

# The Highland Council

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Agenda Item</b> | <b>3</b>          |
| <b>Report No</b>   | <b>WRSL/17/26</b> |

**Committee:** Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh

**Date:** 2nd November 2026

**Report Title:** Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Area Committee Performance Report – Q1 & 2

**Report By:** Local Senior Officer - Highland

## **1 Purpose/Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh, Area Committee Members on progress against the priorities outlined in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Committee Plan for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh.
- 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 Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh.
- 1.3 The report also contains previously agreed information and performance as requested by Area Committees.

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to scrutinise and comment on 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) -**
- 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 Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh, Area Committee Performance Report**

4.1 The attached performance report provides the current figures for Quarter 1 & Quarter 2 of 2026/27 and from the previous 3 reporting years from the central Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) performance management database against the key indicators and timelines from previous reports.

4.2 In achieving the priorities within the Area Plan for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh, prevention and protection activities are undertaken by personnel. These include: the delivery of free home fire safety visits (HFSV) to high and very high-risk groups, through our operational On Call Staff and Community Safety Advocates (CSA), and post-domestic incident response (PDIR), both of which are aimed at reducing accidental dwelling house fires following our attendance at any incidents of this type. Local managers continue to support the partners in delivering road safety programmes, and the reduction of fire-related antisocial behaviour through targeted youth engagement, utilising digital platforms within schools.

The continued application of the Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) Policy provides a means of targeting premises that the Service attends repeatedly and by engagement reduce the number of calls.

4.3 Staff also undertake Operational Intelligence (OI) visits to the higher risk premises in Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh, to gather vital information on the hazards and risks on these sites which can help our operational response and firefighter safety.

4.4 It must be emphasised that the baseline figures for some of the indicators within the report are very low, and this can make meaningful statistical analysis challenging. The low figures can also make it appropriate to provide detailed data analysis, which could compromise personal information.

4.5 The performance report shows: -

#### **Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)**

There were 8 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs) in this reporting period, which is a slight decrease when compared to the previous reporting 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 a HFSV and agency referrals where required. We are pleased to report that during this reporting period that there are 0 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.

## **Deliberate Fires**

We attended 5 Deliberate Fires within this period, which is an increase when compared to the previous reporting period. The majority of these were categorised as Other Outdoors (including land).

## **Non-Domestic Building Fires**

There were 3 Non-Domestic Building Fires, representing performance below the three-year average and reflecting continued positive engagement with local businesses and duty-holders.

## **Non-Fire Casualties**

There has been an increase in numbers for this reporting period, with there being 3 Fatal Casualties and 12 Non-Fatal Casualties. All twelve casualties attended hospital, with 8 appearing to have serious injuries

## **Road Traffic Collisions (RTC)**

In this reporting period, we attended 4 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), which is a decrease when compared to the previous period. There was a total of 1 Fatal Casualty and 4 Non-Fatal Casualties, with 1 Person rescued by Firefighters. Our Prevention teams continue to work with partner agencies through the Highland Road Safety group, older driver Virtual Reality Scheme and the Road Safety Scheme for new drivers

## **Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)**

We attended 15 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) during this reporting period, which is comparable to the previous period. The figure continues to remain low following the Service's change to attending commercial and workplace premises. Since 1 July 2023, SFRS no longer attends automatic fire alarm activations in commercial and workplace premises unless a fire is confirmed. Control operators now request confirmation of fire or signs of fire before mobilising resources. This does not apply to sleeping premises—such as hospitals, care homes, hotels, or domestic dwellings—which continue to receive full pre-determined attendance. This approach follows the 2021 SFRS public consultation and is intended to reduce unnecessary appliance movements and enhance operational availability.

## **Community Safety Activity**

We undertook 19 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) during this reporting period. Our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers and Auditing Officers conducted 22 Audits, 2 Specific Visits and 1 Consultation.

Designation: Local Senior Officer for Highland

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Author: Group Commander Mike Colliar

Background Papers: Highland – Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh, Area Committee – Performance Report

Appendices:



# **Highland Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee**

**2026-27 Q1 & Q2  
Scrutiny Report**



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**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**  
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**Highland**  
**Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh**  
**Committee**  
**2026-27 Q1 & Q2**  
**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**

