

Agenda Item	3
Report No	LA/1/26

The Highland Council

Committee: Lochaber Area Committee

Date: 26th January 2026

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 Lochaber Area Committee regarding the implementation of the priorities specified in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Committee Plans for Lochaber.
- 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 Lochaber.
- 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 Lochaber Area Committee Performance Report

- 4.1 The enclosed performance report delineates the current metrics for Quarters 1 and 2, covering the period from 1 March to 30 June, 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 established timelines. It's important to note that turnaround times and statistics are subject to delays, and any unresolved data may carry 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 indicates that the number of Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF) in the region has increased since the last report, with twelve incidents recorded in the current reporting period. During this period there were fifteen ADF casualties one of which was a fatality but fourteen of which were rescued in one incident by SFRS crews from Lochaber as well as other districts. Of those fifteen casualties seven went to hospital with slight injuries with four going to hospital with serious injuries. Additionally, during this period, there were five Non-Domestic fire-related incidents, which is slightly higher than in previous periods. This report highlights fourteen occurrences of primary or secondary fire incidents involving deliberate fires, showing an increase compared to the three-year average.

During this reporting period, 17 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) were recorded, which is lower than in previous reporting periods. These incidents resulted in three fatalities, six non-fatal injuries, and three people being rescued by firefighters.

Furthermore, there were twenty-one incidents related to Non-Fire Emergencies within this period, which is above the average and suggests an increase over the three-year span. These incidents resulted in seven casualties, and six rescues.

- 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 22 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://www.firescotland.gov.uk/unwanted-fire-alarm-signals-ufas/)

Designation: Local Senior Officer for Highland

Date: 9/12/26

Author: Station Commander Che Scott

Background Papers: Highland - Lochaber Area Committee Performance Report



Highland Lochaber Committee

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**

Highland Lochaber Committee

2025-26 Q1 & Q2 Scrutiny Report

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About the statistics within this report

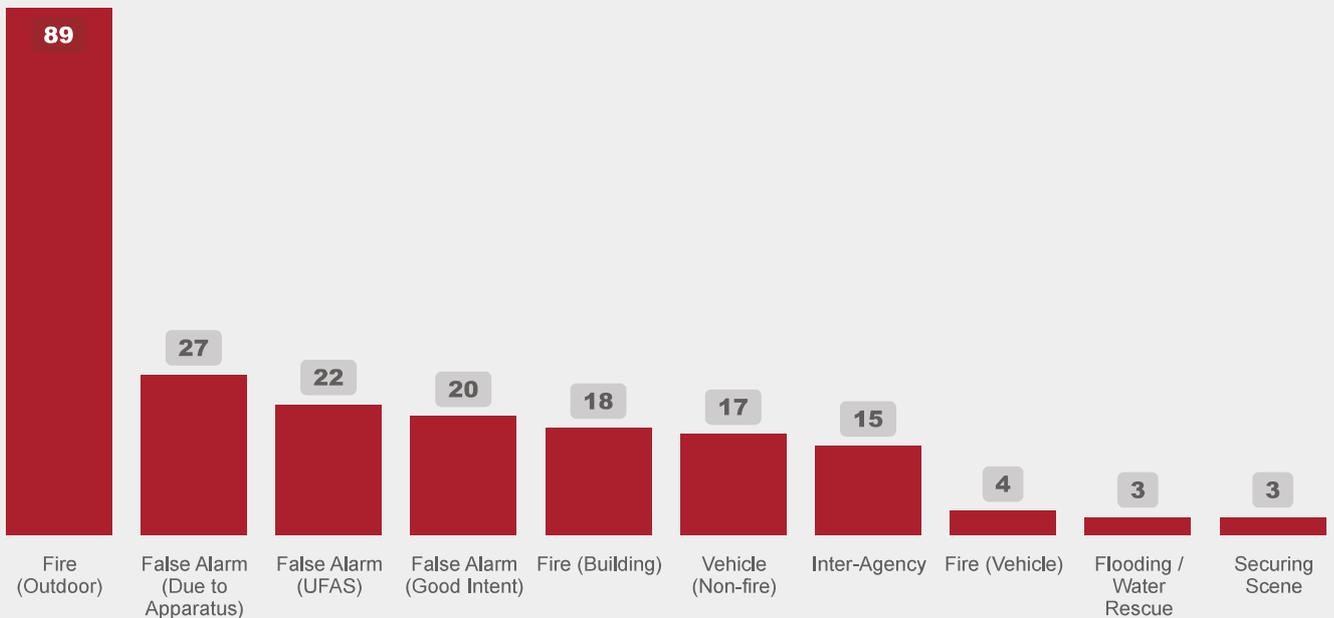
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference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

