

Agenda Item	4
Report No	LA/27/26

The Highland Council

Committee: Lochaber Area Committee

Date: 10 August 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 3 and 4, covering the period from 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026. 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 decreased since the last report, with four incidents recorded in the current reporting period. During this period, there was one non-fatal ADF casualty who was given first aid on scene. Additionally, during this period, there were two Non-Domestic fire-related incidents, which is lower than in previous periods. This report highlights three primary or secondary fire incidents involving deliberate fires, a decrease compared to the three-year average.

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

Furthermore, there were twenty-three 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 fatalities and nine 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://firescotland.gov.uk)

Designation: Local Senior Officer for Highland

Date: 20/7/26

Author: Station Commander Che Scott

Background Papers: Highland - Lochaber Area Committee Performance Report



Highland Lochaber 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 Lochaber Committee

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	Station Availability and Establishment
13	Community Safety & Engagement
14	Glossary of Terms

About the statistics within this report

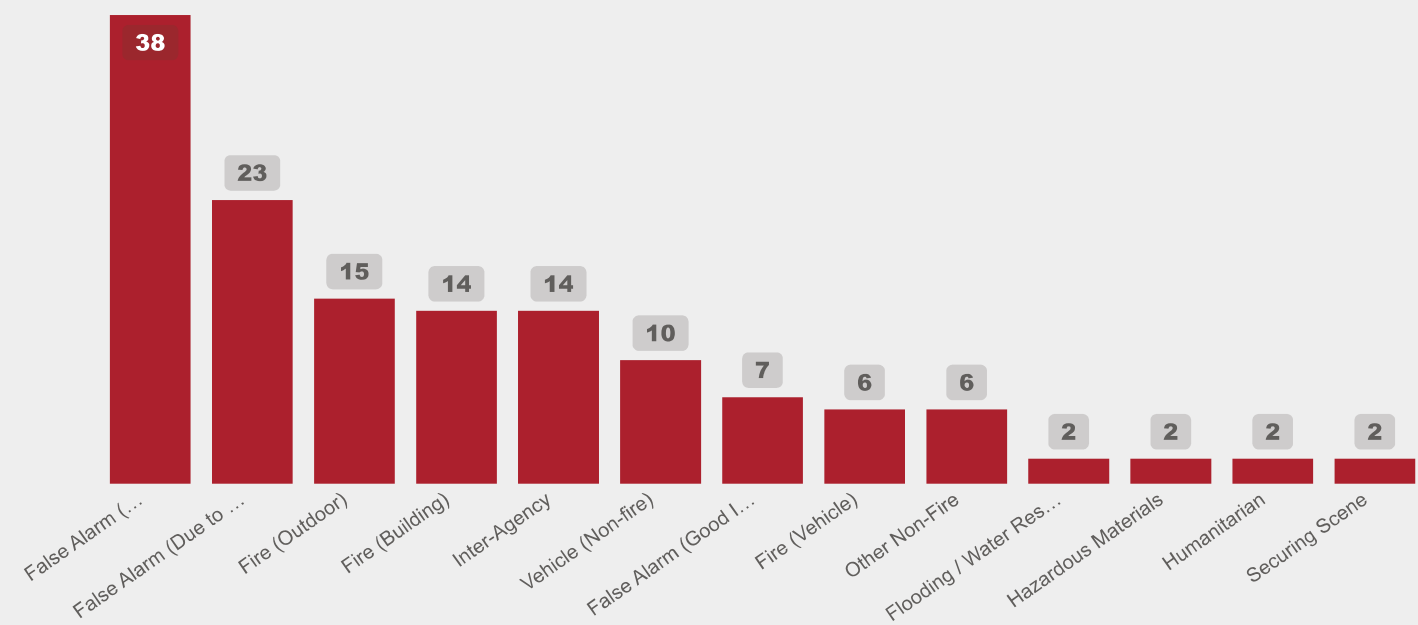
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference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

 141 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	 35 Fires	 38 Non-Fire Incidents	 68 False Alarms	 38 UFAS
 8 People Rescued by Firefighters	 1 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	 2 Fire Fatalities	 3 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	 7 Non-Fire Fatalities
 23 Home Fire Safety Visits	 32 Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types

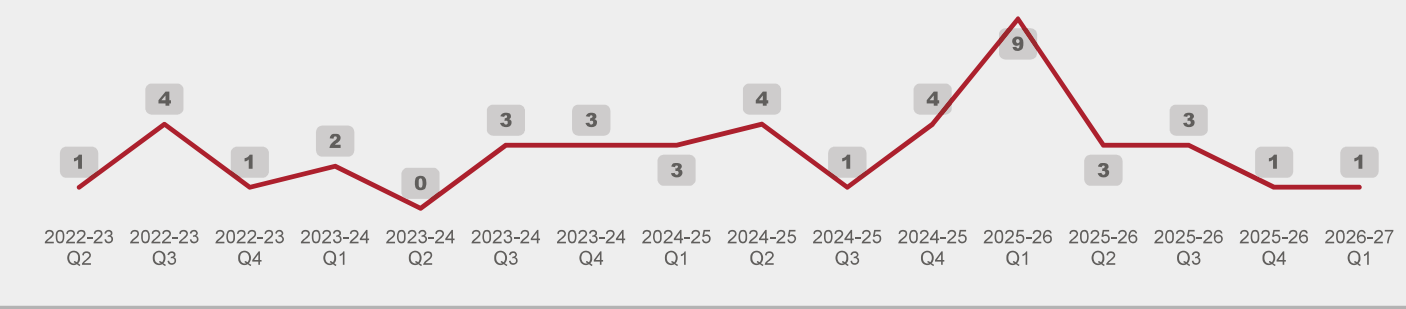


The information above provides a summary of the six-months (1 October 2025 - 31 March 2026) activity against headline indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

