

Agenda Item	3
Report No	BIER/27/25

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Black Isle & Easter Ross Area Committee

Meeting Date: 10th November 2025

Report Title: Scottish Fire and Rescue Area Committee Performance Report

Report By: Local Senior Officer for Highland

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Black Isle & Easter Ross Area Committee members on progress against the priorities outlined in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Committee Plans for Black Isle & Easter Ross.
- 1.2 Priority areas are identified through a range of Intervention, Prevention and Protection activities which are delivered through partnership to reduce the risk to the communities of Black Isle & Easter Ross.
- 1.3 The report also contains previously agreed information and performance as requested by Area Committees.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Committee Members are invited to **comment** and **scrutinise** the attached Area Performance Report.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.2 **Legal** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.5 **Risk** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.6 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – There are no implications arising from this report

3.7 Gaelic - There are no implications arising from this report

4 Black Isle & Easter Ross Area Committee Performance Report

4.1 The attached performance report provides the current figures for Quarters 1&2 of 2025/26 from the central Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) performance management database against the key indicators and timelines from previous reports. Please note that turnaround times and statistics available at this time of year can be delayed and some that have not yet been processed may carry forward to the next quarter.

4.2 In achieving priorities within the Area Plan for Easter Ross work is ongoing within our current HFSV framework as we move towards the implementation of a new system which will significantly increase information sharing between partner agencies and ensure our resources are targeted towards the most vulnerable in our communities. PDIR's are routinely carried out at all domestic incidents regardless of type which are aimed at reducing accidental dwelling house fires following our attendance. Local engagement with academy pupils throughout the area has been targeted towards the elimination of deliberate fire setting and nuisance calls.

The Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) Policy provides a means of targeting premises that the Service attends repeatedly and by engagement to reduce the number of calls. This has led to a change in duty holder responsibilities in the event of an activation and work is ongoing to support premises affected by the new response procedures. This change to how we respond incidents of this type has greatly reduced unnecessary call outs which has freed up capacity to increase our operational availability, undertake more community safety prevention work and to upskill our staff and reduce operational road risk.

4.3 It must be emphasised that the baseline figures for some of these indicators within the report are very low and this can make meaningful statistical analysis challenging. The low figures can also make it inappropriate to provide detailed data analysis which could compromise personal information.

4.4 The performance report shows that Accidental Dwelling fires are around average for the area with 5 recorded Accidental Dwelling fires in this reporting period. There were 0 Fire Fatalities and 1 Non-fatal Fire Casualties in this reporting period. There was 19 Deliberate Fires in this reporting period.

Special Service – there were 12 road traffic collisions (RTC) reported during this period with 6 RTC Non-fatal Casualties.

From 1 July 2023, SFRS have implemented [UFAS incident procedure](#) following our previous [public consultation](#). During this reporting period we attended 21 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents. This remains lower than pre 2023 figures. With this being the case, personnel will continue to work in partnership with the clear aim of trying to eliminate all incident types through our preventative work and targeted engagement with premises.

A total of 79 home fire safety visits (HFSV) were carried out during this period.

Designation: Local Senior Officer for Highland

Date: 31/10/2025

Author: Station Commander Douglas McAulay

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



Highland Black Isle and Easter Ross Area Committee

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



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FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

Highland

Black Isle and Easter Ross Area Committee

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

Scrutiny Report

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About the statistics within this report

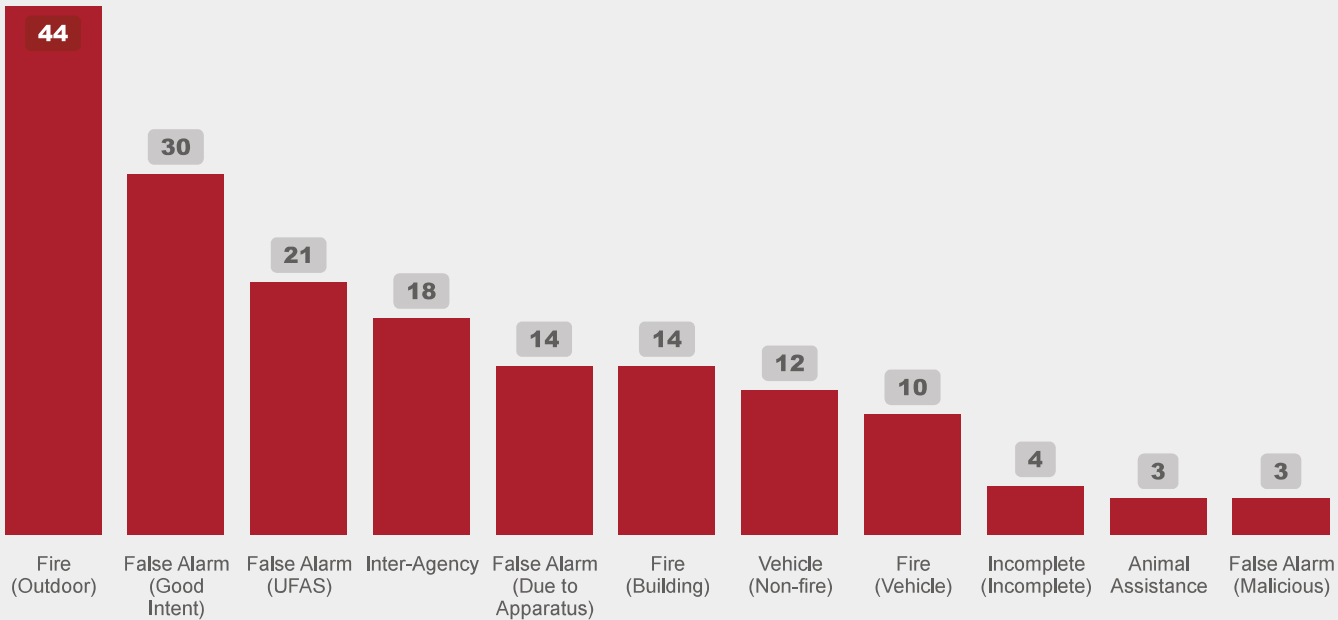
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference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