 222 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	 111 Fires	 41 Non-Fire Incidents	 70 False Alarms	 22 UFAS
 24 People Rescued by Firefighters	 0 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	 4 Fire Fatalities	 11 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	 1 Non-Fire Fatalities
 55 Home Fire Safety Visits	 18 Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types

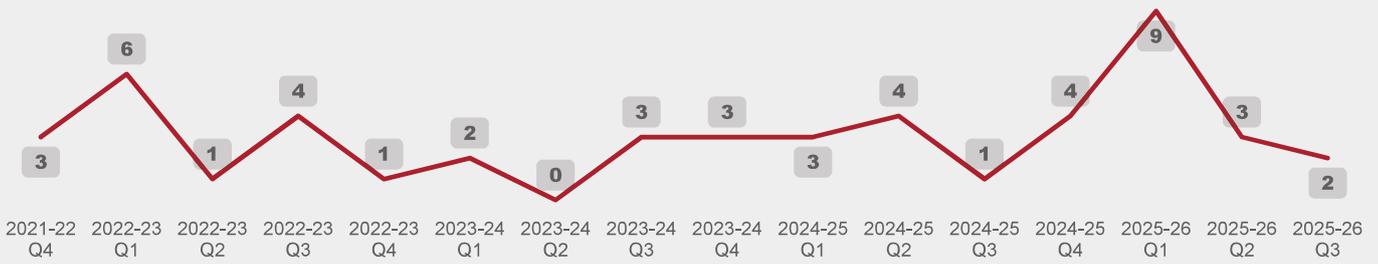


The information above provides a summary of the six-months (1 April - 30 September 2025) activity against headline indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

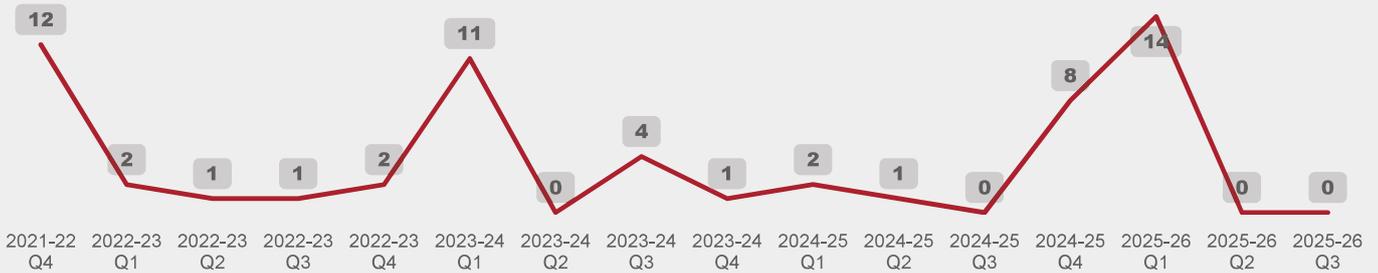
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

