

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	3
Report No	CIA/20/26

Committee: City Of Inverness Area Committee

Date: 14/04/2026

Report Title: Scottish Fire and Rescue Area Committee Performance Report

Report By: Local Senior Officer for Highlands

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update to City of Inverness Area Committee Members on progress against the priorities outlined in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Committee Plan.
- 1.2 Priority areas are identified through a range of Intervention, Prevention and Protection activities, delivered through partnership, to actively reduce the risk to the communities of the City of Inverness.

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 City Of Inverness Area Committee

4.1 The attached performance report provides the current figures for Quarters Q3 & Q4 of 2025 – 26 and from the previous three reporting years 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 addressing key priorities within the Area Plan, we continue to work towards implementation of our updated Home Fire Safety Visit framework. This will significantly improve information-sharing with partner agencies and ensure our resources are targeted towards the most vulnerable in our communities. Our Post Domestic Incident Response activity continues to be implemented at all domestic incidents, regardless of type, aimed at reducing accidental dwelling fires.

In relation to commercial, relevant premises, the continued application of our Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Policy actively reduces the number of calls to focus on essential emergency responses.

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 There were **22 Accident Dwelling Fires (ADF)** which is comparable with previous reporting period and is just below the 3-year average.

The majority are classed as low severity, requiring little or no intervention from the Service and minimal fire damage.

There were **0** Accidental Dwelling Fire fatalities and **2** Accidental Dwelling Fire casualties, again a reduction from the last reporting period.

All Accidental Dwelling Fires will invoke our Post Domestic Incident Response Policy, offering Home Fire Safety Visits and agency referrals where necessary.

Our personnel undertook **184 Home Fire Safety Visits** within this reporting period, continuing to target those most at risk within our communities.

There were **54 Deliberate Fires, 9 of which was a Deliberate Primary Fire, 45 being Deliberate Secondary Fires.** The recent high prevalence of deliberate secondary fires is being proactively addressed through partnership working with Police Scotland.

There were **11 Non-Domestic Building Fires** which is slightly higher than the previous period.

We attended **15 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is lower than the previous report.

There were **0 RTC-related fatalities** and **10 RTC-related injuries**.

Our Prevention team continues to work with partner agencies through a myriad of initiatives, to proactively reduce RTC-related statistics.

We attended **135 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals** showing a decrease from the last reporting period and when compared to the 3-year average.

Recent changes in our Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Policy continue to show a significant downturn in such incidents, allowing focus on essential emergency response.

Designation: Local Senior Officer for Highlands

Date: 14/04/2026

Author: Station Commander Kevin Dingwall

Background Papers: City Of Inverness Committee Performance Report

Appendices:



Highland

City of Inverness Area Committee

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Scrutiny Report



**SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

Highland

City of Inverness Area Committee

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Scrutiny Report

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About the statistics within this report

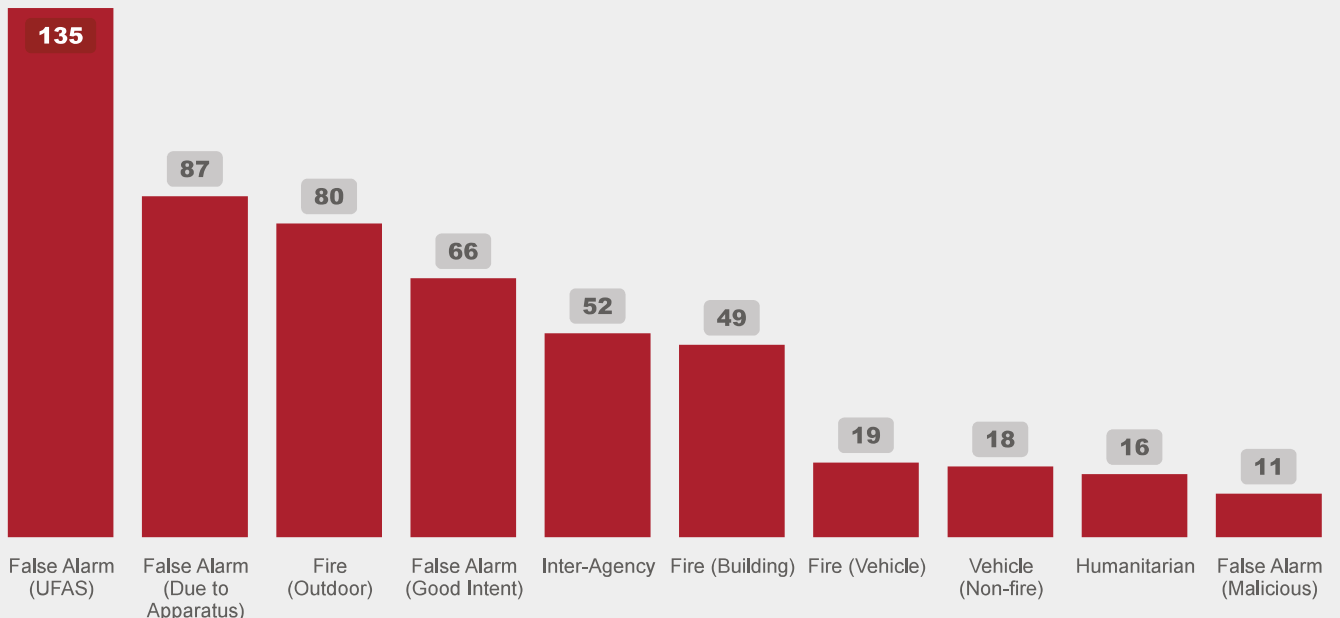
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference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

 556 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	 148 Fires	 109 Non-Fire Incidents	 299 False Alarms	 135 UFAS
 39 People Rescued by Firefighters	 3 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	 0 Fire Fatalities	 21 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	 1 Non-Fire Fatalities
 184 Home Fire Safety Visits	 71 Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types