 176 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	 68 Fires	 36 Non-Fire Incidents	 68 False Alarms	 21 UFAS
 11 People Rescued by Firefighters	 5 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	 0 Fire Fatalities	 12 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	 1 Non-Fire Fatalities
 79 Home Fire Safety Visits	 18 Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types

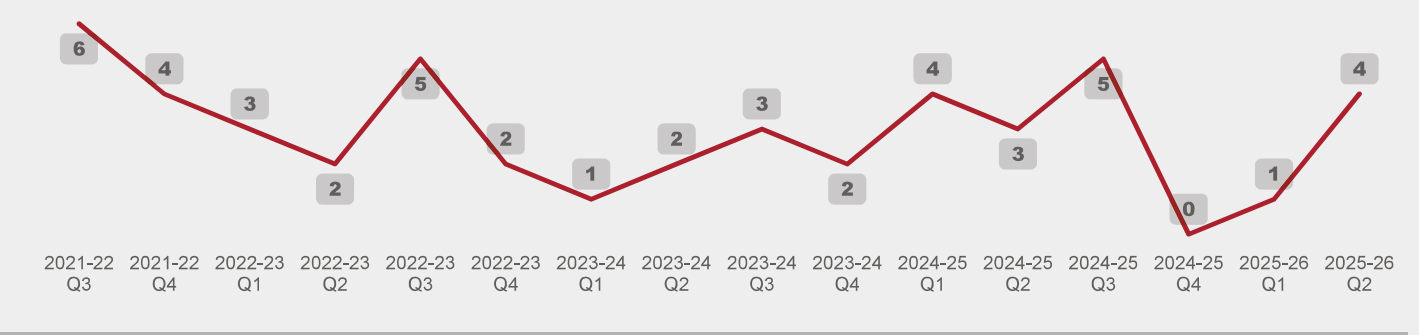


The information above provides a summary of the six-months (1 April - 30 September 2025) activity against headline indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

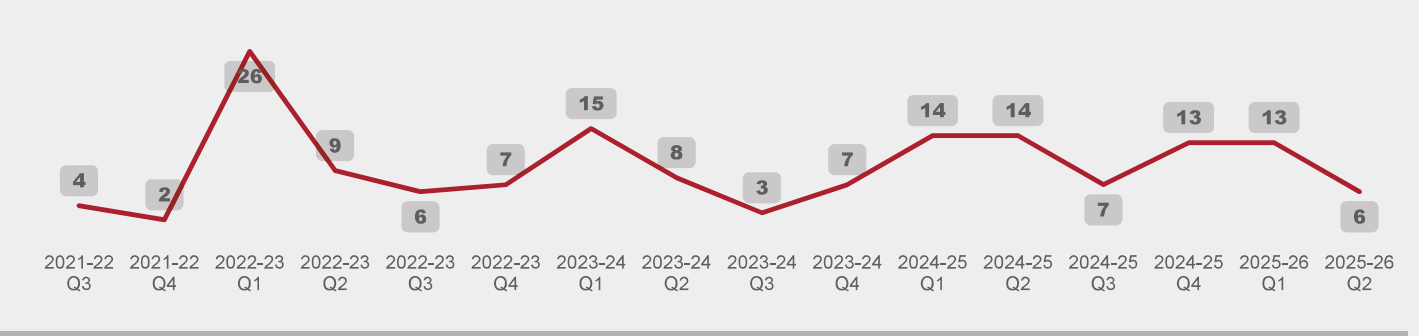
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

