

Agenda Item	3
Report No	ERA-21-23

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Black Isle & Easter Ross Area Committee

Meeting Date: 4 November 2024

Report Title: Scottish Fire and Rescue Area Committee Performance Report

Report By: Local Senior Officer for Highland

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Black Isle & Easter Ross Area Committee members on progress against the priorities outlined in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Committee Plans for Black Isle & Easter Ross.
- 1.2 Priority areas are identified through a range of Intervention, Prevention and Protection activities which are delivered through partnership to reduce the risk to the communities of Black Isle & Easter Ross.
- 1.3 The report also contains previously agreed information and performance as requested by Area Committees.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Committee Members are invited to **comment** and **scrutinise** the attached Area Performance Report.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.2 **Legal** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.5 **Risk** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.6 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – There are no implications arising from this report

3.7 Gaelic - There are no implications arising from this report

4 Black Isle & Easter Ross Area Committee Performance Report

4.1 The attached performance report provides the current figures for Quarters 3&4 of 2023/24 and from the previous three reporting years from the central Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) performance management database against the key indicators and timelines from previous reports. Please note that turnaround times and statistics available at this time of year can be delayed and some that have not yet been processed may carry forward to the next quarter.

4.2 In achieving priorities within the Area Plan for Easter Ross work is ongoing within our current HFSV framework as we move towards the implementation of a new system which will significantly increase information sharing between partner agencies and ensure our resources are targeted towards the most vulnerable in our communities. PDIR's are routinely carried out at all domestic incidents regardless of type which are aimed at reducing accidental dwelling house fires following our attendance. Local engagement with academy pupils throughout the area has been targeted towards the elimination of deliberate fire setting and nuisance calls.

The Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) Policy provides a means of targeting premises that the Service attends repeatedly and by engagement to reduce the number of calls. This has led to a change in duty holder responsibilities in the event of an activation and work is ongoing to support premises affected by the new response procedures. This change to how we respond incidents of this type has greatly reduced unnecessary call outs which has freed up capacity to increase our operational availability, undertake more community safety prevention work and to upskill our staff and reduce operational road risk.

4.3 It must be emphasised that the baseline figures for some of these indicators within the report are very low and this can make meaningful statistical analysis challenging. The low figures can also make it inappropriate to provide detailed data analysis which could compromise personal information.

4.4 The performance report shows that Accidental Dwelling fires are above average for the area with 6 recorded Accidental Dwelling fires in this reporting period. There was 0 Fire Fatalities and 0 Non-fatal Fire Casualties in this reporting period. There was 28 Deliberate Fires in this reporting period of which 6 were primary fires and 21 secondary fires, which is slightly above the 3-year average. There were 8 recorded non-domestic fires in this reporting period which is above average for the area.

Special Service – there were 18 road traffic collisions (RTC) reported during this period with 1 RTC Fatal casualty and 11 RTC Non-fatal Casualties. There were 46 Non-Fire Emergencies related incidents in this reporting period which is above average and shows a steady increase over the 3 years.

From 1 July 2023, SFRS have implemented [UFAS incident procedure](#) following our previous [public consultation](#). During this reporting period we attended 18 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents. This remains lower than pre 2023 figures an on par with quarter 3 and 4 of last year, which was 17. With this being the case, personnel will

continue to work in partnership with the clear aim of trying to eliminate all incident types through our preventative work and targeted engagement with premises.

A total of 150 home fire safety visits (HFSV) were carried out during this period which remains on average.

Designation: Local Senior Officer for Highland

Date: 18/10/2024

Author: Station Commander Paul Young

Background Papers Highland – Black Isle & Easter Ross Area Committee –
Performance Report



BLACK ISLE AND EASTER ROSS COMMITTEE

PERFORMANCE REPORT

DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

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for a safer Scotland**

**QUARTERS 1 & 2
1 APRIL – 30 SEPTEMBER
2024**

ABOUT THE STATISTICS IN THIS REPORT

The activity totals and other statistics quoted in this report are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review.

Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be differences in the period totals quoted in our reports after original publication which result from revisions or additions to the data on our systems.

From 2015-16 onwards responsibility for the publication of end-year statistical data transferred from the Scottish Government to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). This change of responsibility does not change the status of the figures quoted in this and other SFRS reports reported to the Committee.

