

Agenda Item	4
Report No	SR/18/25

The Highland Council

Committee: Isle of Skye and Raasay Area Committee

Date: 1st September 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 Isle of Skye and Raasay Area Committee regarding the implementation of the priorities specified in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Committee Plans for Skye and Raasay Area.
- 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 the Skye and Raasay area.
- 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 Isle of Skye and Raasay Area Committee Performance Report

- 4.1 The enclosed performance report delineates the current metrics for Quarters 3 and 4, covering the period from October 1, 2024, to March 31, 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 four incidents recorded during the current reporting period. Notably, there were no reported fire-related fatalities or non-fatal injuries.

The report noted five occurrences of primary or secondary fire incidents in terms of deliberate fires, marking a significant decline relative to the three-year mean. Furthermore, one non-domestic fire incidents were documented, which is below the area's average level for such events.

During this reporting period, seven Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) were documented, exceeding the average observed over the past three years. These collisions resulted in 1 fatality and 3 non-fatal casualties.

Furthermore, there were 24 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 15 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 36 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: 01/08/2025

Author: Station Commander Stuart Fraser

Background Papers: Highland - Isle of Skye and Raasay Area Committee Performance Report



Highland

Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Scrutiny Report



**SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

Highland

Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Scrutiny Report

Contents

1	Summary	Page 3
2	Trends	Page 4
3	Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)	Page 5
4	Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties	Page 6
5	Non-Fire Casualties	Page 7
6	Deliberate Fires	Page 8
7	Non-Domestic Fires	Page 9
8	Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)	Page 10
9	Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)	Page 11
10	Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs)	Page 12
11	Fire Safety Enforcement	Page 12
12	Station Availability and Establishment	Page 13
13	Community Safety & Engagement	Page 14
14	Recent Questions and Answers	Page 16
15	Glossary of Terms	Page 19

About the statistics within this report

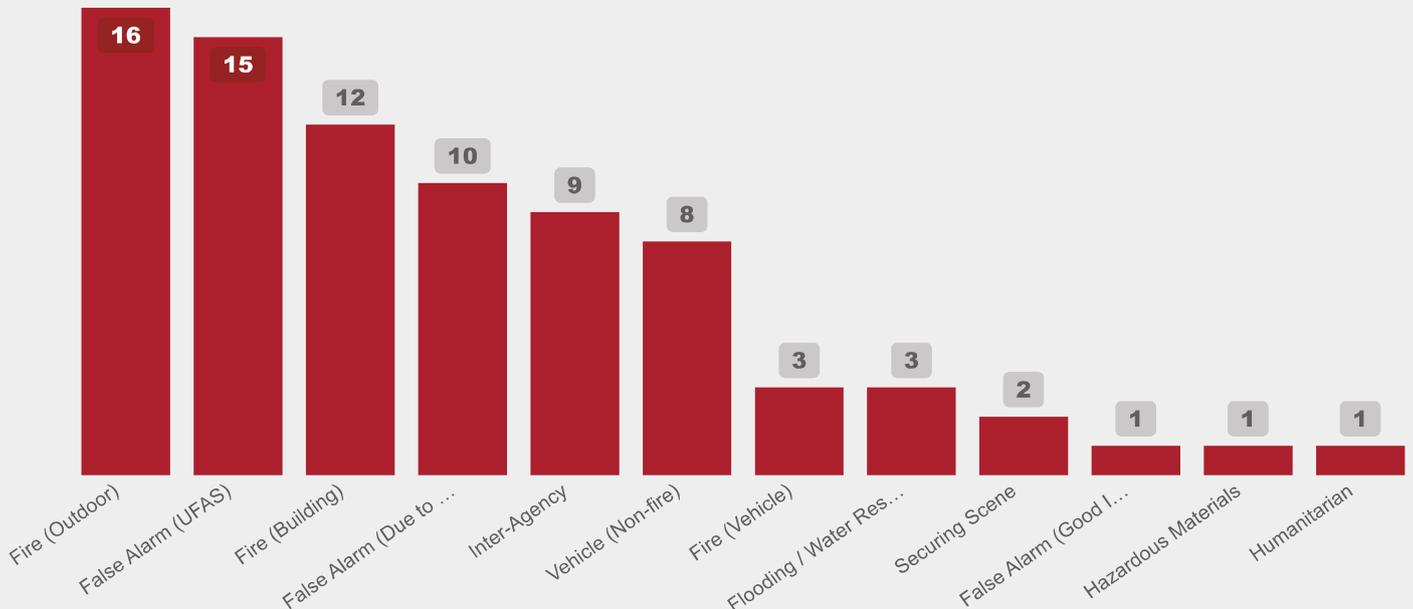
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference 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

