FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATE APPLICATIONS

In 2022 working with our colleagues in the four Dublin Building Control Authorities, 1,326 Fire Safety Certificate Applications were processed, including a number of major developments across the Dublin region.

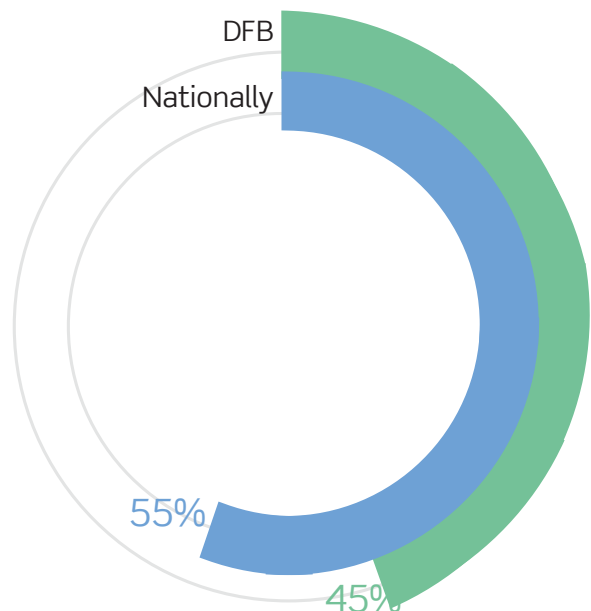
Statistics

- FSC Applications Received: 1,326 (96% on BCMS)
- Decisions Made: 1,244 this is 45% of the national total on the BCMS

FSC's Received by DFB as % of National FSC's submitted on the BCMS

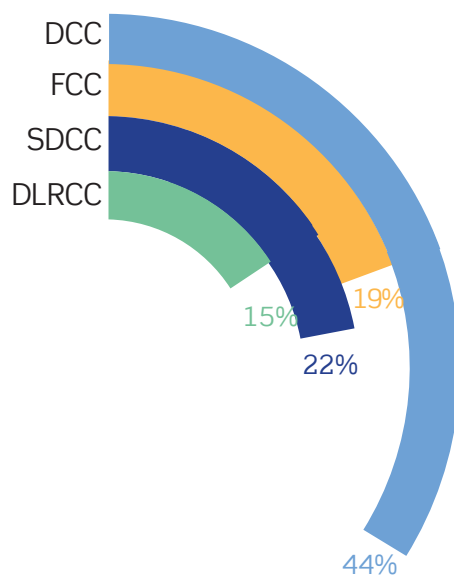


FSC's Received by DFB as % of National total on BCMS

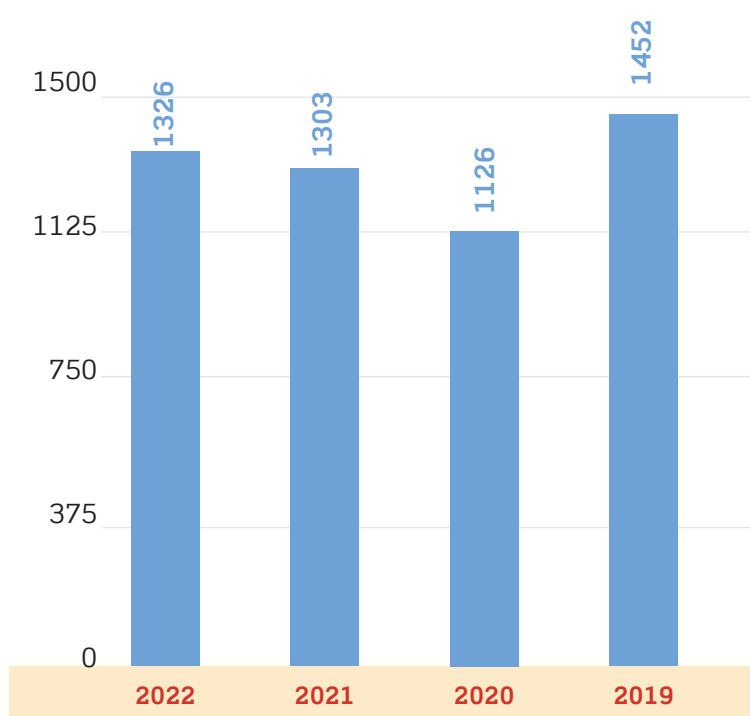


YEAR	FSC's Received	Invalid	GRANTED	REFUSED
2017	1,423	32	1,187	28
2018	1,363	17	1,187	29
2019	1,438	10	1,256	18
2020	1,136	15	1,228	18
2021	1,303	8	1,223	19
2022	1,326	14	1,244	12

2022 Applications Received - 4 LA's



Total Fire Cert Applications Received



5.2 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 2022 hundreds of contacts raising concern about fire safety in buildings were received. Every case is processed and we advise and engage with people to ensure and 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.

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 2022 DFB issued 9 Fire Safety Notices on different types of buildings relating to different fire safety deficiencies.

