

Agenda Item	3
Report No	LA/1/25

The Highland Council

Committee: Lochaber Area Committee

Date: 27th January 2025

Report Title: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Committee Performance Report

Report By: Local Senior Officer for Highland

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This document presents a progress update to the Lochaber Area Committee regarding the implementation of the priorities specified in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Committee Plans for Lochaber.
- 1.2 Priority areas are delineated based on a comprehensive framework of intervention, prevention, and protection strategies. These initiatives are implemented collaboratively to mitigate risks faced by communities in Lochaber.
- 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 Lochaber Area Committee Performance Report

- 4.1 The enclosed performance report delineates the current metrics for Quarters 1 and 2, covering the period from April 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024. It benchmarks these figures against data from the past three reporting years retrieved from the central performance management database of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), focusing on key performance indicators and timelines previously established. It's important to note that the turnaround times and statistics are subject to delays, and any unresolved data may be carried over into the next reporting quarter.
- 4.2 In advancing the objectives outlined in the Area Plan, ongoing efforts within our current Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) framework are being enhanced as we transition to a new information-sharing system. This system aims to facilitate improved inter-agency collaboration, ensuring that resources are effectively allocated to the most vulnerable segments of our communities. Post Domestic Incident Reports (PDIR) are systematically conducted at all domestic incidents, irrespective of their nature, with a focus on mitigating the risk of accidental dwelling fires subsequent to our intervention.
- 4.3 The Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) Policy is designed to address the frequent false alarm incidents that our Service encounters at specific premises. By implementing targeted engagement strategies, we aim to mitigate the volume of these calls. This initiative has led to a revision of duty-holder responsibilities upon alarm activation, and we are actively assisting the affected premises in adapting to the new response protocols. This strategic shift in our incident response approach has resulted in a significant reduction in unnecessary deployments, thereby enhancing our operational capacity. Consequently, we are now better positioned to increase our engagement in community safety initiatives, enhance staff training, and minimise operational road risks.
- 4.4 It is important to note that the baseline values for several indicators in the report are quite low, which poses challenges for conducting robust statistical analyses. These low figures also raise concerns about the appropriateness of providing in-depth data analysis, as it may risk compromising individual confidentiality.

The performance report reveals that the incidence of Accidental Dwelling Fires in the region has remained stable, with three incidents recorded during the current reporting period. Notably, there were no reported fire-related fatalities or non-fatal injuries.

The report noted no occurrences of primary or secondary fire incidents in terms of deliberate fires, marking a significant decline relative to the three-year mean. Furthermore, two non-domestic fire incidents were documented, which is below the area's average level for such events.

During this reporting period, eight Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) were documented, exceeding the average observed over the past three years. These collisions resulted in 0 fatalities and 7 non-fatal casualties.

Furthermore, there were 23 incidents related to Non-Fire Emergencies within this timeframe, which is above the average and indicates an increase over the three-year period.

4.5 Effective from July 1, 2023, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has implemented the Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incident procedure in accordance with insights garnered from our previous public consultation. During this reporting period, we recorded attendance at 27 UFAS incidents, a figure that remains below levels observed prior to 2023. In light of this trend, our personnel will persist in collaborating strategically to eliminate all incident types through focused preventative measures and targeted engagement with the relevant premises.

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

Station personnel, in collaboration with Community Safety Advocates (CSA), conducted 93 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs), primarily focusing on vulnerable populations and individuals at heightened risk within the community.

Designation: Local Senior Officer for Highland

Date: 14/01/2025

Author: Station Commander Che Scott

Background Papers: Highland - Lochaber Area Committee Performance Report



LOCHABER 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

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

**QUARTERS 1 & 2
1 APRIL 2024 – 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 – 173		
Accident Dwelling Fires (ADF) 	ADF Fatal Casualties 	ADF Non Fatal Casualties 
Q1 & Q2 – 3 incidents YTD – 3 incidents	Q1 & Q2 – 0 YTD – 0	Q1 & Q2 – 0 YTD – 0
Home Fire Safety Visits 	Non-Fire Emergency 	Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) 
Q1 & Q2 – 93 Visits YTD – 93 Visits	Q1 & Q2 – 23 Incidents YTD – 23 Incidents	Q1 & Q2 – 8 Incidents YTD – 8 Incidents
Fatal RTC Casualties 	Non-Fatal RTC Casualties 	All Deliberate Fires 
Q1 & Q2 – 0 YTD – 0	Q1 & Q2 – 7 YTD – 7	Q1 & Q2 – 0 incidents YTD – 0 incidents
Deliberate Primary Fires 	Deliberate Secondary Fires 	Non Domestic Fires 
Q1 & Q2 – 0 incidents YTD – 0 incidents	Q1 & Q2 – 0 incidents YTD – 0 incidents	Q1 & Q2 – 2 incidents YTD – 3 incidents
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals 		
Q1 & Q2 – 27 incidents YTD – 27 incidents		

