

Agenda Item	4
Report No	BSAC/20/25

# The Highland Council

**Committee:** Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> November 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 Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee regarding the implementation of the priorities specified in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Committee Plans for Badenoch & Strathspey.
- 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 Badenoch & Strathspey.
- 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 scrutinise and note 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 Badenoch and Strathspey Committee Performance Report

4.1 The enclosed performance report delineates the current metrics for Quarters 1 and 2, covering the period from 1 April to 30 September 2025. 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 achieving the priorities within the Area Plan for Badenoch and Strathspey a number of prevention activities are being progressed including the delivery of free home fire safety visits (HFSV) through our operational On-Call Retained Duty System (RDS) and Volunteer Duty System (VDS) Crews 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 also support the partnership delivered road safety programmes, and the reduction of fire-related antisocial behaviour through targeted youth engagement activities and thematic action plans.

4.3 Staff also undertake Operational Intelligence (OI) visits to the higher risk premises in Badenoch and Strathspey 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 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.

4.5 SFRS continues to actively deliver its On Call RDS/VDS recruitment and training processes to meet the national and local requirements. While we promote campaigns through local media and key community contacts, continued local area support is welcome for recruitment across the district.

4.6 The performance report shows:

**Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF's)** – There were 3 ADF's in this 6-month reporting period, all classed as low severity. This figure is below the 3-year average for the area. The Service continues to work closely with partner agencies and communities to reduce the risk of fire and harm to house holders and their property, by means of Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR), Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV's) and agency referrals.

**Fatalities/Casualties** - There were no fire fatalities and 1 fire casualty with minor injuries for this period.

**Deliberate Fires** – There were 25 deliberate fires in this reporting period which is above the 3-year average. Of these incidents, 22 were related to outdoor fires, and 3 secondary fires. Referrals are made to other agencies for those at work within our communities.

**Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** – We attended 30 UFAS incidents in this reporting period which comparable to the 3-year average and is mostly related to sleeping accommodation. Personnel 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.

**Special Services** - We attended 6 Road Traffic Collisions which is below with the 3-year average. There were no RTC Related Fatalities and 8 RTC Related Injuries, all of whom 3 went to hospital. 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.

## 5.1 **Prevention**

**Community Safety** - 32 Home fire safety visits were delivered in the Badenoch and Strathspey area in this period. This is delivered by both on-call firefighters and by members of the Highland based Community Action Team.

**Fire Safety Enforcement** – 22 audits were completed within the Badenoch and Strathspey area in this period.

Designation: Local Senior Officer for Highland

Date: 20/10/2025

Author: Station Commander Nick Nethercott

Background Papers: Badenoch and Strathspey Committee Performance Report



**Highland**

**Badenoch and Strathspey Area  
Committee**

**2025-26 Q1 & Q2**

**Scrutiny Report**



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FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