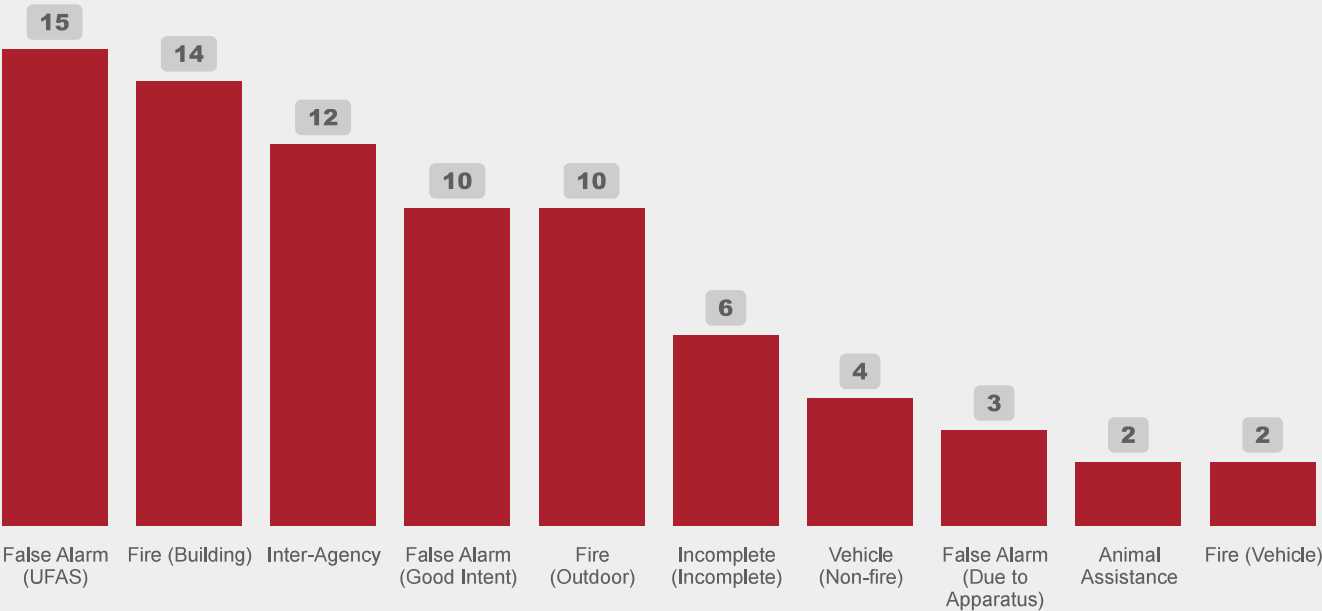
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference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

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

|                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><b>80</b><br>Total Incidents<br>(Incl. Incompletes) | <br><b>26</b><br>Fires                                                         | <br><b>20</b><br>Non-Fire Incidents | <br><b>28</b><br>False Alarms                                                      | <br><b>15</b><br>UFAS               |
| <br><b>4</b><br>People Rescued by<br>Firefighters       | <br><b>0</b><br>People Receiving<br>First Aid or Hospital<br>Treatment (Fires) | <br><b>0</b><br>Fire Fatalities     | <br><b>12</b><br>People Receiving<br>First Aid or Hospital<br>Treatment (Non-Fire) | <br><b>3</b><br>Non-Fire Fatalities |
| <br><b>19</b><br>Home Fire Safety Visits                | <br><b>22</b><br>Fire Safety Audits                                            |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                        |

Top 10 Incident Types

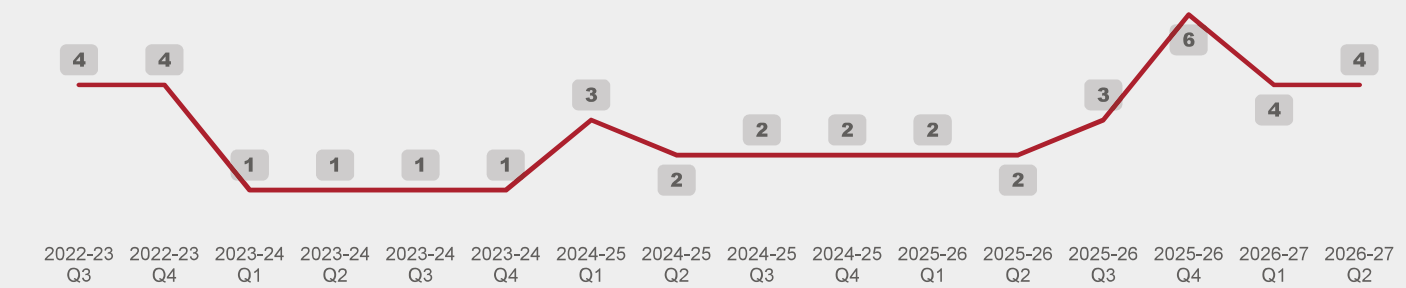


The information above provides a summary of the six-months (1 April - 30 September 2026) activity against headline indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

