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Fire Research Note

No.888

AUTO DIALLERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

by

C M JESSOP AND E D CHAMBERS

September 1971

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND FIRE OFFICES' COMMITTEE
JOINT FIRE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

AUTO DIALERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

INTRODUCTION

Many automatic fire detection systems are extended by means of automatic "999" diallers. These normally pass a recorded message via a manned GPO telephone exchange to a fire brigade control room.

Since information was not readily available on the number of such installations existing in the United Kingdom, a sample of twenty six fire brigades was approached by telephone and asked how many they were aware of in their areas. Although most expressed some reservations on the completeness of their knowledge nearly all were able to supply approximate figures. From these, some idea of the National total can be derived.

RESULTS

Table I Number of Auto Diallers per Brigade

<u>Brigade</u>	<u>No. of Auto Diallers known</u>
London	200 ?? (unofficial estimate)
Yorkshire, West Riding	94
Hampshire	56
Lancashire	31
Surrey	30
Suffolk and Ipswich	26
Buckinghamshire	22
Glamorgan	20-25 ?
County Durham	14
Bradford	13
Manchester	13
Kent	12 ??
S.E. Scotland	6
Nottinghamshire	6
Sheffield	3
Glasgow	3
Swansea	2
Bedfordshire	2
S.W. Scotland	2
Blackpool	1
Luton	1
Plymouth	1
N.E. Scotland	Don't know
Bristol	Don't know
Northern Ireland	4 ?
Belfast	2

? Reasonable Estimate

?? Guess

Table II

Brigade	Population (1969) (Thousands)	Rateable Value (1969) (Million) £	Industrial Fires (1969)	No of Auto Diallers (1971)
Co Boroughs:-				
Blackpool	147	8.4	180	1
Bradford	293	10.3	266	13
Luton	157	10.3	102	1
Manchester	594	28.3	754	13
Plymouth	248	10.8	118	1
Sheffield	529	24.0	364	3
Swansea	171	7.4	80	2
Counties:-				
Bedfordshire	287	14.6	158	2
Buckinghamshire	578	33.5	310	22 ?
County Durham	925	24.6	454	14
Glamorgan	745	25.1	484	22
Hampshire	977	41.7	400	56
Kent	1,389	55.5	758	12 ??
Lancashire	2,457	86.5	2,170	31
Nottinghamshire	666	24.2	316	6
Suffolk and Ipswich	540	18.9	306	26
Surrey	991	55.9	412	30
Yorkshire, W. Riding	1,786	52.7	1,150	94
Greater London	7,786	654.9	5,292	200 ??
Scotland:-				
Glasgow	954	31.6	992	3
South Eastern Scotland	848	26.1	592	6
South Western Scotland	618	9.3	434	2
TOTAL A	23,668	1,254.4	16,092	560
B				
England, Wales and Scotland	52,000	2,471.9	51,006	-
B/A	2.197	1.971	3.170	-
Estimated No. of Auto Diallers in Great Britain = $\frac{B}{A} \times 560$	1230	1104	1775	-
Correlation coefficient	0.92	0.90	0.88	-

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The ratio of the number of autodiallers to each of several available figures could be used to estimate the National total for Great Britain from this sample survey. The figure for population, rateable value, and number of fires in industrial buildings were chosen. The average of the three estimates thus obtained was 1370. A complete sample was obtained from Northern Ireland, adding however a total of only six to the estimate for Great Britain.

The correlation coefficient was calculated for each of the three ratios used of which the simplest, population, proved the best. It would seem therefore that the number of auto diallers in the U.K. is in the region of 1,400.

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