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# Highland

## Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee

### 2025-26 Q1 & Q2

### Scrutiny Report

#### Contents

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

#### About the statistics within this report

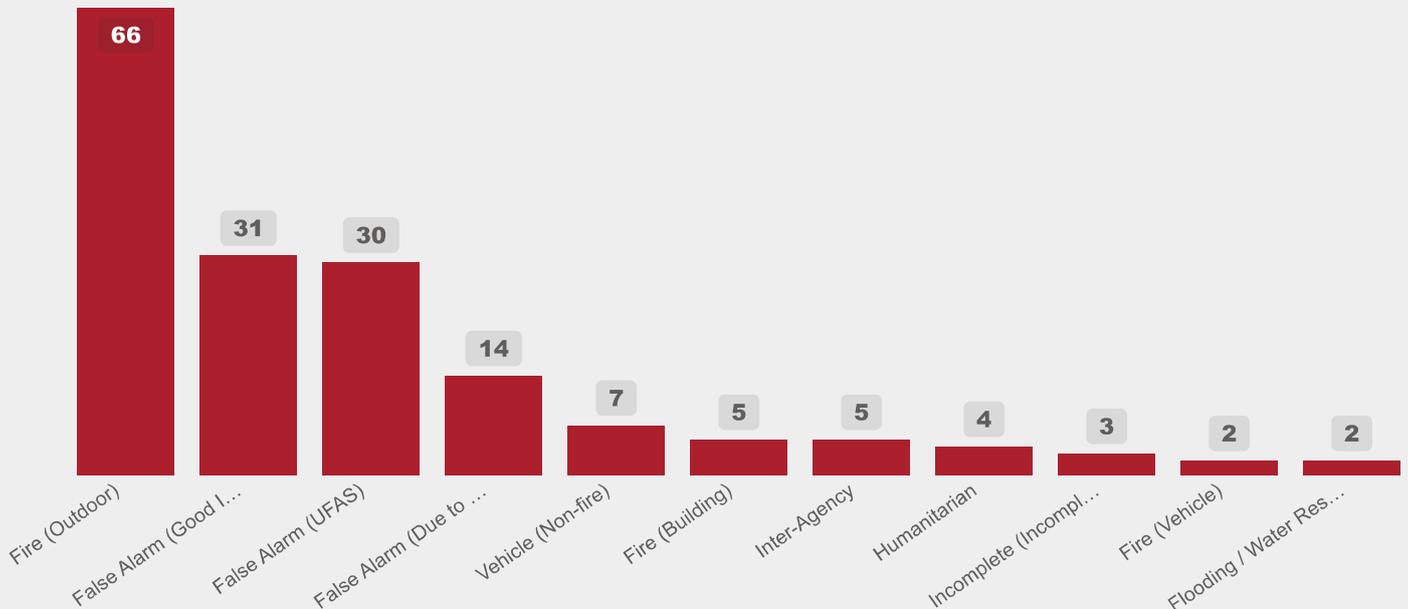
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference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

 <b>172</b> Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	 <b>73</b> Fires	 <b>21</b> Non-Fire Incidents	 <b>75</b> False Alarms	 <b>30</b> UFAS
 <b>6</b> People Rescued by Firefighters	 <b>1</b> People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	 <b>0</b> Fire Fatalities	 <b>11</b> People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	 <b>1</b> Non-Fire Fatalities
 <b>32</b> Home Fire Safety Visits	 <b>22</b> Fire Safety Audits			

## Top 10 Incident Types

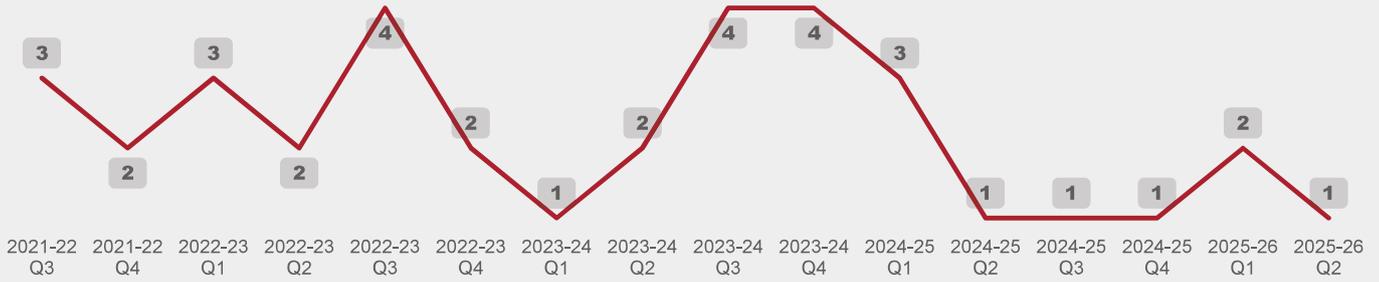


The information above provides a summary of the six-months (1 April - 30 September 2025) activity against headline indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

