

## Summary of Estates management record consultation responses

In January 2016 HESA issued a [consultation](#) in respect of the current annual update for the 2015/16 Estates management record (C15042).

All items in this consultation have originated from HESA and USHA representative's evaluations of all fire-related data items in the Estates management record. This document summarise the responses received in the consultation.

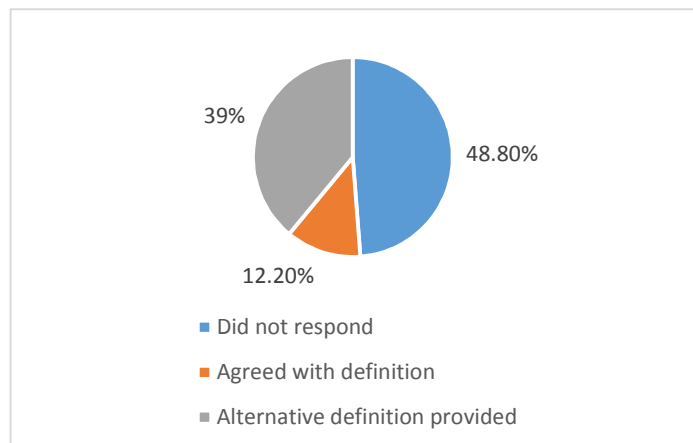


Total of 48 responses received - all of the responses received from institutional colleagues from HEPs. 31 of the respondents were from health and safety contacts and 17 from general estates contacts. Our thanks to all respondents, and the time they took to provide helpful and insightful comments.

### Changes to major and minor fires

**6. Major fire definition: A major fire incident is defined as an incident involving smoke, heat, and flames causing property damage to multiple building fixtures or fittings. Exclude those occurring in space not managed by the HEP. Please suggest any amendments to this definition below**

- The diagram shows the breakdown of the response to this question.
- A total of 21 responses were received for this question.
- A number of providers have provided different definitions or suggestions for improvements of the definition given.



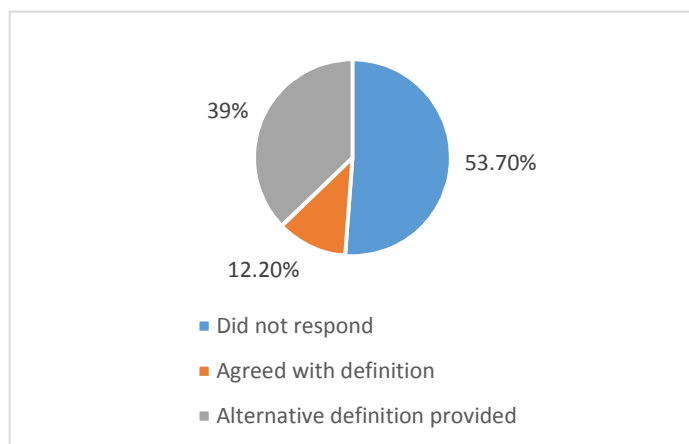
**Below is a breakdown of the alternative definitions and suggestions that were given:**

- Several providers have suggested to include within the definition that the damage has to be greater than 0.5sq meters from the source of ignition.
- One provider suggests both categories (Major and Minor) are merged into a single 'fire' category
- Two providers have said to include an estimation of financial loss.
- A number of providers have said to include a reference to number of residents directly affected by the fire, one of the providers has suggested major fire is defined as one that triggers a major incident response form the institution or that requires the attendance of two or more emergency services (e.g. fire and ambulance).
- One provider has suggested to slightly change the definition to include "multiple fixtures or fittings in one or more buildings".
- One provider has stated the definition should include one building, as a large fire in one building would not be covered the suggested minor fire definition.

