



## Highland Performance Report

*Covering the activities and performance in support of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Highland*



**SCOTTISH**  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE  
Working together for a safer Scotland

**1 April – 30 September 2024**

**Working together  
for a safer Scotland**

 **The Highland  
Council**  
**Comhairle na  
Gàidhealtachd**

## **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.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Introduction</b>	4
<b>Performance Summary</b>	5
<b>Performance Highlights</b>	6
<b>Priority 1 – Domestic Fire Safety</b>	7
HI 1 – Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)	7
HI 2 – ADF Fatal Casualties	7
HI 3 – ADF Non-Fatal Casualties (including precautionary check-ups)	7
<b>Priority 2 – Unintentional Harm</b>	9
HI 4 – Home Fire Safety Visits	9
Referrals to Partner Agencies	9
<b>Priority 3 – Non-Fire Emergencies</b>	10
HI 5 – Non Fire Emergency Incidents	10
HI 6 – Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) Incidents	10
HI 7 – Fatal RTC Casualties	11
HI 8 – Non-Fatal RTC Casualties	11
CPR Engagements	11
<b>Priority 4 – Deliberate Fire Setting</b>	12
HI 9 – Deliberate Fires	12
HI 10 – Deliberate Primary Fires	12
HI 11 – Deliberate Secondary Fires	13
Fireskills Courses	13
<b>Priority 5 – Non-Domestic Fire Safety</b>	14
HI 12 – Non-Domestic Fires	14
HI 13 – Fire Safety Enforcement Audits	14
<b>Priority 6 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals</b>	15
HI 14 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)	15
<b>Priority 7 – Operational Resilience and Preparedness</b>	16
Station Establishment Availability	17
<b>Appendix 1: Community Engagement</b>	19
<b>Appendix 2: Recent Questions &amp; Answers</b>	24

## **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, 14 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 – 30 September 2024) activity and year-to-date (YTD) progress, based on annual targets set against headlines indicators. It aims to provide – at a glance – our direction of travel during the current reporting year.

<b>Q1 &amp; Q2: All Incidents Attended – 1565</b>		
<p><b>HI 1</b> Accident Dwelling Fires</p>  <p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 67 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 67 Incidents</b></p>	<p><b>HI 2</b> ADF Fatal Casualties</p>  <p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 1</b> <b>YTD – 1</b></p>	<p><b>HI 3</b> ADF Non-Fatal Casualties</p>  <p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 14</b> <b>YTD – 14</b></p>
<p><b>HI 4</b> Home Fire Safety Visits</p>  <p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 1145 Visits</b> <b>YTD – 1145 Visits</b> <b>Annual Target – 4000</b></p>	<p><b>HI 5</b> Non-Fire Emergency</p>  <p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 396 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 396 Incidents</b></p>	<p><b>HI 6</b> Road Traffic Collisions (RTC)</p>  <p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 114 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 114 Incidents</b></p>
<p><b>HI 7</b> Fatal RTC Casualties</p>  <p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 3</b> <b>YTD – 3</b></p>	<p><b>HI 8</b> Non-Fatal RTC Casualties</p>  <p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 82</b> <b>YTD – 82</b></p>	<p><b>HI 9</b> Deliberate Fires</p>  <p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 108 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 108 Incidents</b></p>
<p><b>HI 10</b> Deliberate Primary Fires</p>  <p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 25 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 25 Incidents</b></p>	<p><b>HI 11</b> Deliberate Secondary Fires</p>  <p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 81 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 81 Incidents</b></p>	<p><b>H12</b> Non Domestic Fires</p>  <p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 30 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 30 Incidents</b></p>
<p><b>HI 13</b> Fire Safety Enforcement Audits</p>  <p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 218 Audits</b> <b>YTD – 218 Audits</b> <b>Annual Target – 592</b></p>	<p><b>HI 14</b> Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals</p>  <p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 309 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 309 Incidents</b></p>	

## PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

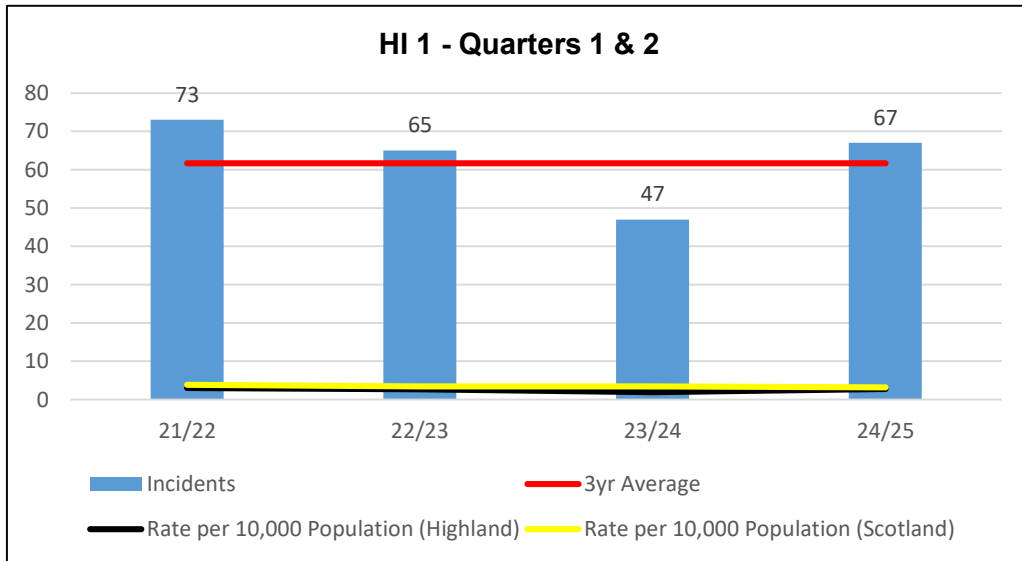
Of the 14 headline indicators and targets, the following performance should be noted for the six month period 1 April to 30 September 2024.

