

# **GUERNSEY FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

## FOREWORD – CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

I have the honour to present my report covering the work and the associated interests of the Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service during 2017.

I am pleased to report that 2017 did not present the Service with any particularly challenging operational incidents to deal with. This helped to keep running costs relatively low in comparison to previous years. Unfortunately, the same could not be said for the London Fire Brigade, which had to respond to the worst fire in living memory with the tragic loss of 71 lives. The Grenfell Tower incident was an awful reminder of why Fire Services are required.



When there were initial indications in the media immediately after the Grenfell Tower fire that the construction materials used in its refurbishment may have contributed to the rapid and uncontrolled fire spread, questions were rightfully asked. Worryingly, it was quickly established that similar oversights with the use of building construction materials had occurred with other refurbishments across the country. In contrast, I was able to report that my Officers, along with colleagues in the local Building Control Department, had performed their roles diligently and thoroughly. As a result, I was able to give confident assurances that all local building developments and refurbishments had been carried out to standards that provided adequate protection to the occupants in situations involving fire. Although local builders and architects do not sometimes appreciate why we make certain stipulations and enforce certain standards when plans are submitted for planning approval, tragic events like this illustrate why it is important to ensure standards are maintained.

The Island relies on the Fire Service to be prepared to respond to a large number of varied emergencies as well as fires. Previous Chief Fire Officers have appreciated that Guernsey cannot justify maintaining a Service that is capable of delivering the same level and weight of response as the UK Fire Services. As a result, the Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service has always considered how any changes in the UK may or may not be required in Guernsey. If change is required, only the minimum level of crews and equipment is considered to safely control situations and stop them becoming worse. This approach has provided the Island with a timely and affordable level of response, which is difficult to reduce further. This minimum level of preparedness does rely on off-Island assistance with large incidents that are theoretically possible in the Island but very rarely occur. Although agreements are in place, they are very rarely tested. I am pleased to report that an exercise with Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service took place in 2017, which provided assurances that Off-Island support from the UK Fire Service is easily obtainable.

I am grateful to all of the staff at the Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service and the Members of the Committee for Home Affairs, for their valued support during the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J P Le Page'.

**J P Le Page GFireE**  
**Chief Fire Officer**

# PEOPLE & ORGANISATION

## RECRUITMENT



Firefighter  
**Kerrin Batiste**  
Joined 9 January 2017



Firefighter  
**Kyle Fossey**  
Joined 4 July 2017



Operations Support Officer  
**Samantha Le Cras**  
Joined 20 February 2017



Retained Firefighter  
(Herm)  
**Lee Stuart**  
Joined 1 March 2017



Retained Firefighter  
(Herm)  
**Michael Pretorius**  
Joined 1 March 2017



Retained Firefighter  
(Herm)  
**Thomas Rawlings**  
Joined 1 March 2017



Retained Firefighter  
(Herm)  
**Shannon Owers**  
Joined 1 March 2017

# PEOPLE & ORGANISATION

## RESIGNATIONS

**Temporary Operations Support Officer Susan Marshall** left the Service on 1 March 2017 after completing her temporary contract period.

**Firefighter Daniel De Moulpied** left the Service on 9 July 2017 after almost nine years of service, as he was leaving the Island.

**Part-time Administration Assistant Rebecca Silk** left the Service on 1 September 2017 after almost two years of service to take up a role at the Committee for Education, Sport and Culture. She elected to move roles, as she wished to work more hours than the part-time post at the Service was able to provide.

**Herm Retained Firefighter Shannon Owers** left the Service on 20 November 2017 after eight months of service, as he was leaving the Island.

## RETIREMENTS

**Crew Commander Bernard (BJ) Nicolle** retired on 30 June 2017 after just over 27 years of service. BJ joined the Guernsey Fire Brigade as a Fireman on 11 April 1990. He was promoted to Crew Commander on the 14 October 2006 and performed all of his service in operational roles, with specialist interests in Maritime Firefighting and Fire Behaviour Instruction. In his later years, he performed the role of Acting Watch Commander; taking charge of a Watch when the Watch Commander was absent. He was also a respected mentor to many new members of staff.