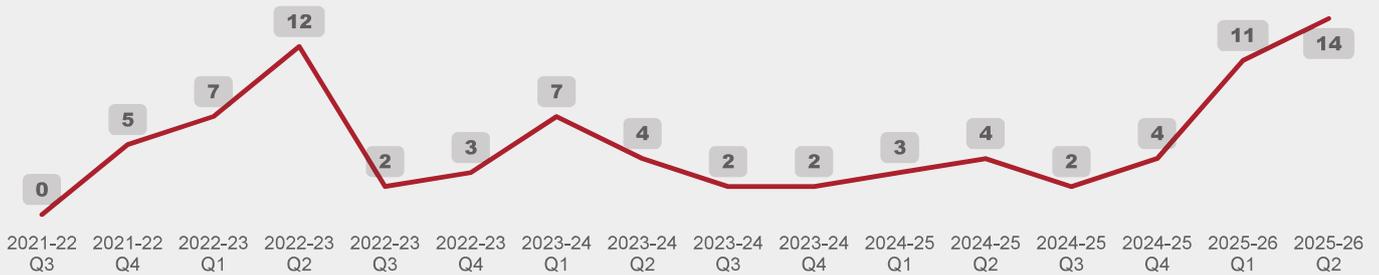
## 2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

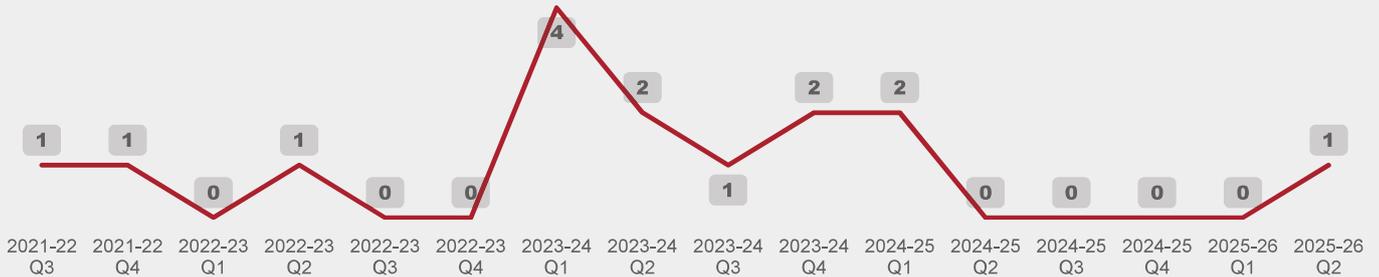
### Accidental Dwelling Fires



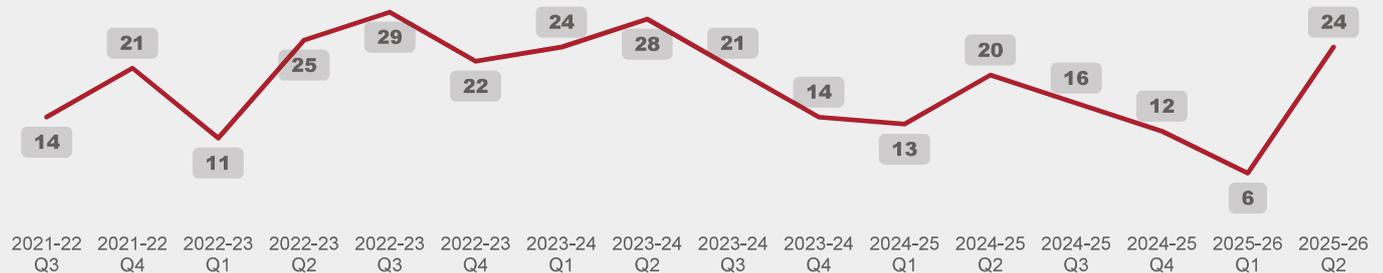
### Deliberate Fires



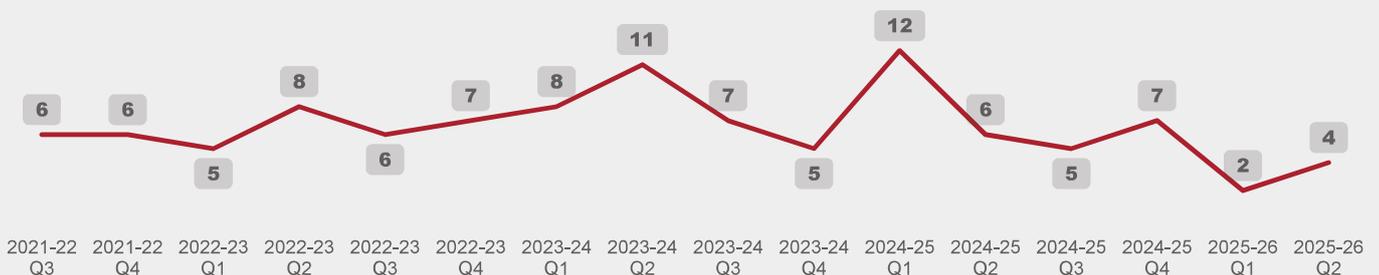
