

Agenda Item	3
Report No	BIER/13/26

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Black Isle & Easter Ross Area Committee

Meeting Date: 11 May 2026

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 3&4 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 8 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 13 road traffic collisions (RTC) reported during this period with 13 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 70 home fire safety visits (HFSV) were carried out during this period.

Designation: Local Senior Officer for Highland

Date: 20/04/2026

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 Q3 & Q4
Scrutiny Report**



**SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

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for a safer Scotland**

Highland

Black Isle and Easter Ross Area Committee

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Scrutiny Report

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About the statistics within this report

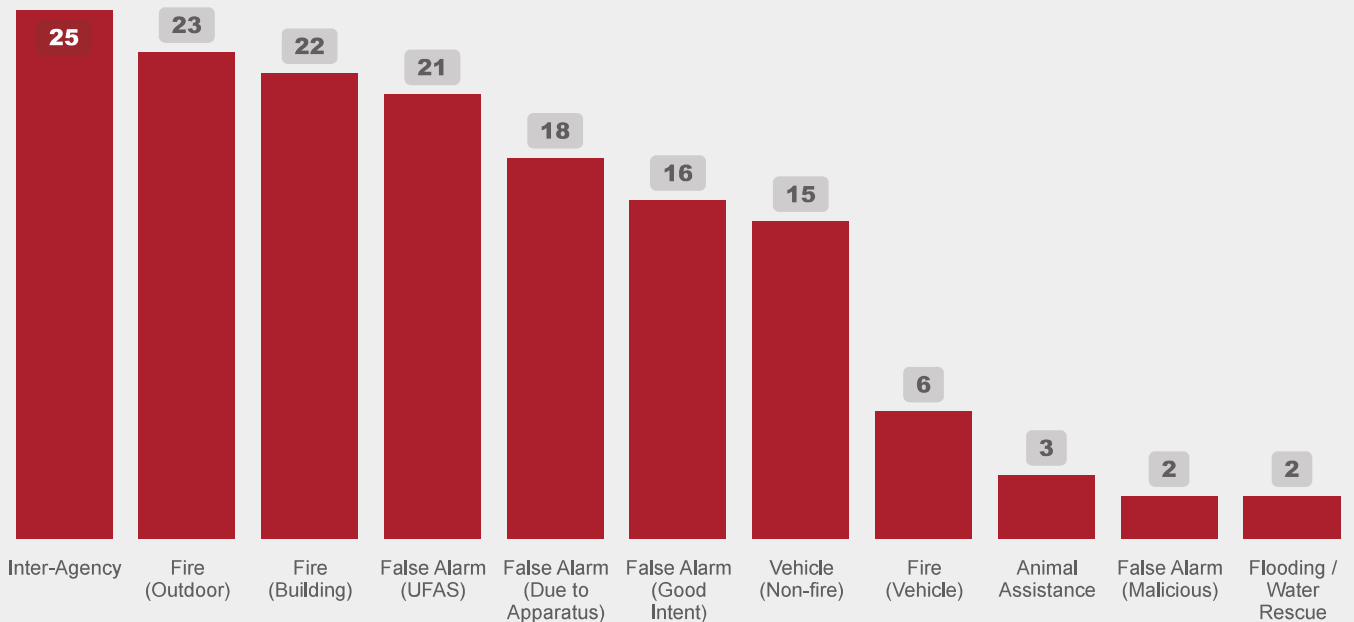
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference 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 Q3 & Q4

 156 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	 51 Fires	 48 Non-Fire Incidents	 57 False Alarms	 21 UFAS
 8 People Rescued by Firefighters	 1 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	 0 Fire Fatalities	 22 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	 3 Non-Fire Fatalities
 70 Home Fire Safety Visits	 14 Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types

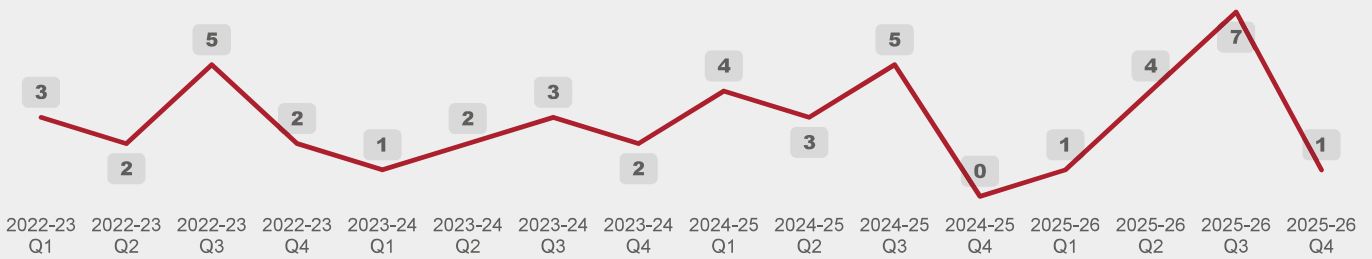


The information above provides a summary of the six-months (1 October 2025 - 31 March 2026) activity against headline indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

