



# Health, Safety & Environment

1st Quarter report: 01<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Health and Safety Report: 026

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## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1. Aims**

This report will provide the reader with information in relation to the Health, Safety & Environment (HS&E) performance of the Service for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2015/16.

### **1.2. Objectives**

The data within this report will be compared with the same quarter (4th), but from the previous year. The reason for this is that similar conditions are likely to be expected e.g. winter and cold spells will present a higher chance of 'slips' due to ice/snow.

The update will give focus on the following aspects:

1. Courses
2. Incident statistics
3. On-going health, safety and environmental issues

## 2. Main body

### 2.1. Courses

The management of Health and Safety is fundamental to the Services continual successful performance in the field.

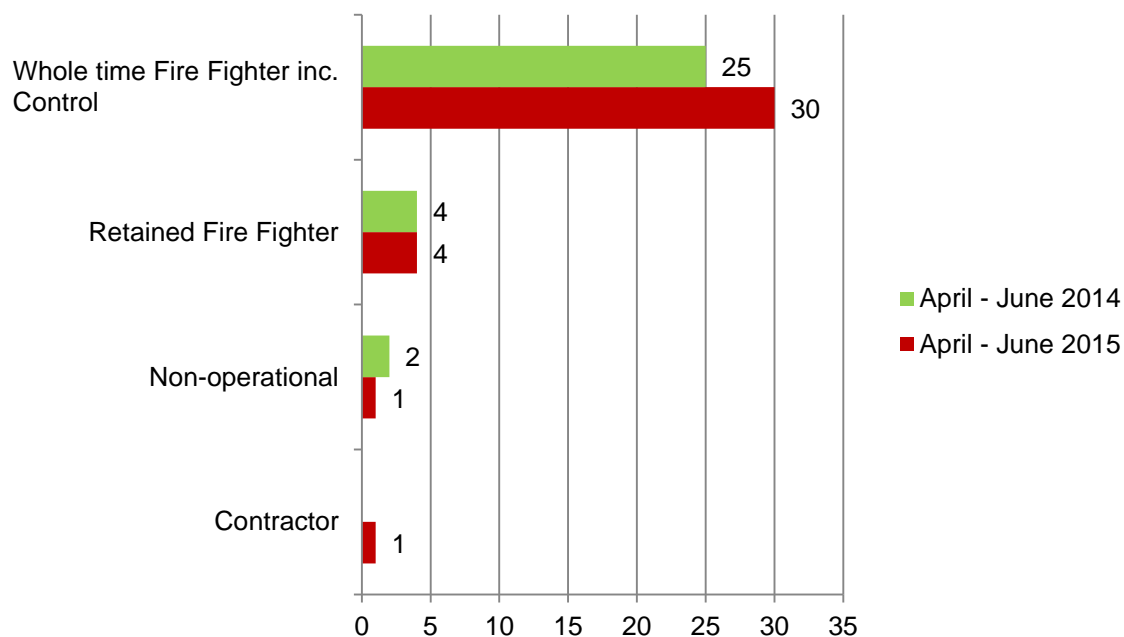
In order to ensure that this carries on, the Service is committed to providing IOSH Working Safely and IOSH Managing Safely courses for its personnel.

### 2.2. Incident statistics

The following incident statistics for this quarter are compared to the previous year's quarter. Comparing incident data from the previous year's quarter will allow environmental variables to be factored in therefore giving a more representative comparison.

#### 2.2.1. Role specific

The graph below identifies the role of those involved with undesired events for the quarter.



