

Agenda Item	3
Report No	BIER-11-25

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Black Isle & Easter Ross Area Committee

Meeting Date: 12 May 2025

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 2024/25 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 5 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 20 Deliberate Fires in this reporting period. There were 5 recorded non-domestic fires in this reporting period.

Special Service – there were 7 road traffic collisions (RTC) reported during this period with 2 RTC Non-fatal Casualties.

From 1 July 2023, SFRS have implemented [UFAS incident procedure](#) following our previous [public consultation](#). During this reporting period we attended 22 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents. This remains lower than pre 2023 figures. 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 75 home fire safety visits (HFSV) were carried out during this period.

Designation: Local Senior Officer for Highland

Date: 28/04/2025

Author: Station Commander David Cowie

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



Highland Black Isle and Easter Ross Area Committee

**2024-25 Q3 & Q4
Scrutiny Report**



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Highland

Black Isle and Easter Ross Area Committee

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Scrutiny Report

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About the statistics within this report

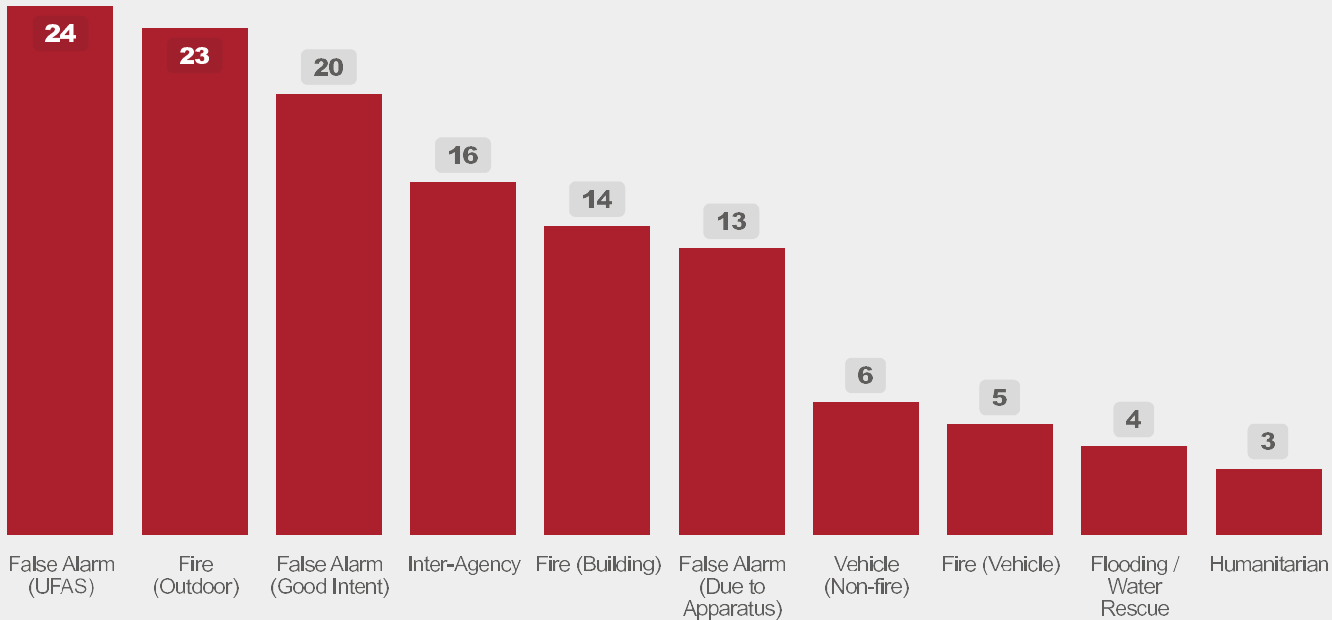
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference in the period totals quoted in our reports after local publication which result from revisions or additions to the data in our systems. The Scottish Government publishes official statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

1. Summary

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

 136 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	 42 Fires	 33 Non-Fire Incidents	 59 False Alarms	 24 UFAS
 9 People Rescued by Firefighters	 0 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	 0 Fire Fatalities	 7 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	 0 Non-Fire Fatalities
 76 Home Fire Safety Visits	 8 Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types