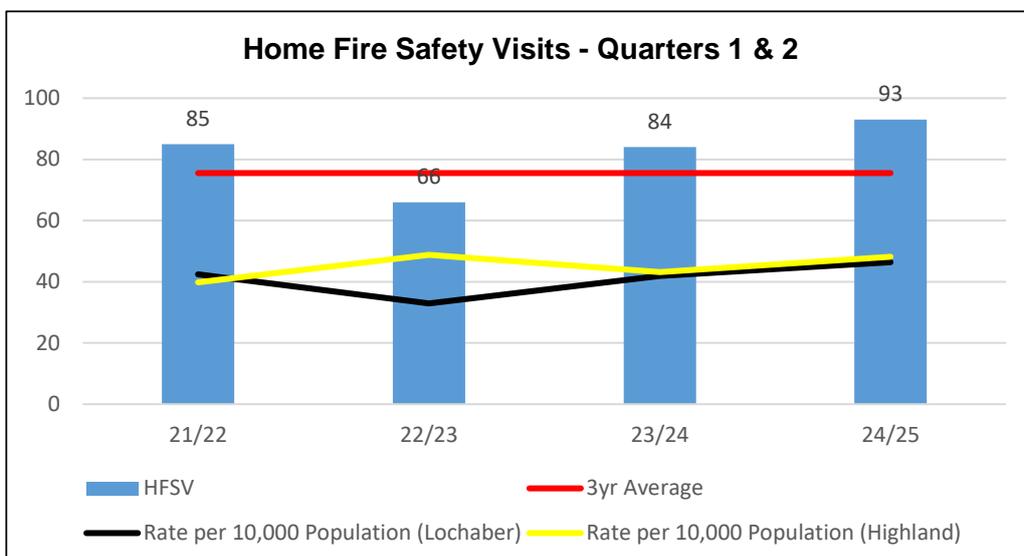
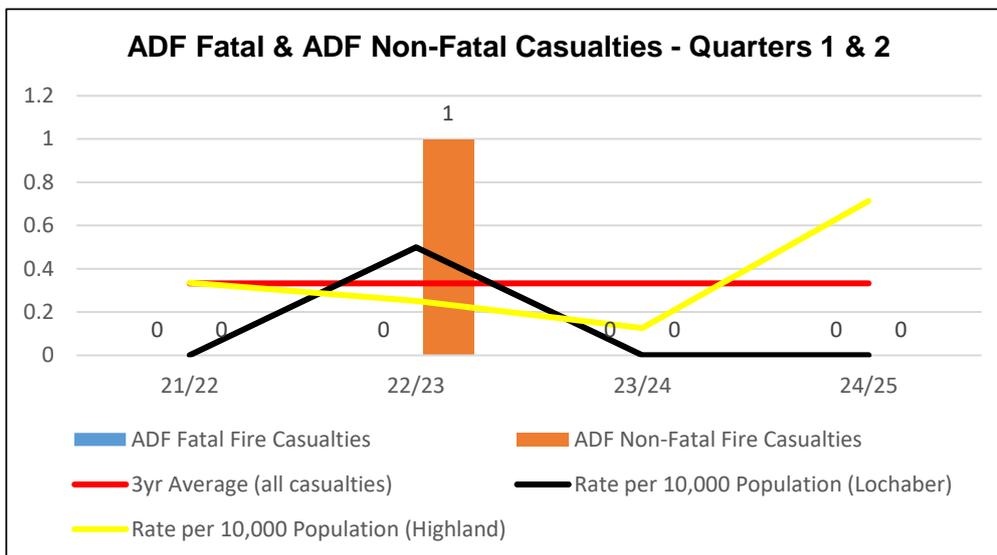
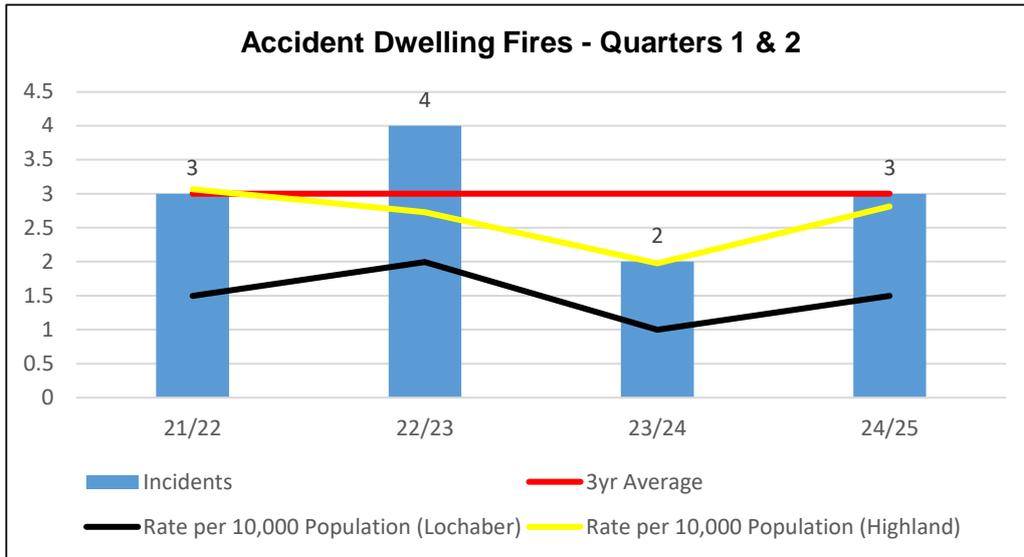
PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

