



FACTS AND FIGURES

BRIEFING PAPER V1

Where we were in 2012/13

- The year prior to SFRS being created there were 7878 uniformed firefighters in Scotland – 4151 wholetime, 3076 retained, 234 control and 417 volunteers
- At this time the combined resource budget for the eight legacy Fire and Rescue Services was £290.7 million

Where we are today

- SFRS own [statistics](#) for 2023/24 show that there are now only 6625 of the equivalent firefighter posts – 3422 wholetime, 2708 retained, 171 control and 269 volunteers
- In just twelve years over **1250** firefighter jobs have been cut, with **729** wholetime, **368** retained, **63** control and **148** volunteer jobs gone
- The resource budget for the SFRS for 2025/26 has been set at £332.1 million – around 80% of this budget is required to fund firefighter posts
- If the 2013/14 resource budget had risen in line with inflation, the FBU calculate that it would currently sit at £388.1 million
- Effectively SFRS has suffered a real terms budget cut of **over £56 million** since the first year of its existence in 2013 to today
- These figures have been calculated using the Scottish Parliaments own [SPICe](#) calculator
- Cuts have had a direct impact on our Service – 5 control rooms closed – 1250 uniformed jobs cut – 10 wholetime appliances cut in Sept 2023 – hundreds of retained and volunteer appliances unavailable due to crewing shortages – increasing response times
- Again, SFRS own figures show a continued overall increase across all three Service Delivery Areas to median response times to life risk incidents
- The maths is simple. Reduced budgets = cuts to firefighter numbers = increased response times = increased risk to the public.

Where we are going

- The SFRS has launched a [public consultation](#) on proposed changes across the country, the FBU urge members of the public to participate fully in this process
- FBU members have been campaigning against the impact of cuts and underinvestment in our service for many years now, most recently through the [Cuts Leave Scars](#) campaign
- The FBU demands: 1) no further cuts to firefighter numbers, 2) no cuts to fire cover at any time of the day or night, 3) safe crewing levels, 4) investment in fire stations and 5) increased and sustained real terms investment from the Scottish Government