

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: PERFORMANCE & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: 6TH MARCH 2024
REPORT OF: HEAD OF SERVICE IMPROVEMENT
AUTHOR: HAZEL MARSH

SUBJECT: NFCC FIRE STANDARDS COMPLIANCE

Purpose of Report

1. To provide the Board with an update on the Service's current compliance and progress in implementing the National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC) Fire Standards.

Recommended: That

- [1] the report be noted;
- [2] this paper be changed to annual instead of bi-annual to allow time for progress against actions.

Background

2. A paper was brought to the Performance and Overview Committee on the 20th September 2023 to inform members of the current compliance with NFCC Fire Standards.
3. It was agreed that a bi-annual update would be brought to the Performance and Programme Board and Performance and Overview Committee to provide governance of the Service's Fire Standards.
4. Fire Standards are an NFCC product that were introduced in February 2021 by the Fire Standards Board. The Board works to oversee the identification, organisation, development, and maintenance of professional standards for Fire and Rescue Services in England.
5. There are sixteen fire standards that have been published to date, each with individual desired outcomes. These are: Code of Ethics; Communication and Engagement; Community Risk Management Planning; Data Management; Emergency Preparedness and Resilience; Emergency Response Driving; Fire Control; Fire Investigation; Leading the Service; Leading and Developing People; Operational Competence; Operational Learning; Operational Preparedness; Prevention; Protection; and Safeguarding.

6. The NFCC has released an implementation tool alongside the publication of each standard. Each implementation tool has a set of criteria with tasks to action and/or measure compliance against.

Information

7. In August 2023, relevant departments used the implementation tools to conduct gap analyses and provide information to the Service Improvement Department relating to compliance, evidence of work achieved, and work yet to be completed. These tools have now been updated to their current state as of January 2024.
8. Appendix 1 contains a series of comparative charts that highlight CFRS's current level of compliance with each of the published fire standards. It should be noted that if a single task is marked as non-compliant or partially compliant then the whole criteria is marked as non or partially compliant. Many criteria within the standards reported below have multiple tasks at different stages of progress which can affect compliance. The number of tasks allocated within each criteria is subjective and determined by each individual fire and rescue service.
9. It should also be noted that whilst the compliance level remains the same for eight of the standards, progress is being made against many of the actions within them.
10. Since the previous update in September 2023, the Fire Standard for Code of Ethics implementation tool has been completed and the chart is included in Appendix 1.
11. The Fire Standard for Leading the Service requires further analysis across a broad set of criteria; it will be included in the next annual update.
12. North West Fire Control have undertaken their gap analysis which represents the three services they serve. This has been completed in a different format to CFRS and so is not included in the analysis below.
13. If agreed, a further report will be presented to members in the first meeting of this committee in 2025, providing an update on progress.