INTRODUCTION

The 6-monthly monitoring report covers the SFRS's performance and activities in support of the seven priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Highland:

- Priority 1 – Domestic Fire Safety
- Priority 2 – Unintentional Harm
- Priority 3 – Non-Fire Emergencies
- Priority 4 – Deliberate Fire Setting
- Priority 5 – Non-Domestic Fire Safety
- Priority 6 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
- Priority 7 – Operational Resilience and Preparedness














As well as supporting the seven priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Highland, this monitoring report shows how SFRS activities and performance contribute to the wider priorities of the Highland Council Community Planning Partnership (CPP), as set out in the Highland Community Plan.

The figures in this report are provisional, to provide the Committee with the SFRS's direction of travel in the Highland area, in terms of performance against headline indicators and targets. Most figures will not change; however, members should note that there may be some small variations for some indicators when the final confirmed figures are published by the SFRS.

The Highland Council Scrutiny and Audit Committee agreed to the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Highland, covering the subsequent 3-year period. In support of delivering the priorities in this plan, 13 headline indicators and targets have been set, and form the basis of the report.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The table below provides a summary of the six months (1 April to 30 September 2024) activity and year to date (YTD) progress, based on annual targets set against headline indicators. It aims to provide – at a glance – our direction of travel during the current reporting year.

Q1 & Q2: All Incidents Attended – 179		
Accident Dwelling Fires (ADF) 	ADF Fatal Casualties 	ADF Non Fatal Casualties 
Q1 & Q2 – 6 incidents YTD – 6 incidents	Q1 & Q2 – 0 YTD – 0	Q1 & Q2 – 0 YTD – 0
Home Fire Safety Visits 	Non-Fire Emergency 	Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) 
Q1 & Q2 – 150 Visits YTD – 150 Visits	Q1 & Q2 – 46 Incidents YTD – 46 Incidents	Q1 & Q2 – 18 Incidents YTD – 18 Incidents
Fatal RTC Casualties 	Non-Fatal RTC Casualties 	All Deliberate Fires 
Q1 & Q2 – 1 YTD – 1	Q1 & Q2 – 11 YTD – 11	Q1 & Q2 – 28 incidents YTD – 28 incidents
Deliberate Primary Fires 	Deliberate Secondary Fires 	Non Domestic Fires 
Q1 & Q2 – 6 incidents YTD – 6 incidents	Q1 & Q2 – 21 incidents YTD – 21 incidents	Q1 & Q2 – 8 incidents YTD – 8 incidents
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals 		
Q1 & Q2 – 18 incidents YTD – 18 incidents		