**Station Manager Kevin Murphy** retired from the Service on 31 December 2017, to permanently take on the role of 'Island Emergency Planning Officer' after being temporarily seconded to the role for two years from 01 January 2016. Kevin joined the Guernsey Fire Brigade as a Fireman on 24 September 1995. He was promoted to Leading Firefighter on the 15 May 2000, Watch Commander on 01 October 2005 and Station Manager on 01 October 2006. Kevin's career was solely focussed on the operational response role of the Fire Service, with a specialist interest in Hazardous Materials and Environmental Protection.

## OBITUARY

Sadly I have to report the death in retirement of a former Service member. Former Firefighter Mervyn (Merv) Bewey died on 22 June 2017 aged 69 years. Merv retired in 2003 following 26 years with the Fire & Rescue Service. He served in an operational role throughout his career and, as a Brigade Driving Instructor and Senior Firefighter, took great pride in assisting in the development of many young Firefighters who had a great deal of respect and admiration for him.



# **FIRE SAFETY**

## **Home Fire Safety & Welfare Visits**

The Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service offers a free Home Fire Safety & Welfare Visit scheme. Any requests for such a visit should normally be processed within two weeks of the request being made.

Of the 337 requests received during 2017, only 6 were not processed within the target time. Those that did not meet the desired response time were due to acceptable reasons, such as a householder being out of contact in excess of two weeks due to illness or travel.

These visits allow Fire Crews the opportunity to carry out a risk assessment within the home concerned and offer specific advice and guidance to the occupants, as well as fit smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms if necessary. The occupants receiving the advice are very often unaware of the risks from smoke inhalation or carbon monoxide poisoning. The costs involved in providing the free smoke and carbon monoxide alarms continues to be covered by fundraising activities. We were grateful to 'Islands Insurance' for their support with funding smoke alarms and local Architect 'PF&A' for supporting the funding of carbon monoxide alarms during the year.

The Service fitted 341 smoke detectors and 104 carbon monoxide detectors in 2017. This brings the Service's 10-year total of detectors fitted to 4145.

## **Hot Strikes**

The 'Hot Strike' scheme uses a fire incident for positive effect, by raising neighbours' awareness of fire safety in the vicinity of the fire. The incident, which will have already caught the neighbours' attention, is used as a real life example of the effects of fire. The Service aims to conduct a 'Hot Strike' in the immediate area of a significant property fire within 48 hours of it occurring, so the event is still at the forefront of the neighbours' minds.

Incidents of a relevant or significant nature trigger the delivery of a Hot Strike and, due to the low number of such incidents, only four were carried out during 2017. All of these were carried out within the target time.

## **Education**

To ensure that an educational Fire Safety presence is maintained within the Island's Schools, the Service aimed to carry out at least 120 school visits to deliver structured Fire Safety presentations throughout 2017. It is pleasing to note that 158 school visits were actually made during the year to give presentations and demonstrations to 2437 children.

The Service once again supported the 'Safety Calling Challenge'. This multi-agency educational initiative, is organised by the Guernsey Child Accident Prevention Group and involves over 600 Year-6 children being exposed to a wide range of safety experiences in a controlled environment



# FIRE SAFETY

## Fire Safety Law Enforcement

At the beginning of each year, the Fire Safety Team risk assess all premises registered under the Fire Services (Guernsey) Law 1989 (as amended) and identify the 60 high-risk premises that are in greatest need of inspection. The aim of the inspections is to ensure that the owner or occupier of the premises is maintaining and using the premises in a manner that complies with the Law. The list of high-risk premises is reviewed at the end of the year, to ensure that all have been inspected and dealt with appropriately. I am pleased to report that the team successfully dealt with 70 high-risk premises in 2017.

Notwithstanding the targeted inspection work mentioned above, the Service also undertakes to conduct 970 general inspections of commercial premises each year. The actual number of general inspections carried out during 2017 was 990.

The Service was also asked to carry out 6 detailed fire safety risk assessment reports on insured commercial premises. These inspections are carried out on behalf of the building owner's insurance companies or management companies, involve a very detailed and thorough survey of the building and consider the effectiveness of management systems. Related staff training is also reviewed and competencies relating to fire safety is considered.

The Service aims to undertake at least 80 Fire Safety Spot Checks or 'During Performance' Inspections each year. These visits are unannounced and are very often performed by operational crews (as opposed to Fire Safety Inspectors), so as not to give the owner/occupier any opportunity to pre-prepare. They give the Fire Service a true understanding of how the premises are being operated and 97 checks were performed during the year.

