

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	3
Report No	WRSL/20/25

Committee: Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh

Date: 21st October 2025

Report Title: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Area Committee Performance Report – Q1 & 2

Report By: Local Senior Officer - Highland

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh, Area Committee Members on progress against the priorities outlined in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Committee Plan for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh.
- 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 Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh.
- 1.3 The report also contains previously agreed information and performance as requested by Area Committees.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to scrutinise and comment on 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) -**
- 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 Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh, Area Committee Performance Report

4.1 The attached performance report provides the current figures for Quarter 1 & Q 2 of 202/26 and from the previous 3 reporting years from the central Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) performance management database against the key indicators and timelines from previous reports.

4.2 In achieving the priorities within the Area Plan for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh prevention and protection activities are undertaken by personnel. These include: the delivery of free home fire safety visits (HFSV) to high and very high-risk groups, through our operational On Call Staff and Community Safety Advocates (CSA), post domestic incident response (PDIR) both of which are aimed at reducing accidental dwelling house fires following our attendance at any incidents of this type. Local managers continue to support the partners in delivering road safety programmes, and the reduction of fire-related antisocial behaviour through targeted youth engagement, utilising digital platforms within schools.

The continued application of the Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) Policy provides a means of targeting premises that the Service attends repeatedly and by engagement reduce the number of calls.

4.3 Staff also undertake Operational Intelligence (OI) visits to the higher risk premises in Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh, to gather vital information on the hazards and risks on these sites which can help our operational response and firefighter safety.

4.4 It must be emphasised that the baseline figures for some of the indicators within the report is 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.

4.5 The performance report shows: -

There were 4 Accident Dwelling Fire (ADF) which is below the 3-year average. The majority are classed as low severity, requiring little or no intervention from the Service and minimal fire damage. There were 0 ADF Fatalities, and 0 ADF Casualties. All ADF's are offered Home Fire Safety Visits and agency referrals where required.

There were 2 Deliberate Fires, both of which were 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 3-year average.

We attended 11 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), there was 1 RTC Related Injury who was treated at scene. 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 17 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) this is below the 3-year average. 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 **37 Home** Fire Safety Visits. The majority targeted the most at risk in our communities.

Designation: Local Senior Officer for Highland

Date: 21st October 2025

Author: Group Commander Mike Colliar

Background Papers: Highland – Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh, Area Committee – Performance Report

Appendices:



Highland Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee

**2025-26 Q1 & Q2
Scrutiny Report**



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Highland
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh
Committee
2025-26 Q1 & Q2
Scrutiny Report

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About the statistics within this report

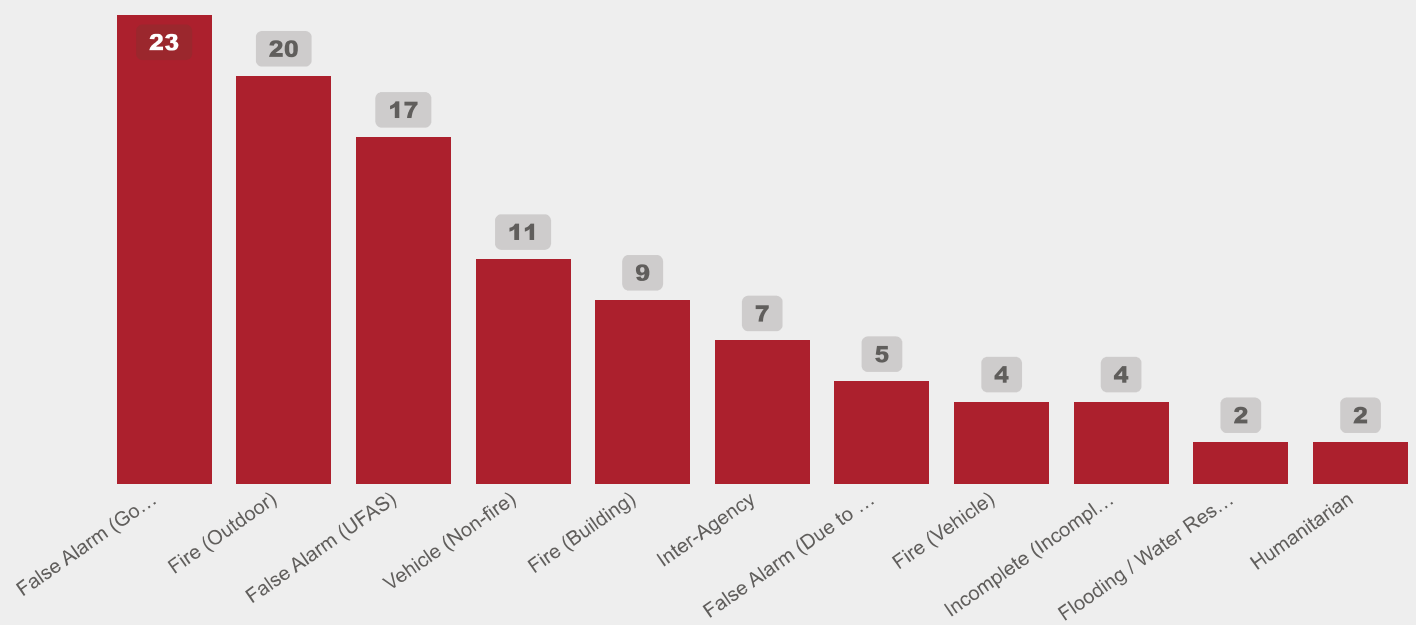
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference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