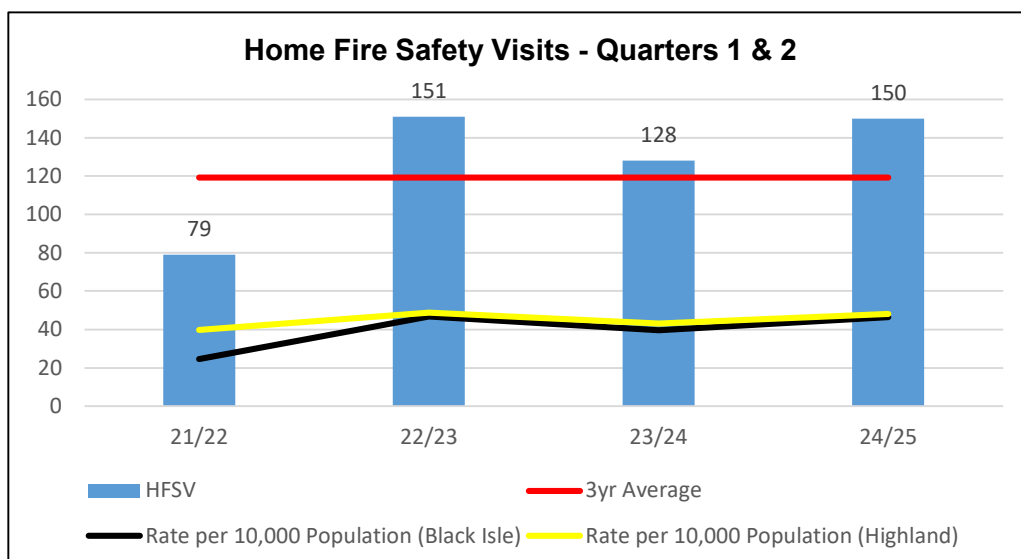
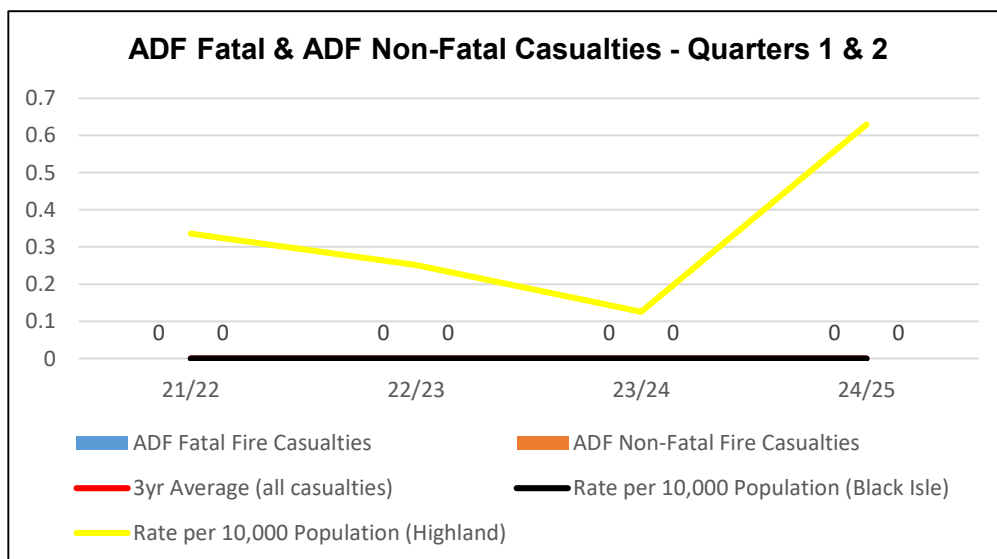
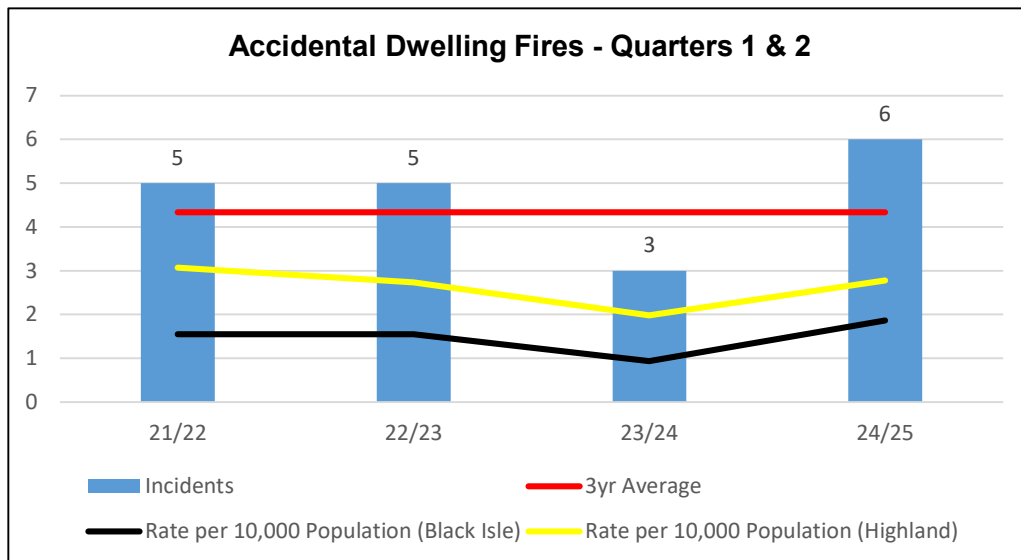
PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