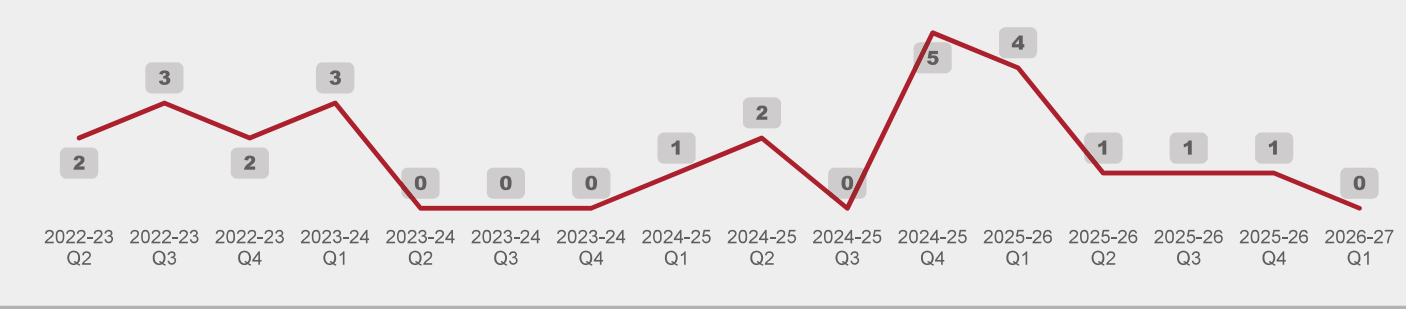
Accidental Dwelling Fires



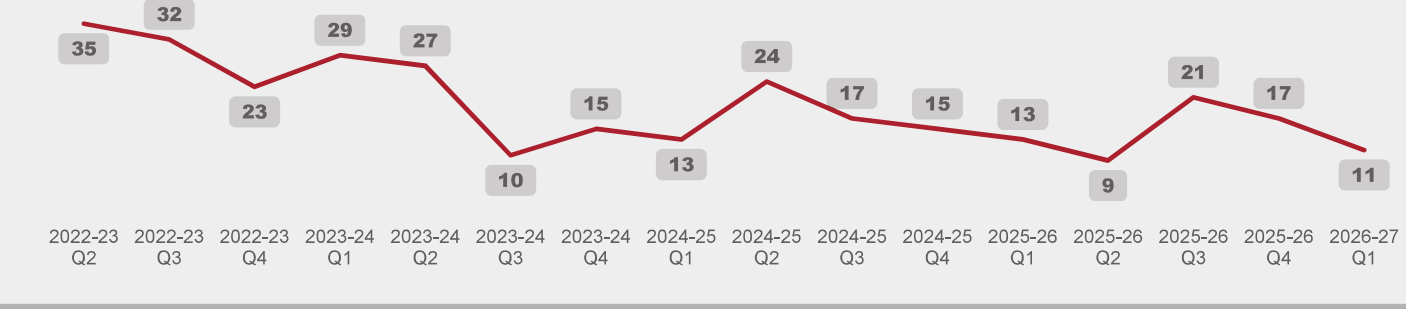
Deliberate Fires



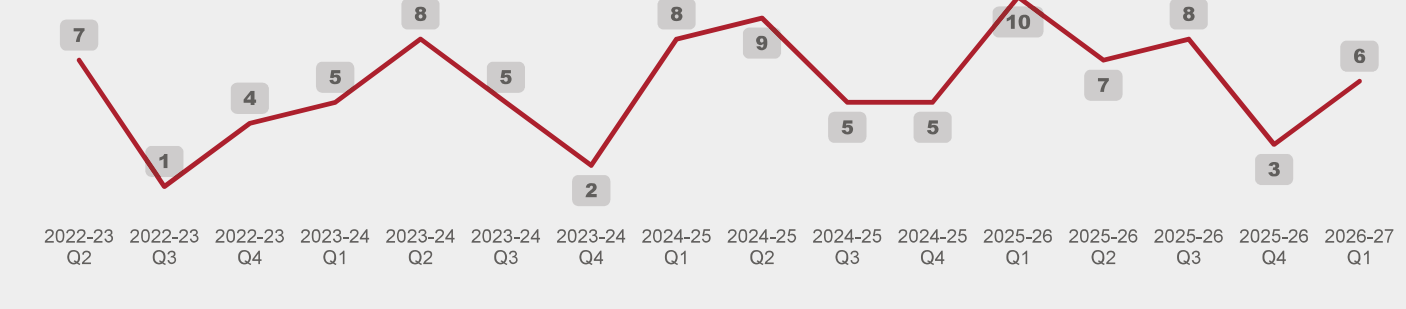
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