Financial Implications

14. N/A

Legal Implications

15. N/A

Equality and Diversity Implications

16. N/A

Environmental Implications

17. N/A

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE

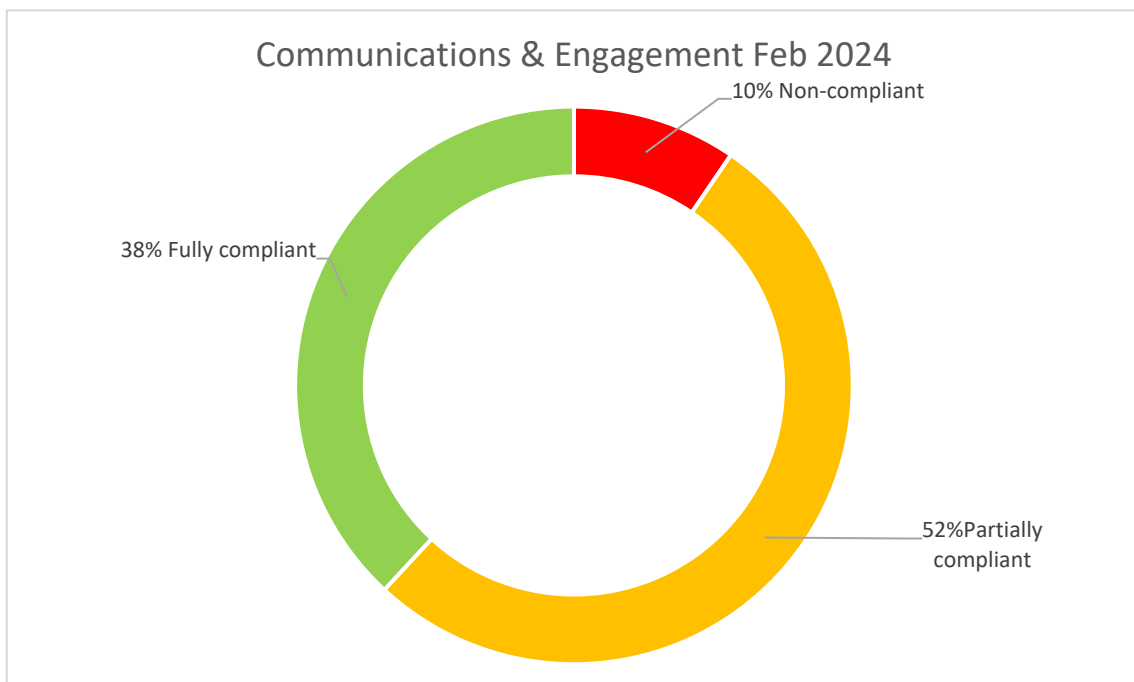
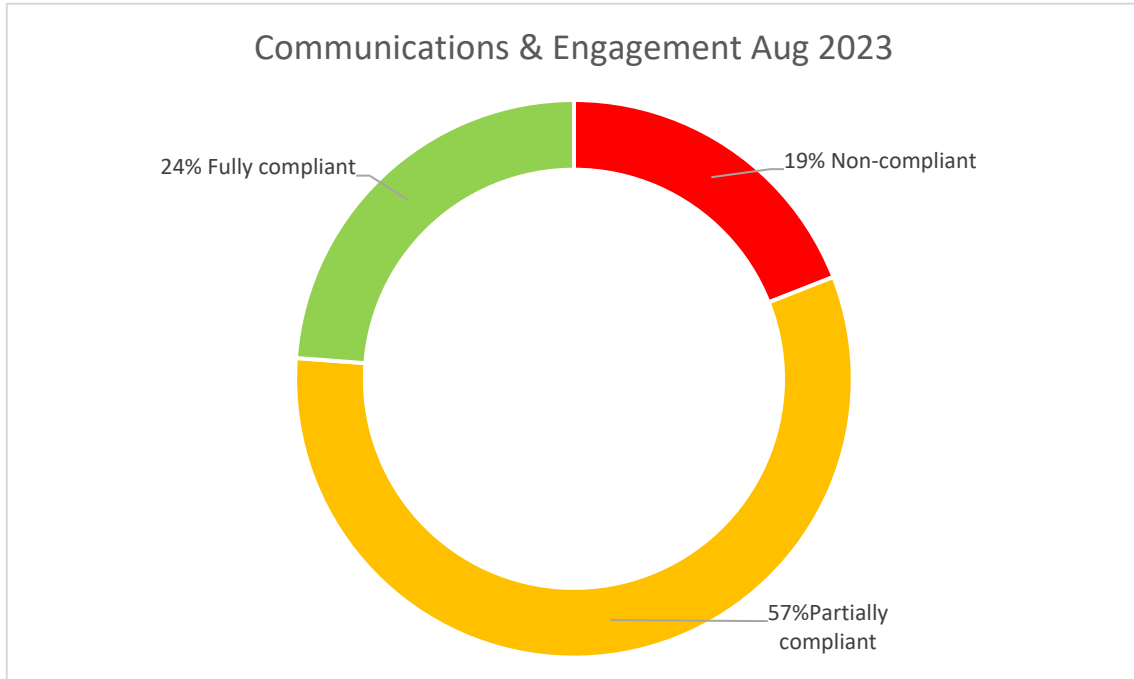
APPENDIX 1: Compliance with Fire Standards

