The Highland Council

Agenda Item	**3**
Report No	**BSAC/18/26**

Committee: **Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee**

Date: **2nd November 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 Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee regarding the implementation of the priorities specified in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Committee Plans for Badenoch & Strathspey.

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 Badenoch & Strathspey.

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 scrutinise and note 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 Badenoch and Strathspey Committee Performance Report

4.1 The enclosed performance report delineates the current metrics for Quarters 1 and 2, covering the period from 1 April 2026 to 30 September 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 timelines previously established. It's important to note that the turnaround times and statistics are subject to delays, and any unresolved data may be carried over into the next reporting quarter.

4.2 In achieving the priorities within the Area Plan for Badenoch and Strathspey a number of prevention activities are being progressed including the delivery of free home fire safety visits (HFSV) through our operational On-Call Retained Duty System (RDS) and Volunteer Duty System (VDS) Crews and Community Safety Advocates (CSA), 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. Referrals are made to other agencies for those at work within our communities.

Local managers also support the partnership delivered Bye Law campaign, road safety programmes, and the reduction of fire-related antisocial behaviour through targeted youth engagement activities and thematic action plans.

4.3 Staff also undertake Operational Intelligence (OI) visits to the higher risk premises in Badenoch and Strathspey 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 inappropriate to provide detailed data analysis which could compromise personal information.

4.5 SFRS continues to actively deliver its On Call RDS/VDS recruitment and training processes to meet the national and local requirements. While we promote campaigns through local media and key community contacts, continued local area support is welcome for recruitment across the district.

4.6 The performance report shows:

Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF's) – There was 1 ADF's in this 6-month reporting period, classed as low severity. This figure is below the 3-year average for the area. The Service continues to work closely with partner agencies and communities to reduce the risk of fire and harm to house holders and their property, by means of Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR), Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV's) and agency referrals.

Fatalities/Casualties - There were no fire fatalities and no fire casualties for this period.

Deliberate Fires – There were 16 deliberate fires in this reporting period which is above the 3-year average but a decrease on the previous period. Of these incidents, 12 were related to outdoor fires which have tended to be in the late afternoon, early evening period when campfires are common.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) – We attended 15 UFAS incidents in this reporting period which is lower than the 3-year average and is mostly related to sleeping accommodation. Personnel continue to work in partnership with the clear aim of trying to eliminate all incident types through our preventative work and targeted engagement with premises.

Special Services - We attended 6 Road Traffic Collisions which is comparable with the 3-year average. There were no RTC Related Fatalities and 4 RTC Related Injuries, all of whom went to hospital. Our Prevention teams are working with partner agencies through the Highland Road Safety group, Older driver Virtual Reality Scheme and Road Safety Scheme for new drivers.

Prevention

5.1

Community Safety - 31 Home fire safety visits were delivered in the Badenoch and Strathspey area in this period. This is delivered by both on-call firefighters and by members of the Highland based Community Action Team.

Fire Safety Enforcement – 13 audits were completed within the Badenoch and Strathspey area in this period.

Designation:	Local Senior Officer for Highland
Date:	14/10/2026
Author:	Station Commander Lesley Stubbs
Background Papers:	Badenoch and Strathspey Committee Performance Report



Highland

Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Scrutiny Report

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Highland

Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

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.