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

 104 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	 33 Fires	 22 Non-Fire Incidents	 45 False Alarms	 17 UFAS
 3 People Rescued by Firefighters	 0 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	 0 Fire Fatalities	 1 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	 2 Non-Fire Fatalities
 37 Home Fire Safety Visits	 13 Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types

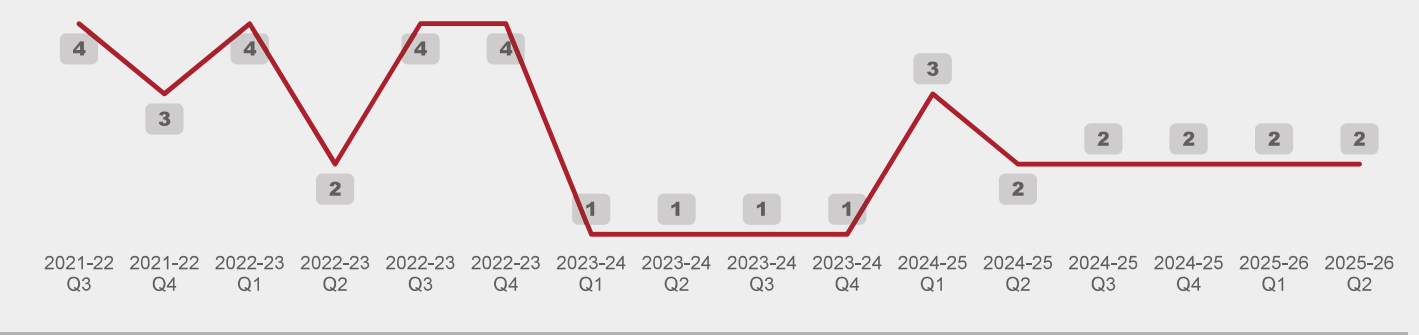


The information above provides a summary of the six-months (1 April - 30 September 2025) activity against headline indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

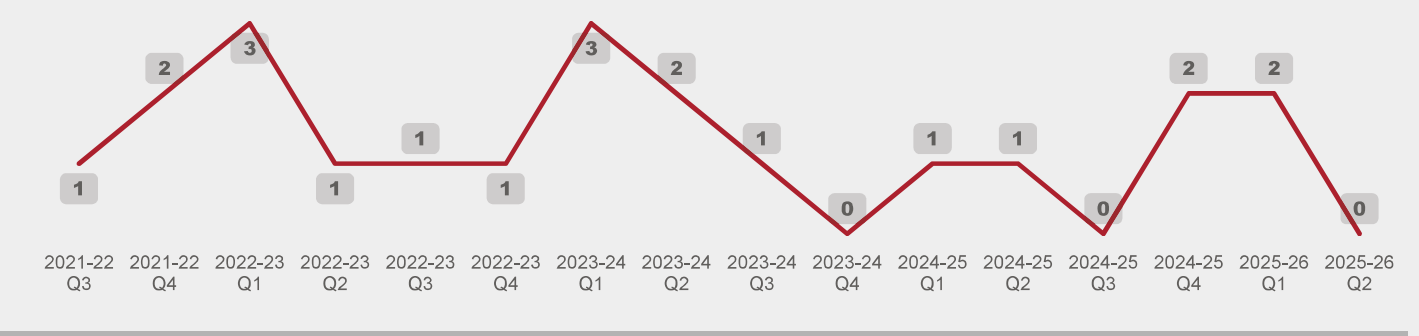
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