When it is found that premises are not compliant with the Fire Services (Guernsey) Law 1989 (as amended), there is provision within the Law to issue a formal Improvement Notice to instruct the owner (or occupier) to carry out changes to make the premises safe and compliant with the Law. In the cases where there is a serious and immediate threat to life, there is also a provision for the issuing of a Prohibition of Use Notice, which effectively stops the building from being used until the necessary improvements have been carried out. Failure to comply with either of these notices is an offence and carries a fine and possible imprisonment if found guilty. It is not normally necessary to resort to these measures, but in 2017 Prohibition of Use Notices were served on 2 buildings that contained an unsafe provision of sleeping accommodation and 6 Improvement Notices were served on premises that needed to be brought up to an acceptable standard.

## FIRE SAFETY ACTIVITY AT A GLANCE

Year	School Visits	Home Visits	Hot Strikes	High Risk Inspections	General Inspections	Spot Checks	Prohibition Notices	Improvement Notices
Target	120	-	-	60	970	80	-	-
2016	160	224	12	105	1033	94	2	2
2017	158	337	4	69	990	97	2	6

# OPERATIONS

## ANALYSIS OF CALLS

The total number of incidents attended in 2017 was lower than the previous year, with a 5% reduction shown. Analysis of the figures show a noticeable reduction in Chimney Fires and Road Traffic Collisions. Although the number of Fires and False Alarms remain similar to previous years, the number of general Special Services is 18% above the five-year average.

Co-responding to serious life-threatening medical incidents alongside the Ambulance Service, as well as assisting Ambulance Crews with the movement of casualties from difficult to reach locations is the reason for the increased level of general Special Services. These specific calls accounted for 132 (45%) of the total number of calls in this category.

Above average winter temperatures, at the beginning and end of the year, are believed (in part) to be the primary reason for the low number of Chimney Fires recorded. The Fire Service also increased the use of Social Media to highlight the importance of keeping chimneys properly maintained in order to reduce the risk of fires occurring.

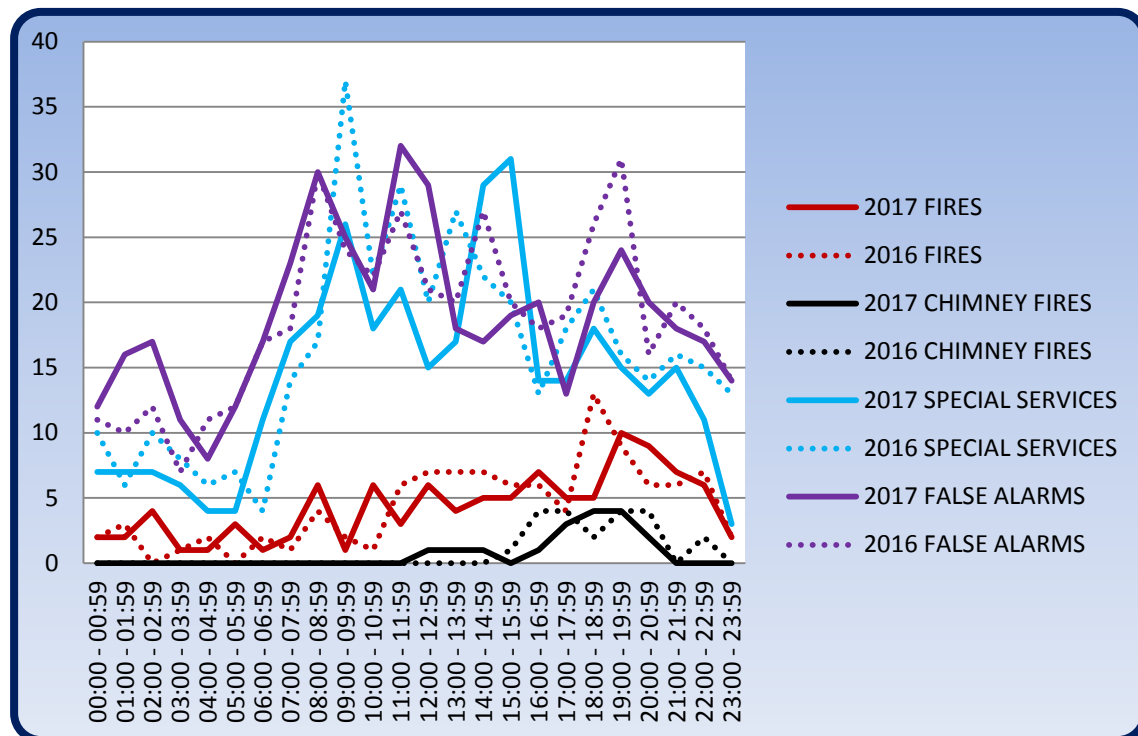
The reduction in the number of Road Traffic Collision calls is not believed to be because of an actual reduction of Road Traffic Collisions on Guernsey's roads. The marked increase of calls shown in 2015 was reported at the time to be due to the Fire Service being simultaneously alerted to most Road Traffic Collision incidents as part of a multi-agency response by the newly established Joint Emergency Services Control Centre. Essentially all Emergency Services were being dispatched to reports of Road Traffic Collisions. As experience has been gained within the centre over the subsequent two years, we have noticed a reduction in calls to incidents where our assistance was not necessarily required and the 2017 figure is now much more akin to the figures being recorded before the Joint Control Centre was established.