 81 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	 31 Fires	 24 Non-Fire Incidents	 26 False Alarms	 15 UFAS
 1 People Rescued by Firefighters	 2 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	 0 Fire Fatalities	 3 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	 4 Non-Fire Fatalities
 Home Fire Safety Visits	 Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types

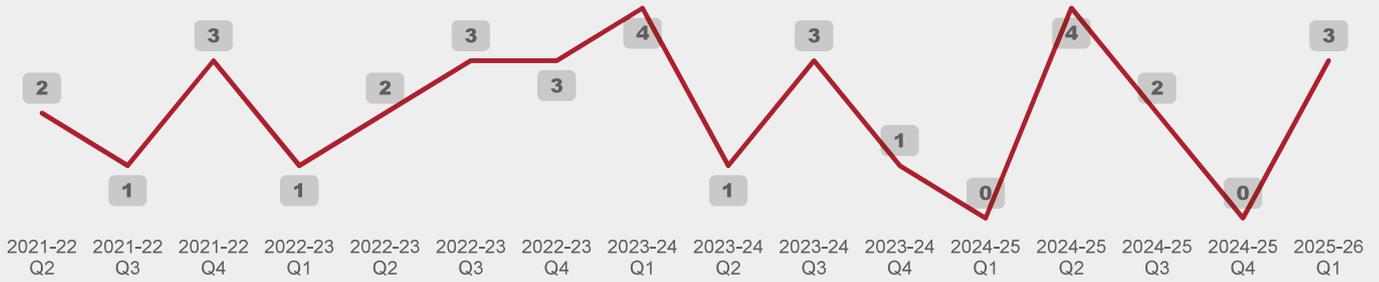


The information above provides a summary of the six-months (1 October 2024 - 31 March 2025) activity against headlines indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