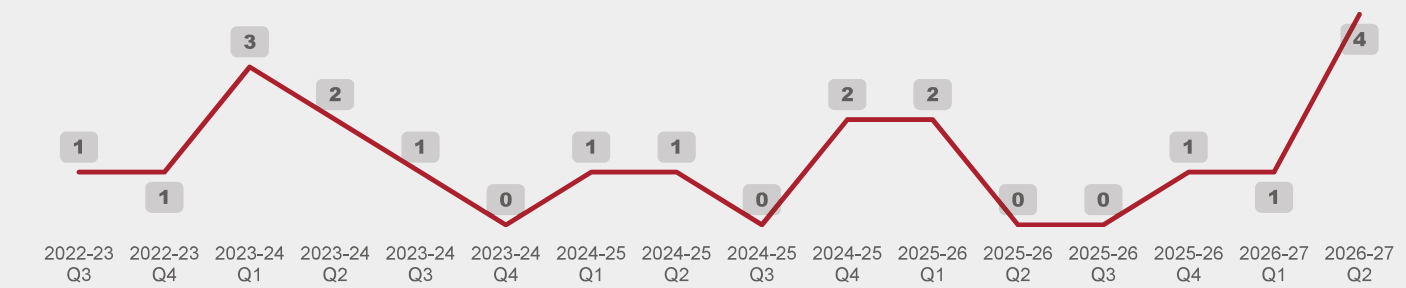
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