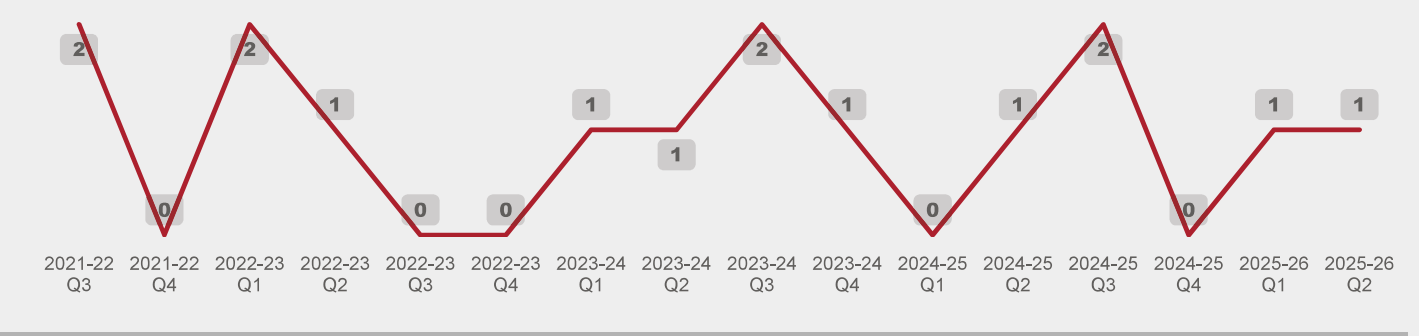
Accidental Dwelling Fires



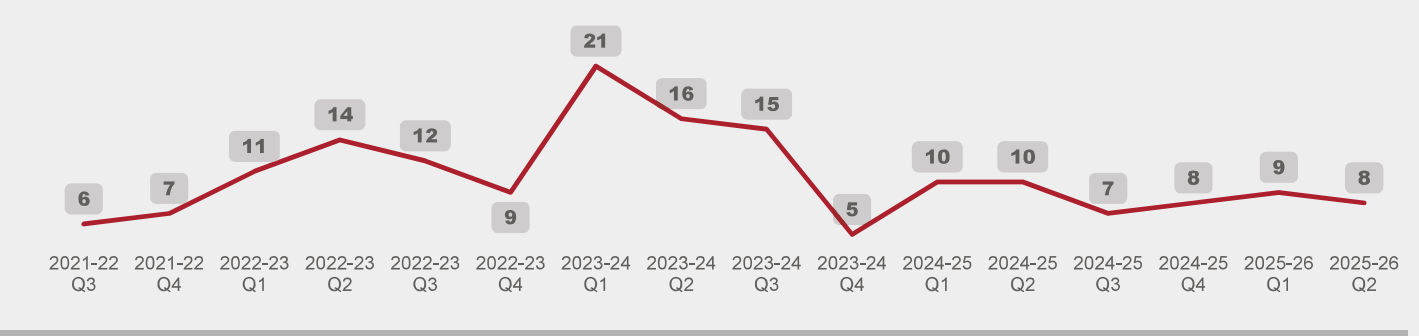
Deliberate Fires



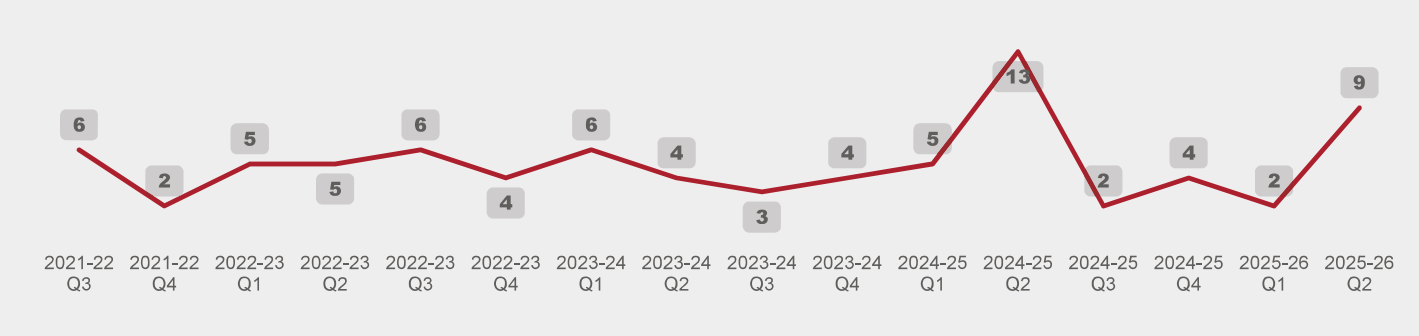