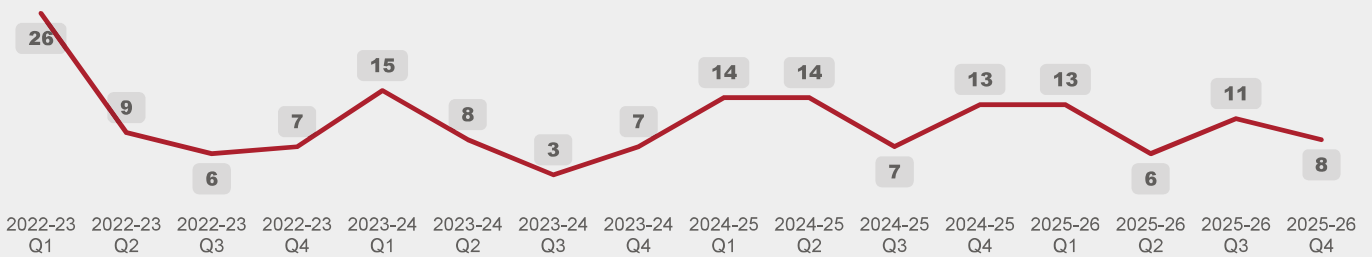
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

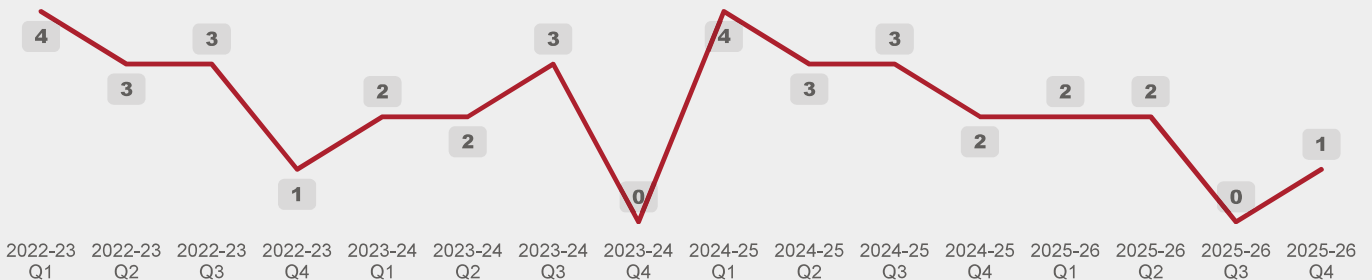
Accidental Dwelling Fires



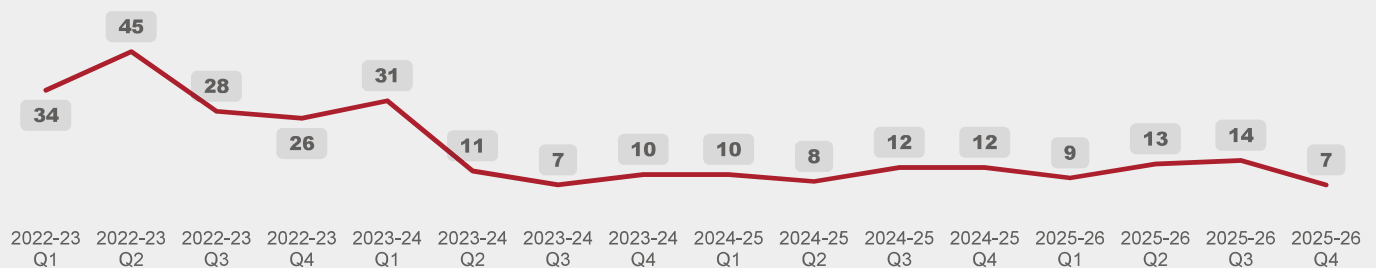
Deliberate Fires



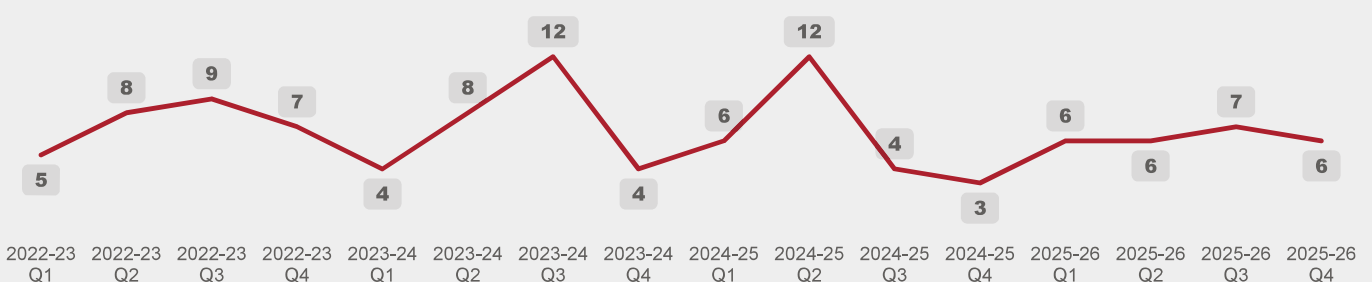
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