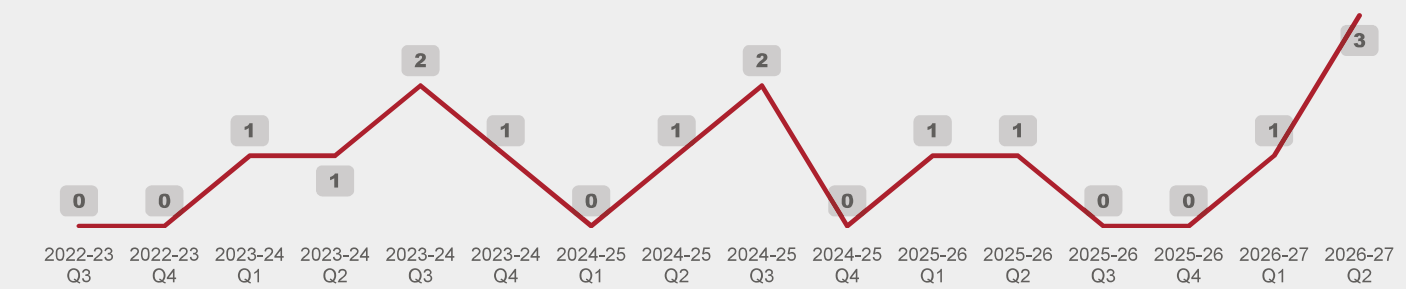
Accidental Dwelling Fires



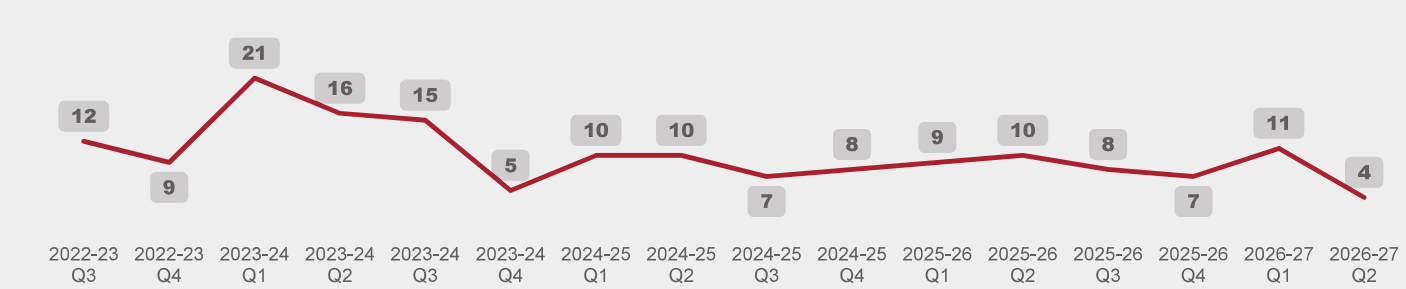
Deliberate Fires



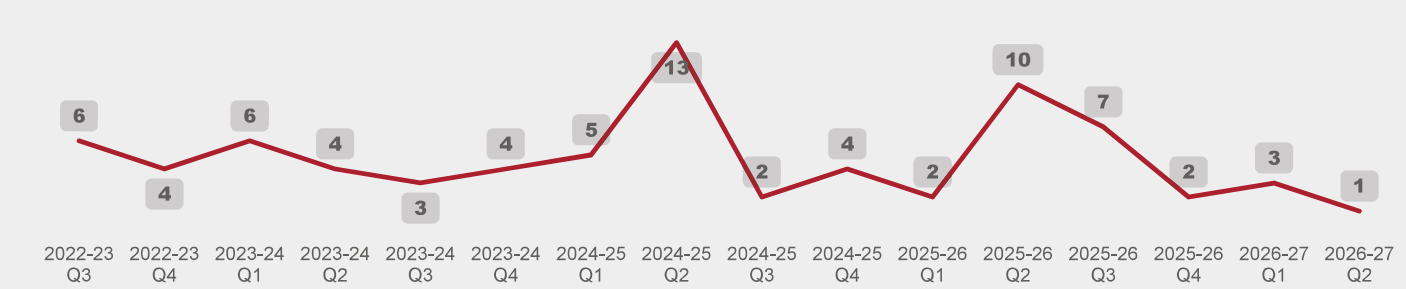
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



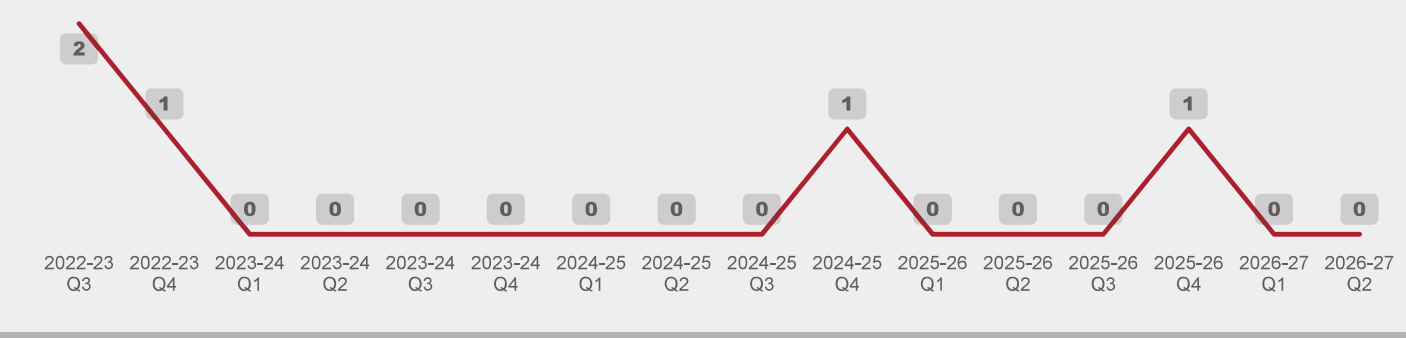
Road Traffic Collisions



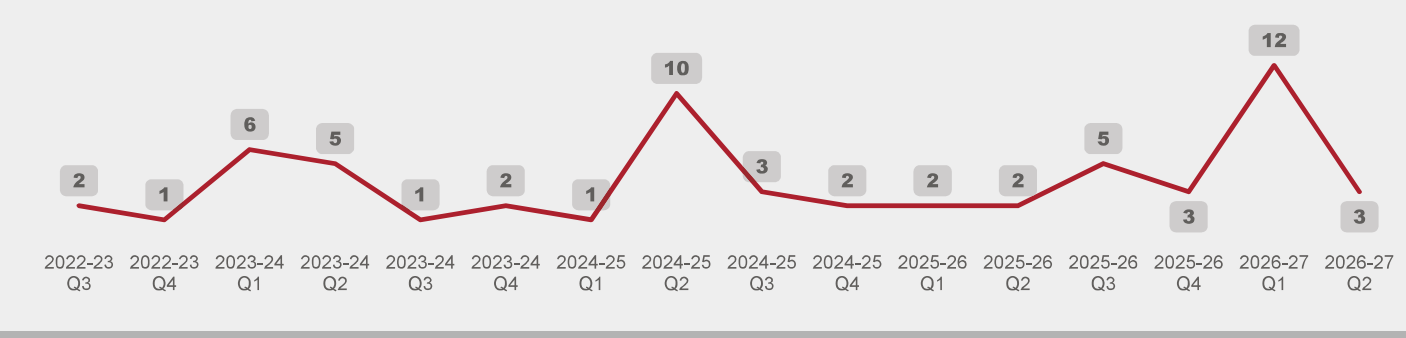
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