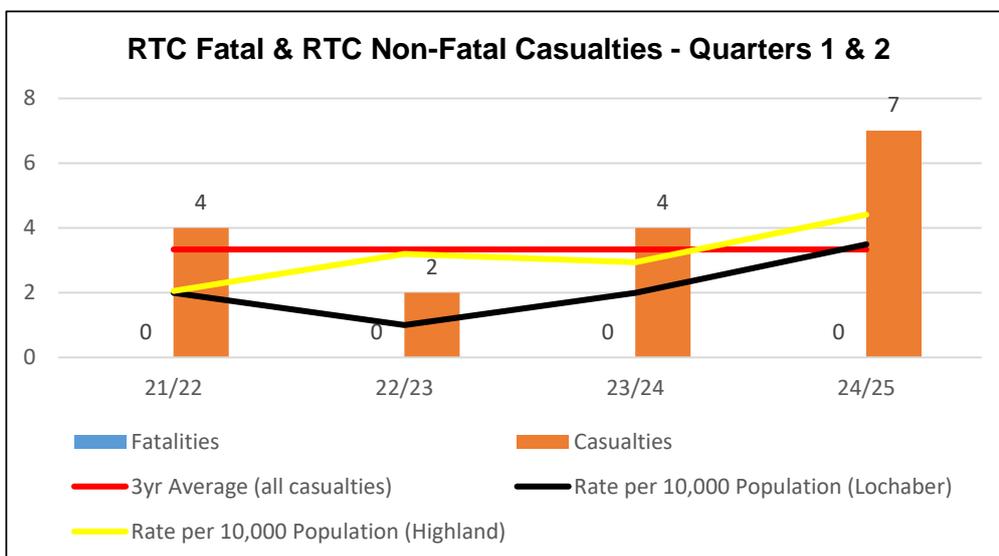
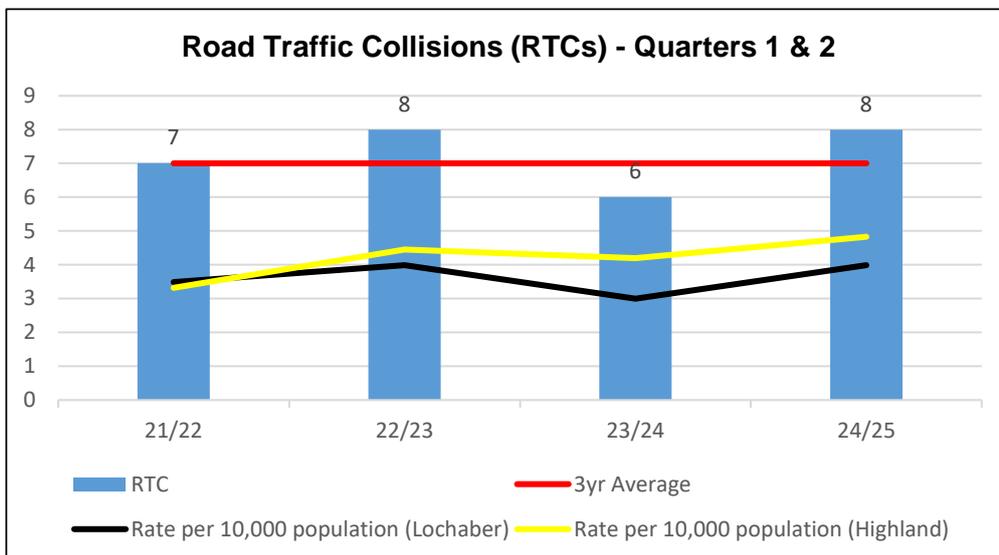
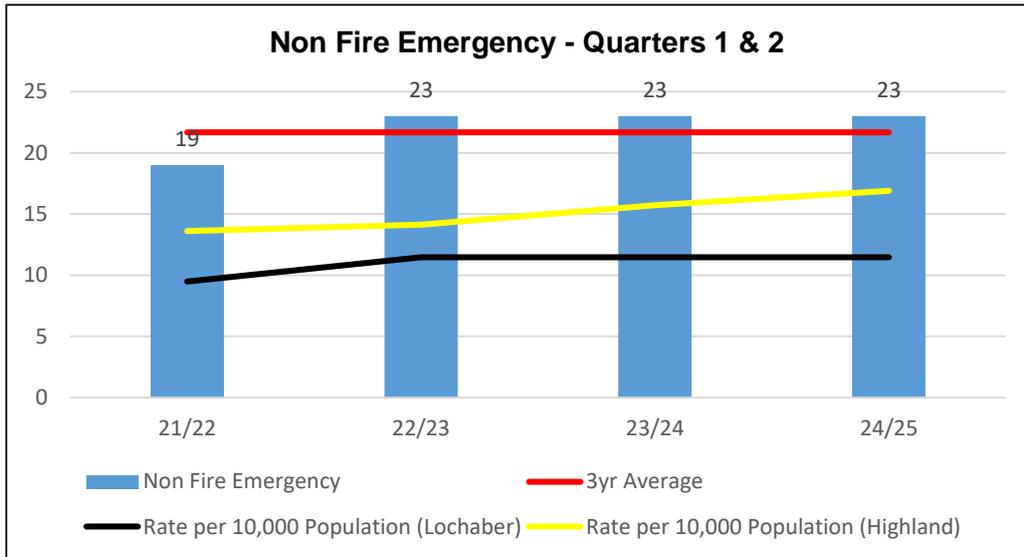
Of the 13 KPIs, the following performance should be noted for the six-month period 1 April to 30 September 2024.