Agenda Item 7, Appendix 1

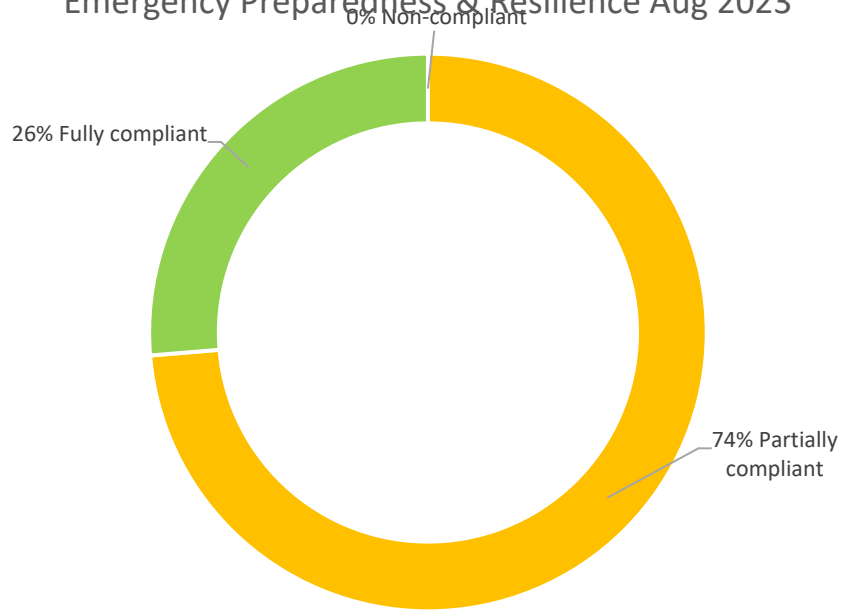
COMPLIANCE WITH FIRE STANDARDS

	Fully compliant
	Partially compliant
	Non-compliant

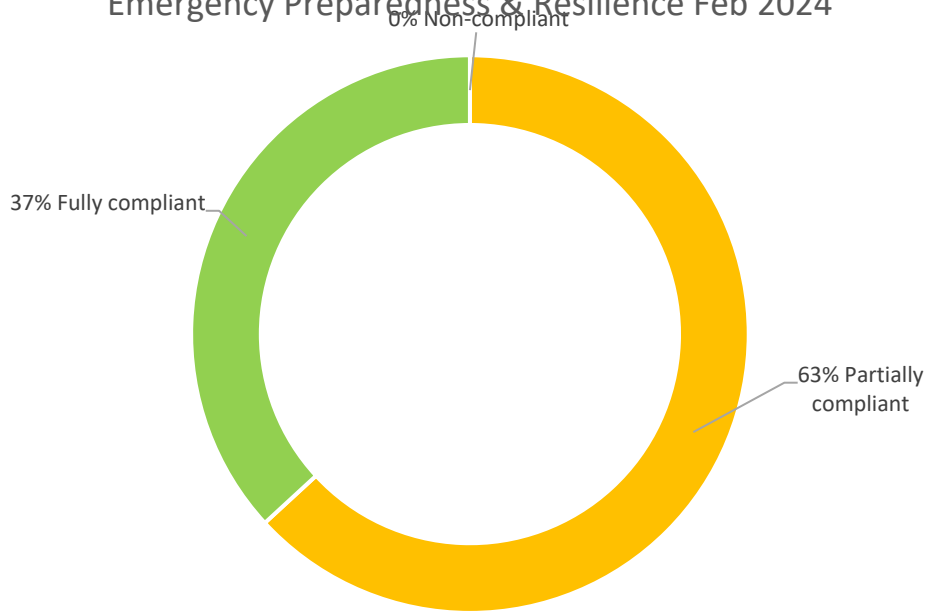
The below standards have altered compliance levels since Aug 2023.

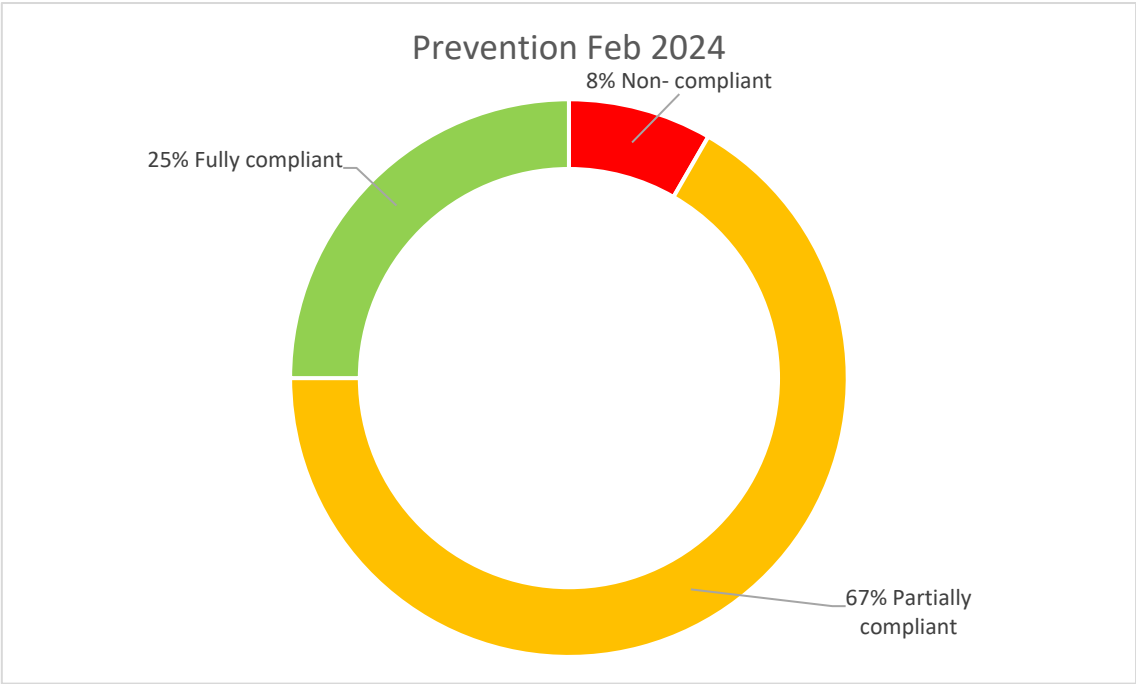
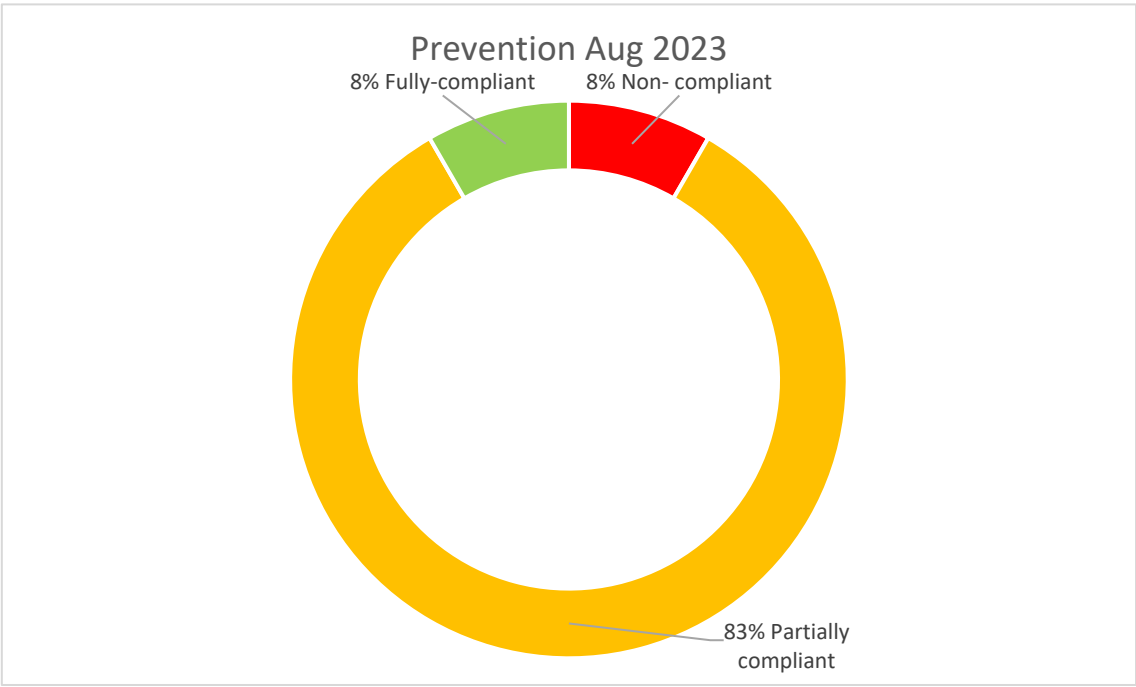