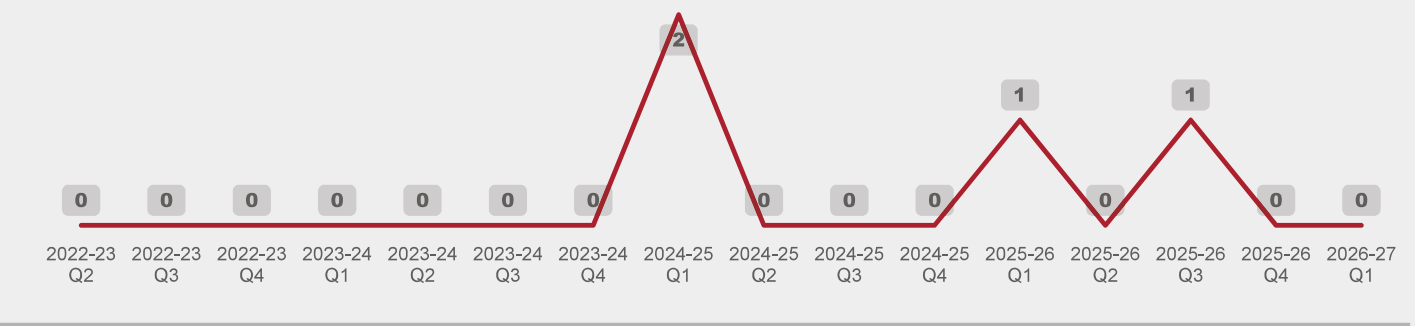
Road Traffic Collisions



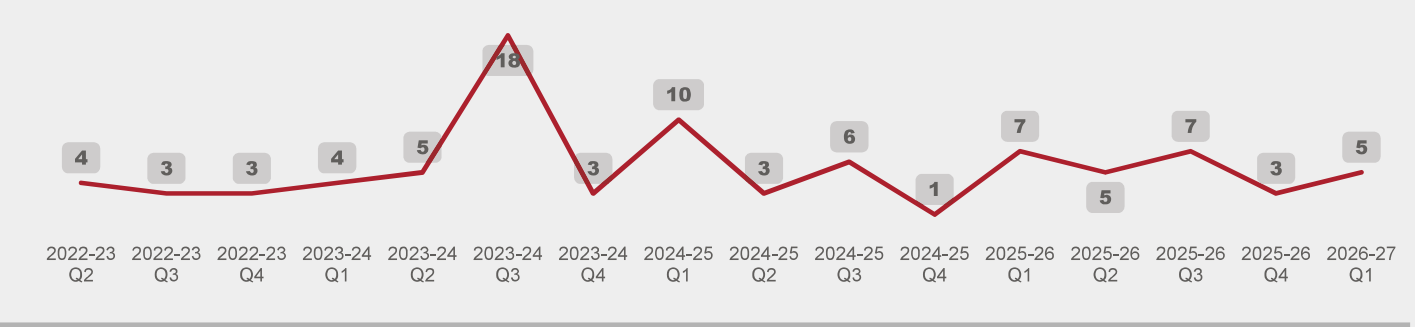
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

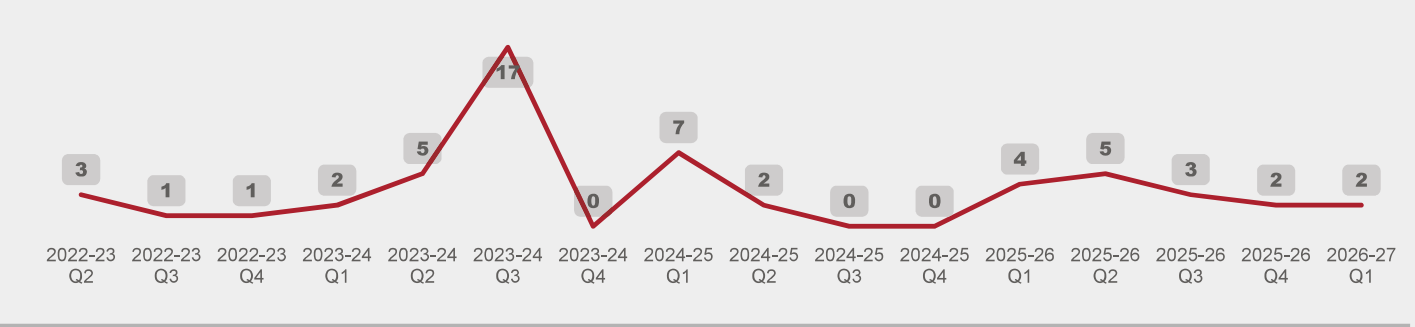
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