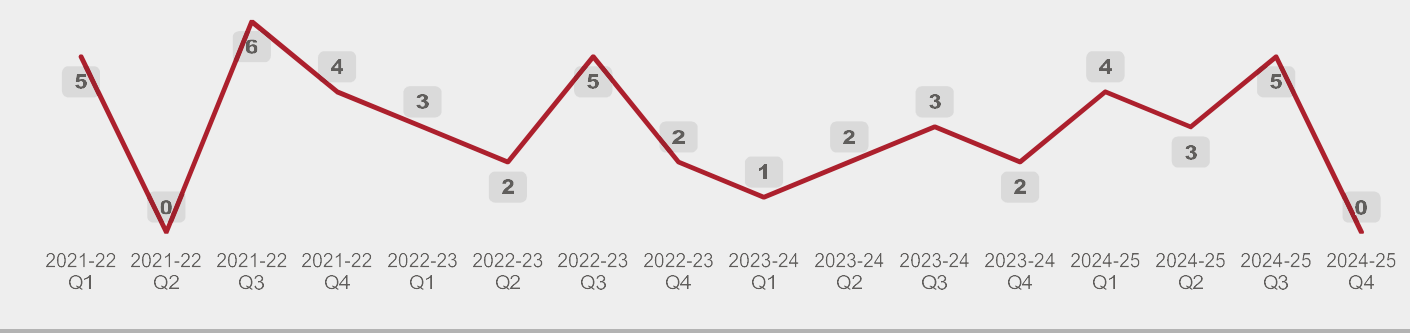


The table above provides a summary of the six months (1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025). It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting year.