Accidental Dwelling Fires



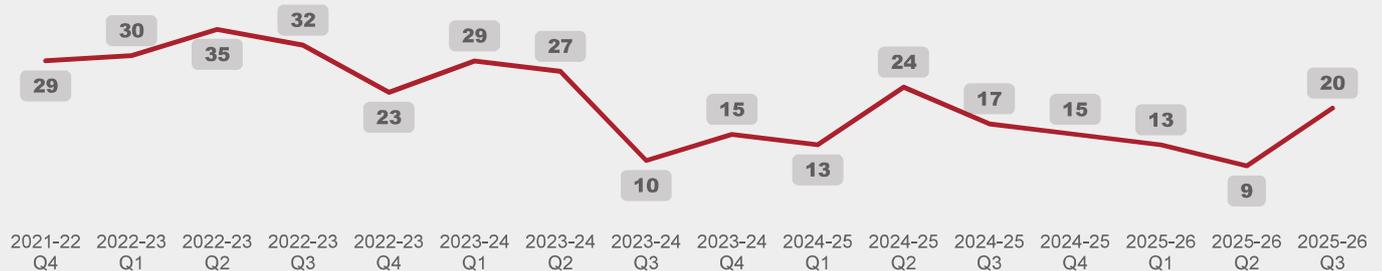
Deliberate Fires



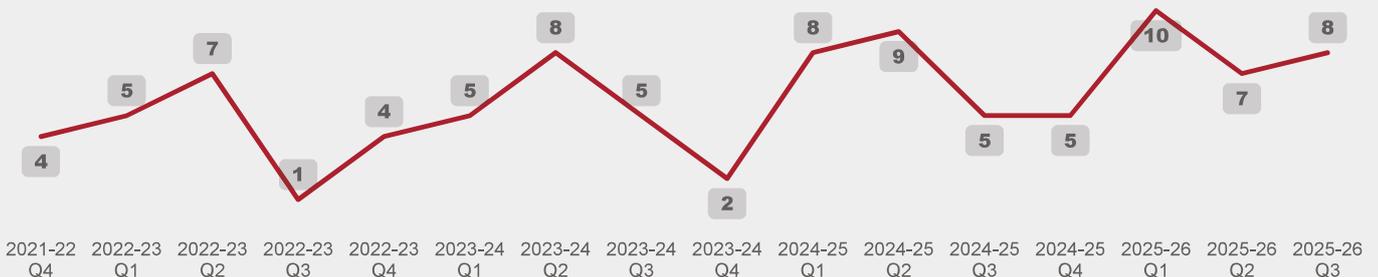
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



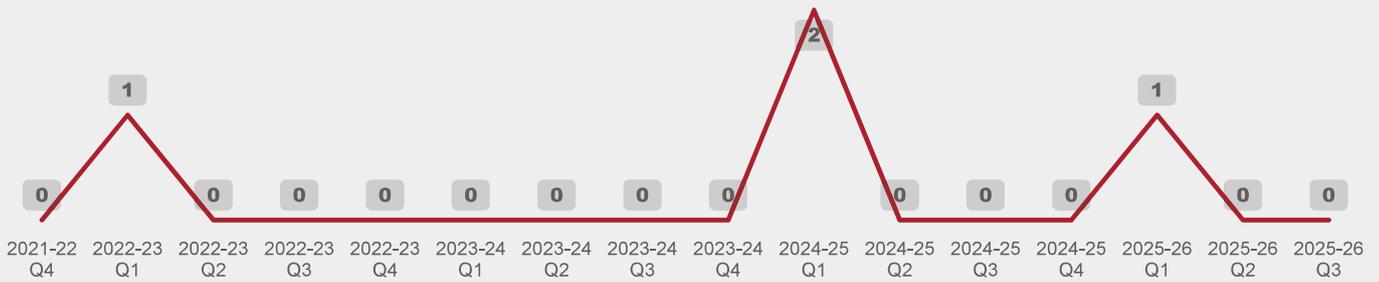
Road Traffic Collisions



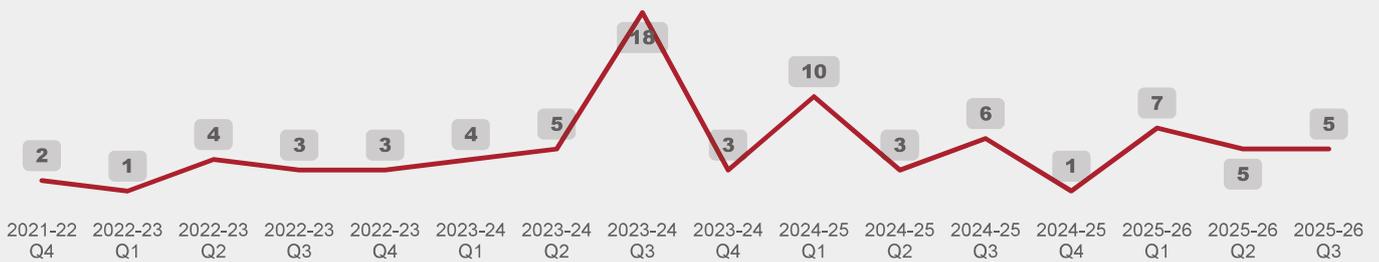
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