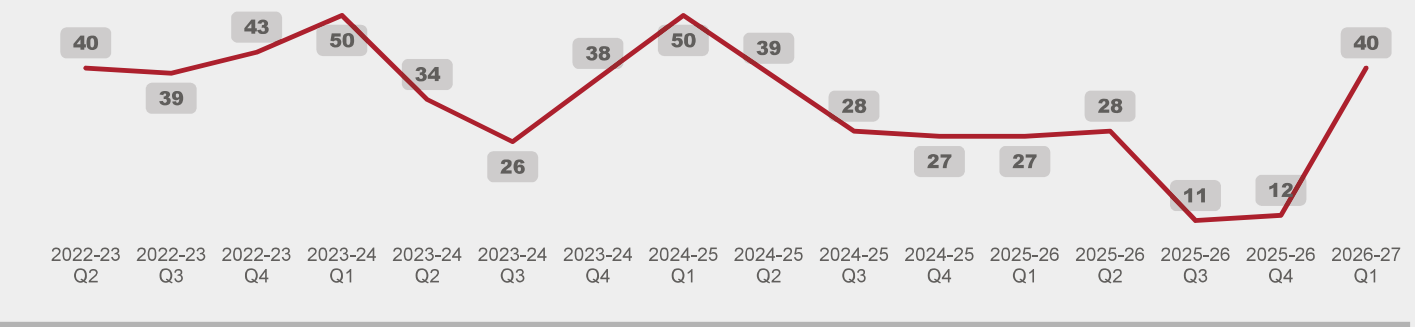
Non-Fire Casualties



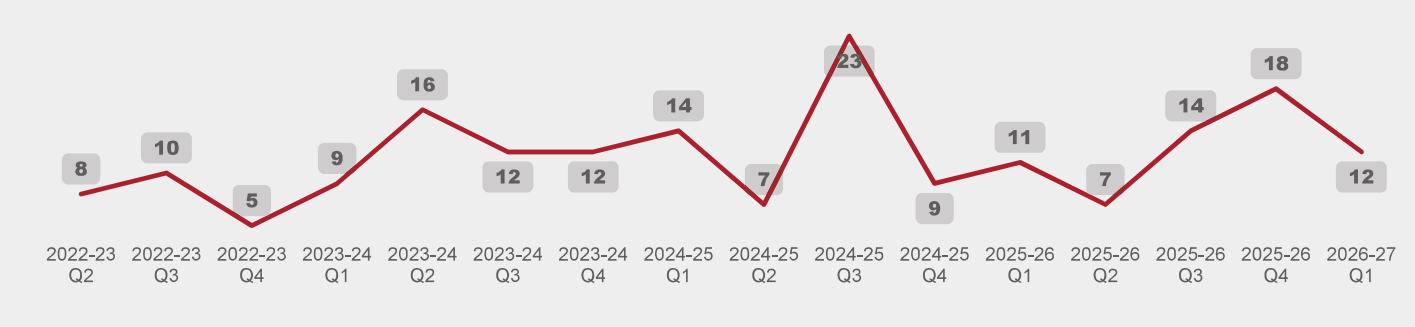
Road Traffic Collision Casualties



Home Fire Safety Visits



Fire Safety Audits



3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

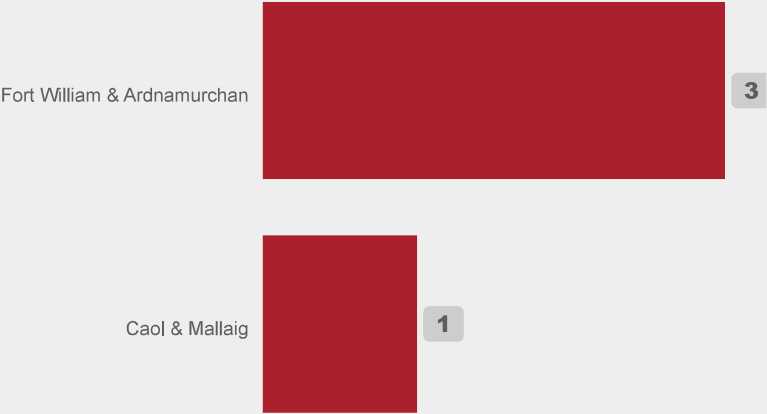
2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)

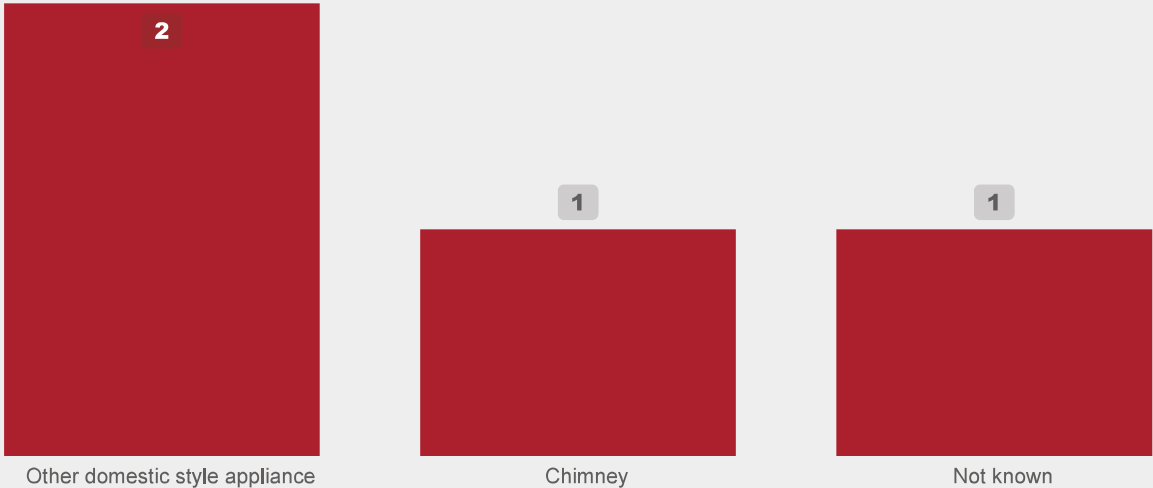


Extent of Damage	Incidents
Limited to room of origin	3
Affecting more than 2 floors (not whole building)	1

Incidents by Ward



Source of Ignition (Top 10)



4
Accidental Dwelling Fires
in this period

In this reporting period there were **4 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)**, which is a significant decrease when compared to the previous period. Whilst the majority of these were classed as low severity, requiring little or no intervention from the Service and minimal fire damage.