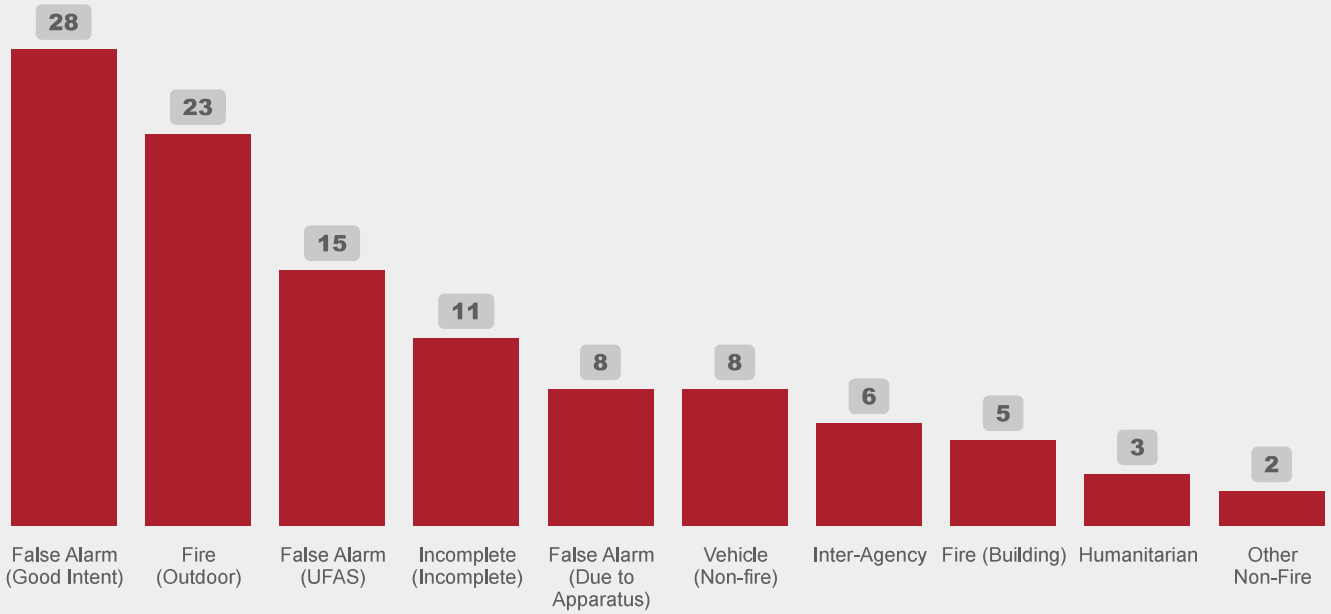
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1. Summary

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

111 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	**29** Fires	**20** Non-Fire Incidents	**51** False Alarms	**15** UFAS
4 People Rescued by Firefighters	**0** People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	**0** Fire Fatalities	**6** People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	**1** Non-Fire Fatalities
31 Home Fire Safety Visits	**13** Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types



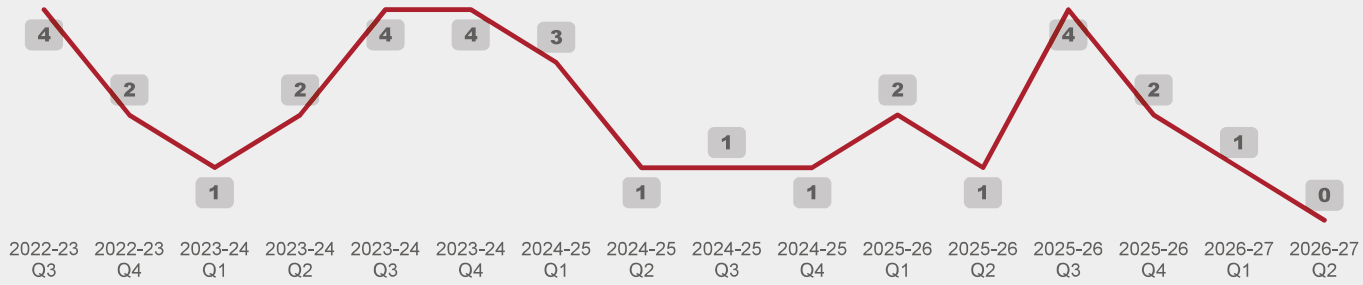
The information above provides a summary of the six-months (1 April - 30 September 2026) activity against headline indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

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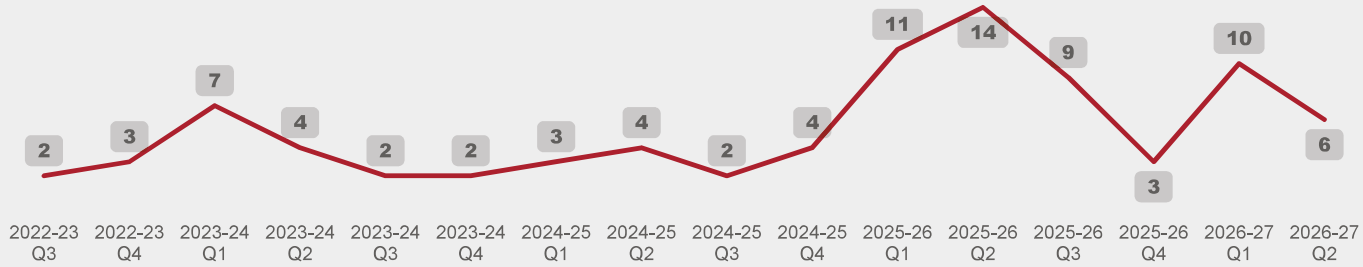
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

