

**PRODUCED BY
DONEGAL COUNTY
FIRE SERVICE**



AS PART OF



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

WHY JOIN YOUR LOCAL RETAINED FIRE BRIGADE



WHAT IS A RETAINED FIRE FIGHTER?

- A RETAINED FIRE FIGHTER MUST LIVE AND WORK WITHIN OF 3KM OF THEIR ASSIGNED FIRE STATION AND AT A LOCATION ACCEPTABLE TO THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
- THEY CARRY AN EMERGENCY PAGER WITH THEM AT ALL TIMES AND RESPOND TO THEIR STATION WHEN THE PAGER GOES OFF.
- THEY ARE PAID A RETAINER (FOR BEING AVAILABLE 24/7) AND THEN PAID FOR EACH HOUR WHEN IN ATTENDANCE

WHY WOULD YOU BECOME A RETAINED FIRE FIGHTER?

- TO ENABLE YOU LIVE AND WORK AT HOME, IN YOUR OWN COMMUNITY
- TO ENABLE THE FIRE AUTHORITY TO DISCHARGE ITS STATUTORY DUTY.
- TO OBTAIN A SECURE AND WELL-PAID JOB, IN A LARGE ORGANISATION
- TO GET A JOB WHICH PROVIDES EXCELLENT PAID TRAINING
- YOU DON'T NEED TO BE HIGHLY QUALIFIED

WHAT IS THE SALARY FOR A RETAINED FIRE FIGHTER?

EFFECTIVE FROM 1/10/2023, THE
MINIMUM SALARY FOR A NEW
RETAINED FIREFIGHTER IS €18,905

IN ADDITION TO THE RETAINER,
RETAINED FIRE FIGHTERS ARE PAID
AN HOURLY RATE OF

- €23.75 PER HOUR FROM 8AM TO 8PM, MONDAY TO FRIDAY
- €47.50 PER HOUR AT ALL OTHER TIMES (PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ATTRACT THE HIGHER RATE OF PAY)

DRILL TRAINING IS PAID AT €47.50
PER HOUR

WHAT IS THE SALARY FOR A RETAINED FIRE FIGHTER?

Minimum earning for a Retained Firefighter (rates effective from 1/10/2023)

	Years of service	Retainer	Drill Hours	Fire Safety	Incidents	Holiday Pay	Total Fixed
Retained Firefighter	0 to 1	€11,769	€3,876	€950	€1,781.25	€528.58	€18,905
	2 to 4	€12,751	€3,876	€950	€1,781.00	€528.56	€19,887
	5 to 7	€13,963	€3,876	€950	€1,781.00	€528.56	€21,099
	8+	€15,067	€3,876	€950	€1,781.00	€528.56	€22,203

85% of 96hrs @ €47.50/hr 40hrs @ €23.75/hr Annual floor of 75hrs @ €23.75/hr 8% of fixed hours

IN BUSIER STATIONS, RETAINED FIREFIGHTER EARNING COULD BE MORE THAN €30,000 P.A.

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***WHAT ARE
THE STEPS TO
BECOMING A
RETAINED
FIRE FIGHTER***



**WHAT ARE
THE STEPS TO
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RETAINED
FIRE FIGHTER**

1. COMPLETE AND EMAIL YOUR APPLICATION TO VACANCIES@DONEGALCOCO.IE
2. IF CALLED TO NEXT STAGE, ATTEND SUITABILITY ASSESSMENTS
3. IF CALLED TO NEXT STAGE, ATTEND FOR INTERVIEW
4. IF SUCCESSFUL, CALLED FOR MEDICALS & GARDA VETTING
5. IF ALL STAGES PASSED, COMMENCE TRAINING

WHAT ARE THE SUITABILITY ASSESSMENTS?

1. SUITABILITY ASSESSMENTS ARE HELD AT FIRE BRIGADE HQ IN LETTERKENNY.
2. THE APPLICANT'S SUITABILITY IS ASSESSED ACROSS A NUMBER OF ESSENTIALS SKILLS NEEDED TO BECOME A FIRE FIGHTER

**WHAT IS
INVOLVED
WITH THE
SUITABILITY
ASSESSMENTS?**

1. DRAGGING A 55KG MANAKIN AROUND A 50M COURSE.
2. EXTENDING AND LOWERING A 10.5M LADDER THREE TIMES
3. CARRYING VARIOUS PIECES OF EQUIPMENT OVER A 450M COURSE
4. NAVIGATING A CONFINED SPACE WHILST WEARING A BA SET
5. CLIMBING A 13.5 LADDER AND WORKING AT HEIGHT
6. COMPLETING BASIC NUMERICAL QUESTIONS ALONG WITH READING AND LISTENING TESTS.

