# 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. **Summary table**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |   | **Number of AFA Incidents**  | **Number of confirmed fires**  | **Victims in these incidents**  | **Total time spent**  |
|   | **Total AFA incidents**  | **6pm to 9am**  | **9am to 6pm**  | **6pm to 9am**  | **9am to 6pm**  | **6pm to 9am**  | **9am to 6pm**  | **6pm to 9am**  | **9am to 6pm**  |
| **Group A**  | **725**  | **379**  | **346**  | **4**  | **3**  | **0**  | **0**  | **148:41:01**  | **97:50:23**  |
| Commercial  | 631  | 333  | 298  | 3  | 2  |   |   | 132:08:53  | 84:29:27  |
| Further education  | 22  | 10  | 12  |   |   |   |   | 3:43:36  | 3:07:17  |
| Entertainment  | 9  | 4  | 5  |   |   |   |   | 1:29:31  | 1:14:42  |
| Stadia  | 1  | 0  | 1  |   |   |   |   | 0:00:00  | 0:16:44  |
| Community Low  | 58  | 31  | 27  |   | 1  |   |   | 10:40:17  | 7:37:29  |
| Other- Low  | 4  | 1  | 3  | 1  |   |   |   | 0:38:44  | 1:04:44  |
| **Group B**  | **169**  | **84**  | **85**  | **1**  |   | **0**  |   | **38:35:30**  | **21:58:43**  |
| Education under 16  | 130  | 62  | 68  | 1  |   |   |   | 27:37:08  | 18:13:28  |
| Community  | 39  | 22  | 17  |   |   |   |   | 10:58:22  | 3:45:15  |
| **Group C**  | **1350**  | **747**  | **603**  | **14**  | **5**  | **2**  | **0**  | **239:04:09**  | **179:37:23**  |
| Dwelling  | 924  | 489  | 435  | 10  | 2  |   |   | 157:34:17  | 130:26:02  |
| Other Residential  | 387  | 235  | 152  | 4  | 3  | 2  |   | 74:23:20  | 44:06:59  |
| Hospital  | 20  | 12  | 8  |   |   |   |   | 2:29:42  | 2:38:38  |
| Community higher risk  | 19  | 11  | 8  |   |   |   |   | 4:36:50  | 2:25:44  |
| **TOTAL**  | **2244**  | **1210**  | **1034**  | **19**  | **8**  | **2**  | **0**  | **426:20:40**  | **299:26:29**  |

**Property Type Classification**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **IBIS Property  Description**  | **AFA group**  | **Property Group**  |
| Office - Purpose Built  | Commercial  | A  |
| Dock  | Commercial  | A  |
| Bank/Building Society/Insurance Broker  | Commercial  | A  |
| Shop - Single  | Commercial  | A  |
| Petrol Station – Includes Vehicle Wash/Valeting  | Commercial  | A  |
| Shop/Showroom - Vehicle Sales  | Commercial  | A  |
| Market Indoor/Outdoor  | Commercial  | A  |
| Restaurant/Cafeteria/Canteen - Licensed  | Commercial  | A  |
| Restaurant/Cafeteria/Canteen - Unlicensed  | Commercial  | A  |
| Fast Food Outlet/Takeaway (Hot/Cold) (Sandwich Bar/Kiosk)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Shop - Hairdresser  | Commercial  | A  |
| Shop - Laundrette  | Commercial  | A  |
| Post Office – Purpose Built  | Commercial  | A  |
| Shop - Retail - Other (Hire Shop/Contract Hire etc.)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Agricultural - Fishery  | Commercial  | A  |
| Shop - Hypermarket/Shopping Centre/Superstore  | Commercial  | A  |
| Public Convenience  | Commercial  | A  |
| Leisure - Zoo (Includes Wildlife Park)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Dentist  | Commercial  | A  |
| Broadcasting – TV/Film/Music Recording Studio  | Commercial  | A  |
| Estate Agent  | Commercial  | A  |
| Vehicle Storage - Bus, Boat/Dinghy, Car Storage/Depot  | Commercial  | A  |
| Public House/Bar/Wine Bar  | Commercial  | A  |
| Leisure - Licensed Members Club - Masonic Lodge, Health/Social Club etc.  | Commercial  | A  |
| Leisure Centre (Indoor/Building Only)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Swimming Pool (Indoor/Building Only)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Tennis Courts (Indoor/Building Only)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Animal Centre – Kennels  | Commercial  | A  |
| Animal Equestrian – Horse Racing/Breeding Stables/Commercial Stabling/Riding  | Commercial  | A  |
| Veterinary Surgery – Vet/Animal Medical Treatment  | Commercial  | A  |
| Animal - Other (includes RSPCA)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Vehicle Repair/Garage – Workshop  | Commercial  | A  |
| Factory/Manufacturing – Factory  | Commercial  | A  |
| Factory/Manufacturing – Mill  | Commercial  | A  |
| Factory/Manufacturing – Engineering Works  | Commercial  | A  |