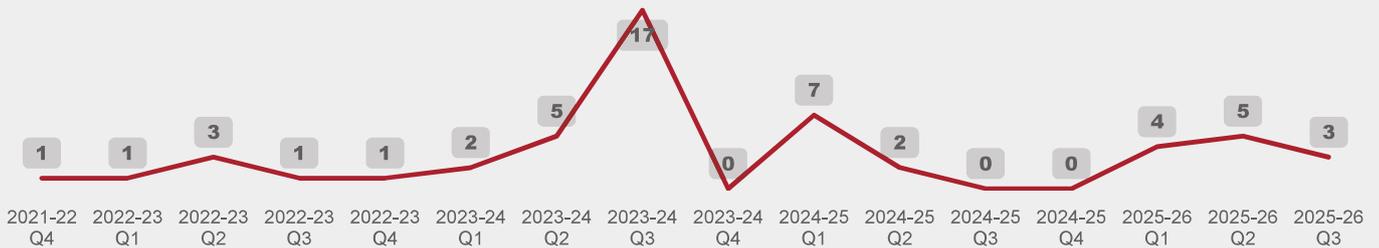
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



Non-Fire Casualties



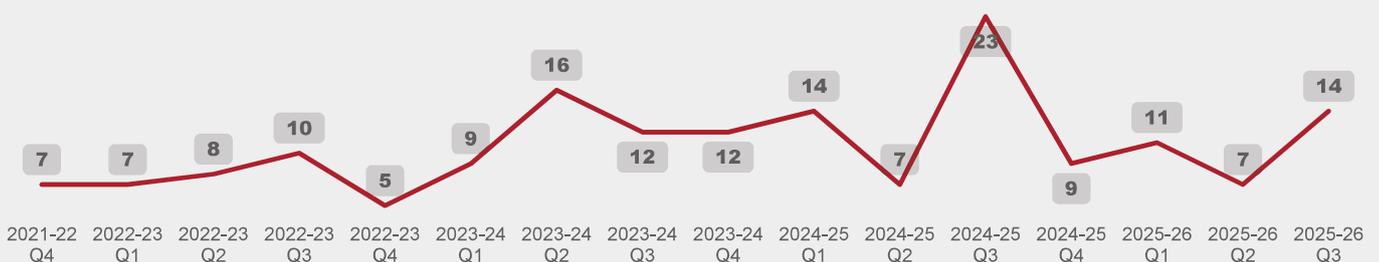
Road Traffic Collision Casualties



Home Fire Safety Visits



Fire Safety Audits



3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

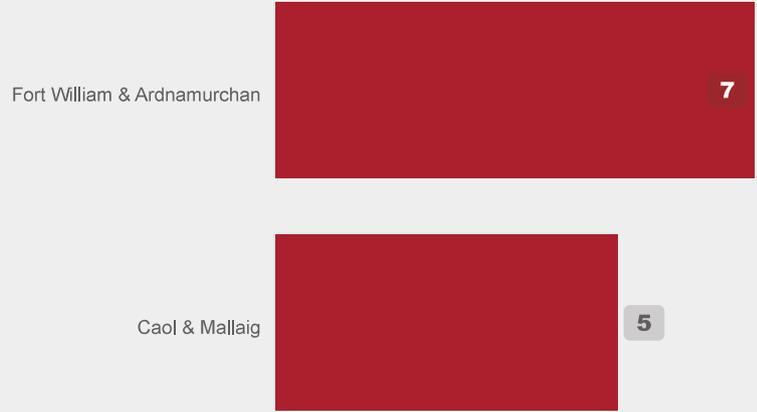
2025-26 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Extent of Damage	Incidents
Limited to item 1st ignited	6
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	3
Affecting more than 2 floors (not whole building)	1
Limited to room of origin	1
Whole building	1