**WHAT
TRAINING
DO NEW
FIRE
FIGHTERS
GET?**

NEW FIREFIGHTERS COMPLETE:

- A 3-WEEK RECRUIT FIREFIGHTER COURSE
- A 2-WEEK BREATHING APPARATUS COURSE
- A 1-WEEK COMPARTMENT FIRE BEHAVIOUR COURSE
- A 1-WEEK PUMP OPERATOR COURSE
- A 1-WEEK HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COURSE
- A 1-WEEK ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION COURSE

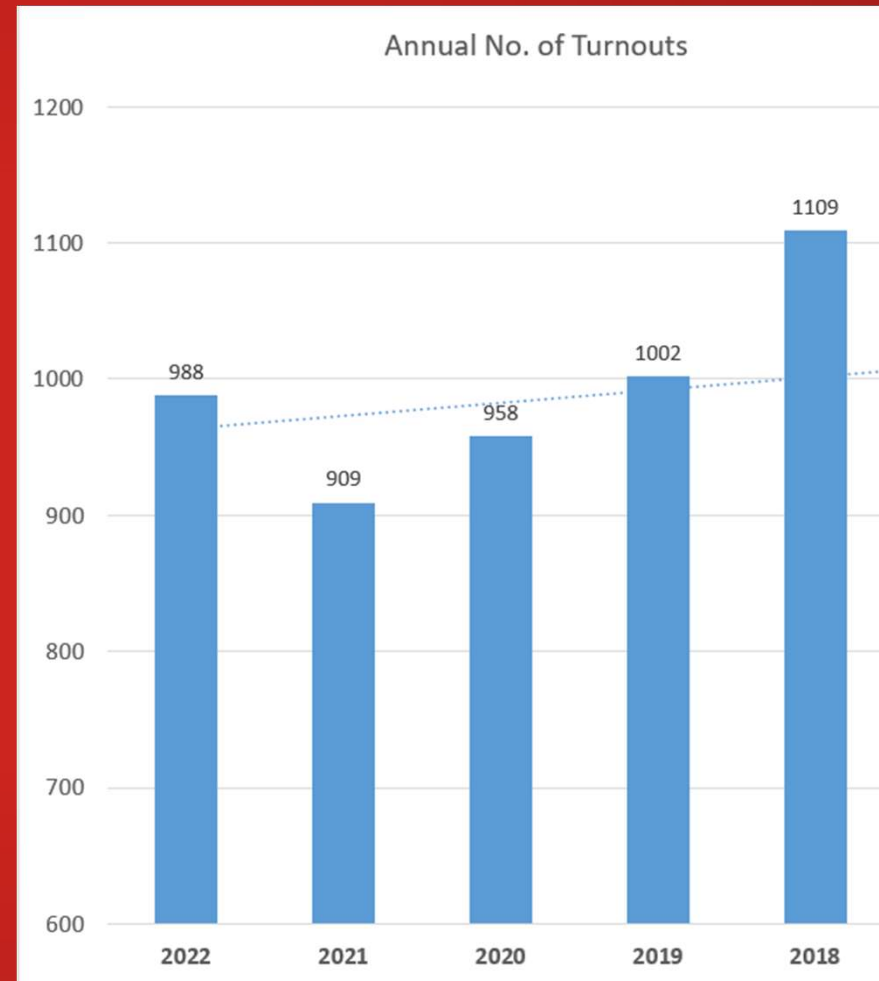
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***HOW MANY
CALLOUTS
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IN THE COUNTY