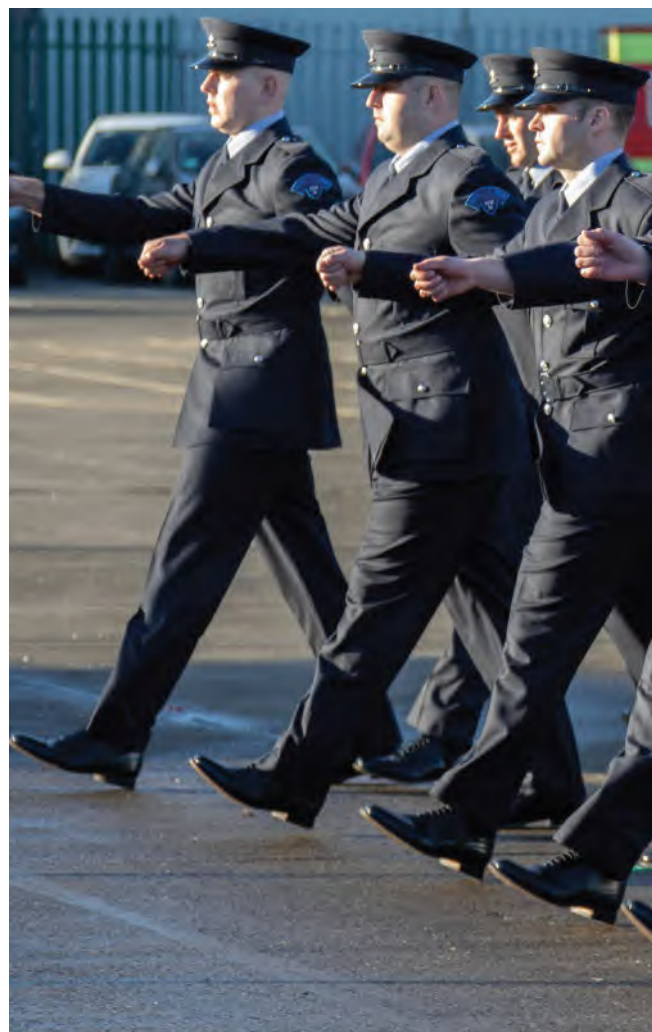
It is worth remembering that during the pandemic, every inspection was risk assessed to ensure compliance with COVID-19 guidelines and to keep our Fire Prevention Officers safe.

Appropriate enforcement action was taken that was necessary to ensure compliance and protect the public whilst conscious of the effect of the pandemic on people and business. Business and developments were supported with our main objective being to promote and advise on safety from fire.

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.

Communication is key in the area of enforcement, and consequently we consulted and liaised with the stakeholders involved in the different enforcement cases.

Communication is
key in the area of
enforcement



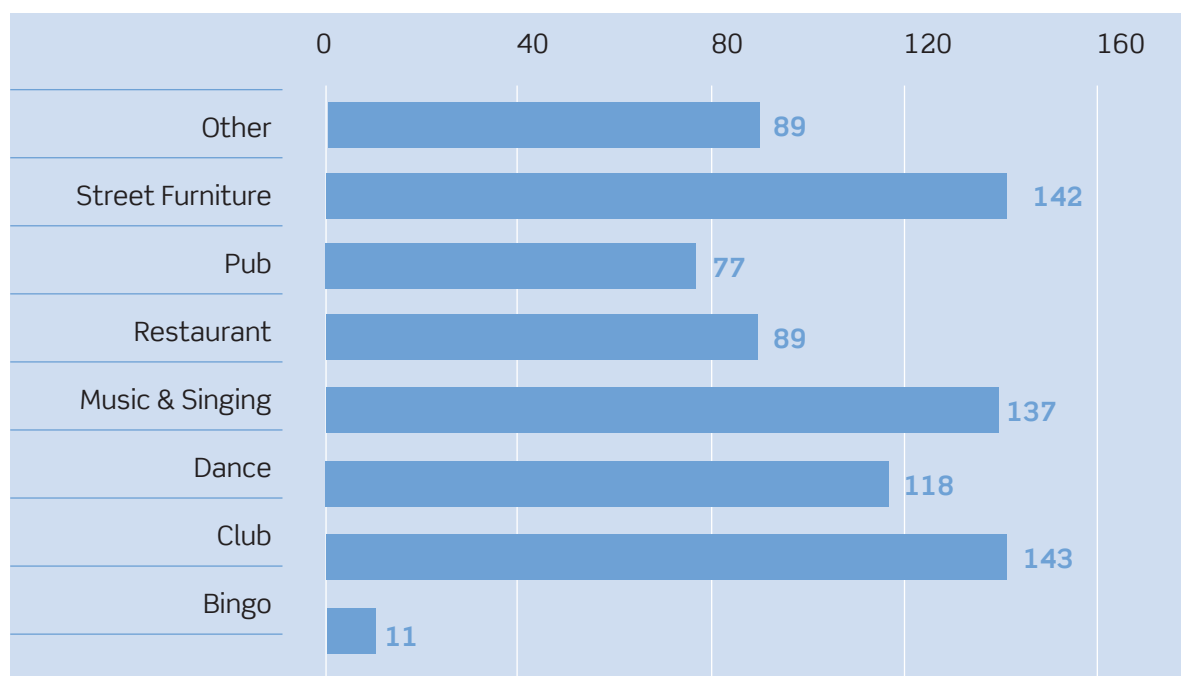


5.3 LICENCING & STREET FURNITURE

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.

Most places of public assembly were predominately closed or partially open in the response to the pandemic, this directed our inspection programme and our advice delivery in 2021 and this continued into 2022. We inspected places of public assembly and licenced premises to support the opening up of locations and operating in the post pandemic environment.

Licences Received in DFB 2022 (CSOL data not included)



Street Furniture Licencing

As we have returned to a hybrid-working environment, businesses in our capital city have sought to continue to use the successful outdoor dining model, which was developed to support businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The ongoing co-ordinated response in this area is supported by the four Dublin Local Authorities. Dublin Fire Brigade are proud to participate in this response and over the past year a team within the Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety Section represented Dublin Fire Brigade at