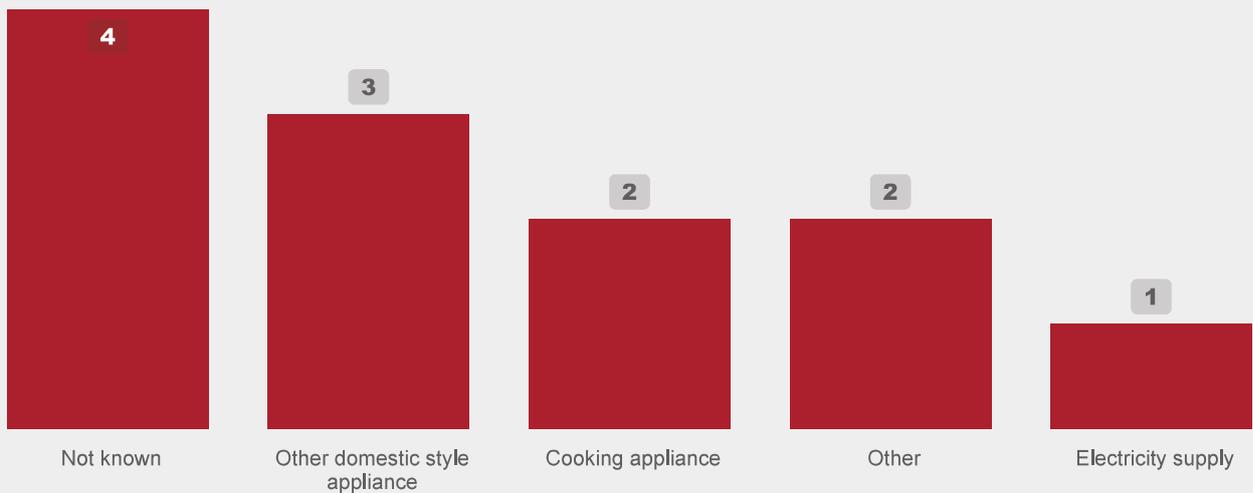
Incidents by Ward



12

Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

Source of Ignition (Top 10)



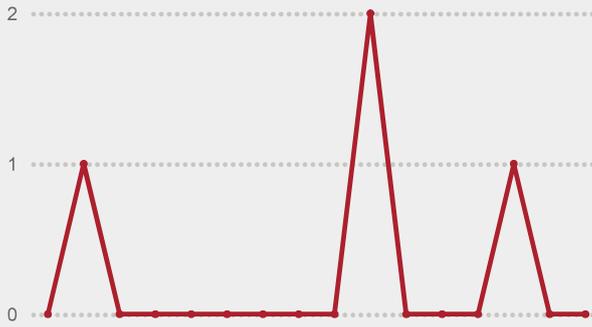
In this reporting period there were **12 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)**, which is an increase when compared to the previous reporting period. Whilst the majority of these were classed as low severity, requiring little or no intervention from the Service and minimal fire damage, one incident did result in a fatality.

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)



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Not known	1

Casualties by Ward

Fort William & Ardnamurchan

1

0

Non-Fatal Casualties

1

Fatal Casualties

14

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given at Scene



0

Hospital Slight Injuries



0

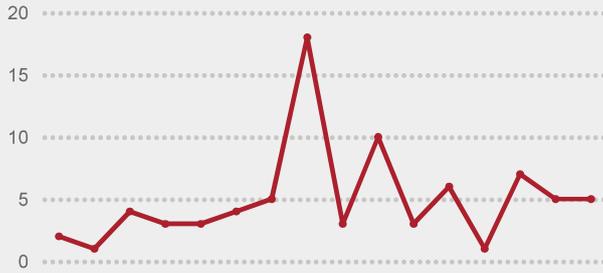
Hospital Serious Injuries

Sadly there was **1 ADF Fatality** to report in this period, however there were **0 ADF Non-Fatal Casualties**. 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

Caol & Mallaig

7

Fort William & Ardnamurchan

5

Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Back / Neck injury (spinal)	4
Not known	2
Breathing difficulties (Other than 'Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes, asphyxiation')	1
Chest pain / Heart condition / Cardiac arrest	1
Drowning	1
Fracture	1
Head injury	1
Unconscious, fitting or unresponsive (no other evident significant injury)	1

11

Non-Fatal
Casualties

1

Fatal
Casualties

10

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 Fatal Non-Fire Casualty** and **11 Non-Fatal Non-Fire Casualties**. This is an increase in Non-Fatal Casualties when compared to the previous reporting period.