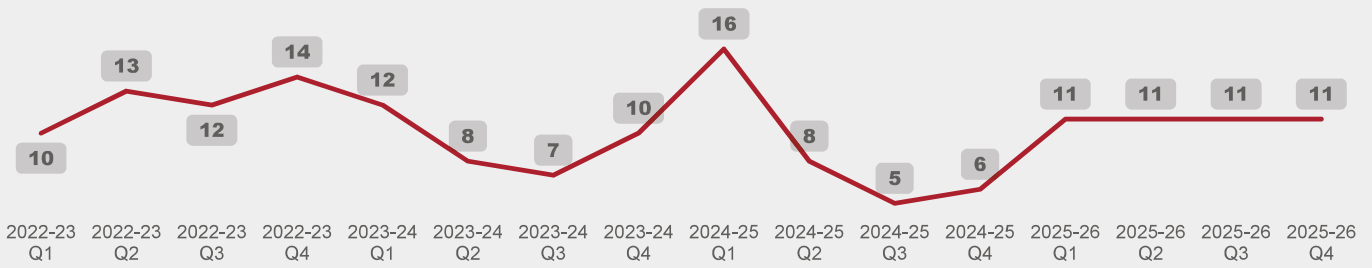


The information above provides a summary of the six-months (1 October 2025 - 31 March 2026) activity against headline indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

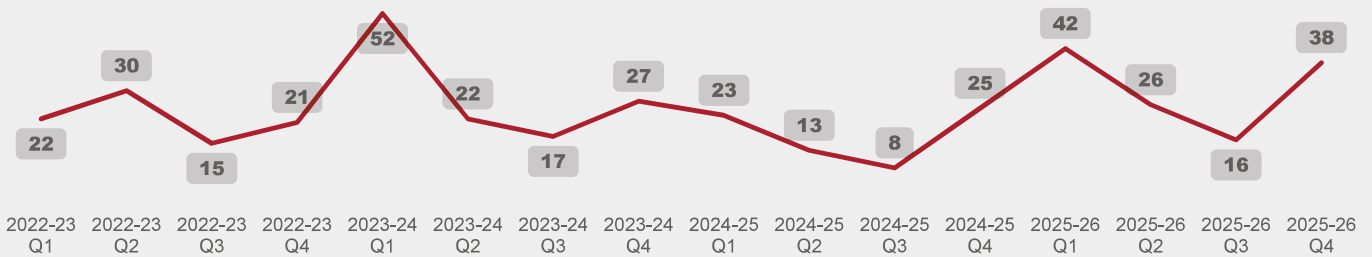
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

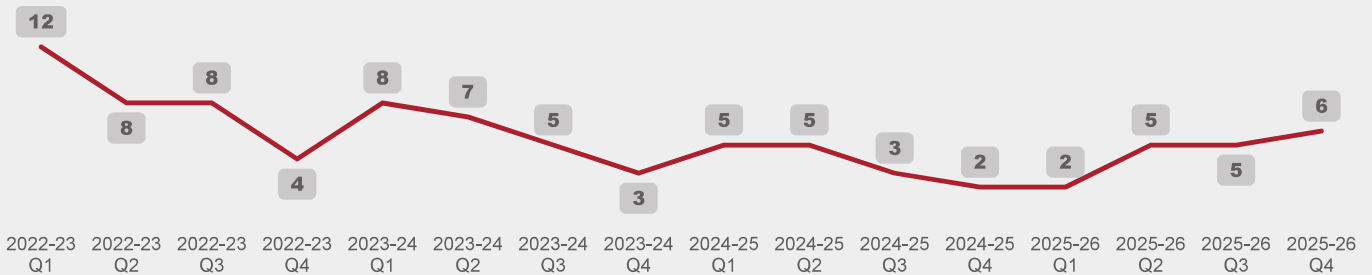
Accidental Dwelling Fires



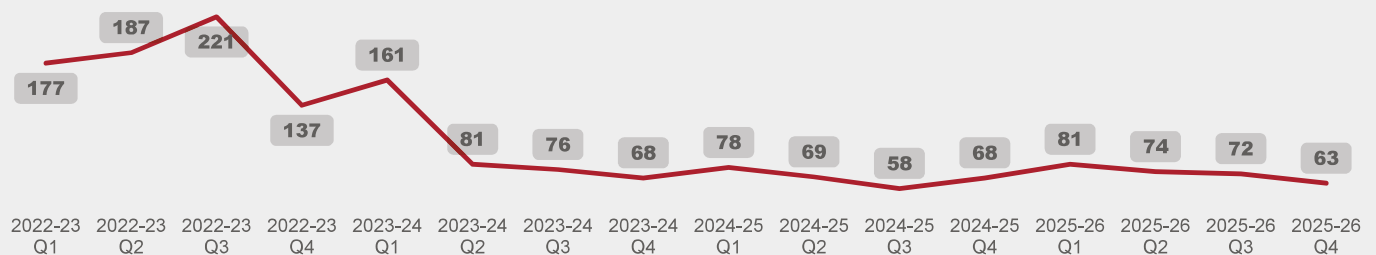
Deliberate Fires



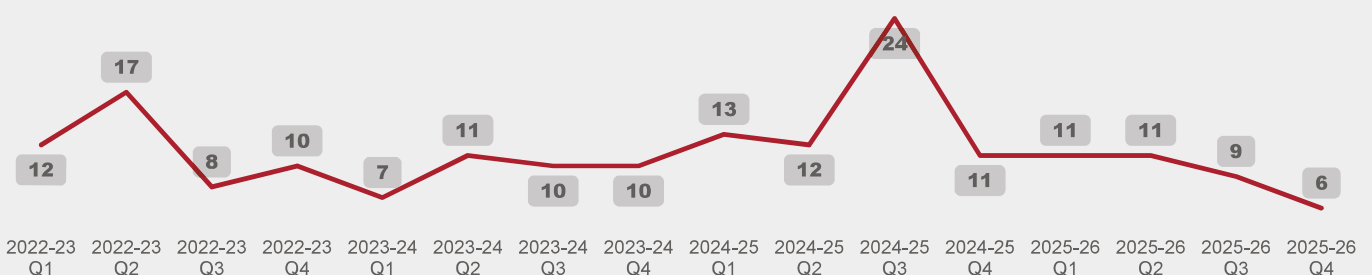
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