2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

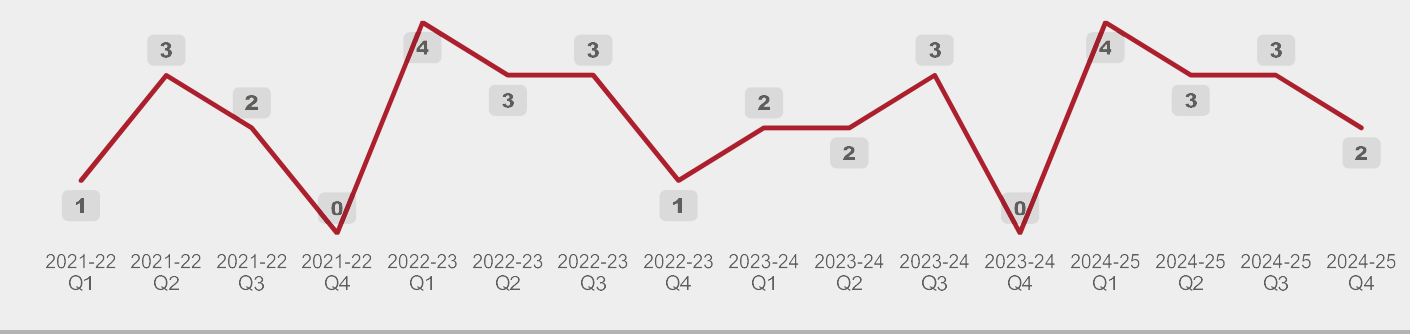
Accidental Dwelling Fires



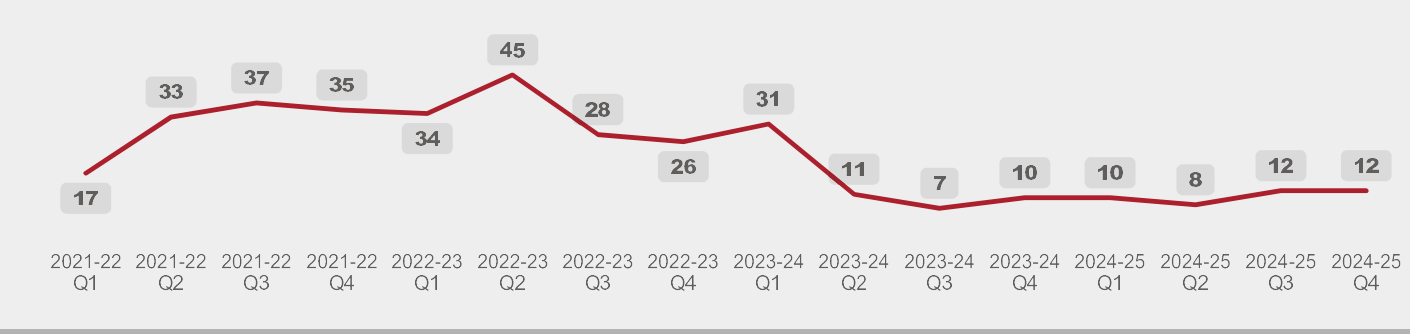
Deliberate Fires



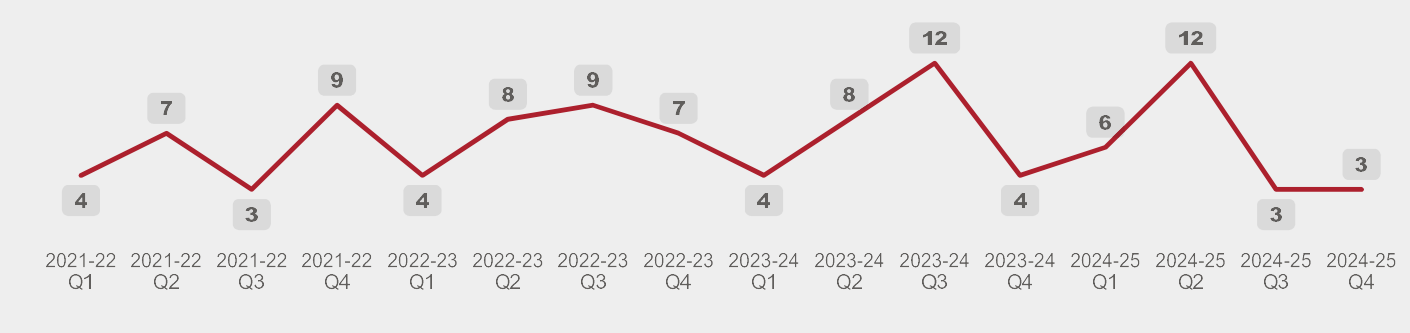
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



Road Traffic Collisions



3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)

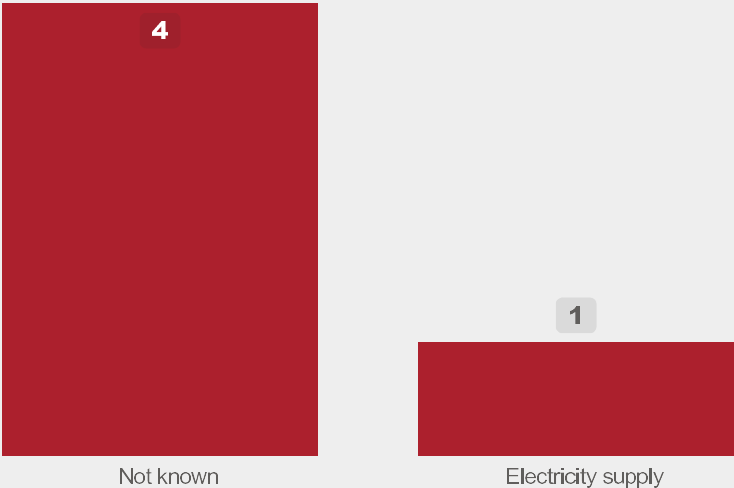


Extent of Damage	Incidents
Not applicable	3
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	2

Incidents by Ward



Source of Ignition (Top 10)



5
Accidental Dwelling Fires
in this period

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward

Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
	▼

0

Non-Fatal Casualties

0

Fatal Casualties

0

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given at Scene



0

Hospital Slight Injuries



0

Hospital Serious Injuries

5. Non-Fire Casualties

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Fracture	2
Not known	2
Cuts/Lacerations	1
Other physical injury	1
Unconscious, fitting or unresponsive (no other evident significant injury)	1