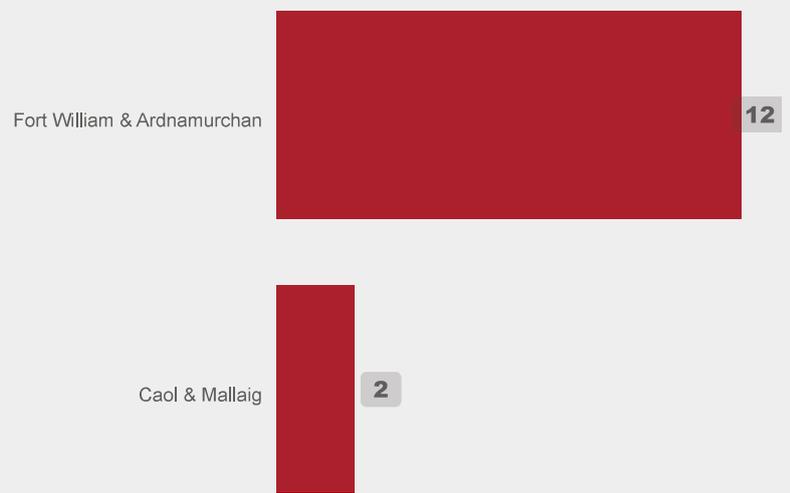
6. Deliberate Fires

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward

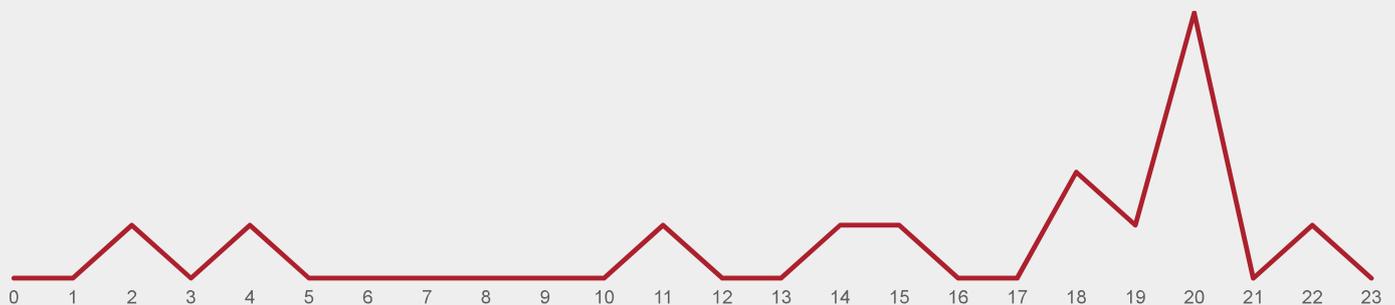


Property Type	Incident
Grassland, woodland and crops	8
Refuse	2
Other outdoors (including land)	1
Other Residential	1
Outdoor structures	1
Road Vehicle	1

14

**Deliberate Fires
in this period**

Hour of Day



There were **14 Deliberate Fires** during this reporting period, which sees an increase from 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
Hotel/motel	2
Boarding House/B&B other	1
Education	1
Offices and call centres	1

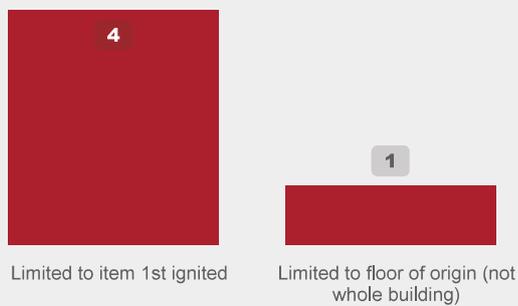
Incidents by Ward



5

**Non-Domestic
Fires in this
period**

Extent of Damage

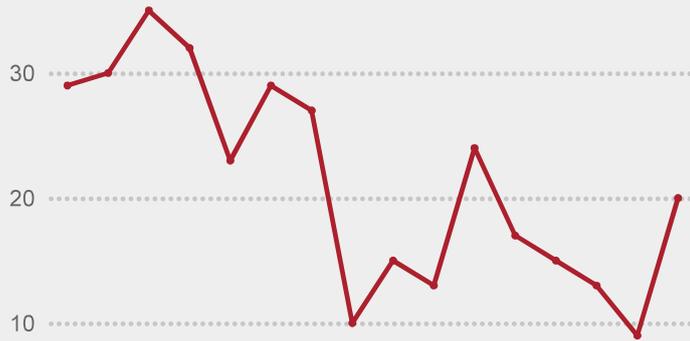


There were **5 Non-Domestic Building Fires** which is comparable to the previous reporting period.