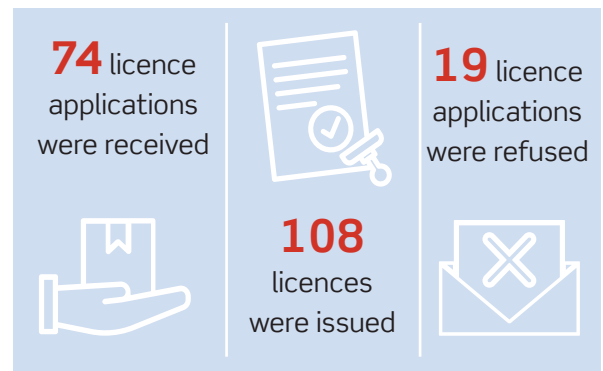
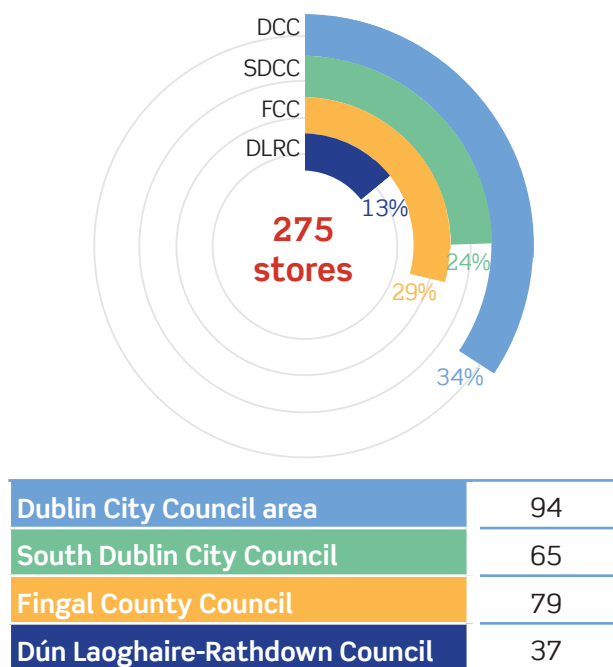
City Recovery meetings in order to explore additional ways to support businesses in the current climate, in addition to commenting on over 150 Street Furniture Applications, in respect of Fire Safety throughout Dublin City and County.

This work will continue in 2023 in order to support the businesses in Dublin in what is still a challenging environment, as we learn to live with COVID-19.

5.4 DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

The Dangerous Substances Act 1972 places statutory obligations on persons in control of the storage of fuel for sale and commercial supply at flammable fuel stores to apply for a licence to operate these facilities.

Dublin Fire Brigade Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety Section currently receive and process licence applications for the storage of fuel for sale and commercial supply at 275 flammable fuel stores in the Dublin City and County area. These licences are normally valid for three years.



2022 marked the second 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.

Petroleum Vapour Emissions Regulations

Dublin Fire Brigade also issue Certificates of Installation and Testing on behalf of the 4 Dublin Local Authorities in relation 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 regards 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.

101 certificates were issued in 2022:

- 28 for service stations located in the Dublin City Council area
- 31 for service stations located in the South Dublin County Council area
- 23 for service stations located in the Fingal County Council area
- 19 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 184 dangerous substances inspections (petroleum and explosives) in 2022.

We liaise with the Health and Safety Authority in relation to SEVESO industrial sites and Petroleum Licence applications for petrol stations and bulk petroleum storage.

5.5 COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY 2022

Community Fire Safety is at the heart of all that DFB Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety do and we use many opportunities 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 2022 we 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.

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, and also responded to information received in the aftermath of fires, as appropriate, to promote safety.

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

DFB's message is always to have a working smoke alarm and to test it regularly every week #TestItTuesday.

In 2022 in conjunction with the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management, we received smoke alarms. With the help of our partnerships in communities throughout Dublin 1,406 of these smoke alarms were delivered to community groups and people in need of an alarm.

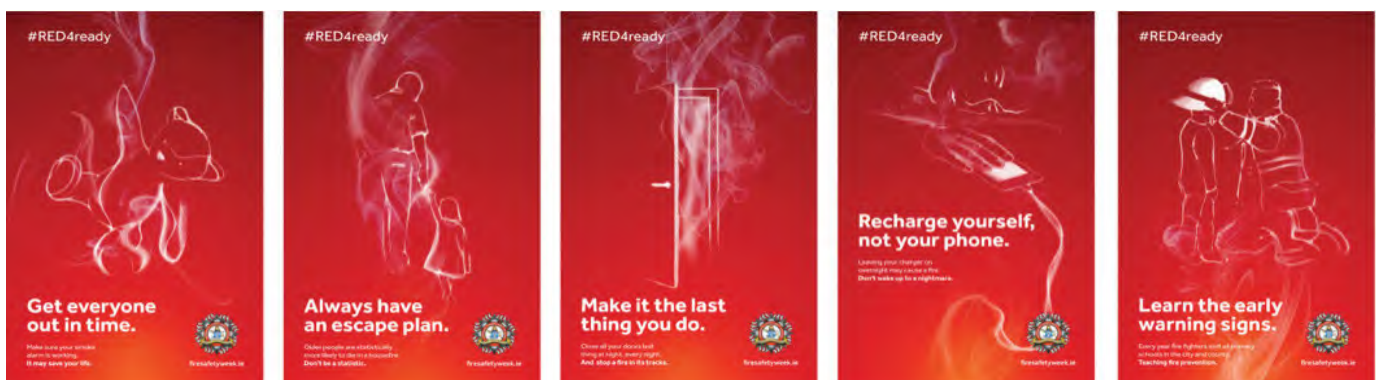
National Fire Safety Week 2022 – Awareness Campaign

In 2022, we stepped up our awareness campaign across the Dublin Region in support of the National Campaign by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management. 6 advertisements were created that captured the main messages we wanted to promote.

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.



Social Media mentions 2022



Car fire Video	35,181	-
Kitchen Fires	459,908	44,695
Candles	645,262	247,259
Fire doors wedged open	1,785,103	514,850
Gas Safety	387,153	2,584
BBQ safety (*Plus a page created on the website)	206,790	57,157
E scooter (See image right) (*Plus a page created on the website)	125,353	108,994
Tallaght Station sign	6,308	6,628
Dublin Port sign	10,837	-
Safe at Samhain	612,448	25,841
Coder Dojo	12,817	3,014
Test it Tuesday	444,583	95,351
** Overall stats for year.	183,948	173,961





Events

DFB Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety Section are also involved in the licencing of Outdoor Public Events, where more than 5,000 will be in attendance, and work closely with the Planning Department of DCC 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 2022, 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.