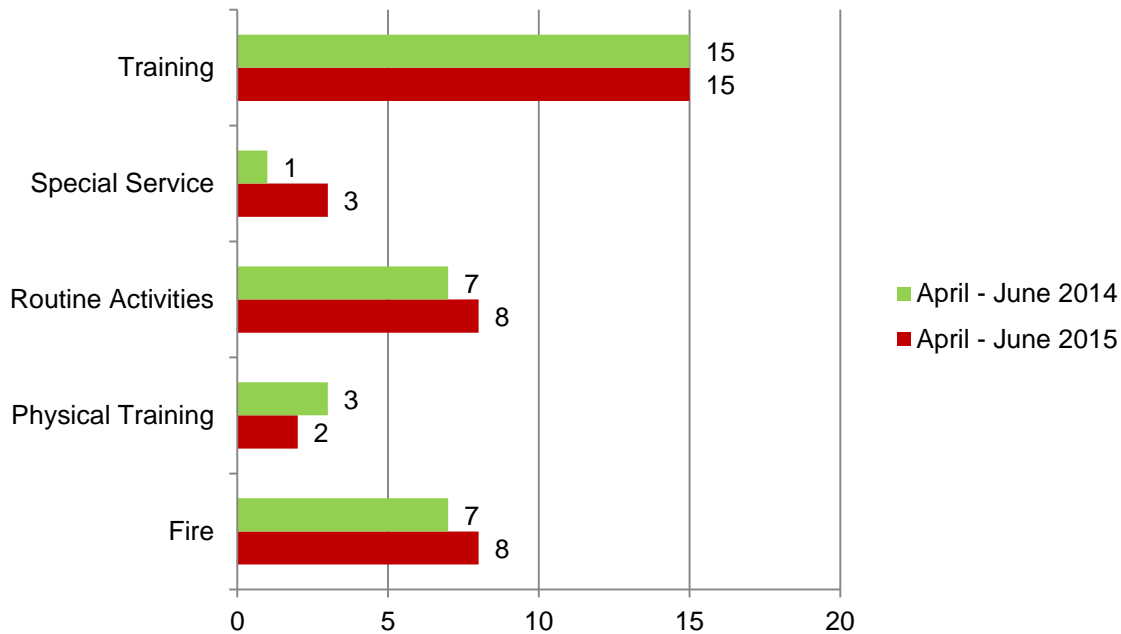
There has been an increase in the number injuries sustained by whole time fire fighters, injuries sustained by retained fire fighters have not altered however the injuries to non-operational personnel have reduced by 1.

There has been one incident that involved a contractor cutting his head whilst undertaking works onsite, the contractor received first aid by the fire crew on the station and signage displayed to mitigate further occurrences.

The events will be analysed further in subsequent sections of this report to give detail as to the reason and cause(s) of the events.

### 2.2.2. Activity

The following information identifies during which activity unwanted events have occurred.



Injuries during *training* activities have not altered when compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Of those recorded, injuries included:

- five instances of sickness following water rescue courses
- three instances of physical injury during water rescue courses
- three instances of minor physical injury during rope rescue training
- four instances of injury during breathing apparatus training

HS&E function continue to liaise with the training section to make them aware of unwanted events in an effort to mitigate future occurrences.

Injuries whilst undertaking *special services* has increased by one. Of the three incidents reported, two related to injuries sustained whilst rescuing cats (at separate incidents) and one encountered when lifting a bariatric patient.

*Routine activities* have increased by one when compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Injuries reported during *routine activities* include:

- two individuals strained their back whilst moving office furniture and lockers
- a piece of metal, which broke away from a bin, puncturing an individual's hand
- one employee being struck on the nose when moving some personal protective equipment
- a member of control scalding their hand whilst making a cup of tea
- dust entering an individual's eye when moving some lockers
- stumbling over a pair of boots on the appliance room floor
- contractor bumping their head on station

Personnel have been reminded to take care when undertaking routine activities.

Injuries sustained whilst undertaking *physical training* have reduced by one. Of the two recorded one employee slipped whilst running and another injured themselves whilst lifting weights.