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
Hospitals and medical care	2
Other Residential Home	2
Sheltered Housing - not self contained	2
Boarding House/B&B other	1
Education	1
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	1
Residential Home	1

22

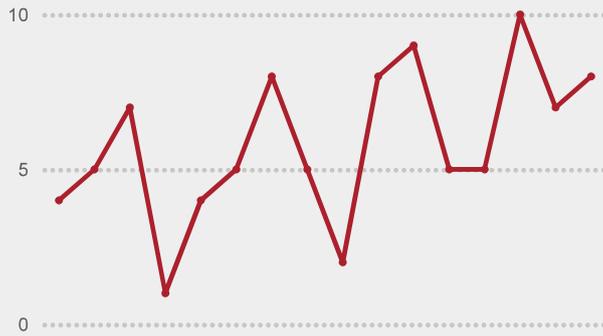
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

We attended **22 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during this period, which is a significant 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.

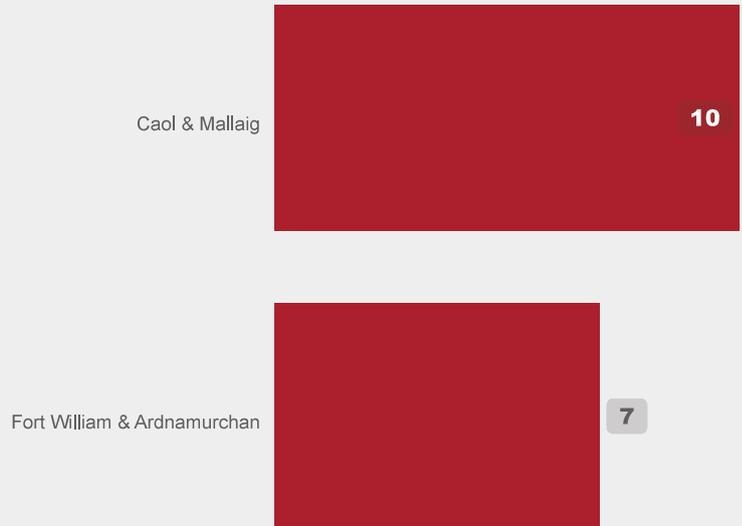
9. Road Traffic Collisions

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



17

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
Car	14
Lorry/HGV	2
Motorcycle	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	16
Fire (Vehicle)	1

6 Non-Fatal Casualties

3 Fatal Casualties

3 People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

 **0**
First Aid Given at Scene

 **4**
Hospital Slight Injuries

 **2**
Hospital Serious Injuries

We attended **17 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is an increase when compared to the previous reporting period. There were **3 RTC Fatalities** 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

55

Home Fire Safety Visits

Fort William & Ardnamurchan

31

Caol & Mallaig

24

11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Audit	18
Consultation	4
Short Post Fire Audit	1

Audits by Ward

Fort William & Ardnamurchan

15

Caol & Mallaig

3

Our Community Safety Advocates and Station personnel undertook **55 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs)**. With the introduction of the 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 system and referral pathways are embedded in.

12. Station Availability and Establishment

2025-26 Q1 & Q2

- 9 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 7 Stations

These Stations serve the Lochaber population

***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
Fort William – 1 st Appliance	100%	20	2	22
Fort William – 2 nd Appliance	86.56%			
Kilchoan	0.23%	2	1	3
Kinlochleven – 1 st Appliance	69.69%	7	1	8
Kinlochleven – 2 nd Appliance	0%			
Lochaline	60.68%	4	2	6
Mallaig	18.91%	4	0	4
Strontian	64.89%	5	2	7

Fort William RTC Awareness Session



In April Fort William launched an RTC Awareness session for Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service with 13 personnel attending. Together, they explored partnership working, enhancing collaboration at incidents and understanding of each other's procedures.



Nursery Visit by Fort William Station

Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Lochaber received a visit from Fort William Fire Station in April. The children had the opportunity to be shown around the appliance and engaged with a show and tell.

Fort William Community Station – Conference Meeting Room Facilities

The Conference Room at Fort William Fire Station is utilised on a regular basis by a variety of community groups and also visits from schools within the area.

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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BUSINESS
INTELLIGENCE

Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.