- There were **67 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** which is slightly 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 **1 ADF Fatalities**, and **14 ADF Casualties**. A joint investigation with Police Scotland was conducted into the fatality and a Case conference planned.
- Our Community Safety Advocates and Station personnel undertook **1145 Home Fire Safety Visits**. The majority targeted the most at risk in our communities. There were also 398 declined visits in this reporting period. We have made 37 referrals to partners, including, Home Energy Scotland, Deaf Services, NHS, Highland Council and other partners.
- We attended **114 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is above average. There were **3 RTC Related Fatalities and 82 RTC Related Injuries**. The RTC Related Injuries number is higher when compared to previous years and our Prevention teams are working with partner agencies through the Highland Road Safety group and Road Safety Scheme for new drivers at every High School.
- A total of **108 Deliberate Fires**, these include **25 Deliberate Primary Fires and 81 Deliberate Secondary Fires** which is below average when compared to the 3-year average. Referrals are made to other agencies for those at risk within our communities.
- There were **30 Non-Domestic Building Fires** which is below average.
- We undertook **218 Fire Safety Audits, with 22 Action plans and 1 Fire Safety Enforcement notice currently still open**.
- **We completed 504 Short Term Let enquiries in this period with an expected rise**.
- We attended **309 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)**, which is well below the 3-year average after the changes made to how we respond to UFAS.
- Our firefighters continue to train in all aspects of their role to ensure they are operationally prepared for what is required, and we continue to gather information on local risks to assist us in an emergency through our operational intelligence visits and exercises.
- We continue to support partnership delivery of road safety programmes with our partners as well as working to reduce fire-related antisocial behaviour through targeted youth engagement activities and thematic action plans, as well as our Youth Volunteer programme and Fire Skills courses.
- In areas of Highland, we have seen successful recruitment and availability (**15 appliances above 90% and a further 20 above 70%**). However, we face some challenges in areas with low or decreasing population levels. To support our on-call stations, increase recruitment, and provide coverage, we employ 11 full-time rural watch commanders (the highest number across Scotland) and continue our Highland trials to support availability.
- A joint mobilising process whereby two appliances who do not have safe minimum crewing numbers available can meet at an agreed rendezvous point to give them enough crew to respond to the incident safely;
- A formal process will allow On-Call staff to undertake paid duties at other stations to increase their staffing levels, undertake prevention activities, and thereby increase appliance availability.
- Our improvements and learning have assisted in the On-Call improvement programme and recommendations to improve the service.
- Across Highland, we have **81 people in the recruitment process** for On-Call.

There has been a large increase in local initiatives, some of which you can see in Appendix 1, which highlights the fantastic work our crews are involved in outside of emergency response.

## PRIORITY 1 – DOMESTIC FIRE SAFETY

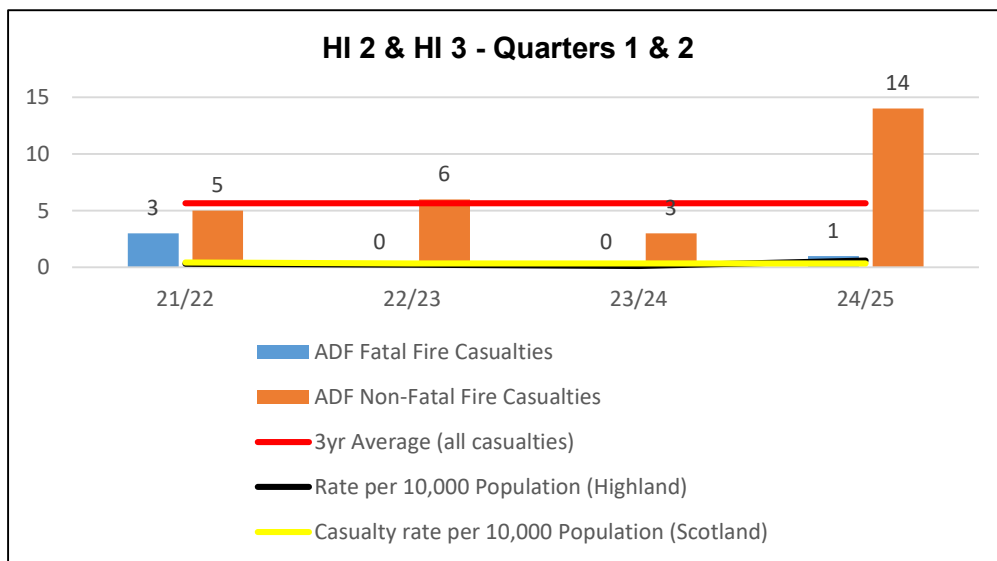
### HI 1 – Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)



**Table 1: 2024/25 Year Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 1: ADF's</b>	73	65	47	<b>67</b>

### HI 2 - ADF Fatal Casualties & HI 3 - ADF Non-Fatal Casualties



**Table 2: 2024/25 Year Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 2: ADF Fatal Casualties</b>	3	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>HI 3: ADF Non-Fatal Casualties</b>	5	6	3	<b>14</b>

### **What we aim to Achieve**

- Downward trend in the number of accidental dwelling fires.
- Downward trend in the number of accidental dwelling fires casualties and fatalities.

There were **1 ADF Fatalities** for this period and year to date. Consequently, a joint investigation was undertaken with Police Scotland and a case conference to be organised.

The local area was offered Home Fire Safety visits and reassurance by the local Fire Crews and Prevention teams.

There were **14 ADF Casualties** which is above the 3-yearly average. Furthermore, the overall **67 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** is higher than the previous year and slightly above the 3-year average.

Cooking was the top overall cause resulting in 16 incidents, majority of them minor with no fire spread.

The majority are classed as low severity, requiring little or no intervention from the Service and minimal fire damage.

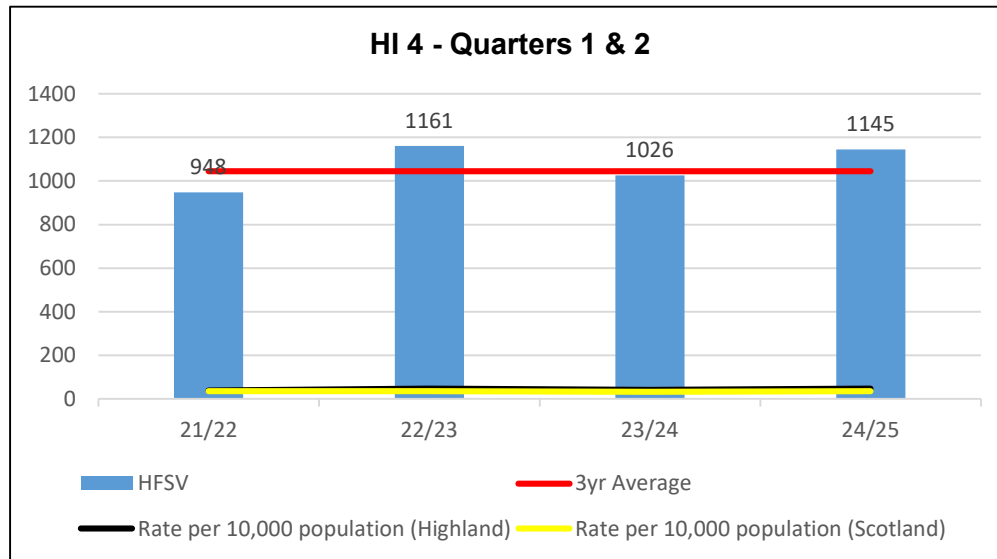
All ADF's are followed up with HFSV's and agency referrals where required.

The Community Support Assistant's and local crews have been involved in targeted activities such and partnership meetings, given 18 fire safety talks to local groups such as Connecting Carers.



## PRIORITY 2 – UNINTENTIONAL HARM

### HI 4 – Home Fire Safety Visits



**Table 3: 2024/25 Year Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 4: Home Fire Safety Visits</b>	948	1161	1026	<b>1145</b>

#### What we aim to Achieve

- Reduced societal and economic cost of unintentional harm or injury
- Improved safety and wellbeing of Highland residents
- Support independent living of vulnerable residents within our communities

Our Community Safety Advocates and Station personnel undertook **1145 Home Fire Safety Visits**. This is below the target for the year, however, higher than the previous year.