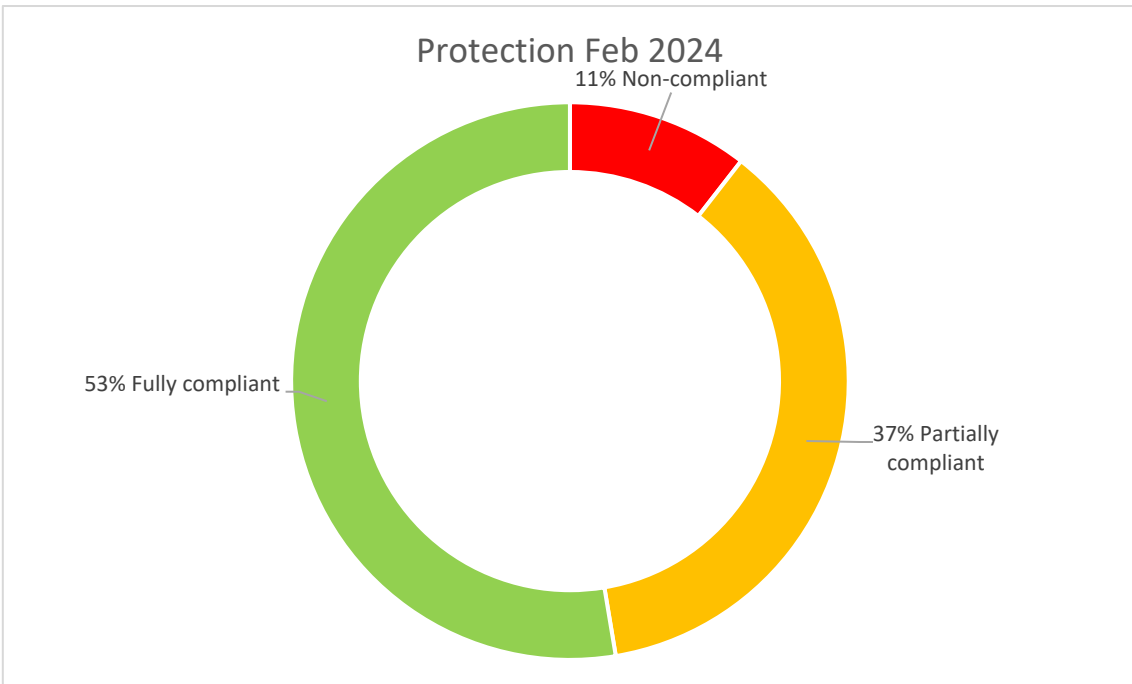
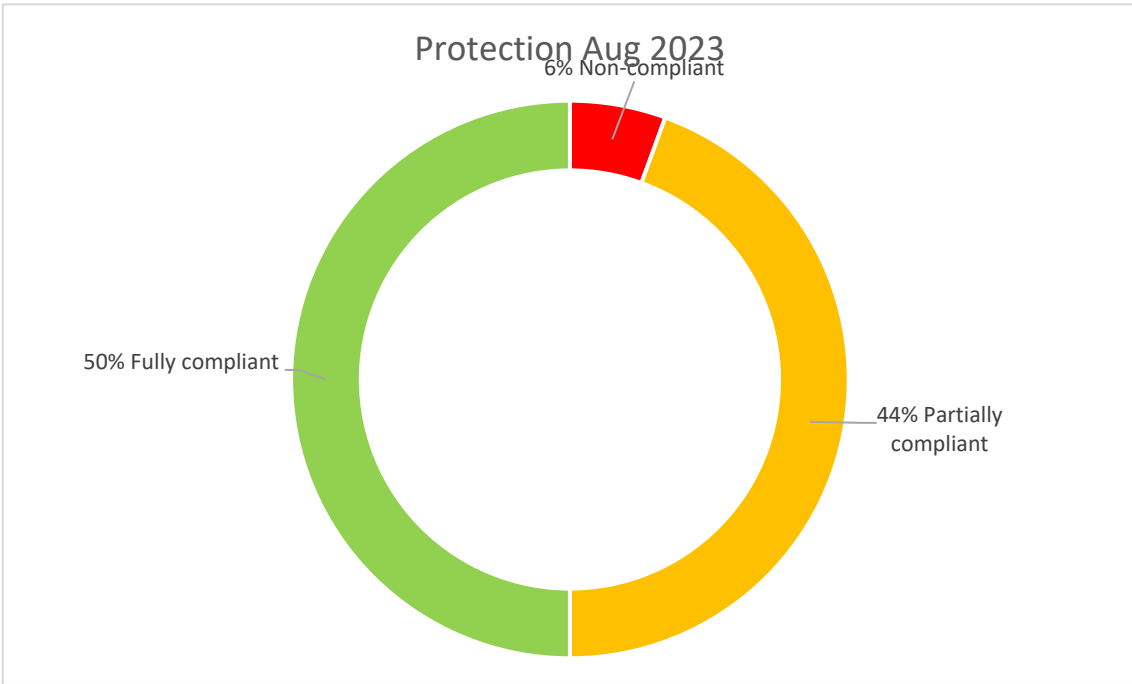
Emergency Preparedness & Resilience Aug 2023