| Workshop/Light Industrial (Bakery/Catering/Craft/Kitchen/Forge etc.)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Warehouse – Retail  | Commercial  | A  |
| Warehouse/Store/Storage Depot  | Commercial  | A  |
| Warehouse/Store/Storage Depot – Other  | Commercial  | A  |
| Warehouse/Store/Storage Depot – Hazardous Materials  | Commercial  | A  |
| Office - Other  | Commercial  | A  |
| Laboratory – Research/Medical/Testing  | Commercial  | A  |
| Animal Centre – Cattery  | Commercial  | A  |
| Sporting Venue - Other (Outdoor)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Transport Building - Other Air, Container, rail, Road, Ship Freight Handling  | Commercial  | A  |
| Car Park – Space  | Commercial  | A  |
| Office - Temporary (Caravan/Porta cabin)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Office – Converted  | Commercial  | A  |
| Office – Call Centre  | Commercial  | A  |
| Post Office – Within Other Shop/Premises  | Commercial  | A  |
| Warehouse - DIY  | Commercial  | A  |
| Warehouse - Electrical  | Commercial  | A  |
| Warehouse - Furniture  | Commercial  | A  |
| Supermarket – Large  | Commercial  | A  |
| Shop - Department Store  | Commercial  | A  |
| Shop - Travel Ageny  | Commercial  | A  |
| Factory/Manufacturing – Animal Products  | Commercial  | A  |
| Factory/Manufacturing – Chemicals  | Commercial  | A  |
| Factory/Manufacturing – Oil Refinery  | Commercial  | A  |
| Recycling Plant – Inc Scrap Metal/Vehicle Breaker  | Commercial  | A  |
| Factory/Manufacturing – Assembly  | Commercial  | A  |
| Factory/Manufacturing – Printing  | Commercial  | A  |
| Utility Use - Landfill/Waste/Bulk Storage  | Commercial  | A  |
| Conference Centre  | Commercial  | A  |
| Gym (Indoor/Building Only)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Sports Hall (Indoor/Building Only)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Ice Rink (Indoor/Building Only)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Sporting Venue – Other (Indoor/Building Only)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Sports Pavilion/Shower Block/Changing Facility  | Commercial  | A  |
| Private – Garage  | Commercial  | A  |
| Agricultural - Barn  | Commercial  | A  |
| Agricultural - Greenhouse (commercial) glass  | Commercial  | A  |
| Agricultural - Greenhouse (commercial) polytunnel  | Commercial  | A  |
| Agricultural - Intensive Farming Sheds (chickens, pigs etc)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Agricultural - Milking Parlour  | Commercial  | A  |
| Agricultural - Tractor Shed  | Commercial  | A  |
| Agricultural - Building Other  | Commercial  | A  |
| Agricultural - Silo  | Commercial  | A  |
| Airport - hangar  | Commercial  | A  |
| Airport - fuel storage  | Commercial  | A  |
| Airport - elsewhere  | Commercial  | A  |
| Ferry terminal  | Commercial  | A  |
| Mines and Quarries - Buildings above ground  | Commercial  | A  |
| Shop - Bakery  | Commercial  | A  |
| Factory/Manufacturing – Distillery Plant (Including Alcohol)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Factory/Manufacturing – Food & Drink Processing  | Commercial  | A  |
| Restaurant/Cafeteria/Canteen - Other  | Commercial  | A  |
| Restaurant/Cafeteria/Canteen - Not Known if Licensed  | Commercial  | A  |
| Leisure - Health Spa/Farm  | Commercial  | A  |
| Golf Clubhouse (Indoor/Building Only)  | Commercial  | A  |
| Animal Centre - Vet/Animal Medical Treatment  | Commercial  | A  |
| Slaughter House  | Commercial  | A  |
| Day Care Centre – Drop in Centre  | Community Low  | A  |
| Public/Village Hall/Other Community Facility  | Community Low  | A  |
| Religious Building - Church/Chapel  | Community Low  | A  |
| Marina  | Community Low  | A  |
| Mooring  | Community Low  | A  |
| Wharf  | Community Low  | A  |
| Religious Building - Cathedral  | Community Low  | A  |
| Religious Building - Mosque  | Community Low  | A  |
| Religious Building - Temple  | Community Low  | A  |
| Religious Building - Synagogue  | Community Low  | A  |
| Religious Building - Other  | Community Low  | A  |
| MoD office within Building  | Community Low  | A  |
| Car Park – Multi Storey  | Community Low  | A  |
| Leisure - Cinema  | Entertainment  | A  |
| Leisure - Bingo Hall  | Entertainment  | A  |
| Leisure - Theatre  | Entertainment  | A  |
| Leisure - Nightclub/Club  | Entertainment  | A  |