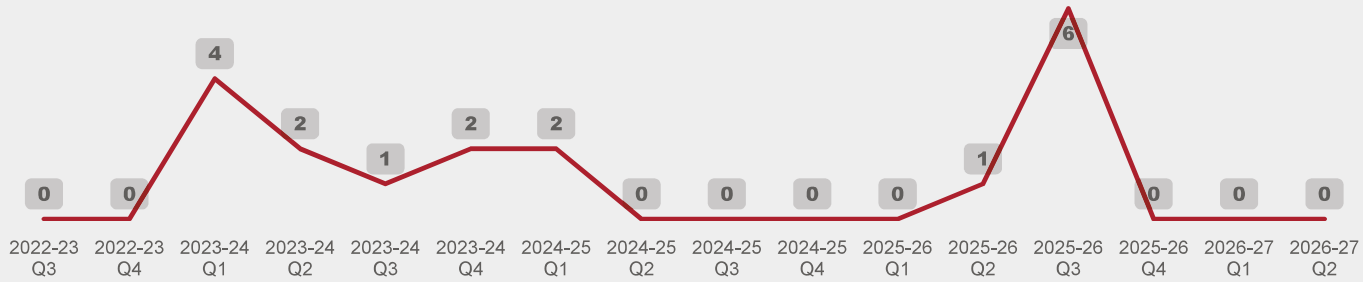
Accidental Dwelling Fires



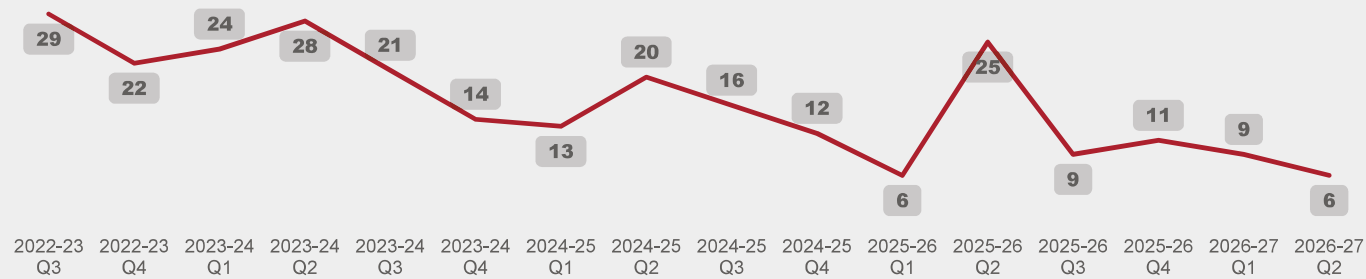
Deliberate Fires



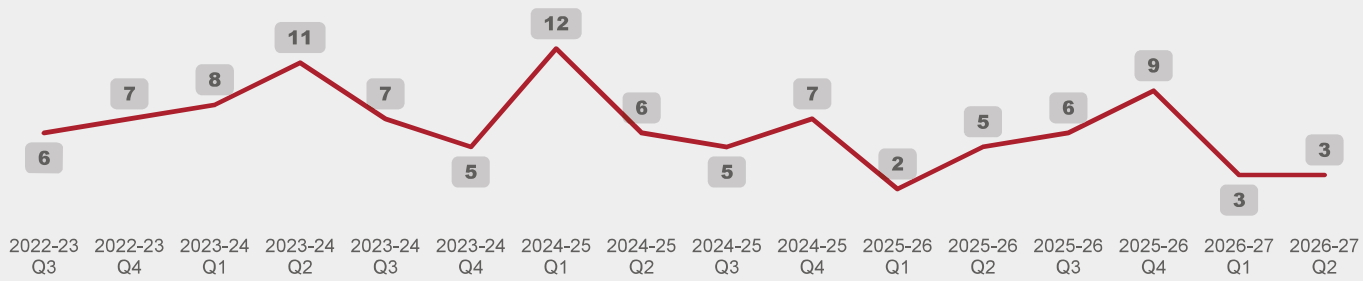
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