7

Non-Fatal Casualties

0

Fatal Casualties

9

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given at Scene



5

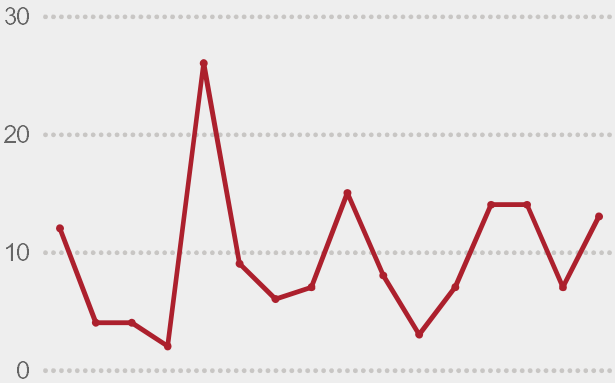
Hospital Slight Injuries



2

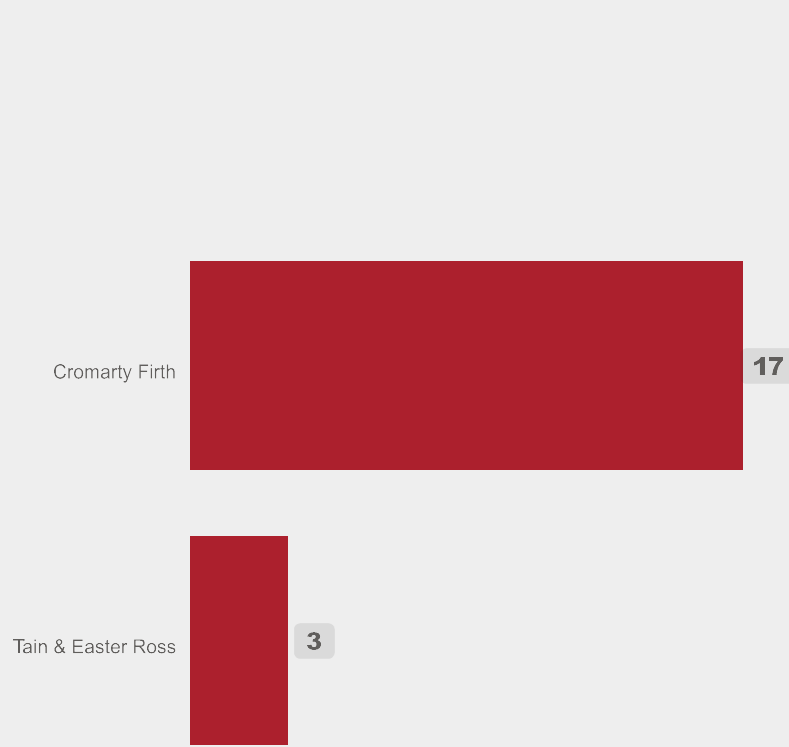
Hospital Serious Injuries

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Property Type	Incident
Grassland, woodland and crops	13
Refuse	4
Dwelling	1
Other outdoors (including land)	1
Outdoor structures	1