Injuries sustained whilst at a fire have increased by one. The injuries recorded are as follows:

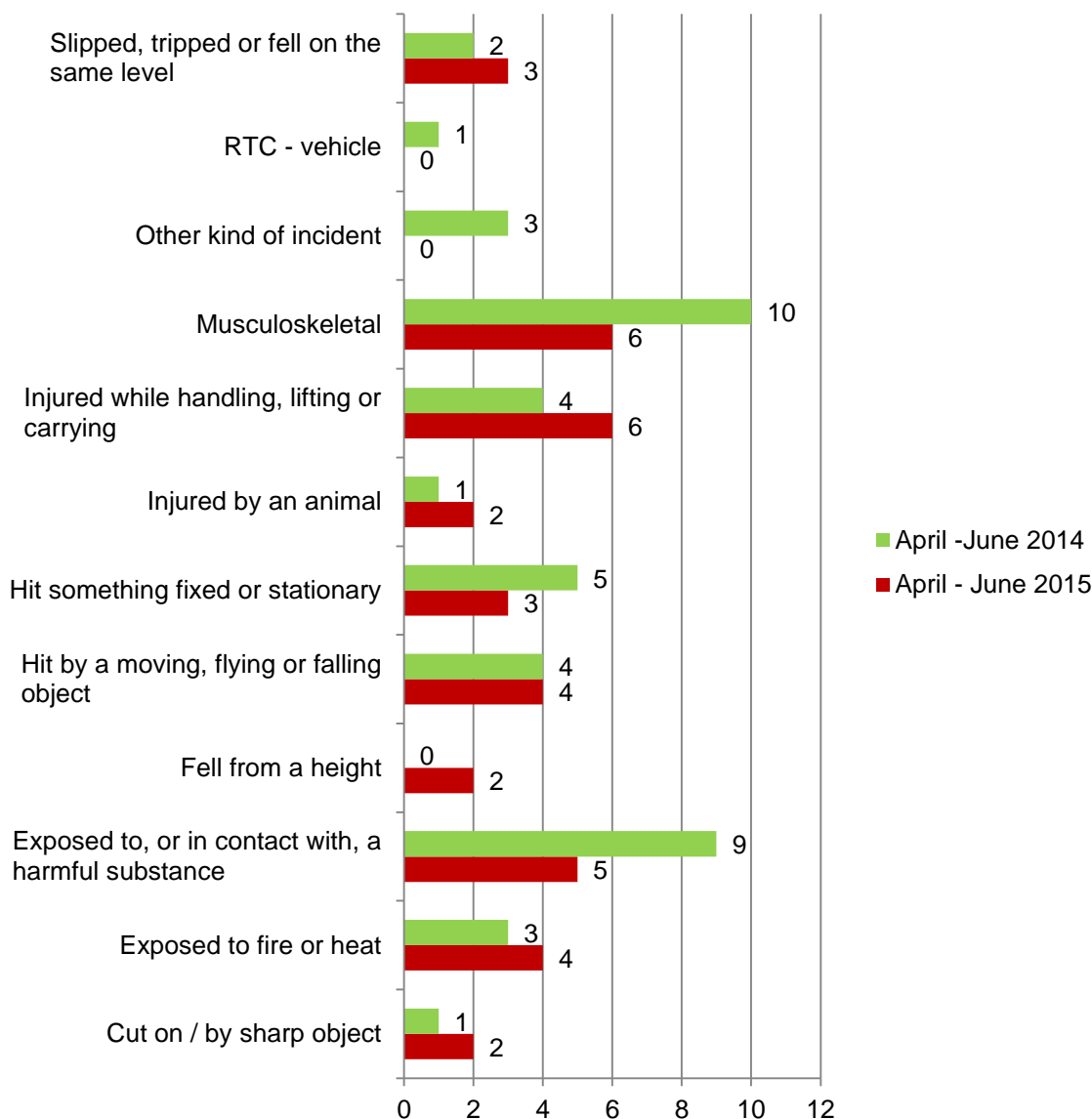
- injury to wrist whilst donning leggings and boots
- nipped skin whilst opening a fire hydrant
- injured finger whilst lifting a salvage sheet to dry
- fire fighter hit on leg by hose
- cut to hand post incident on a fence
- slipped over injuring back whilst wearing breathing apparatus
- twisted left knee whilst gaining entry to premises
- falling debris resulted in a glancing blow to right hand and shoulder

Scrutiny of this data has revealed that a common trend is the bouts of sickness following some of the water rescue courses undertaken at Tees Barrage.