We need an increase in referrals to achieve more Home Fire Safety visits. Therefore, we have completed Risk Recognition Training over the last year.

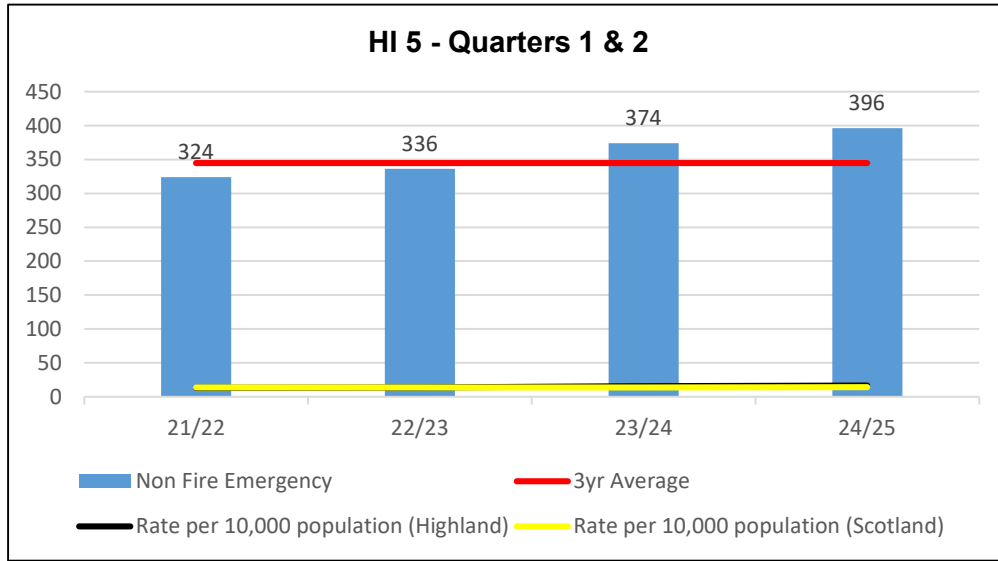
Every referral made to us are contacted multiple times to attempt to arrange a visit, however, there were 398 declined visits for the first six months of 2024/25.

Any High-risk referrals made to us they are completed within 4 weeks unless the individual is still in care or require a multi-agency visit and subject to availability of other agencies.

In this period, we have made 37 referrals to partners, including, Home Energy Scotland, Deaf Services, NHS, Highland Council and other partners.

## PRIORITY 3 – Non-Fire Emergencies

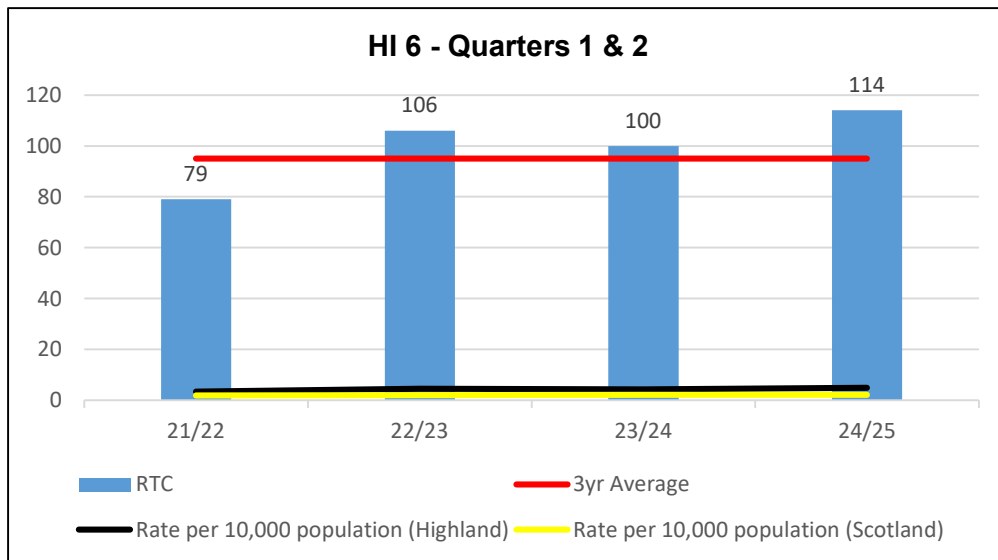
### HI 5 – Non-Fire Emergency Incidents (this figure includes RTCs)



**Table 4: 2024/25 Year Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
<b>HI 5: Non-Fire Emergency Incidents (all Special Service)</b>	324	336	374	<b>396</b>

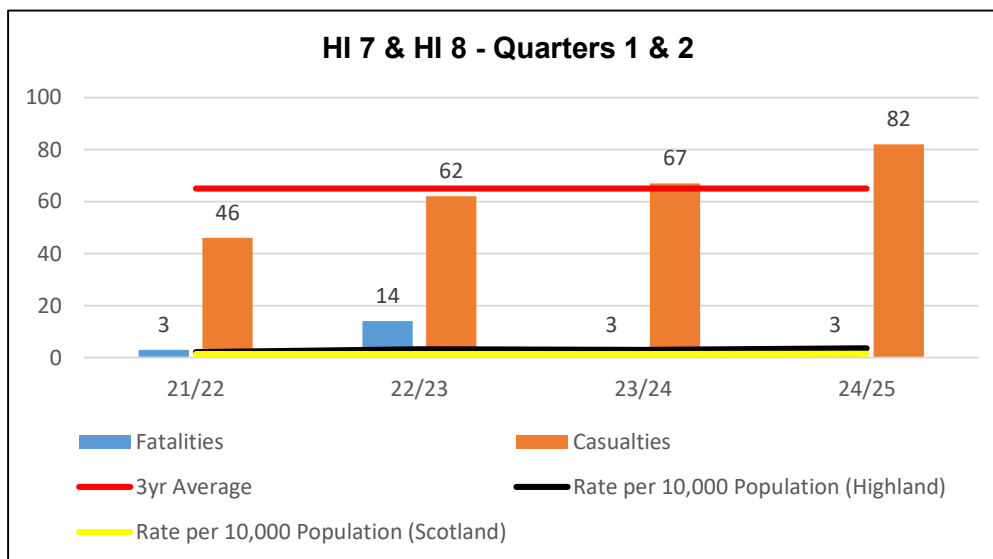
### HI 6 – Road Traffic Collision (RTC) Incidents



**Table 5: 2024/25 Year Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
<b>HI 6: RTC Incidents</b>	79	106	100	<b>114</b>

## HI 7 – Fatal RTC Casualties & HI 8 – Non-Fatal RTC Casualties



**Table 6: 2024/25 Year Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 7: Fatal RTC Casualties</b>	3	14	3	<b>3</b>
<b>HI 8: Non-Fatal RTC Casualties</b>	46	62	67	<b>82</b>

