



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Highland

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



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

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for a safer Scotland**

 **The Highland
Council**
Comhairle na
Gàidhealtachd

Highland

2025-26 Q1 & Q2 Scrutiny Report

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About the statistics within this report

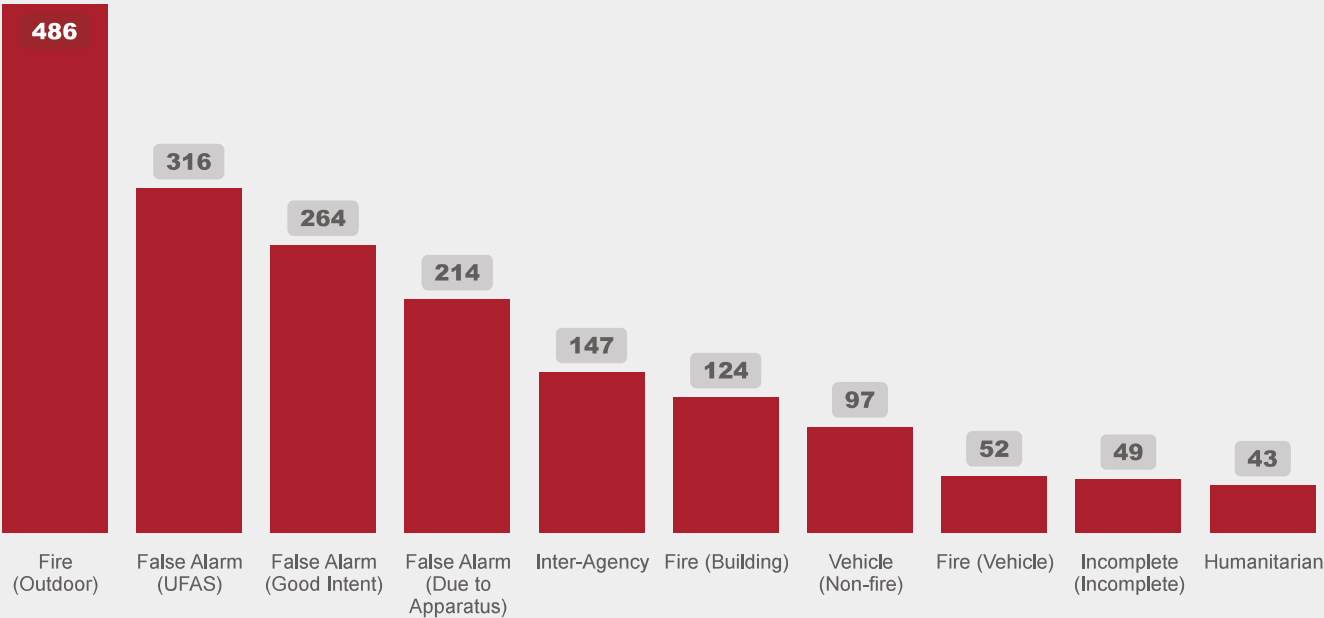
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference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

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
|  1,919 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes) |  662 Fires |  381 Non-Fire Incidents |  827 False Alarms |  316 UFAS |
|  122 People Rescued by Firefighters |  13 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires) |  4 Fire Fatalities |  98 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire) |  12 Non-Fire Fatalities |
|  599 Home Fire Safety Visits |  204 Fire Safety Audits | | | |

Top 10 Incident Types

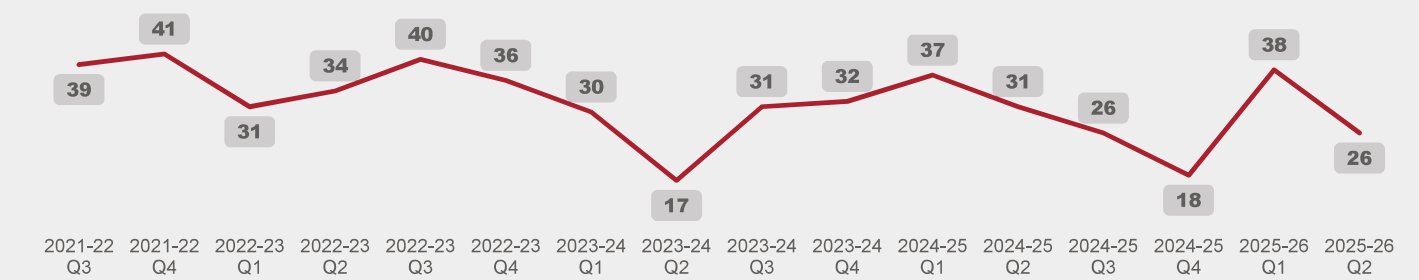


The information above provides a summary of the six-months (1 April - 30 September 2025) activity against headline indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting year.

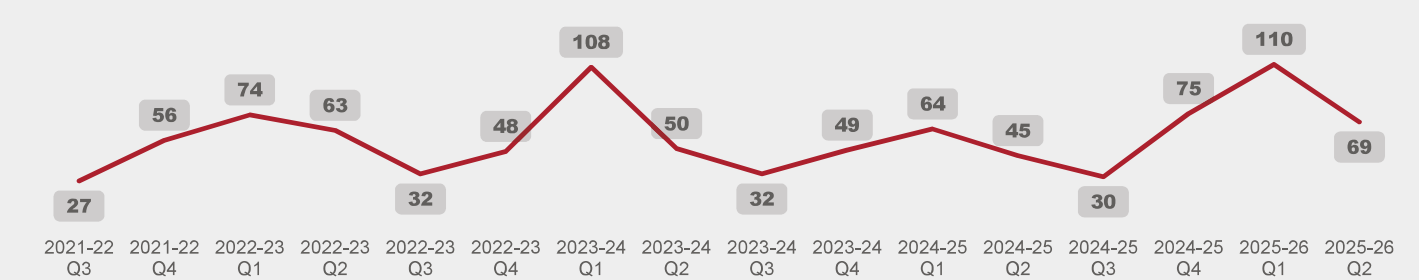
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