Emergency Preparedness & Resilience Feb 2024

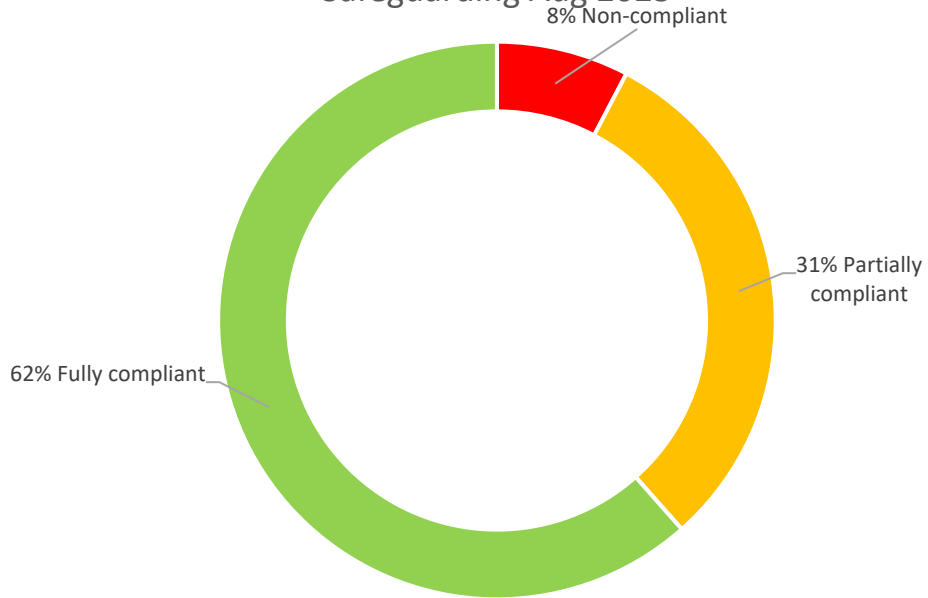




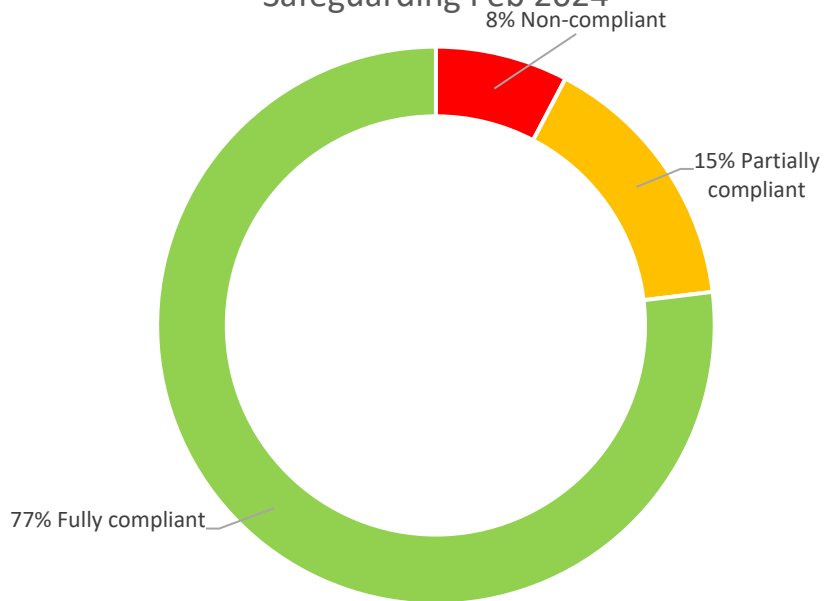


*Please note that the number of criteria in the Protection standard have increased, accounting for the percentage changes above.

