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Our Ref:  
KW-SYF&R-Response

Please Contact:  
Councillor Ken Wyatt

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6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Councillor Simon Burnett  
Elected Member (Sitwell Ward)  
Email: [simon.burnett@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:simon.burnett@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor Burnett

**Response to supplementary question at Council Meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

As per the current Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) Rotherham Fire Station has the required established numbers of operational staff. There are currently 2 duty systems in place at Rotherham Fire Station, those being 2-2-4 duty system personnel who staff x1 appliance at the station 24hrs day 365 days of the year. The second appliance is 'Day Staffed' meaning this appliance is staffed 365 days a year throughout the day from 08:00hrs to 19:00hrs.

There are occasions where both or one of the appliances may have x4 personnel on them. This is subject to absence rates, annual leave or other unplanned events. Having x4 Firefighters staff operational frontline appliances is common and accepted practice throughout the UK fire and rescue sector, that national / local policy and procedures allow and has been the case for many years. A crew of x4 typically comprises of 1 Driver, 1 Officer in charge and 2 nominated breathing apparatus wearers.

There are occasions where one of the appliances at Rotherham is deployed by the service to provide cover elsewhere within the county. This is either to cover 'safety critical training' or is to cover during a dynamic phase / time, for example to provide resilience where an incident(s) are ongoing to maintain appropriate fire cover. All SYFR operational appliances are and can be deployed in this manner to ensure where demand is experienced, the appropriate level of emergency response cover is maintained to the community of South Yorkshire and those who pass through it. SYFR are still committed to staffing frontline appliances to 5, however, as explained above, staffing appliances at 4 is accepted practice.

Please find some detail in the table below regarding the operational demand SYFR have responded to over the past 5 years. The information provides the % of occasions where only 1 frontline appliance was mobilised and required to resolve the incident(s).

Year	% incidents only requiring 1 appliance (all incidents)	% incidents only requiring 1 appliance (Rotherham)
18/19	<b>79.1% (12,147)</b>	<b>83.3% (1,156)</b>
19/20	<b>76.6% (10,426)</b>	<b>82.4% (1,055)</b>
20/21	<b>75.0% (9,024)</b>	<b>81.4% (854)</b>
21/22	<b>74.4% (10,153)</b>	<b>80.7% (1,049)</b>
22/23	<b>76.6% (12,048)</b>	<b>83.7% (1,132)</b>

Our current CRMP states the staffing arrangements for all stations including Rotherham. As stated previously, the service is currently preparing for a new CRMP and therefore, any changes to resource at any of SYFR stations will be identified / suggested through this process. Any such changes will be considered as part of the wider *Fire Cover Review* which will take place as part of the CRMP planning process.

In relation to the question whether there is support for the use of an additional night shift crew in Rotherham, the service have no plans under the current CRMP to introduce a second 24/7 appliance at Rotherham, nor has this been factored into the service financial planning arrangements.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Ken Wyatt  
South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Spokesperson