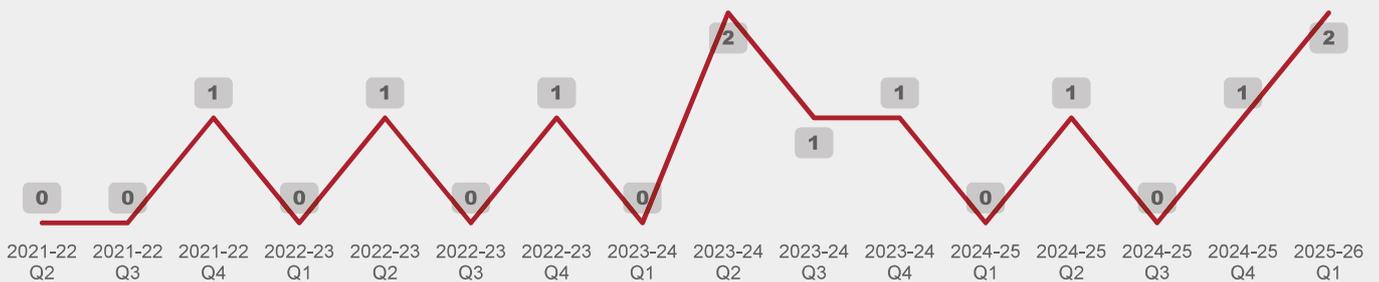
Accidental Dwelling Fires



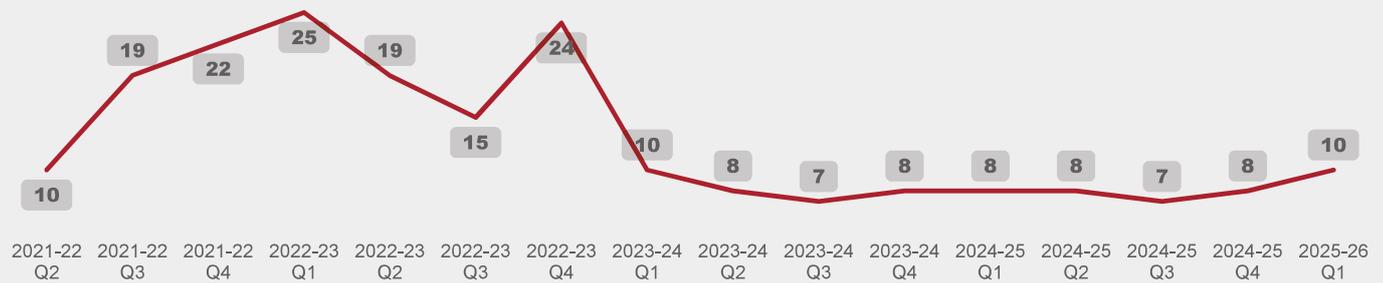
Deliberate Fires



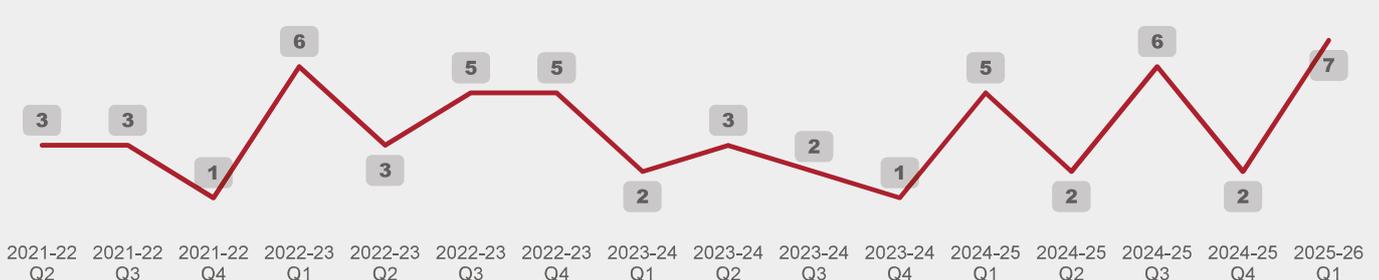
Non-Domestic Fires



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	1
Whole building	1

Incidents by Ward

Eilean a'Cheo



Source of Ignition (Top 10)



Not known



Smoking Related

2

Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

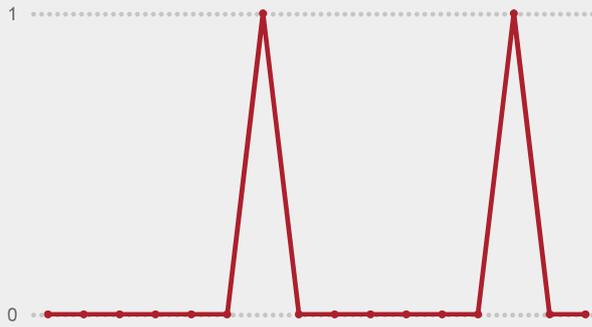
There were **2 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)**, whilst one required little or no intervention, one resulted in damage to the whole building.