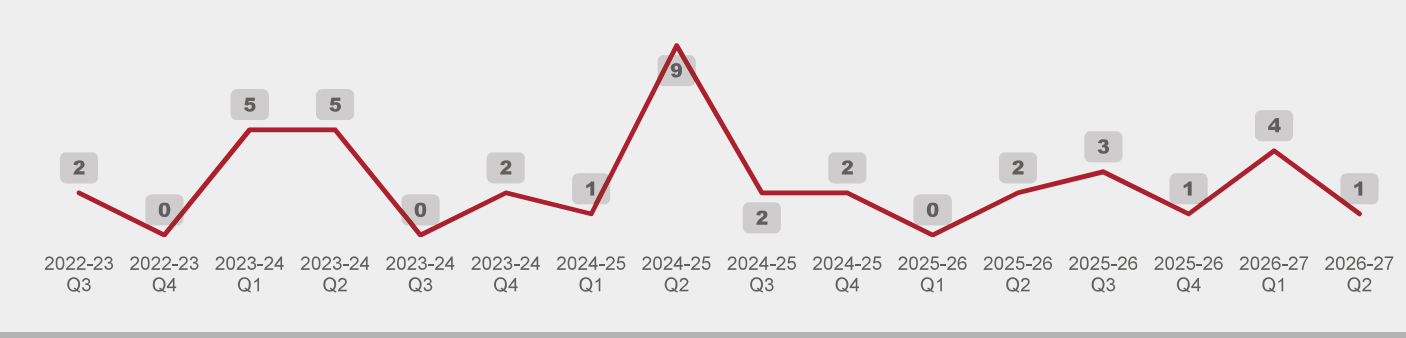
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