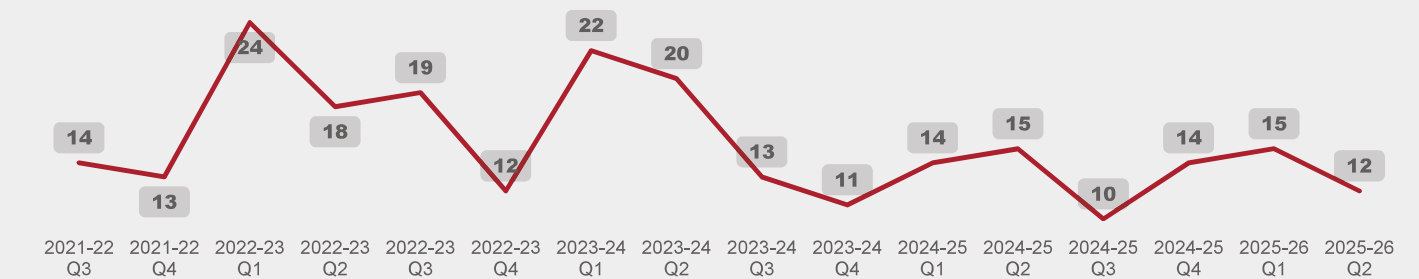
Accidental Dwelling Fires



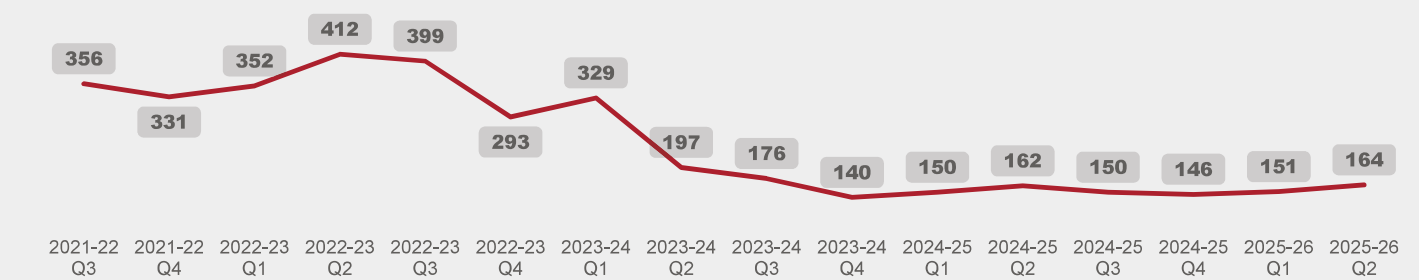
Deliberate Fires



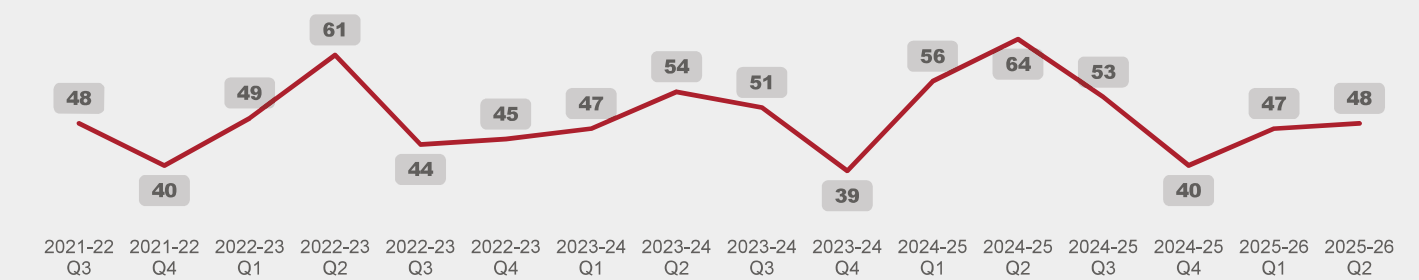
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



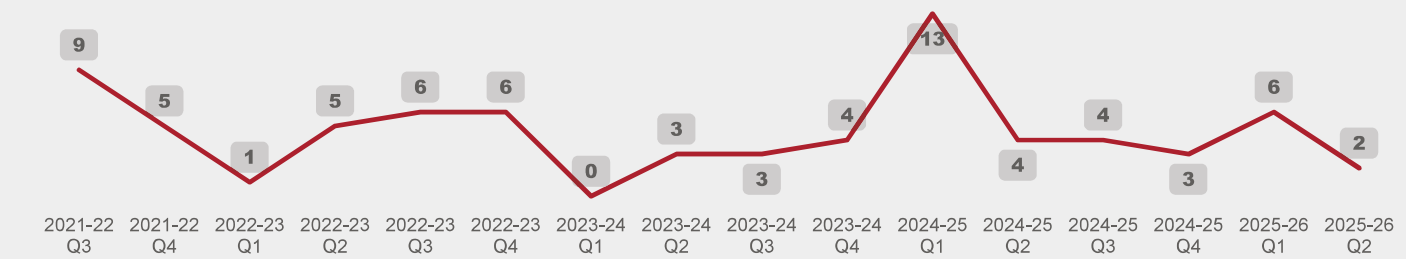
Road Traffic Collisions



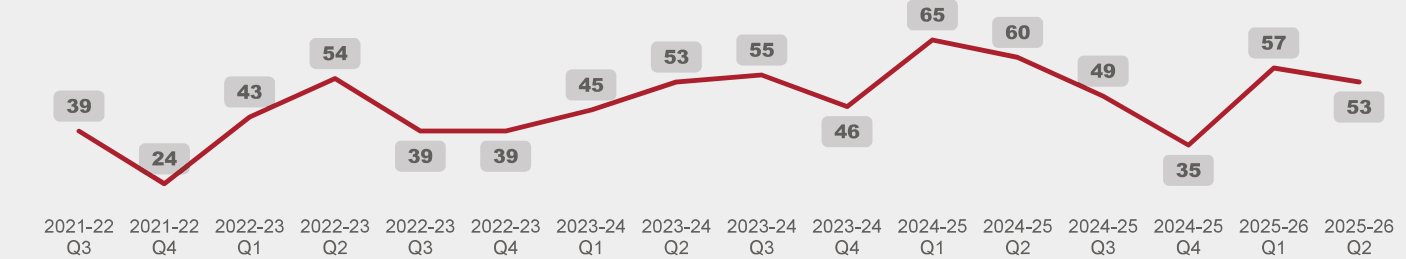
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

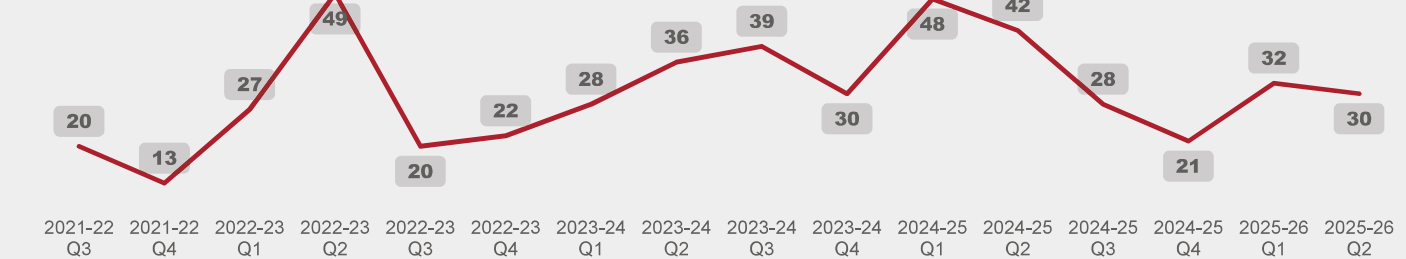
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