Additionally advice is provided to unlicensed events in the four Local Authorities. In DCC, there were 479 Events in their parks of which approximately 200 required advice from DFB. Approximately 308 small community events occurred where a further advice was provided.

	Licenced Events > 5000 persons	Un-Licenced Events < 5000 persons
DCC	83	52
FCC	10	22
SDCC	-	-
DLRCC	9	4
Total Events	102	78

MAJOR PROJECTS

Special 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; Post Fire Review Process; working with DRHE on homeless accommodation in response to the housing crisis and response to the Ukraine crisis.

Ukraine Crisis Response

Local Authorities have been tasked in helping to provide assistance to the Government in response to the 2022 war in Ukraine and the subsequent welcoming of people fleeing from danger internationally.

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 2022 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 2022 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
- Community Groups and committees
- Business and organisations



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



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.

The Incident Command Virtual Reality Training Suite (XVR) was again 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 Station Officers & Sub Officers 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 operating the Gartan system for the Training Centre.

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

- LearnPro 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 30 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.

In 2022 - DFB Training Centre utilised 8,569 training days (excluding Recruits) for DFB personnel.

New Entrant Recruit Programme - 107 candidates completed the 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 Cork City Fire Brigade.

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.

Types of Training conducted over 2022

- 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 each Thursday or by request. It is 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.

7 LOGISTICS

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 strives to deliver value for money.

The year 2022 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.

As part of our continuing COVID-19 response, our staff in Logistics, managed to procure and distribute essential life-saving P.P.E for the protection of our firefighting and ambulance crews. In the event of an escalation of COVID-19 or Flu in the public domain we purchased extra stock to have on hand should the need arise.

In 2022 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. In preparation for winter, snow socks and chains were supplied for all vehicles and salt for use on the exits of all fire stations.

Key investments in new operational equipment in 2022:

- New 1 x 42 metre Ladder
- New 2 x Class "B" appliances
- New 5 x Ambulance Vehicles
- New 1 x Rescue Boat
- New 1 x M.E.R. van
- Pre-owned 5 x Class "B" appliances
- Pre-Owned 3 x Turntable Ladders
- Pre-Owned 2 x Emergency Tender Vehicles
- Pre-Owned 1 x Personnel Carrier
- Pre-Owned 1 x Driver Training Vehicle
- Replacement of 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 2021 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.
- Co-ordinated the tetra radio fit out to the fleet
- 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
- Continued preparation of E.M.S COVID-19 protection kits for operational staff
- Assisted Operations at large incidents with scene lighting, oxygen and diesel for vehicles





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 2022, a number of new vehicles were ordered both new and Pre-Owned to enhance and upgrade the fleet including:

- 1 x 42m T.T.L. New
- 1x M.E.R.-Van New
- 5 x Ambulances New
- 1 x Rescue Boat New
- 5 x Class B Water Tenders Pre-Owned
- 2 x Emergency Rescue Tenders Pre-Owned
- 3 Turntable Ladders Pre-Owned
- 1 x Personnel Carrier Pre-Owned
- 1x Driving Instruction Vehicle Pre-Owned

In 2022, 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. Our mechanics attended over 250 out of hours call outs this year to attend off-site maintenance of emergency vehicles and ensure the uninterrupted delivery of the emergency response service.



7.2 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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

Key activity in 2022 included:

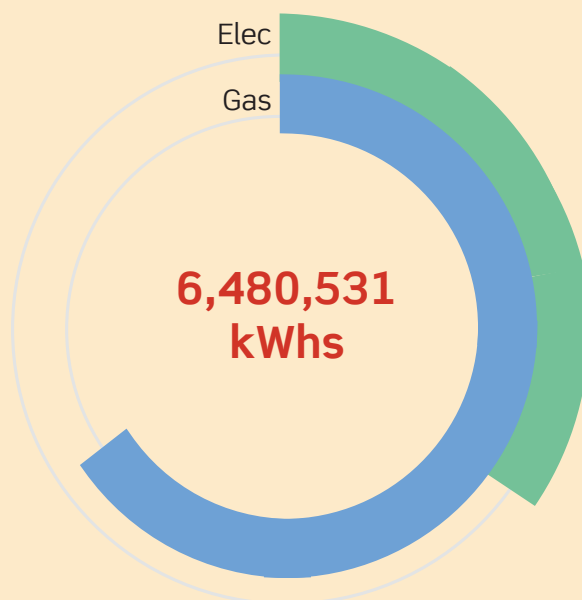
- Maintaining full functionality of all properties
- Co-ordination of non-routine / emergency works to DFB properties.
- Ensured all locations passed the relevant statutory inspections.
- Co-ordinating maintenance contractors to ensure all planned maintenance is carried out to the highest standards and 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 ACFO.
- 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.

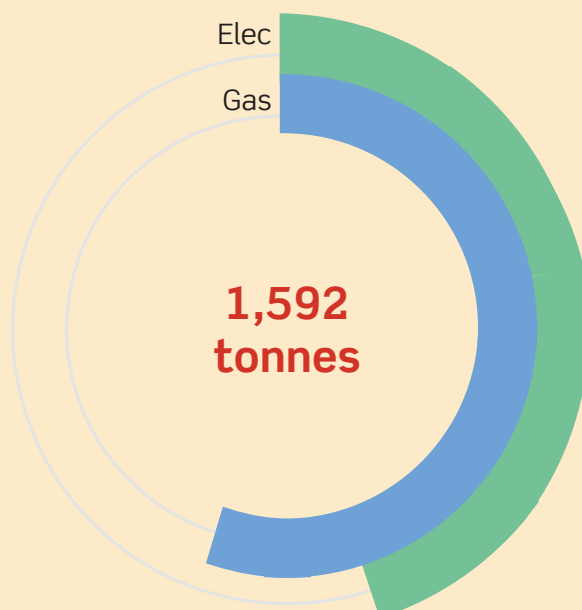
In conjunction with DCC's energy conservation advisors DFB have exceeded its energy usage reduction target for its building stock in 2022 with a further 3% reduction in consumption (KWhs) and a 1% reduction in carbon (tonnes) these figures added with last year's reduction keeps DFB on target with DCC's overall energy reduction targets.