### What we aim to Achieve

- Reduction in number of Road Traffic Collisions
- Reduction in number of Road Traffic Collision casualties (fatal and non-fatal)
- Reduce the social and economic impact of Non- Fire Emergencies
- Support the safety and wellbeing of those living, working, and visiting Highland
- Increase the number of people within communities who are CPR trained

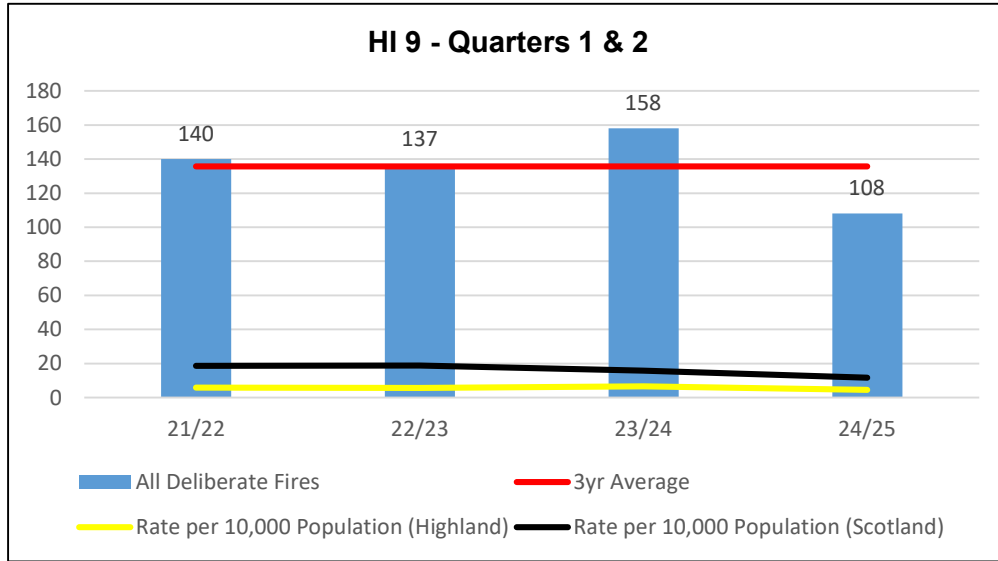
We attended **396 Non- fire emergencies** during this period which has shown an increase. The type of incidents includes RTC's. Inter-agency, animal assist, water rescue and Hazardous Materials.

We attended **114 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is above average, and higher than the previous years. There were **3 RTC Related Fatalities** which is the same as the previous year and **82 RTC Related Injuries** which is an increase on previous years.

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. This includes Road Safety Talks to all Highland Secondary Schools, our future new drivers.

## PRIORITY 4 – DELIBERATE FIRES

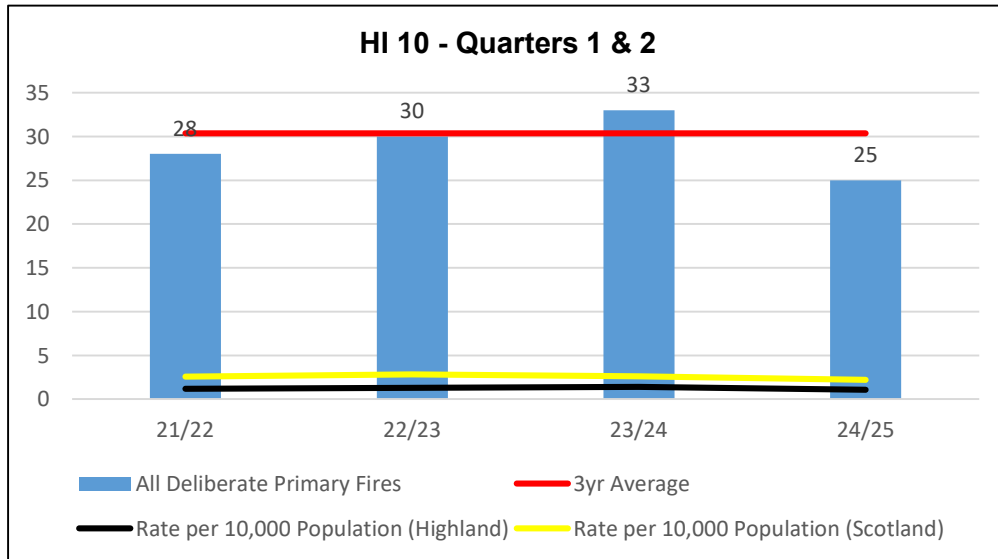
### HI 9 – Deliberate Fires



**Table 7: 2024/25 Year Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 9: Deliberate Fires</b>	140	137	158	<b>108</b>

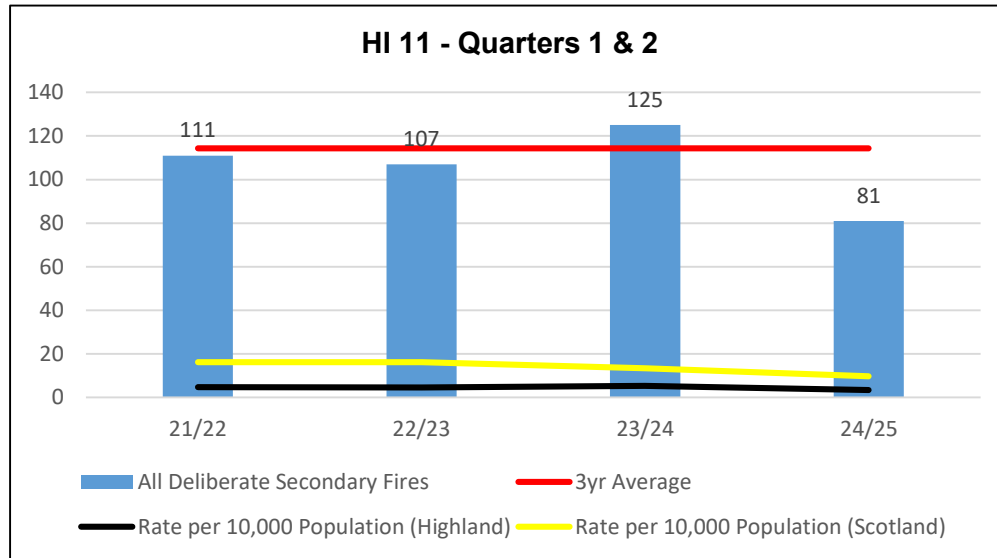
### HI 10 – Deliberate Primary Fires



**Table 8: 2024/25 Year Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 10: Deliberate Primary Fires</b>	28	30	33	<b>25</b>

## HI 11 – Deliberate Secondary Fires



**Table 9: 2024/25 Year Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 11: Deliberate Secondary Fires</b>	111	107	125	<b>81</b>

