



Highland

2025-26 Q3 & Q4 Scrutiny Report



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
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for a safer Scotland**



Highland

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Scrutiny Report

Contents













1	Summary
2	Trends
3	Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)
4	Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties
5	Non-Fire Casualties
6	Deliberate Fires
7	Non-Domestic Fires
8	Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)
9	Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)
10	Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs)
11	Fire Safety Enforcement
12	Community Safety & Engagement
13	Recent Questions & Answers
14	Glossary of Terms

About the statistics within this report

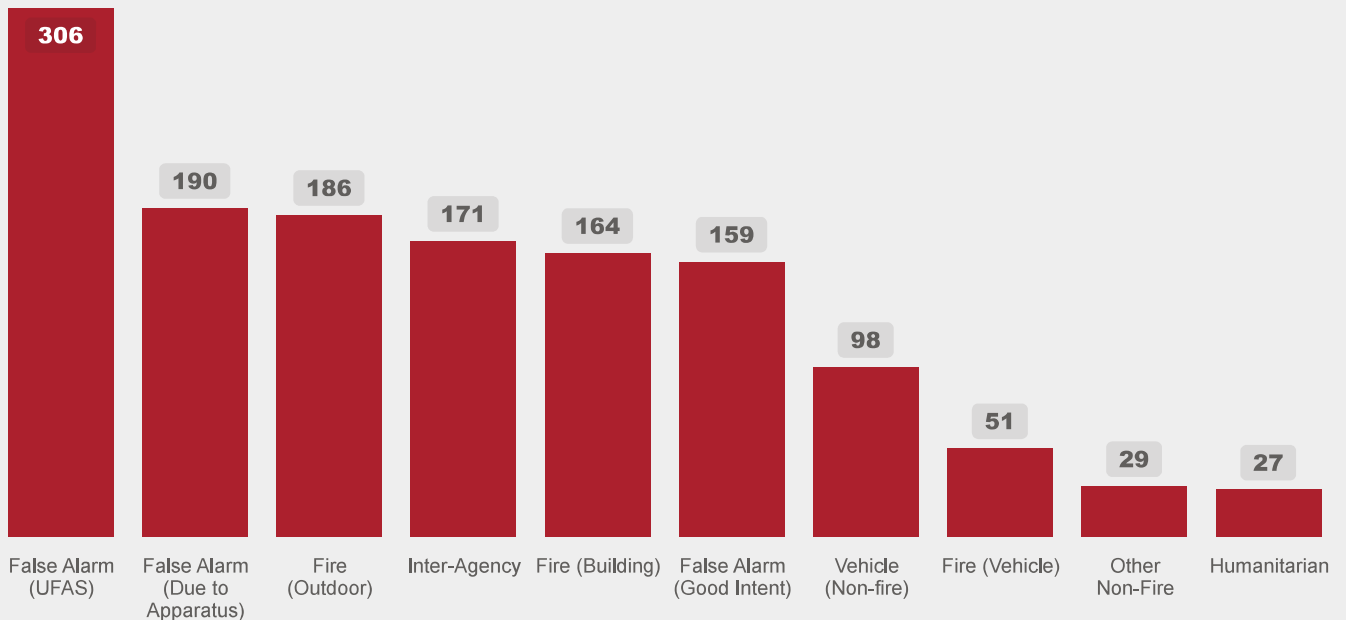
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference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

 <p>1,472 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)</p>	 <p>401 Fires</p>	 <p>387 Non-Fire Incidents</p>	 <p>677 False Alarms</p>	 <p>306 UFAS</p>
 <p>91 People Rescued by Firefighters</p>	 <p>12 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)</p>	 <p>2 Fire Fatalities</p>	 <p>103 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)</p>	 <p>19 Non-Fire Fatalities</p>
 <p>517 Home Fire Safety Visits</p>	 <p>212 Fire Safety Audits</p>			

Top 10 Incident Types

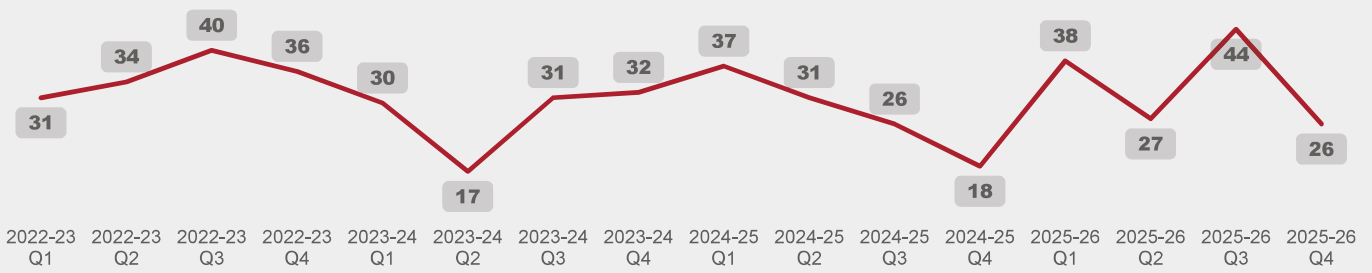


The information above provides a summary of the six-months (1 October 2025 - 31 March 2026) activity against headline indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

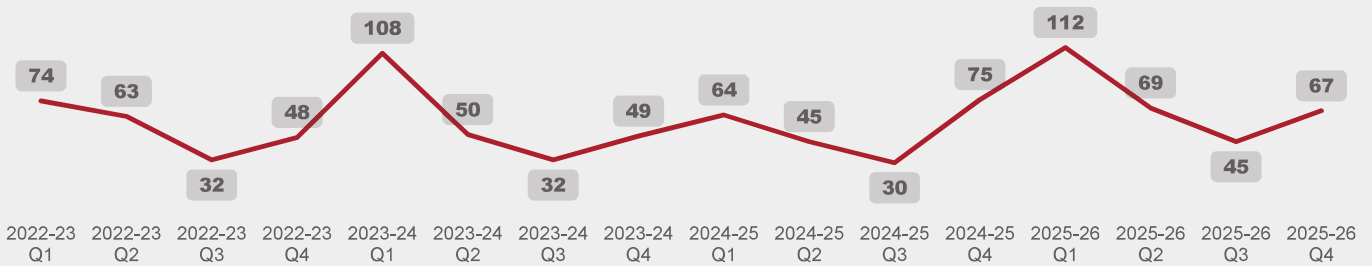
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