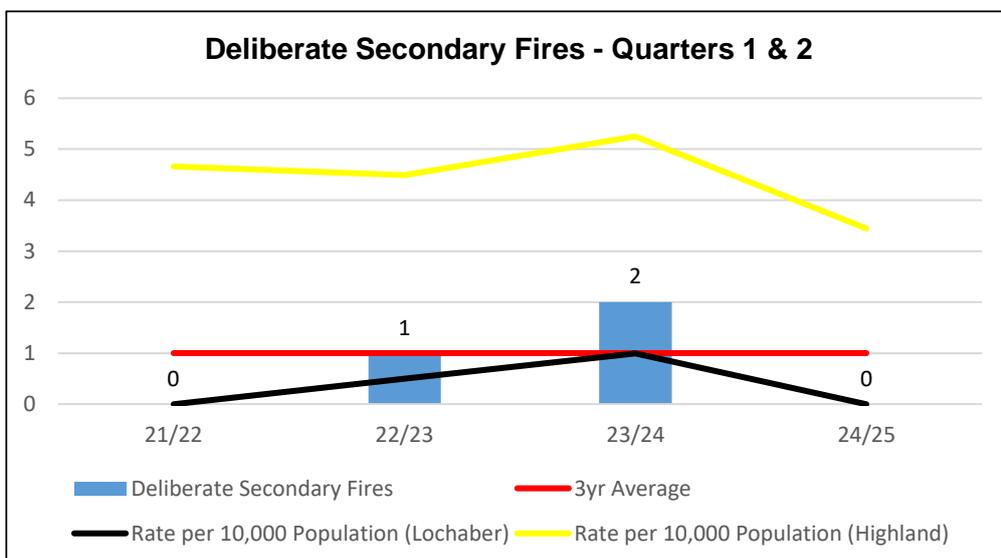
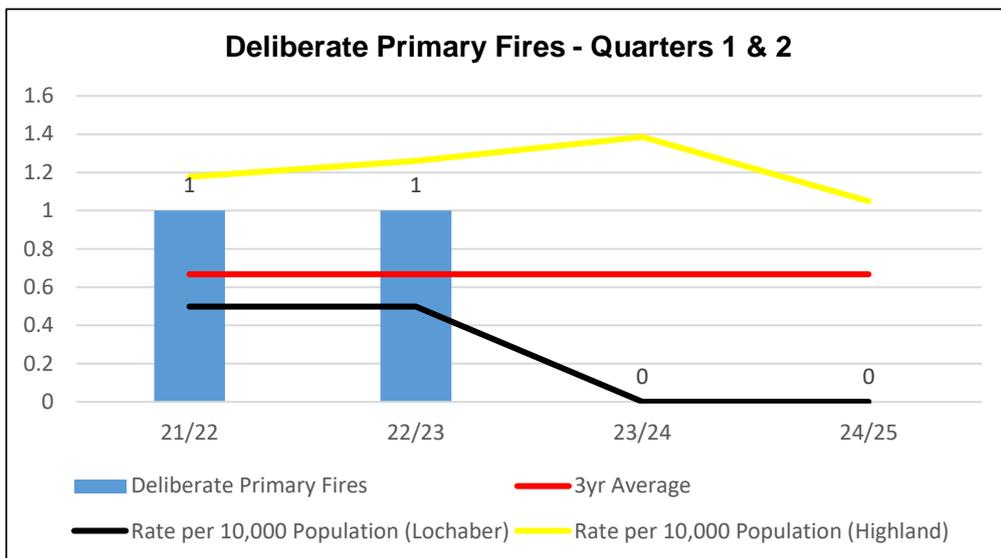
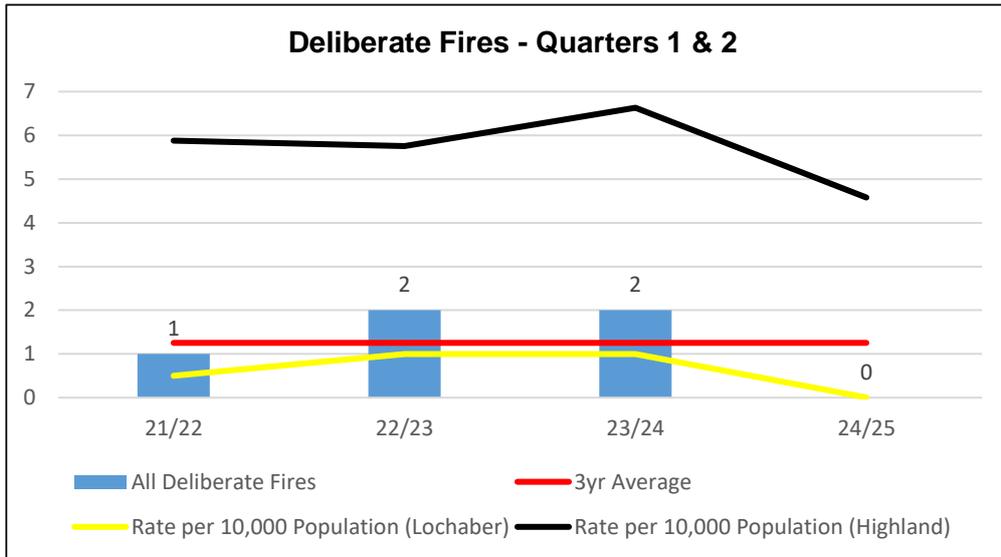
- There were **3 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** which is equal to the 3-year average. The majority were classed as low severity, requiring little or no intervention from the Service and minimal fire damage. There were **0 ADF Fatalities**, and **0 ADF Casualties**. All ADF's are offered Home Fire Safety Visits and agency referrals where required.
- There was **0 Deliberate Fires**, which were **0 Deliberate Other Primary Fire** which is above average and **0 Deliberate Secondary Fires** which is below the average. Referrals are made to other agencies for those at work within our communities.
- There were **2 Non-Domestic Building Fires** which is below the average.
- We attended **8 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is above the average. There were **0 RTC Related Fatalities** however there were **7 RTC Related Injuries**. Of the 7, 5 went to hospital with what appears to serious injuries and a further 1 went to hospital with what appeared to be slight injuries. A precautionary check was recommended for the other 1. 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 **27 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** which is showing 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 **93 Home Fire Safety Visits**. The majority targeted the most at risk in our communities.