### What we aim to Achieve

- Reduction in the number of deliberate fires
- Reduction in incidences of anti-social behaviour related fires
- Diversion of perpetrators from anti-social behaviour towards positive destinations through education and diversionary activities
- Improved community outcomes and reduced impact on the environment and economy

**Deliberate fires 108 for the period**, which is lower than the previous year and below the 3-yearly average.

**Deliberate primary fires 25** for the period, is lower than the previous year and below the 3-yearly average.

**Deliberate secondary fires 81** for the period, is lower than the previous year and below the 3-yearly average.

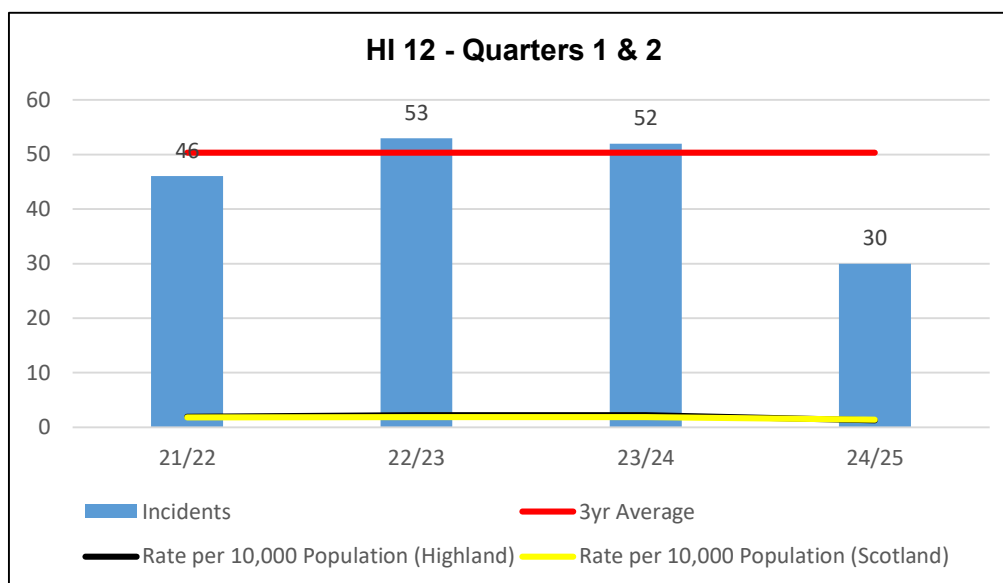
The number of deliberate fires was below the National average per 10,000 of the population.

Our Station personnel have undertaken engagement activities with Prevention teams in targeted areas and information sessions at Schools, clubs and recreation areas.

Since the previous report we have delivered further FireSkills courses with more planned for this year.

## PRIORITY 5 – Non-Domestic Fire Safety

### HI 12 – Non-Domestic Building Fires



**Table 10: 2024/25 Year Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 12: Non-Domestic Building Fires</b>	46	53	52	<b>30</b>

### HI 13 – Fire Safety Enforcement Audits

A total of 218 audits were undertaken during Quarters 1 and 2.

#### What we aim to Achieve

- Reduction in the number of non-domestic fires
- Support for duty holders to understand their duties and responsibilities to comply with fire safety legislation
- Reducing the social and economic impact of non-domestic fires and supporting business continuity and employment in Highland
- Contributing to the protection of our built and natural heritage

We attended **30 non-domestic building fires** this period which is below last year.

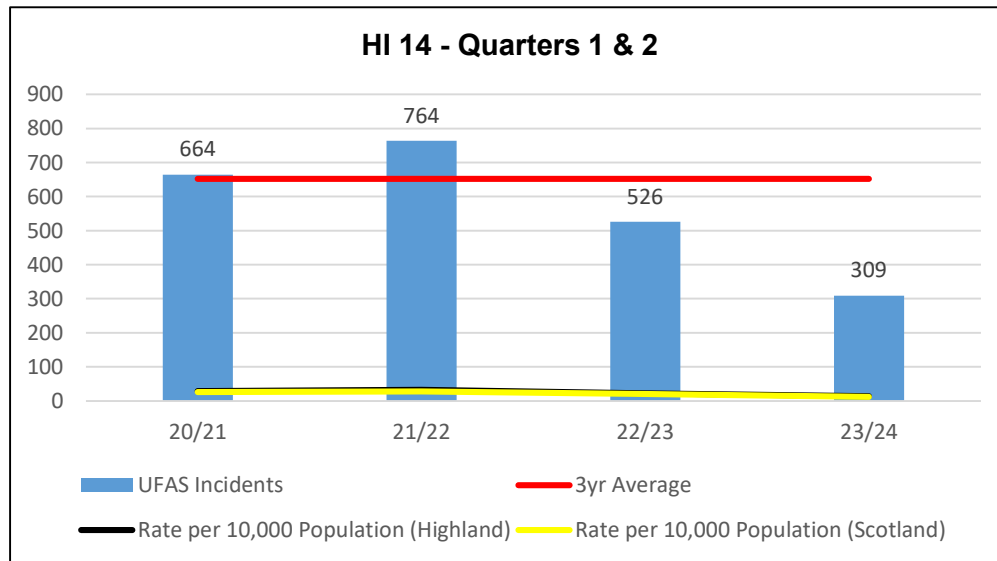
To support our communities in complying with their obligations we have conducted **218 audits during this period with 22 Action plans and 1 Fire Safety Enforcement notice currently still open.**

**We completed 504 Short Term Let enquiries in this period with an expected rise.**

The numbers of audits completed have been affected by staff turnover, new staff requiring specialist fire safety training and our teams answering questions and giving advice on the introduction of Short term let licensing.

## PRIORITY 6 – REDUCING UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

### HI 14 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



**Table 11: 2024/25 Year Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 14: UFAS Incidents</b>	664	764	526	<b>309</b>

#### What we aim to Achieve

- Reduction in the number of UFAS incidents across Highland, particularly amongst the highest offenders
- Reduction in unnecessary demand on Retained Firefighters and their primary employers
- Reduced road risk for SFRS staff and the wider community
- Release capacity for staff training and community engagement through reduction in UFAS attendance
- Reduced costs to SFRS associated with UFAS response

We attended **309 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** this is well below the 3-year average and shows a decrease for the year.

One of the priorities of SFRS is to reduce the amount of UFAS calls we attend. The Fire Safety Enforcement Officer (FSEO) engage with duty holders during the audit process to offer advice on reducing unwanted activations including considering cost-effective technical solutions (e.g. re-positioning fire detector heads and changing detector types).

## PRIORITY 7 – OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE AND PREPAREDNESS

### What we aim to Achieve

- Responding to and resolving operational incidents in a safe, effective and efficient manner that keeps staff, partners, and the public safe
- Contributing to wider safety by focusing on preventing emergencies occurring
- Planning and preparing for response and mitigating the social and economic impact of emergencies upon communities
- Reinforcing local resilience within communities and in Community Fire Stations

During this period, we delivered our quarterly training commitment to operational firefighters, whereby we trained and tested their preparedness to deal with a variety of incident types.