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

4. Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Breathing difficulties (Other than 'Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes, asphyxiation')	1

Casualties by Ward

Eilean a'Cheo



1
Non-Fatal Casualties

0
Fatal Casualties

0
People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

 **1**
First Aid Given at Scene

 **0**
Hospital Slight Injuries

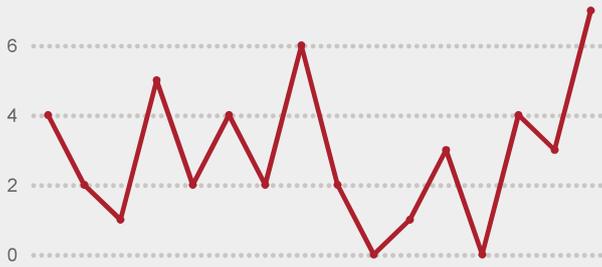
 **0**
Hospital Serious Injuries

There were **0 ADF Fatalities** and **1 ADF Casualty**. It should be noted that these figures do not include those who have been recommended to have a precautionary check up.

5. Non-Fire Casualties

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Bruising	1
Chest pain / Heart condition / Cardiac arrest	1
Concussion	1
Head injury	1
Not known	1
Other	1
Other medical condition	1

3

Non-Fatal Casualties

4

Fatal Casualties

1

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

0

First Aid Given at Scene

3

Hospital Slight Injuries

0

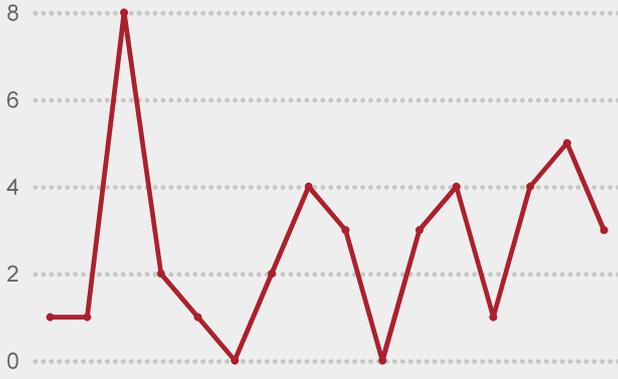
Hospital Serious Injuries

Of the **4 Non-Fire Fatalities**, 3 were at Inter Agency incidents and one as a result of a Road Traffic Collision. The **3 Non-Fire Non-Fatal** Casualties attended hospital with what appeared to be slight injuries.

6. Deliberate Fires

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward

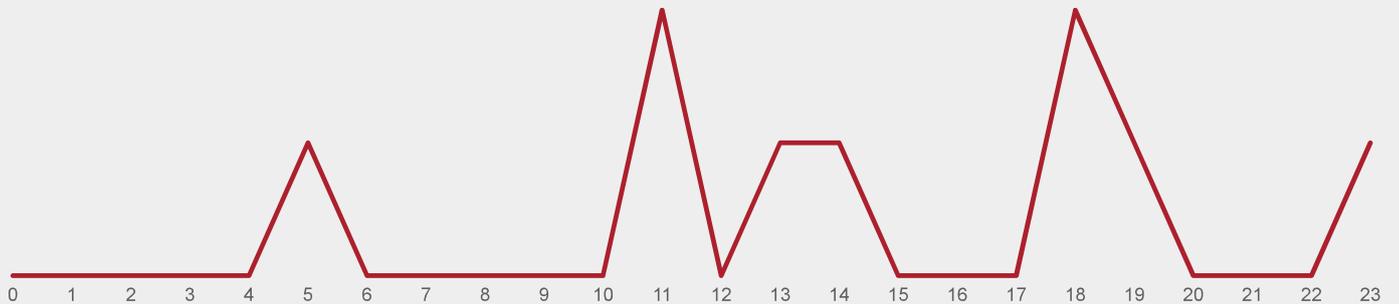
Property Type	Incident
Grassland, woodland and crops	5
Refuse	3
Dwelling	1



9

Deliberate Fires in this period

Hour of Day



There were **9 Deliberate Fires**, which is slightly higher when compared to the previous reporting period. Referrals are made to other agencies for those at work within our communities.