- One provider has noted if the Higher Education establishment has any control or management and has staff working in a space, then it should be included.
- One provider feels a middle category should also be used, they have suggested the following definitions:
  - Major fire - spreads beyond the compartment of/ floor of origin.
  - Fire - contained within compartment/floor of origin.
  - Minor fire - contained within room of origin

**7. Minor fire definition: A minor fire incident is defined as an incident involving smoke, heat and flames causing only localised damage to equipment or property. For minor fire incidents 'localised' may need to be determined. Using a simple rule of thumb: a maximum area directly affected by heat or smoke less than 0.5m<sup>2</sup> or damage confined to one small piece of equipment would be classified as 'localised'. Exclude those occurring in space not managed by the HEP. Please suggest any amendments to this definition below.**

- The diagram shows the breakdown of the responses received.
- Total of 19 providers responded to the question.
- A number of provider have suggested alternative definitions.



**Below is a breakdown of the alternative definitions and suggestions that were given:**

- Several providers suggest both categories are merged into a single 'fire' category, one of the provider's further states NHS Fire code simply requires reporting of number of fires. This provider sees no reason for HEPs to be different.
- Two providers have noted that 0.5m<sup>2</sup> is too small as some fires may be larger which creates greater number of major fires.
- Several providers have suggested slightly changing the wording of the definition, these are:
  - A minor fire incident is defined as an incident involving smoke, heat or flames causing only localised damage to a single piece of equipment or to property within 0.5metres of the source of ignition.
  - A minor fire incident causes only localised damage to equipment or property likely maximum area directly affected by heat or smoke less than 0.5m<sup>2</sup> or damage confined to one small piece of equipment is classified as 'localised'.
  - Smoke, heat and flames causing localised damage to equipment or property within 0.5 square metres of the source of ignition.
- One provider has stated that there is a gap between the minor fires definition and the major fires definition e.g. a fire that destroys a room or one building.
- One provider has suggested to include estimation of financial lost.

## Major and Minor fires

Currently in the Number of Major and Minor fires entities, the residential and non-residential fields are broken down into the following categories:

- A source which cannot be determined
- Car fire
- Cooking
- Electrical
- Hot works contract or activity
- Laboratory activity
- Malicious
- Naked flame
- Smoking
- Other

In the 2013/14 collection, in all the categories for 'Number of major fires', just over 99% of responses were a zero or left blank and in all the categories for 'Number of minor fires', just over 94% of responses were a zero or left blank.

It is proposed to remove the categories as these are not providing comparable data.

### Q8. Do you support removing the breakdown of these fields by categories?

Majority of providers support removing the breakdown of categories.

#### Q8a. Please provide more information following your response above

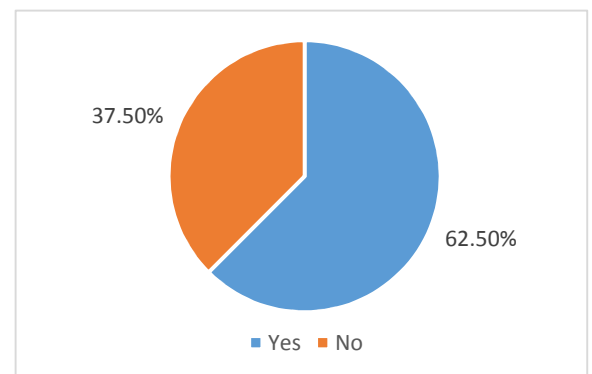
The providers not in support have provided comments:

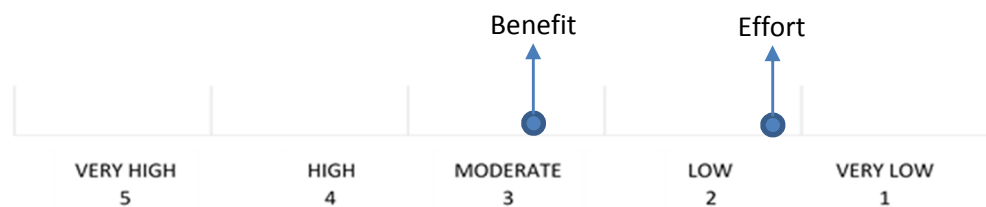
- A small number of providers have stated that the data is useful for benchmarking against the sector, insurance purposes and a useful tool for fire safety management. One provider went on to say retaining these fields will allow early warning of any deterioration in fire safety management in the sector.
- One provider has asked whether nil returns could not be challenged and the definitions include examples to make them clearer.
- One provider has questioned whether major fire data can be collected from another source.
- Two providers have noted that it is important to know the origins of fire for future fire protection. Another provider has also said the current differentiation is valid.
- One provider has stated it is difficult to provide an answer as there is a vast difference between '0' and blank, the provider has also stated it supports the removal of the 'car fire' category only as this is not a risk to building or life.

