



Isles of Scilly  
Fire & Rescue  
Service



Council of the  
Isles of Scilly

# Background Information for the Fire & Rescue Service on the Isles of Scilly



## Consulting on the Community Risk Management Plan 2023-2026

### Contact us

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# About Us



The Isles of Scilly Fire and Rescue Service is the smallest in the UK comprising almost entirely of on-call firefighters and volunteers based on each inhabited island.

The service is proportionally more expensive than anywhere else in England reflecting our geographically isolated and small population spread across five islands.

## Our Key Challenges

- Recruiting and retaining fire-fighters, particularly on the off-islands, given our small and aging population and acute shortage of affordable homes.
- Making the service more affordable and securing sufficient funds given the costs of providing an effective, resilient and responsive service for each inhabited island.
- Providing an effective and modern fire and rescue service that can respond to the needs of the community and its risks, the proportionately higher costs of the service and remote location.
- Providing an appropriate engineering resource on the islands to maintain, service and repair our vehicles and equipment due to the lack of any commercial engineering businesses on the islands and the distance from specialist engineering businesses located on the mainland

Collaboration and partnership working with Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service (CFRS) and St Mary's Airport Rescue Firefighting Service provides the most cost effective solution to ensuring that we have the appropriate capacity and resources to meet the needs and expectations of our community.



*St Martins 1993 tractor & water bowser trailer*



# How We Are Resourced



*St Mary's 2014 4x4 Toyota Hilux*

We are a predominantly on call service, meaning that operational firefighters have primary employment elsewhere, but in the event of an emergency are paged and respond immediately.

Given the nature of the service, all firefighters need to be versatile and therefore trained to deal with a range of incidents, including road traffic and chemical incidents and humanitarian assistance, as well as fire and water rescues.

We have one wholetime station manager with overarching responsibility for operational efficiency and effectiveness across the islands.

The resources for each island provide an appropriate response to their particular risks and are summarised below:

Island	Personnel	Appliance(s)
<b>St Mary's</b>	1 Station Manager (wholetime) 1 Watch Manager (B) 2 Crew Managers 12 Firefighters	2008 MAN appliance 2014 4x4 Toyota Hilux
<b>St Agnes</b>	1 Watch Manager 1 Crew Manager 5 Firefighters	1991 tractor and water bowser trailer
<b>Bryher</b>	2 Crew Manager 4 Firefighters	1991 tractor and water bowser trailer
<b>Tresco</b>	1 Watch Manager 1 Crew Manager 1 Crew Manager (Temp) 3 Firefighters 1 Vacancy	2016 6x6 Mercedes sprinter
<b>St Martin's</b>	1 Watch Manager 1 Crew Manager 6 Firefighters	1993 tractor and water bowser trailer

# A Multi-Agency Approach

All of the island fire stations are multi-agency. St Mary's station is shared with the South West Ambulance Service Foundation Trust (SWASFT). All of the off-island stations are shared with SWASFT, HM Coastguard and Devon and Cornwall Police. This multi-agency approach extends to fire-fighters on the off islands, some of whom are also co-responders, supporting the Coastguard and ambulance service.



SWASFT's Star of Life

We aim to ensure that all emergency services active on the islands work closely in collaboration and partnership, to share data and local knowledge of vulnerable individuals, and develop an all island risk profile. As such, initiatives have been developed to share resources, including people, vehicles, equipment, premises and training to improve resilience whilst saving on costs. The SWASFT inter-island vessel named *Star of Life* is one such resource which is available to fire and rescue service personnel when not required for medical travel.



The predominantly on call model of our Fire and Rescue Service is augmented with a partnership arrangement with the Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service - for specialist training, emergency call handling, business fire safety, community risk management planning, strategic support and management advice. The Isles of Scilly Airport supports home safety visits on the island of St Mary's as well as equipment maintenance and testing. Cornwall Council provides support around budgeting and financial management, as well as IT equipment and support.

## To have your say on our future plans...

Access the online consultation via our website:

[www.scilly.gov.uk/community-safety/fire-rescue](http://www.scilly.gov.uk/community-safety/fire-rescue)

or by using the QR code...

For a printed copy please pick one up at St Mary's Library

or email us at [IOSFRSConsultations@scilly.gov.uk](mailto:IOSFRSConsultations@scilly.gov.uk)



Closes Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023