# Automatic Fire Alarm Consultation – Data and Analysis Sources

The consultation document uses data to illustrate the challenges of Automatic Fire Alarms (AFAs) and the potential impacts of the proposed options.

## Volume of False Alarms

We have used published Home Office data from 2022-23 to illustrate the national and local picture of the scale of False Alarm incidents: [Fire statistics data tables - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables) – Table FIRE0102. This data shows that False Alarms made up 45% of incidents in Berkshire, and 39% of incidents in England as a whole.

Every year we attend around 2300 false alarms generated by AFA systems in Berkshire. This figure does vary from year to year and was lower during the COVID-19 pandemic. We report these figures to HMICFRS.

## Incidents where we were called to an Automatic Fire Alarm

To understand and illustrate the potential scope and impact of our proposed options, we used detailed data from the 2022-2023 year.

This analysis was carried out on the basis of the original incident type – that is, the information we had when we first received the call. This means that we can look at the proportion of those AFA calls which were, in fact, fires, and which were false alarms. The original incident type codes included were:

* A1.0.0.P ALARM - INDUSTRIAL / COMMERCIAL
* A2.0.0.P ALARM - RETAIL / PUBLIC ASSEMBLY
* A3.0.0.P ALARM - RESIDENTIAL
* A8.1.0.P ALARM - FRS PROPERTY ALARM

For this year, we were able to refine how we count an AFA by using relatively recently introduced data flag indicating where an addressable alarm panel was present. This enabled us to remove incidents from the analysis where it had been confirmed that there was no addressable alarm panel.

This gave us a dataset of 2294 incidents in premises with an AFA system which we attended in the 2022-23 year. For data quality reasons we did not have full premises information about 50 of these, leaving 2244 incidents for further analysis.

We assessed the property types of these incidents and developed three risk groups, A, B and C. The complete list of property types can be found at the end of this document.

We then calculated the number of incidents in each of these three groups, and when these incidents occurred (9am to 6pm or 6pm to 9am), on the basis of the time of initial call.  We used information from our incident recording system to examine the number of these incidents which were fires, and whether there were any injuries or fatalities in these fires.

Finally, we calculated the time our appliances and fire fighters spent dealing with these incidents, measuring from the time of call to the time our appliances returned to station.

We only calculated the time taken for the first appliance in attendance. In the vast majority of AFA incidents, only one appliance attends.

These figures have been used to illustrate the potential impact of the proposed options, based on the incidents we attended in 2022-23. They are not intended to be a prediction.