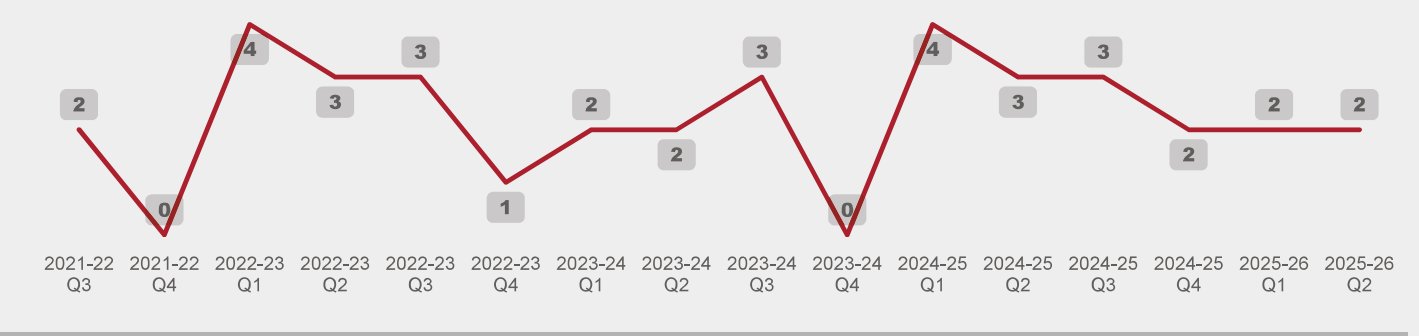
Accidental Dwelling Fires



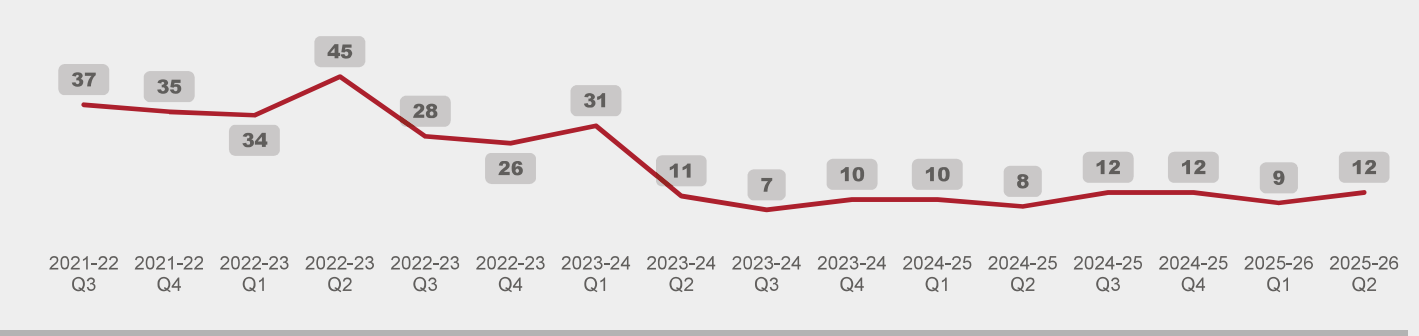
Deliberate Fires



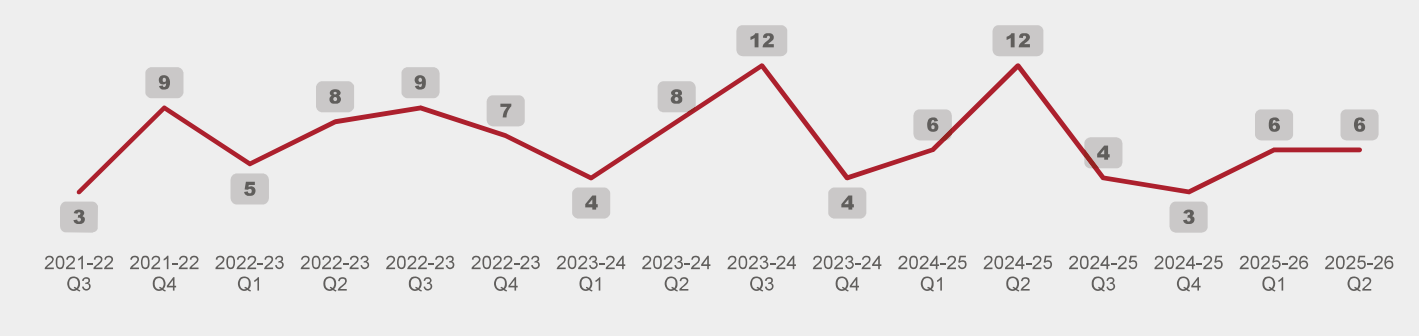
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



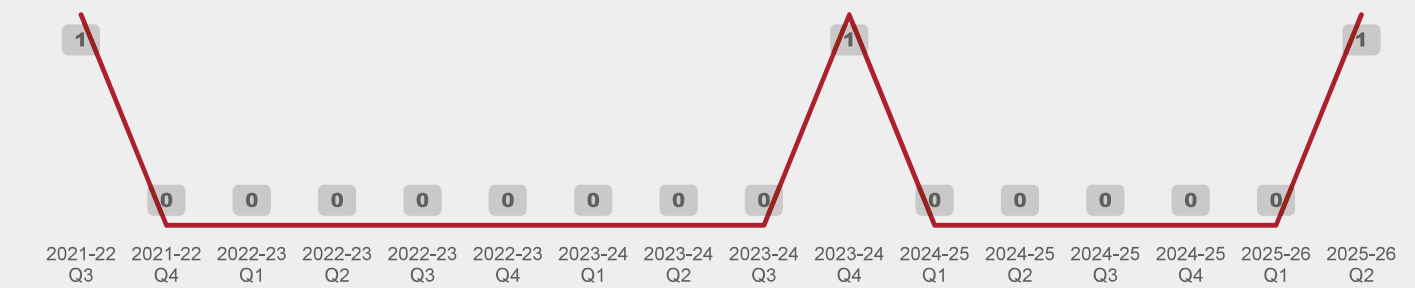
Road Traffic Collisions



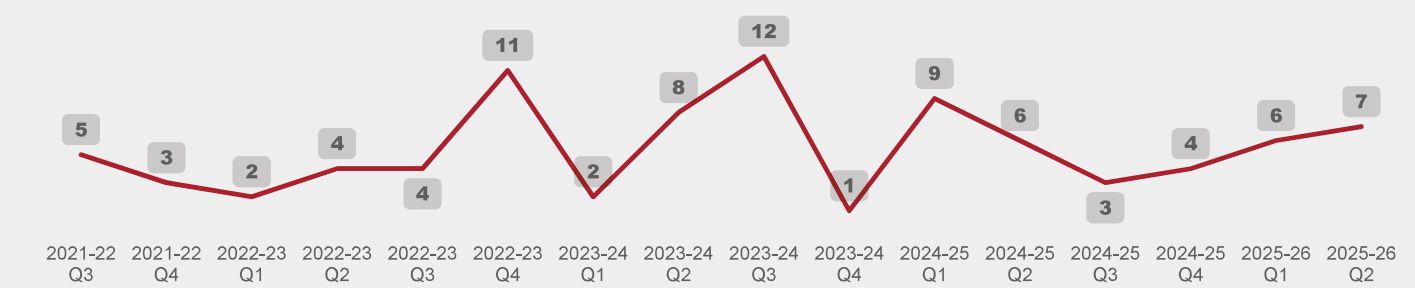
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