7. Non-Domestic Fires

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

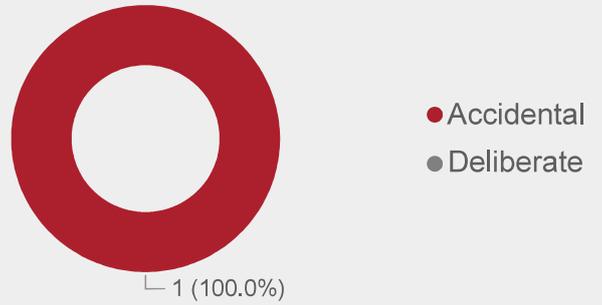
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Hotel/motel	1

Incidents by Ward



1

**Non-Domestic
Fires in this
period**

Extent of Damage



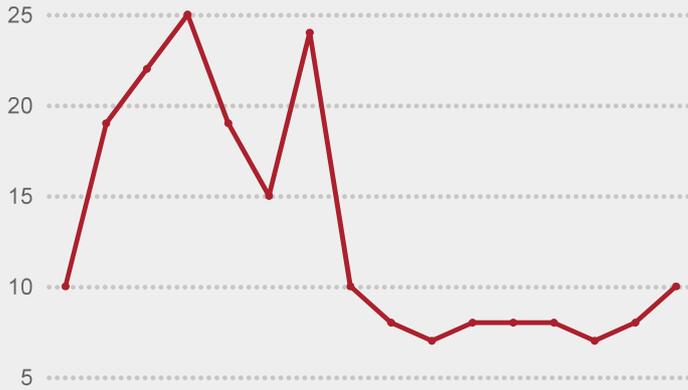
Not applicable

There was only 1 **Non-Domestic Building Fire** which is line with the previous reporting period.

8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Hotel/motel	8
Boarding House/B&B other	2
Education	2
Hostel (e.g. for homeless people)	1
Retail	1
Student Hall of Residence	1

15

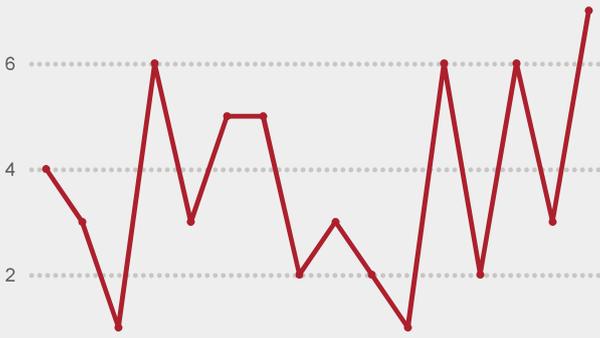
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

We attended 15 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) during this period, which is a slight reduction when compared to the previous reporting period. The figure continues to remain low following the Service's change to attendance at commercial businesses and workplace premises.

9. Road Traffic Collisions

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



9

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
Car	8
Minibus	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	8
Flooding / Water Rescue	1

Incidents by Ward



2

Non-Fatal Casualties

1

Fatal Casualties

1

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

 **0**

First Aid Given at Scene

 **2**

Hospital Slight Injuries

 **0**

Hospital Serious Injuries

We attended 9 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) which is slightly higher when compared to the previous reporting period.

Our Prevention teams continue to work with partner agencies through the Highland Road Safety group, old driver Virtual Reality Scheme and Road Safety Scheme of new drivers.

Update as of 2024-25 Q4:

Statistics for Home Fire Safety Visits are not available due to a system change. The Business Intelligence Team is actively working in collaboration with Digital and Technology Services and the Community Safety Team to ensure suitable quality for future reporting. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Update as of 2024-25 Q4:

Enforcement data is currently not available due to data quality issues. The Business Intelligence Team is actively working to ensure suitable quality for future reporting. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Unfortunately the figures for the number of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) and Fire Safety Enforcement Audits are currently not available as referred to above.

It should be noted that with the introduction of a new, modernised Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) system that enhances how we identify, assess and support the most at risk from fire, we may see an initial decline in referrals and HFSVs whilst the new systems and referral pathways are embedded.