Road Traffic Collisions

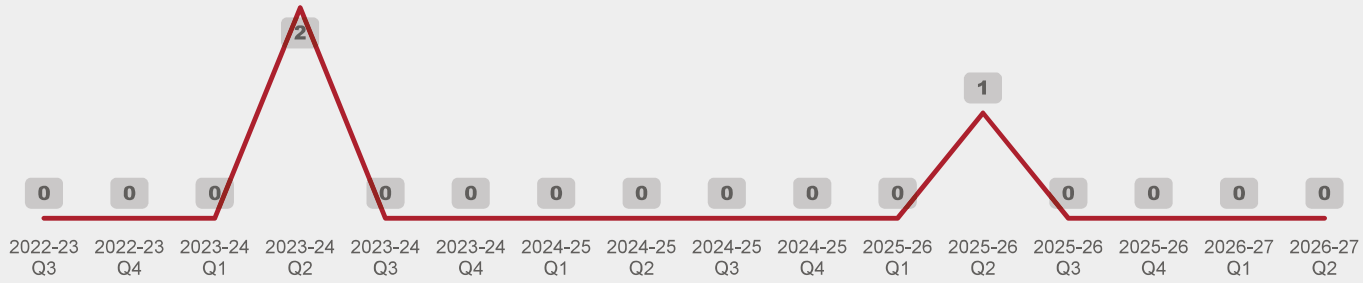


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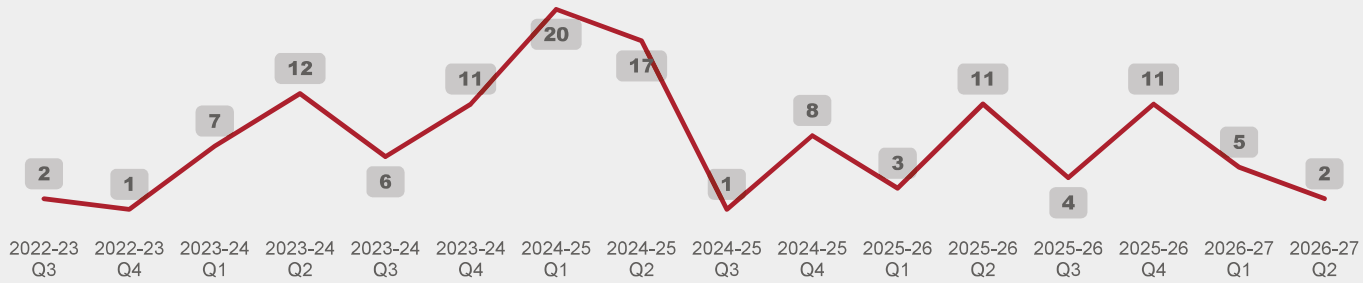
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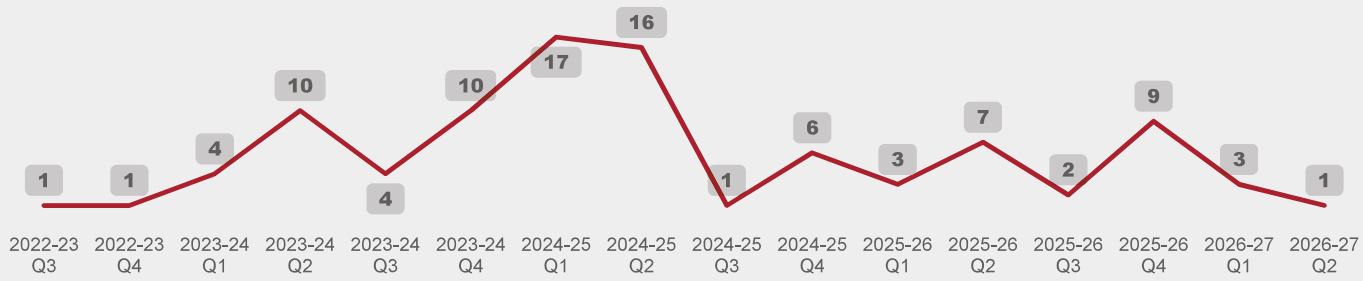
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