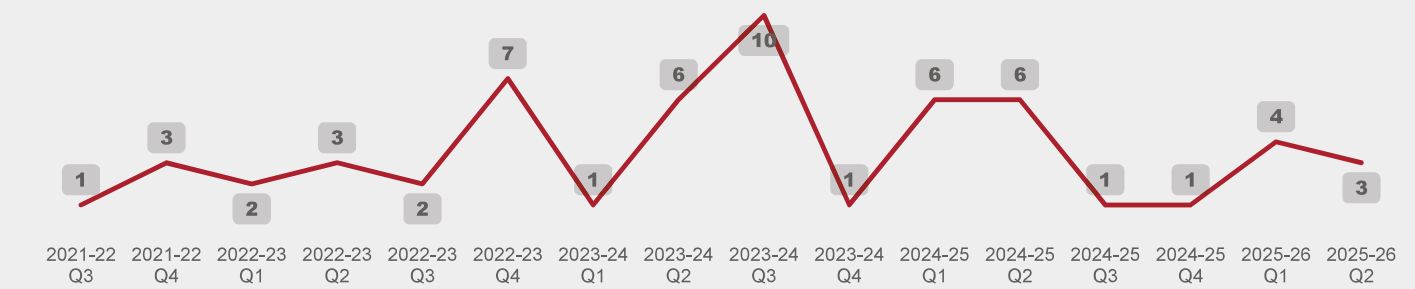
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



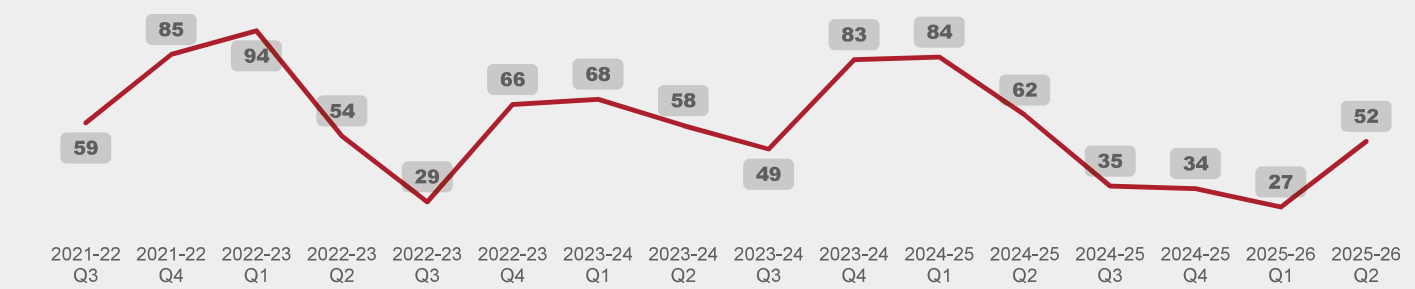
Non-Fire Casualties



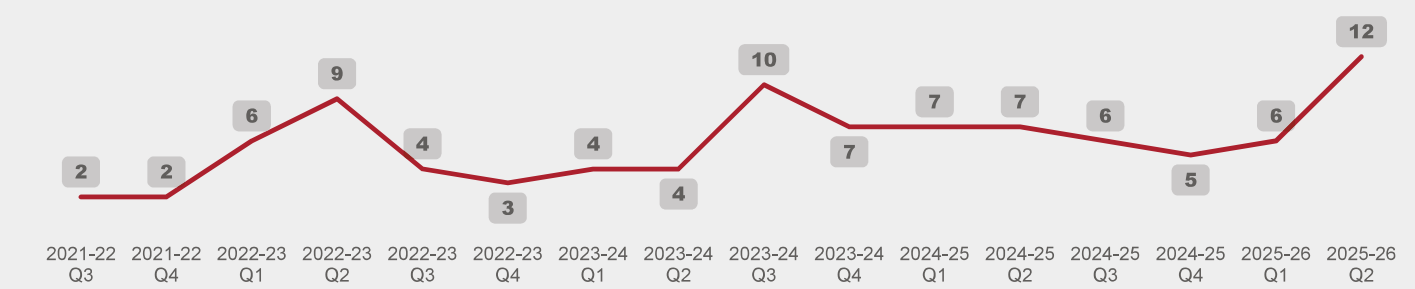
Road Traffic Collision Casualties



Home Fire Safety Visits



Fire Safety Audits



3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

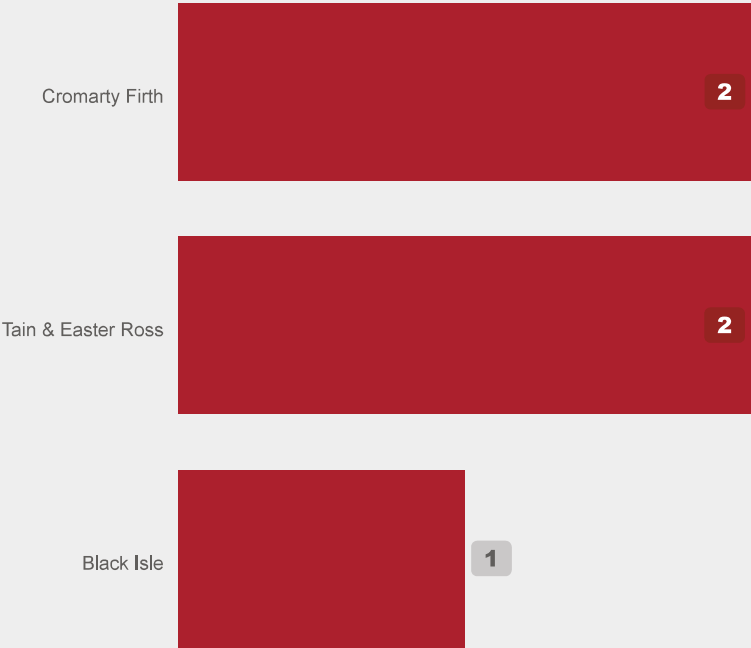
2025-26 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Extent of Damage	Incidents
Limited to item 1st ignited	1
Not applicable	1
Roof space and other floors(s)	1
Roof space only	1
Whole building	1