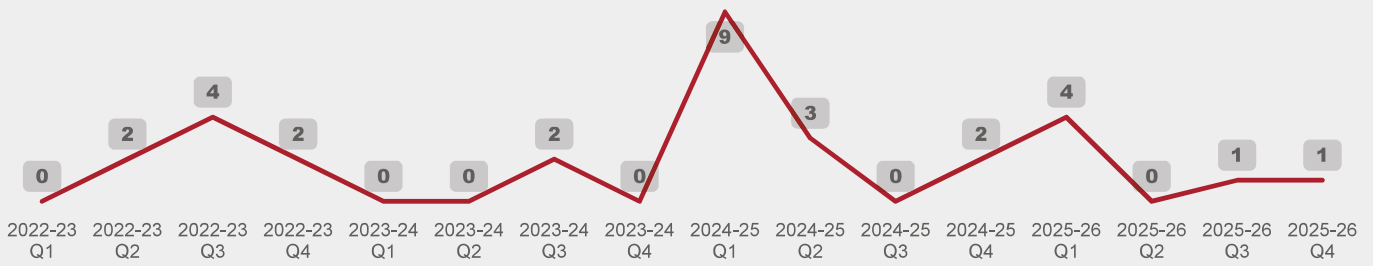
Road Traffic Collisions



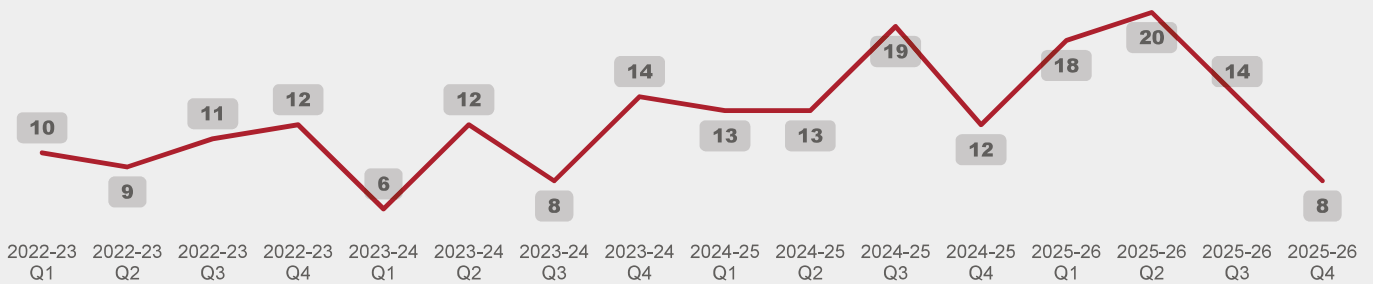
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

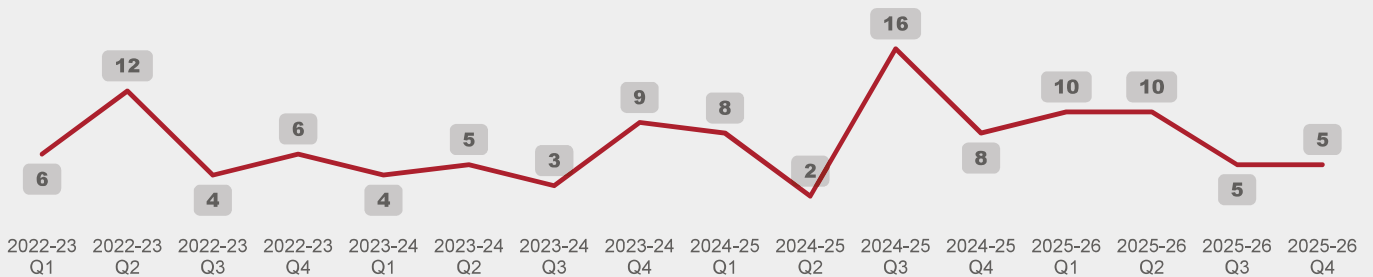
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