### Non-Domestic Fires



### Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



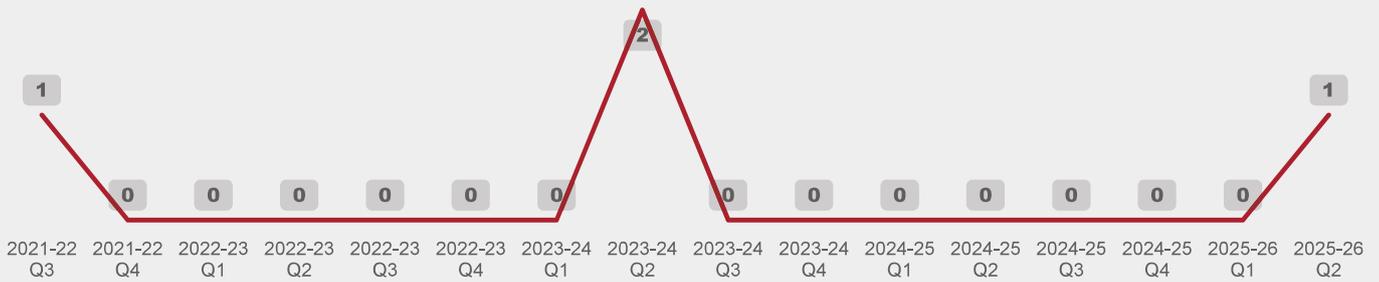
### Road Traffic Collisions



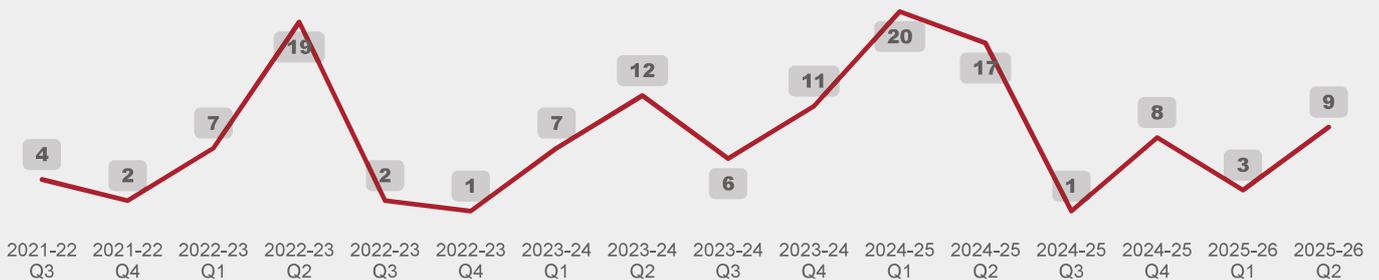
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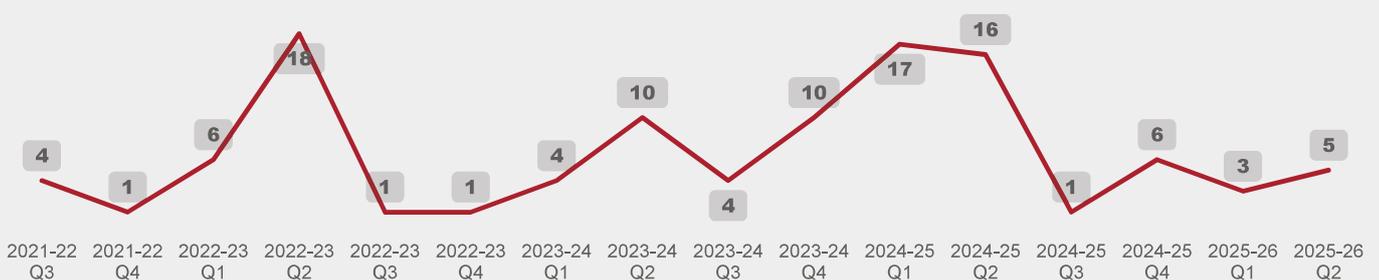
### Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