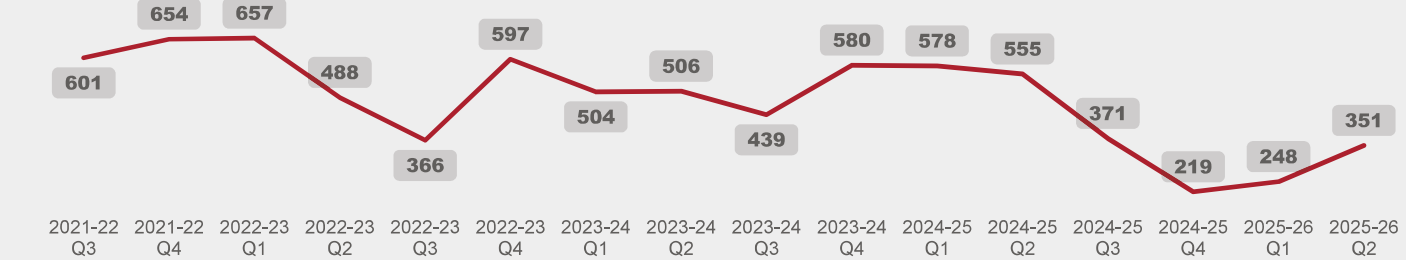
Non-Fire Casualties



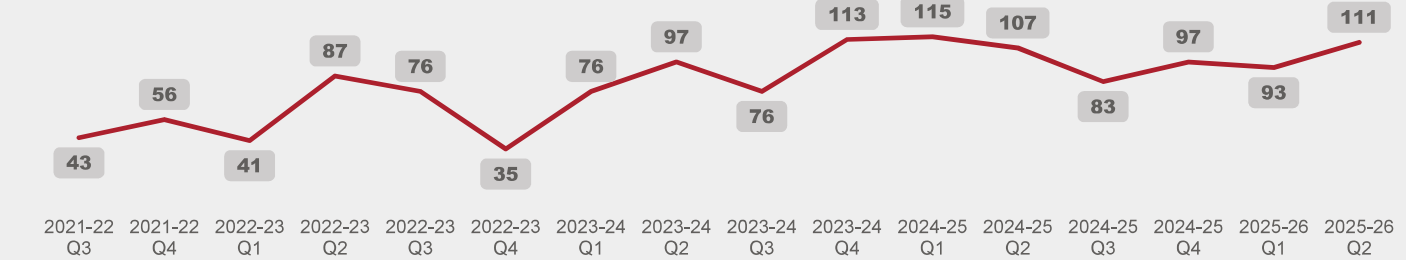
Road Traffic Collision Casualties



Home Fire Safety Visits



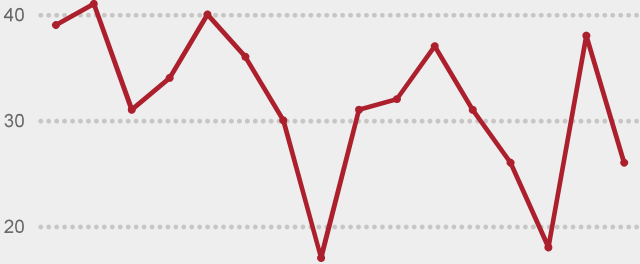
Fire Safety Audits



3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

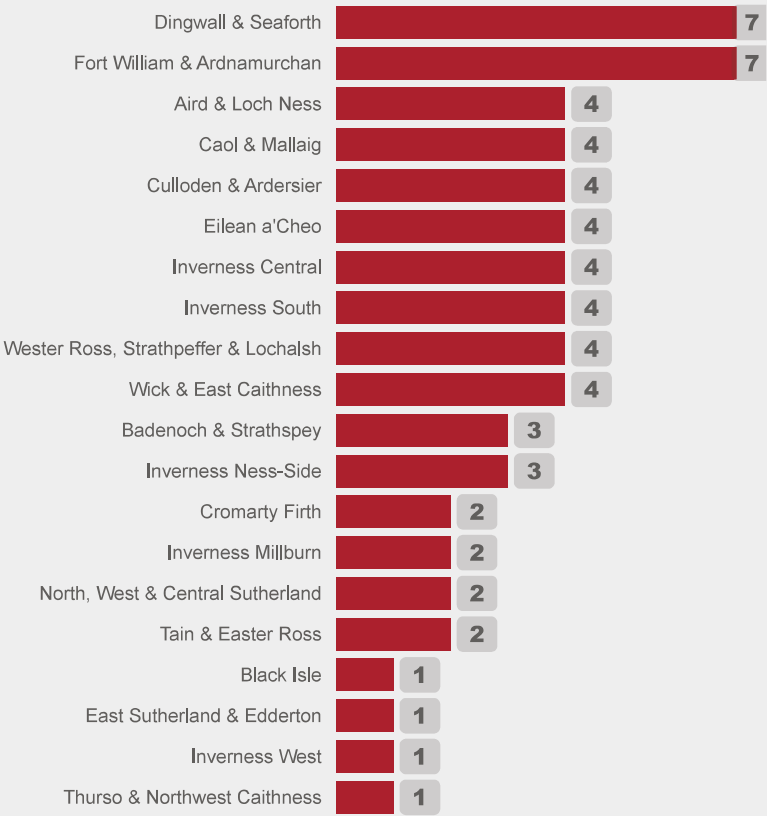
2025-26 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



| Extent of Damage | Incidents |
|---|-----------|
| Limited to item 1st ignited | 28 |
| Not applicable | 11 |
| Limited to room of origin | 9 |
| Limited to floor of origin (not whole building) | 6 |
| Whole building | 4 |
| Limited to 2 floors (not whole building) | 2 |
| Roof space only | 2 |
| Affecting more than 2 floors (not whole building) | 1 |
| Roof space and other floors(s) | 1 |

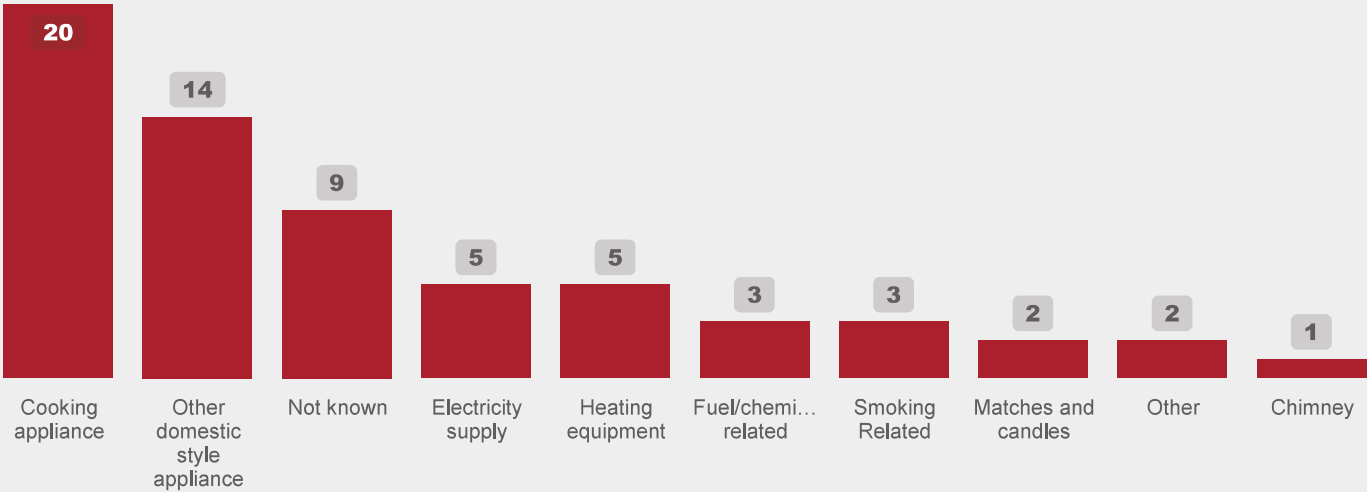
Incidents by Ward



64

Accidental Dwelling Fires
in this period

Source of Ignition (Top 10)



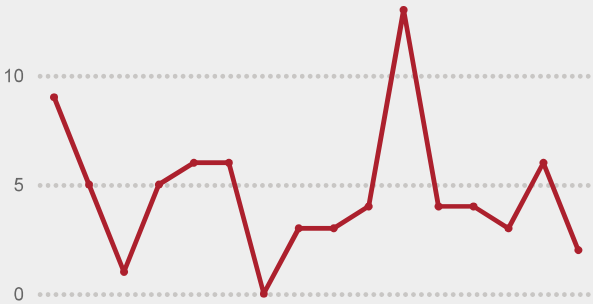
There were **64 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** which is significantly higher than the previous period. The majority are classed as low severity, requiring little or no intervention from the Service and minimal fire damage.