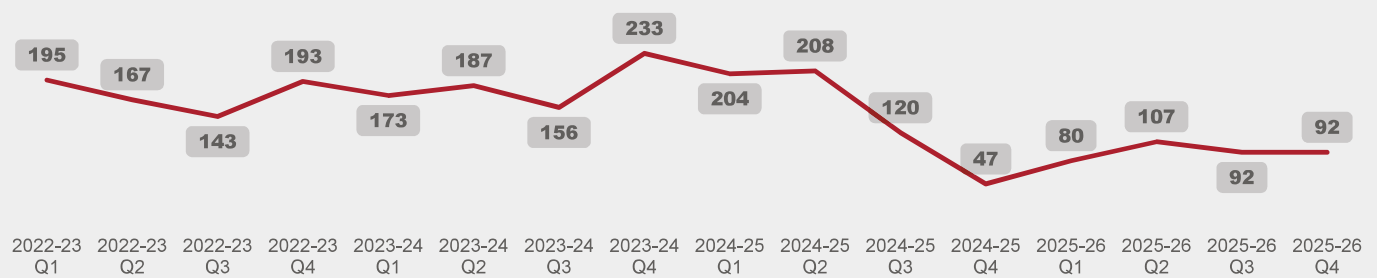
Non-Fire Casualties



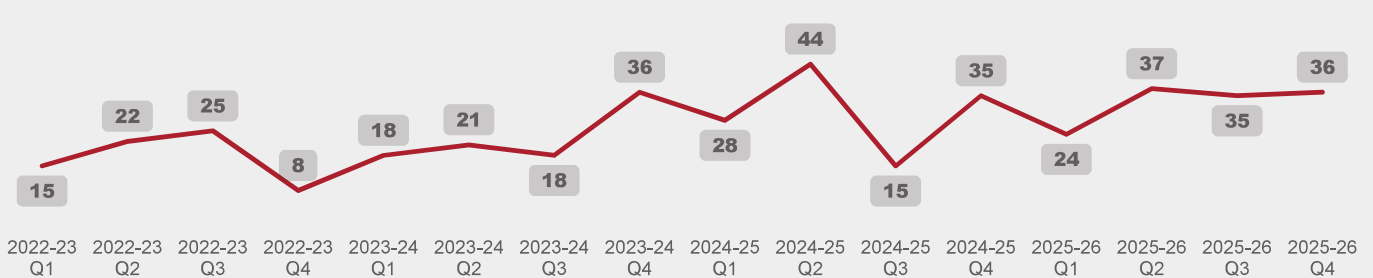
Road Traffic Collision Casualties



Home Fire Safety Visits



Fire Safety Audits



3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

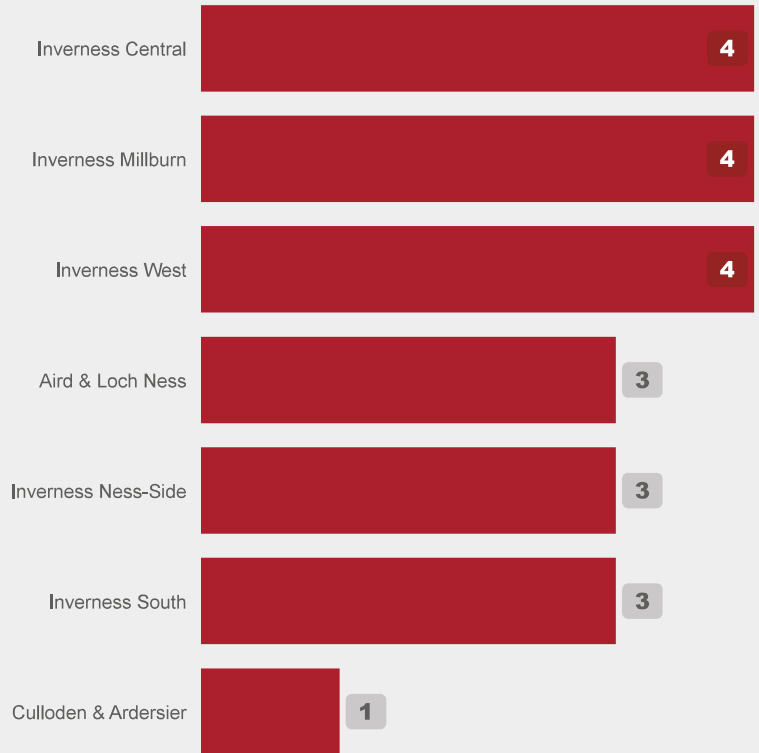
2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)

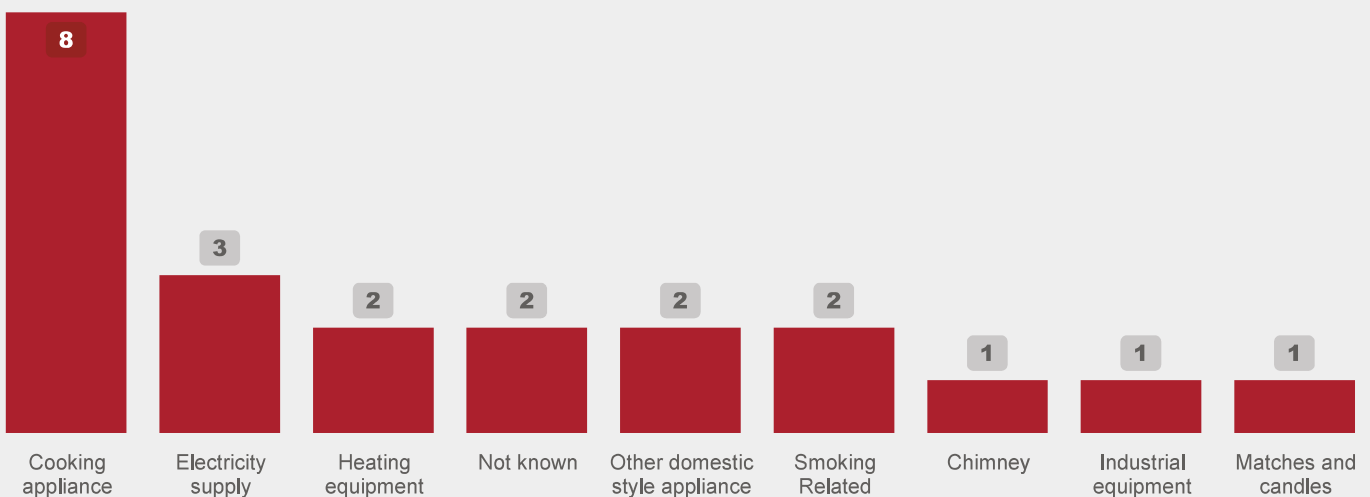


Extent of Damage	Incidents
Limited to item 1st ignited	13
Not applicable	4
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	2
Limited to 2 floors (not whole building)	1
Limited to room of origin	1
Roof space and other floors(s)	1

Incidents by Ward



Source of Ignition (Top 10)



22

Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

There were **22 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)** within this reporting period, which is comparable to the previous report. The majority are classed as low severity, requiring little or no intervention from the Service and minimal fire damage.

4. Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Breathing difficulties (Other than 'Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes, asphyxiation')	1
Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation	1

Casualties by Ward



Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



1

First Aid Given at Scene



1

Hospital Slight Injuries



0

Hospital Serious Injuries

During this reporting period there was **0 ADF Fatalities** however there were **2 Non-Fatal ADF Casualties**, this is a reduction when compared to the previous reporting period. It should be noted that these figures do not include those who have been recommended to have a precautionary check up.

All ADFs are offered Home Fire Safety Visits and agency referrals where required.

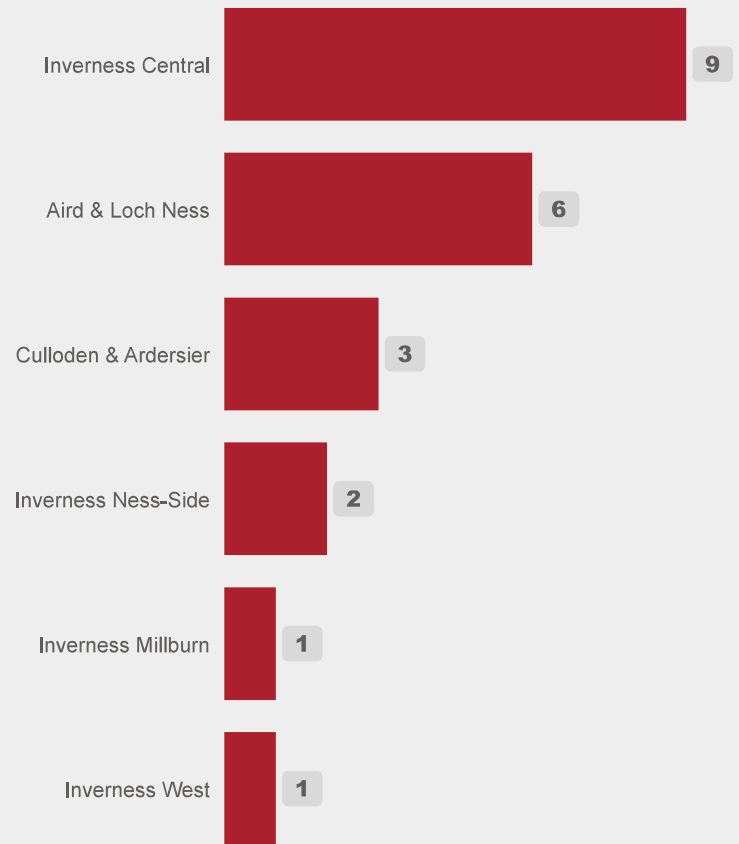
5. Non-Fire Casualties

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Head injury	5
Chest / Abdominal injury	4
Cuts/Lacerations	3
Other medical condition	3
Back / Neck injury (spinal)	2
Bruising	2
Burns - severe	1
Collapse	1
Fracture	1