Incidents by Ward



Source of Ignition (Top 10)



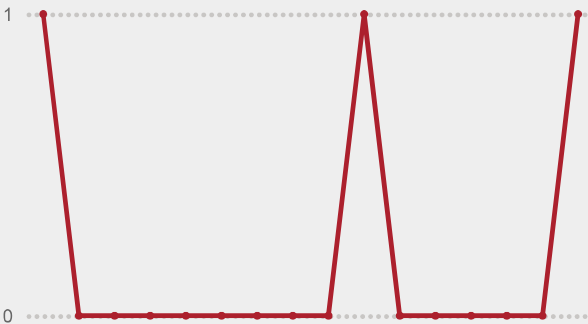
5

Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

There were **5 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)** within this report 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 a HFSV and agency referrals where required.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Burns - slight	1

Casualties by Ward

Cromarty Firth



1

Non-Fatal Casualties

0

Fatal Casualties

0

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given at Scene



1

Hospital Slight Injuries



0

Hospital Serious Injuries

There was **1 Non-Fatal ADF Casualty** in this reporting period, who required to go to hospital with what appeared to be slight injuries. 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



12
Non-Fatal
Casualties

1
Fatal
Casualties

10
People
Rescued by
Firefighters

Extent of Harm
(Non-Fatal)



3

First Aid Given
at Scene



7

Hospital Slight
Injuries

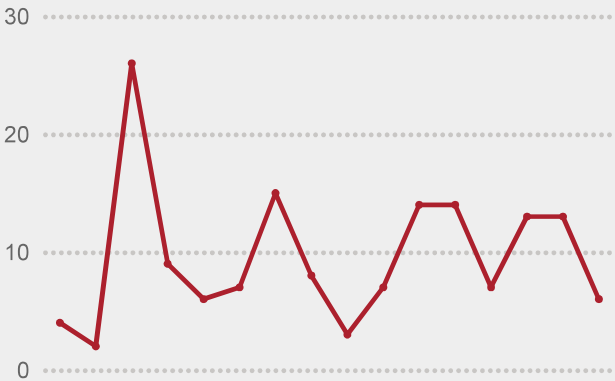


2

Hospital Serious
Injuries

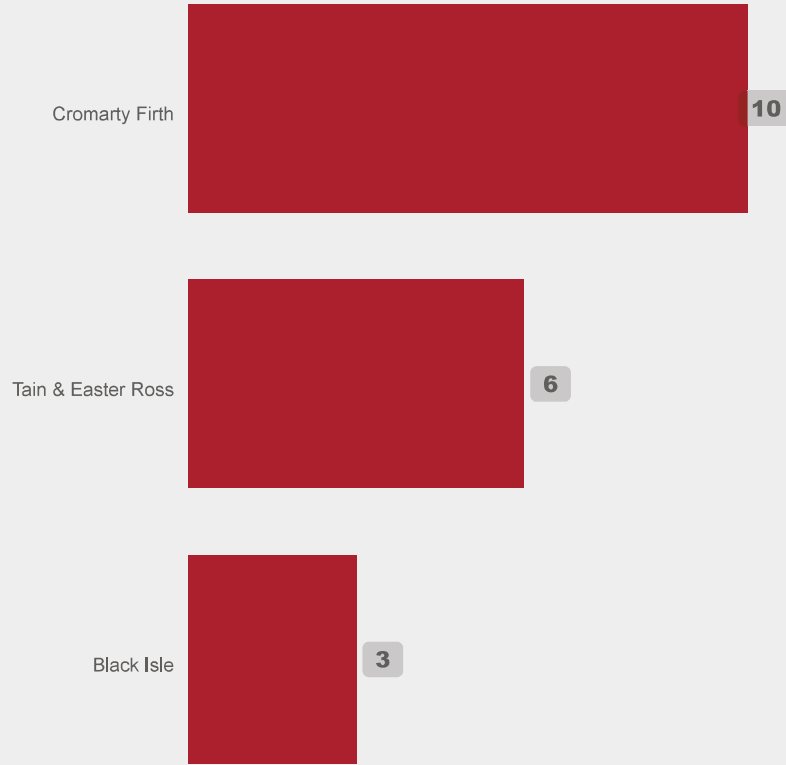
During this reporting period that was **1 Fatal Non-Fire Casualty** and **12 Non-Fatal Non-Fire Casualties**, of which 3 received first aid at the scene, 7 went to hospital with what appeared to be slight injuries and 2 went to hospital with what appeared to be serious injuries.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Property Type	Incident
Grassland, woodland and crops	10
Other outdoors (including land)	5
Dwelling	2
Refuse	2