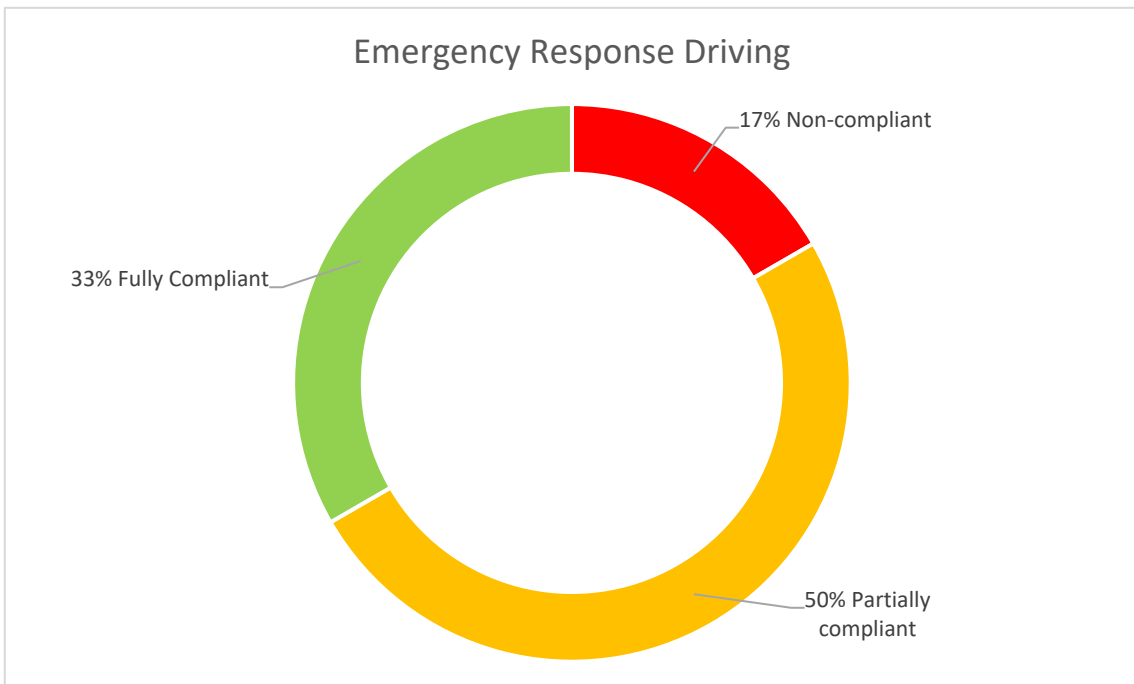
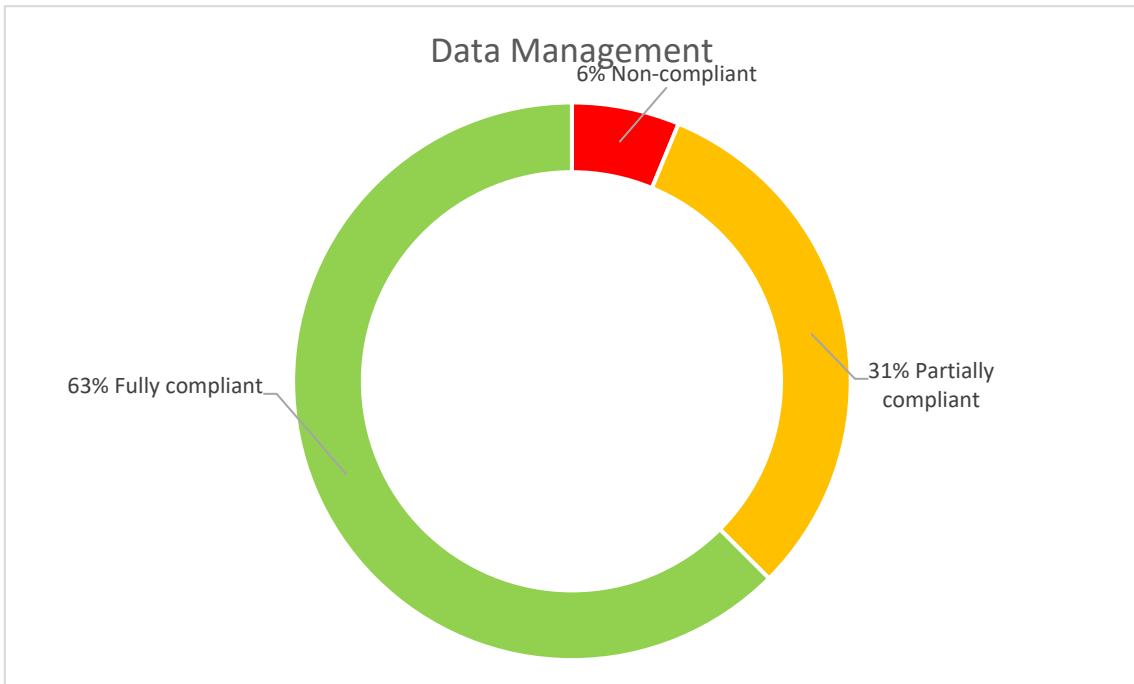
Safeguarding Aug 2023