21

**Non-Fatal
Casualties**

1

**Fatal
Casualties**

34

**People
Rescued by
Firefighters**

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



2

**First Aid Given
at Scene**



15

**Hospital Slight
Injuries**



4

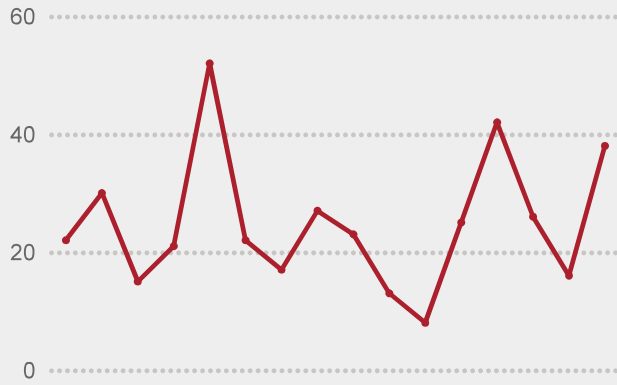
**Hospital Serious
Injuries**

There was **1 Fatal Non-Fire Casualty** and **21 Non-Fatal Non-Fire Casualties** during this reporting period which is a decrease when compared to the previous reporting period.

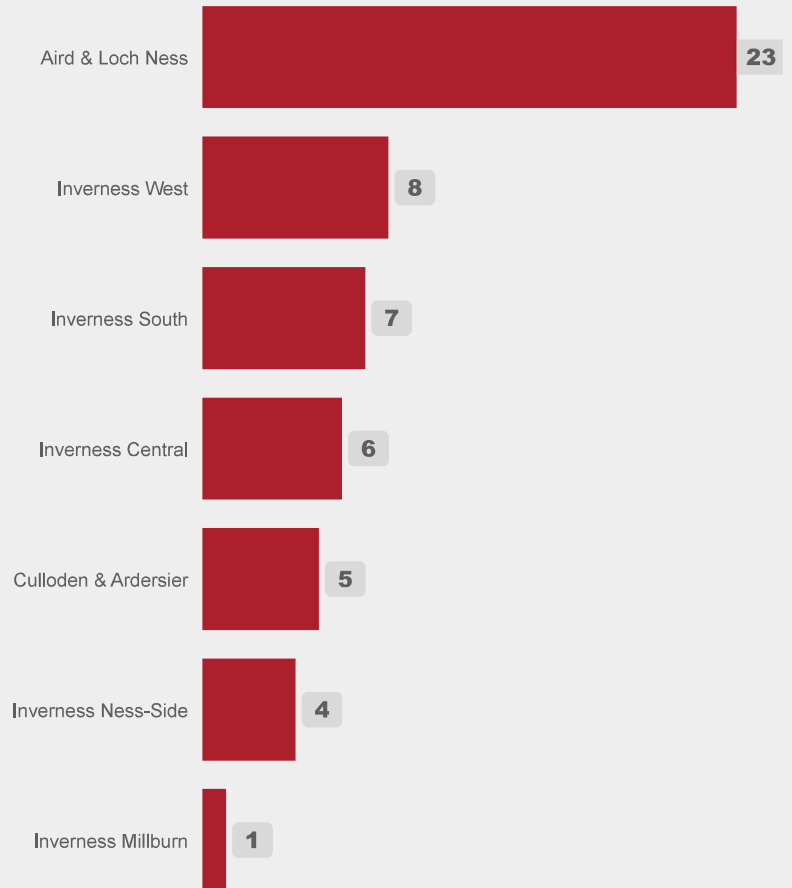
6. Deliberate Fires

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward

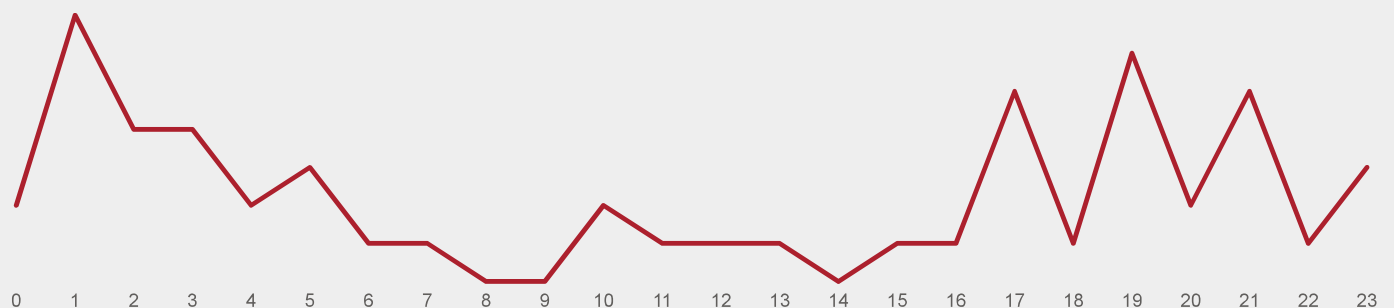


Property Type	Incident
Refuse	20
Grassland, woodland and crops	18
Other outdoors (including land)	6
Dwelling	4
Road Vehicle	4
Non Residential	1
Outdoor structures	1

54

**Deliberate Fires
in this period**

Hour of Day

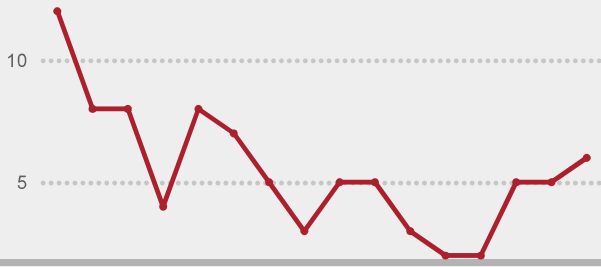


During this reporting period we attended **54 Deliberate Fires**, which is a reduction when compared to the previous reporting period. Referrals are made to other agencies for those at work within our communities.