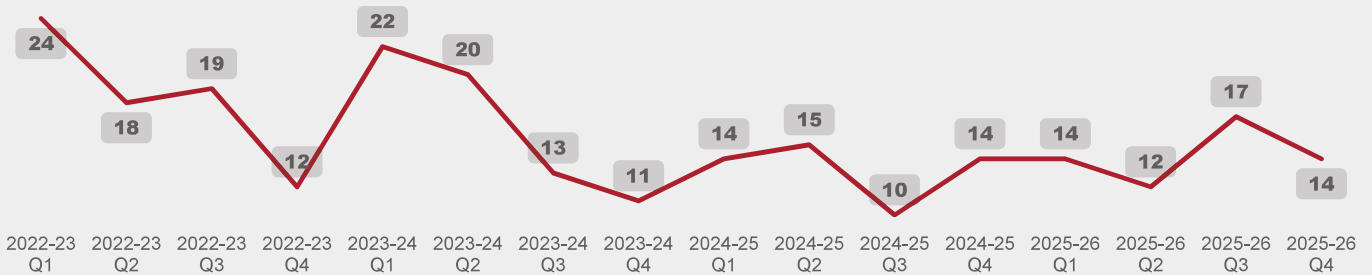
Accidental Dwelling Fires



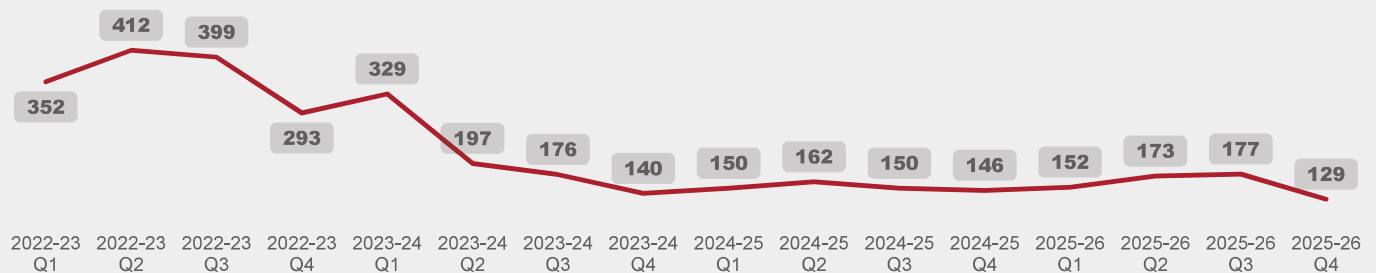
Deliberate Fires



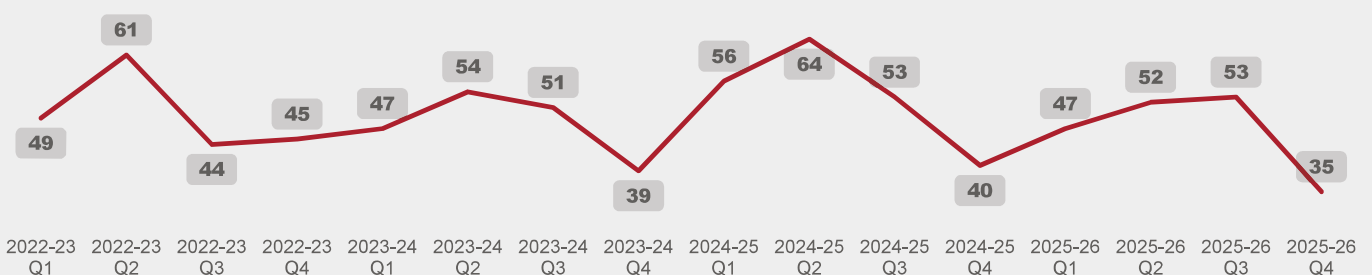
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



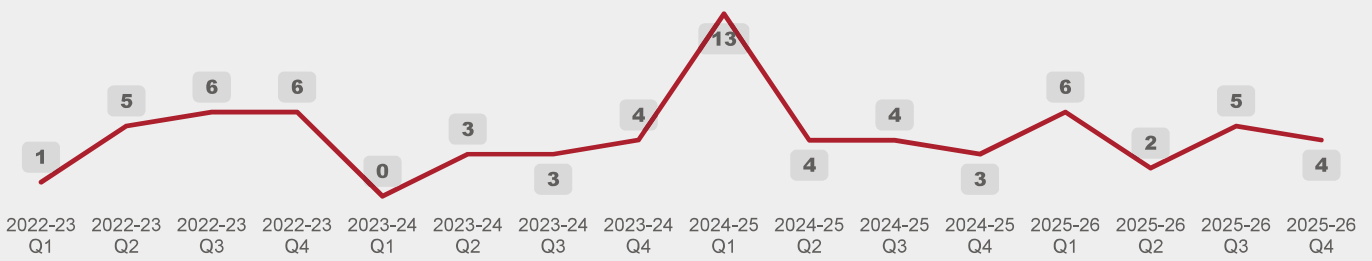
Road Traffic Collisions



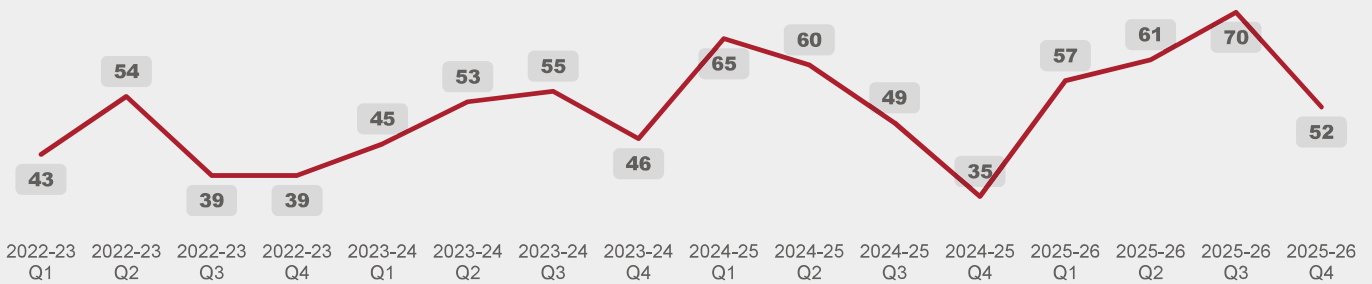
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

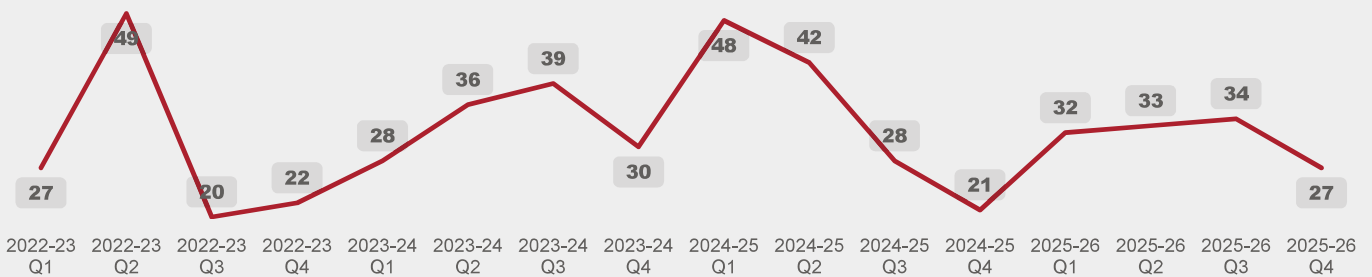
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