To mitigate this, the Service is researching the potential to build a bespoke water rescue facility that will allow the Service to maintain the quality of the water and reduce instances of sickness.

### 2.2.3. Injury/incident type

The following bar chart identifies the most common cause of injuries to personnel within the Service.

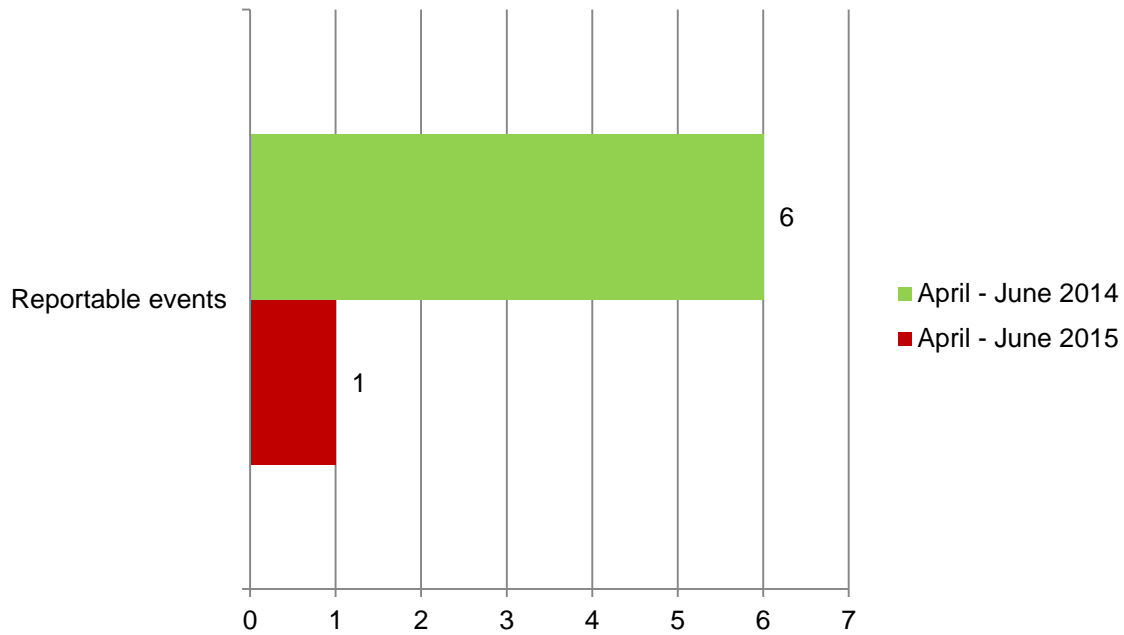


Of the reported incidents, *musculoskeletal* and *injured while handling, lifting or carrying* were the most common cause of injuries to personnel, which have been captured in 2.2.2. Careful scrutiny of the data indicates that there are no trends therein.

Individuals who have sustained injury have been reminded to take more care when undertaking their duties.

*Exposure to, or in contact with a harmful substance* are all attributed to the reported sickness following the water rescue training.