Firefighters continue to carry out Operational Intelligence within their station area so that they are aware of the associated risks and hazards, and if required can take effective actions in dealing with incidents at these sites. All this information is continually updated on our tablets carried on frontline appliances thus giving our staff information at the point of need.

The time of writing this report the exact number of successful Joint Mobilisations were not available. However, both trials have continued to receive positive feedback and a report is being delivered with recommendations to end the trials and a tool to use as business as normal.

In areas of Highland, we have seen successful recruitment and availability (**15 appliances above 90% and 20 above 70%**). However, we do face some challenges in areas where population levels are low or decreasing.

To support our On-Call stations, increase recruitment and provide cover we employ 11 full-time rural Watch Commanders (the highest number across Scotland) and have continued to support availability through our two Highland trials.

- A joint mobilising process whereby two appliances who do not have safe minimum crewing numbers available can meet at an agreed rendezvous point to give them enough crew to safely respond to the incident.
- A formalised process which will allow On-Call staff to undertake paid duties at other stations to increase their staffing levels, undertake prevention activities and thereby increase appliance availability.

The time of writing this report the exact number of successful Joint Mobilisations were not available. However, both trials have continued to receive positive feedback and a report is being delivered with recommendations to end the trials and a tool to use as business as normal.

Please note the Highland Trials do not contribute to the availability figures provided.



## Station Establishment and Availability

- 2 x Wholetime Duty System appliances at 1 Station
- 61 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 52 Stations
- 6 x On-Call Volunteer Duty System vehicles / Community Response Units across 6 Stations

These Stations serve the 238'00 Highland population (Highland.gov.uk)

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

Station	Apr – Sept 24 Availability* %	Male	Female	Staff
Acharacle	60.65%	5	0	5
Achiltibuie	48.13%	5	0	5
Applecross	28.58%	3	2	5
Aultbea	87.08%	10	0	10
Aviemore	<b>92.69%</b>	11	1	12
Balintore (CRU)	N/A	8	0	8
Beauly	83.16%	13	0	13
Bettyhill	29.59%	6	0	6
Bonar Bridge	16.95%	3	1	4
Broadford	55.41%	5	1	6
Cannich	0%	2	1	3
Carrbridge (CRU)	N/A	7	1	8
Cromarty (CRU)	N/A	3	2	5
Dingwall - 1st Appliance	<b>99.36%</b>	16	1	17
Dingwall - 2nd Appliance	51.75%			
Dornoch	<b>97.96%</b>	10	0	10
Drumnadrochit	<b>90.02%</b>	10	1	11
Dunbeath	60.78%	7	0	7
Dunvegan	55.82%	4	2	6
Durness	73.59%	6	0	6
Fort Augustus	<b>92.44%</b>	8	2	10
Fort William – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance	<b>100%</b>	18	2	20
Fort William – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance	86.15%			
Fortrose	79.66%	6	3	9
Foyers	71.70%	7	0	7
Gairloch	<b>94.96%</b>	8	2	10
Glenelg	76.49%	5	1	6
Golspie	75.93%	8	0	8
Grantown – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance	88.70%	10	2	12
Grantown – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance	18.66%			
Helmsdale	67.61%	7	0	7
Invergordon - 1st Appliance	<b>99.97%</b>	17	2	19
Invergordon - 2nd Appliance	84.06%			
Inverness Retained	<b>92.20%</b>	15	0	15
Inverness Wholetime *	N/A	54	12	66
John O Groats	44.11%	8	0	8

Kilchoan	26.35%	3	1	4
Kingussie	83.85%	8	0	8
Kinlochbervie	67.11%	6	1	6
Kinlochewe	20.98%	3	0	3
Kinlochleven – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance	81.65%	8	3	11
Kinlochleven – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance	13.03%			
Kyle	<b>97.96%</b>	12	0	12
Lairg	70.34%	8	2	10
Lochaline	75.50%	4	2	6
Lochcarron	75.48%	5	0	5
Lochinver	0%	2	0	2
Lybster (CRU)	N/A	5	1	6
Mallaig	30.67%	4	0	4
Muck (CRU)	N/A	0	1	1
Nairn – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance	<b>97.54%</b>	18	0	18
Nairn – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance	70.68%			
Nethybridge (CRU)	N/A	0	0	0
Newtonmore (CRU)	N/A	8	0	8
Portree	<b>97.97%</b>	8	0	8
Raasay	87.77%	6	0	6
Ratagan (CRU)	N/A	0	0	0
Scourie	0%	1	0	1
Spean Bridge (CRU)	N/A	8	0	8
Staffin	0%	2	1	3
Strontian	70.76%	5	3	8
Tain	82.08%	10	1	11
Thurso - 1st Appliance	<b>99.35%</b>	12	2	16
Thurso - 2nd Appliance	58.69%			
Tongue	7.66%	2	0	2
Torridon	64.80%	2	3	5
Uig	49.18%	5	0	5
Ullapool - 1st Appliance	<b>98.61%</b>	13	3	16
Ullapool - 2nd Appliance	75.41%			
Wick - 1st Appliance	<b>99.16%</b>	18	0	18
Wick - 2nd Appliance	68.88%			

555 Station based personnel

11 Rural Wholetime Watch Commanders

11 Station Commanders, 3 Group Commanders, 1 Area Commander

In addition, Prevention, Protection, Training, non-operational and business support staff

## APPENDIX 1: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This section provides details of community safety engagement programmes undertaken within Highland during the first and second quarter of 2024-25, in support of our priorities.

### Have your say on the future of the Scottish Fire and Rescue service events held across Highland

**LSO-Highland** @LSO\_Highland · May 13

[firescotland.gov.uk/get-involved/c...](https://firescotland.gov.uk/get-involved/c...). Thank you to everyone who visited our pop up session at @EastgateNess shopping over the weekend. For those who could not make it, there is still time to complete the survey @SFRSYourSafety @HighlandCouncil



1 8 296

You reposted

**Dunvegan Fire Station** @DunveganFire · May 23

We're having an open day on Tuesday 28th May. If you're in the Dunvegan area drop in between 10am-noon to ask/tell us whatever you like. Miriam and Louis will be there to show you round and make the tea.

**Public Engagement Sessions at Dunvegan and Broadford Fire Stations**

As part of our "Shaping Our Future Service: Your Say" engagement initiative . We are holding public engagement sessions at: Dunvegan and Broadford Fire Stations

**Tuesday 28 May**  
**from 10-12noon (Dunvegan)**  
**2-4pm (Broadford)**



**SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**  
 Working together for a safer Scotland

The Dunvegan session is an 'Open Day' event. Just turn up between 10-12noon.

For the Broadford session, attendance must be confirmed contact [SFRS.Publicinvolvement@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:SFRS.Publicinvolvement@firescotland.gov.uk) or call 07747827283 to book a place.