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

4. Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

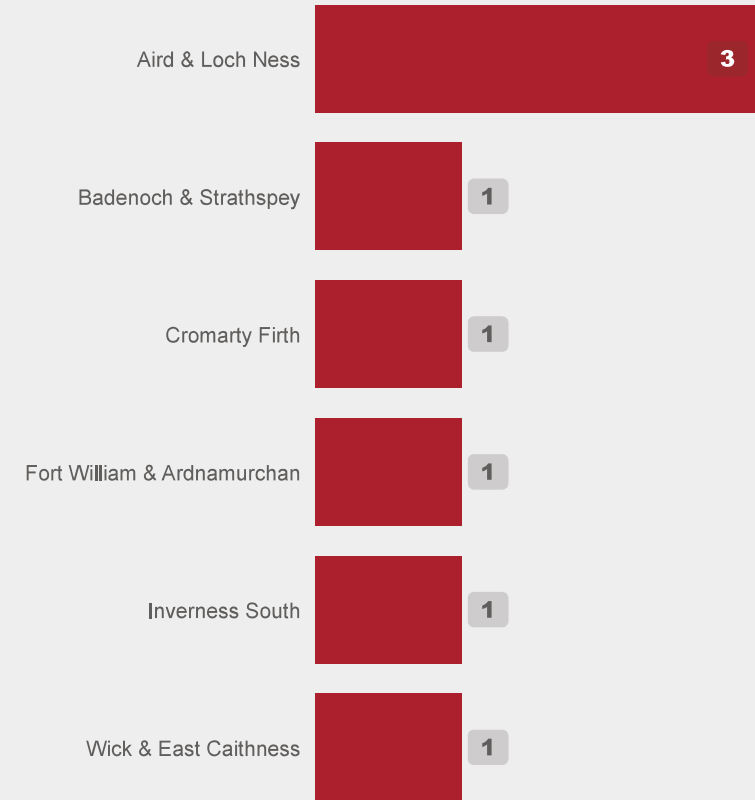
2025-26 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



| Nature of Injury/Cause of Death | Casualties |
|---|------------|
| Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation | 3 |
| Burns - slight | 2 |
| Breathing difficulties (Other than 'Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes, asphyxiation') | 1 |
| Not known | 1 |
| Other | 1 |

Casualties by Ward



7
Non-Fatal
Casualties

1
Fatal
Casualties

16
People
Rescued by
Firefighters

Extent of Harm
(Non-Fatal)

 2
First Aid Given
at Scene

 5
Hospital Slight
Injuries

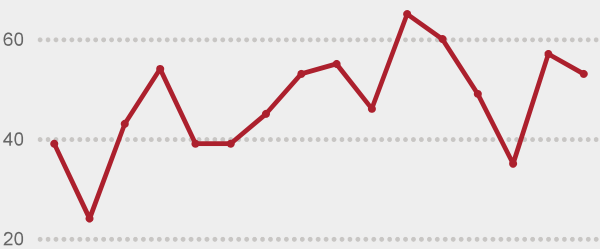
 0
Hospital Serious
Injuries

There were **1 ADF Fatality** in this period. Consequently joint investigations were undertaken with Police Scotland.
It should be noted that these figures do not include casualties who were advised to have a precautionary check up.

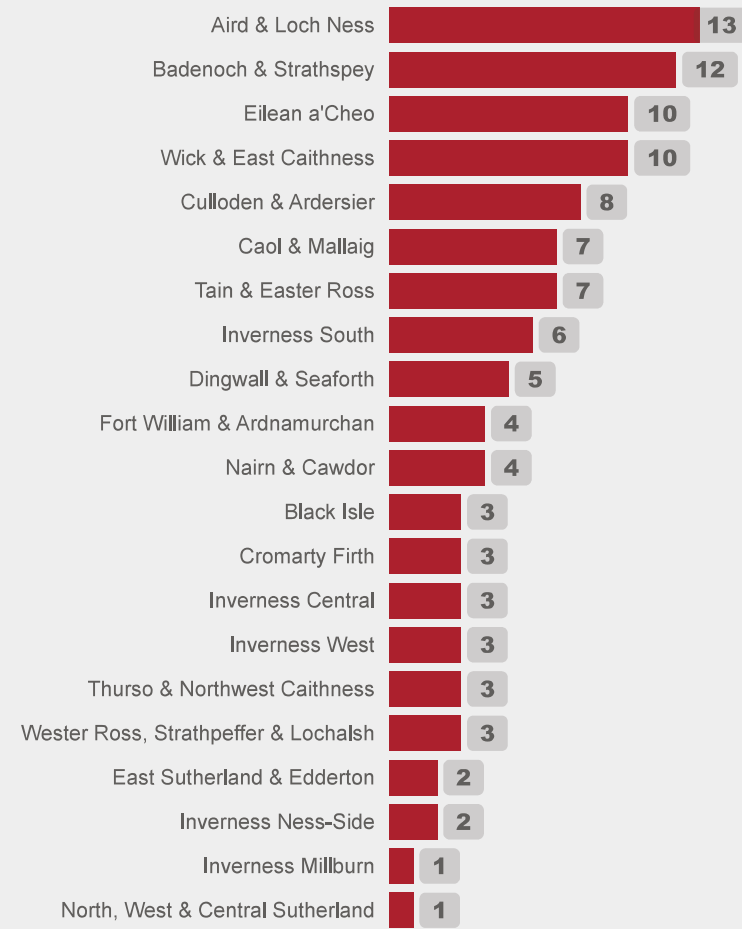
5. Non-Fire Casualties

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



| Nature of Injury/Cause of Death | Casualties |
|---|------------|
| Back / Neck injury (spinal) | 18 |
| Not known | 17 |
| Fracture | 16 |
| Chest / Abdominal injury | 11 |
| Cuts/Lacerations | 9 |
| Bruising | 6 |
| Other | 5 |
| Other medical condition | 5 |
| Head injury | 4 |
| Other physical injury | 4 |
| Chest pain / Heart condition / Cardiac arrest | 3 |
| Impalement | 3 |
| Unconscious, fitting or unresponsive (no other evident significant injury) | 3 |
| Breathing difficulties (Other than 'Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes, asphyxiation') | 1 |
| Burns - severe | 1 |
| Collapse | 1 |
| Concussion | 1 |
| Drowning | 1 |
| Shock / Anaphylactic shock | 1 |