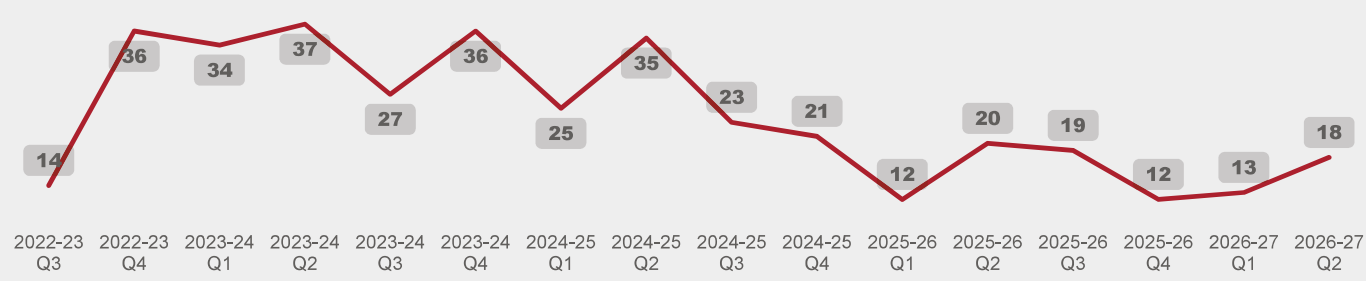
Non-Fire Casualties



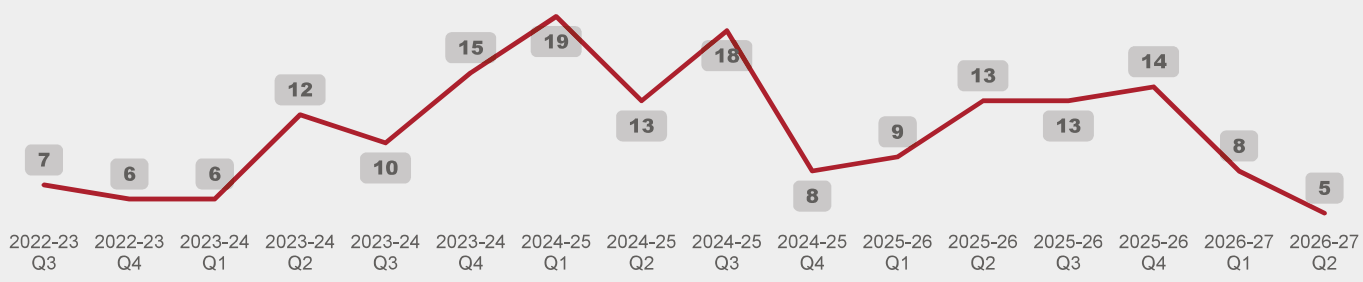
Road Traffic Collision Casualties



Home Fire Safety Visits



Fire Safety Audits



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3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Extent of Damage	Incidents
Not applicable	1

Incidents by Ward



1

Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

Source of Ignition (Top 10)



There was **1 Accidental Dwelling Fire (ADFs)** within this reporting period, which is a reduction when compared to the previous period. It was 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.

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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

During this reporting period, there were **0 ADF Casualties**. This is comparable 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.

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5. Non-Fire Casualties

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Back / Neck injury (spinal)	2
Bruising	1
Chest / Abdominal injury	1
Collapse	1
Cuts/Lacerations	1
Drowning	1

6
Non-Fatal Casualties

1
Fatal Casualties

4
People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

1
First Aid Given at Scene

5
Hospital Slight Injuries

0
Hospital Serious Injuries

Within this reporting period, we have seen a reduction in the number of Non-Fire Casualties. There was **1 Non-Fire Fatality** and **6 Non-Fatal Casualties**.

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6. Deliberate Fires

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



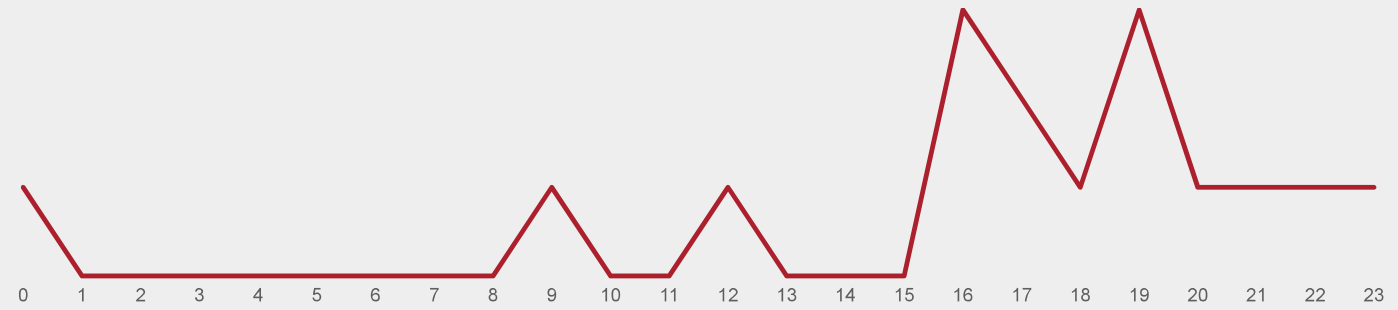
Property Type	Incident
Grassland, woodland and crops	7
Other outdoors (including land)	5
Dwelling	2
Outdoor equipment and machinery	1
Refuse	1