All ADFs are followed up with a HFSV and agency referrals when required.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



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

Casualties by Ward

Fort William & Ardnamurchan



1

Non-Fatal Casualties

0

Fatal Casualties

0

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



1

First Aid Given at Scene



0

Hospital Slight Injuries

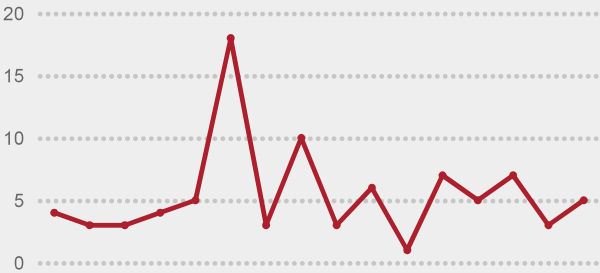


0

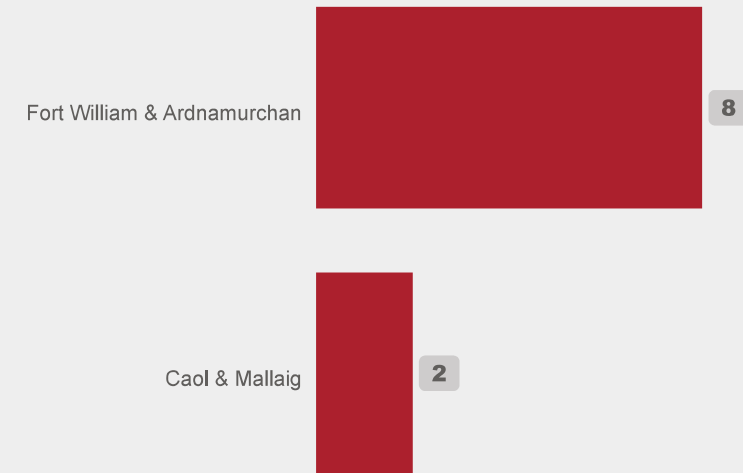
Hospital Serious Injuries

There was **1 Non-Fatal Casualty** during this reporting period and **0 ADF Fatalities**. It should be noted that these figures do not include those who have been recommended to have a precautionary check up.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



3
Non-Fatal
Casualties

7
Fatal
Casualties

8
People
Rescued by
Firefighters

Extent of Harm
(Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given
at Scene



2

Hospital Slight
Injuries



1

Hospital Serious
Injuries

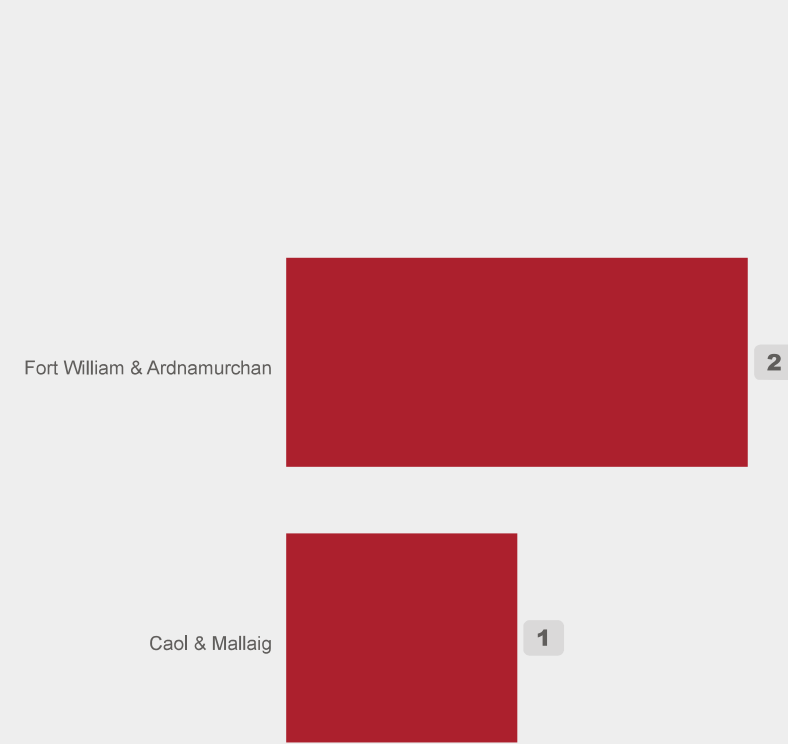
During this reporting period there were sadly 7 **Fatal Non-Fire Casualties**, which is an increased compared to the previous period. There were also 3 **Non-Fatal Non-Fire Casualties**, which is a decrease in comparison to the previous period.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Property Type	Incident
Road Vehicle	2
Grassland, woodland and crops	1