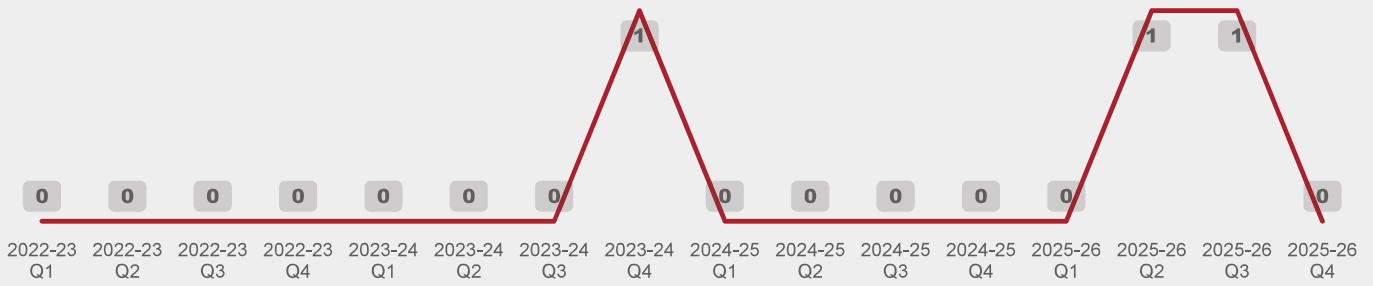
Road Traffic Collisions



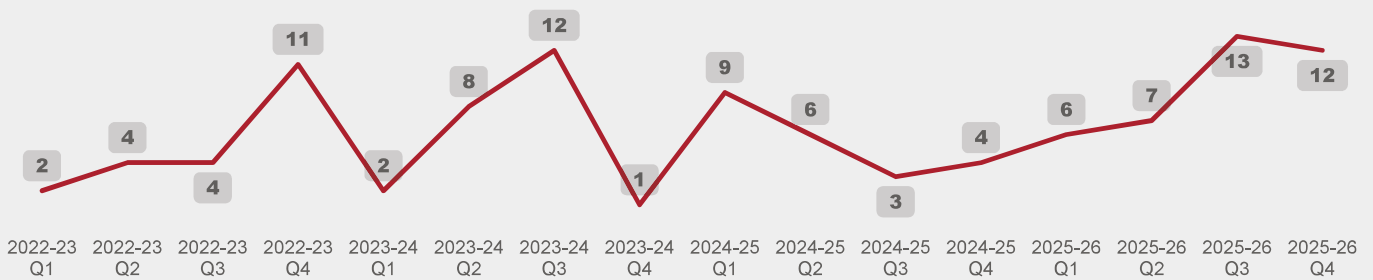
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

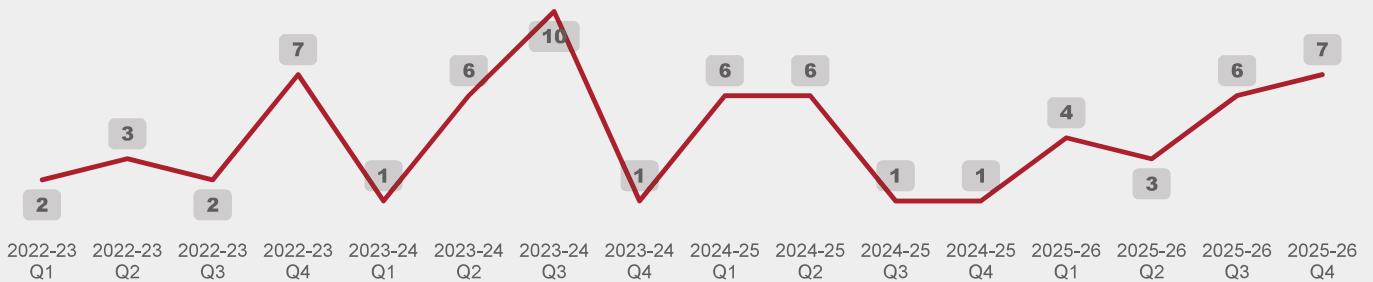
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



