



Open Report on behalf of Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer

Report to:	Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date:	30 January 2024
Subject:	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Attendance at Flooding Incidents – Annual Report on Performance up to March 2023

Summary:

This report presents to the Scrutiny Committee an update on the flooding incidents that Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (LFR) has attended since 2018, to enable Members to be aware of the risk in Lincolnshire.

This report only focuses on the demand placed on LFR operational response and does not highlight the areas that the Local Lead Flood Authority is committed to for preventative measures and response activities.

This report was previously due to be presented to Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee in October as part of the Committee's request for annual update of resource commitment to flood response by Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue. The report was delayed due to prioritisation of papers.

Actions Required:

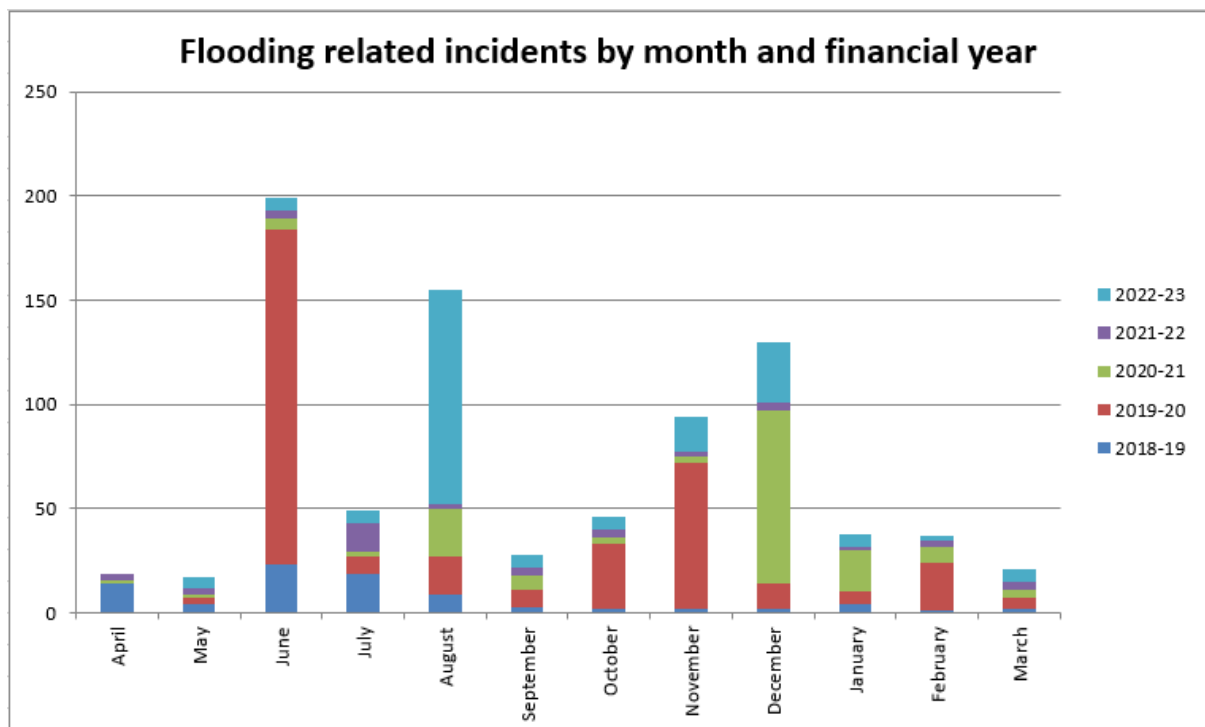
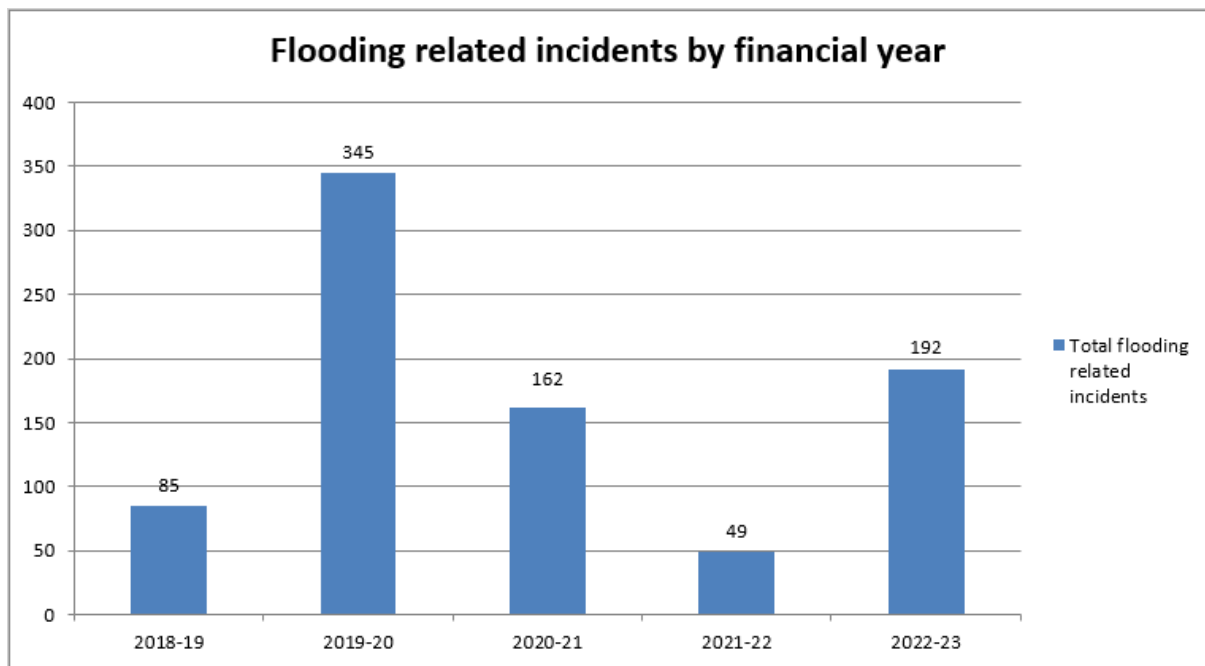
Members of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee are invited to review the contents of this report, and comment on the Fire Service's approach to supporting the local communities.