Consumption (KWhs) - 2022



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

Carbon (Tonnes) - 2022



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



Station Construction under consideration

The relocation of the brigade workshop to newly built facility in North City Business Park is due to commence construction in Q2 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 SDCC & 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. 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 liaises with peer groups in Ireland and the UK.

In 2022, 285 accidents were reported to the HSU from across all sections of Dublin Fire Brigade, this was a slight increase on the previous year and reflected an increase in operational response. 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 eleven Good Catch Safety Observations during 2022. 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 concerns to our attention.

The DFB HSU assisted in the training programmes of both newly promoted Sub Officers and Station Officers, and provided safety induction training and 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 surveillance audit by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) in November 2022, and issued the updated Dublin Fire Brigade Ancillary Safety Statement 2022. The HSU continued to contribute to an ongoing rolling review of Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs).

The DFB HSU assisted senior management with the process of electing a new group of Safety Representatives. Elections were held in 2022 resulting in the appointment of 20 new safety reps across all operational districts and all other sections of DFB. The HSU organised and supported the initial meetings between the DFB management and Reps.

In 2022, members of the HSU conducted risk assessments of new equipment, training courses and work locations. The HSU is actively engaged with firefighter PPE standards and selection, and is available to discuss and advise managers on matters relating to health and safety.

The Unit continued to support all areas of Dublin Fire Brigade in its ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Quality Management

Following an audit by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) in December 2022, Dublin Fire Brigade (DFB) maintained certification of its Quality Management System (QMS) to ISO 9001:2015. This helps the organisation to improve service-user satisfaction and complements safety management and strategic business planning.

The Quality Office is also responsible for management of Internal ISO9001 Quality Audits that take place on a regular basis, throughout all sections within Dublin Fire Brigade. Information from these audits is used to make sure that standards are being maintained and that Dublin Fire Brigade monitors the performance and effectiveness of all of its processes.

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

A new group to formally manage the Introduction of New Services, Equipment Activities and Change (INSEAC) was established in December 2022. This group includes stakeholders from Operations, Logistics, Training, Health & Safety, Quality, Finance and Procurement.

Sixteen (16) Corrective Action Reports (CARs) were submitted by members of staff during 2022. Many of these have resulted in amended processes being adopted and demonstrate the commitment of our staff to Dublin Fire Brigade.

Child Safeguarding

All Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics in Dublin Fire Brigade are classed as 'Mandated Persons' by Children First Act 2015. This underpins the commitment of DFB to fulfil all of its statutory obligations and to follow best practice in child protection and welfare. We have increased our complement of persons trained to 'Designated Liaison Person' level to seventeen (17). They are spread across our four Watches to ensure that, under the guidance of our Child Safeguarding Coordinator, they can provide a 24 hour support service to members of our staff who may have experienced incidents causing concern. We are grateful for the continued support from the Dublin City Council's Child Safeguarding Officer. In 2022, thirty four (34) reports were made by members of Dublin Fire Brigade to Túsla, The Child

and Family Agency.

During 2022 we carried out a two-year review of our Dublin Fire Brigade Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and our Dublin Fire Brigade Child Safeguarding Statement as mandated by the Children First Act 2015. The Statement was deemed 'compliant' by Túsla and is now publically 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

A Critical Incident Stress Management system provides psychosocial support for Dublin Fire Brigade staff following traumatic events. Members of staff at every rank receive training appropriate to their role. Education around general mental health and wellbeing begins on entry to Dublin Fire Brigade. Further education prepares members of staff to deal with the effects of traumatic incidents. Members of a Peer Support Team offer their support on a voluntary basis to all members of staff following traumatic incidents and distressing calls.

During 2022 a rigorous selection process resulted in the appointment of new Peer Supporters to join this team. Much appreciation is due to those stepping down after many years providing CISM support. New Peer Supporters will undertake a training and education path that will ultimately result in a QQI Level 8 qualification. We are hopeful that 2023 will see advanced training and instructor training for senior Peer Supporters.

The CISM Peer Support Team was alerted to 49 incidents by the East Region Control Centre during 2022. 27 formal CISM interventions were held. Informal conversations with Peer Supporters are a common occurrence and not formally counted. We continue to make referrals to the Staff Support Service in Dublin City Council and to our Occupational Health providers.

Once again our Recruit Family Evening was held in a virtual format for who joined us in 2022. Hopefully we can return to a 'live' format in 2023. This event helps Recruits and their loved ones to understand the challenges of the role and the supports available to them.



8 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

While each plan is unique to its functional area, they are unified in their approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and their commitment to lead by example in tackling this global issue. Dublin Fire Brigade is fully committed to Dublin City Council's Climate Change Plan and will continue to explore how our service can improve energy efficiency, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and limit the future impact of fire service operations on climate change.

Dublin Fire Brigade recognises that Dublin's climate is changing and this poses significant risks and challenges to all of those living in the region. In response to this, the four Dublin Local Authorities have joined in conjunction with Codema, to develop Climate Change Action Plans as a collaborative response to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have, on the Dublin Region and its citizens.

Dublin City Council's Climate Change Plan 2019 – 2024 has set ambitious key targets in four areas as illustrated.

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

Key targets

33%

improvement in the Council's **energy efficiency** by 2020



Actively engage and **inform our citizens** on climate change

Make Dublin a **climate-resilient region** by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events



40%

reduction in the Council's **greenhouse gas emissions** by 2030





To help realise our goals across the six areas identified DFB will:

- In the building of future stations ensure that the new premises are built to net zero carbon, use recycled building materials and incorporate solar and wind energy solutions to reduce dependency on fossil fuels etc.
- Actively reduce dependence on fossil fuels in existing stations by insulating stations, replacing old boilers with new more efficient boilers, increasing the use of solar power to generate electricity and heat water in the stations and have reduced CO2 emissions by continuing to invest in existing buildings.
- By constantly upgrading Dublin Fire Brigades fleet of vehicles and using vehicles which are more fuel efficient and fitted with environmentally friendly filters, the impact on the environment will continue to be reduced.
- To reduce the environmental, social and economic impacts of fires by focusing on Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy.
- To better protect the natural environment in the way we fight fires and other incidents by using Harvested water instead of "Potable" water.