### 2.2.4. RIDDOR reportable events

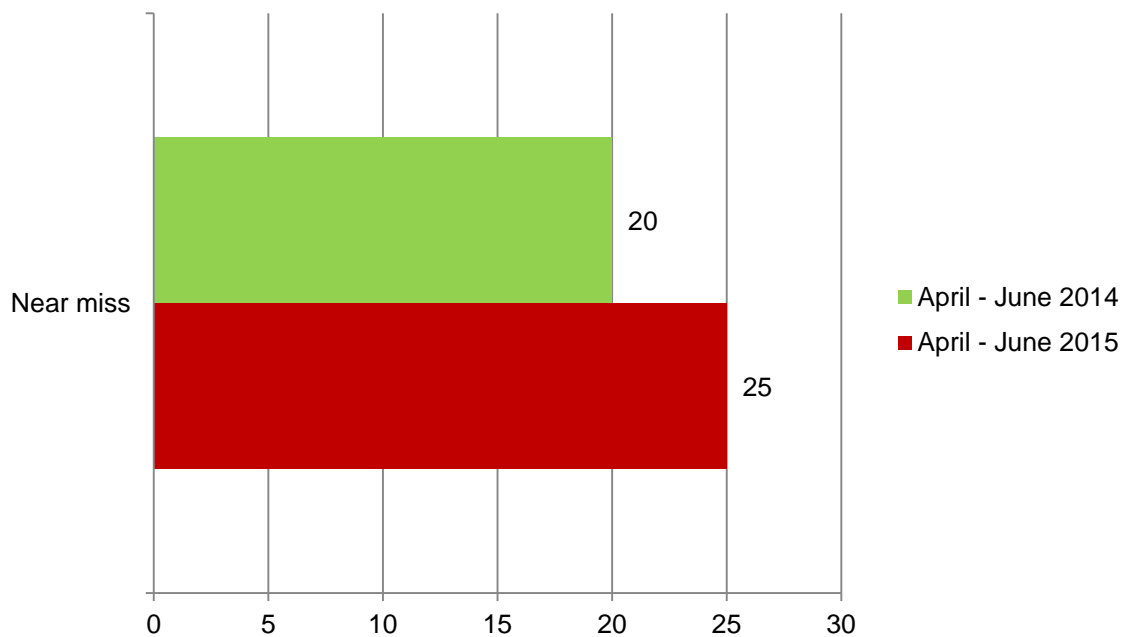


There has only been one reportable event in this year. The event was a failure of a breathing apparatus set during a training exercise.

The Service is working with the set manufacturer to determine the most likely cause of the failure.

### 2.2.5. Near miss reporting

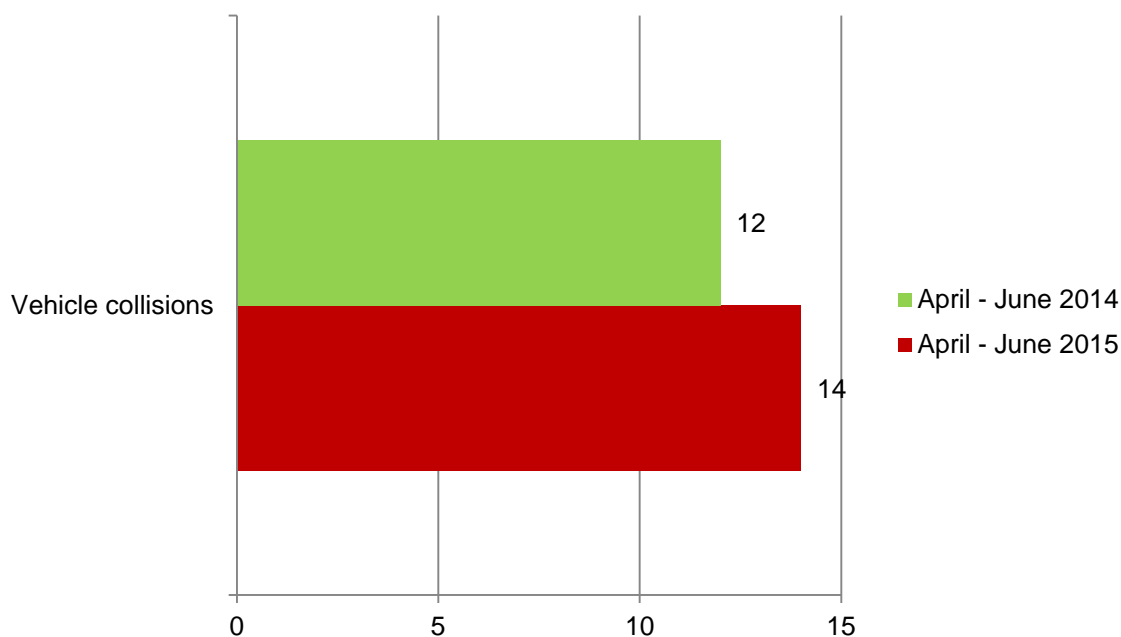
The Service is continuing to see an increase in the number of near miss events recorded by personnel.



