

Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee
7 March 2016

Report by the Director of Service
Support

HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUARTERLY REPORT 3rd QUARTER 2015/16

Oct - Dec 2015

REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the 3rd Quarter 2015/16 report on Health, Safety and Environment.

Pleasingly performance in this area continues to improve with virtually all areas showing improvement against the same period last year.

During the period there were 25 incidents recorded that resulted in some form of injury; this is a significant decrease on the same period last year (34 incidents). Of these incidents, the majority (19), were sustained to wholetime operational staff (including control).

Training and routine activities are the 2 main contributing areas of activity with 8 incidents each of which only 5 injuries were recorded at operational incidents (3 at fires and 1 each at RTCs and special services). Exposure to or contact with a harmful substance were the most common cause of injury with 5 relevant incidents reported.

During this quarter, only a single RIDDOR event was reported, a decrease of 1 from the same period last year.

Again the Service has seen a rise in the number of near miss reports; 19 this quarter compared to 15 in the same quarter of 2014/15. This is attributed to staff being encouraged to proactively report all incidents, demonstrating a positive improvement in the prevalent health and safety culture of HFRS.

Members will note that Service sickness is now incorporated into this report as previously agreed. In terms of average days' sickness absence per person, Control has seen the biggest increase compared to the same quarter of 2014/15. This is largely attributed to the relatively small number of staff working in Control linked to the adverse effect of long-term sickness.

The Service also presented at the recent, national, Inside Government conference in London on the subject "Award Winning Health and Safety Management Approach". The presentation was well received and highlighted the Service achievements in this area.

A snapshot of this quarter is attached in Appendix 1 and the full detailed report is attached in Appendix 2.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee considers this report and makes any recommendations to the Fire Authority as necessary.

BACKGROUND

2. Details of the Service's Health, Safety and Environmental outcomes for the 3rd Quarter 2015/16 are contained in Appendices 1 and 2 of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

3. The monitoring of Health, Safety and Environmental information is a key part of the management of Strategic Objective 5 – “continuing to develop a committed, skilled and safe workforce.”

FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

4. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. None.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

6. None.

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7. None.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8. This report provides the opportunity for an additional level of scrutiny of Health and Safety information.

COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

9. None.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

10. None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

11. Health and Safety Policy Statement SP 10_1.

RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

12. That the Committee considers this report and makes any recommendations to the Fire Authority as necessary.

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25 February 2016