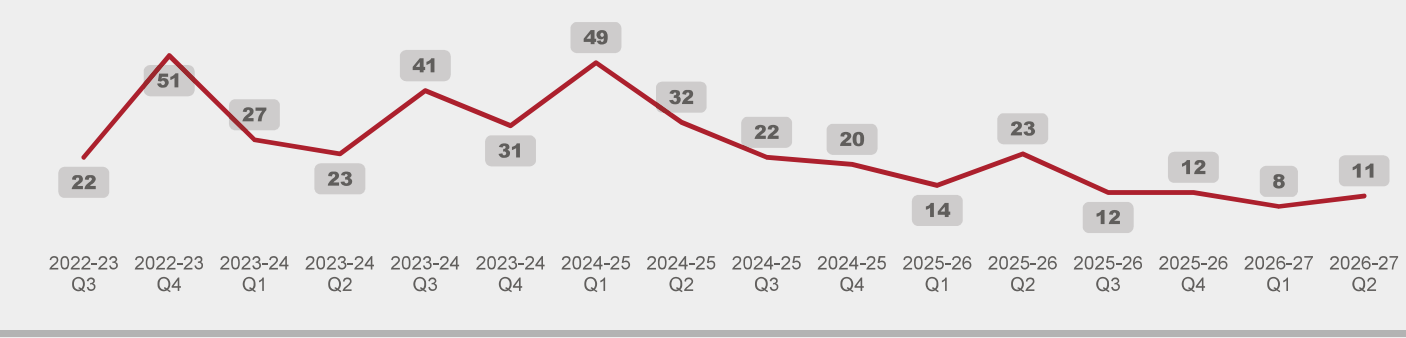
Non-Fire Casualties



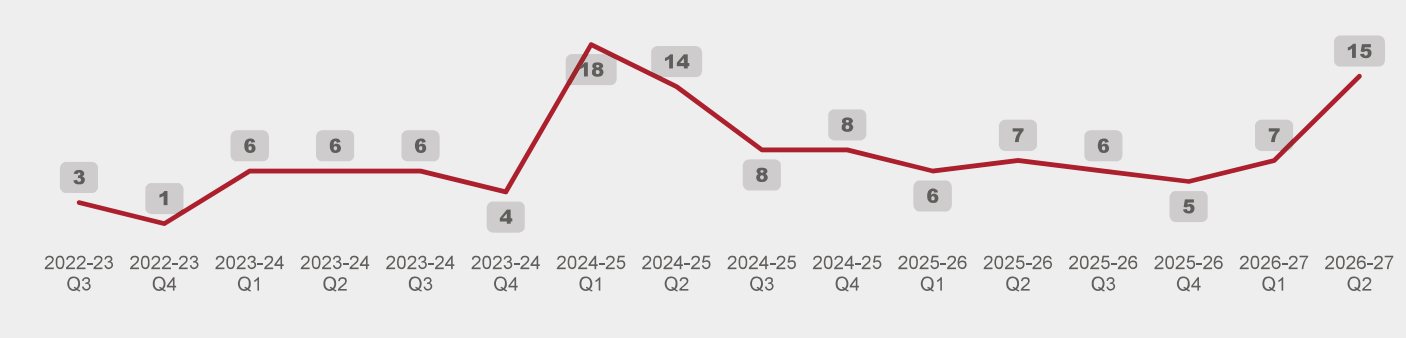
Road Traffic Collision Casualties



Home Fire Safety Visits



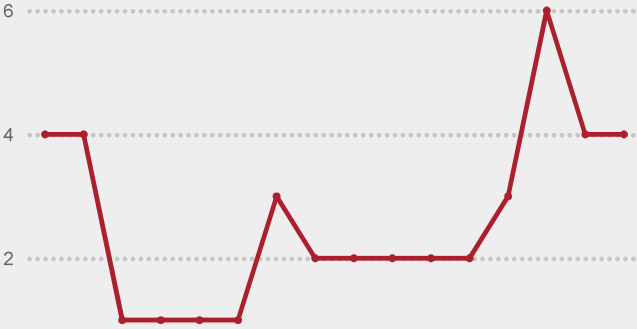
Fire Safety Audits



3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



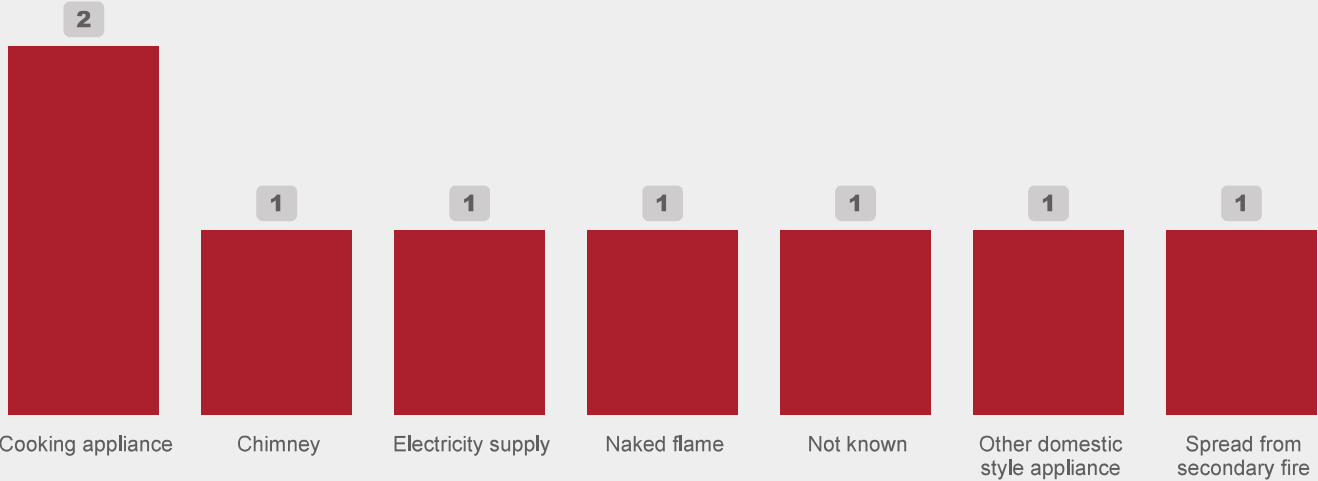
| Extent of Damage          | Incidents |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Not applicable            | 3         |
| Limited to room of origin | 2         |
| Whole building            | 2         |
| Roof space only           | 1         |

Incidents by Ward

Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh

8

Source of Ignition (Top 10)



8

Accidental Dwelling Fires  
in this period

There were **8 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)**, in this reporting period, which is a slight decrease when compared to the previous reporting 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 a HFSV and agency referrals where required.

4. Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward

| Nature of Injury/Cause of Death | Casualties |
|---------------------------------|------------|
|                                 | ▼          |

0

Non-Fatal Casualties

0

Fatal Casualties

0

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given at Scene



0

Hospital Slight Injuries

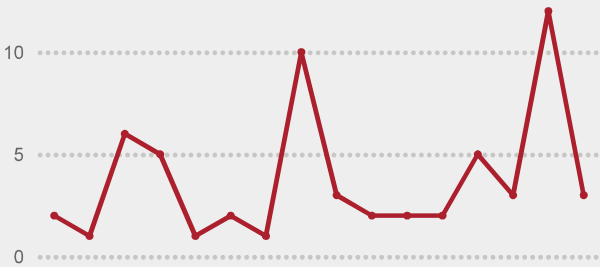


0

Hospital Serious Injuries

We are please to report that during this reporting period that there are **0 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.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



| Nature of Injury/Cause of Death               | Casualties |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------|
| Other                                         | 3          |
| Cuts/Lacerations                              | 2          |
| Fracture                                      | 2          |
| Not known                                     | 2          |
| Other physical injury                         | 2          |
| Back / Neck injury (spinal)                   | 1          |
| Chest / Abdominal injury                      | 1          |
| Chest pain / Heart condition / Cardiac arrest | 1          |
| Head injury                                   | 1          |