Over the past number of years the following stations were upgraded:



- Kilbarrack - building upgrade complete
- Finglas - building upgrade complete
- Phibsboro - building upgrade complete
- Blanchardstown - building upgrade complete
- Rathfarnham - boiler replacement
- Brigade Training Centre (OBI) - boiler replacement

Goals achieved in 2022

- Foam stock is now replaced with environmentally friendly foam stock and DFB have introduced foam stock and usage controls to protect our rivers and canals from pollutants.
- Dublin Fire Brigade has introduced a clinical waste management procedure which includes the disposal of clinical waste through a registered contractor. This gives us traceability of our clinical waste disposal.

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 Emergency Management.

In 2022 DFB co-ordinated meetings of the DCC Crisis Management Working Group, work included review of the DCC Major Emergency Plan 2022 and the DCC 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 2022:

Exercise	Type	Date
Circle K	Seveso Inter-Agency Live Exercise	07th April 2022
Chemco	Seveso Inter-Agency Live Exercise	12th May 2022
Dachser	Seveso Inter-Agency Live Exercise	14th July 2022
C&G (Rhenus)	Seveso Inter-Agency Live Exercise	15th Sept 2022

All exercises were planned, briefed, executed, debriefed, public consultation carried out and reported on by DFB.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response

2022 continued to present some challenges for all public services, particularly the Emergency Services, where the standard of service provision could not be adversely affected. This involved revising plans and augmenting supplies, personnel and resources to continue to respond in a capable and effective manner.

9.1 CIVIL DEFENCE

As a Statutory Voluntary Organisation 2022 was an extremely busy year for Dublin Civil Defence. On the 16th March 2022 our Volunteers were tasked to set up Emergency Rest Centres for Ukrainians. Dublin Civil Defence have been actively involved in the Local Authority Community Forums, Regional Team/Zoom and National Team/Zoom meetings. The time, effort and commitment that our Staff and Volunteers have put in during the Displaced Persons crisis cannot be overestimated.

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

The provision of a new Towfish Sonar in 2022, 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.

Dublin Civil Defence has 18 training Units across the four Local Authorities training in a wide variety of roles in order to fulfil our competencies for Emergency Management.

Volunteers as of 31st December 2022 – 336 active volunteers.

Requests for Assistance

438 Requests for assistance

- Rest Centre Assistance: **Requests: 198**
- 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: 25
- Community/Sport Events: Arás an Uachtaráin, OPW State Events, Aviva Stadium, Tallaght Stadium, Barretstown, various community events.
Requests: 164
- Water Shortage Assistance (Fire Appliance/Water Tanker): St Lukes Hospital, DSPCA, North Star Hotel etc.
Requests: 23
- Missing Person Searches **Requests: 9**
- K9: Searches for Missing Persons in other Counties **Requests: 12**
- Rescue Boats: Searches for Missing Persons **Requests: 7**



10 ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES

Executive Support

Dublin Fire Brigade operations are supported by administrative staff located in headquarters in Townsend Street, in the Brigade Training Centre in Marino, Civil Defence Headquarters at Wolfe Tone Quay, Logistics & Fleet management in Stanley Street and the East Regional Communication Centre. They support such functions as Corporate Governance, Financial Management, Budget Planning, Risk Management, Human Resources, Procurement, Property Maintenance, Communications and Business Continuity, etc.

The administrative staff are responsible for the smooth daily operation of the Fire Brigade by responding to any changes required through government or corporate policy, legislation or any other functional changes. They apply these changes as required and ensure that Dublin Fire Brigade operates in an environment which is efficient and in compliance with corporate policies and governance measures. They provide an efficient service both to the public and to Fire Brigade operations, to ensure a level of excellence in this fast-paced business

The onset of COVID-19 changed the way the administrative staff worked throughout Dublin Fire Brigade. Blended working has now been established throughout the organisation and is now an accepted way of doing business. It was implemented through a range of new processes and protocols being introduced and accepted by all staff. Health & Safety protocols for working from home were introduced and are monitored by staff trained to do so. Blended working arrangements are contained in Team Charters devised for each section, to ensure the efficient running and presence in each section.

Best practice remains the focus of all administrative staff in Dublin Fire Brigade and, despite the changes over recent years due to COVID-19, they have accepted and risen to all of the challenges as they presented themselves. They are a dedicated team which, along with its operational personnel, ensures that the Fire Brigade functions at its optimum level.



10.1 FINANCE

The gross cost of running Dublin Fire Brigade in 2022 was €152.3m.

The net cost of the operation of the service is divided between the four Local Authorities: Dublin City Council contributes €57.26m, Fingal County Council contributes €23.76m, South Dublin County Council contributes €22.20m and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council contributes €17.58m.