3 7 480

You reposted

### Crews and local engagement

**Allan Mclean** @mcleanallan02 · Apr 9

Fantastic community event from @fire\_scot @LSO\_Highland Kyle crew organising and hosting the senior citizen dinner 25 years on and still a great night



2 19 779

You reposted

**SFRS Ardnamurchan & Morvern** @StrontianFire · May 29

Lochaline Community Fire Station are hosting a Cuppa with the Crew event this Sunday 2nd June from 11:00am ☺️☺️☺️ Come along for a brew and look around the station to meet us and find out what we do in the community 🚒



1 2 18 499

## Supporting Anthony Nolan

**Allan Mclean** @mcleanallan02 · Apr 17  
 Thanks to @fire\_scot crews and Kingussie high school today for another 42 potential life savers for @AnthonyNolan Well done to all involved



2 5 33 1.3K

You reposted  
**Stewart Macpherson** @foyersfire · Sep 19  
 What a fantastic response from Millburn Academy, Inverness today with the SFRS and @AnthonyNolan partnership recruited another 76 people onto the stem cell register, thanks to all involved especially the new 76 people on the register, working together to save life's 🙏🏻



You and 7 others  
 2 7 28 3.9K

## CPR events follow lifesaving story

You reposted  
**Scottish Fire and Rescue Service** @fire\_scot · Apr 18  
 Two firefighters who saved the life of a friend and colleague during a shinty match in Highland have been recognised for their heroic efforts.

Read their incredible story below and learn more about the Community Action Team equipping more sports teams with life-saving skills.



From firescotland.gov.uk  
 2 9 32 3K

You reposted  
**SFRS Highland North (Ross-Shire)** @SFRS\_RSshire · Jul 12  
 According to the British Heart Foundation, 43% of UK adults have never learnt CPR. Performing quick CPR & defibrillation can more than double the chances of survival following cardiac arrest. Learn this life-saving skill in a relaxed environment with the crew at Invergordon 📍



5 10 659

## Road Safety delivered to every High School in Highland

You reposted

**SFRS Highland Community Safety** @SFRSHighlandCAT · Mar 7

🚗🚒 Today we attended Lachaber High School - Fort William to discuss Road Safety. This is part of our Highland Road Safety Initiative to all Schools. 150 pupils from S4 to S6 attended and now have an understanding of the hazards and risk associated with driving. 🚗🚒



You and 3 others

🔄 1 ❤️ 10 📊 378 📌 📤

You reposted

**SFRS Highland Community Safety** @SFRSHighlandCAT · Jun 26

Our Community Action Team have been super busy all over Highland this week! Mark has been out and about promoting water safety 🚒 Ben and the whole CAT team have delivered road safety to EVERY single secondary school in the Highland area! 📌



You reposted

🔄 2 ❤️ 10 📊 1K 📌 📤

## Training and exercises

You reposted

**Invergordon Fire Station** @InvergordonFire · Apr 25

Off-Station exercise at Invergordon Distillery at Monday's Drill Night. Exposing crews to complex industrial layouts and the challenges they pose.



🔄 3 ❤️ 35 📊 1.2K 📌 📤

You reposted

**Raasay SFRS** @RaasaySFRS · May 6

It's a nice night for some water awareness.



🗨️ 2 🔄 4 ❤️ 40 📊 1.4K 📌 📤

You reposted

**Thurso Community Fire Station** @ThursoFire\_ · May 9

#S20P7 attended a multi-agency exercise at Dwarick Pier, Dunnet, involving mass casualties with a variety of simulated injuries that tested the skills of firefighters, SAS and Coastguard, excellent opportunity to train with other Cat 1 responders, sharing knowledge and learning.



🗨️ 🔄 3 ❤️ 38 📊 1.5K 📌 📤

You reposted

**Karla Stevenson** @Karla5188 · Jun 7

Lifesaving equipment installed at Loch Ness waterside beauty spots by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service



From Inverness-courier.co.uk

🗨️ 🔄 3 ❤️ 8 📊 489 📌 📤

You reposted

## Charity Car Wash and Open days

You reposted



**SFRS Highland North (Ross-Shire)** @SFRS\_RShire · Apr 25



1 2 12 547

You reposted



**Thurso Community Fire Station** @ThursoFire\_ · Apr 26

On the 23rd March we held a car wash in which we raised £600, last night we presented 50% of that to the local good cause that we part raised for, pictured is WC Mackay presenting £300 to 2nd Thurso Scout Group, the other £300 was donated to @firefighters999 well done all 🙌🙌



1 2 30 1K

You reposted

**SFRS Highland Central(Lochness & Aird)** @SFRSLochness · Aug 9

Updated poster



11 16 983

You reposted

**Thurso Community Fire Station** @ThursoFire\_ · Aug 18

Super busy day yesterday at our Open Day, lots of games, stalls & emergency vehicles in attendance, 10 x crew carried out a thr 47 min (interrupted by a shout 🚒) non stop ladder climb, scaling a massive 1623.7 metres(130 x 13.5m ladder), that's one every 49 seconds on average 🙌



4 35 1.1K

You reposted

## Dunvegan runners up for Women in the Fire Service Awards

You reposted



**Karla Stevenson** @Karla5188 · May 2

Congratulations to all nominees but I'm delighted that @DunveganFire were runners up in the @WFSUK1 awards!!!



From wfs.org.uk

4 3 34 1K

## Watch Commander Laura McHardy awarded Churchill Fellowship for research into On Call firefighting

You reposted

**Laura McHardy** @laura\_mchardy · Jul 1

I'm so honoured to be awarded a Churchill Fellowship! Enabling me to connect with firefighters & leaders in Canada, the U.S.A, New Zealand & Australia to drive change for on-call firefighting in the UK. Thank you @ChurchillFellowship for this incredible opportunity #ChurchillFellow24



National Fire Chiefs Council and Women in the Fire Service UK

5 6 44 2.6K

## Fireskills courses held across Highland



Broadford first ever female only Fireskills aligned with International Women's day – March 2024

Thurso – May 2024

Broadford – September 2024

Invergordon – Oct 2024

Inverness – November 2024



## Remembering James Braidwood and 200 years of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service



## **APPENDIX 2: Recent Questions & Answers**

### **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

- Our capital funding has remained at £32.5million for the last seven years. We have received an additional £10million for 2024-25 but as a minimum we need at least £80million each year to bring our buildings and equipment up to standard.
- £13.3million has been allocated to property major works for this year
- In addition to Dingwall and Inverness, improvement and remedial works are ongoing at Newcraighall, Galashiels and Calton community fire stations.

### **DECONTAMINATION**

- We are committed to ensuring the safety of our firefighters and decontamination is a service priority.
- We are investing circa £3.2million to improve the management of contaminants through the provision of additional PPE and station infrastructure.
- This investment will enable the Service to fully implement our Contaminants Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

### **HIGHLAND INVESTMENT**

- We have completed the refurbishment of Dingwall and Inverness Community Fire Stations
- This represents an overall £4.6million investment in our Highland estate
- The refurbishment work saw essential repairs carried out and new welfare facilities fitted at both stations.
- This also includes the installation of new decontamination provisions such as locker and drying rooms and the implementation of 'zoning systems', ensuring firefighters can safely clean and manage kit and equipment after attending fires and other emergencies.
- The safety and wellbeing of our staff is paramount and our buildings must be fit for our current and future staff, with appropriate facilities and safety measures in place.
- Dingwall first opened in 1971 and Inverness in 1956; neither station has witnessed any significant investment in the decades since
- We inherited a significant capital backlog and must prioritise our spend to bring our stations and buildings up to the required standard.