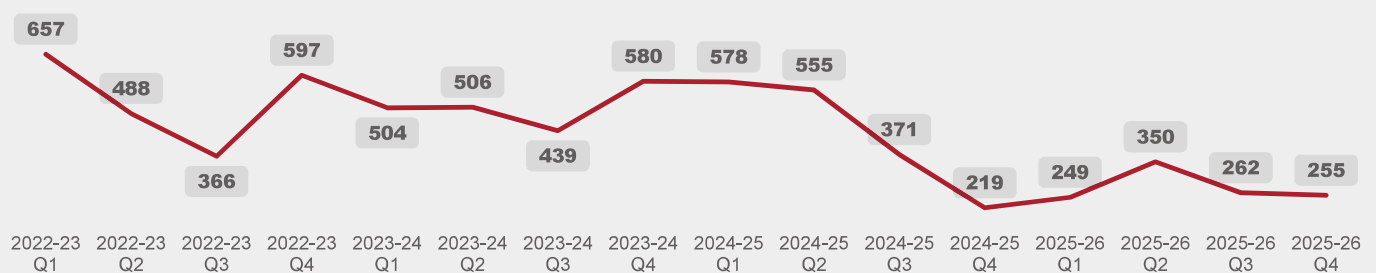
Non-Fire Casualties



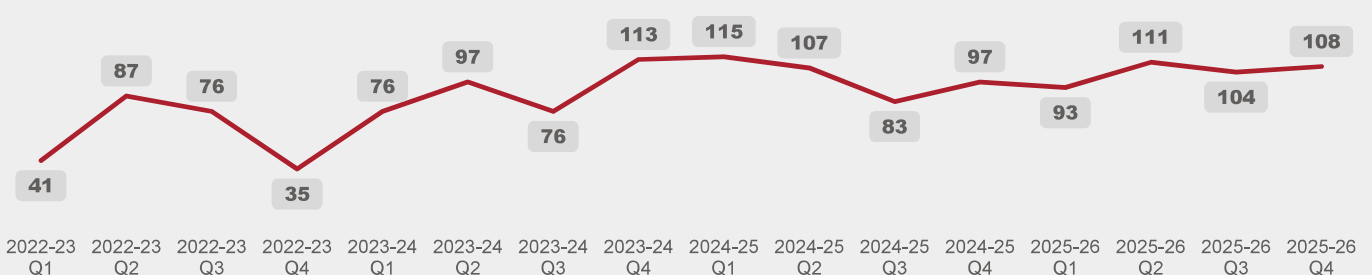
Road Traffic Collision Casualties



Home Fire Safety Visits



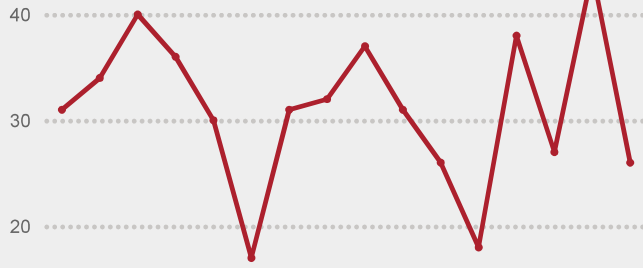
Fire Safety Audits



3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

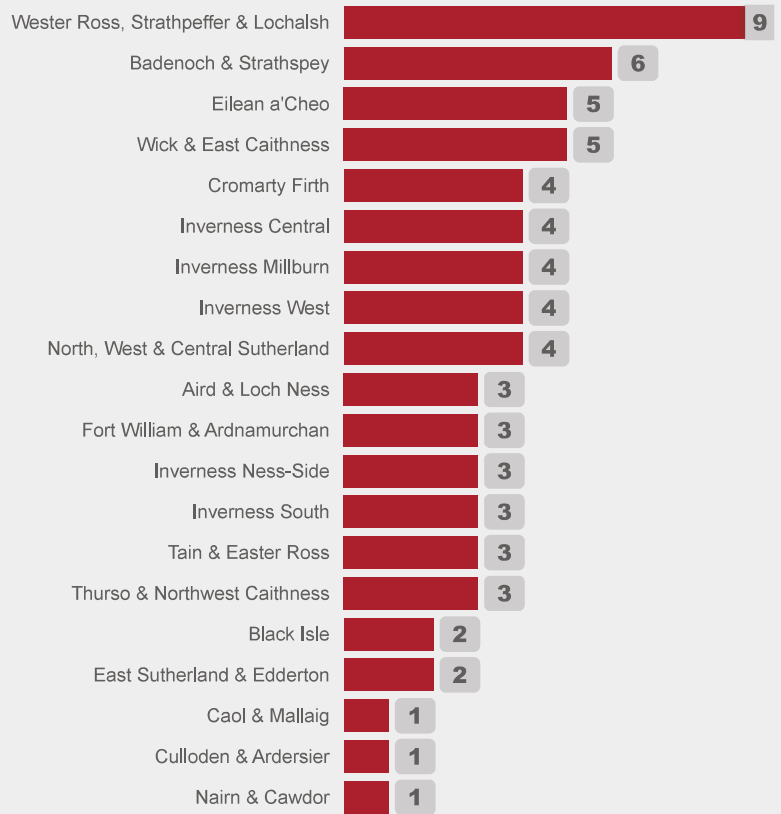
2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Extent of Damage	Incidents
Limited to item 1st ignited	30
Not applicable	16
Limited to room of origin	11
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	5
Roof space and other floors(s)	2
Roof space only	2
Whole building	2
Affecting more than 2 floors (not whole building)	1
Limited to 2 floors (not whole building)	1

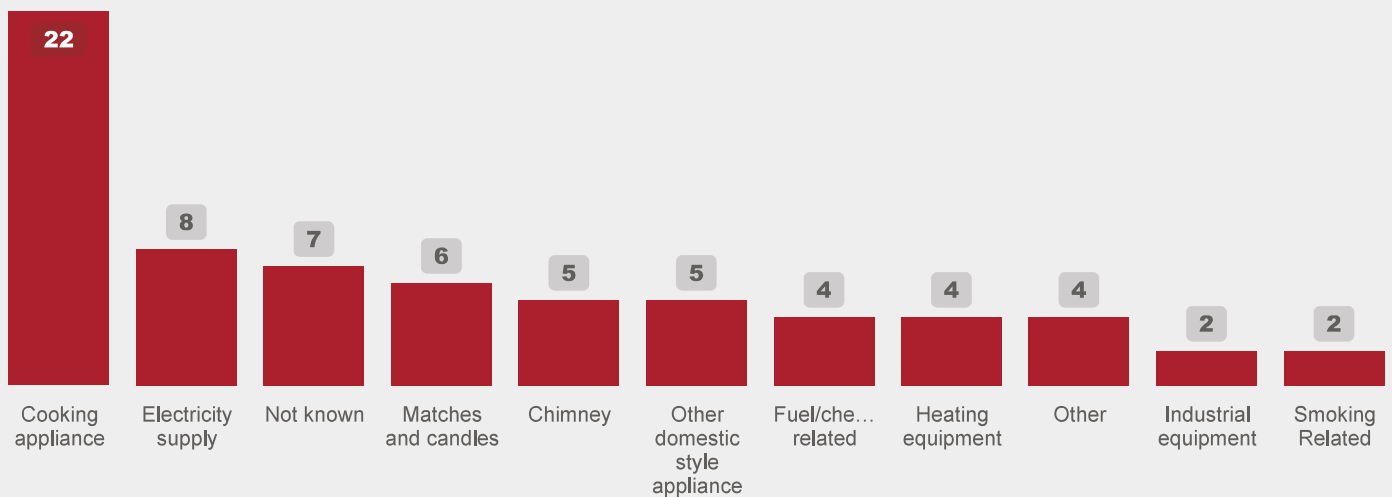
Incidents by Ward



70

Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

Source of Ignition (Top 10)



There were **70 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)** which is slightly 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 ADFs are followed up with HFSVs and agency referrals where required.

4. Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

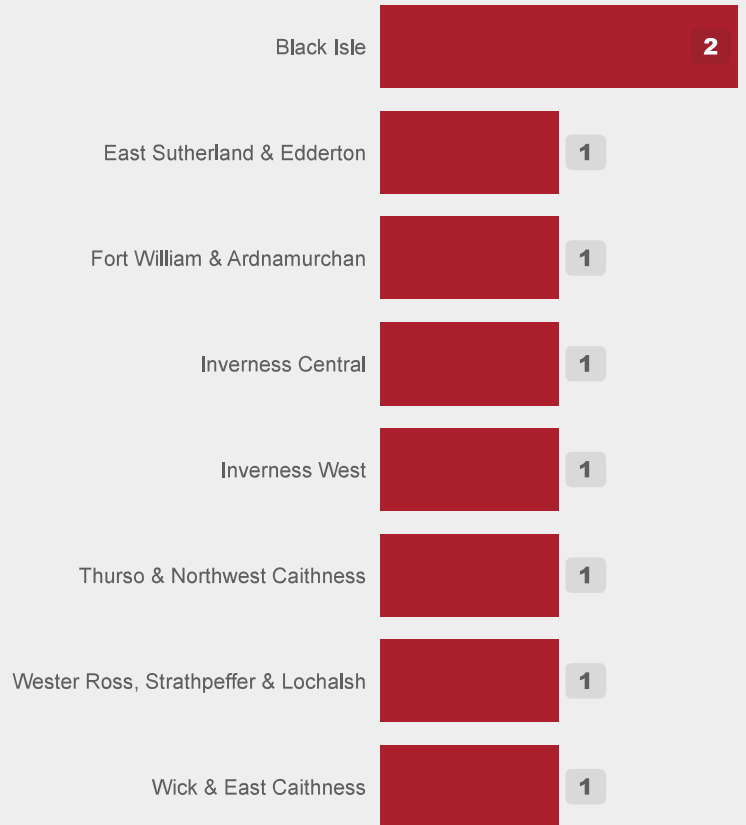
2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation	6
Breathing difficulties (Other than 'Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes, asphyxiation')	1
Burns - slight	1
Not known	1

Casualties by Ward



8

Non-Fatal Casualties

0

Fatal Casualties

4

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

5

First Aid Given at Scene

3

Hospital Slight Injuries

0

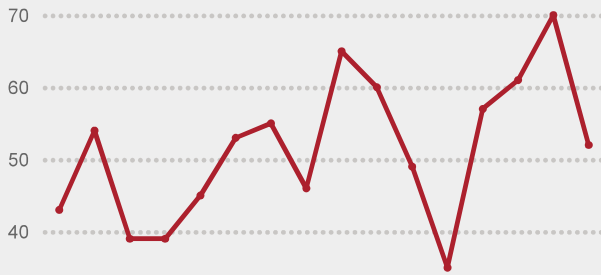
Hospital Serious Injuries

There were **8 Non-Fatal Casualties** in this period, with only 3 requiring to go to hospital with what appeared to be slight injuries. It should be noted that these figures do not include casualties who were advised to have a precautionary check up.

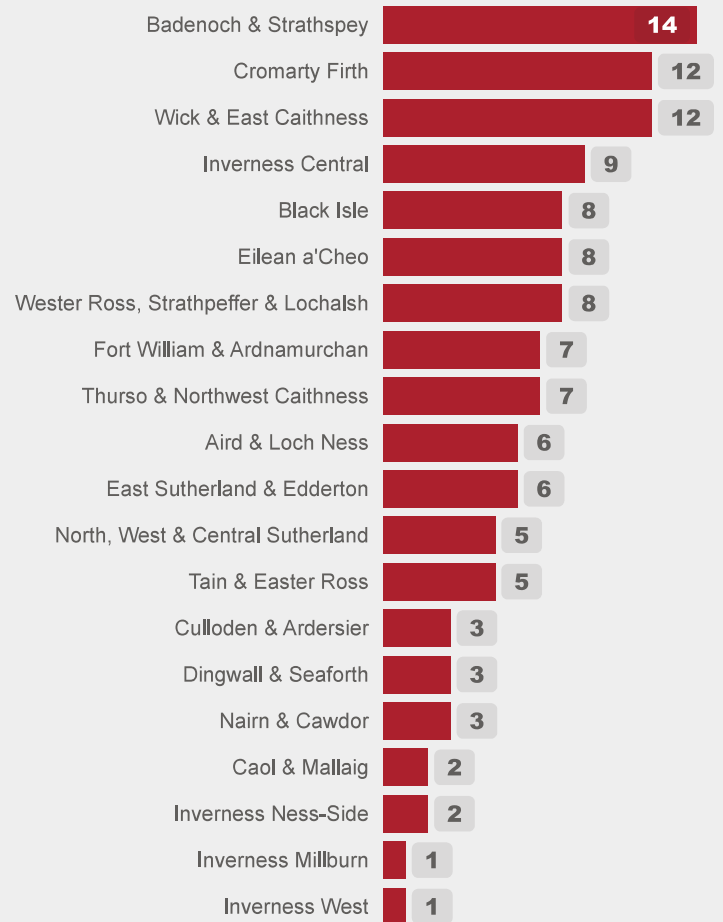
5. Non-Fire Casualties

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Back / Neck injury (spinal)	19
Not known	17
Chest / Abdominal injury	13
Bruising	12
Fracture	12
Other	9
Chest pain / Heart condition / Cardiac arrest	7
Head injury	7
Cuts/Lacerations	6
Other medical condition	5
Hypothermia	3
Other physical injury	3
Breathing difficulties (Other than 'Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes, asphyxiation')	2
Collapse	2
Drowning	2
Burns - severe	1
Concussion	1
Unconscious, fitting or unresponsive (no other evident significant injury)	1

103
Non-Fatal
Casualties

19
Fatal
Casualties

83
People
Rescued by
Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



7

First Aid Given
at Scene



68

Hospital Slight
Injuries



28

Hospital Serious
Injuries

During this period, we have seen a slight increase in the number of non-fire related casualties in comparison to the previous reporting period.