Incidents by Ward



16 **Deliberate Fires in this period**

Hour of Day



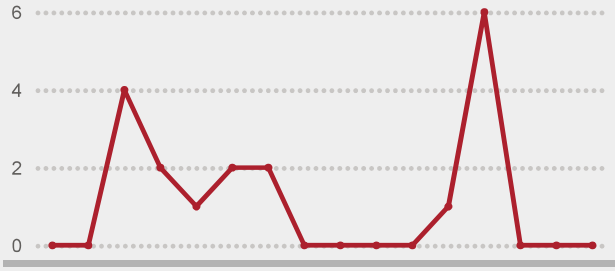
In this reporting period, we have seen an increase in these incidents, with us attending **16 Deliberate Fires**, nearly half of which were grassland, woodland and crops.

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7. Non-Domestic Fires

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

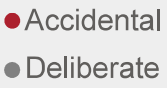
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward

Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents



0

Non-Domestic Fires in this period

Extent of Damage

During this reporting period there were **0 Non-Domestic Fires**, which sees a reduction when compared to the previous reporting period.

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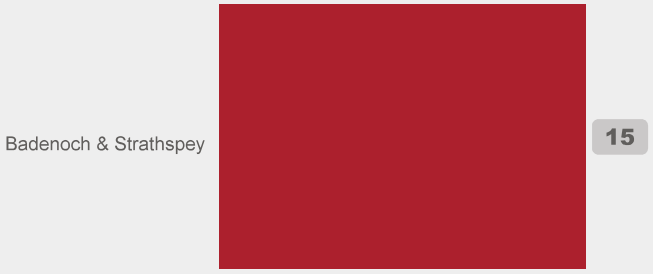
8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Hotel/motel	8
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	3
Education	1
Hospitals and medical care	1
Residential Home	1
Sports pavilion/shower block/changing facility	1

15

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

We attended **15 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during this reporting period, which is a reduction when compared to the previous period.

The figure continues to remain low following the Service's change to attending commercial and workplace premises.

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9. Road Traffic Collisions

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



6 **Road Traffic Collisions in this period**

Property Type	Incidents
Car	3
Bus/coach	1
Caravan on tow	1
Multiple Vehicles	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	6

4 **Non-Fatal Casualties**

0 **Fatal Casualties**

2 **People Rescued by Firefighters**

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

0 **First Aid Given at Scene**

4 **Hospital Slight Injuries**

0 **Hospital Serious Injuries**

In this reporting period we attended **6 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)**, which is a significant decrease when compared to the previous period. There was a total of **4 Non-Fatal Casualties** and **2 People rescued by Firefighters**. There were **0 Fatalities**.

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.

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10. Home Fire Safety Visits

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

HFSVs by Ward

31

Home Fire Safety Visits



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Audit	13
Consultation	4
Specific Visit	4

Audits by Ward



We undertook **31 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs)** during this reporting period.

Our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers and Auditing Officers conducted **13 Audits, 4 Consultations** and **4 Specific Visits.**

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- 4 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 3 Stations
- 3 x On-Call Volunteer Duty System vehicles/Community Response Units across 3 Stations

These Stations serve the Badenoch and Strathspey population

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

Station	Apr – Sept 26 Availability* %	Staff 30/09/26
Aviemore	86.74%	11
Carrbridge (CRU)	73.76%	8
Grantown – 1st Appliance	89.67%	16
Grantown – 2nd Appliance	30.34%	
Kingussie	91.19%	9
Nethybridge (CRU)	0%	0
Newtonmore (CRU)	88.23%	9

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Charity Car Washes



Grantown personnel held two car washes in this reporting period, the first in April was in aid of the Firefighters Charity, the RAF Benevolent Fund and the Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner. The weather was on their side and everyone who came along to have their car washed enjoyed a cuppa and cake while their car was being cleaned. A total of £1065.43 was raised.