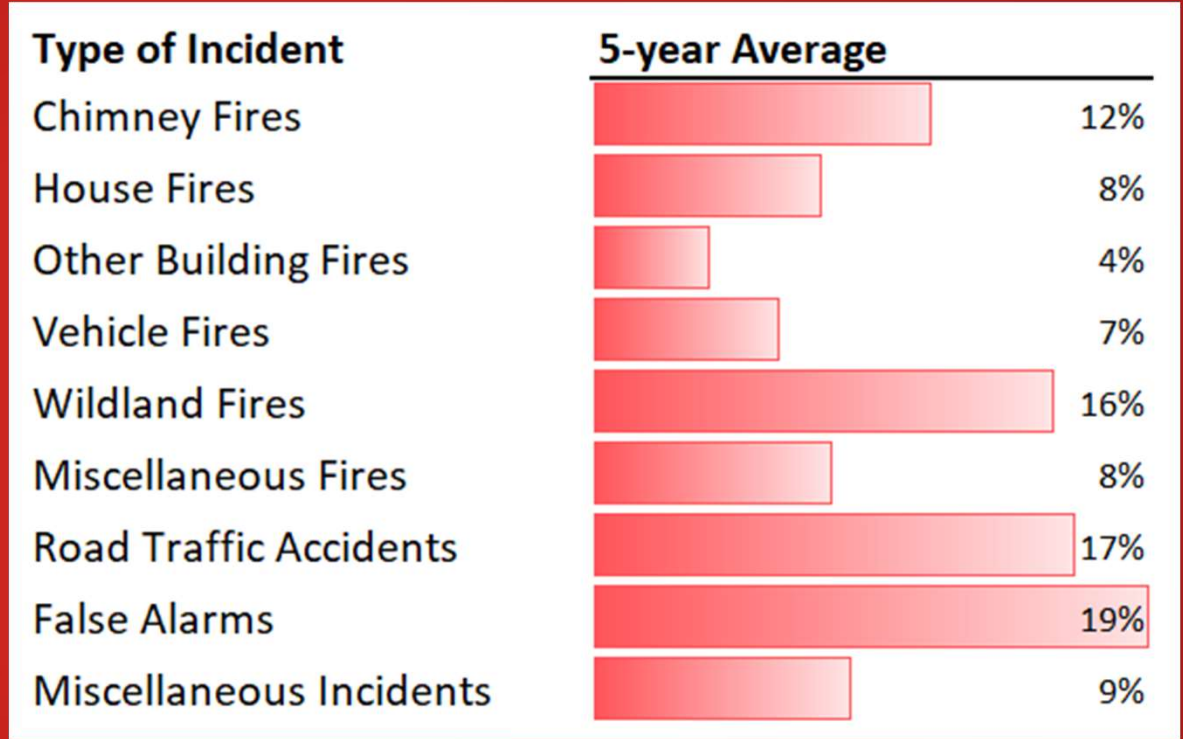


**HOW MANY
CALLOUTS
DO YOU
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IN EACH STATION

Fire Brigade	5 year Average Callouts
Letterkenny	199
Buncrana	61
Carndonagh	71
Moville	50
Stranorlar	92
Donegal	60
Ballyshannon	62
Bundoran	57
Killybegs	20
Glenties	36
Dungloe	53
Gweedore	44
Falcarragh	53
Milford	56
Glencolmcille	10

WHAT TYPE OF EMERGENCY ARE THEY ?



IS IT FOR YOU?

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF QUESTIONS COMPILED TO HELP YOU DECIDE WHETHER BEING A FIREFIGHTER IS REALLY FOR YOU. IT WILL HELP YOU TO PREPARE FOR AN INTERVIEW.

1. ARE YOU ABLE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF WORKING IN A DISCIPLINED UNIFORMED SERVICE?
2. CAN YOU TAKE ORDERS FROM OTHER PEOPLE?
3. CAN YOU ACCEPT THE NEED TO KEEP TO RULES THAT TELL YOU WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT WEAR AND THE STANDARD OF APPEARANCE YOU MUST MAINTAIN.
4. DO YOU HAVE THE EMOTIONAL STRENGTH TO DEAL WITH A ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT OR OTHER INSTANCES WHERE THERE MAY BE SEVERE INJURIES OR LOSS OF LIFE?
5. CAN YOU WORK AS PART OF A CLOSE-KNIT TEAM? CAN YOU WORK UNDER PRESSURE WITHOUT LETTING THE REST OF YOUR TEAM DOWN?

IS IT FOR YOU?

6. DO YOU HAVE THE SENSITIVITY TO DEAL WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHEN THEY ARE DISTRESSED, CONFUSED OR BEING OBSTRUCTIVE?
7. CAN YOU TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPRESENTING THE BRIGADE WHEN YOU ARE AT WORK AND WHEN YOU ARE NOT?
8. ARE YOU COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING YOUR SKILLS?
9. ARE YOU COMFORTABLE WORKING AT HEIGHT AND WORKING IN CONFINED SPACES?
10. ARE YOU COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING YOUR HEALTH AND PHYSICAL FITNESS? IS REGULAR EXERCISE A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE?
11. ARE YOU PREPARED TO BE AVAILABLE FOR CALL-OUTS DAY AND NIGHT, EVENINGS, WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS?

IS IT FOR YOU?

12. ARE YOU A PRACTICAL PERSON WHO LIKES TO WORK WITH THEIR HANDS AND WITH EQUIPMENT?
13. ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO CAN ALWAYS BE RELIED ON TO BE SOMEWHERE ON TIME? ARE YOU SOMEONE THAT OTHERS SEE AS DEPENDABLE?
14. ARE YOU PREPARED TO WORK OUTSIDE IN ALL TYPES OF WEATHER, EVEN IF YOU ARE WET AND COLD AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN A JOB MIGHT FINISH?
15. ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO CAN COPE WITH ROUTINE, KNOWING THAT YOU MAY HAVE TO DO THE SAME THINGS AT THE SAME TIME ON MOST DAYS, WITH THE FRUSTRATION OF SUDDEN INTERRUPTIONS TO YOUR ROUTINES?

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE GOOD EXAMPLES OF SAME DURING YOUR INTERVIEW.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



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DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL IS COMMITTED TO A POLICY OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL RECOGNISES THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF ATTRACTING AND WELCOMING A DIVERSE WORKFORCE THAT IS REFLECTIVE OF THE COMMUNITIES THAT IT SERVES.

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL WELCOMES APPLICATIONS FROM ALL SUITABLY QUALIFIED PERSONS