98

Non-Fatal Casualties

12

Fatal Casualties

104

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



9

First Aid Given at Scene



55

Hospital Slight Injuries



34

Hospital Serious Injuries

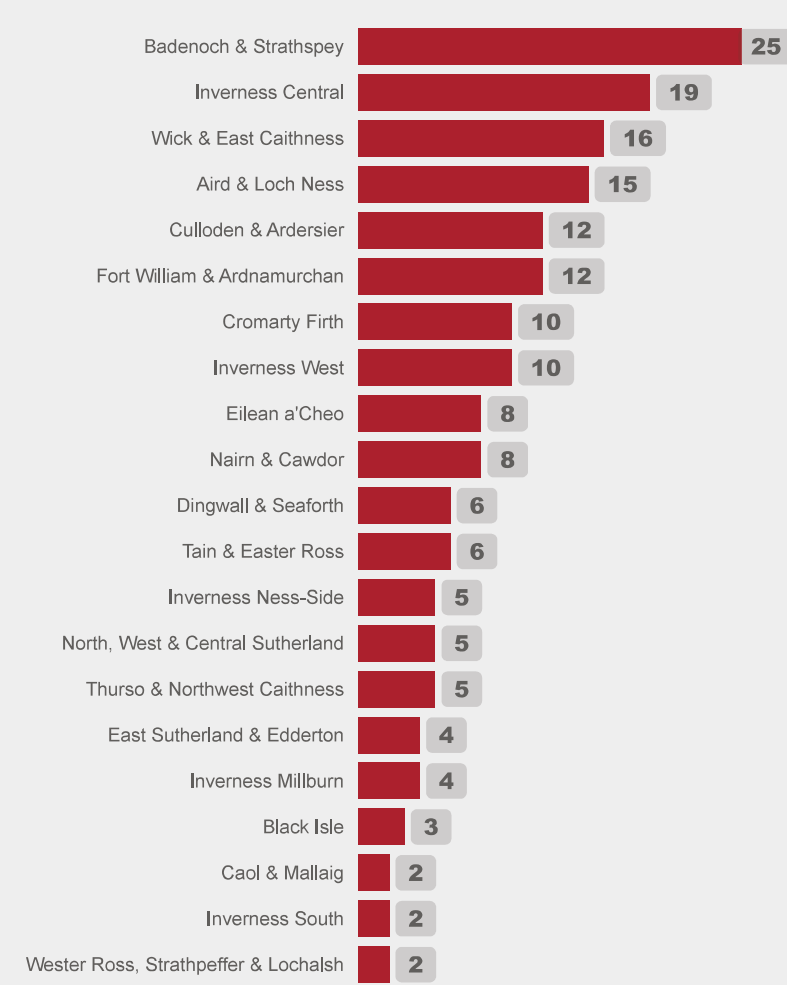
During this period we have been an increase in the number of non-fire related casualties in comparison to the previous reporting period.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



| Property Type | Incident |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Grassland, woodland and crops | 113 |
| Other outdoors (including land) | 22 |
| Refuse | 20 |
| Dwelling | 11 |
| Outdoor structures | 5 |
| Road Vehicle | 5 |
| Non Residential | 1 |
| Other Residential | 1 |
| Outdoor equipment and machinery | 1 |

Incidents by Ward



179

Deliberate Fires
in this period

Hour of Day

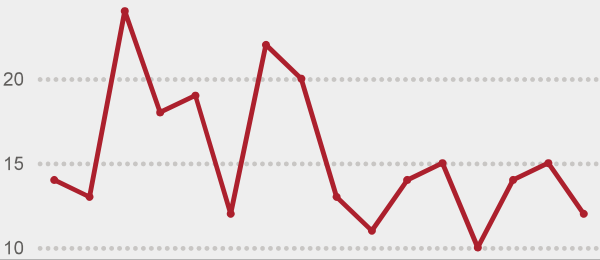


During this period, we have seen a significant increase in deliberate fires in comparison to the previous reporting period, with 113 of these incidents involving grassland, woodland and crops.

7. Non-Domestic Fires

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

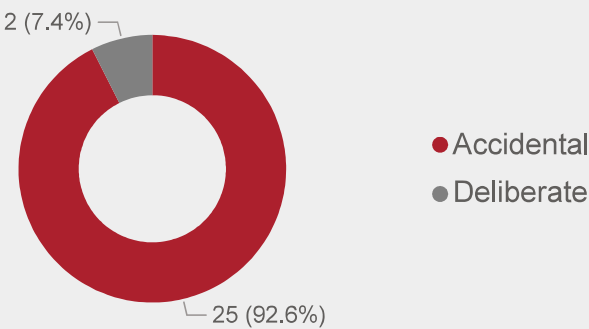
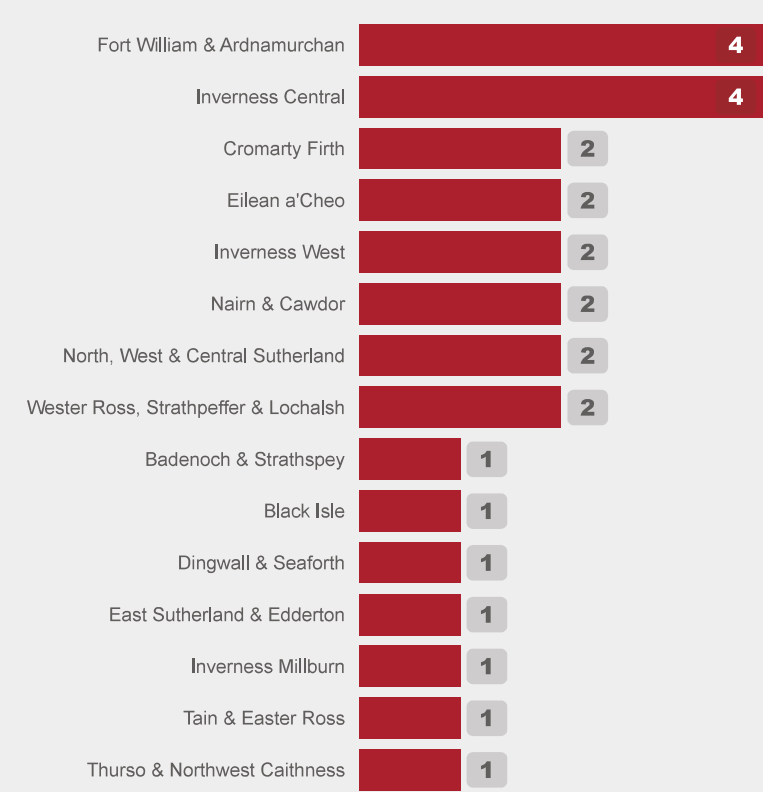
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

| Property Type | Incidents |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Hotel/motel | 9 |
| Food and Drink | 4 |
| Hospitals and medical care | 4 |
| Industrial Processing | 2 |
| Boarding House/B&B other | 1 |
| Education | 1 |
| Industrial Manufacturing | 1 |
| Offices and call centres | 1 |
| Other Residential Home | 1 |
| Religious | 1 |
| Residential Home | 1 |
| Retail | 1 |

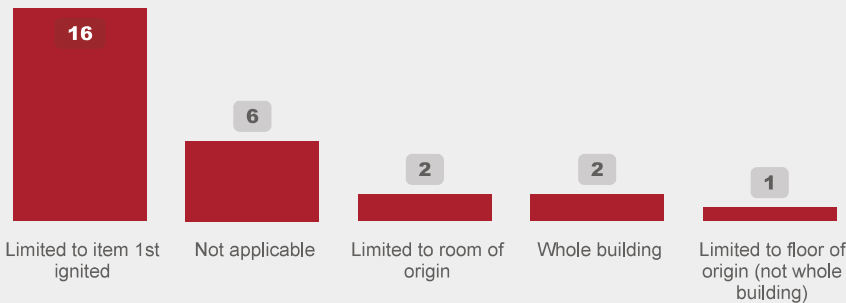
Incidents by Ward



27

Non-Domestic
Fires in this
period

Extent of Damage



Although there is a slight increase in the number of incidents in this reporting period compared to the previous period, overall the number of incidents are showing a decline compared to previous years.