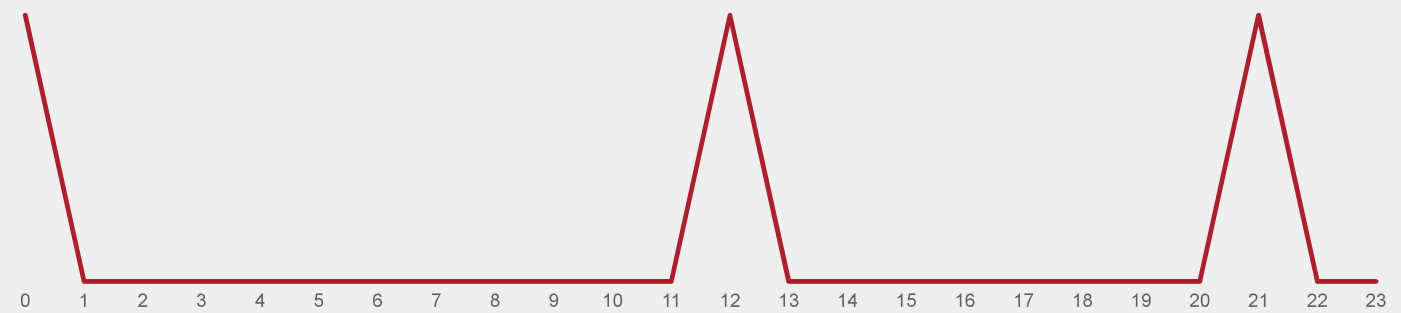
Incidents by Ward



3

Deliberate Fires
in this period

Hour of Day



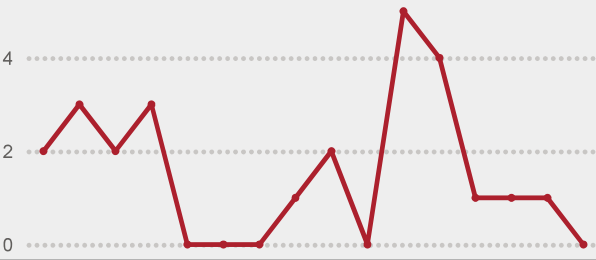
There were **3 Deliberate Fires** during this reporting period, which is a significant decrease compared to the previous period.

Referrals are made to other agencies for those at work within our communities.

7. Non-Domestic Fires

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

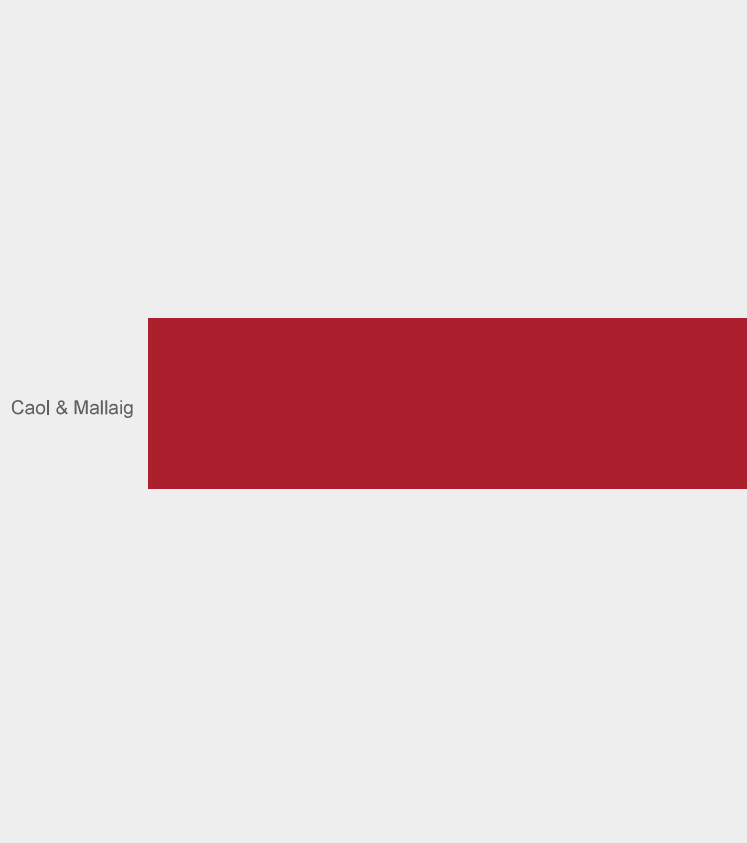
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Education	1
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	1

Incidents by Ward



- Accidental
- Deliberate

2

Non-Domestic
Fires in this
period

Extent of Damage



Limited to item 1st ignited

Not applicable

There were 2 Non-Domestic Building Fires which is a decrease when compared to the previous reporting period.