12

Non-Fatal Casualties

3

Fatal Casualties

4

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given at Scene



4

Hospital Slight Injuries



8

Hospital Serious Injuries

There has been an increase in numbers for this reporting period, with there being **3 Fatal Casualties** and **12 Non-Fatal Casualties**. All twelve casualties attended hospital with 8 appearing to have serious injuries.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



| Property Type                   | Incident |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Other outdoors (including land) | 3        |
| Non Residential                 | 1        |
| Refuse                          | 1        |

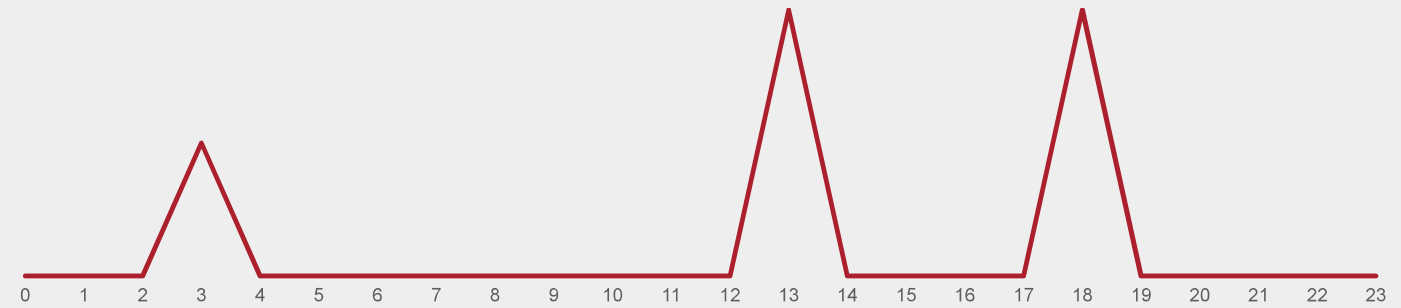
Incidents by Ward



5

Deliberate Fires  
in this period

Hour of Day



We attended **5 Deliberate Fires** within this period, which is an increase when compared to the previous reporting period. The majority of these were categorised as Other Outdoors (including land).

7. Non-Domestic Fires

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

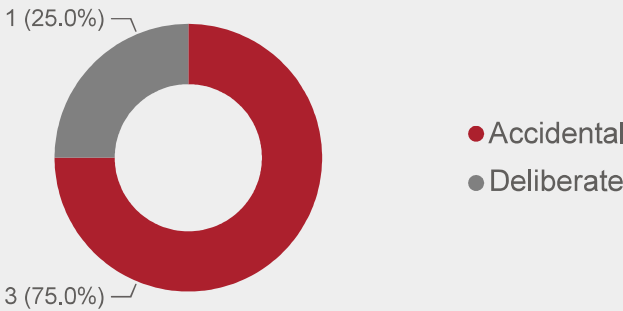
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

| Property Type                 | Incidents |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Entertainment and culture     | 1         |
| Other buildings/use not known | 1         |
| Public Utilities              | 1         |
| Residential Home              | 1         |