7. Non-Domestic Fires

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

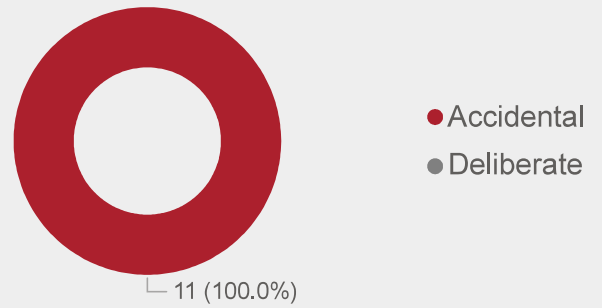
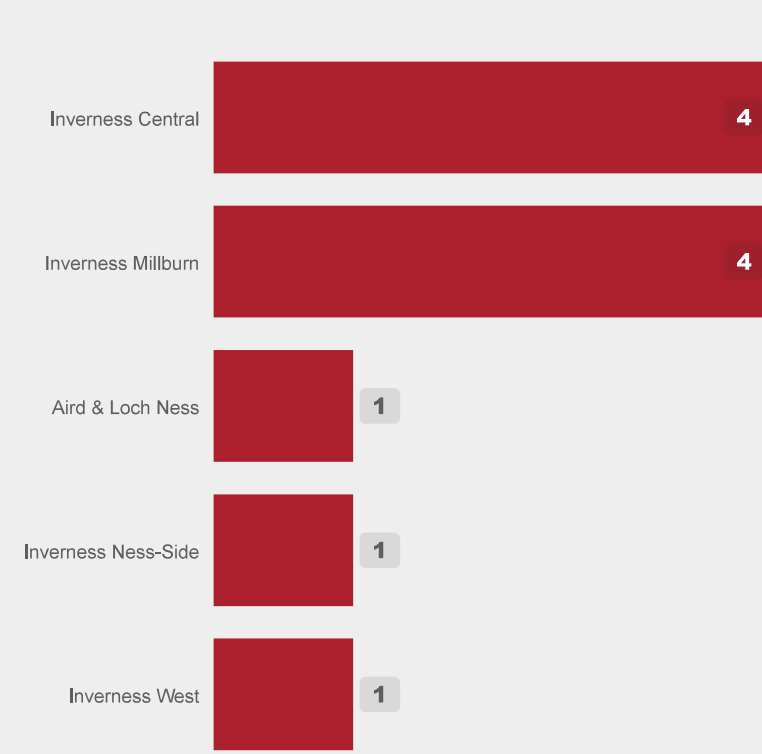
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Hotel/motel	2
Food and Drink	1
Hospitals and medical care	1
Hostel (e.g. for homeless people)	1
Industrial Manufacturing	1
Industrial Processing	1
Offices and call centres	1
Religious	1
Residential Home	1
Retail	1

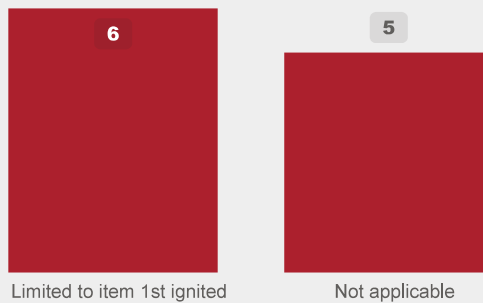
Incidents by Ward



11

Non-Domestic Fires in this period

Extent of Damage

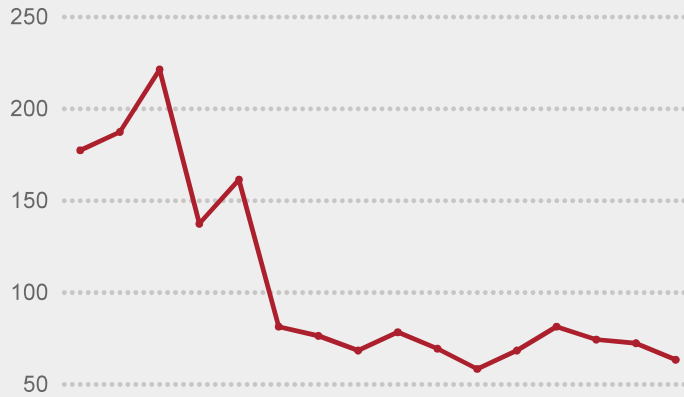


Within this reporting period there were 11 Non-Domestic Fires which is a slight increase compared to the previous reporting period.

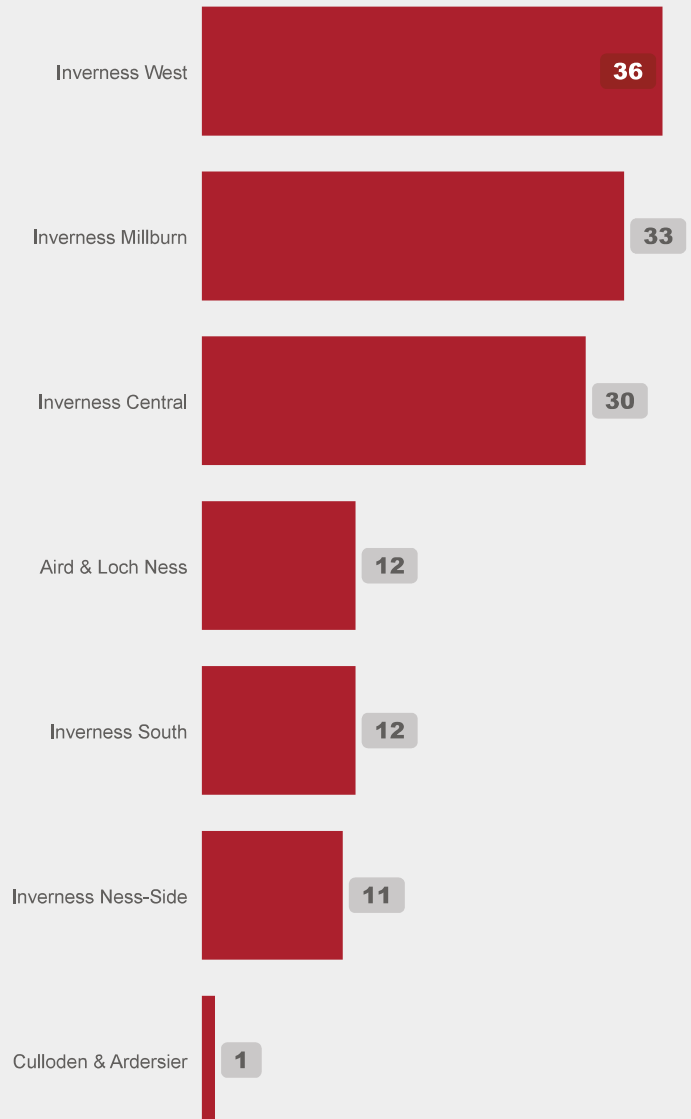
8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Hospitals and medical care	45
Residential Home	30
Hotel/motel	17
Sheltered Housing - not self contained	10
Food and Drink	6
Nurses'/Doctors' accommodation	5
Boarding House/B&B for homeless/asylum seekers	4
Offices and call centres	4
Retail	4
Education	2
Other Residential Home	2
Boarding House/B&B other	1
Entertainment and culture	1
Industrial Manufacturing	1
Other buildings/use not known	1
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	1
Vehicle Repair	1