#### Q8b. What would be the impact of making this change?

The diagram below represents the average of the responses received regarding the effort and benefit that would be involved in removing the valid entry.

The breakdown of categories is has greater benefit for providers than the effort involved.





**Q8c. Do you have any further comments about this proposal?**

- Comments showing general support for the proposal, one provider has stated reporting of numerous categories that are "zero" damages credibility and enforces the impression of "health & safety".
- One provider has asked for more realistic clear data that reflect number of real incidents.
- One provider has suggested the cause categories should be reviewed and not totally removed. As there are some causes that are easily identified whilst others are difficult and time consuming to find.

**Nature of Fire**

It is proposed to remove the Nature fields from entity '[Number of major fires](#)' and '[Number of minor fires](#)'.

The nature of fire fields collect data which is not comparable at national level, due to the free-text nature of responses, and the data cannot be quality assured.

The fields are:

Nature of major fires a source which cannot be determined (IFNAMAUD)

Nature of major fires car fire (IFNAMACA)

Nature of major fires cooking (IFNAMACO)

Nature of major fires electrical (IFNAMA EI)

Nature of major fires hot works contract or activity (IFNAMAHC)

Nature of major fires laboratory activity (IFNAMALB)

Nature of major fires malicious (IFNAMAML)

Nature of major fires naked flame (IFNAMANF)

Nature of major fires other (IFNAMASR)

Nature of major fires smoking (IFNAMASM)

Nature of minor fires a source which cannot be determined (IFNAMIUD)

Nature of minor fires car fire (IFNAMICA)

Nature of minor fires cooking (IFNAMICO)

Nature of minor fires electrical (IFNAMIEI)

Nature of minor fires hot works contract or activity (IFNAMIHC)

Nature of minor fires laboratory activity (IFNAMILB)

Nature of minor fires malicious (IFNAMIML)

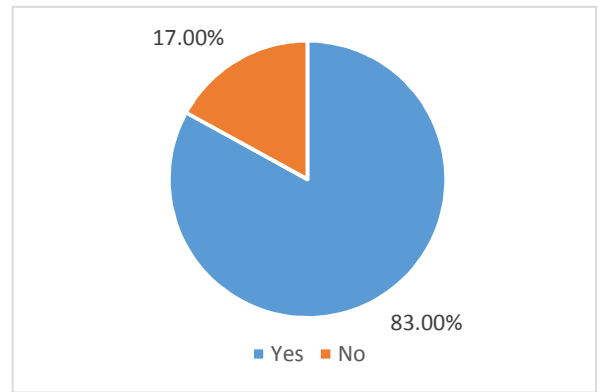
Nature of minor fires naked flame (IFNAMINF)

Nature of minor fires other (IFNAMISR)

Nature of minor fires smoking (IFNAMISM)

### Q9. Do you support the removal of the nature of fire fields?

A high majority of providers support the removal of the nature fields, only a small amount of providers do not support the removal.

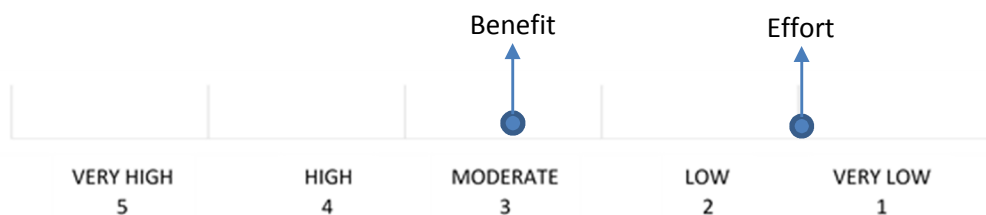


#### Q9a. Please provide more information following your response above

Comments made from the providers who do not support the proposal:

- One provider has suggested, if the issue is the non-comparability of text responses, the fix should be to give standard options to pick from.
- One provider has noted that it depends on whether you want to just count the number of fire or to analyse them for future fire protection and prevention.
- Two providers have stated that the fields are relevant, one of the providers have said the information provided is useful at an institutional level, even if it isn't at a sector level.