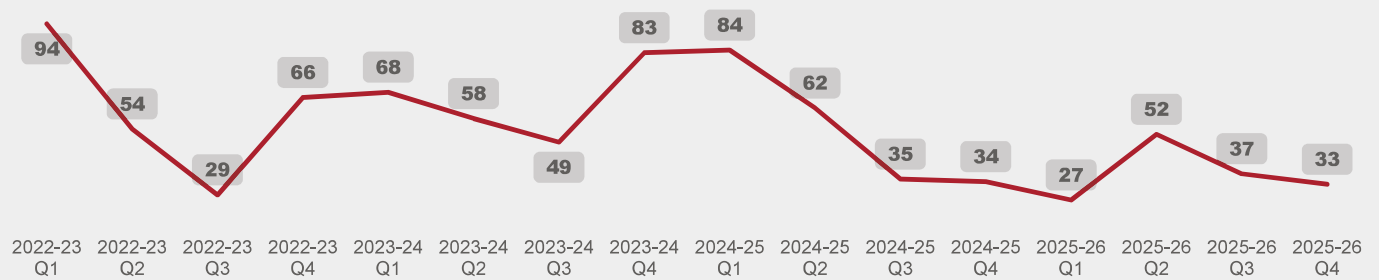
Non-Fire Casualties



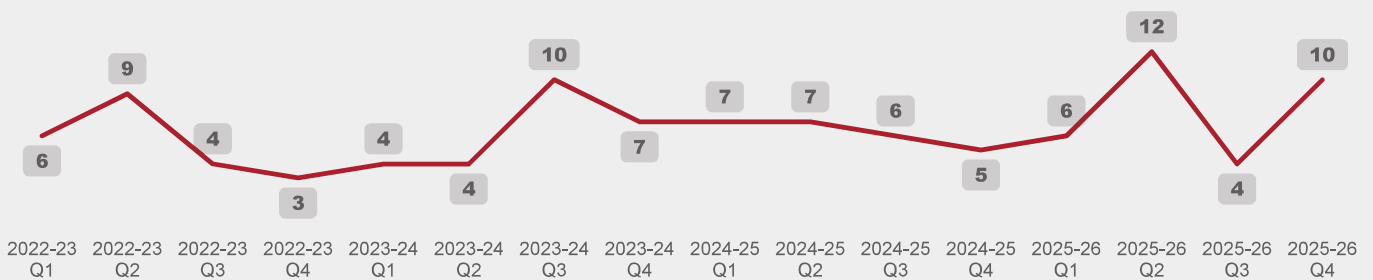
Road Traffic Collision Casualties



Home Fire Safety Visits



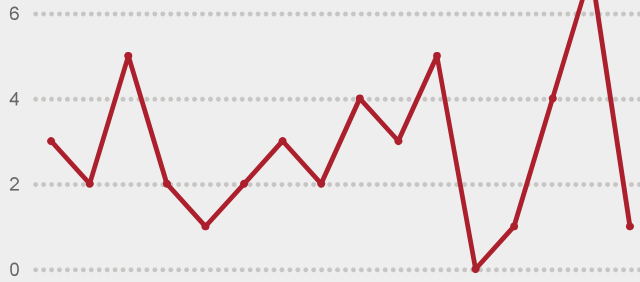
Fire Safety Audits



3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

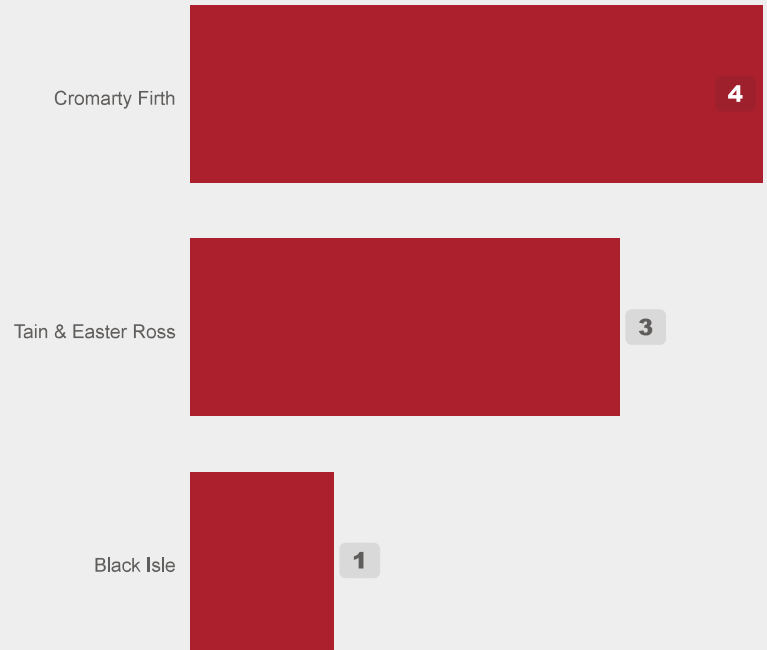
2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Extent of Damage	Incidents
Not applicable	4
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	1
Limited to item 1st ignited	1
Limited to room of origin	1
Whole building	1

Incidents by Ward



Source of Ignition (Top 10)



8

Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

There were **8 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)** within this reporting period which is an increase when compared to the previous reporting period. The majority was 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 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation	1