6. Deliberate Fires

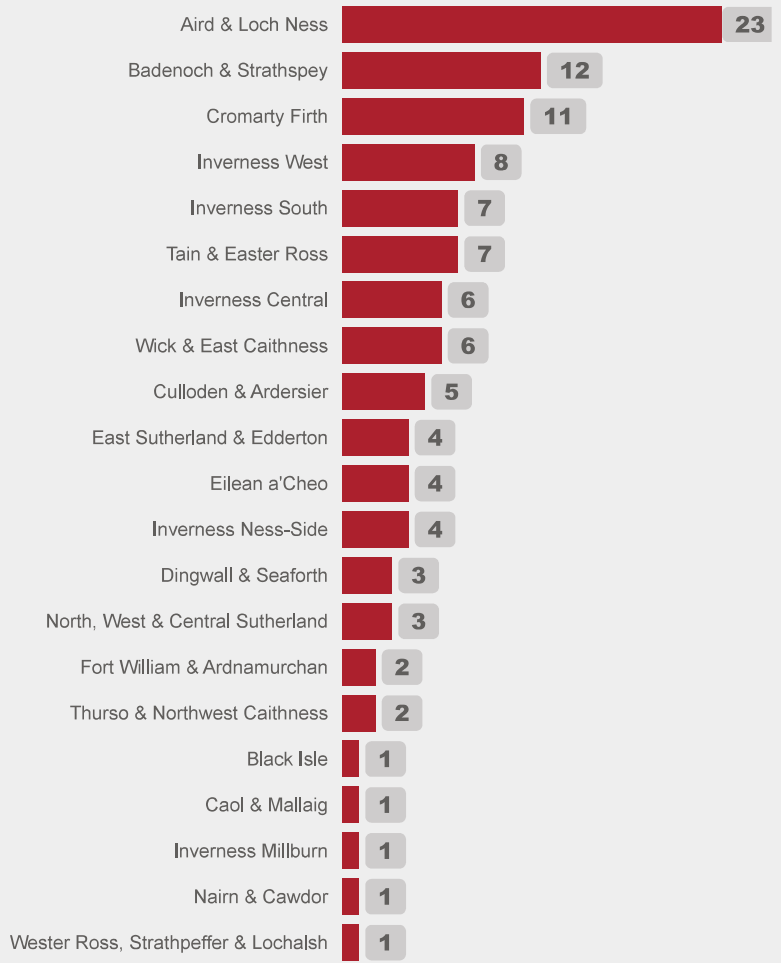
2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



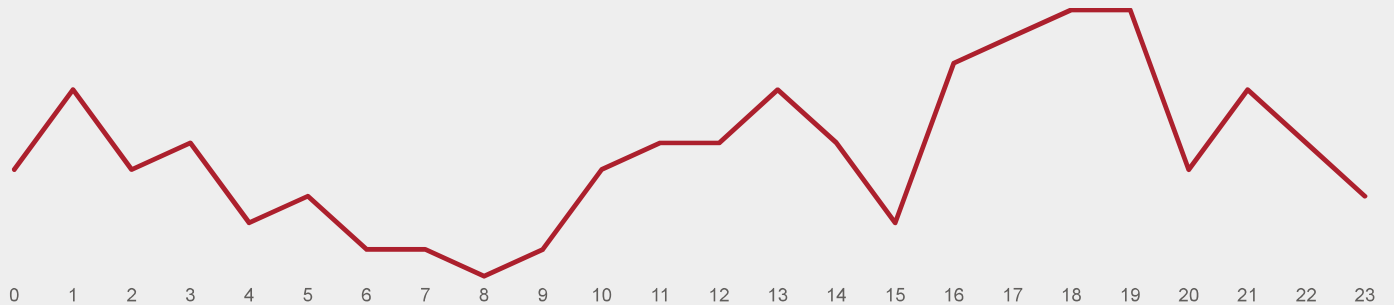
Property Type	Incident
Grassland, woodland and crops	44
Refuse	34
Other outdoors (including land)	12
Road Vehicle	8
Dwelling	7
Non Residential	4
Outdoor structures	2
Outdoor equipment and machinery	1

Incidents by Ward



112 Deliberate Fires in this period

Hour of Day

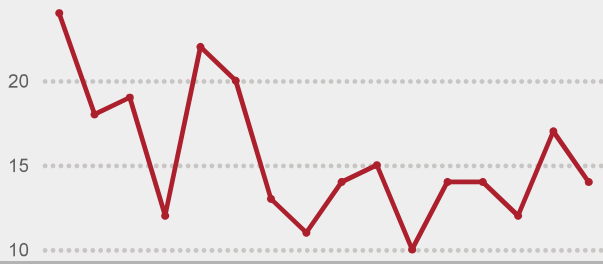


Within this reporting period, there were **112 Deliberate Fires**, this is a significant decrease when compared to the previous reporting period. Nearly three quarters of the incidents involved grassland, woodland and crops or refuse.

7. Non-Domestic Fires

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

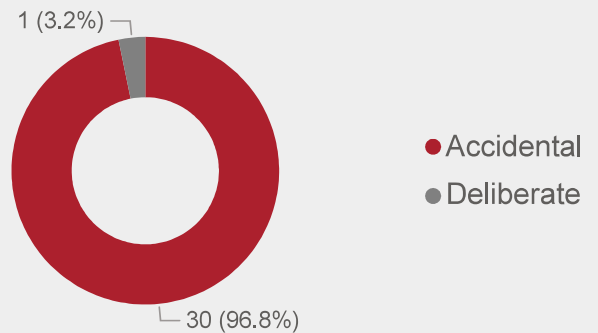
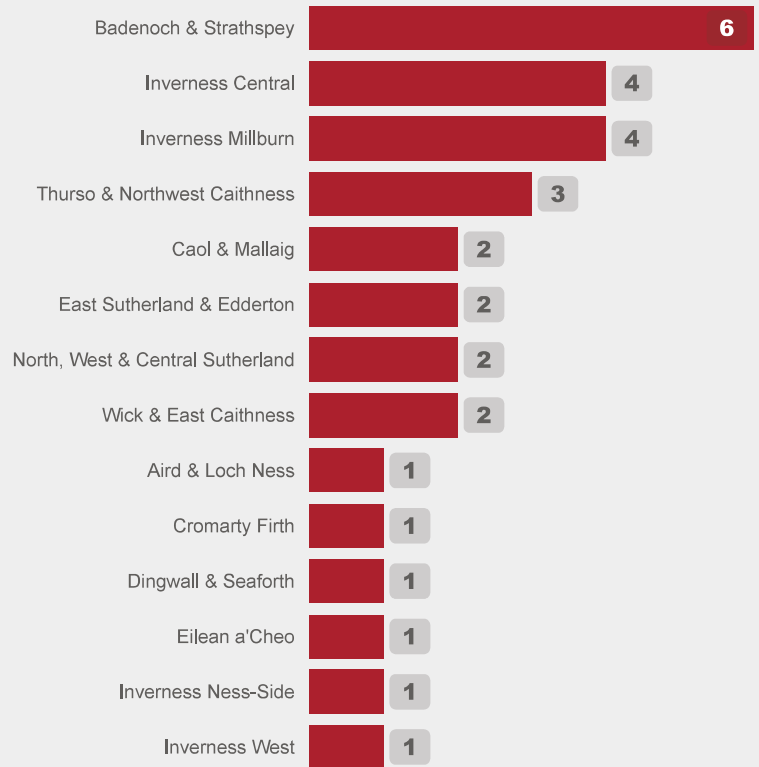
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Hotel/motel	4
Retail	4
Education	3
Industrial Manufacturing	3
Permanent Agricultural	3
Food and Drink	2
Industrial Processing	2
Offices and call centres	2
Hospitals and medical care	1
Hostel (e.g. for homeless people)	1
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	1
Other Residential Home	1
Public toilets	1
Religious	1
Residential Home	1
Vehicle Repair	1