#### Q9b. What would be the impact of making this change?



The effort involved in removing the nature of fire fields for providers is low and the benefit it brings is moderate. The benefit significantly outweighs the effort.

#### Q9c. Do you have any further comments about this proposal?

- One provider has suggested a general free text field to briefly describe the incident would be helpful to fire safety practitioners in the HE Sector.
- One provider has noted that the data should be in line with the fire service data
- One provider has mentioned that reporting numerous categories of zero damages credibility.
- One provider has noted that it is useful to know the cause of fire.

### Near miss fires

It is proposed to remove the entity '[Number of near miss fire incidents](#)' and all the fields within it.

It is not possible to clearly define and report what falls in scope of a near miss fire and therefore these fields cannot capture comparable data.

The fields are:

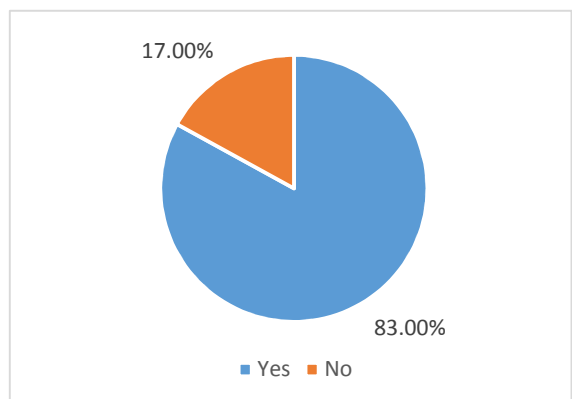
Non-residential number of near miss fire incidents cooking (IFNRNMCO)  
 Residential number of near miss fire incidents cooking (IFRNMCO)  
 Nature of near miss fire incidents cooking (IFNANMCO)  
 Non-residential number of near miss fire incidents malicious (IFNRNMML)  
 Residential number of near miss fire incidents malicious (IFRNMML)  
 Nature of near miss fire incidents malicious (IFNANMML)  
 Non-residential number of near miss fire incidents electrical (IFNRNMEI)  
 Residential number of near miss fire incidents electrical (IFRNMEI)  
 Nature of near miss fire incidents electrical (IFNANMEI)  
 Non-residential number of near miss fire incidents naked flame (IFNRNMNF)  
 Residential number of near miss fire incidents naked flame (IFRNMNF)  
 Nature of near miss fire incidents naked flame (IFNANMNF)  
 Non-residential number of near miss fire incidents hotworks contract or activity (IFNRNMHC)  
 Residential number of near miss fire incidents hotworks contract or activity (IFRNMHC)  
 Nature of near miss fire incidents hotworks contract or activity (IFNANMHC)  
 Non-residential number of near miss fire incidents laboratory activity (IFNRNMLB)  
 Residential number of near miss fire incidents laboratory activity (IFRNMMLB)  
 Nature of near miss fire incidents laboratory activity (IFNANMLB)  
 Non-residential number of near miss fire incidents smoking (IFNRNMSM)  
 Residential number of near miss fire incidents smoking (IFRNMMSM)  
 Nature of near miss fire incidents smoking (IFNANMSM)  
 Non-residential number of near miss fire incidents car fire (IFNRNMCA)  
 Residential number of near miss fire incidents car fire (IFRNMCA)  
 Nature of near miss fire incidents car fire (IFNANMCA)  
 Non-residential number of near miss fire incidents not able to determine (IFNRNMUD)  
 Residential number of near miss fire incidents not able to determine (IFRNMUD)  
 Nature of near miss fire incidents not able to determine (IFNANMUD)  
 Non-residential number of near miss fire incidents other (IFNRNMSR)  
 Residential number of near miss fire incidents other (IFRNMMSR)  
 Nature of near miss fire incidents other (IFNANMSR)  
 Non-residential number of near miss fire incidents total (IFNRNMT)  
 Residential number of near miss fire incidents total (IFRNMST)  
 Total number of near miss fire incidents (IFNRMST)

**Q10. Do you support the removal of the entity and its fields?**

Majority of providers support the removal, whilst just under a quarter of providers do not support the removal.