Casualties by Ward



1

Non-Fatal Casualties

0

Fatal Casualties

1

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

 **0**
First Aid Given at Scene

 **1**
Hospital Slight Injuries

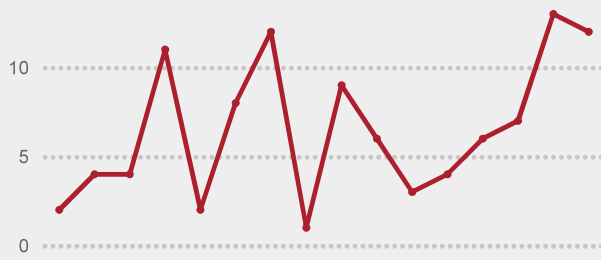
 **0**
Hospital Serious Injuries

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

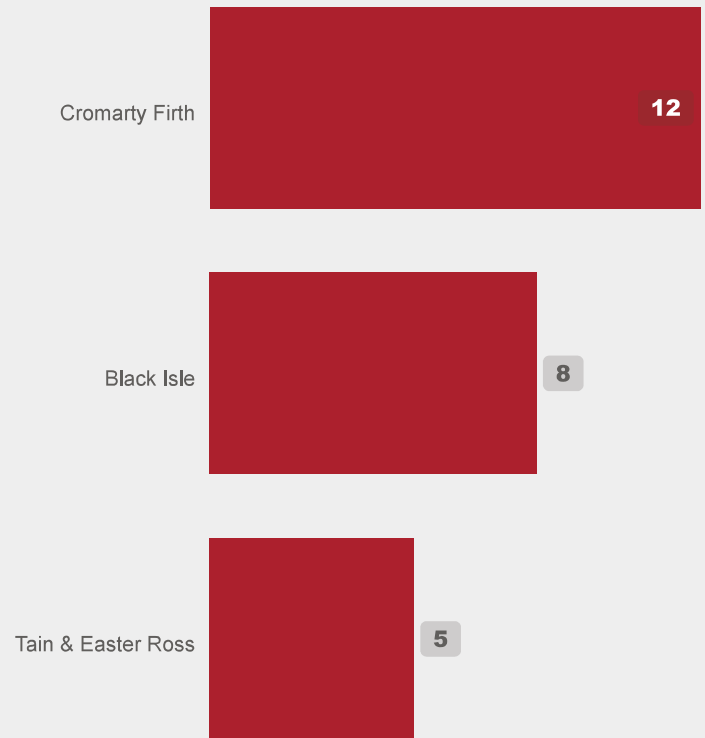
5. Non-Fire Casualties

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Back / Neck injury (spinal)	7
Not known	5
Other	5
Fracture	2
Other physical injury	2
Bruising	1
Chest / Abdominal injury	1
Hypothermia	1
Unconscious, fitting or unresponsive (no other evident significant injury)	1

22

**Non-Fatal
Casualties**

3

**Fatal
Casualties**

7

**People
Rescued by
Firefighters**

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

**First Aid Given
at Scene**



16

**Hospital Slight
Injuries**



6

**Hospital Serious
Injuries**

During this reporting period there were **3 Fatal Non-Fire Casualties** and **22 Non-Fatal Non-Fire Casualties**, of which 16 went to hospital with what appeared to be slight injuries and 6 went to hospital with what appeared to be serious injuries. There were also 7 people rescued by the firefighters.