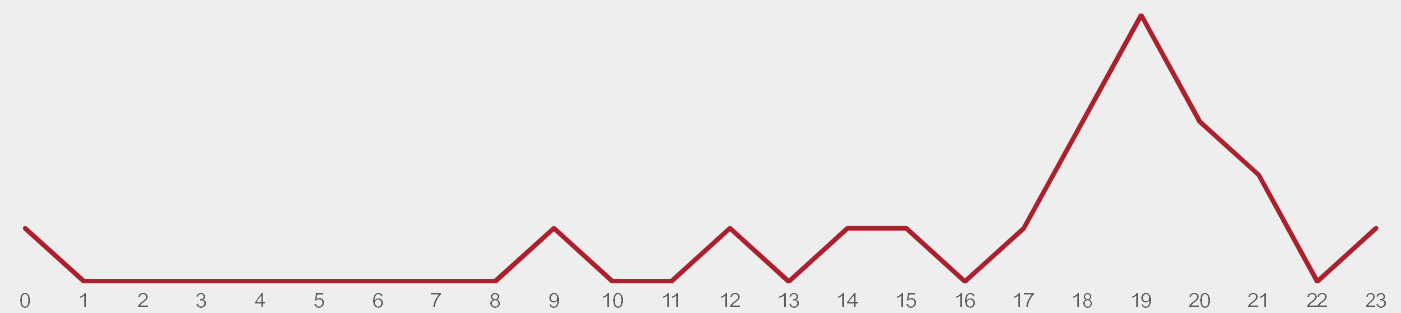
Incidents by Ward



20

Deliberate Fires
in this period

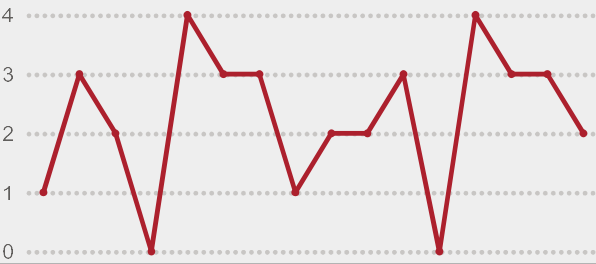
Hour of Day



7. Non-Domestic Fires

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

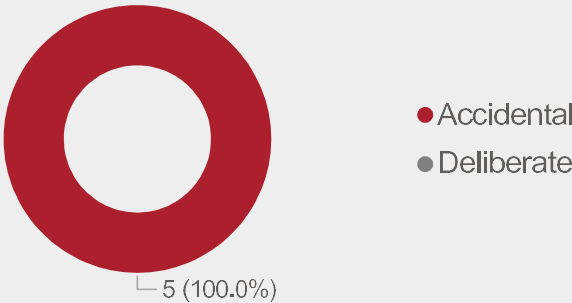
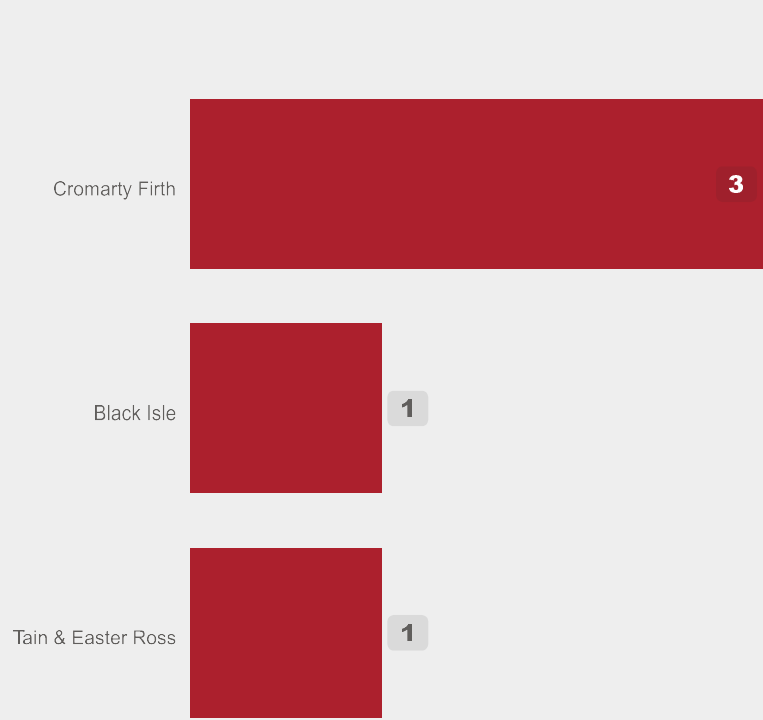
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Industrial Manufacturing	2
Education	1
Industrial Processing	1
Permanent Agricultural	1

