



Northern Ireland Fire Brigades Union

Budget Cuts 2017/18





Session Aims

NIFRS Overview

Budget Background

Impact on Service



NIFRS Overview

917 Wholetime (Full-time) Firefighters

998 Retained (Part-time) Firefighters

12 Volunteer Firefighters

58 Regional Emergency Fire Control Centre Staff

260 Support Staff



Budget Background

2016-17 Budget was £72.5m

For 2017-18 The Chief Fire & Rescue Officer requested £74.4m

Department of Health (DoH) only funded £72.2m

FBU lobby & press Campaign helped to get an extra £700k (Nov'17)

2017-18 Budget now £72.9m

NIFRS is one of the higher performing FRSs in the UK with a cost per head of population of £38.90 against the UK average of £41.40.

This means that fire and rescue cover is provided for each person in NI for £0.75 per week or £0.11 per day!



Budget Background

83% of the NIFRS revenue spend is on wages and salaries

Catastrophic impact on emergency cover!

Reductions in numbers of firefighters (both fulltime and retained)

No upgrades (Strabane, Dungannon & Downpatrick)

Non primary crewing of appliances

Reduction in training



Impact on Service

Specialist High Rise Appliance in Derry/Londonderry no longer immediately available

Specialist Rescue Appliance in Derry/Londonderry-50% reduction in crew numbers

Full-time cover in Antrim Fire station reduced by 40% including no weekend cover

Reduction in the number of supervisory Officers critical to firefighter safety.



Impact on Service

Reduction in the number of safety critical training days for part-time fire-fighters (major health & safety implications).

Lack of recruitment, therefore not enough full-time personnel to upgrade operational response high risk stations such as Downpatrick, Dungannon & Strabane.



Questions?