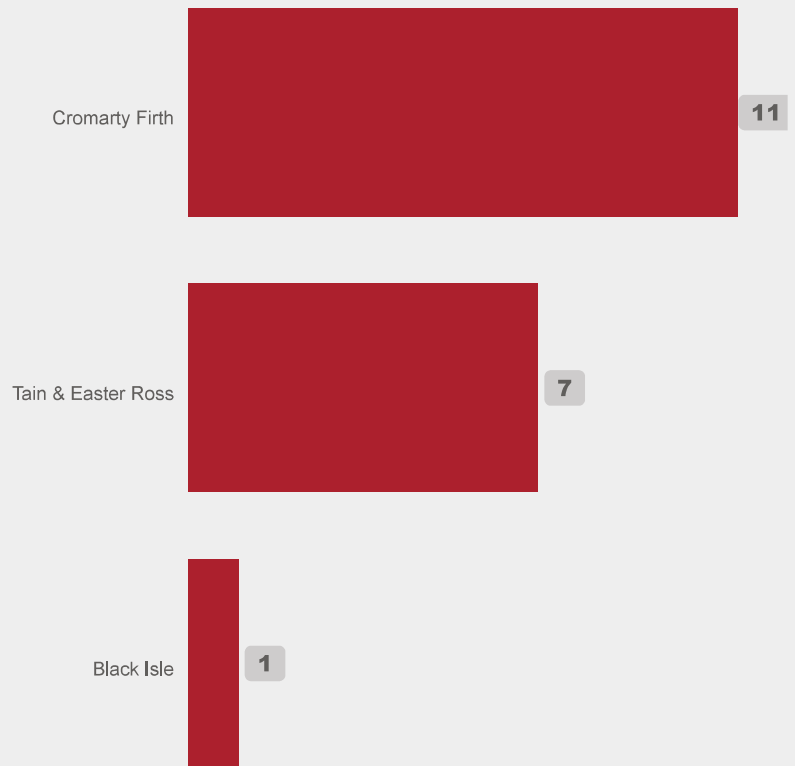
6. Deliberate Fires

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward

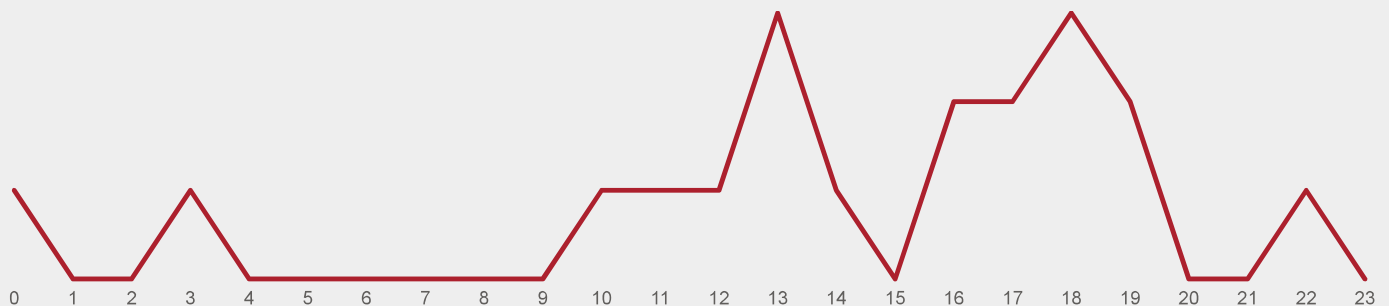


Property Type	Incident
Grassland, woodland and crops	7
Refuse	6
Other outdoors (including land)	3
Dwelling	2
Non Residential	1

19

**Deliberate Fires
in this period**

Hour of Day

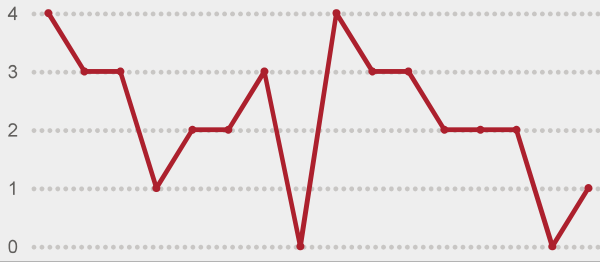


There were **19 Deliberate Fires** within this reporting period, which is comparable to the previous reporting period. Referrals are made to other agencies for those at work within our communities.

7. Non-Domestic Fires

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

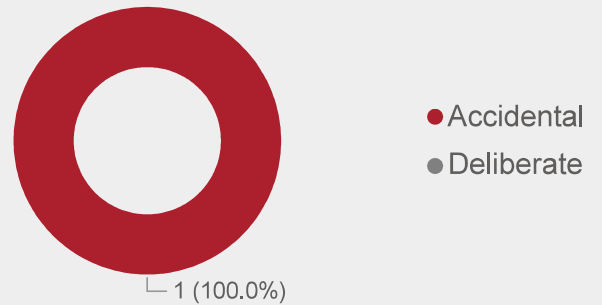
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Industrial Manufacturing	1

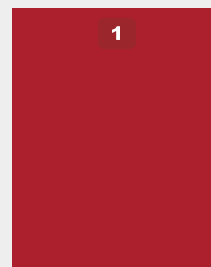
Incidents by Ward



1

Non-Domestic Fires in this period

Extent of Damage



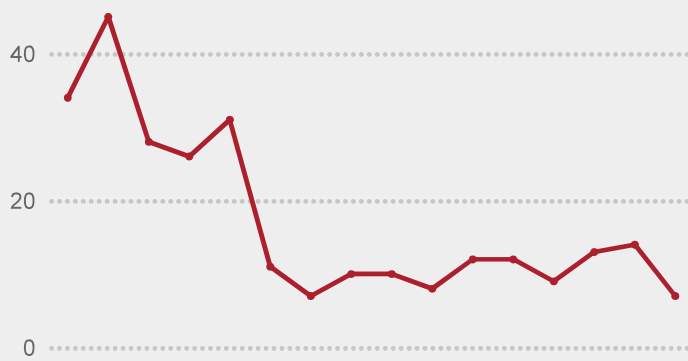
Limited to item 1st ignited

There was 1 Non-Domestic Fire within this six-month reporting period, which is a reduction when compared to the previous period.