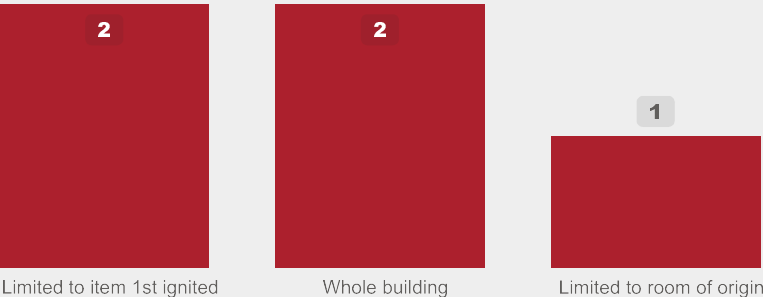
Incidents by Ward



5

Non-Domestic
Fires in this
period

Extent of Damage



8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

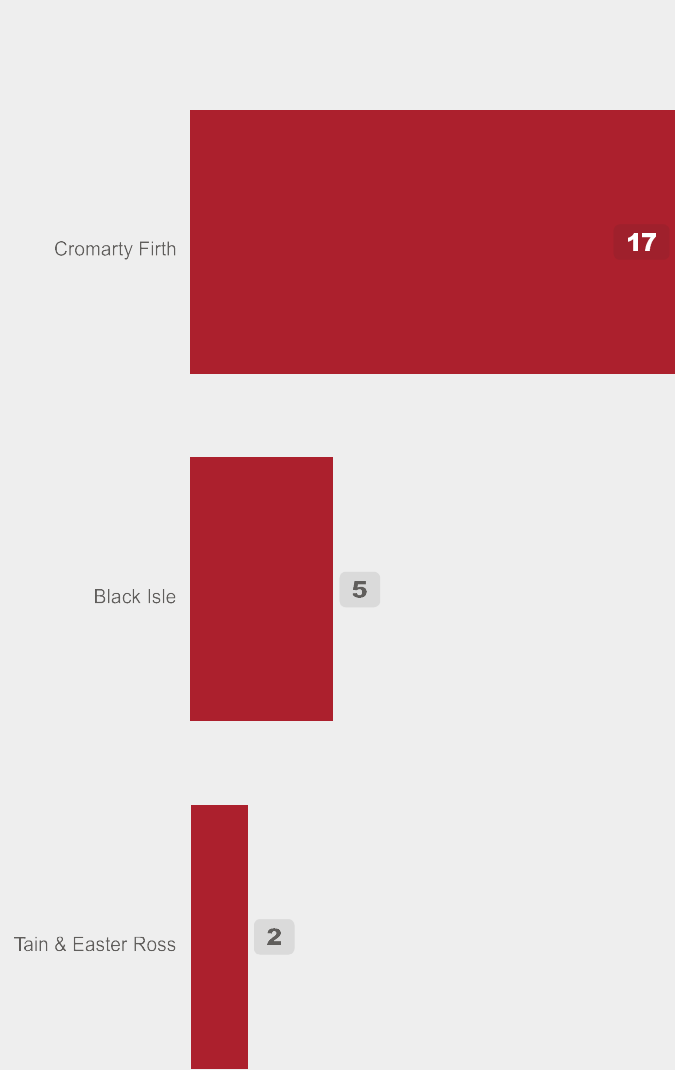
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Residential Home	13
Hospitals and medical care	3
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	3
Education	1
Hotel/motel	1
Industrial Manufacturing	1
Industrial Processing	1
Retail	1