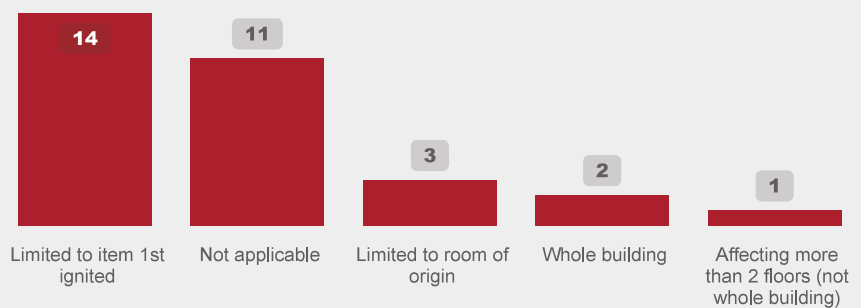
Incidents by Ward



31

Non-Domestic Fires in this period

Extent of Damage

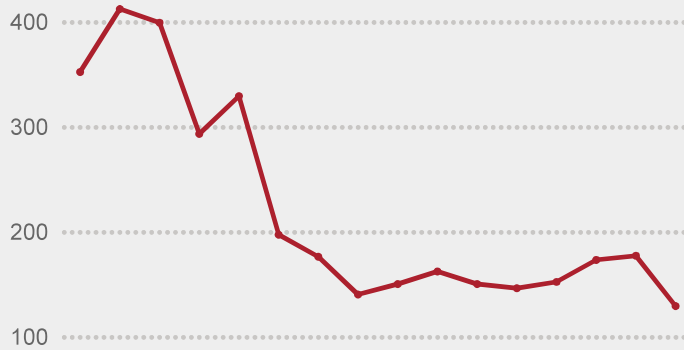


Whilst there is a slight increase in the number of Non-Domestic Fires in this reporting period, overall the number of incidents are showing a decline compared to previous years.

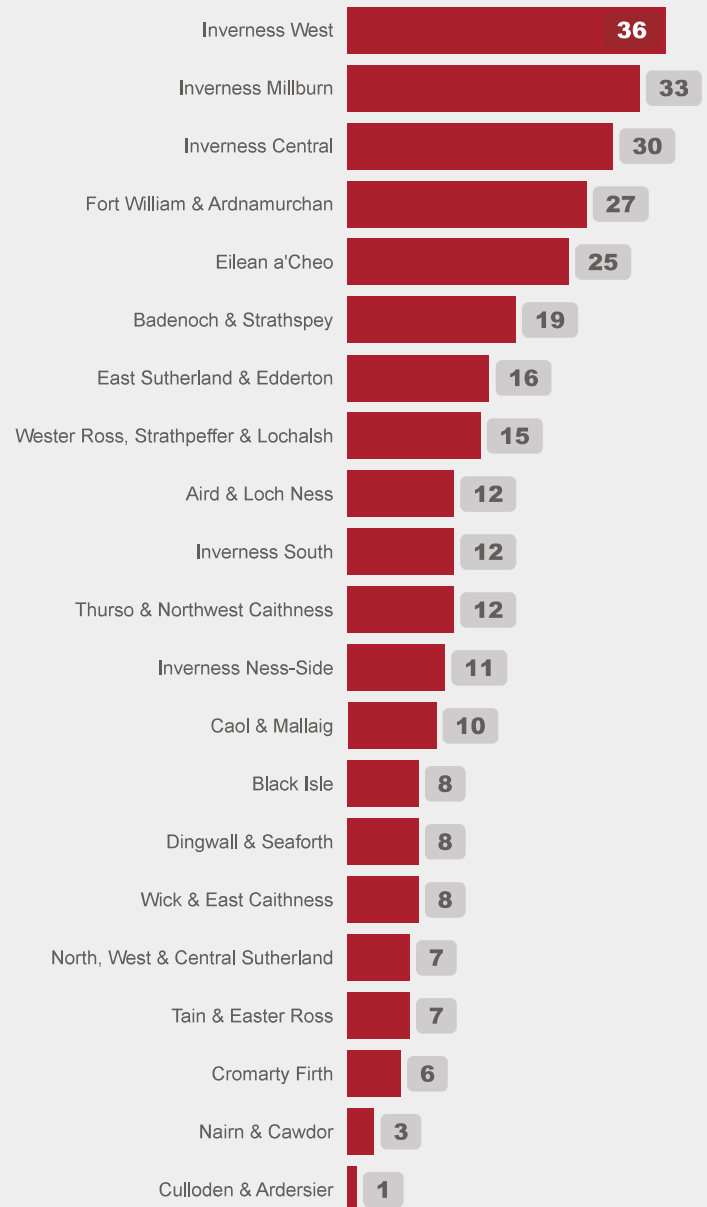
8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Residential Home	83
Hotel/motel	70
Hospitals and medical care	57
Sheltered Housing - not self contained	16
Other Residential Home	12
Food and Drink	10
Education	8
Retail	8
Nurses'/Doctors' accommodation	5
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	5
Boarding House/B&B for homeless/asylum seekers	4
Boarding House/B&B other	4
Entertainment and culture	4
Offices and call centres	4
Public admin, security and safety	4
Youth hostel	4

306

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

We have seen a slight decline in the number of UFAS incidents in this reporting period, compared to the previous period. Overall the number remains well below the 3-year average following the changes the Service made to how we respond to UFAS.