## ANALYSIS OF CALLS DURING THE PAST 5 YEARS

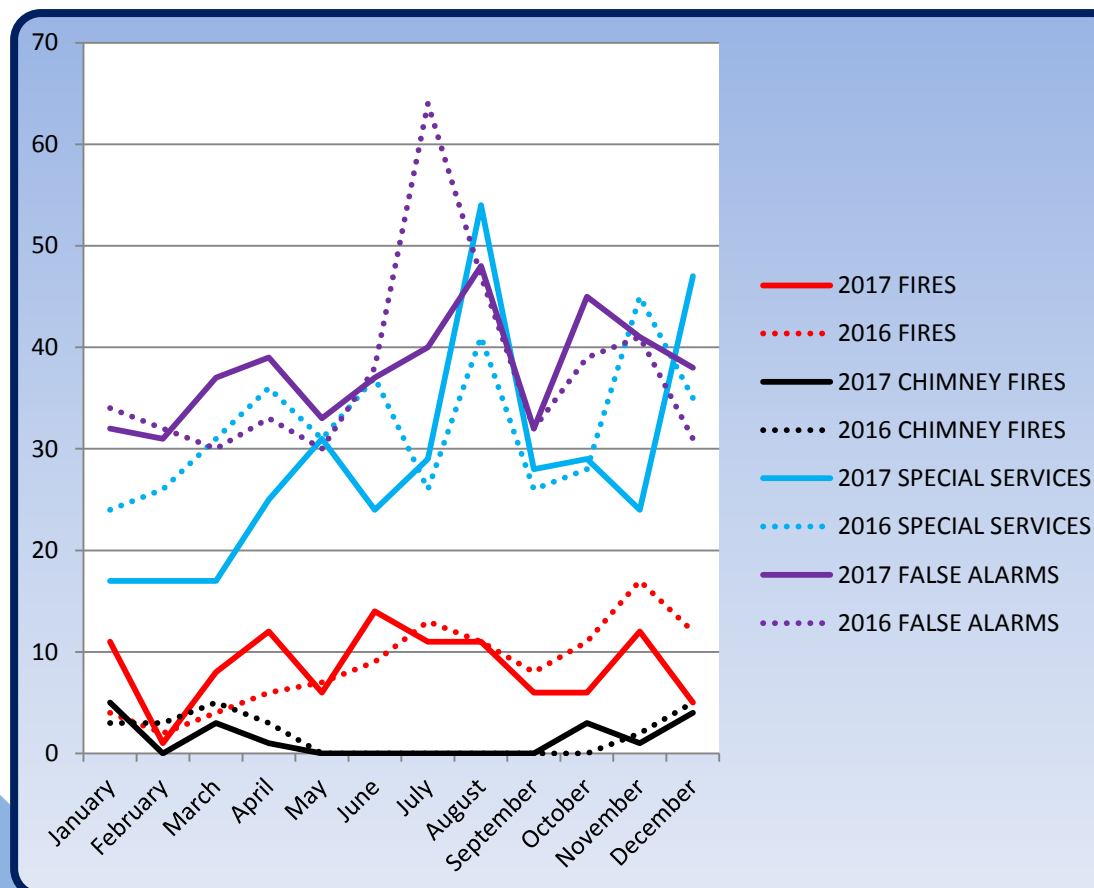
Year	Fires	Chimney Fires	False Alarms General	False Alarms Malicious	Special Service (Road Traffic Collisions)	Special Service (General)	Total
2013	112	46	370	3	65	182	778
2014	106	20	398	9	68	278	879
2015	143	25	445	7	105	166	891
2016	104	21	442	9	79	306	961
2017	103	17	446	7	52	290	915