**Q10a. Please provide more information in response to your answer above**

- General comments received from those providers who were against the removal of these fields stated that these fields are important, one provider has stated that the field helps closely manage fires especially within residential fires.



- Two providers have suggested that near miss fire needs to be defined clearly.

**Q10b. What would be the impact of making this change?**



The benefit of removing the entity and its field significantly outweighs the effort which is close to very low for providers.

**Q10c. Do you have any further comments about this proposal?**

Several comments were provided:

- One provider has stated a near miss fire is meaningless; fire hazards are present all the time and are either managed or not managed which results in either no fire or a fire accordingly.
- One provider has said the near miss is poor and subjective, another provider went on to say that near miss is a variable phenomenon that is perceived in many different ways, which would require to be very prescriptive to afford valuable data-which then results in resource and time management issues.
- Another provider mentioned that a near miss fire could be a minor fire. Also another provider has noted that most people would be unaware of near misses.

**People injured as a result of fire**

The 'Number of people injured as a result of fire' entity and its fields may already be captured under RIDDOR reportable injury incidents.

Therefore it is proposed to remove the entity Number of people injured as a result of fire and all the fields it contains.

The fields are:

- Number of people injured as a result of fires cooking (IFPCOOK)
- Number of people injured as a result of fires malicious (IFPMALA)
- Number of people injured as a result of fires electrical (IFPELEC)
- Number of people injured as a result of fires naked flame (IFPNAKF)
- Number of people injured as a result of fires hot works contract or activity (IFPHOCO)
- Number of people injured as a result of fires laboratory activity (IFPLABA)
- Number of people injured as a result of fires smoking (IFPSMOK)
- Number of people injured as a result of fires car fire (IFPCARF)
- Number of people injured as a result of fires not able to determine (IFPUNDE)
- Number of people injured as a result of fires other (IFPAOS)
- Non-Residential number of people injured as a result of fires (IFNRPFIR)
- Residential number of people injured as a result of fires (IFRPFIR)
- Total number of people injured as a result of fire (IFPFIRT)

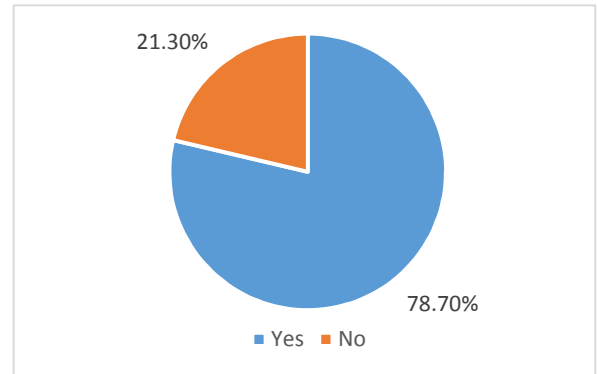
**Q11. Do you support the removal of the entity and its fields?**

Majority of providers are in support of the removal whilst a number of providers are not.

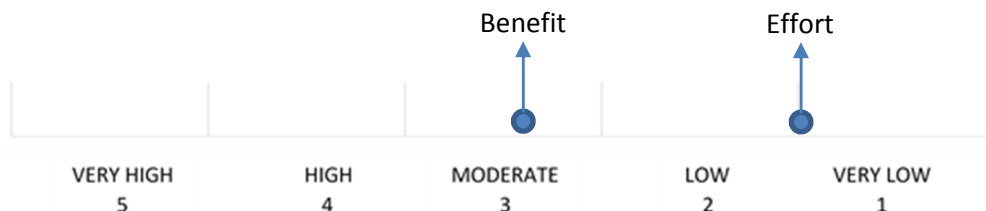
**Q11a. Please provide more information in response to your answer above**