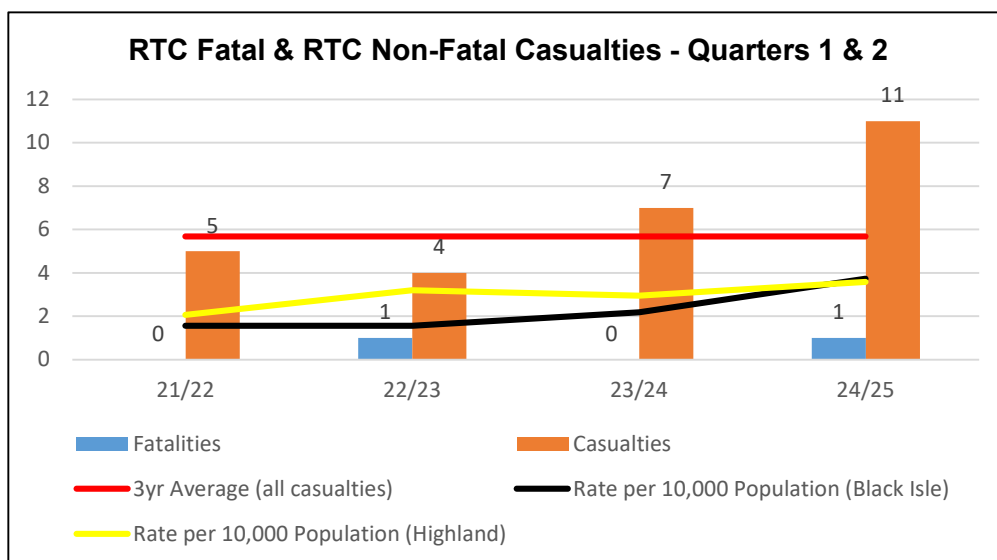
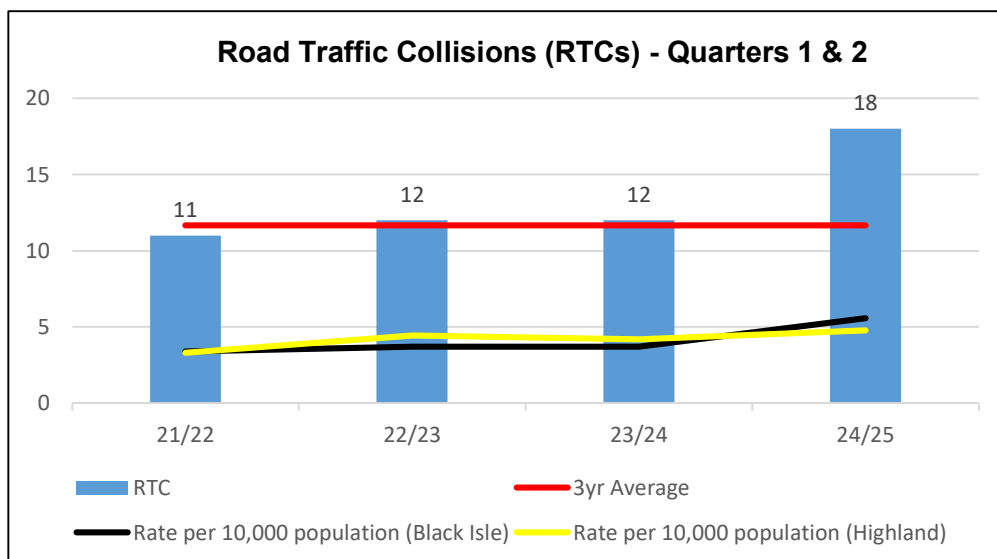
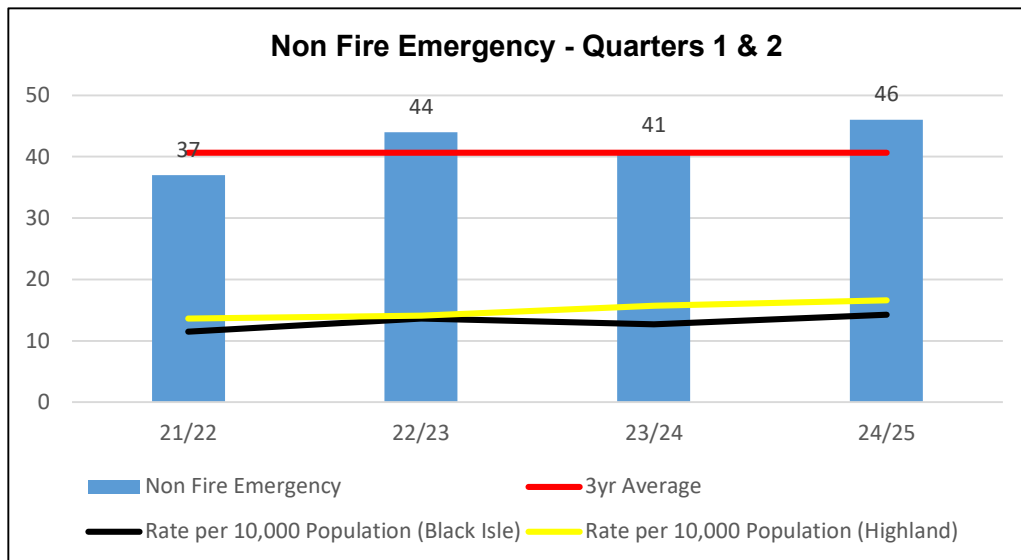
Of the 13 KPIs, the following performance should be noted for the six-month period 1 April to 30 September 2024.

