

Agenda Item 4.

Highland

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Scrutiny Report

SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Working together for a safer Scotland

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Highland

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	Community Safety & Engagement
13	Recent Questions and 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.

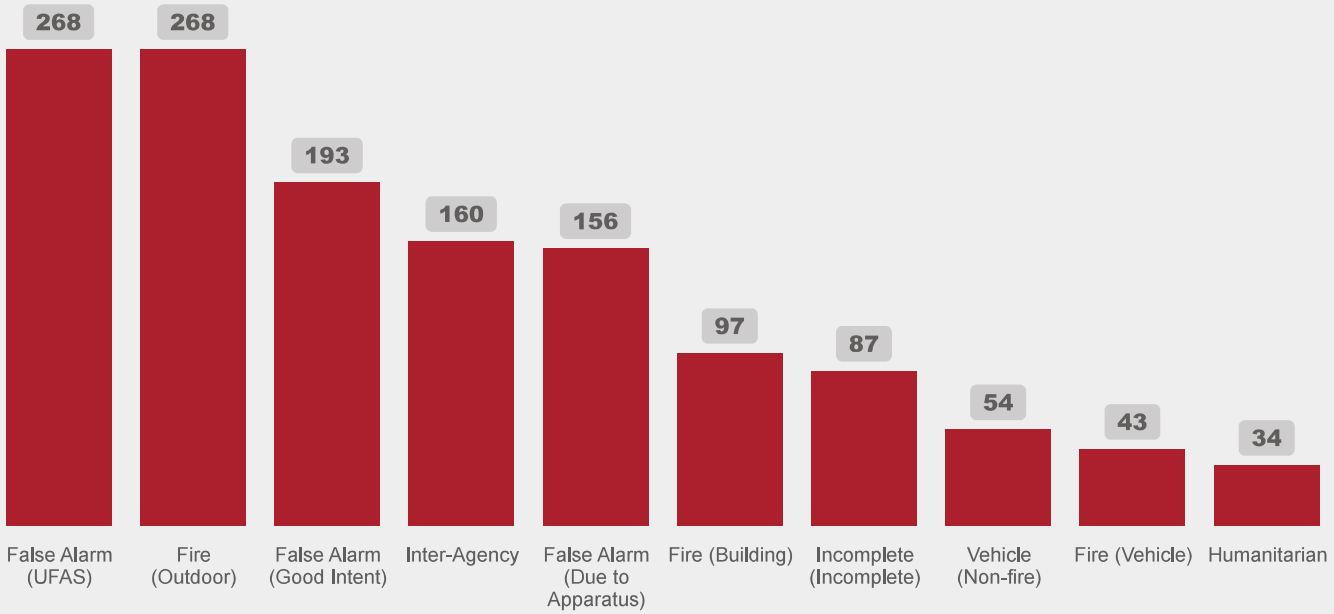
© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

1. Summary

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

1,448 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	**408** Fires	**316** Non-Fire Incidents	**637** False Alarms	**268** UFAS
63 People Rescued by Firefighters	**8** People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	**1** Fire Fatalities	**68** People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	**20** Non-Fire Fatalities
583 Home Fire Safety Visits	**192** Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types



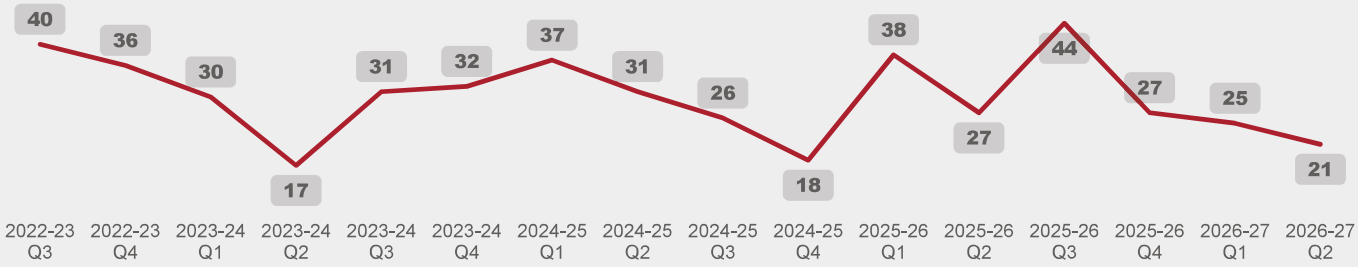
The information above provide a summary of the six-months (1 April - 30 September 2026) activity against headline indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