### Non-Fire Casualties



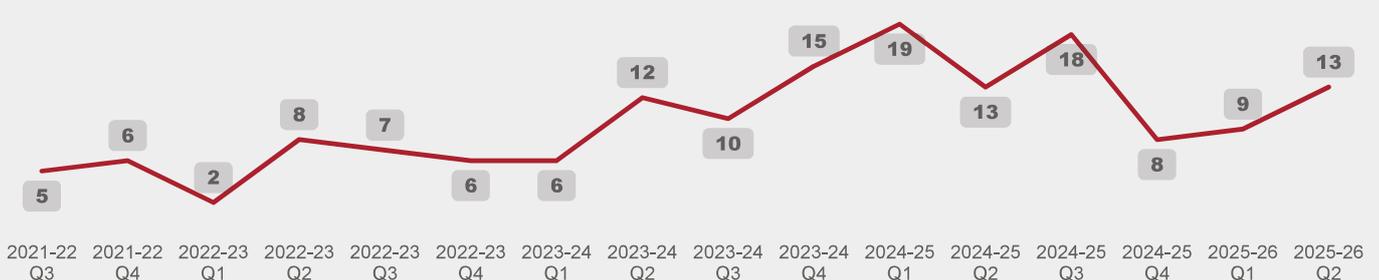
### Road Traffic Collision Casualties



### Home Fire Safety Visits



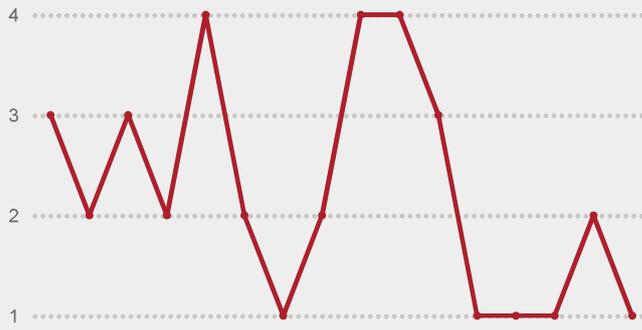
### Fire Safety Audits



### 3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

#### Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Extent of Damage	Incidents
Not applicable	2
Limited to room of origin	1

#### Incidents by Ward

Badenoch & Strathspey

3

#### Source of Ignition (Top 10)



Cooking appliance



Electricity supply



Heating equipment

**3**

#### Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

There were **3 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.



## 5. Non-Fire Casualties

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

### Trend by Quarter (4 years)



### Casualties by Ward

Badenoch & Strathspey

12

Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Chest / Abdominal injury	4
Cuts/Lacerations	3
Chest pain / Heart condition / Cardiac arrest	1
Fracture	1
Head injury	1
Other	1
Shock / Anaphylactic shock	1