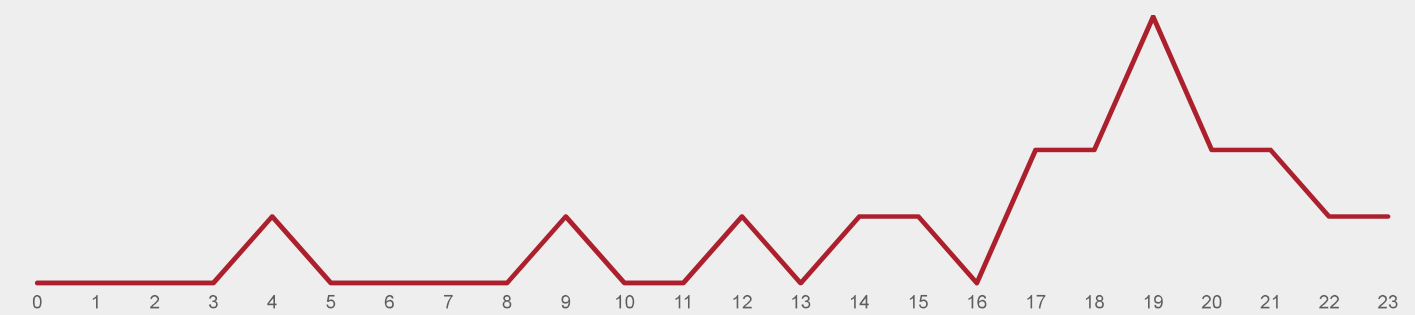
Incidents by Ward



19

Deliberate Fires
in this period

Hour of Day



There were **19 Deliberate Fires** within this reporting period, which is a slight decrease when compared to the previous period. Referrals are made to other agencies for those at work within our communities.

7. Non-Domestic Fires

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

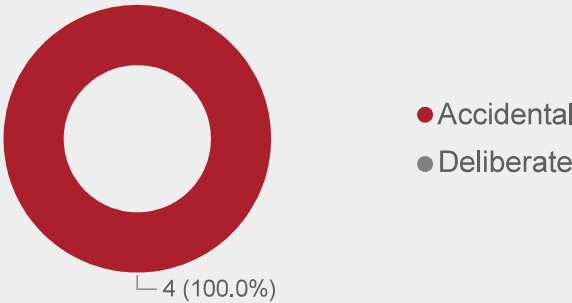
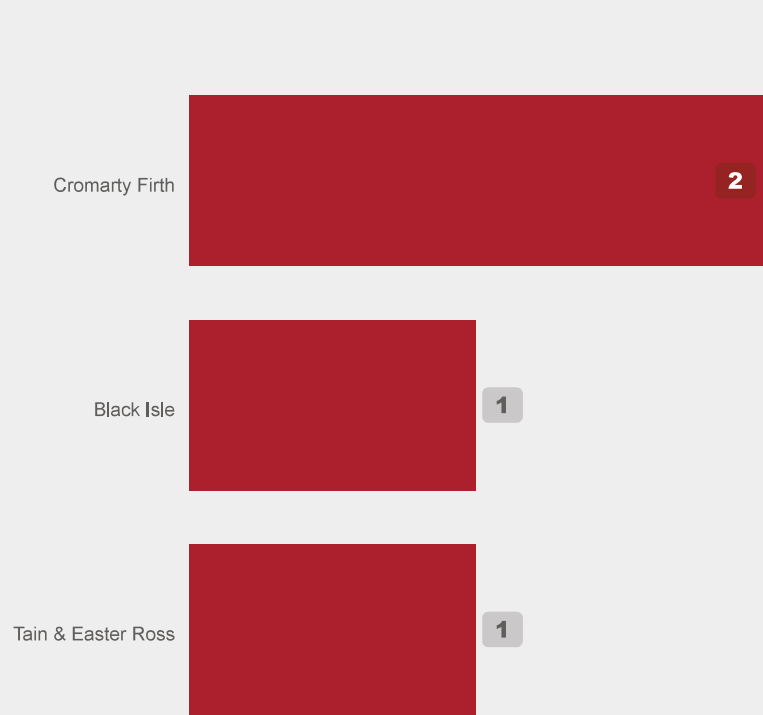
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Industrial Processing	2
Industrial Manufacturing	1
Religious	1

Incidents by Ward



4

Non-Domestic
Fires in this
period

Extent of Damage

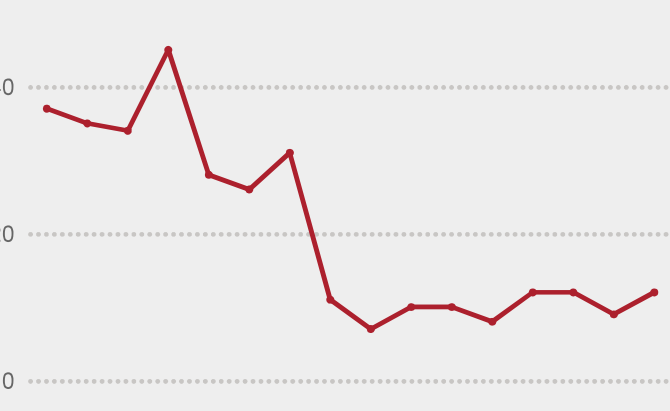


There were **4 Non-Domestic Fires** within this six-month reporting period, which is slightly lower than the previous period.