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



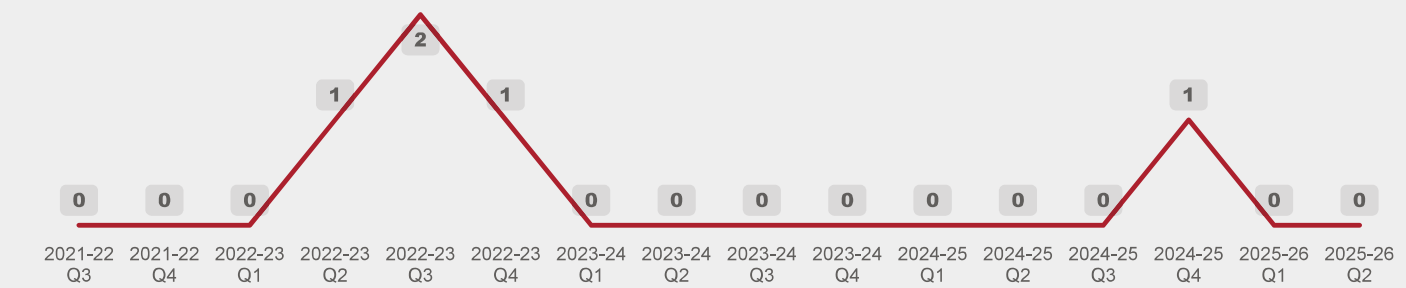
Road Traffic Collisions



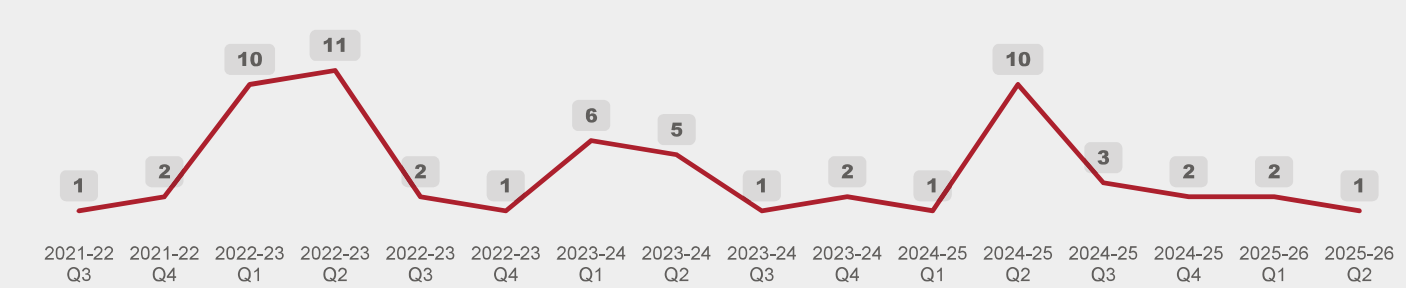
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