8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

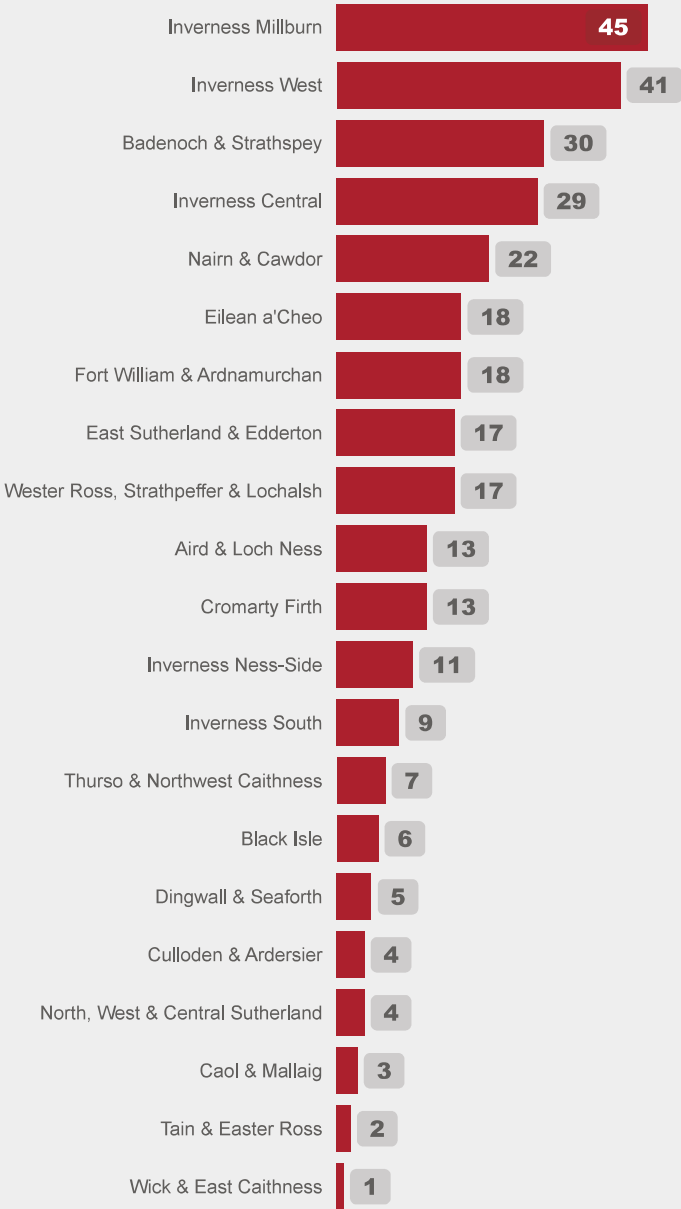
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

| Property Type | Incidents |
|---|-----------|
| Hotel/motel | 78 |
| Hospitals and medical care | 75 |
| Residential Home | 64 |
| Sheltered Housing - not self contained | 21 |
| Other Residential Home | 12 |
| Food and Drink | 10 |
| Hostel (e.g. for homeless people) | 6 |
| Nurses'/Doctors' accommodation | 6 |
| Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet) | 6 |
| Boarding House/B&B other | 5 |
| Entertainment and culture | 5 |
| Student Hall of Residence | 5 |
| Education | 4 |
| Retail | 4 |
| Boarding School accommodation | 3 |
| Youth hostel | 3 |

Incidents by Ward



315

Unwanted Fire Alarm
Signals in this period

Although a slight increase in UFAS incidents in this reporting period, overall the number remains well below the 3-year average following the changes the Service made to how to respond to UFAS.

9. Road Traffic Collisions

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



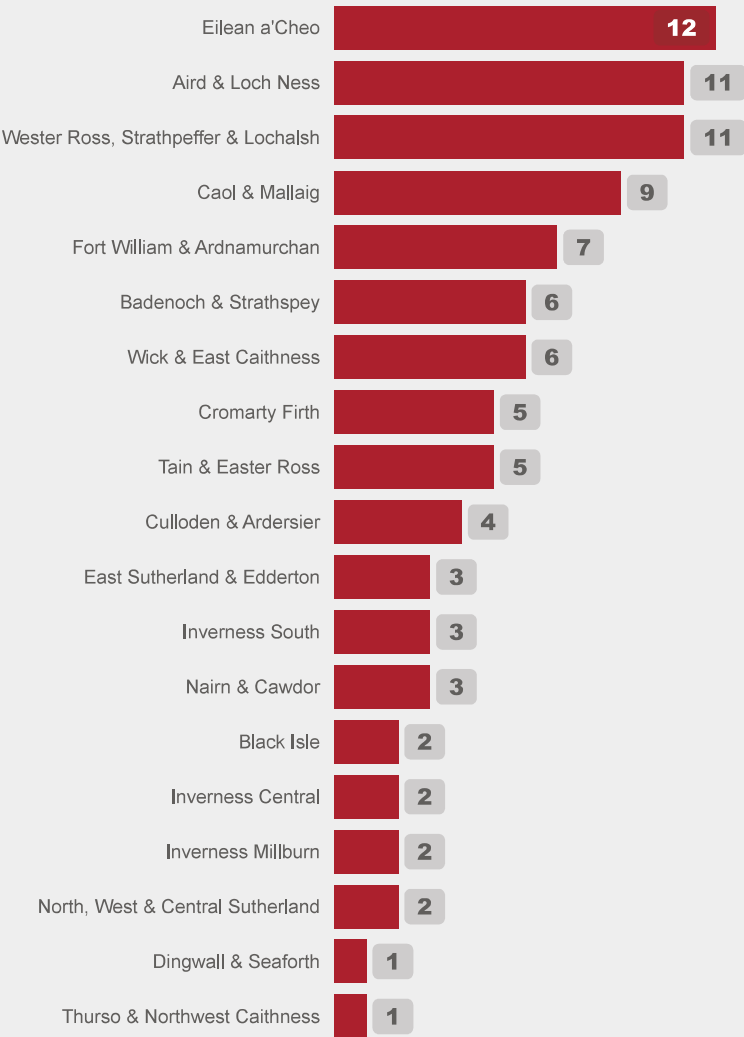
95

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

| Property Type | Incidents |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Car | 70 |
| Multiple Vehicles | 12 |
| Motorcycle | 5 |
| Motor Home | 3 |
| Lorry/HGV | 2 |
| Van | 2 |
| Other | 1 |

| Incident Type | Incidents |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Vehicle (Non-fire) | 93 |
| Fire (Vehicle) | 1 |
| Flooding / Water Rescue | 1 |

Incidents by Ward



56

Non-Fatal Casualties

6

Fatal Casualties

25

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



7

First Aid Given at Scene



27

Hospital Slight Injuries



22

Hospital Serious Injuries

The figures for Non-Fatal Casualties only reflect those who have either received First Aid at the scene or have gone to hospital. Those who were involved in the incident but not require first aid or hospital treatment are recommended to have a precautionary check up. These are not captured in this report.