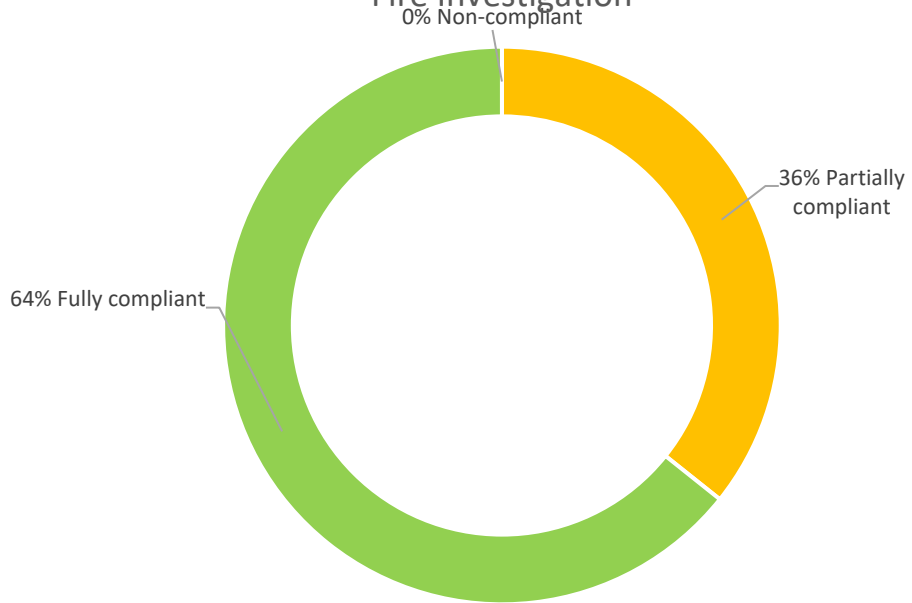
Safeguarding Feb 2024



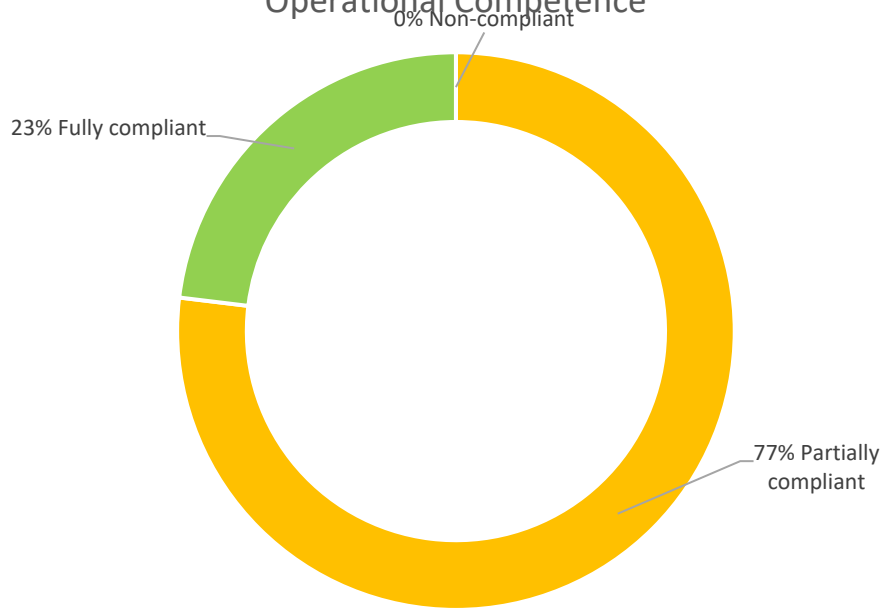
The below standards have the same compliance level as reported to P&O Committee in August 2023:



Fire Investigation

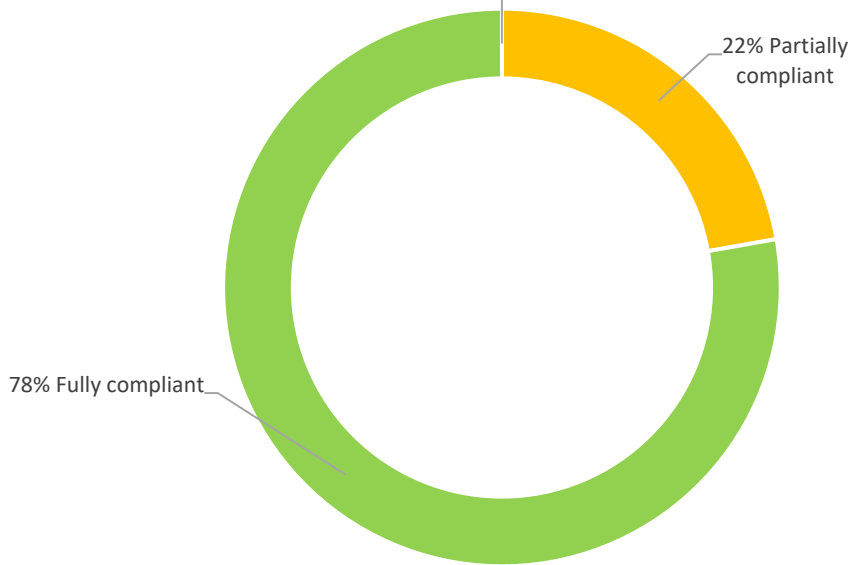


Operational Competence



Operational Learning

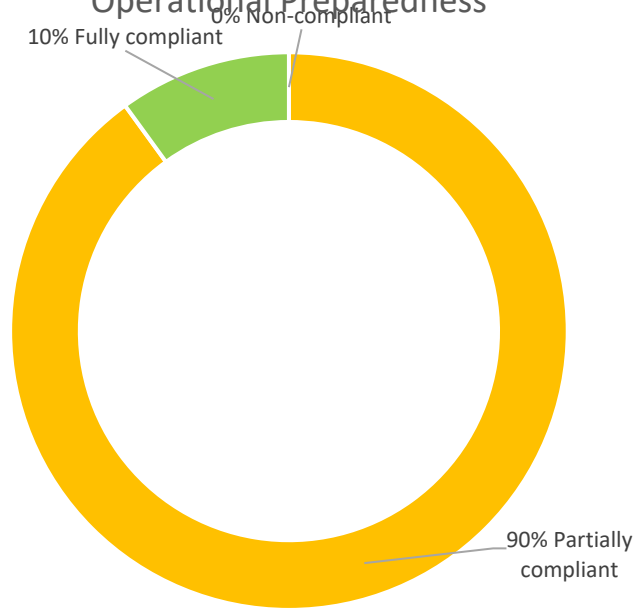
0% Non-compliant



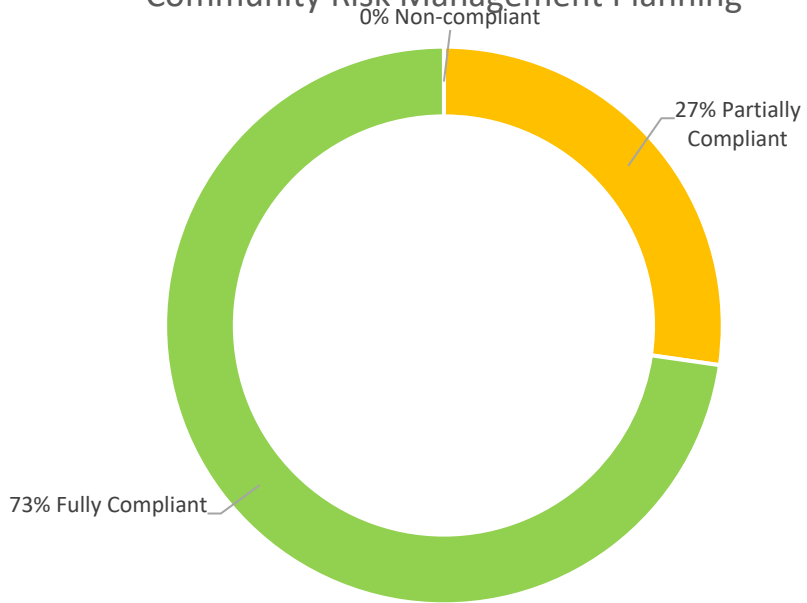
Operational Preparedness

0% Non-compliant

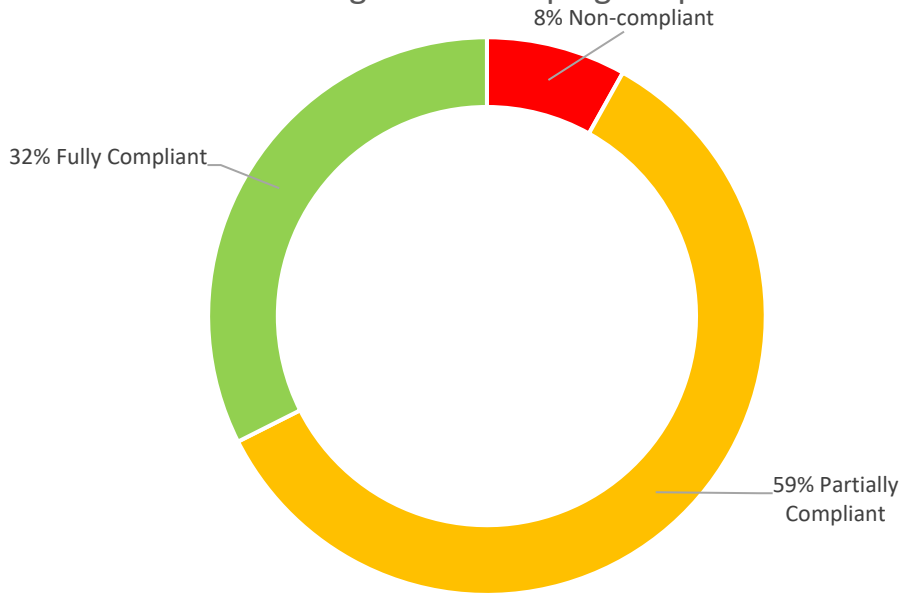
10% Fully compliant



Community Risk Management Planning



Leading and Developing People



Code of Ethics