| Leisure - Casino/Amusement Arcades  | Entertainment  | A  |
| Leisure - Theme Park/Amusement Park/Water Park/Wildlife etc  | Entertainment  | A  |
| Leisure - Concert Hall  | Entertainment  | A  |
| Leisure - Art Gallery  | Entertainment  | A  |
| Leisure - Exhibition Centre  | Entertainment  | A  |
| Leisure - Entertainment Venue - Other  | Entertainment  | A  |
| Leisure - Cultural Venue - Other  | Entertainment  | A  |
| Education – College  | Further education  | A  |
| Education – University  | Further education  | A  |
| Education - Other (Includes adult education establishments, police training centre, occupational training centre.)  | Further education  | A  |
| False alarm –  Property not found  | Other - Low  | A  |
| Other buildings/use not known incl public huts/sheds/ animal sheds/ bus shelter/ garages (comm.) kiosk/ port. Toilets  | Other - Low  | A  |
| Building – Other/Vacant/unoccupied Premises  | Other - Low  | A  |
| Holiday Campsite (Camping/Caravan/Holiday Centre)  | Other - Low  | A  |
| Beach Hut (Recreational, Non-Residence Use Only)  | Private non residential  | A  |
| Private – Garden Shed  | Private non residential  | A  |
| Private – Summer House  | Private non residential  | A  |
| Private – Greenhouse  | Private non residential  | A  |
| Private – Other Building (Allotment, Outside Toilet, Coal Shed etc.)  | Private non residential  | A  |
| Indoor Stadium (Indoor/Building Only)  | Stadia  | A  |
| Athletic Stadium (Indoor/Building Only)  | Stadia  | A  |
| Football Ground (Indoor/Building Only)  | Stadia  | A  |
| Rugby Stadium (Indoor/Building Only)  | Stadia  | A  |
| Cricket Ground (Indoor/Building Only)  | Stadia  | A  |
| Greyhound Stadium (Indoor/Building Only)  | Stadia  | A  |
| Racecourse (Indoor/Building Only)  | Stadia  | A  |
| Motor Racing Circuit (Indoor/Building Only)  | Stadia  | A  |
| Police Station  | Community  | B  |
| Ambulance Station  | Community  | B  |
| Leisure - Library  | Community  | B  |
| Leisure - Museum  | Community  | B  |
| Public Buildings - Other (Cemetry/Crematorium/Chaple of Rest)  | Community  | B  |
| Doctors surgery  | Community  | B  |
| Health Centre Other – Drugs Centre, Deaf/Blind Services etc.  | Community  | B  |
| Law Court (Magistrates/Crown/High/Coroners/County Courts)  | Community  | B  |
| Train Station - Platform (Overground)  | Community  | B  |
| Train Station - Platform (Underground)  | Community  | B  |
| Airport or Ferry Terminal  | Community  | B  |
| Train station - Elsewhere  | Community  | B  |
| Health Centre (Not Medical)  | Community  | B  |
| Town Hall  | Community  | B  |
| Local Government Office (open to public)  | Community  | B  |
| Central Government Office (open to public)  | Community  | B  |
| Young offenders unit  | Community  | B  |
| Train station - concourse  | Community  | B  |
| Trains - engine shed  | Community  | B  |
| Trains - other  | Community  | B  |
| Telecommunications – Telephone Exchange  | Community  | B  |
| Health Centre - General Practice Surgery/Clinic  | Community  | B  |
| Pre School/Nursery/Creche  | Education under 16  | B  |
| Education – Primary School (includes Infant, Junior, Middle & Private Prep)  | Education under 16  | B  |
| Education – Secondary/High School  | Education under 16  | B  |
| Utility Use - Oil Storage/Distribution  | Commercial higher risk  | C  |
| Utility Use - Gas Distribution/Oil/Fuel/Depot Storage  | Commercial higher risk  | C  |
| Car Park – Underground  | Commercial higher risk  | C  |
| Prison  | Community High  | C  |
| Water/Waste Water/Sewage Treatment Works  | Community High  | C  |
| Power Station/Energy Production (Wind Farm/Turbine etc.)  | Community High  | C  |
| Pump House/Pumping Station/Water Tower  | Community High  | C  |
| Gas Storage/Distribution  | Community High  | C  |
| Electricity Sub Station  | Community High  | C  |