8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

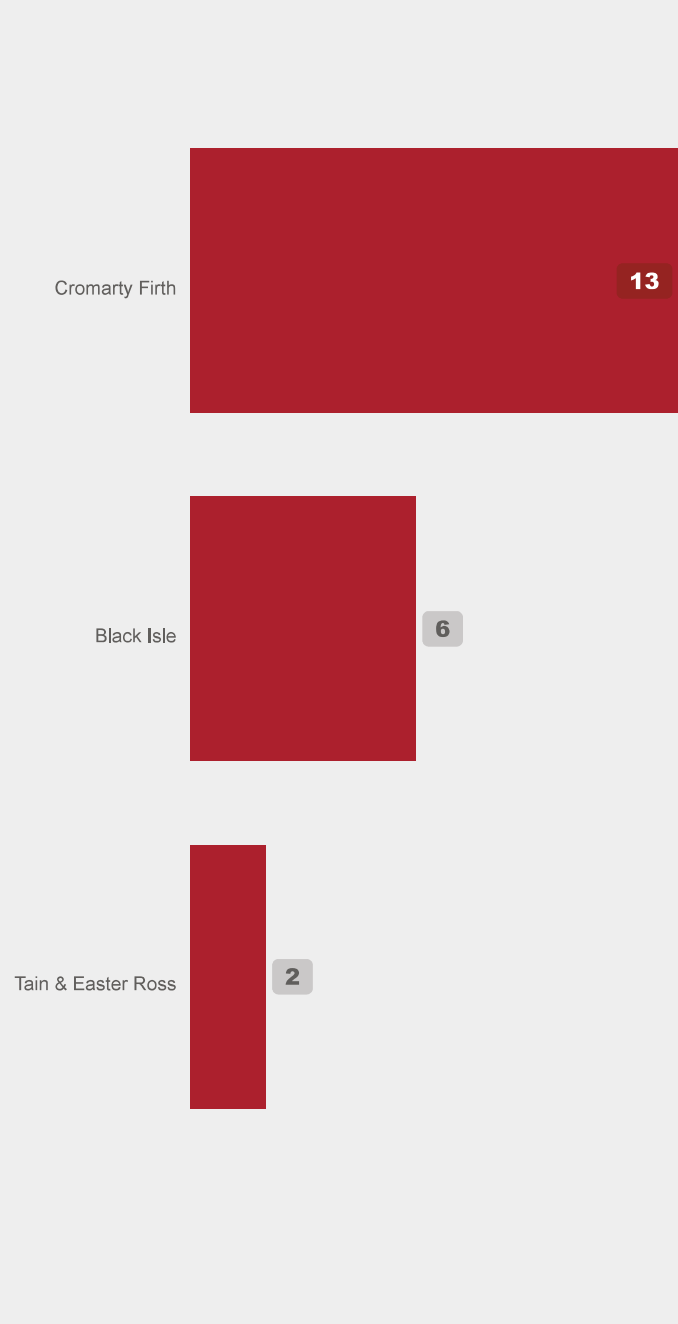
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Residential Home	7
Hotel/motel	6
Hospitals and medical care	4
Boarding House/B&B other	2
Other Residential Home	2

Incidents by Ward



21

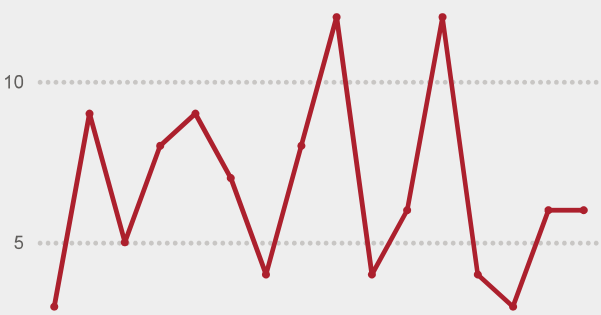
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

We attended **21 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during this period, this sees a slight decrease compared to the previous reporting period. The figures continues to remain low following the Service's change to attend at commercial businesses and workplace premises.

9. Road Traffic Collisions

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



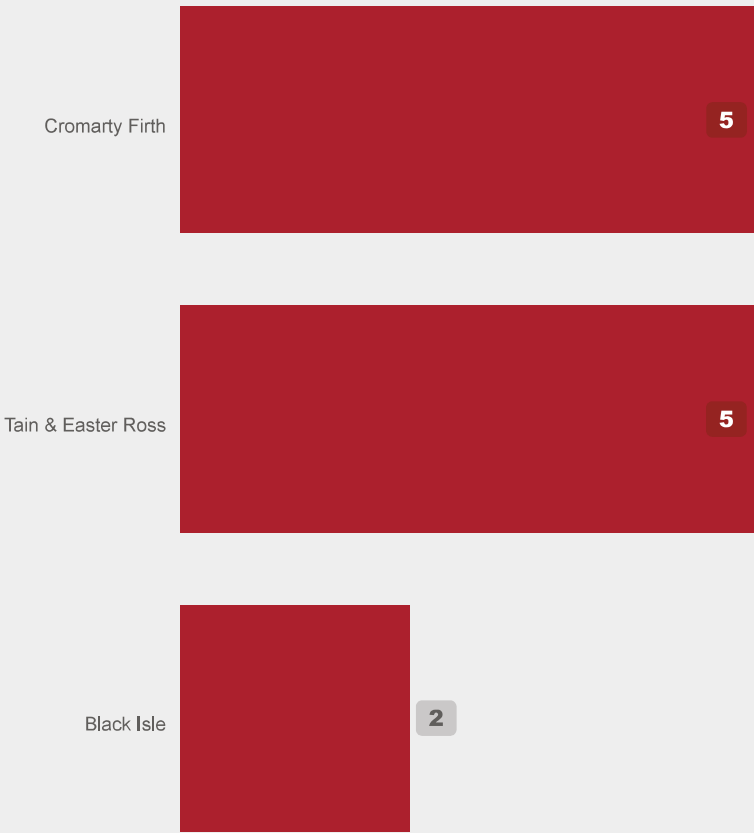
12

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
Car	9
Multiple Vehicles	2
Motorcycle	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	12

Incidents by Ward



6

Non-Fatal Casualties

1

Fatal Casualties

1

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



3

First Aid Given at Scene



3

Hospital Slight Injuries



0

Hospital Serious Injuries

During this reporting period, we have attended **12 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is an increase in comparison to the previous reporting period. There was an increase in casualties, with **1 Fatal Casualty** and **6 Non-Fatal Casualties**.