9. Road Traffic Collisions

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



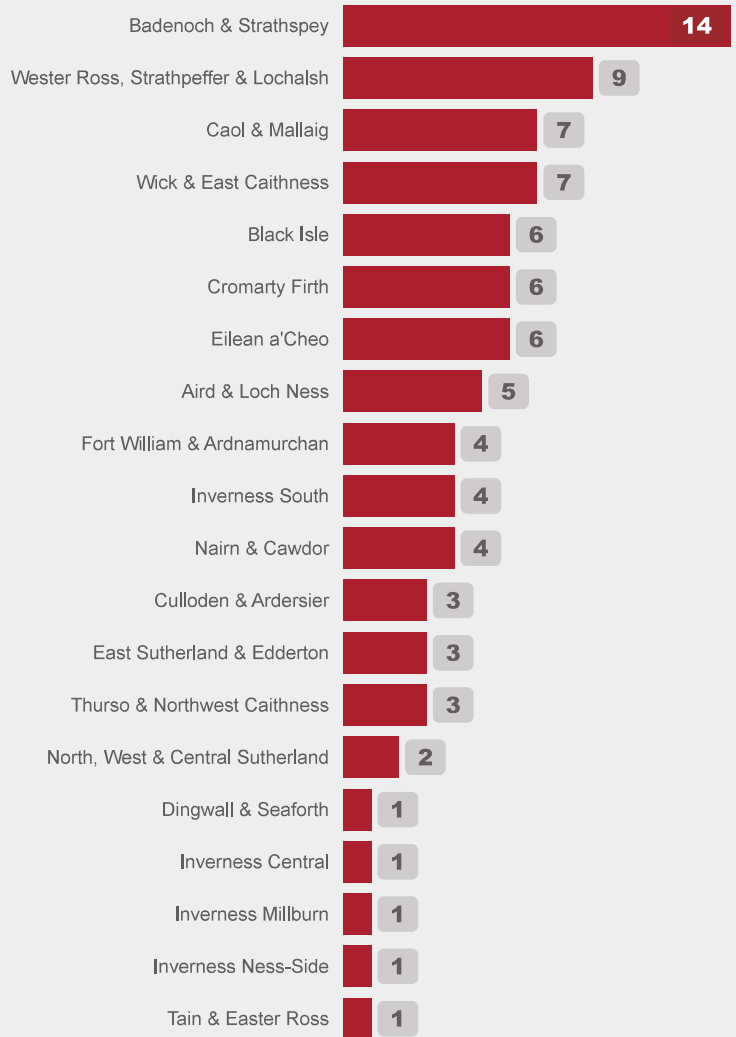
88

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
Car	68
Multiple Vehicles	8
Van	5
Lorry/HGV	2
Motor Home	2
Bus/coach	1
Minibus	1
Other	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	86
Fire (Vehicle)	2

Incidents by Ward



58 Non-Fatal Casualties **3** Fatal Casualties **20** People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

 **5**
First Aid Given at Scene

 **39**
Hospital Slight Injuries

 **14**
Hospital Serious Injuries

This reporting period shows a slight decline in the number of Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) which we attended, when compared to the previous reporting period.

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 did not require first aid or hospital treatment are recommended to have a precautionary check up. These are not captured in this report.

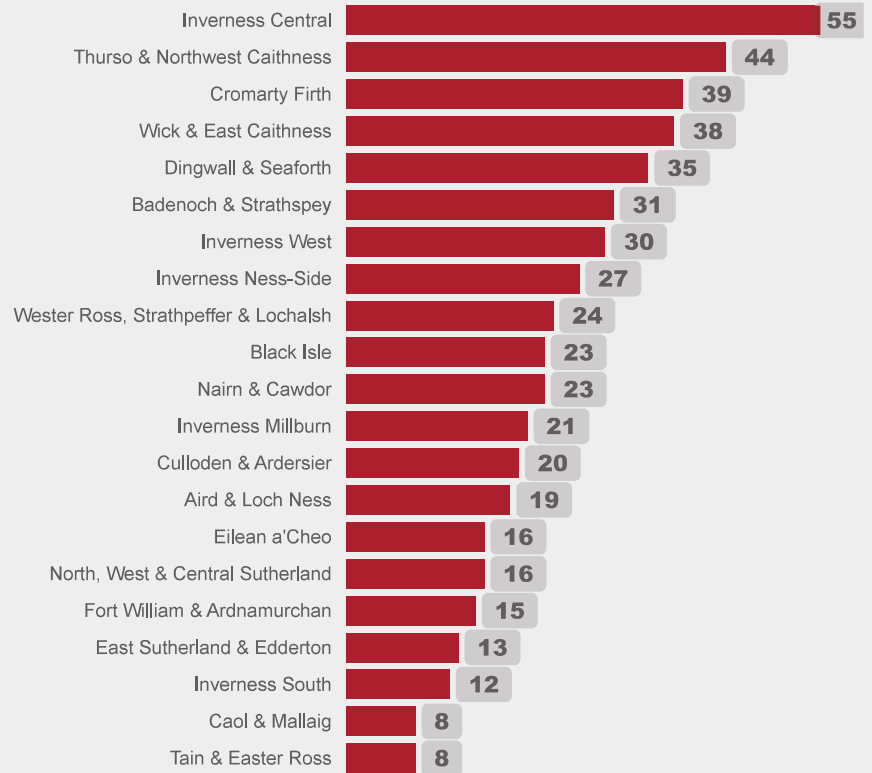
10. Home Fire Safety Visits

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

517

Home Fire Safety Visits

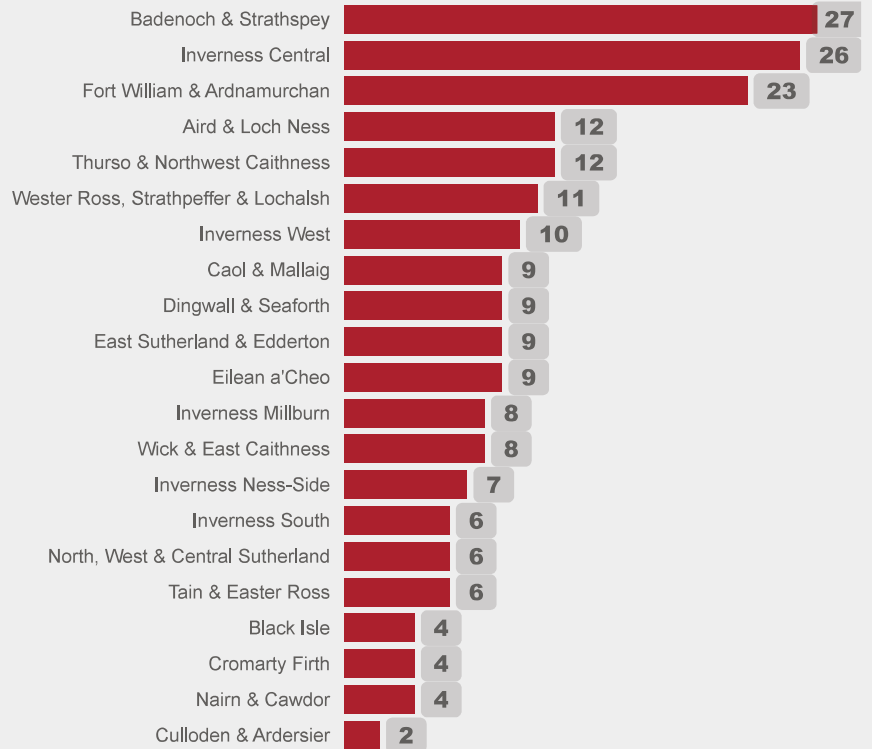
HFSVs by Ward



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Audit	212
Specific Visit	12
Consultation	11
Short Post Fire Audit	3

Audits by Ward



There were **517 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs)** undertaken by our personnel within this reporting period. We continue to work with partners and referring agencies to target those at most need and vulnerable to harm within our communities.

Our Fire Safety Enforcement and Auditing Officers conducted **212 Audits, 12 Specific Visits, 11 Consultations** and **3 Post Fire Audits** in this period.

Highland Signing to Know & Survive Initiative

In May 2025, we partnered with the Highlands Signing to Know & Survive in BSL team, SEPA, and the Scottish Flood Forum to deliver an inclusive science and safety education programme for Deaf and hearing children across the Highlands. The initiative aimed to bridge gaps in climate change preparedness and disaster resilience for Deaf communities by providing interactive learning in British Sign Language (BSL).

Workshops were held in Portree and Dingwall, engaging 22 pupils aged 8–15 in activities focused on wildfire and flood awareness, fire science, and environmental resilience. Sessions included hands-on experiments, outdoor observational walks, and storytelling through short films in BSL. The programme concluded with a community event at Inverness Deaf Club, where 20 Deaf adults participated in science demonstrations and safety discussions. A highlight was a tour of Dingwall Community Fire Station, strengthening community ties and promoting awareness of emergency response roles.