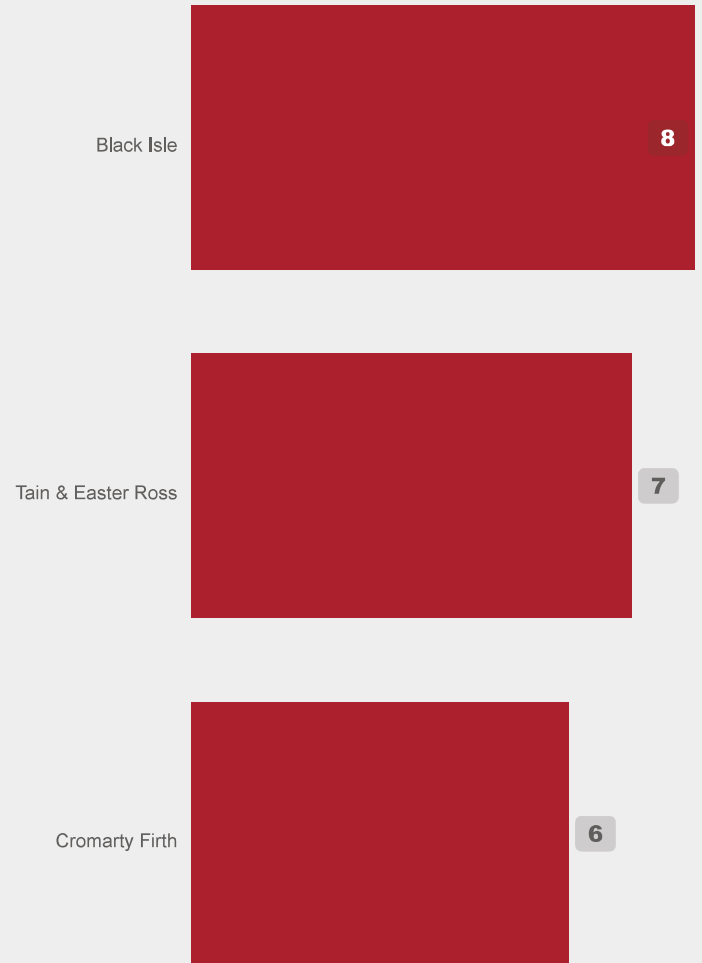
8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Residential Home	13
Hotel/motel	5
Hospitals and medical care	2
Public toilets	1

21

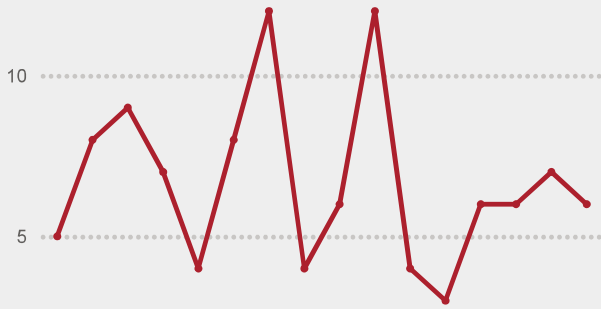
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

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

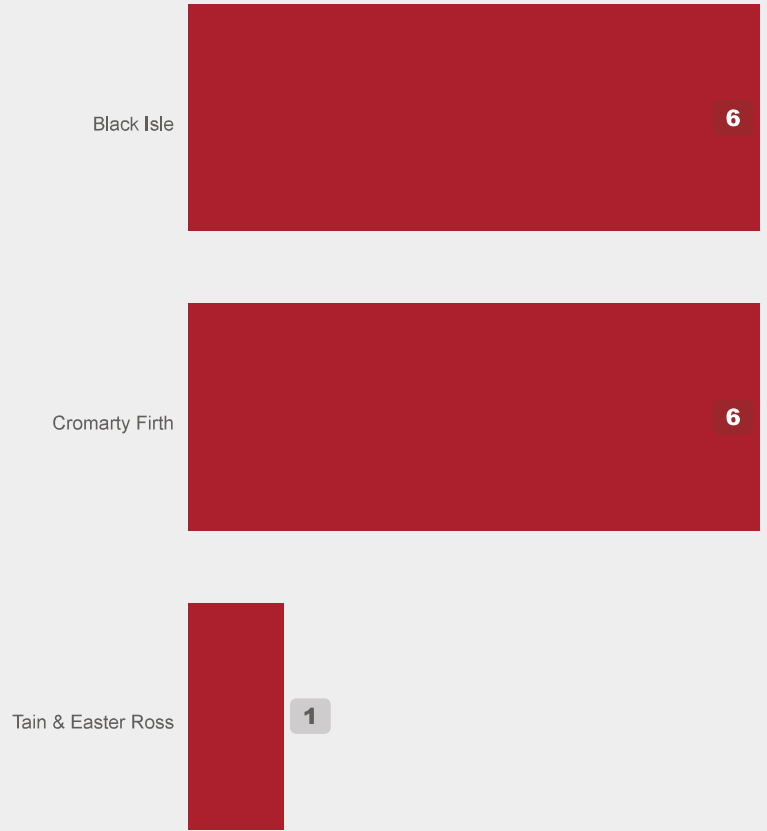
9. Road Traffic Collisions

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



13

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
Car	12
Multiple Vehicles	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	13

13 Non-Fatal Casualties **0** Fatal Casualties **0** People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

 **0**
First Aid Given at Scene

 **9**
Hospital Slight Injuries

 **4**
Hospital Serious Injuries

Within this reporting period, we attended **13 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is a slight increase in comparison to the previous reporting period. There were **13 Non-Fatal Casualties**, with nine requiring hospital treatment for what appeared to be slight injuries and four requiring hospital treatment for what appeared to be serious injuries.