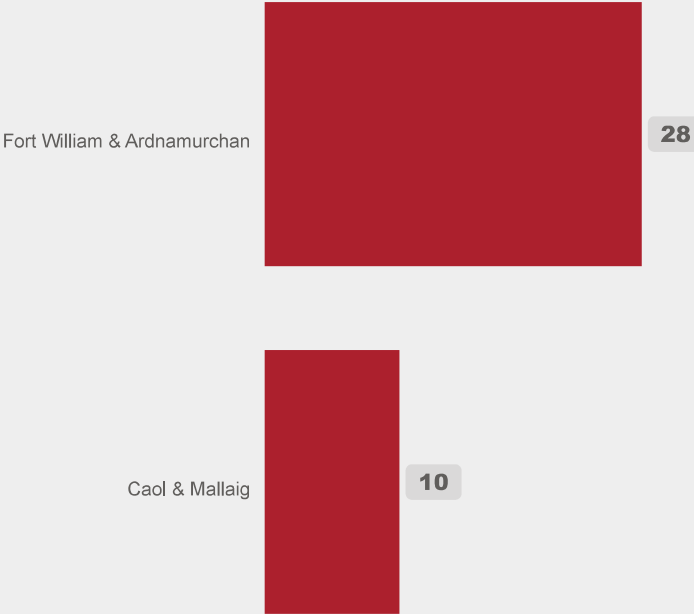
8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2025-26 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

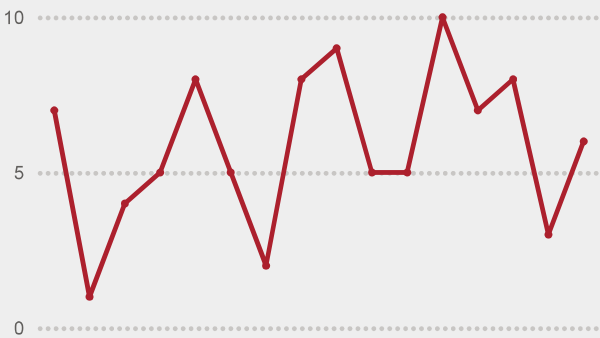
Property Type	Incidents
Hotel/motel	12
Other Residential Home	6
Residential Home	6
Boarding House/B&B other	3
Education	2
Retail	2
Student Hall of Residence	2
Youth hostel	2
Food and Drink	1
Hospitals and medical care	1
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	1

38

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

During this reporting period there were **38 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during this period, which is an increase when compared with the previous period. The figures continues to remain low following the Service's change to attendance at commercial businesses and workplace premises.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



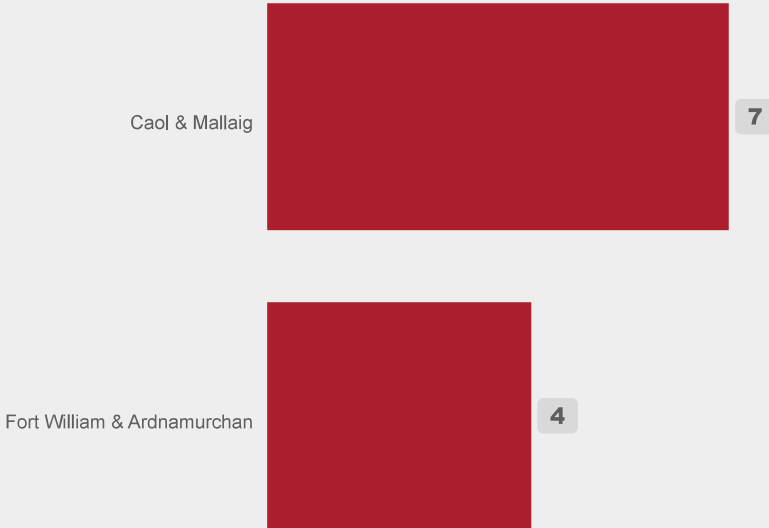
11

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
Car	8
Lorry/HGV	2
Multiple Vehicles	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	10
Fire (Vehicle)	1

Incidents by Ward



3

Non-Fatal Casualties

2

Fatal Casualties

5

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given at Scene



2

Hospital Slight Injuries



1

Hospital Serious Injuries

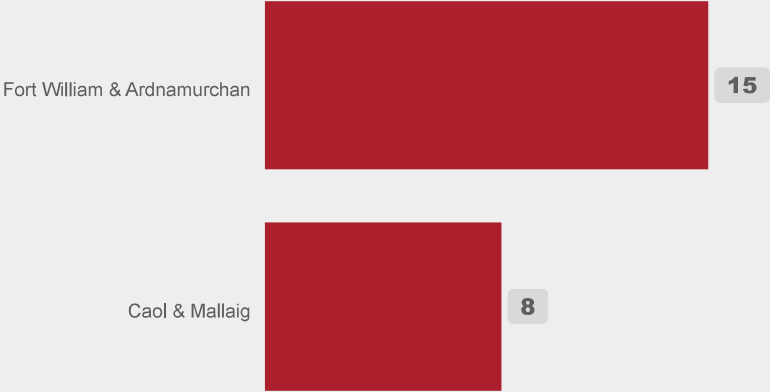
We attended **11 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is a decrease when compared to the previous reporting period. There were **2 RTC Fatalities** and **3 Non-Fatal RTC Casualties**.

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.