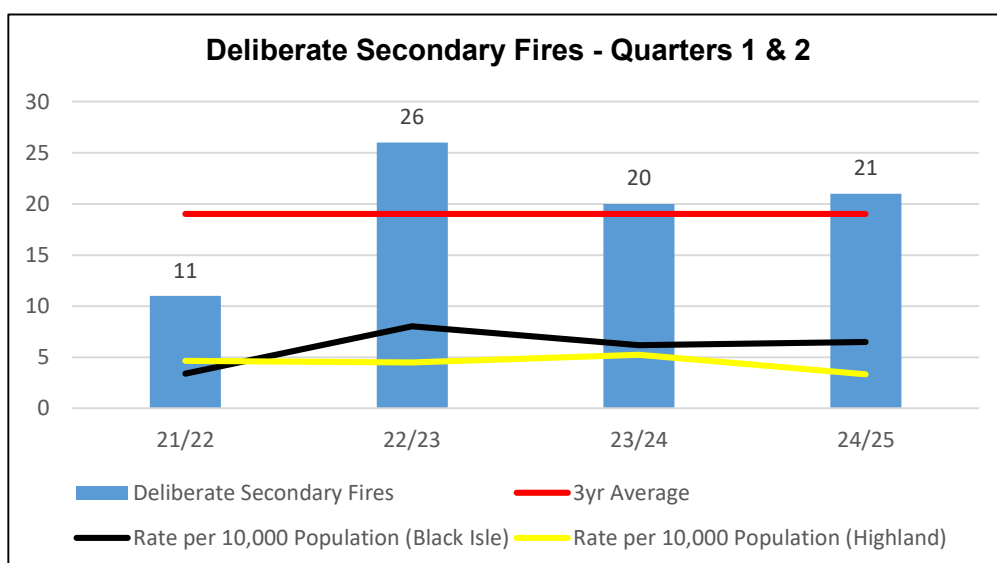
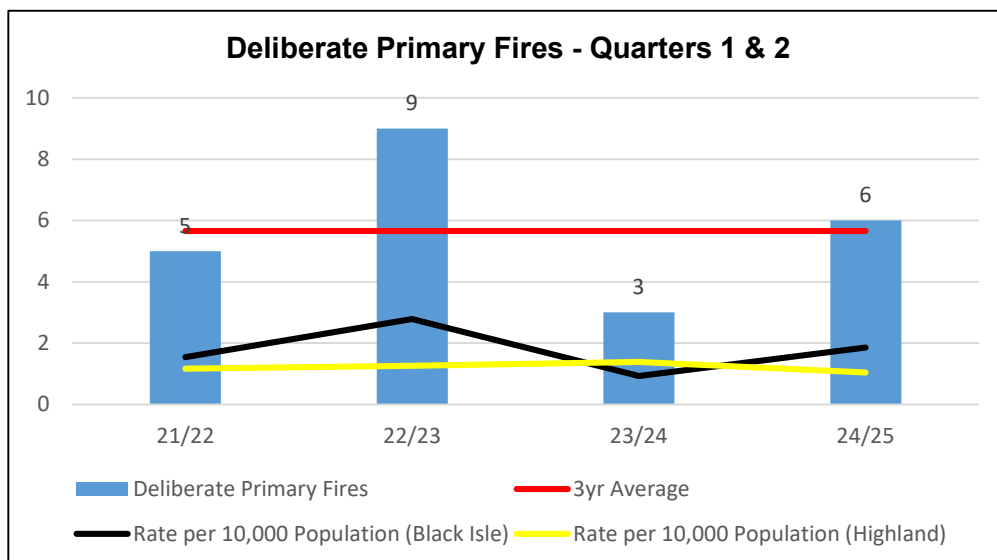
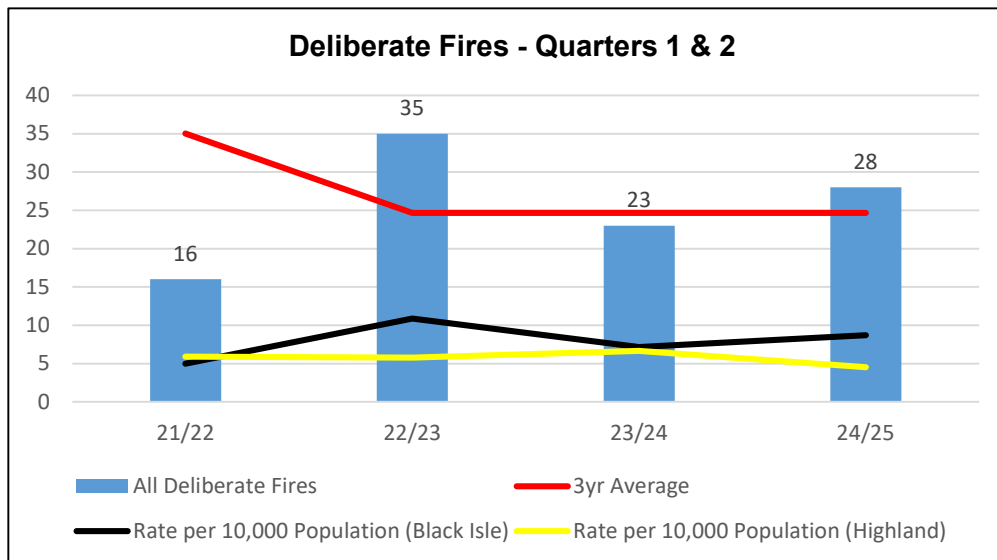
- There were **6 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** which is above the 3-year average. The majority are classed as low severity, requiring little or no intervention from the Service and minimal fire damage. There were **0 ADF Fatalities**, and **0 ADF Casualties**. All ADF's are offered Home Fire Safety Visits and agency referrals where required.
- There were **28 Deliberate Fires**, which were **6 Deliberate Primary Fire**, **21 Deliberate Secondary Fire** and one chimney fire, which is slightly above the average. Referrals are made to other agencies for those at work within our communities.
- There were **8 Non-Domestic Building Fires** which is slightly above the average.
- We attended **18 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is above average. There were **1 RTC Related Fatalities** and also **11 RTC Related Injuries**. Our Prevention teams are working with partner agencies through the Highland Road Safety group, Older Driver Virtual Reality Scheme and Road Safety Scheme for new drivers.
- We attended **18 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** showing a trend of a decrease. From 1 July 2023, we have stopped attending AFA call outs to commercial business and workplace premises, such as factories, offices, shops and leisure facilities unless a fire has been confirmed. Our control room operators now ask anyone who reports a fire alarm to check whether there is an actual fire or signs of fire, before sending the nearest fire appliance. This does not apply to sleeping premises, such as hospitals, care homes, hotels or domestic dwellings who will receive the full pre-determined attendance (PDA). This change follows the SFRS public consultation in 2021.
- Our Community Safety Advocates and Station personnel undertook **150 Home Fire Safety Visits**. The majority targeted the most at risk in our communities.