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.

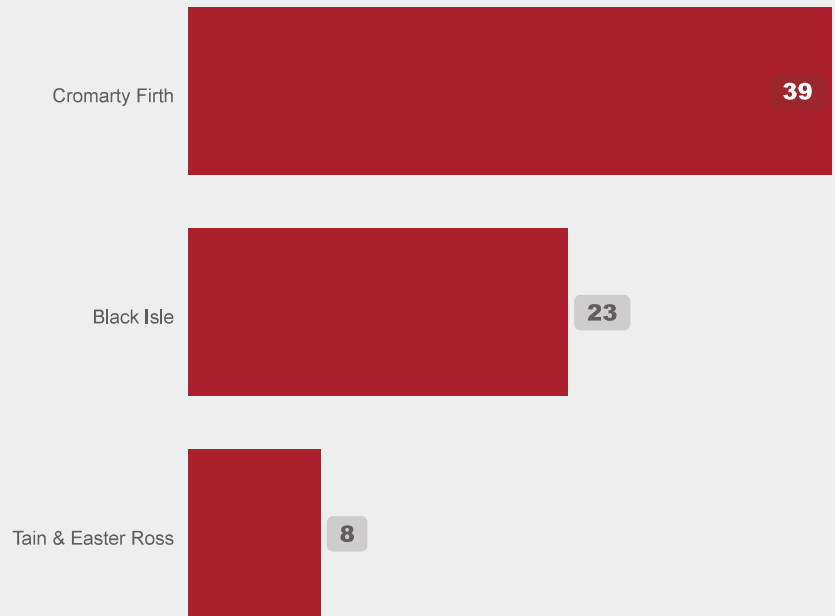
10. Home Fire Safety Visits

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

HFSVs by Ward

70

**Home Fire
Safety Visits**



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Audit	14
Consultation	1

Audits by Ward



We undertook **70 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs)** within this reporting period. With the introduction of the new, modernised Home Fire Safety Visits 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.

Our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers and Auditing Officers have conducted **14 Audits** and **1 Consultation** in this period.

12. Station Availability and Establishment

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

- 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	Oct 25 – Nov 25 Availability* %	Staff 30/11/25	Dec 25 – Mar 26 Availability* %	Staff 31/03/26
Balintore (CRU)	N/A	8	88.97%	7
Cromarty (CRU)	N/A	4	61.76%	5
Fortrose	72.23%	8	88.16%	7
Invergordon – 1 st Appliance	100%	19	100%	19
Invergordon – 2 nd Appliance	82.86%		87.16%	
Tain	92.03%	12	93.11%	12

Due to a change in systems the availability has been split into two time periods to account for the change over date.

Black Isle Community Magazine "Chatterbox"



There was a recent article in the Black Isle community magazine, "Chatterbox", which was written by two Fortrose Academy pupils who are undertaking Higher English. The article gives an insight into the role of a Firefighter and how they play a part within the local community and help promote and assist in the recruitment of On Call Firefighters within the Black Isle area and potentially further afield.

Councillor Morven May Macallum was of great assistance in achieving this by contacting Fortrose Academy and offering support and mentoring to the two pupils. This came about following her visit to Fortrose station last year where she met crews from Fortrose, Invergordon and Cromarty whilst undertaking important wildfire training.



Cromarty Station Annual Halloween Event



The crew at Cromarty Station go to great lengths to decorate the outside of the station and appliance with all things Halloween. Local adults and children alike all come along for some ghoulish treats and of course fire service awareness. Community spirit and interaction were aplenty.

Wildfire Unit Visits Ardersier Primary School

In November the Invergordon Wildfire Unit visited Ardersier Primary School in support of the school's campaign on Wildfire Prevention following the Data/Carrbridge and Culbin wildfires in 2025. The school produced a song and music video.



Visits to Local Schools and Nursery

Invergordon Station have been visiting local schools and nursery over this period. In November, they visited Obsdale Nursery and P1 and P2 pupils where they had the chance to see the fire appliance and also received a talk. In February, the crew attended Alness Academy and engaged with the S3 Safe & Healthy Group discussing with them careers in the Fire Service, home fire safety, road safety and the Spring TAP. They visited Newmore Primary to support their "People Who Help Us / Careers Week"

Anthony Nolan Registration Event

In March, an Anthony Nolan event was held at Invergordon Academy, which the crew from Invergordon Station supported. The event saw 19 pupils registering for Anthony Nolan.

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.