# OPERATIONS

## INCIDENCE OF CALLS – TIME OF DAY



## INCIDENCE OF CALLS – TIME OF YEAR





# OPERATIONS

## NOTABLE INCIDENTS

During the month of January, the Island's main facility for dealing with gardening waste (the 'Green Tip' at Mont Cuet) suffered a breakdown of a key piece of equipment responsible for processing the waste materials into compost. The natural build-up of heat resulting from the decaying material was not adequately controlled and was the cause of a number of fires at the facility through the phenomenon known as 'spontaneous combustion'. Although staff at the

facility satisfactorily controlled a number of small fires, the Fire Service was called to assist on three occasions where the fires were too big for the site staff to control. The worst of the fires resulted in the Service being called out at 0605 hours on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Two Water Carriers, each with a crew of two, responded and arrived on scene at 0623 hours. They extinguished the fire and then spent the rest of the day systematically damping down the area. The whole operation took just over ten hours to complete and the crews eventually left the site at 1633 hours after ensuring that the fire had been completely extinguished. Although the fire only destroyed waste material, it was important for it to be extinguished to stop it from causing an environmental nuisance to the surrounding residents who were engulfed in smoke. It was also important that the fire was not allowed to go down into the ground and spread to the waste material that had been buried beneath, as such fires become incredibly difficult to extinguish and can create concealed voids that can later cause subsidence or sink holes with no warning.

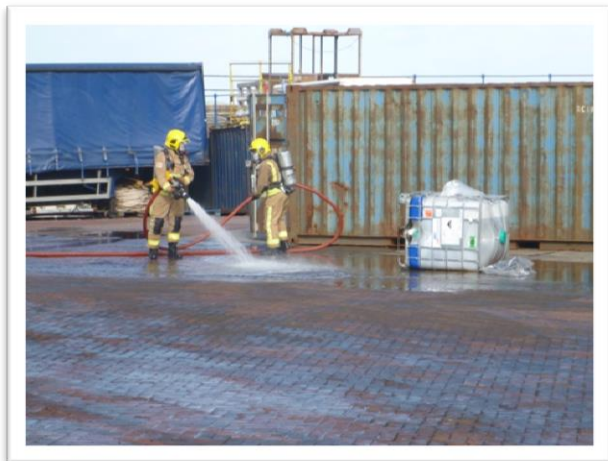


At 0758 hours on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017, the Service was called to assist the St John Ambulance & Rescue Service with removing an injured sailor from a cargo vessel, which had been unloading freight at one of the commercial berths in St Sampson's Harbour. A Water Tender with a crew of five was initially dispatched to the incident by the Joint Emergency Services Control Centre and arrived on scene at 0807 hours. After an initial assessment identified that, due to the nature of his injuries, it was important that the casualty remained

immobilised and delivered to Hospital to receive further assessment and treatment, the Fire Incident Commander requested further assistance from the Turntable Ladder Appliance at 0809 hours. The Turntable Ladder Appliance, with a crew of two, arrived on scene at 0829 hours. Working together with their Ambulance colleagues, the two Fire Crews took just twenty minutes to successfully manoeuvre the casualty from the Bridge area of the ship to the dockside utilising the Turntable Ladder to transport a specially designed demountable stretcher.