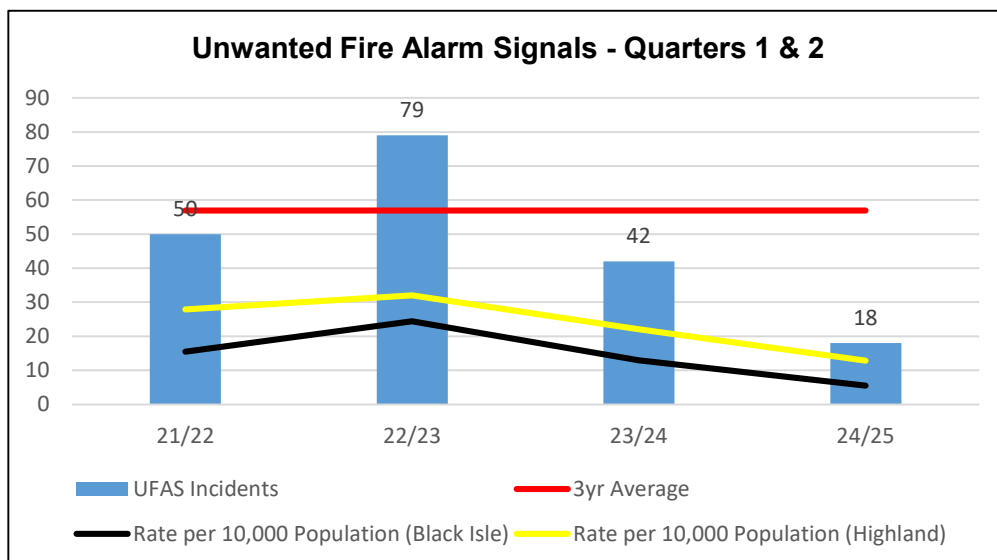
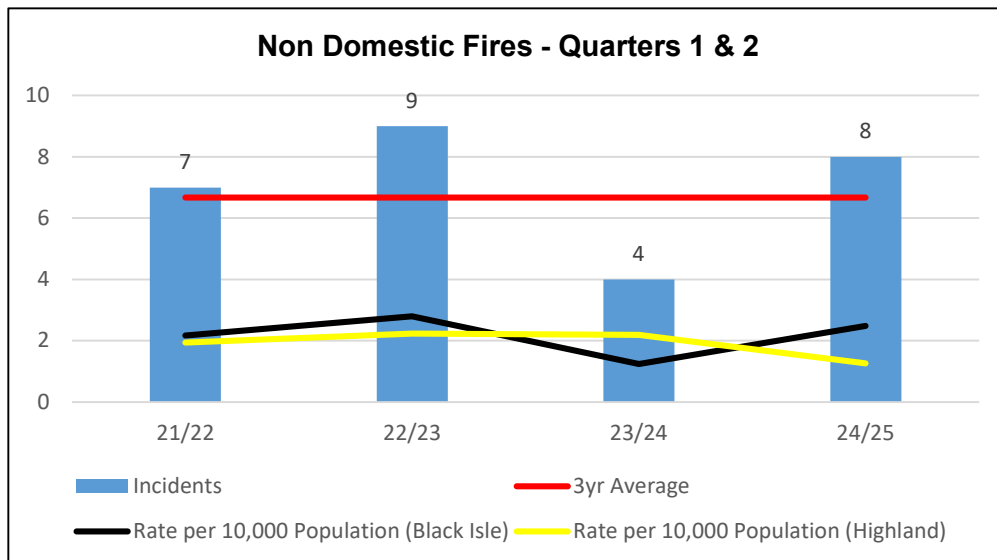
For more information please visit:

[Scottish Fire & Rescue Service: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals \(UFAS\) \(firescotland.gov.uk\)](https://firescotland.gov.uk)









Station Establishment and Availability

- 4 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 3 Stations
- 2 x On-Call Volunteer Duty System vehicles / Community Response Units across Station

These Stations served the Black Isle and Easter Ross Committee population.

***Please note the availability figures do not include Joint Mobilising availability.**

Station	Apr – Sept 24 Availability %	Male	Female	Staff
Balintore (CRU)	N/A	8	0	8
Cromarty (CRU)	N/A	3	2	5
Fortrose	79.66%	6	3	9
Invergordon – 1 st Appliance	99.97%	17	2	19
Invergordon – 2 nd Appliance	84.069%			
Tain	82.08%	10	1	11

Appendix 1

On Wednesday 2nd & Monday 7th October 2024 respectively, Invergordon and Tain Community Fire Stations have each taken delivery of a brand-new Medium Weight Rescue Pump.

This investment in these two stations by SFRS greatly improves the appliances and equipment that will be readily available to personnel to support operational incidents.



6 young people from Invergordon Academy attended Invergordon station from the 7-11th October, taking part in the Fire Skills course, learning lots of new skills in relation to what a Firefighter undertakes. A passing out parade was held on the Friday in front of family, friends and senior SFRS officers.



On Sunday the 23rd June a special service was held in St Andrews Episcopal Church in Fortrose to celebrate the life of James Braidwood.

James Braidwood was born in Edinburgh in 1800 and died in the performance of his duties on 22nd June 1861. He is regarded as being the founding father of the modern Fire Service.

The service was attended by many including the Chief officer, Fortrose and Cromarty crews, board members and the SFRS heritage team.

As this year marks 200 years of the world's first municipal fire service a Service will also be held in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh on the 23rd October. Local officers and crew members will be in attendance.