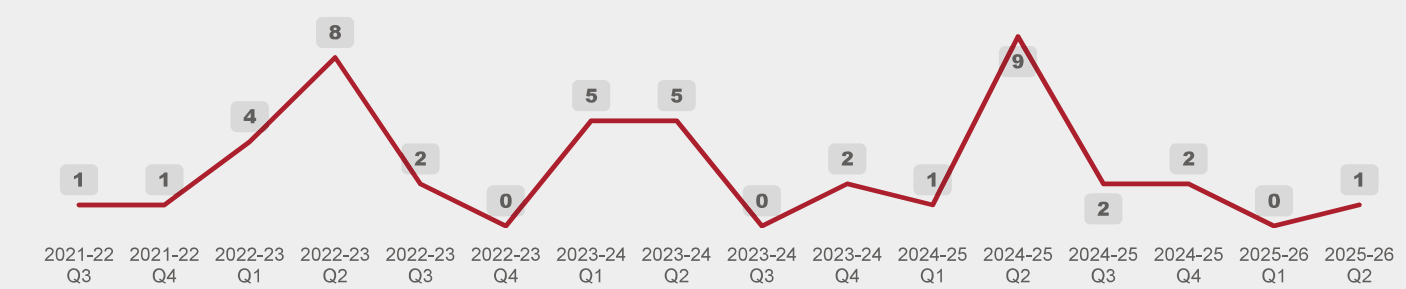
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



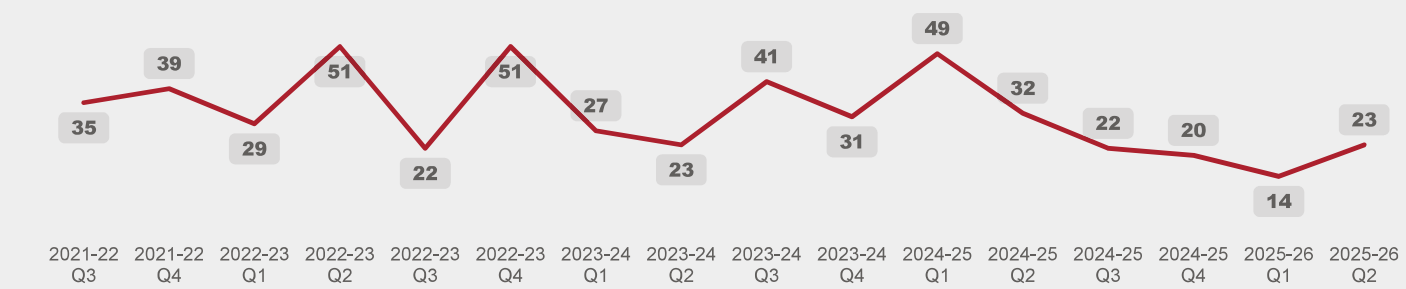
Non-Fire Casualties



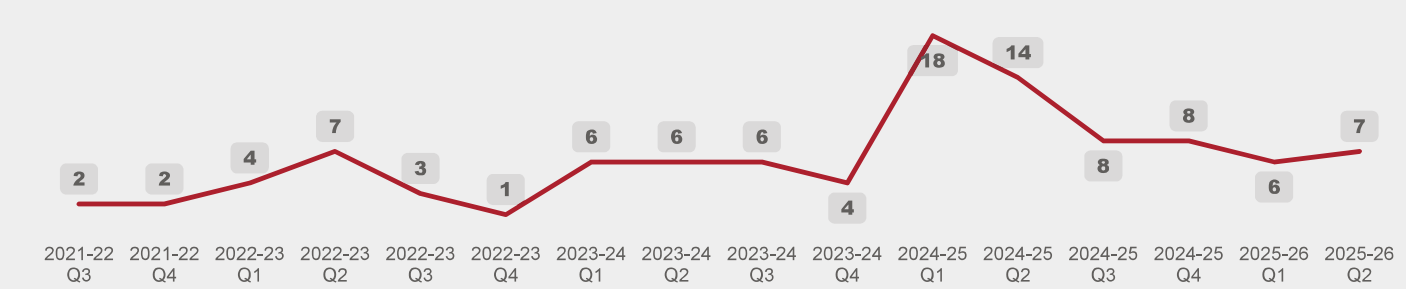
Road Traffic Collision Casualties



Home Fire Safety Visits



Fire Safety Audits



3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Extent of Damage	Incidents
Limited to item 1st ignited	3
Roof space only	1

Incidents by Ward

Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh

4

Source of Ignition (Top 10)



Cooking appliance



Other domestic style appliance

4

Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

There were **4 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)**, 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 a HFSV and agency referrals where required.

4. Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

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

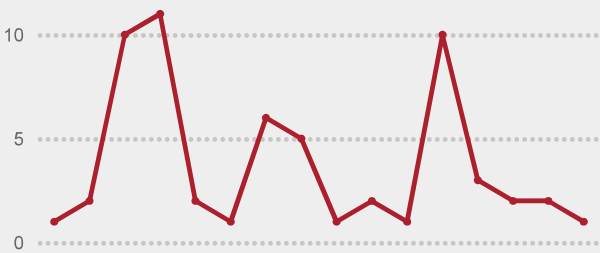
Hospital Serious Injuries

There were **0 Casualties** in this reporting period. 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

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Bruising	1
Drowning	1
Not known	1

1

Non-Fatal Casualties

2

Fatal Casualties

3

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 2 Non-Fire Fatalities and 1 Non-Fire Non-Fatal Casualty who received first aid at the scene.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Property Type	Incident
Dwelling	1
Grassland, woodland and crops	1

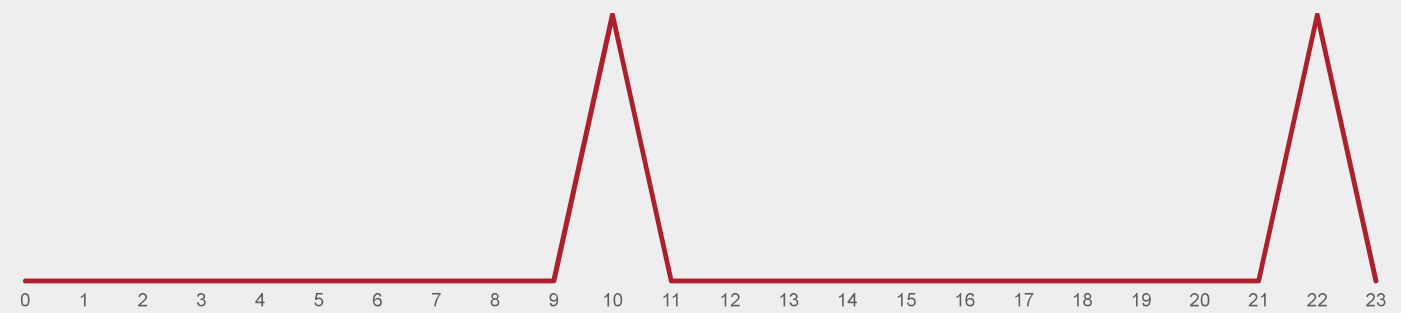
Incidents by Ward



2

Deliberate Fires
in this period

Hour of Day



There were **2 Deliberate Fires** during this reporting period, this in comparable to previous periods. Referrals are made to other agencies for those at work within our communities.

7. Non-Domestic Fires

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Education	1
Hotel/motel	1

Incidents by Ward



- Accidental
- Deliberate

2 (100.0%)

2

Non-Domestic
Fires in this
period

Extent of Damage



Limited to item 1st ignited



Not applicable

There were 2 Non-Domestic Fires within this six-month reporting period, this is in line with previous periods.