1. Flooding Analysis 2018/19 – 2022/23

The number of flooding relating incidents is influenced by the weather conditions in any year. Previously the average number of incidents was 90 per year, but the average number of incidents is now 167.

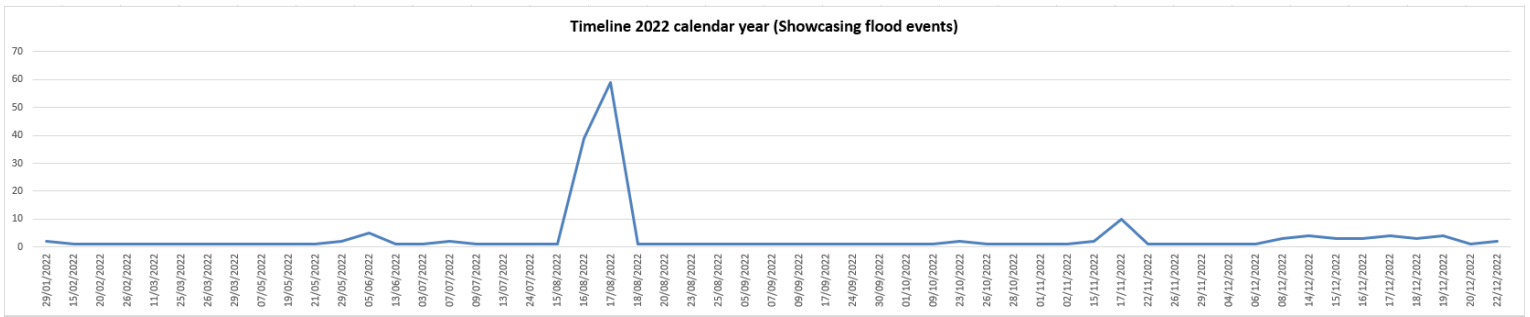
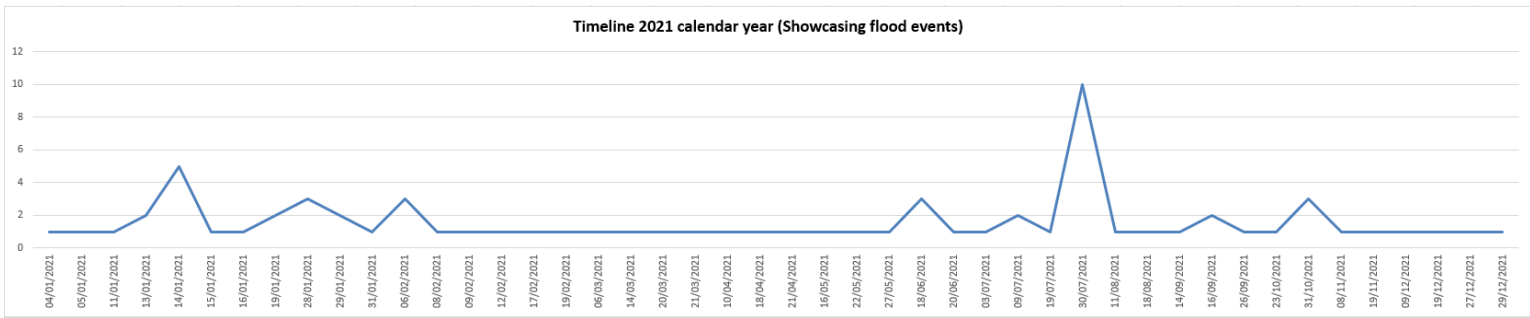
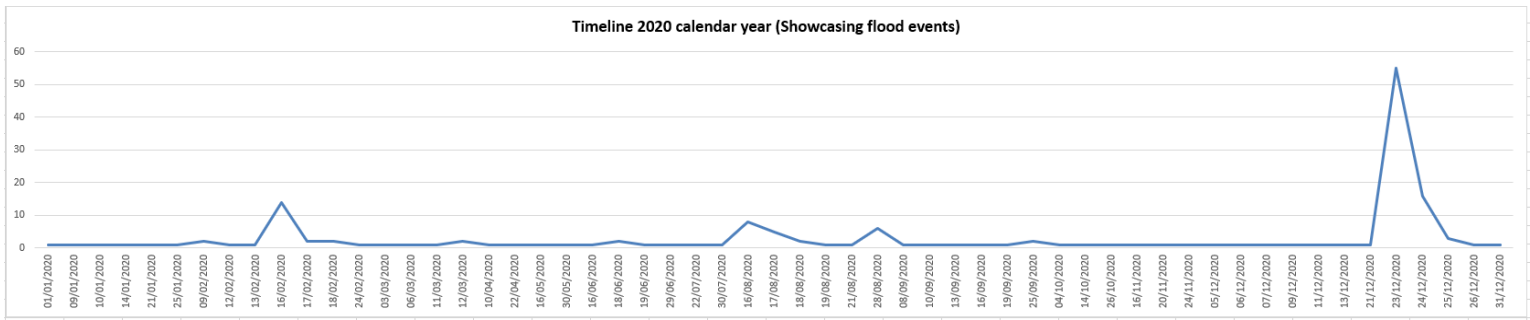
The weather events of June 2019 resulting in the Wainfleet flooding event far surpassed the previous and current averages. In December 2020, 83 flooding related incidents occurred, with 71 of those being within a 24 hour period on 23/24 December; this was weather related. During August 2022, which saw the conclusion of the hot dry spell seen across the UK, LFR encountered an intense period of flooding conditions again within a 24 hour period on 16/17

August. During this period 97 incidents were attended. The following charts demonstrate the difference over the years, and the particular months of activity.