11

Non-Fatal  
Casualties

1

Fatal  
Casualties

5

People  
Rescued by  
Firefighters

### Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given  
at Scene



7

Hospital Slight  
Injuries



4

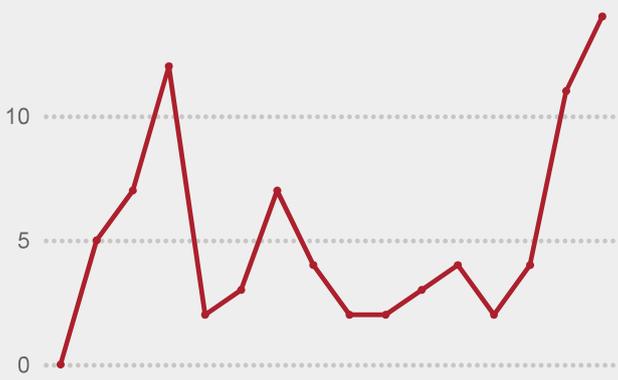
Hospital Serious  
Injuries

During this reporting period there was **1 Non-Fire Fatality** and **11 Non-Fire Non-Fatal Casualties**. Of the 11 casualties, 7 went to hospital with what appeared to be slight injuries, whilst 4 went to hospital with what appeared to be serious injuries.

# 6. Deliberate Fires

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

## Trend by Quarter (4 years)



## Incidents by Ward

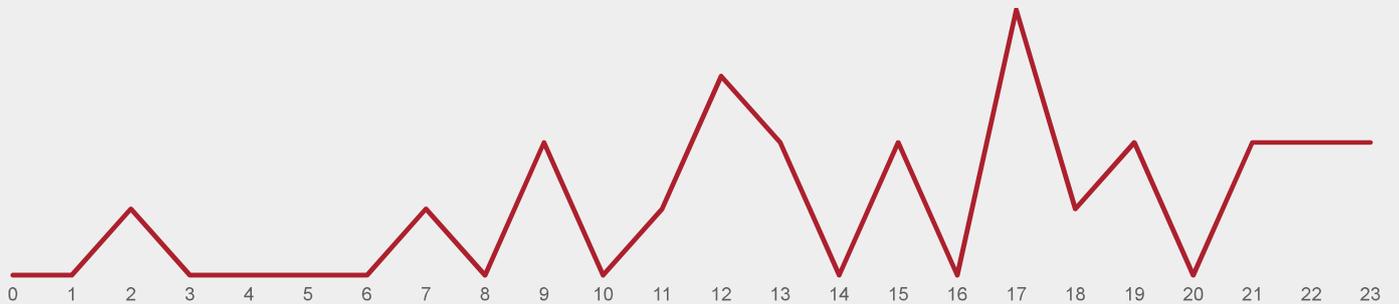


Property Type	Incident
Grassland, woodland and crops	14
Other outdoors (including land)	8
Refuse	2
Outdoor structures	1

**25**

**Deliberate Fires in this period**

## Hour of Day



During this period there were **25 Deliberate Fires**, which sees a significant increase in comparison to previous reporting periods. All of these incidents were categorised as Outdoor Fires.

# 7. Non-Domestic Fires

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

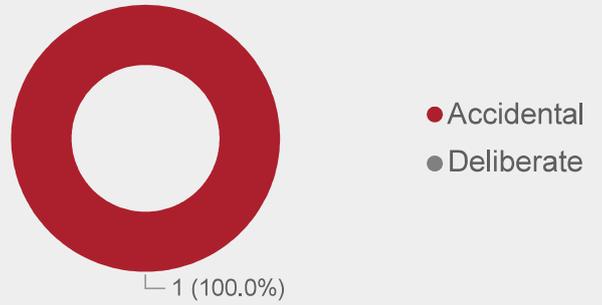
## Trend by Quarter (4 years)



## Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Residential Home	1

## Incidents by Ward



1

**Non-Domestic  
Fires in this  
period**

## Extent of Damage



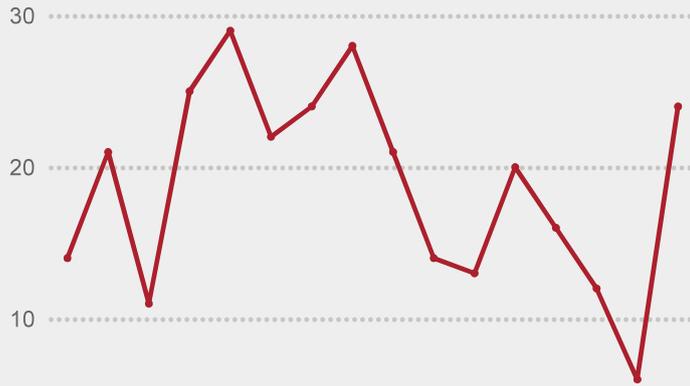
Limited to item 1st ignited

There was 1 Non-Domestic Fire within this six-month reporting period. These number of these types of incidents remains low.