### **WILDFIRE STRATEGY**

We are advancing our Wildfire Strategy, aimed at enhancing our capability to manage and mitigate wildfires across Scotland. We are committed to improving wildfire prevention, response, and partnership efforts, ensuring both local communities and natural landscapes are better protected.

Area Commander Michael Humphreys has taken over as the Wildfire Capability Lead and Chair of the Scottish Wildfire Forum (SWF), following the groundwork laid by DACO Bruce Farquharson. Michael Humphreys said:

*"I am honoured to step into this role, especially as someone who lives and works in the Highlands. I have witnessed first-hand the devastation wildfires can cause to both nature and communities. I'm committed to building on the excellent work started by Bruce Farquharson and continuing to innovate as we implement our Wildfire Strategy. This includes educating communities and visitors to Scotland on wildfire prevention and improving our response capabilities."*



Our Wildfire Strategy focuses on four key pillars: **Partnership Working, Provision of Information, Prevention, and Response.**

**Partnership Working and Information Sharing:** We work closely with the land management sector and other agencies to ensure a unified approach to wildfire prevention. This includes fostering a shared understanding of **Muirburn** and **prescribed burning** practices, alongside utilising the collective expertise of our partners for prevention education and intervention when needed.

The Scottish Wildfire Forum plays a key role in raising awareness and sharing knowledge. Through the **Wildfire Danger Assessments** provided by the SWF, we inform **Tactical Advisors** and the public about wildfire risks using social media and traditional outlets. More information can be found on the [Scottish Wildfire Forum website](#).

**Prevention:** In early 2024, we revamped our wildfire prevention materials and expanded the wildfire section on our website from a single page to seven detailed theme pages. This coincided with a **22-week prevention campaign**, which successfully drove significant traffic and interaction with our online wildfire content. Visit our updated website pages at [Wildfires | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#).

**Response:** Our Wildfire Strategy, launched in 2023, is backed by a £1.6million investment over three years. This includes acquiring all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), trailers, specialist equipment, and four 4x4 support vans, which will be deployed as part of a comprehensive response package.

Despite global challenges impacting supply chains, we continue to progress. Four of the **Tier 2** wildfire stations are set to receive the 4x4 support vans, and **Tier 3** stations will be equipped with ATVs and additional wildfire-specific PPE.

**Tiered Approach:** All SFRS operational personnel are trained to at least **Tier 1** in wildfire response.

**Tier 2 Stations:** 24 stations (13 of which are within Highland) have received additional training and specialist PPE, with four stations also set to receive the new 4x4 support vans.

**Tier 3 Stations:** 10 stations (2 of which are within Highland) will be equipped with Ford Rangers, trailers, and ATVs.

**Flexi Duty Officers:** These officers have undergone Wildfire Tactical Advisor training and will support wildfire incidents across the country.

## **BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS)**

We can advise, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) continuously engage with the Scottish Government and Building Standards regarding a range of fire safety issues that may impact on the built environment, of which BESS is one of many priorities.

SFRS do not regulate building standards but can, and do, get involved with consultations for new and emerging premises types with regard to fire risk and fire safety. Specifically, for BESS construction, SFRS continue to engage with building standards and local planning teams on this issue to ensure any additional and exceptional risks from these premise types are identified and managed accordingly. Ultimately, it is the remit for building standards to ensure that appropriate legislation and regulation is in place, and the responsibility of Local Authority Building Control to verify construction projects against the requirements.

SFRS are working closely with the Scottish Government to ensure that the processes in place are appropriate review and comment on these types of premises during the planning stages.

Please be assured that the safety of our firefighters and communities is a priority. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will respond to all reports of fire which are received and have the ability to deploy a range of standard and specialist resources as determined by the needs of the incident. At these incidents, personnel will employ a range of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in order to effectively and safely resolve the incident, alongside working with partner agencies to mitigate the risk and impact to the public and the environment. The SOPs in use by SFRS are informed by the National Operational Guidance (NOG) produced by the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and this guidance includes incidents involving rechargeable batteries.

We would advise you to contact the Local Authority Building Control Team with any questions/concerns.

BESS sites do not fall within the building warrant consultation process and we are not made aware of these in the same format as other consultations. That said, we have processes in place to respond to such proposals and make comment where necessary around any concerns or issues we foresee when responding to such incidents and for making effective preparations to deal with any incidents should the need arise.

When considering these proposals, we look at appliance access and water supplies amongst several other things and follow national guidance produced by the National Fire Chief's Council for BESS systems.

## **OVERNIGHT CARAVAN / MOTORHOME SPACING IN CAR PARKS**

Although a car park area used as a motorhome stopover is not typically considered relevant premises, and therefore outwith the scope of the Fire Scotland Act, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service recommends that such sites should be risk assessed for fire safety and that this is reflected within the site fire risk assessment.

The Scottish Government's "Guidance for existing premises with sleeping accommodation. Annex 3: Holiday Camping and Caravan sites" which is the benchmark standard that SFRS audits existing caravan/ holiday parks to, see screenshot below\* for opening statement on spacing between units. This document was issued in February 2022, I have attached a copy.

## Annex 3: Holiday Camping and Caravan Sites

### Spacing

1. Subject to the variations listed below, the distance between any two units should generally be not less than 6 m for permanent residential sites and touring sites, and 5 m for holiday caravan sites.
2. The 6 m distance between units may be reduced where caravan construction is inherently fire-resistant. Under such circumstances, the distance may be reduced to 5 m. Where there is a mix of fire-resistant and non fire-resistant construction, the larger separation distances apply.

*\*Screenshot of Scottish Government guidance:- [Fire safety - existing premises with sleeping accommodation: practical guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultations/2018/09/10/20180910_fire_safety_existing_premises_with_sleeping_accommodation_practical_guidance_gov.scot/links/full_text_of_consultation_document.pdf)*

If SFRS was auditing premises which deviated significantly from the benchmark standard, we would generally look for additional fire safety measures.

### COMMUNITY ASSET REGISTER

- The Community Asset Register is a Scotland wide database of volunteers willing to help during an emergency. The database plots assets on a map so if an emergency incident occurs we can identify those who could help. Assets can be people with either skills or equipment.
- There's no obligation on volunteers to provide support, as we will always respond to deal with emergencies. However, if we believe a volunteer could help, we ask if they're available. If they are, we explain where they should go and what they should do.
- Volunteers acting under our instruction, are insured and can claim certain expenses, such as mileage, however we don't pay hourly rates for their time.

To register: <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-area/community-asset-register/>