# OPERATIONS

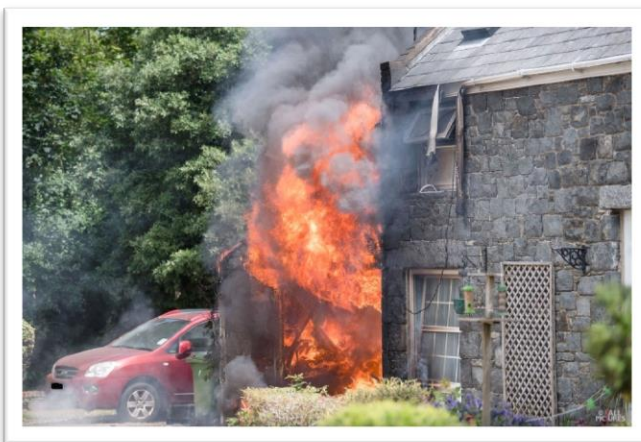
## NOTABLE INCIDENTS



On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 an incident occurred within the cordoned off area of St Peter Port Harbour where the loading and unloading of commercial vessels takes place. Staff at Guernsey Harbours alerted staff within the Joint Emergency Services Control Centre that there had been a chemical spill and declared it as a 'major incident'. A Water Tender with a crew of five and a Fire Service Duty Officer were dispatched to the scene at 1515 hours and arrived at 1520 hours. Meanwhile, as a major incident had been declared, all emergency services were

alerted to send a representative to a multi-agency 'Tactical Coordination Group' meeting at the Police Station, where all parties were briefed of the unfolding information in order to make fast-time joint decisions and respond to the incident in a coordinated, safe and effective manner. On attendance, the Fire Service responders quickly ascertained that a large container of acid was leaking, but had not caused injury to anyone. Wearing protective equipment, they very quickly ensured that the leak had been isolated. Following receipt of specialist 'Hazardous Material' advice, the area was sprayed down with large quantities of water in order to dilute the acid to a safe concentration level. The whole operation took just over two hours and the last Fire Service Appliance left the scene at 1750 hours.

At 1257 hours on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017, staff at the Joint Emergency Services Control Centre received a call to say that a garage attached to a two-storey house in St Sampson was on fire. A Water Tender with a crew of four and a Water Tender with a crew of five were dispatched, along with the Duty Officer. When they arrived on scene at 1309 hours they found that a fire in a garage was well established and was beginning to enter the attached house through adjacent windows at ground and first floor levels. They also quickly established that the heating oil tank for the house, of approximately 1,000litres capacity, was also under threat from the fire. Two crews of two wearing breathing apparatus were immediately tasked with fighting the fire whilst protecting the oil tank and house from further damage. The decisive action and skilful firefighting actions from the crews were instrumental in containing the fire to the garage and limiting the damage to the dwelling. The fire was under control within 15 minutes of arrival and extinguished within an hour. All Appliances had left the scene by 1500 hours.



# TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

## COURSES

### Fire Service College Courses

The Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service has a proud tradition of developing staff members for promotion into more responsible positions when they become vacant. One of the most risk critical areas for the Fire Service is the operational decisions made by Incident Commanders, as they risk the lives of the crews they command. Three aspiring Incident Commanders in development attended Incident Command courses at the Fire Service College in Gloucestershire during the year. Two attended Level 1 courses, which is the first stage of Incident Command training and deals with critical decision-making and risk assessment. The other Officer attended a Level 2 course, which promotes working closely with other agencies and using joint risk assessments.

The Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service maintains a number of specialist local instructors in various disciplines. They travel to the UK to receive the latest update training and return to Guernsey to pass on the latest developments in operational procedures to the local staff during routine training sessions. A Road Traffic Collision Instructor attended the Fire Service College during the year to receive update training. The same venue was also used to train a new Instructor in the specialist fields of Breathing Apparatus procedures and the science behind Fire Behaviour.

When inspecting buildings and building plans for compliance with fire related standards, it is important that Fire Safety Officers possess the correct specialist background knowledge and understanding. A developing Fire Safety Officer attended the Fire Service College during the year to undertake a course on Fire Engineering Principles.

Two recruit Firefighters commenced employment during 2017. Recruit Firefighter Kerrin Batiste was due to join the Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service in September 2016 to attend a Recruit Course at the Fire Service College. As the College cancelled the course we had booked due to a lack of sold spaces, his recruitment was delayed until January 2017 whilst a search for an alternative course took place. In order to avoid a long delay (until the Fire Service College next ran a course), an agreement was made with Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service to provide the recruit training required. As they also had an urgent need to train new recruits, they elected to run a one-off course with a small number of recruits over an eleven-week period at their training centre in Penrith. The Fire Service College was able to resume providing Recruit Courses in September 2017, which Recruit Firefighter Kyle Fossey attended for eight continuous weeks to undertake his initial Firefighter training. Both were demanding training programmes, involving practical as well as theoretical input, which gives the Firefighter the basic training required to be able to safely and competently respond to emergencies as part of a crew.