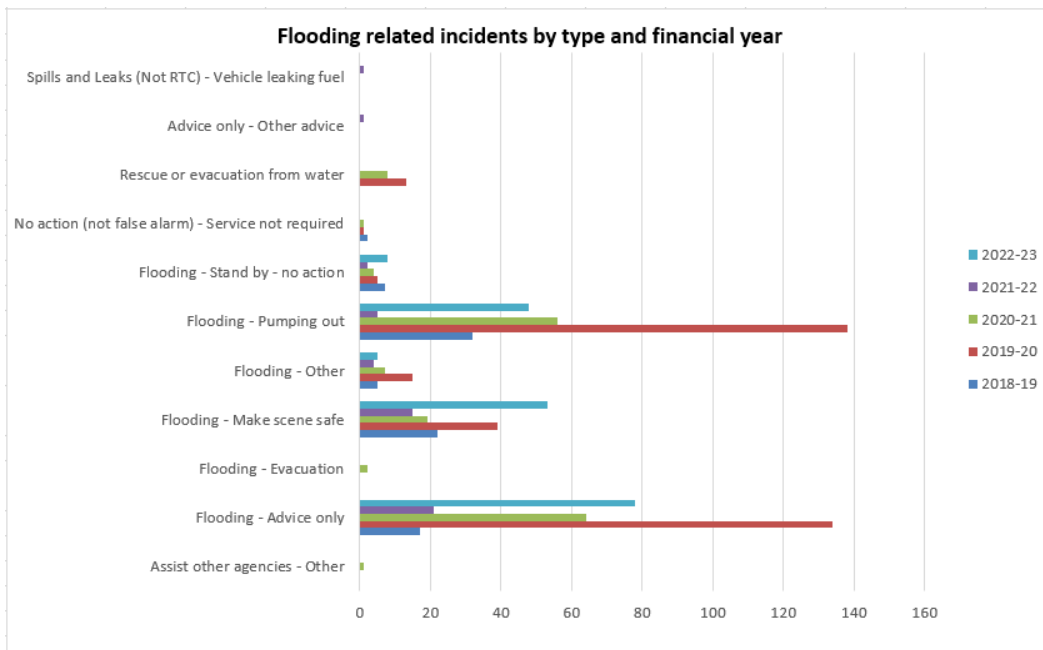


Notably June, August, November and December are the consistent months where calls to flooding are attended. These peak months have changed as a result of the weather conditions of 2022-23 which can be seen when the top bar of colour (light blue for 2022-23) is not viewed.

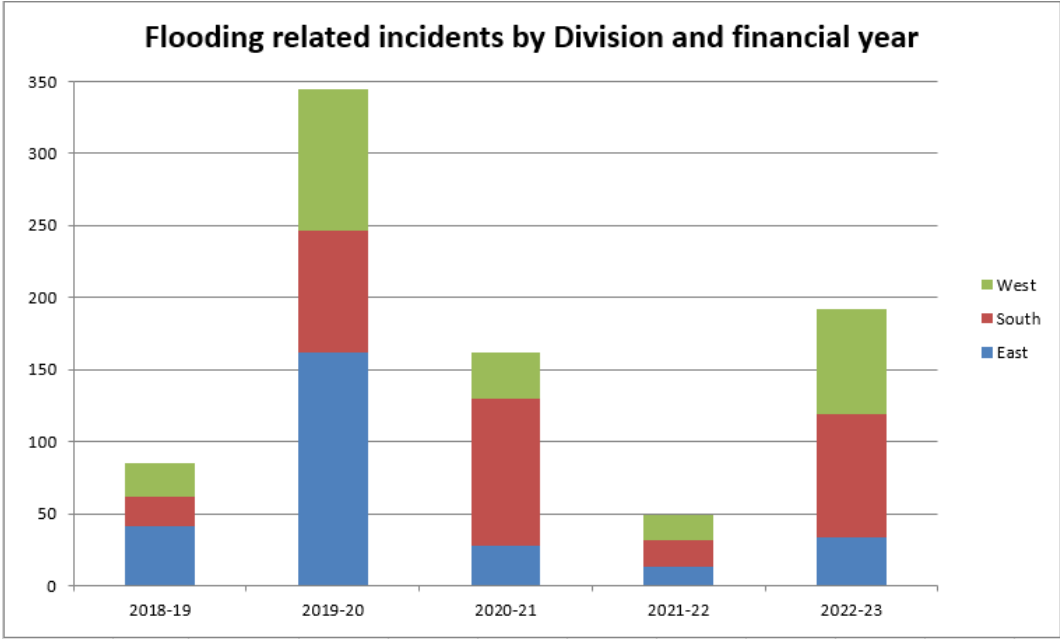
The following line charts demonstrate the timeline of flooding events over the 2020, 2021 and 2022 calendar years.



Type of flooding incidents, by the outcome of the incident are shown below.