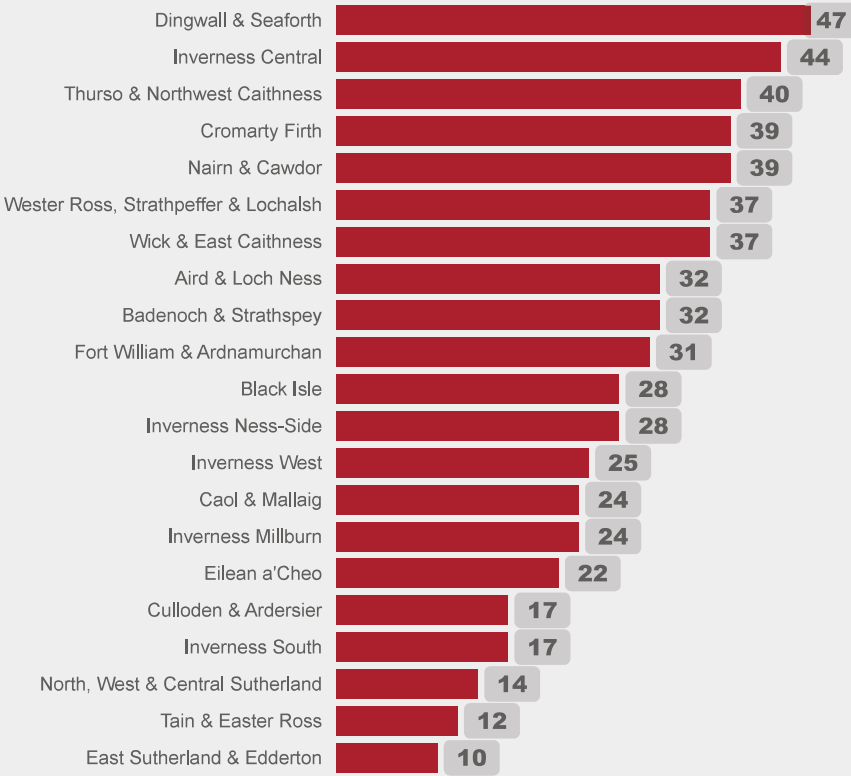
10. Home Fire Safety Visits

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

599

Home Fire
Safety Visits

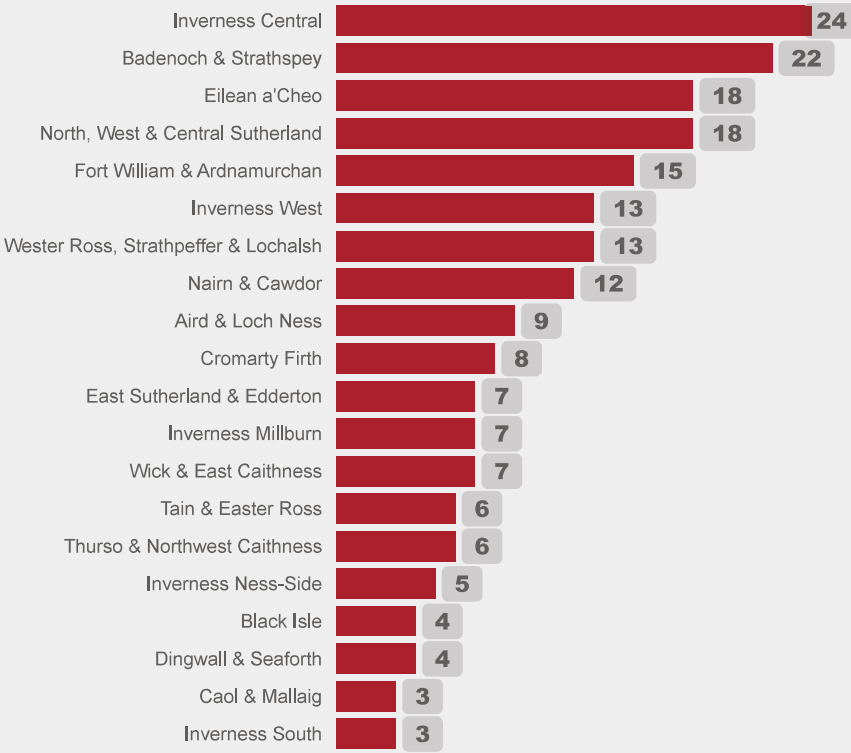
HFSVs by Ward



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

| Job Type | Count |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Audit | 204 |
| Consultation | 20 |
| Specific Visit | 16 |
| Short Post Fire Audit | 4 |

Audits by Ward



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

- 2 x Wholetime Duty System appliances at 1 Station
- 61 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 52 Stations
- 6 x On-Call Volunteer Duty System vehicles / Community Response Units across 6 Stations

These Stations serve the 238'00 Highland population (Highland.gov.uk)

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

| Station | Apr – Sept 25 Availability* % | Male | Female | Staff |
|--|----------------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Acharacle | 41.09% | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Achiltibuie | 35.60% | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Applecross | 26.01% | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Aultbea | 80.50% | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Aviemore | 96.20% | 10 | 1 | 11 |
| Balintore (CRU) | N/A | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Beauly | 83.24% | 14 | 0 | 14 |
| Bettyhill | 28.31% | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Bonar Bridge | 21.58% | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Broadford | 42.75% | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Cannich | 0.03% | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Carrbridge (CRU) | N/A | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| Cromarty (CRU) | N/A | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Dingwall - 1st Appliance | 99.96% | 13 | 2 | 15 |
| Dingwall - 2nd Appliance | 59.14% | | | |
| Dornoch | 94.67% | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| Drumnadrochit | 87.69% | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| Dunbeath | 63.04% | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Dunvegan | 72.18% | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Durness | 71.96% | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Fort Augustus | 82.45% | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Fort William – 1 st Appliance | 100% | 20 | 2 | 22 |
| Fort William – 2 nd Appliance | 86.56% | | | |
| Fortrose | 74.78% | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Foyers | 65.77% | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Gairloch | 98.16% | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| Glenelg | 36.83% | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Golspie | 60.12% | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Grantown – 1 st Appliance | 97.19% | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| Grantown – 2 nd Appliance | 49.74% | | | |
| Helmsdale | 59.08% | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Invergordon - 1st Appliance | 99.96% | 16 | 3 | 19 |
| Invergordon - 2nd Appliance | 81.29% | | | |
| Inverness Retained | 82.26% | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| Inverness Wholetime * | N/A | 56 | 12 | 68 |
| John O Groats | 60.97% | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| Kilchoan | 0.23% | 2 | 1 | 3 |