This innovative partnership not only improved understanding of local hazards but also fostered engagement between schools, Deaf communities, and emergency services. Schools expressed strong interest in follow-up visits from SFRS, SEPA, and the Scottish Flood Forum, with plans underway to explore future collaborations and share learning through an online meeting with partners.

Operation Respect Festive 2025



Operation Respect Festive 2025 was a multi-agency initiative led by the Inverness Community Safety Partnership to enhance public safety during the winter festival period. Running from late November to early January, the operation brought together Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, NHS Highland, Inverness BID, Street Pastors, and third-sector partners. Key activities included high-visibility patrols, licensed premises checks, and deployment of the Harm Reduction Vehicle staffed by police, paramedics, and mental health practitioners to support vulnerable individuals.

Additional measures such as awareness days, social media campaigns, and community engagement events reinforced safety messaging. The initiative successfully reduced antisocial behaviour, improved early intervention for mental health crises, and strengthened collaborative working across agencies, ensuring Inverness city centre remained a safe and welcoming environment throughout the festive season.

Highland Community Safety and Resilience Event 30/01/2026

This event was designed for community groups, community councils, charities and other third sector organisations. It was co-hosted by Highland Third Sector Interface, Police Scotland, and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Themes for the day included tackling anti-social behaviour, understanding and responding to the challenges posed by extreme weather events such as flooding and wildfires, and building community capacity to address county lines exploitation and emerging threats. There were a number of interactive workshops, expert-led sessions, and networking opportunities which were designed to strengthen our collective response and build community resilience.

Stay on Side FireSkills Initiative

The fourth SOS FireSkills took place 23rd - 27th January at Fort William Community Fire Station and involved pupils from Lochaber High School. The Stay On Side initiative is a partnership between SFRS, Police Scotland and the Highland Council and provides a 5-day program of safety training for young people who are care-experienced or at risk of offending, aiming to build confidence, resilience, and practical life skills. FireSkills is an effective resource for SFRS to achieve strategic objectives, including reducing service demand and anti-social behaviour. Participants took part in activities such as firefighting and pump operation, breathing apparatus search and rescue, water safety, road traffic collision scenarios, and CPR training.



Lochaber High School Pupils who completed the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service course at Fort William station. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba photos.

Early feedback from the school reported that during the course, pupils displayed an increased ability to concentrate and engage in the classroom and during activities

The program has already demonstrated positive outcomes, with graduates progressing to further education opportunities through the University of the Highlands and Islands. Supported by £15,500 in external funding, three additional courses will run between March 2025 and March 2026, reinforcing our commitment to prevention, education, and the creation of pathways to positive destinations for young people.

Raigmore Community Centre 18/03/2026

On Wednesday, 18th March, Community Safety Advocates from SFRS attended a drop-in session for members of the public at Raigmore Community Centre. Community safety advocates attended to provide home fire safety advice. This was also an opportunity to network with local charities, including deaf services, Highland Council, Highland Housing Services, Police Scotland, and NHS Occupational Therapy. Through understanding of local services available to members of the public, SFRS is better able to signpost additional help available to individuals and communities and safeguarding the young and our vulnerable adults.

SFRS and Police Scotland Street Surgeries



On 20th March 2026, crews from Beauly and Drumnadrochit, along with Community Safety Advocates and our Local Area Liaison Officer with Police Scotland's Prevention and Interventions Team, provided street surgeries for members of the public.

SFRS engaged with members of the public, providing information on home fire safety, including safe charging of lithium-ion batteries, and sign-posted to the SFRS site for self-referral to Home Fire Safety Visits.

Wick Assembly Rooms drop-in event

On Thursday, 26th February, Community Safety advocates attended a community event at Wick Assembly Rooms. Present were Health & Social Care Partners and Third Sector Organisations. With a focus on highlighting organisations that could help people supporting those with neurodivergent conditions. SFRS was able to provide Home Fire Safety Advice and strengthen our capacity to signpost people to appropriate services for help during home fire safety visits in the community. This also contributes to changing behaviour, resulting in a reduction in accidental dwelling fires.

Highland Senior Citizens Network

On 19th February, CSA Stephen Reid provided some Home Fire Safety advice for attendees of the Highland Senior Citizens Network. Strengthening links and working with a wide variety of partner organisations and communities also helps us to address existing and new wider safety concerns, including how we contribute to safeguarding vulnerable people

Wildfire

Following the most severe wildfire season on record with the largest ever recorded in July around Dava Moor and Carrbridge in July 2025, a series of debriefs, wildfire summits and roundtable discussions has resulted in a strategic action plan being developed by Scottish Government in partnership SFRS, HMFSI, public bodies and land managers' which sets out a coordinated approach to preventing, preparing for and responding to wildfires. This contains a range of measures and activities to enhance our prevention, preparedness and response.

We continue to advance our Wildfire Strategy and have introduced new Wildfire Assets to Highland, with dedicated and trained wildfire response stations (ATVs) and support stations, including wildfire tactical advisors located locally. SFRS continue to work with partners to implement the recommendations within the action plan through our role (and chair) of the Scottish Wildfire Forum, and continue to strengthen our policies around communication, prevention, welfare and deployment.

We are actively encouraging local community assets to join our Community Asset Register (CAR). This enables us to plot community assets on a map so if an emergency occurs, we can identify those who can help; and have been provided an awareness of how we operate to ensure safety at incidents. We would welcome your influence and support to encourage membership.

Appliance Availability

We have implemented several local initiatives in Highland to focus on appliance availability across our areas. As you are aware, we operate a dynamic response model across SFRS which ensures our local and specialist assets are visible and safely deployable to support all of Highland including the remotest of communities, always ensuring a response. We are challenged, as in many areas of Scotland, by rural depopulation and by the ability to source the people to support our community responses, but we remain committed to this and are actively engaging our Highland staff and partners to explore innovative solutions.

Local Area Committees are provided with the detail of the appliance availability figures, allowing for local challenges and solutions to be more appropriately discussed.

Service Delivery Review

The SFRS has carried out a [Service Delivery Review](#) to look at ways of reshaping and modernising the organisation. Their final decisions on the proposals, including the closure of 3 long term dormant stations in Highland (Ratagan, Nethy Bridge and Muck) are due to be announced by the SFRS Fire Board by the end of June 2026.

Highland Local Plan Development

With the publication of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategy 2025-2028 and our three-year delivery plan, I am now developing our 2025-2028 Highland Fire and Rescue Plan, setting new priorities for the next three years. This will ensure our effectiveness against the areas needs and align with a strong partnership approach for communities in Highland. The draft plan will be released for consultation in the coming months.

Non-Domestic Premises Fires

SFRS are working with colleagues in Scottish Government and Building Standards to develop a robust plan of action, following recent non-domestic fires.

In addition to the risk-based audit programme that we undertake with the non-domestic premises across Highland, we aim to provide additional guidance and support to duty holders, reinforcing their responsibilities under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. We are developing a communications plan, including sector specific online seminars designed to give tailored fire safety advice to duty holders across Highland.

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

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BUSINESS
INTELLIGENCE

Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.