12. Station Availability and Establishment

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

- 6 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 6 Stations

These Stations serve the Lochaber population

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

Station	Oct 24 – Mar 25 Availability* %	Male	Female	Staff
Broadford	59.17%	5	1	6
Dunvegan	68.85%	4	2	6
Portree	98.35%	8	0	8
Raasay	87.08%	6	0	6
Staffin	0%	1	1	2
Uig	53.53%	5	0	5

Wildfire prevention campaign launches



You may have already noticed that we issued our first [Wildfire Danger Assessment on Saturday 1 March](#).

Figures show that 80% of large outdoor fires since 2010 were recorded during March and May.

We will promote key prevention messages across our social media channels which will signpost to relevant website pages where people can learn what causes wildfires, how to prevent them and how to keep themselves safe.

Affiliate social media accounts can support the campaign by sharing safety messages on our corporate channels using the hashtag **#WildfirePrevention**.

A [Wildfire Prevention Campaign communications toolkit](#) has been shared all partner organisations.

Road Safety Engagement

In November the Service held an engagement session with Road Safety Scotland to promote the Drive Left Campaign, which is a local plan. This included visiting car hire/motor hire businesses, ferry terminals, hotels and B&Bs. This was co-ordinated by our local Community Safety Advocate and On Call Support Watch Commander.

Station Visits and Fire Safety Presentations

Skye Young Carers attended Portree Station in October and were given a presentation on Home Fire Safety and also a tour of the station.

In February, Edinbane Primary School visited Dunvegan Station where they were given a tour of the station and also received a presentation on fire safety.

A Home Fire Safety Visit presentation was delivered to the Liveras Park – Residents Community Action Group in February.

Careers Fair

Careers Fairs were held in Portree and Broadford during the month of November. SFRS attended both of these to provide information on becoming a firefighter, what the role involved, skills required and the incident types that firefighters will attend.

Joint Training Exercises



In November, a joint training day was held at Broadford Station, with crews from Raasay, Dunvegan and Staffin also participating. The undertook both ladder and pump exercises.



A joint RTC exercise was held at Portree Station with the crew from Uig also attending. Broadford attended Kyle station, where they undertook a joint BA training exercise at Plockton Hostel.

Tabletop Exercise

In February, SFRS were invited by the MOD to attend tabletop exercises. Two officers from the Service attended Quinetiq for three tabletop exercises and also received confirmation of on site roles and responsibilities in the event of a helicopter incident.

Women in the Fire Service events

People travelled from far and wide to attend the Service's first Women in the Fire Service event, which was held at the Service's National Headquarters in Cambuslang.

The event was open to all and included operational and control room firefighters and support staff, with personnel from Dunvegan also attending.

Personnel from other Fire and Rescue Services also travelled to Cambuslang to take part and received a warm Scottish welcome.

Headquarters was buzzing with energy and a weekend of talks, presentations, demonstrations and workshops.

In February, Women in the Fire Service held a networking event at Dingwall Community Fire Station, opened by Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes who spoke about her career and challenges.

Group Commander Karla Stevenson who organised the event, also gave a personal account of her own journey.

People, including two female firefighters from Dunvegan, attended from all over Highland, which included support staff and uniformed, as well as some board members. Deputy Chief Officer Andy Watt attended in his role as Women's Experience Liaison Forum.



HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT (HFSV)

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has introduced a new, modernised Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) system that enhances how we identify, assess, and support those most at risk from fire. 2025 is a transitional year as we embed these new systems and referral pathways, and as a result, we may initially see a decline in referrals and HFSVs.

However, we are working hard at a local level to ensure we continue reaching the most vulnerable in our communities. We are actively encouraging new and existing partner organisations to sign up to our Data Sharing Framework (DSF), which enables secure, GDPR-compliant referrals and supports timely, person-centred interventions.

Please share this information with your networks, and if interested in establishing a referral pathway, we encourage you to contact the Highland Community Action Team to arrange a local, face-to-face discussion and begin the sign-up process. [Home fire safety visits | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)

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 £1.6 million 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 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 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

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.

13. 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.



SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland



BUSINESS
INTELLIGENCE

Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.