| Dwelling - Single Private Detached  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Flats/Maisonettes up to 3 Storeys  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Flats/Maisonettes 4 to 9 Storeys  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Flats Converted Houses/Offices up to 2 storeys  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Flats Converted Houses/Offices 3 storeys and over  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Dwelling – Caravan/Mobile Home(Permanent)  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Royal Palaces With Sleeping Accommodation (Crown Property not open to the public)  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Dwelling - Single Private Semi Detached  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Dwelling - Single Private Terraced House  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Dwelling - Single Private Bungalow  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Dwelling – Houseboat (Permanent)  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Dwelling - Single Private - Sheltered Accommodation  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Dwelling - Single Private Farm House  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Flats/Maisonettes 10 or more Storeys  | Dwelling  | C  |
| HMO - Licensed up to 2 Storeys  | Dwelling  | C  |
| HMO - Licensed 3 or more Storeys  | Dwelling  | C  |
| HMO - Unlicensed up to 2 storeys  | Dwelling  | C  |
| HMO - Unlicensed  3 or more Storeys  | Dwelling  | C  |
| HMO - Unknown if Licensed up to 2 Storeys  | Dwelling  | C  |
| HMO - Unknown if Licensed up to 3 Storeys  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Castle (not open to the public)  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Stately Home (not open to the public)  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Dwelling – Other Converted Bus/Railway Carriage (Permanent)  | Dwelling  | C  |
| HMO - Residential Licensed  | Dwelling  | C  |
| Hospital/Hospice  | Hospital  | C  |
| Hospital/Hospice/Secured  | Hospital  | C  |
| Restaurant/Cafeteria/Canteen - Licensed (With Associated Sleeping)  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Restaurant/Cafeteria/Canteen - Unlicensed (With Associated Sleeping)  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Public House/Bar/Wine Bar (With Associated Sleeping)  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Leisure - Nightclub/Club With Associated Sleeping  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Shop - Single (With Associated Sleeping Accommodation  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Restaurant/Cafeteria/Canteen - Other  (With Associated Sleeping)  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Restaurant/Cafeteria/Canteen - Not Known If Licensed (With Associated Sleeping)  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Holiday Residence - Other (Cottage/Flat/Chalet)  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Hostel  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Care/Nursing Home  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Boarding House/Bed & Breakfast  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Communal Residential Home (Children/Orphanage/Retirement Home/Refuge Centre/Convent etc.)  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Residential Home - Other  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Residential - Boarding Schools Accommodation  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Residential - Student Halls Accommodation  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Hotel/Motel  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Guest House  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Army Militray/Barracks (Includes all Buildings)  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Auxiliary Defence (Includes all Buildings)  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Air Force Militray/Barracks (Includes all Buildings)  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Government Militray/Barracks (Includes all Buildings)  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Navy Militray/Barracks (Includes all Buildings)  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Youth Hostel  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Sheltered Accommodation (Not self contained)  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Retirement Home (Non Medical Care)  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Residence – Nurses/Dr’s Accommodation  | Other Residential  | C  |
| Residential Communal - Monastery/Convent  | Other Residential  | C  |