## 8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

### Trend by Quarter (4 years)



### Incidents by Ward

Badenoch & Strathspey

30

### Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Hotel/motel	17
Other Residential Home	4
Sheltered Housing - not self contained	3
Food and Drink	1
Hospitals and medical care	1
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	1
Residential Home	1
Sporting venues	1
Youth hostel	1

# 30

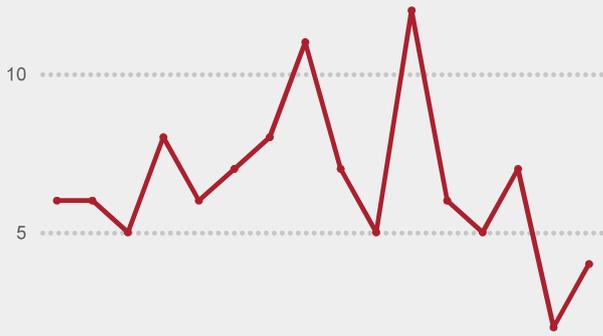
## Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

We attended **30 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)**, during this period. This is comparable to the previous reporting period. The figure continues to remain low following the Service's change to attend at commercial and workplace premises.

# 9. Road Traffic Collisions

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

## Trend by Quarter (4 years)



## Incidents by Ward



**6**

## Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
Car	4
Multiple Vehicles	2

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	6

**8**

**Non-Fatal Casualties**

**0**

**Fatal Casualties**

**1**

**People Rescued by Firefighters**

## Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



**0**

**First Aid Given at Scene**



**4**

**Hospital Slight Injuries**



**4**

**Hospital Serious Injuries**

We attended **6 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** in this period, which has seen a decrease compared to the previous reporting period. There were **8 Non-Fatal Casualties** as a result of the RTCs.

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.

## 10. Home Fire Safety Visits

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

### HFSVs by Ward

**32**

### Home Fire Safety Visits

Badenoch & Strathspey

**32**

## 11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Audit	22
Consultation	1
Specific Visit	1

### Audits by Ward

Badenoch & Strathspey

**22**

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

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

These Stations serve the Badenoch and Strathspey population

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

Station	Apr – Sept 25 Availability* %	Male	Female	Staff
Aviemore	96.20%	10	1	11
Carrbridge (CRU)	N/A	7	1	8
Grantown – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance	97.19%	10	4	14
Grantown – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance	49.74%			
Kingussie	85.03%	9	0	9
Nethybridge (CRU)	N/A	0	0	0
Newtonmore (CRU)	N/A	8	0	8

During this reporting period, we have successfully engaged with the Badenoch and Strathspey community as part of our commitment to being a lead on community safety:

In partnership with Lucky2Bhere, we supported 3 events to increase awareness and community resilience through Emergency Life Support Training.



We have delivered several awareness days on topics such as Water Safety and Wildfire Prevention, engaging with the community and holiday makers.



Our Community Action Team supported the NHS Highland Technology Event in Grantown.



We have worked with all age ranges of Scout and Girlguiding units, to assist with their badges by contributing to their awareness of fire safety in the home.



Aviemore Community Fire Station held a Family and Employer Appreciation event. We thanked the families and employers who support our on-call team, enabling them to carry out their duties.

Crews across the Ward have been present at Community Events, taking the opportunity to engage and meet our community, fundraising for charities, promote community safety and recruitment opportunities.



Crews from Grantown, Aviemore, Kingussie, Inverness and Nairn gathered for a joint High Rise training exercise to test our skills, knowledge and operational readiness.



## 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.*



# SCOTTISH

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Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.