HFSVs by Ward

23

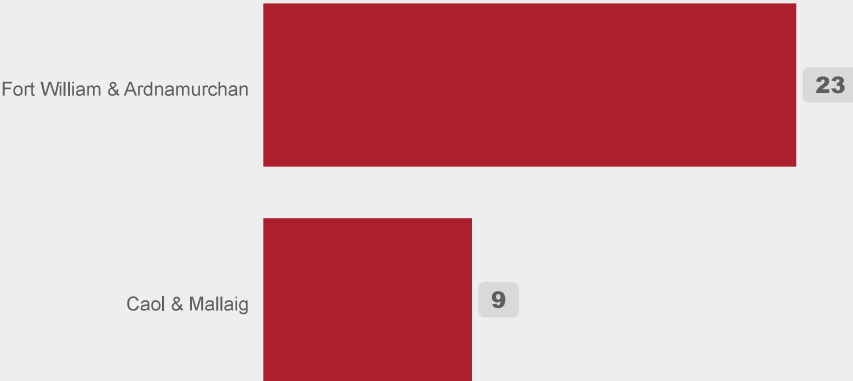
Home Fire
Safety Visits



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Audit	32
Consultation	3
Specific Visit	1

Audits by Ward



We undertook **23 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 **32 Audits** together with **3 Consultations** and **1 Specific Visit** within this period.

- 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	Oct 25 – Nov 25 Availability* %	Staff 30/11/25	Dec 25 – Mar 26 Availability* %	Staff 31/03/26
Acharacle	32.39%	4	40.70%	4
Fort William – 1 st Appliance	100%	22	100%	21
Fort William – 2 nd Appliance	79.75%		88.21%	
Kilchoan	0%	3	2.97%	3
Kinlochleven – 1 st Appliance	60.89%	8	66.73%	8
Kinlochleven – 2 nd Appliance	0%		66.73%	
Lochaline	58.90%	6	61.73%	6
Mallaig	22.73%	4	37.47%	4
Strontian	75.02%	7	73.61%	8

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

Stay on Side/Fireskills



experiences.

The Stay on Side/Fireskills course, held from February 23 to 27, was a resounding success at Fort William Fire Station. This impactful program, sponsored by Police Scotland and Highland Council, welcomed participants from SFRS, SAS, and Police Scotland and was designed to support children facing unique challenges within the school environment. Throughout the course, children and teenagers learned the value of teamwork, discovering how collaboration can lead to positive and enriching



The program received enthusiastic feedback and was honored by the presence of LSO AC Lynne Gow and SC Monaghan during the pass-out day. This significant event was also attended by local councillors, school representatives, community groups, and, most importantly, proud parents, all celebrating the achievements of the participants.

Lochaber Community Partnership

The Lochaber Community Partnership (LCP) has embarked on a strategic initiative to enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness for the community of Lochaber. This initiative focuses on streamlining administrative functions to ensure that the right stakeholders participate in relevant discussions, thereby optimising decision-making processes.

1. Themed Approach to Community Resilience:

In alignment with recent consultations among partnership stakeholders, the theme of resilience has been identified as a strategic priority for the Lochaber district. This focus aims to enhance operational capacity within the LCP, allowing for a more responsive approach to the evolving needs of the Lochaber community.

2. Resilience Workshop:

In pursuit of this strategic focus, a resilience workshop has been scheduled to address critical components including:

- The establishment, operation, and maintenance of Local Resilience Groups.
- Development of protocols among stakeholders during emergencies, including wildfires, flooding, and severe weather events.
- Comprehensive assessment of the impacts these emergencies have on local communities.

3. Collaboration Across Agencies:

This workshop exemplifies a collaborative framework involving partner agencies, community organisations, and third-sector entities. Such cooperation emphasises the district's commitment to bolstering community support systems and enhancing emergency preparedness capabilities.

The ongoing initiatives within the LCP reflect a proactive, strategic approach to building resilience in Lochaber. By fostering partnerships and engaging with community stakeholders, the LCP is dedicated to ensuring that the district is well-prepared to respond effectively to potential emergencies and challenges. Further updates will be disseminated as the workshop and associated activities progress.

Co-Location project between SFRS and HMCG

We are pleased to announce that efforts are advancing rapidly to explore the strategic co-location of both the Her Majesty's Coastguard (HMCG) and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) at Strontian Fire Station. This initiative aligns closely with the SFRS strategy and vision framework, emphasising collaboration and resource optimisation in the emergency responder sector.

The co-location is pivotal in fostering partnerships with our agencies, facilitating a supportive environment for our colleagues dedicated to emergency response. Furthermore, SFRS is mindful of the Scottish Government's commitment to shared premises, as outlined in existing guidelines and agreements.

We are currently in the advanced stages of agreement with HMCG, and this marks a significant milestone as it will represent the first-ever co-located SFRS shared premise within the Highland Local Senior Officer area. We believe that this collaboration will enhance our operational capacity and community resilience, ultimately leading to improved service delivery for the communities we serve.

Schools & Visits

Throughout the district, various fire stations, including Fort William, Lochaline, and Strontian, have actively engaged with numerous local schools and nurseries. These visits have fostered meaningful interactions between firefighting crews and young students, creating an enjoyable yet educational experience.

During these outreach events, crews have taken the opportunity to promote the Winter and Spring Thematic Action Plan, which outlines specific safety initiatives tailored for the season. Additionally, crews have delivered informative and age-appropriate sessions on general fire safety, emphasising the importance of understanding fire hazards and the steps to take in case of an emergency. Water safety education has also been a key focus, with discussions on safe practices around lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water being integral to the lessons shared.

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.