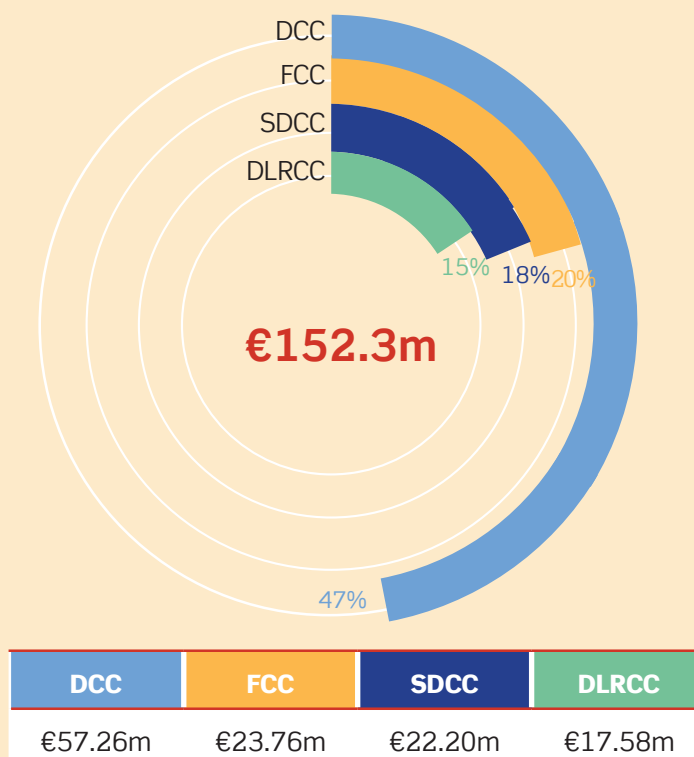
The ratio between payroll /pensions of €129.66m (85.04%) and non-pay of €22.81m (14.96%) reflects the manpower requirement to provide the essential Emergency Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Service on a 24 hour basis 365 days a year.

- €11.11m for salaries
- €86.08m for wages
- €32.47m for pensions
- €17.26m for non-pay
- €5.54m for support services/loan charges

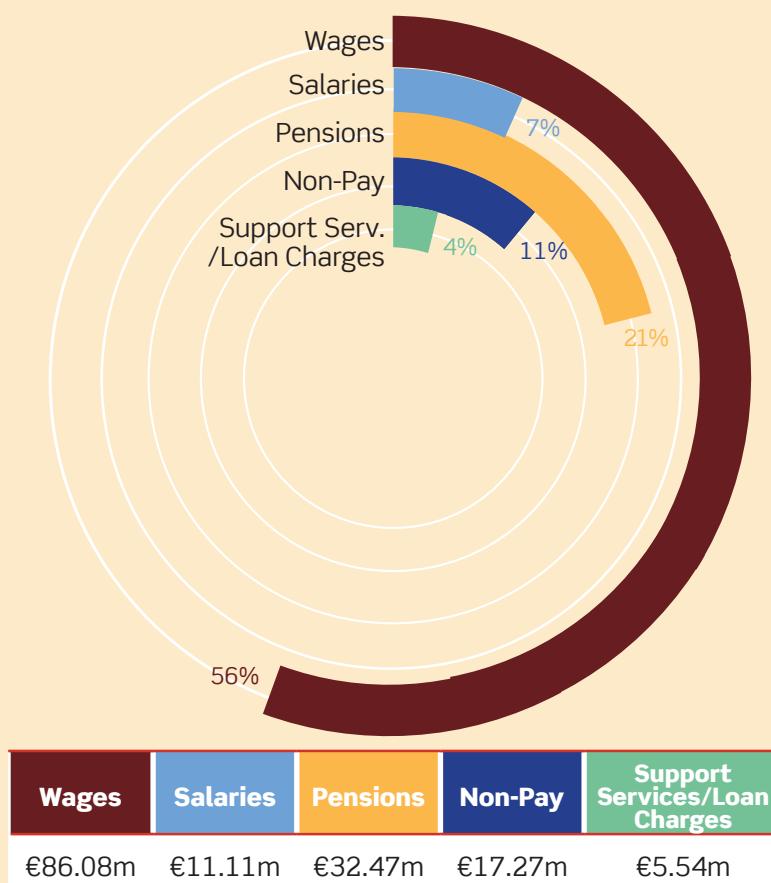
In addition to direct council subvention, DFB has a self-generated income stream of €31.5m comprises of superannuation income and fees from the services it provides. The main revenue streams are €9.18m from the HSE for the Emergency Ambulance Service, €3.41m in superannuation income, €2.51m from the Transport Infrastructure Ireland for providing a dedicated response vehicle for the Port Tunnel, €0.36m for Fire Charges and €11.67m payroll compensation.

The net cost of €120.8m (€152.3m expenditure - €31.5m income) is divided between the four Dublin Local Authorities using an agreed formula.

Breakdown of Council Contribution



Expenditure Ratios



10.2 HUMAN RESOURCES

Dublin Fire Brigades, Human Resource (HR) section endeavours to provide a strategic and coherent approach to managing our organisation's most valued assets: the people employed in every section of Dublin Fire Brigade who individually and collectively contribute to the achievement of the objectives of Dublin Fire Brigade.

The HR section of Dublin Fire Brigade works with Dublin City Council's HR Department to provide employees with best practice services and facilities. It also plays a crucial role in creating an effective work culture where all employees know their responsibilities, rights, and privileges.

The HR section of Dublin Fire Brigade aims to contribute to the growth of the organisation by providing a support service to its staff, aiming at all times to be fair, open, transparent and supportive in its interactions. Equality, diversity, respect, partnership and wellness are at the core of its activity. Dublin Fire Brigade has prepared a programme of action to implement the public sector equality and human rights duty. This reflects a commitment to leadership on equality and human rights as an organisation and underpins compliance with equality and human rights legislation.

The HR section strives to help manage and implement HR policies regarding employee relations and resources management. HR are continuously reviewing and monitoring promotional opportunities, staff welfare and training needs for Officers with regard to people and resource management. HR are committed to developing managers and recently promoted officers to provide them with the skills and knowledge to foster a healthy work environment.

Employees are the single biggest asset to any organisation and as such Dublin Fire Brigade, Human Resources section aims to provide an open communication platform, career growth through work force planning, encouraging continuous learning and development for all staff, provide training and support to line managers to deal with IR and employee relations issues. Promote health and wellness in the work place. Emphasise the importance of health, safety and welfare of all Fire Brigade staff. Through the knowledge and commitment of its staff, the Human Resources section engages with corporate HR, trade unions, medical referees and other bodies to ensure that its staff welfare, learning & development and attendance issues are addressed in a professional and confidential manner.