135

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

We attended **135 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** this period, which shows a decrease compared to the previous reporting period. The figure 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)



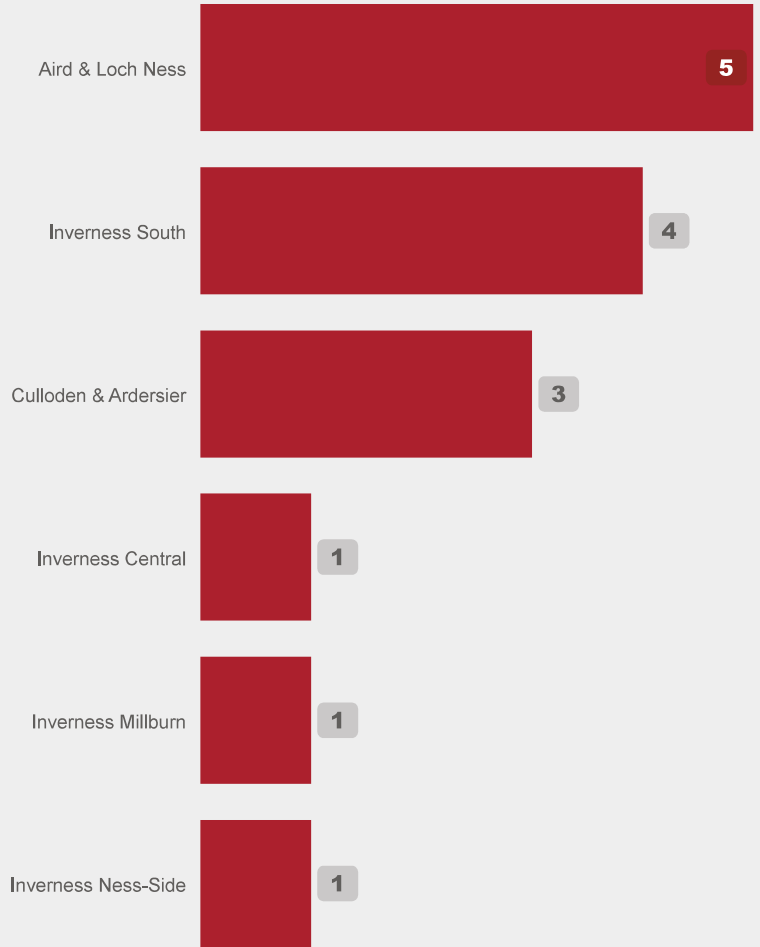
15

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
Car	13
Bus/coach	1
Minibus	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	14
Fire (Vehicle)	1

Incidents by Ward



10
Non-Fatal Casualties

0
Fatal Casualties

4
People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

 **0**
First Aid Given at Scene

 **9**
Hospital Slight Injuries

 **1**
Hospital Serious Injuries

We attended **15 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** during this reporting period which is lower compared to the previous period.

We are pleased to report that there were **0 Fatalities** in this period and we have seen a reduction in non-fatal casualties, with there being **10 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.