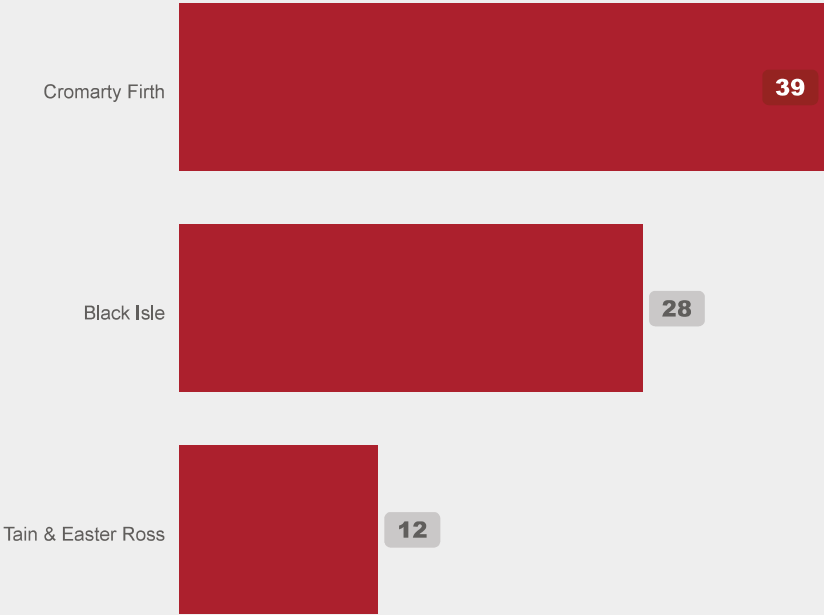
Our Prevention teams continue to work with partner agencies through the Highland Road Safety Group, older driver Virtual Reality Scheme and Road Safety Scheme of new drivers.

10. Home Fire Safety Visits

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

HFSVs by Ward

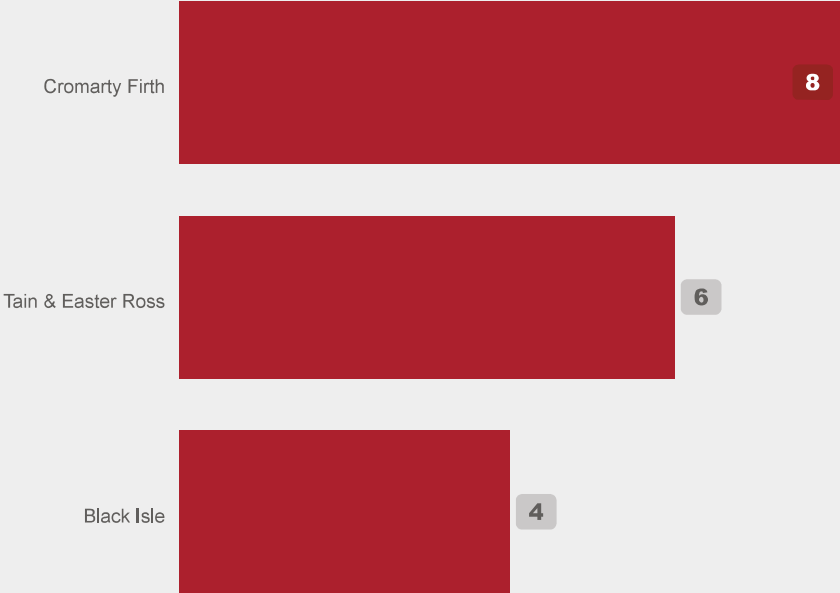
79
Home Fire
Safety Visits



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Audit	18
Consultation	2

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

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

These Stations serve the Black Isle and Easter Ross population

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

Station	Apr – Sept 25 Availability* %	Male	Female	Staff
Balintore (CRU)	N/A	8	0	8
Cromarty (CRU)	N/A	3	1	4
Fortrose	74.78%	5	3	8
Invergordon – 1 st Appliance	99.96%	16	3	19
Invergordon – 2 nd Appliance	81.29%			
Tain	87.24%	11	1	12

Station Engagement with Local Councillor

Fortrose Community Fire Station were delighted to have Councillor Morven-May MacCallum, one of the Black Isle councillors, attend for a station engagement. Councillor MacCallum had asked to come along to thank both the Fortrose and Cromarty crews for their hard work and dedication during the prolonged wildfires in early August. She was provided with information about the Tier 2 wildfire stations, the training and recruitment at stations also.



Rosemarkie Gala



With the sun shining at the Rosemarkie Amenities Fun Day, personnel from our Fortrose Community Fire Station were in attendance. The event was well attended by people of all ages from within the community. Our crew were delivering fire safety advice, road safety advice and information about recruitment opportunities within their community.

Fresher Fayre, Alass UHI

Community Safety Advocates from the Highland Community Action Team were in attendance at the Alass UHI Campus as part of their Freshers Fayre. The students received advice on student safety, electrical safety and the dangers of cooking under influence of alcohol.



Invergordon Community Fire Station Open Day

The Invergordon Community Fire Station held an Open Day to raise funds for the Fire Fighters Charity. The day had something for everyone, with vintage fire engines, fire dogs, fire service demonstrations and various stalls. Members of the public who attended also had the opportunity to try out the equipment carry which is part of the Firefighter Selection Test.

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.