The second car wash was held in September, again the weather was in their favour and again the cakes and cuppas were plentiful for the car owners whilst their cars were being washed. A total of £835.50 was raised and split between the Firefighters Charity and the RAF Association.

RTC Demonstration



Grantown personnel delivered a RTC Demonstration to S6 pupils at Grantown Grammar as part of the road safety initiative with the Developing the Young Workforce.

They talked about the hazards of being a new driver as well as what may happen if you were in an accident.



Grantown Show



Personnel from Grantown Station were at the Grantown Show in August, offering advice and answering any questions about fire safety. They also took the opportunity to promote recruitment at the station.

Visit to Aviemore Primary School



Personnel and appliance from Aviemore Station visited Aviemore Primary School to talk to the children about fire safety, gave them the opportunity to ask questions and to have a look around the appliance.

Emergency Services Day

Personnel from Kingussie Fire Station took part in an Emergency Services Day at Kingussie High School.

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Community Partnership Event

In September, some of our Community Safety Advocates were in attendance at a Community Partnership Event in Newtonmore.

Charity Walk





In June, personnel from Aviemore Fire Station completed a charity walk which saw them walking from Pitlochry Fire Station to Aviemore Fire Station, with some of them were wearing full firefighting kit.



Whilst the weather wasn't always on their side, their legs were in pieces and at times they questioned their sanity, they completed it. Most importantly they raised over £1,800 for the James Support Group.

Highland Council Drop-In Sessions

Our Highland Community Action Team were supporting the Highland Council drop-in sessions in Aviemore and Nethybridge in July and August. They were offering Home Fire Safety Visits, Home safety advice, Fire and Rescue information and community support and safety initiatives.



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14. Glossary of Terms

Term - What it means

ADF
Accidental Dwelling Fire.

HFSV
Home Fire Safety Visit.

PDIR
Post Domestic Incident Response, a term used to indicate actions taken following attendance at a fire or other incident in the home. PDIRs include amongst things the offer of a free follow up home fire safety visit.

RTC
Road Traffic Collision.

Special Service
Calls to incidents which are not fires or false alarms such as RTCs, rescues, flooding, incidents involving hazardous materials or the provision of assistance to other agencies.

UFAS
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. When an automatic fire detection and alarm system is activated as a result of anything other than an actual fire the activation is classed as a false alarm. If an attendance is made to such an event by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, then the event is recorded as an UFAS incident.

UFAS Policy Change
In response to COVID, on the 6th May 2020, the SFRS decided to send 1 pump to UFAS premises that did not have their own Predetermined attendance (PDA).

As of 1st July 2023, the COVID interim 1 pump response was ended and a new UFAS policy was implemented.

The new policy is to call challenge all UFAS incidents with the intention of non-attendance. Hospitals, care homes, and sleeping risk premises are all exempt and receive either 2 pumps or their premise specific PDA.

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BUSINESS

INTELLIGENCE

Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.

Strengthening Scotland's preparedness for wildfire



A statement from Stuart Stevens KFSM, Chief Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Recent wildfires across the UK and around the world have once again demonstrated the unprecedented scale, complexity and danger that these events present.

Within Scotland the recent wildfires, including the significant incident in the Cairngorms, has demonstrated something else: the strength and bravery of Scotland's communities, the professionalism of our emergency services, and the value of partnership working when the country faces serious risks.

I want to place on record my sincere thanks to the communities in and around Aviemore, and to those from further afield, who provided such generous support to our crews and partners during the recent incident. The kindness shown to responders, particularly in relation to their welfare, is deeply appreciated, and I am eternally grateful for your support.

Without question the impact of this fire has been significant on the local community, economy and environment. However, the bravery and effort of all who responded prevented the loss of life, homes or infrastructure.

I want to recognise the exceptional commitment of SFRS Firefighters, Officers, Operations Control staff and Support staff who responded from across Scotland in demanding and arduous conditions. Tackling the Cairngorms wildfire required a significant partnership response involving public, private and third sector organisations, land managers, local communities and national agencies. I want to pay tribute to all those who supported this response and sincerely thank you all. That collective effort demonstrated the very best of Scotland's resilience arrangements. It also reinforced why effective command, coordination and safety structures are essential at incidents of this scale.