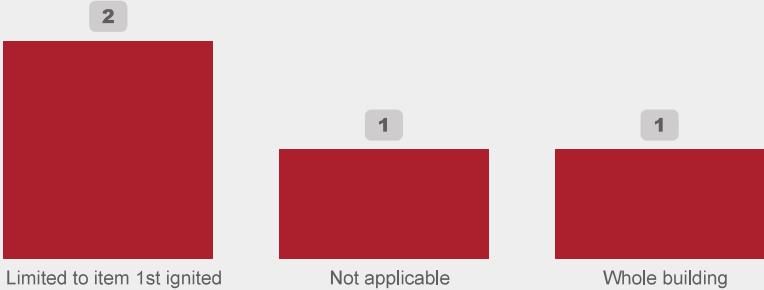
Incidents by Ward



4

Non-Domestic Fires in this period

Extent of Damage

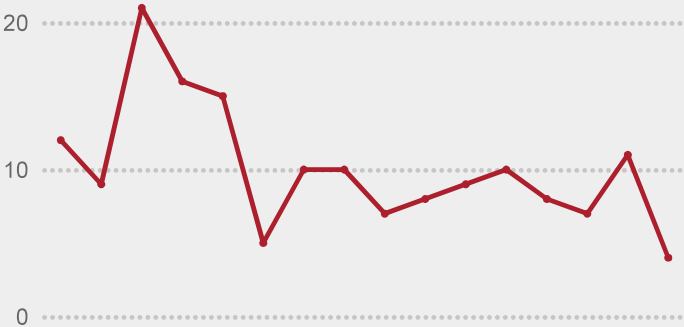


There were 4 Non-Domestic Fires within this reporting period, which is an increase when compared to the previous period.

8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward

Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh

15

Top 15 Property Types

| Property Type                                   | Incidents |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Residential Home                                | 7         |
| Hotel/motel                                     | 5         |
| Boarding House/B&B other                        | 1         |
| Education                                       | 1         |
| Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet) | 1         |

15

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

We attended **15 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during this reporting period, which is comparable to the previous period. The figure continues to remain low following the Service's change to attending commercial and workplace premises.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



4

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

| Property Type | Incidents |
|---------------|-----------|
| Agricultural  | 1         |
| Car           | 1         |
| Motorcycle    | 1         |
| Other         | 1         |

| Incident Type      | Incidents |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Vehicle (Non-fire) | 4         |

Incidents by Ward

Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh

4

4

Non-Fatal Casualties

1

Fatal Casualties

1

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given at Scene



1

Hospital Slight Injuries



3

Hospital Serious Injuries

In this reporting period we attended **4 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)**, which is a decrease when compared to the previous period. There was a total of **1 Fatal Casualty** and **4 Non-Fatal Casualties**, with **1 Person rescued by Firefighters**.

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

19

Home Fire  
Safety Visits

Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh



19

11. Fire Safety Enforcement

| Job Type       | Count |
|----------------|-------|
| Audit          | 22    |
| Specific Visit | 2     |
| Consultation   | 1     |

Audits by Ward

Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh



22

We undertook **19 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs)** during this reporting period.

Our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers and Auditing Officers conducted **22 Audits, 2 Specific Visits** and **1 Consultation**.

## 12. Station Availability and Establishment

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

- 11 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 10 Stations

These Stations serve the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh population

**\*Please note the availability figures do not include Joint Mobilising availability.**

| Station                              | Apr – Sept 2026*<br>% | Staff<br>30/09/26 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Achiltibuie                          | 53.76%                | 7                 |
| Applecross                           | 58.64%                | 5                 |
| Aultbea                              | 79.91%                | 11                |
| Gairloch                             | 97.90%                | 12                |
| Glenelg                              | 67.22%                | 7                 |
| Kinlochewe                           | 0%                    | 3                 |
| Kyle                                 | 98.45%                | 13                |
| Lochcarron                           | 67.28%                | 8                 |
| Torridon                             | 51.55%                | 6                 |
| Ullapool – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance | 98.70%                | 16                |
| Ullapool – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance | 76.76%                |                   |

## Fireskills Course in Kyle



In September 2026, a FireSkills course was delivered in Kyle, involving 10 young people from Plockton High School, ranging from S4 to S6. Throughout the programme, participants took part in a variety of activities designed to promote teamwork, responsibility and personal growth, whilst developing a greater understanding of fire safety and the work of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The course provided a positive learning environment where young people were able to challenge themselves, build confidence and develop skills that will benefit them both within school and in the wider community.

FireSkills is a youth engagement and personal development programme delivered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The programme is designed to provide young people with opportunities to develop confidence, teamwork, communication skills, self-discipline and leadership qualities through a range of practical and classroom-based activities. Participants gain an insight into the role of the Fire and Rescue Service while building valuable life skills that can support their future education, employment and personal development.

## Kyle Gala

In August Kyle Station attended the Kyle Gala Day, which is an annual event with the crew demonstrating how they deal with an RTC incident.



## Recruitment Event in Applecross



In April crew from Applecross Station held a recruitment event at the Applecross Walled Garden. It gave people the opportunity come along and ask any questions about joining the Service, to see the fire appliance and equipment. They were also providing home fire safety advice to the community.

## Fire Safety Talk in Ullapool

In April member of our Community Action Team paid a visit to Ullapool's Serve our Seniors group at the MacPhail Centre to talk about Home Fire Safety.

The group is aimed at the elderly however everyone is welcome, where they often have different organisations attend their meetings.



## 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.