Incidents by Ward



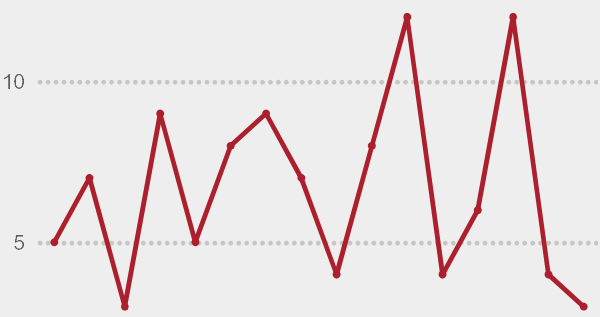
24

Unwanted Fire Alarm
Signals in this period

9. Road Traffic Collisions

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



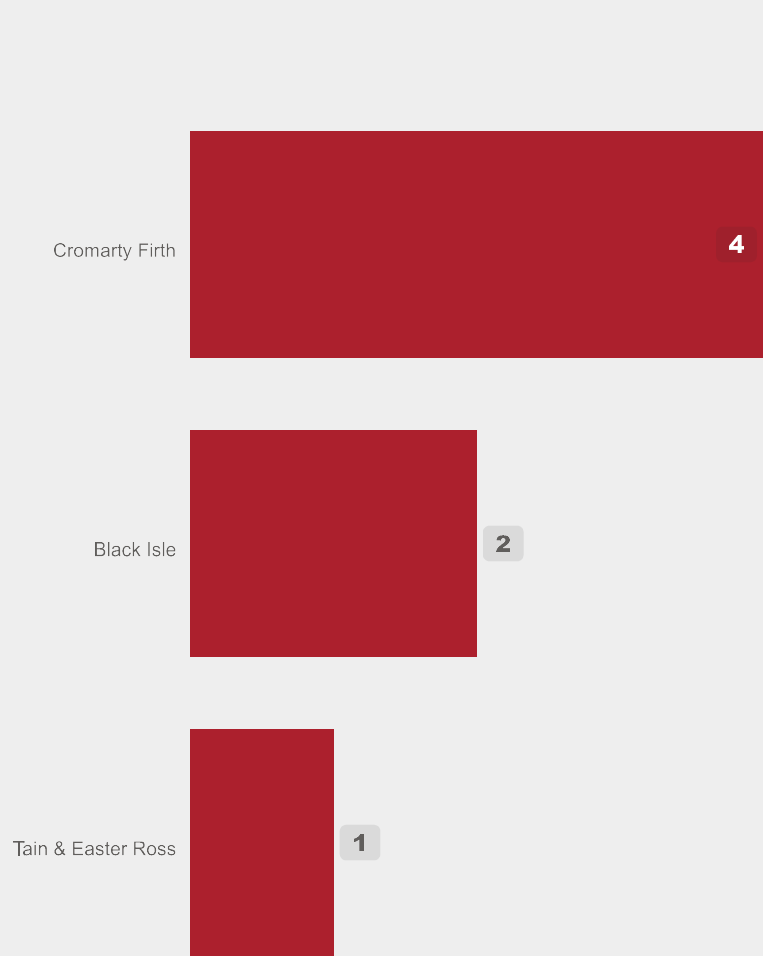
7

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
Car	4
Van	2
Lorry/HGV	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	6
Fire (Vehicle)	1

Incidents by Ward



2

Non-Fatal Casualties

0

Fatal Casualties

1

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given at Scene



1

Hospital Slight Injuries



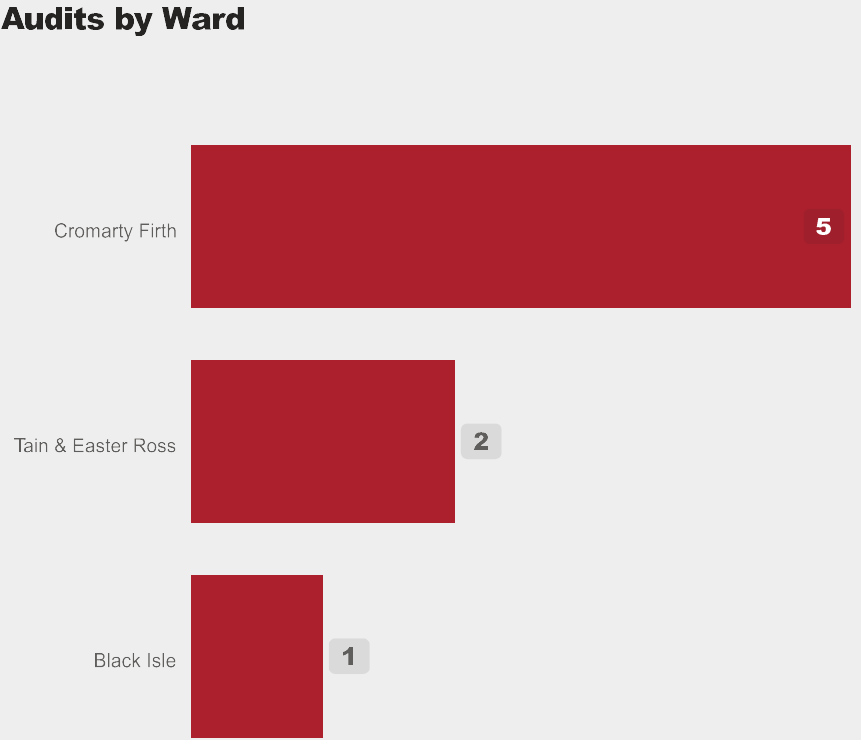
1

Hospital Serious Injuries



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Audit	8
Short Post Fire Audit	1
Specific Visit	1



12. Station Availability and Establishment

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

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

These Stations serve the Black Isle and Easter Ross population

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

Station	Oct 24 – Mar 25 Availability* %	Male	Female	Staff
Balintore (CRU)	N/A	9	0	9
Cromarty (CRU)	N/A	3	2	5
Fortrose	79.85%	5	3	8
Invergordon – 1 st Appliance	100%	17	2	19
Invergordon – 2 nd Appliance	81.22%			
Tain	80.41%	11	1	12

Balintore Community Fire Station Celebrates 50th Anniversary



On Thursday, 27 February 2025, Balintore Community Fire Station proudly celebrated its 50th anniversary, marking five decades of unwavering dedication to protecting the local community. The milestone was commemorated with a special evening event attended by past and present firefighters, community members, and distinguished guests.