DFB HR propose introducing a new policy of mentoring within the organisation. Mentoring is a formalised structured approach to the practice of mentorship. It is a voluntary initiative that supports the existing career and leadership development mechanisms within the brigade. It aims to support the newly recruited and promoted whilst being inducted into their new role. In 2023 DFB will issue a policy which describes the goals of the initiative, benefits and the process and procedures the programme will follow.

The Section delivers on the commitments of the Corporate Plan, meeting its statutory obligations by continuously striving to deliver best practice in all of its activities. It is committed to delivery of staff training and development through the PMDS process, continuing to support and value all staff of Dublin Fire Brigade by building and promoting an inclusive organisation which can maximise service delivery and is ready to meet its challenges into the future.



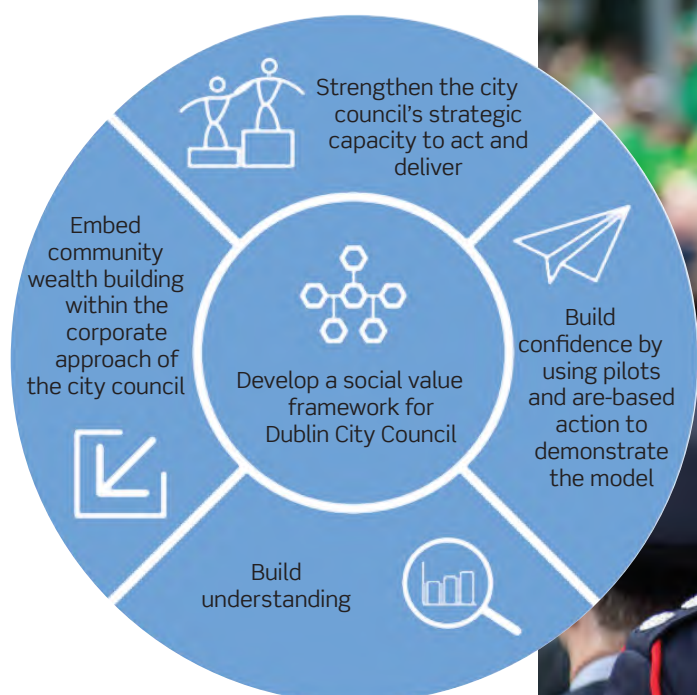
10.2 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

Dublin Fire Brigade HR Section 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 Community Wealth Building 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 Community Wealth Building.

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.

The main projects executed in 2022

- Implementation of a cloud based rostering system to manage rosters, crewing levels, leave applications, time & attendance and overtime rota for shift based as well as office-based staff.
- Implementation of a new asset management system
- Software patching and upgrade of existing systems
- Design replacement for overtime system (mobi dialler) with integrated dialling solution



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 52 times in 2022 published each Friday evening and distributed by email, the online learning platform to every staff member and via WhatsApp via internal groups.

A consultation of readers was conducted in Q4 with the aim to modify the publication to the needs of the readers and to achieve a higher delivery and reading rate. This will be actioned in 2023.



Notable events in 2022

Recruitment 2022/3

The Communications Unit worked with Dublin City Council's Human Resources, Media Relations Department and creative companies to produce a recruitment campaign for Firefighter/Paramedics and Emergency Services Controllers. In each campaign we used our own people to be the face of Dublin Fire Brigade.





Dublin Pride

For the second year a fire appliance was wrapped with rainbow colours in consultation with the organisers of the annual parade, and several ambulances and support vehicle received smaller pride markings. The fire appliance took part in the first in-person parade since the COVID-19 Pandemic began. The wrapped fire appliance was one of the stars of the parade and pictures of it went viral globally amongst multiple platforms. The Communications Unit also crewed a stall at the Pride Village after the parade with an emphasis on fire safety and recruitment.



Public Safety Announcements

The Communications Unit supported Operations several times throughout 2022 by issuing public safety announcements and follow up information at large scale fires such as wildfires in Killiney, Howth and Kiltipper, and industrial fires in other areas across the city and county.

Fire Brigade History

The unit collaborated with DFB historian Las Fallon to produce a mini-series on the establishment of professional firefighting in Ireland over 300 years ago. This was aired on YouTube over the Christmas period. Primary School for Children with Visual Impairment. The initiative raised over €9,700 for the registered charity.

Fire Safety Week

The annual public service information campaign once again proved to be a busy period for the unit. It was decided that the popular 'Red Buildings' appeal was not going to be made this year due to the energy-crisis and an appeal was made to companies to turn their social media red as an alternative. 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.

Partner Collaborations

The Communications Unit worked with industry partners such as the Construction Federation of Ireland for Construction Safety Week and the Dublin Port Company for Port Safety Week. There was also a joint communications initiative with the National Ambulance Service and Children's Health Ireland on the introduction of a rainbow badge for staff to promote a safe person concept to service users who are members of the LGBTI+ community.



Daft Funk Brigade

The Communications Unit worked with operational staff to produce a charity video to raise funds for St Joseph's Primary School for Children with Visual Impairment. The initiative raised over €9,700 for the registered charity.





Social Media

Dublin Fire Brigade's social media presence continues to be a success documenting the highlights of the activities of the service and its impact on its service users and the public, while continuing to issue safety advice and public service announcements maintaining a mix of tones to effectively communicate the messages. Our active presence on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram is monitored and updated on a daily basis.

In 2022, social media was utilised in the Firefighter/Paramedic recruitment campaign with advertisement and video produced to support the campaign. A budget of €5,000 was provided to target specific audiences with the advertisements, providing an exceptional reach to potential candidates. An 'ask me anything' event was held on Instagram allowing users to ask the service questions specifically about recruitment.

DFB's social media accounts were recognised for the seventh year running at the National Social Media Awards receiving the gold accolade of 'Best Use of Twitter by a State Body' and silver in 'Social Media Strategy for a State Body' and bronze for 'Use of Facebook by a State Body'.

The Communications Unit were asked to share our social media experiences and strategy at a conference by the Institute of Public Administration.

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 90k
Facebook followers 51k
Instagram followers 18k



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