The continued increase in *Near Miss* reporting gives testament to the work undertaken by the Health, Safety and Environment function to raise awareness of the importance of reporting such incidents.



### 2.2.6. Vehicle collision



In comparison to the same quarter last year, the Service has seen an increase of two vehicle collisions. Of the events recorded:

- Four occurred at slow speed (0-10mph)
- three were during reversing manoeuvres
- three hit fixed objects (e.g. bollard, car mirror)
- three Service vehicles were struck, two whilst in transit and one whilst stationary
  - a Service vehicle was struck whilst turning right at a roundabout and failed to stop
  - a Service vehicle which was parked in a station car park was struck by another vehicle which was reversing into a space
  - a Service vehicle encountered a slight rear shunt in traffic
- one vehicle sustained damage whilst crossing a level crossing, an investigation is currently on-going.

Instances of vehicle collision are forwarded onto the driver training team for further scrutiny to determine the need for additional measures e.g. further driver training.

### 3. Additional Health, Safety & Environment information

#### 3.1. Environmental update

Statutory Instrument 2007 No 991 requires frequently visited Public Buildings over a Gross Internal Area (GIA) of 1000m<sup>2</sup> to display an Energy Performance Certificate.

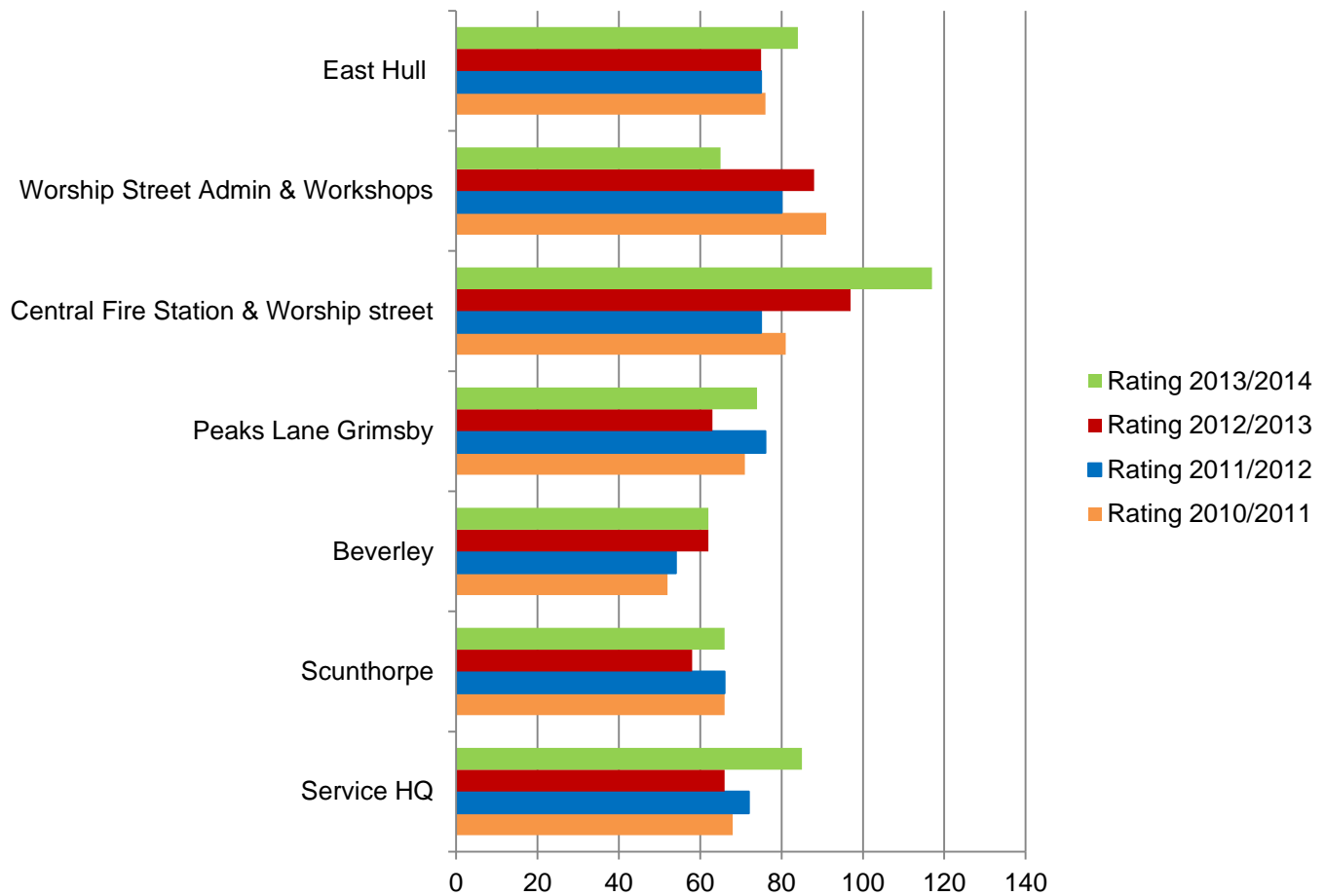
Certificates are produced annually with an advisory report showing recommendations for improvements to the energy performance over a short, medium, long term as well as any other measures.