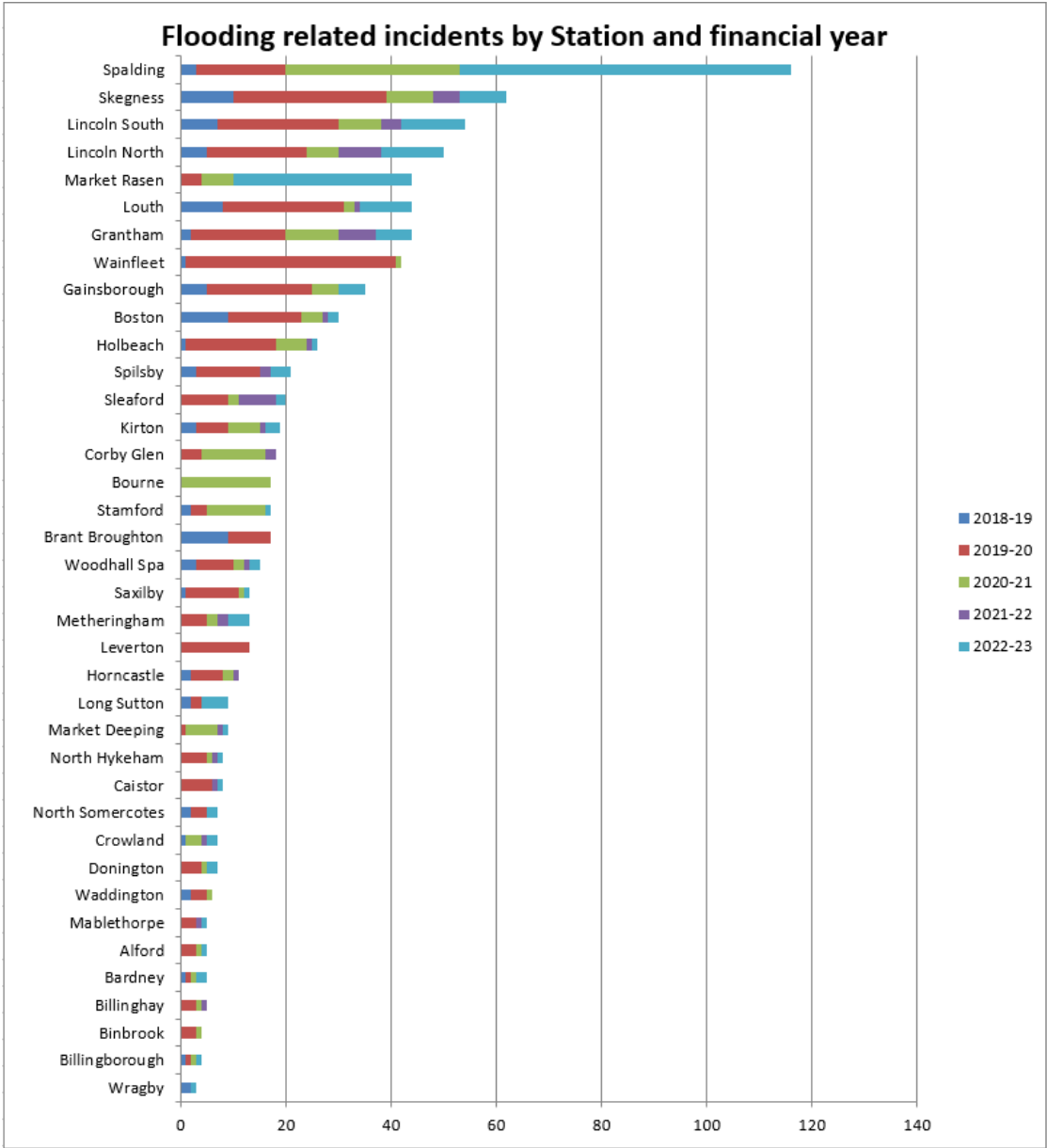


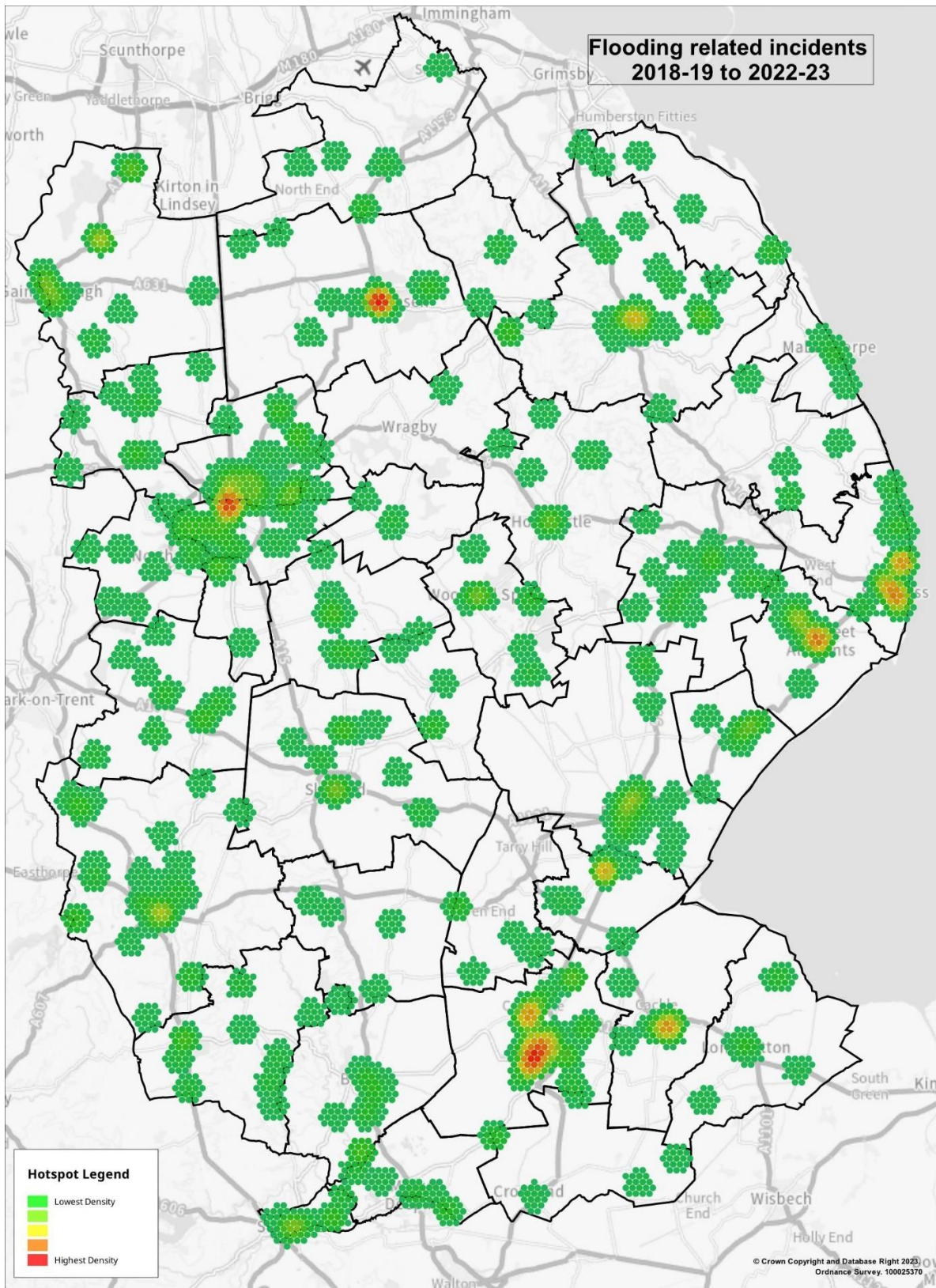
Split of incidents by LFR division (East, West and South Division) is shown below.



Number of incidents by LFR station ground, sorted descending, shown below.

(Note: Eight of the Nine Wholetime (WT) stations appear in the top ten stations for demand in terms of flooding incidents in that area. Sleaford is the remaining WT station that does not feature in the most demand areas. Market Rasen saw a spike in demand in the 2022-23 year and Wainfleet appears due to the substantial amount of incidents in the June 2019 event.)





Appliance mobilisations to flooding incidents can be seen below. Please note that not all incidents will be attended by an appliance or specialist resources; a number will be attended solely by an officer which can be evidenced in the chart giving the breakdown of incidents by the outcome. These would be included in any of the types which include: No action (not false alarm), Flooding – Standby no action, or Flooding – advice only.

Resource Type	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Grand Total
Car + Boat			5			5
FloodPump		13	8			21
Pump	65	447	201	32	152	897
USAR			1			1
Rescue support unit		5	3		1	9
High volume pump	1	4	4		7	16
Water carrier		5	1			6
Technical rescue unit (Incl. boat)		22	16			38
Welfare unit		1				1
Command support unit			1			1
High volume hose layer			3		1	4
Grand Total	66	497	243	32	161	999

2. Conclusion

This report highlights the continued commitment Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue has to responding to flood related incidents. It shows that the demand on Fire and Rescue is still present and requires the appropriate skills and equipment to support Lincolnshire County Council in mitigating the risks to our communities.

It is recognised that preparedness for significant flooding events is vital to ensure Fire and Rescue, alongside all partner agencies, have the ability to respond to 'high demand' events. It is not possible to predict when these events will occur, but there is relative confidence that they will continue.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Spencer Creek, Area Manager Response Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, who can be contacted on 07785516664 or spencer.creek@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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