### Other UK Training Courses and Training Events

One of the Service's Driving Instructors was due to undertake refresher training and re-certification of their national instructional qualification. Although the training and assessment had previously taken place on the Island, changes to the National Register of LGV Instructors Regulations no longer allowed this. The local Instructor had to travel to Telford in Shropshire, to undertake the week long course, which consisted of a number of written elements and a full practical exam out on the road.



## TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

An eighteen-month training schedule commenced in 2017 in order to train all Breathing Apparatus wearers in the latest Compartment Fire Behaviour Training techniques. This took place at a training facility attached to the Gatwick Fire Service. This refresher course involves recognising how fires develop in an enclosed compartment and how the correct use of water spray and branch techniques can interfere with the process of combustion. Live-fire training has been identified as a safety critical element of maintaining a Firefighter's competence. With no specialist live-fire training facilities on the island, the Service has no alternative but to send its staff to an off-island facility. The travel links to Gatwick and the short travel distance to the facility from the airport mean that the training can be undertaken within a single day trip, which limits costs significantly.

Two Officers attended a 'Station Manager – Managing Incidents' course with the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service. This consisted of two weeks attending multiple different incident types, which serves as a reminder for some of the incident types that are encountered less frequently in Guernsey.

### Maintenance Courses

In order to save on annual expenditure to manufacturers for mandatory maintenance checks of certain items of specialist equipment, the Service is seeking to carry out as much of this work as possible 'in-house'. To do this, certificated maintenance courses are run for Firefighters for the routine inspection and maintenance of equipment. During 2017 a Fire Helmet course was run. Completion of this training will enable the Service to rectify any issues more quickly, whilst also saving money.

All Watch Officers and Instructors attended a training session facilitated by the Guernsey College of Further Education. The session updated these key individuals on how to keep their instruction fresh and engaging. This initiative went down very well with those attending, who appreciated the energy Martine Ellis brought to the training session.

### States of Guernsey Courses

As in previous years, the Service has utilised generic courses provided by the States of Guernsey Policy Council to assist staff members in their personal development aspirations. Courses used included; IOSH Managing Safely, Working Safely, Manual Handling, Preparing to Progress and Diversity at Work.

### Command and Control Assessments

The Service is once again indebted to the Jersey Fire & Rescue Service for sending one of their Officers to Guernsey to provide external verification to the Guernsey Command & Control assessment process. These assessments are carried out at the end of an aspiring Officer's developmental training. The process confirms if they have reached the necessary level of competence to safely take command of an incident, at the level that they have been developing towards. It is pleasing to report that members of the Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service remain committed to their individual personal development. This enables them to progress within the organisation during their careers and for the Service to have a competent and competitive pool of well-developed staff available to move up into roles as they become available. Firefighter Peter Saunders successfully passed the Crew Commanders assessment.

# TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

## Institution of Fire Engineers Examinations

Fire Service personnel are required to sit Institution of Fire Engineers examinations in order to qualify for progression into roles at a higher level. After much personal time spent in study, the following personnel's hard work was recognised through examination success in 2017:-

Level 3 Certificate      Firefighters P. Bisson and D. Garland

Level 3 Diploma      Crew Commanders A. Gibson and G. Sargent. Firefighters A. Clark, D. Crouse and A. Hamon,

## Community Training

The Fire Service prides itself on helping everyone in the community. Therefore, when dementia awareness training sessions were advertised, the Service immediately got on board in order to give its staff a greater understanding of how to assist people in the community with the condition. Julie Bulpitt of 'Dementia Friendly Guernsey' delivered the training to each Watch and all available Officers. The Fire Service is proud to say that it is now made up of 'Dementia Friends' and it thanks Julie for her time and assistance with this.

## Service and Inter-Service Training

As collaboration between the Emergency Services becomes more commonplace, the Fire Station's training facilities are being utilised more frequently by all of the Emergency Services in order to get more 'value for money' from the facilities. At one such event, the Fire Service was pleased to be able to help train recruit Police Officers on joint Road Traffic Collision procedures as part of their initial recruit training course.

Throughout the year the Fire Service run small scenarios and larger exercises to test its personnel and procedures for dealing with a wide variety of incident types. One of the larger exercises in 2017 was a simulated Terrorist incident at the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre, which included members of the Police Force and Ambulance Service.



The exercise produced some valuable learning outcomes, which will help to inform further multi-agency thought and discussion on refining the effectiveness of this particular response plan.