12. Station Availability and Establishment

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

| | | | | |
|--|---------------|----|---|----|
| Kingussie | 85.03% | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| Kinlochbervie | 74.72% | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Kinlochewe | 0% | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Kinlochleven – 1 st Appliance | 69.69% | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| Kinlochleven – 2 nd Appliance | 0% | | | |
| Kyle | 98.75% | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| Lairg | 85.15% | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Lochaline | 60.68% | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Lochcarron | 58.93% | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Lochinver | 0% | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Lybster (CRU) | N/A | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Mallaig | 18.91% | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Nairn – 1 st Appliance | 93.86% | 16 | 0 | 16 |
| Nairn – 2 nd Appliance | 51.71% | | | |
| Newtonmore (CRU) | N/A | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Portree | 85.59% | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Raasay | 89.05% | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Scourie | 0% | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Spean Bridge (CRU) | N/A | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Staffin | 0% | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Strontian | 64.89% | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Tain | 87.24% | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| Thurso - 1st Appliance | 97.75% | 13 | 2 | 15 |
| Thurso - 2nd Appliance | 49.44% | | | |
| Tongue | 0% | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Torridon | 57.48% | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Uig | 49.62% | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Ullapool - 1st Appliance | 97.44% | 13 | 4 | 17 |
| Ullapool - 2nd Appliance | 68.80% | | | |
| Wick - 1st Appliance | 99.59% | 17 | 0 | 17 |
| Wick - 2nd Appliance | 70.56% | | | |

556 Station based personnel

11 Rural Wholetime Watch Commanders

11 Station Commanders, 3 Group Commanders, 1 Area Commander

In addition, Prevention, Protection, Training, non-operational and business support staff

Fireskills

Two Fire Skills courses were delivered during the reporting period — one in Dornoch, funded by the local community, and another in Dingwall as part of our Stay Onside programme.

The Stay Onside initiative has now been evaluated and recognised as a success, demonstrating the positive impact of partnership working and early intervention with young people. Both courses were well received by participants and partners.



Biker Down

The Biker Down programme has continued to grow in popularity, averaging 10 participants per month, aside from one exceptional session when 40 members of a local motorcycle club attended a course hosted at the station.



The initiative has been highly successful, strengthening engagement with the local

biking community and promoting vital road safety awareness. To further support delivery, we have now introduced Eventbrite as a booking platform, which will streamline course registration and provide a clear focal point for promotion across Highland. This programme remains a key priority, particularly given the recent fatal motorcycle incidents in the area.



Life-saving skills delivered locally alongside Lucky2BHere



SFRS continues to partner with Lucky2BHere to provide community-based CPR and AED training to people of all ages and abilities. A number of training sessions have been held across the Highlands during the reporting period.

Station Open Days

Inverness Community Fire Station

Local businesses and the public once again turned out in large numbers to support our open day. Crews carried out fundraising activities and numerous demonstrations of their skills. With a fantastic amount of money being raised for the three benefiting charities, The Firefighters Charity, MFR Cash for Kids and Highland Young Carers, all receiving a share of the £7100 raised on the day.

Similar events were also held at Invergordon and Thurso Community Fire Stations.



Water Safety Engagements



Members of the Community Action Team, along with Operational crews, spent time engaging with members of the public to raise awareness of the dangers of the water, highlighting the risks regardless of weather conditions.

Community Action Team Engage with Students

As part of our risk reduction strategy, we engaged with students across the Highlands during Freshers Week. We acknowledge that moving away from home for the first time to attend college may be a stressful time, and by providing safety advice targeting cooking and electrical safety, educating the students, and reassuring family members, that their loved ones are safer with the additional knowledge.



"Behind the Pager" event celebrates On Call Firefighters

Aviemore Community Fire Station hosted a 'Behind the Pager' event to thank and celebrate the commitment of the network of people and businesses that make being an On Call firefighter possible.

The evening included awards for trainee firefighters, community spirit, fundraising efforts as well as awards for employers.



Wildfire prevention engagements



Members of the Community Action Team, along with Operational crews and partners, have spent time engaging with members of the public to raise awareness and reduce the likelihood of wildfires. During heightened Wildfire risk periods our crews undertook engagement activity at key tourist hot spots.

Training Events

Wildfire Response



Invergordon and Ullapool have taken delivery of their All-Terrain vehicles and support 4x4s. These assets significantly enhance the Highland area's response to wildfire-related incidents.

Crews have undertaken specialist training with additional equipment to more effectively tackle wildfires' and our officers received practical helicopter awareness training to support their incident management.



Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs)

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service continues to embed our new, modernised Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) system that will enhance how we identify, assess, and support those most at risk from fire. Throughout 2025, we have been finalising our application platforms to enable efficient referral pathways from partners.

We are working hard at a local level to ensure we continue reaching the most vulnerable in our communities with targeted prevention activity. 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.

Our Community Action Team can support partners throughout this sign-up process. Please share this information with your networks to encourage organisations to participate in establishing a secure referral pathway.

[Home fire safety visits | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)

Wildfire

We continue to advance our [Wildfire Strategy](#), launched in 2023 and 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 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.

This year Highland saw the most [wildfire warnings](#) issued in one year in recent times with eleven wildfire warnings issued in this reporting period. This also marked the first September wildfire warning since 2020.

While wildfire alerts in early autumn are not unprecedented, this year's warning reflects exceptional conditions across Scotland.

SFRS are currently engaged in a review of the Operational Learning from the recent Wildfires affecting Highland with various partners participating in multi-agency debriefs and meetings. This will help shape our plans for dealing with these challenging incidents.

Training and Resources

- **Tiered Approach:** All SFRS operational personnel are trained to at least Tier 1 in wildfire response.
- **Tier 2 Stations:** Stations have received additional training and specialist PPE, with four stations also set to receive the new 4x4 support vans, this includes Dornoch Station who received their 4x4 support van.
- **Tier 3 Stations:** Stations will be equipped with Ford Rangers, trailers, and ATVs, with Invergordon and Ullapool have received their ATV.
- **Flexi Duty Officers:** These officers have undergone Wildfire Tactical Advisor training and will support wildfire incidents across the country.

Community Asset Register

The Community Asset Register is a Scotland wide database of volunteers willing to help during an emergency. The database plots assets on a map so if an emergency incident occurs we can identify those who could help. Assets can be people with either skills or equipment.

There's no obligation on volunteers to provide support, as we will always respond to deal with emergencies. However, if we believe a volunteer could help with their assets we ask if they're available. If they are, we explain where they should go and what they should do.

To **register**: <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-area/community-asset-register/>

Service Delivery Review (SDR)

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has undertaken a significant piece of work to understand the risk and demand of our Service in Scotland. This SDR review has developed 23 options for public consultation.

This has resulted in the proposal to close the 3 long term dormant stations in Highland:-

Ratagan,
Nethy Bridge, and
Muck

A public consultation process was undertaken in July with the communities of these areas invited to provide comment to these proposals.

This consultation closed in September with the report, including recommendations to be submitted to our Board for decision in December 2025.

[Service Delivery Review: public consultation closes](#)

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our public consultation.

15. 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.