Several providers have expressed their concerns in RIDDOR collecting this data:

- One provider has noted that it cannot be assumed that recording under RIDDOR will capture all injuries. The number of people injured in the incident is needed although the precise cause of the incident is not.
- One provider feels fire is a specific issue and thinks to single fire data and not just relying on RIDDOR is beneficial.
- One provider has put any injuries should be monitored.
- One provider has stated it allows them to categorise cause and prevent re-occurrence.
- One provider has stated that HESA need to seek clarification as to the circumstances which would lead to a RIDDOR reportable injury (as there can be significant ambiguity around how incident in residence may be viewed in respect to RIDDOR reporting) and whichever ones do not, determine whether they would give appropriate information to the sector.



**Q11b. What would be the impact of making this change?**



The benefit of removing the entity and its fields is greater than the effort involved for providers.

**Q11c. Do you have any further comments about this proposal?**

- The majority of comments stated support for the proposal. A couple of providers have mentioned that RIDDOR covers this data.
- One provider believes that this is an important field, especially as the fire safety order enforces against the potential for death or serious injury.
- One provider has suggested a single field with injuries resulting from fire with a comments box adjacent, should it be required.





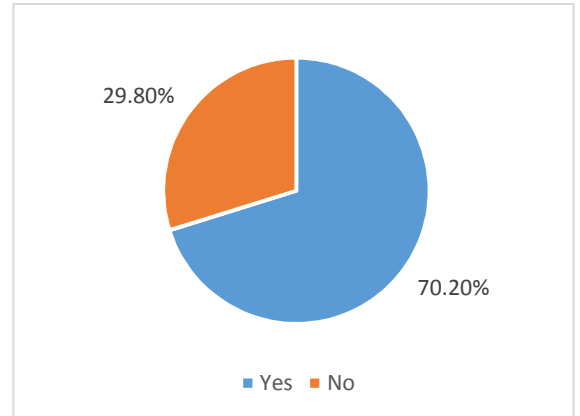
## External fires

### Removal of entity 'Number of external fires'

The proposal is to remove entity '[Number of external fires](#)' as this seems to be an unnecessary breakdown and has low levels of data reporting.

#### Q12. Do you support the removal of the entity and its fields?

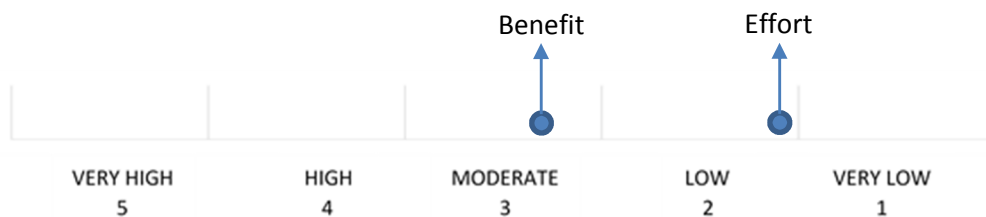
The majority of providers support the proposal, with just over a quarter of providers not supporting the removal.



#### Q12a. Please provide more information in response to your answer above

- Several providers have mentioned that external fires, have significant impact on arson incidents, in identifying fire patterns and monitoring arson.
- One provider has indicated that fire risks in an open environment is different to those inside a building, therefore it is important to understand the fire risks in an open environment.
- A small number of providers have said the category is useful. One of the providers has said it is beneficial for comparing, another provider has also stated data on external fires is useful in determining security response.
- One provider has stated that the field indicates poor management of external spaces.
- One provider has noted that including external fires would be misleading; to differentiate is useful.

#### Q12b. What would be the impact of making this change?



The benefit of removing the entity and its fields is greater than the effort for providers.

#### Q12c. Do you have any further comments about this proposal?

- Several providers have stated their support for the proposal
- One provider has raised a concern: Exactly what does "external" mean in this context? Fires outside buildings should be reported as "Other". Fires "external" to the area of responsibility do not require reporting.

## General comments

#### Q13. If you have any further comments relating to this consultation, please note these below.

The further comments mainly contained general support for the reduction of this data, and appreciation for the opportunity to feed into the process.