Many of those involved came from our On-Call stations. These colleagues often balance their SFRS role with other employment, family responsibilities and community commitments. Their contribution to Scotland is vital, the role they play in their local communities is invaluable, and I do not underestimate the personal sacrifices they made in responding to this incident, and I am indebted to them.

It is evident to me that there is much to learn from the Cairngorms incident, and to ensure we truly capture this learning we must approach this in an open, inclusive and transparent manner. To this end I have commissioned a number of formal debrief processes, including an independently facilitated process, to ensure that all partners, agencies and community representatives can have their voices heard.

Wildfires are dynamic, weather driven, unpredictable and dangerous. Conditions can change rapidly. Fire can spread across large areas of land, affect communities, threaten infrastructure, damage wildlife and natural habitats, and place considerable demand on emergency services and local partners.

As a national fire and rescue service, SFRS is proud of the role it plays in protecting communities across Scotland. During recent incidents, our national model allowed us to deploy personnel, specialist resources and operational support from across the country while continuing to respond to other significant emergencies.

That ability to provide equitable access to capability, wherever risk emerges, is one of the great strengths of a national Service.

But pride in the response must not prevent us from recognising the scale of the challenge ahead.

Wildfire is an increasing and changing risk. The pattern, duration and intensity of these incidents is evolving. It is no longer enough to view wildfire primarily as an incident to be managed once it has started. We must increasingly view it as a national resilience issue requiring prevention, preparedness, investment and shared responsibility.

SFRS is already strengthening its own wildfire capability. Through our Wildfire Strategy and wider Service Delivery Review, we are continuing to develop the skills, equipment, specialist advice and operational arrangements required to respond safely and effectively. This includes strategically located wildfire resources, specialist equipment, tactical advisers and enhanced support for crews operating in rural and remote environments. But more needs to be done. Alongside strategic change the Service requires sustained investment to ensure we are ready to meet this ever-increasing threat.

However, response alone cannot be the answer.

If Scotland is serious about reducing the risk and impact of wildfire, prevention must sit at the heart of our national approach. That means reducing the likelihood of fires starting. It means limiting the conditions that allow fires to spread quickly. It means improving access, water supplies, early identification, public awareness, land management plans, local preparedness and the ability of communities and partners to act before conditions become critical.

It also means recognising that wildfire prevention cannot rest with one organisation alone.

Through the Scottish Wildfire Forum SFRS will continue to work with the Scottish Government, local authorities, land managers, public bodies, businesses, communities and resilience partners to consider what more can be done now. But we need a broader national conversation about how Scotland manages this risk in the years ahead.

Given the risk to life, property, infrastructure and the natural environment, I believe Scotland should now consider a more formal and proportionate fire safety regime for wildfire prevention and preparedness — one that reflects the seriousness of the risk we collectively face. The built environment has long been subject to clear expectations around fire safety. As wildfire risk grows, we must ask whether our approach to the natural and rural environment is sufficiently clear, consistent and preventative.

That does not mean creating unnecessary burden or division. It means setting clear expectations, improving planning, supporting land managers and communities, and ensuring that prevention is treated as a shared priority.

Preparedness is not about alarm. It is about responsibility.

It is about recognising that the climate, landscape and risk environment are changing. It is about learning from recent incidents. It is about investing before the emergency rather than counting the cost afterwards. And it is about ensuring that Scotland's emergency services, communities and partners are supported to meet the risks we can reasonably foresee.

The recent wildfire response should give Scotland confidence. It demonstrated courage, professionalism, partnership and public spirit. But it should also prompt action.

We now have an opportunity to further strengthen how Scotland prevents, prepares for and responds to wildfire. That opportunity must not be missed.

The time to fight the risk of wildfire is before the smoke is in the air. The decisions we take today will determine how well-prepared Scotland is tomorrow.

SFRS will continue to play its full part. We will continue to strengthen our capability, work alongside partners and support communities across the country. However, reducing the impact of wildfire in Scotland cannot be achieved by the fire and rescue service alone.

It will require a shared national commitment from government, public services, land managers, businesses, communities and individuals alike. If we are serious about protecting lives, livelihoods, infrastructure, our natural environment and the resilience of our nation, we must act now — together, with purpose, and with a long-term commitment to prevention, as well as response.



Stuart Stevens KFSM

Chief Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

24 August 2026