Recommendations that have been introduced and shown success include the following:

- communicating the need to switch off any electrical appliances when not in use
- power save settings
- zonally controlled panels on heating control replacement
- automated closure of appliance bay door
- checks on heating settings when boilers serviced
- rewiring schemes to include control systems/sensors for lighting
- double glazing
- wall/loft insulation
- energy saving posters issued on quarterly environmental audits
- replacement of oil boilers to more efficient gas boilers.

Many of the recommendations are only achievable in a major refurbishment and proposals are added to the asset management database for implementation as finances permit.

The table below details the results of those HFRS properties matching the criteria since its introduction.



The results show fluctuations over the last 5 years, some related to increases in the use of the buildings at specific times, this is related to relocation of staff and resources or major building works.

The completion of the new Fire Station at Clough road in Hull during April of this year will have a significant effect of the certificate band that was rated as D previously.

The site is able to generate up to 15k of photovoltaic power and maintains water for washing at a constant 18 degrees through solar thermal energy.

### 3.2. RoSPA Award

The Service has gained an Industry Sector Silver Award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

The ceremony was attended by two HFRS representatives from the HS&E function who accepted the award on behalf of the Service.

In addition to the accolade, the Service is to publicise its achievements in publications including *Fire Times*.

### 3.3. IOSH Conference & Health and Safety 'Expo' 2015

The annual IOSH Health and Safety Conference was attended by two representatives from HFRS. The conference proved to be very beneficial and key areas of interest were discussed throughout the two days.

The days were split into four tracks. Each track had keynote speakers from a range of industries and spoke about *leadership, compliance, global risk and occupational health*.

Of particular interest was behavioural safety, something that the Service is actively researching to develop the current safety culture across all aspects of the Service.

### 3.4. Health and Safety Statistics

Work is being undertaken to analyse the current national statistics submitted to *Communities & Local Government*.

The statistics to be analysed will focus upon operational statistics and will allow the Service to identify their current performance when compared to other Fire and Rescue Services within their family group as well as nationally.

The aim of this activity is to establish how HFRS are currently performing and how the Service can develop to improve current performance.

The findings will be published on the *Chief Fire Officer Association (CFOA)* website, sharing the work with our colleagues and also contacting those who performed particularly well to identify best practice and implement such processes within Humberside Fire and Rescue Service.