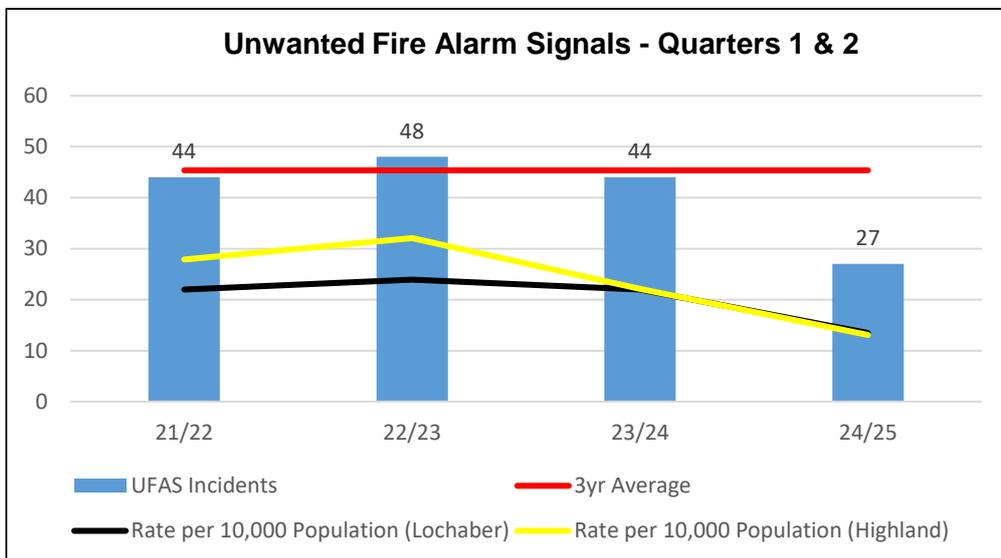
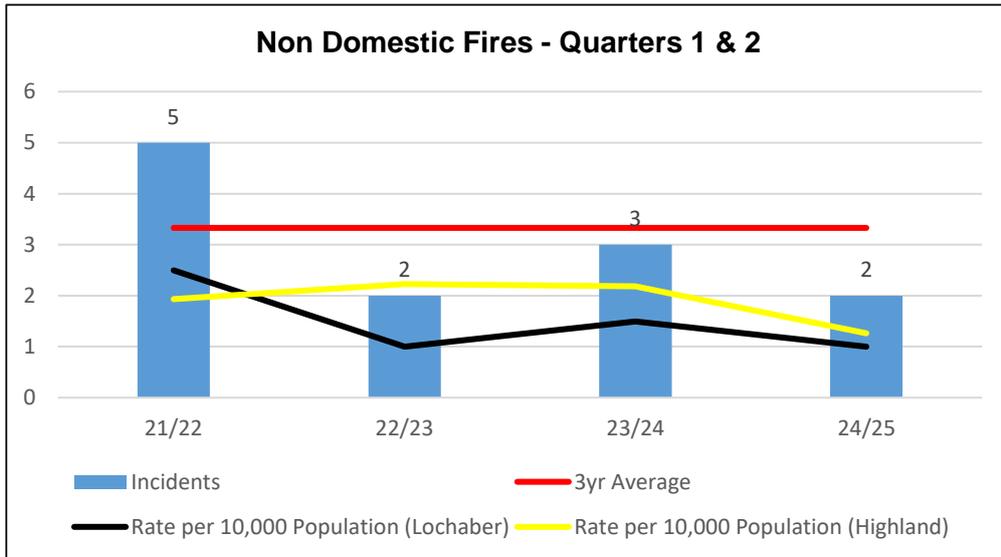
For more information please visit:

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Station Establishment and Availability

- 9 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 7 Stations

These Stations serve the Lochaber Committee population.

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

Station	Apr - Sept 2024 Availability %	Male	Female	Staff
Acharacle	60.65%	4	0	4
Fort William – 1 st Appliance	100%	18	2	20
Fort William – 2 nd Appliance	86.15%			
Kilchoan	26.35%	3	1	4
Kinlochleven – 1 st Appliance	81.65%	8	3	11
Kinlochleven – 2 nd Appliance	13.03%			
Lochaline	75.50%	4	2	6
Mallaig	30.67%	4	0	4
Strontian	70.76%	5	3	8