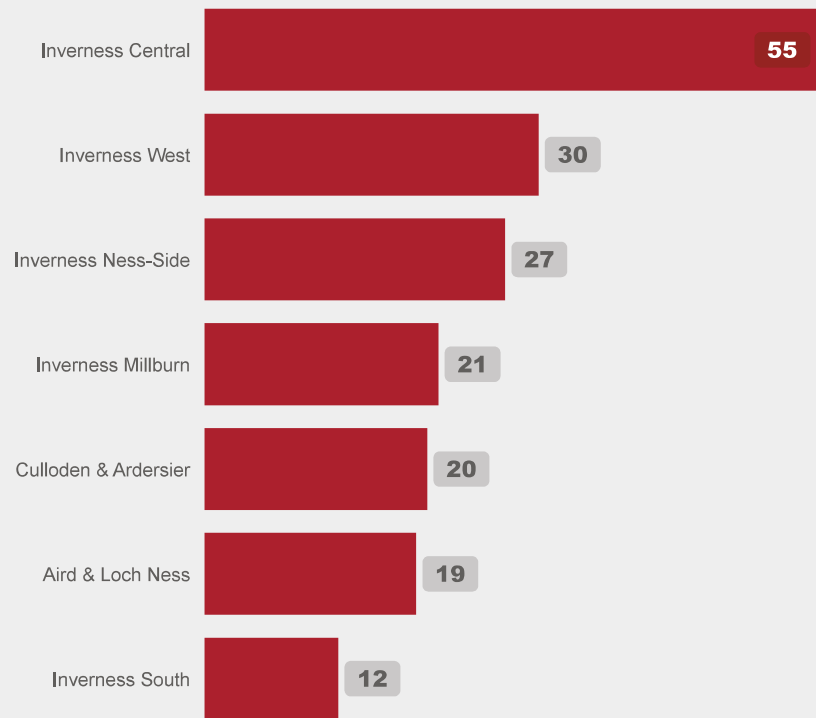
10. Home Fire Safety Visits

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

184

Home Fire Safety Visits

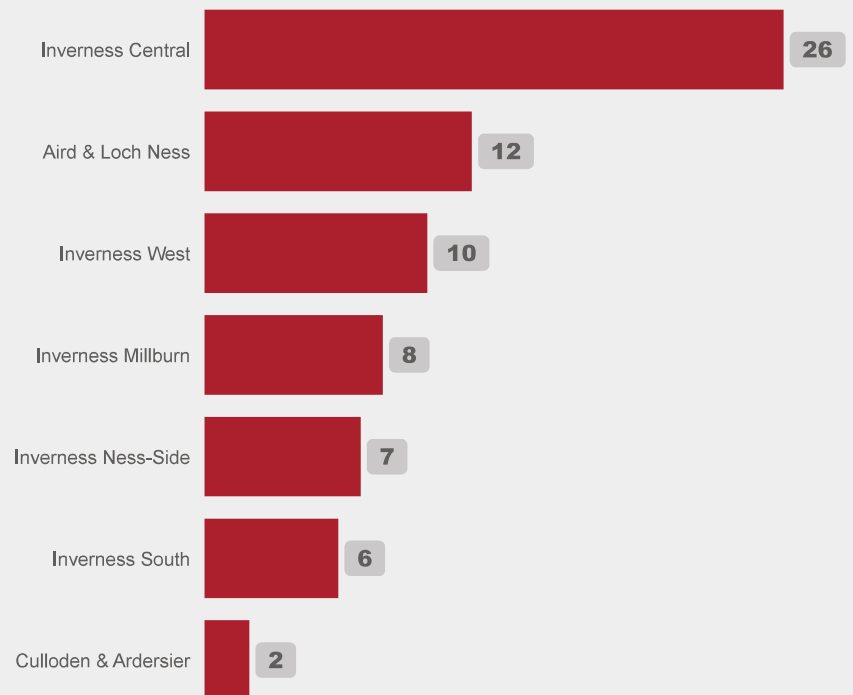
HFSVs by Ward



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Audit	71
Specific Visit	8
Consultation	3

Audits by Ward



We undertook **184 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 **71 Audits, 8 Specific Visits** and **3 Consultations** within this period.

12. Station Availability and Establishment

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

- 2 x Wholetime Duty System appliances at 1 Station*
- 6 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 12 Stations

These Stations serve the City of Inverness and Inverness-shire 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
Beauly	80.65%	14	86.42%	12
Cannich	0.07%	4	17.41%	4
Drumnadrochit	77.66%	11	88.31%	11
Fort Augustus	69.45%	9	77.47%	9
Foyers	70.29%	7	69.11%	8
Inverness	78.35%	14	81.78%	13
Inverness Wholetime	N/A	72	N/A	70

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

Anthony Nolan Stem Cell Register



A very successful day took place in October at Millburn Academy, Inverness, where a further 73 young students for the Anthony Nolan stem cell register were recruited. Since the start of this event, the school, working in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Anthony Nolan Charity, have recruited 446 people.

Road Traffic Collision Experience at Charleston Academy

SFRS visited Charleston Academy and engaged with seniors to deliver a powerful road safety demonstration in association with Police Scotland.

A mock vehicle scenario was set up, and students watched on as the “driver” was breathalysed and arrested on scene as firefighters worked to cut a “victim” from the car. The demonstration was deliberately intense and realistic.



For many of the senior students watching, the demonstration prompted serious reflection and a new awareness of the consequences of poor decisions or split-second errors on the road.

The school and its partners hope the day will spark ongoing conversations about safer driving, being a thoughtful passenger and respecting the role of emergency responders.

A spokesperson said: “For pupils and staff alike, Monday’s experience was more than just an educational slot: it was a vivid, unforgettable reminder that decisions made behind the wheel or in the passenger seat have consequences — and that the boots on the ground at scenes of crashes are filled with real people.”

Visit to Inverness Fire Station by Charleston Academy Pupils



Inverness Community Fire Station welcomed Charleston Academy as part of their Uniformed & Emergency Services unit.

Students learned about the wide range of careers within the fire service and got an insight into what a typical day looks like for a firefighter.

Community Action Team Attendance at Hilton Community Centre



In November, Charlotte and Elaine from our Community Action Team were at Hilton Community Centre delivering information about Home Fire Safety as well as other important safety messages.

Operation Respect Multi-Agency Initiative

A long-standing joint initiative aimed at keeping Inverness a safe place to live, work and visit over the festive season was launched in November 2025.

Operation Respect saw partners bring their wide ranging and skills together to tackle street disorder, anti-social behaviour, retail crime, violence against women and girls, fraud and scams, amongst other forms of criminality.



Partnership Working with HM Coastguard



In December, Inverness Coastguard Rescue Team visited Inverness Community Fire Station to share the latest knowledge and understanding, building upon an already strong working relationship.

Breathing Apparatus Training

A huge thank you to Willie Gray and the team at ARK Estates for kindly allowing the use of one of their buildings in Harbour Road, Inverness to facilitate Breathing Apparatus training in January.



The support enabled crews from Inverness and surrounding stations to practise vital skills in a realistic environment with a complex layout.

The support helps us stay prepared, safe and continue serving our communities effectively.



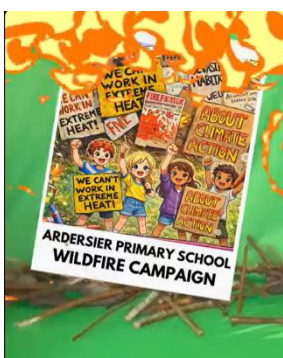
Joint Initiative at Glenurquhart



Drumnadrochit personnel generously gave their time to assist Scottish Ambulance Service deliver CPR and Defibrillator training to the P6 and P7 children at Glenurquhart Primary School.

The school expressed thanks and was grateful to SFRS and SAS for providing children with these valuable skills.

Inverness Personnel Collaborate with Local Primary School on Wildfire Safety Initiative



In February, Primary 7 at Ardersier Primary presented their Wildfire Campaign video, created in partnership with the SFRS personnel from Inverness, together with Developing the Young Workforce and Eden Court.

As responsible citizens, pupils shared the important message of protecting our environment through active fire safety prevention measures.



Community Action Team at Raigmore Community Centre

In March, Riona and Charlotte from our Community Action Team attended Raigmore Community Centre along with our partner agencies to advise the community on available services and to provide fire safety advice.



Young Carers



Red Watch at Inverness Community Fire Station hosted Young Carers, providing a hands-on experience with all the appliances and equipment, including the water rescue boat.

The young carers ably demonstrated their knowledge during a fire safety quiz in the classroom, impressing the firefighters with their answers. Some of the children were even keen

to try CPR, practicing on casualty simulators.



Neurodiversity Week

As part of the celebration week, firefighters at Drumnadrochit Community Fire Station welcomed 16 neurodivergent young adults for a special visit in collaboration with the Special Needs Action Project (SNAP).

Crews hosted an engaging evening, giving attendees the chance to explore the station, meet firefighters and learn more about the role in a relaxed and supportive environment.

SNAP supports young people and adults with additional needs by creating opportunities to build confidence, develop independence and enjoy meaningful social experiences.



The event was warmly received and highlights the Service's ongoing commitment to inclusion, community engagement and supporting people of all backgrounds to feel welcome and valued.

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 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland



BUSINESS
INTELLIGENCE

Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.