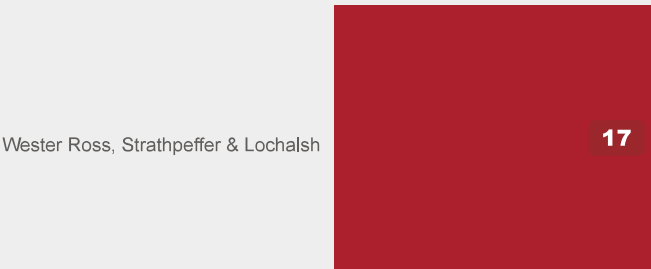
8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

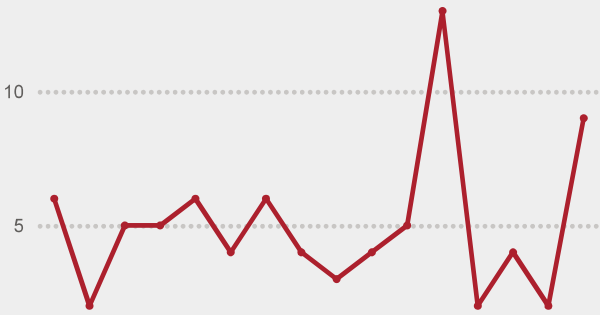
Property Type	Incidents
Hotel/motel	12
Residential Home	3
Boarding School accommodation	1
Student Hall of Residence	1

17

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

We attended **17 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)**, during this period, which is slightly higher when compared to the previous reporting period. The figure continues to remain low following the Service's change to attend at commercial businesses and workplace premises.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



11

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
Car	7
Multiple Vehicles	2
Motor Home	1
Van	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	11

Incidents by Ward

Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh

11

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

We attended **11 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** in this period, which has seen a significant increase compared to the previous reporting period. However, there was only **1 Non-Fatal Casualty** who received first aid at the scene.

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

HFSVs by Ward

37

Home Fire
Safety Visits

Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh

37

11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Audit	13
Consultation	1
Specific Visit	1

Audits by Ward

Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh

13

Following the introduction of the new, modernised Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) system, which enhances how we identify, assess and support the most at risk from fire, there may be an initial decline in referrals and HFSVs whilst the new system and referral pathways are embedded.

12. Station Availability and Establishment

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

- 11 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 10 Stations

These Stations serve the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh population

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

Station	Apr – Sept 25 Availability* %	Male	Female	Staff
Achiltibuie	35.60%	5	0	5
Applecross	26.01%	3	2	5
Aultbea	80.50%	10	0	10
Gairloch	98.16%	9	3	12
Glenelg	36.83%	6	1	7
Kinlochewe	0%	3	0	3
Kyle	98.75%	12	0	12
Lochcarron	58.93%	5	1	6
Torridon	57.48%	4	2	6
Ullapool – 1 st Appliance	97.44%	13	4	17
Ullapool – 2 nd Appliance	68.80%			

Fundraising Cycling Challenges

Firefighter Danny Steele, Kyle

In May, Firefighter Danny Steele from Kyle Community Fire Station, began an 88 mile cycle fundraising challenge from the Skye Bridge to South Uist in memory of his uncle. The challenge was to raise money for the Western Isles Cancer Care Initiative charity which provided support to his uncle and family. Danny cycled 86 miles and ran the final 2 miles to the Borrodale Hotel on South Uist. He raised in excess of £5,000. He was joined by his fellow Firefighter, Daniel Elliot, who helped push him along.

Firefighter Daniel Elliot

After joining Ff Danny Steele on his challenge, on 16 August, Firefighter Daniel Elliot of Kyle Community Fire Station, took on the challenge of cycling 160 miles between 7 different stations across the Lochalsh, Wester Ross and Skye areas in just the one day, raising monies for the Fire Fighters Charity. The charity provides care and support for the UK's fire family. It helps with any health and wellbeing challenges firefighters, control staff and support staff working in, or retired from, the UK's fire services, as well as their families.

His challenge saw him cycling 3 of the major climbs in the area, Bealach na Ba, Mam Ratagan and Kylerhea and finishing the challenge in 12 hours. A total of £2710 was raised for the Fire Fighters Charity.

Road Safety – New Driver Early Intervention

In September, our Community Action Team (CAT) delivered a road safety presentation that Police Scotland have developed, at Ullapool High School to pupils from S6. This presentation is targeted at new young drivers aged between 17 and 25 years. The aim of the presentation is to increase awareness of driving appropriately to the road conditions and potential risks involved using a case study of an incident involving 4 young drivers.

Road Safety



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.