# SERVICE SUPPORT

## FINANCE

### Revenue Expenditure

The total cost of running the Service in 2017 was £3,782,429, which was a 2% overspend when compared to the allocated operating budget of £3,705,200. However, when set in June 2016, the budget did not include an amount for extra temporary staffing costs to assist with transformational change projects, nor did it include an amount for operational costs, which had been prematurely removed from the budget allocation as a saving that is not due to be delivered until 2019. If these known (and approved) items had been included in the published accounts, the Service's 2017 operating budget would have been £3,785,000 and we would be reporting a £2,571 underspend.

### Capital Expenditure

There was no capital expenditure in 2017, as items (that would routinely be replaced) were assessed as having a limited serviceable life remaining. This extended life results in a lower yearly operating cost (when the original purchase price is divided by the number of years in operation) and also enabled the limited Capital allocation awarded to the Committee *for* Home Affairs to be used on projects across the Committee of highest priority.

### Cost Recovery

The Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service has the ability to charge for certain services that are classed as being of non-emergency activity. This gives the Service the ability to expand its activities in areas that are proactive in reducing the need for emergency responses, without the need to increase the revenue budget and the expenditure of public finances. In 2017 the Service was able to recover the costs of providing 18 fire extinguisher courses, 20 fire marshal courses and 10 Level 1 fire safety courses, which trained an additional 446 people within the Guernsey community. These recovered costs were used to employ operational staff members to provide the training, who would have otherwise been off-duty. In a similar way, the staffing costs associated with providing 42 building design consultations with architects and 149 advisory inspections on other premises were recovered, which assisted in overcoming increases in other operating costs due to inflationary increases applied to the Service by its suppliers.



## OFF-DUTY ACTIVITIES

### THE GOVERNOR'S CUP

In June, representatives of the Emergency Services were approached by a Trustee of the Set Sail Trust who wished to establish a special event involving three classic Bristol Cutter sailing vessels that the Trust had organised to be in the Island to help introduce children to the joys of sailing. He wanted each of the Emergency Services to provide a crew to race in each of the vessels. He labelled the race 'The Governor's Cup', as he had also organised for His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to present the winning team with a cup. The Fire Service were able to muster a crew of off-duty members of staff, as did the Police Force, so a head to head race was scheduled to take place on the evening of 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The plan was for a course to be set that would create much work for the crews. Unfortunately, the weather conditions on the evening were not ideal for sailing, as there were only very light winds. As a result, the race was limited and involved both teams hoisting the sails in Havelet Bay, sailing straight across to a turn buoy in front of Jethou and then returning to a finish line in front of Castle Cornet. The two crews and vessels were very evenly matched, which made for a very close race. Although the Fire Service team were slightly behind when they arrived at the Jethou turn, they managed to pick up much more boat speed on the return leg and looked favourite to cross the finish line first. Unfortunately, any wind there was completely disappeared just as the two vessels approached the finish line. As the course set meant that the vessels needed to cross the finish line travelling in a direction from south to north, and as the tide was running in the opposite direction, both vessels found themselves being swept away from the finish line in the tidal flow. With no hope of either vessel finishing the race under sail, the race was officially called a draw and both teams motored back to the harbour. This was a great team building event, with the added benefit of some good natured Inter-Service fun, which helps to build relationships for when staff come together in more serious circumstances in their professional capacities. We would like to thank the Set Sail Trust for providing the Emergency Services with this great opportunity.



### CHARITY SUPPORT

It is once again pleasing to be able to report that the staff of the Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service supported many different charities during the year. Examples include: A team entered the Father's Day Half-Marathon to raise money for the Charity set up in the memory of former Fire Control Operator Lee Hope, whilst another entered the Guernsey Swimathon to raise money for deserving local charities. A team assisted the Eleanor Foundation with loading donated bicycles into a container for transportation to Africa, whilst another team assisted the Guernsey Rotary Club with loading a container with shoe-boxes containing gifts for disadvantaged children in Moldova, Albania, Montenegro and Romania. The biggest fundraising effort however was the group who created and sold a Calendar containing Firefighting relating images. This initiative raised funds for the Priaulx Premature Baby Foundation and the Firefighters' Charity, with both charities receiving donations of just over £4,000 as a result.

Photographs in this report were provided courtesy of:

The Guernsey Press & Star Newspaper

A. Le Poidevin - Tall Pictures

Service Personnel

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