Since its establishment in 1975, Balintore Community Fire Station has played a vital role in ensuring the safety of the area, responding to house fires, wildfires, road traffic emergencies, and providing essential fire prevention education. Over the

years, the station has built a legacy of commitment and resilience.

Reflecting on the milestone, Firefighter William Paterson QFSM, was honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation, recognising his remarkable five decades of dedication, who has served since the station's inception in 1975 shared, "It has been an honour to serve this community for the past 50 years. I've had the privilege of working alongside some truly dedicated firefighters, past and present, and it's been incredible to see how the station has grown and evolved. The fire service has always been a team effort, and I'm grateful to be part of such a committed group of people who care deeply about protecting and supporting our community."

Area Commander Michael Humphreys, LSO for Highland, praised the station's commitment, stating, "For 50 years, Balintore Community Fire Station has stood as a beacon of protection and service. This celebration is a testament to the dedication of our firefighters, past and present, and the strong community spirit that has supported us throughout the years."

Balintore Community Fire Station continues to be a vital part of the community, ensuring the safety and well-being of residents for generations to come.

The current serving crew members who embody this ongoing commitment are:

- Watch Commander Tim Kirk – 19 years' service
- Crew Commander John MacKenzie – 19 years' service
- Crew Commander Rod MacKenzie – 16 years' service
- Acting Crew Commander Sean McCann – 9 years' service
- Firefighter William Paterson QFSM – 50 years' service
- Firefighter Kenneth Patience – 27 years' service
- Firefighter Brian Putallo – 24 years' service
- Firefighter Kieran Allison – 1 years' service
- Firefighter David Skinner – newest recruit, marking his first month of service

New Wildfire Unit at Invergordon

Invergordon Fire Station has now received and continues with training on the new Wildfire Unit consisting of a Ford Ranger and Polaris ATV with fogging lance unit c/w trailer as part of their role as a Tier 3 station. This will greatly enhance the capability of the service locally and nationally to better deal with wildfires in the future.

The Unit will go live in mid-April once all driver/operator training has been completed, and station personnel have had the cascade training regarding fogging unit operation.



Anti-Social Behaviour Prevention

Having previously held several anti-social behaviour meetings which were very productive, and with an increase of ASB around Alness a meeting was held on 28th March 2025 at The Place in Alness.

The meeting was attended by Fire Service, Police Scotland, Education both Primary and Secondary, Highland Council including Community Support, Youth Work & Adult Learning and other stakeholders

The issues raised included fire raising/shop lifting/egg throwing/behaviour, stone throwing, abuse of The Place staff forcing closure unacceptable behaviour.

The meeting concluded with all partners agreeing to meet back in early summer with actions outlined to ensure a difference.

14. Glossary of Terms

Term - What it means

ADF

Accidental Dwelling Fire.

HFSV

Home Fire Safety Visit.

PDIR

Post Domestic Incident Response, a term used to indicate actions taken following attendance at a fire or other incident in the home. PDIRs include amongst things the offer of a free follow up home fire safety visit.

RTC

Road Traffic Collision.

Special Service

Calls to incidents which are not fires or false alarms such as RTCs, rescues, flooding, incidents involving hazardous materials or the provision of assistance to other agencies.

UFAS

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. When an automatic fire detection and alarm system is activated as a result of anything other than an actual fire the activation is classed as a false alarm. If an attendance is made to such an event by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, then the event is recorded as an UFAS incident.

UFAS Policy Change

In response to COVID, on the 6th May 2020, the SFRS decided to send 1 pump to UFAS premises that did not have their own Predetermined attendance (PDA).

As of 1st July 2023, the COVID interim 1 pump response was ended and a new UFAS policy was implemented.

The new policy is to call challenge all UFAS incidents with the intention of non-attendance. Hospitals, care homes, and sleeping risk premises are all exempt and receive either 2 pumps or their premise specific PDA.



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Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.