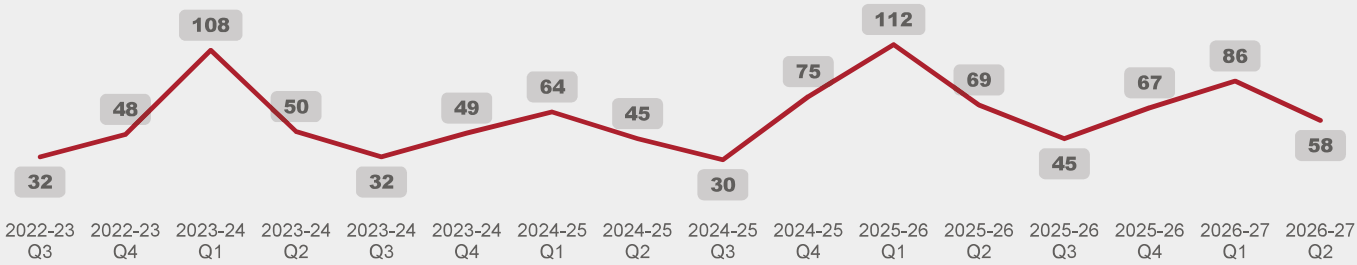
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

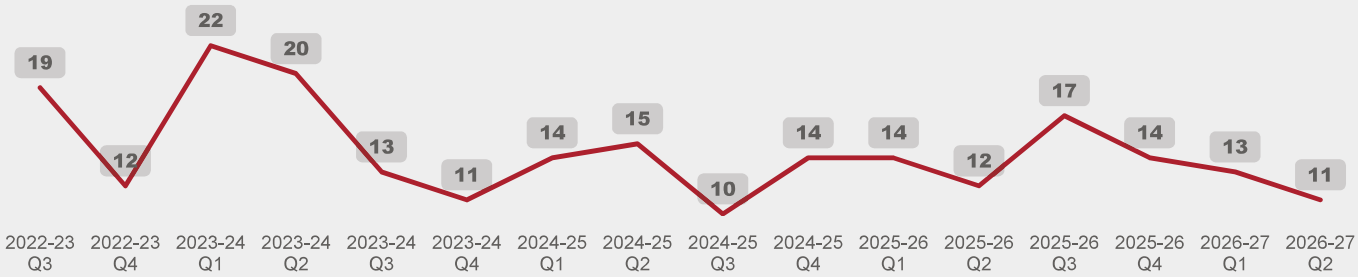
Accidental Dwelling Fires



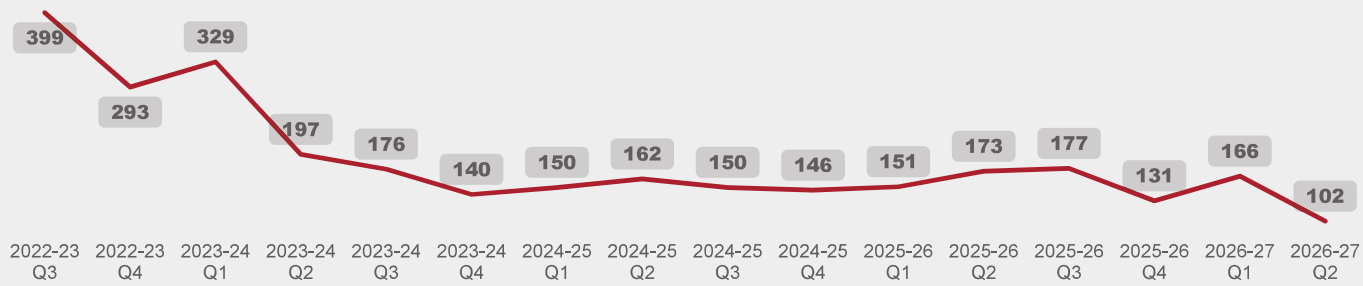
Deliberate Fires



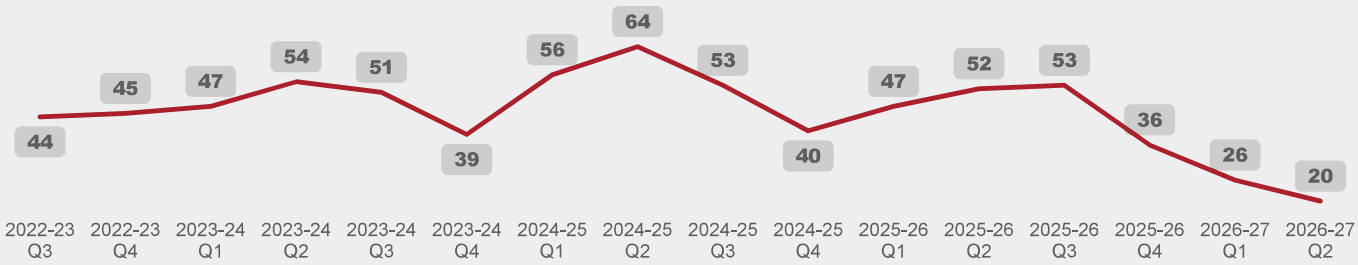
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



Road Traffic Collisions

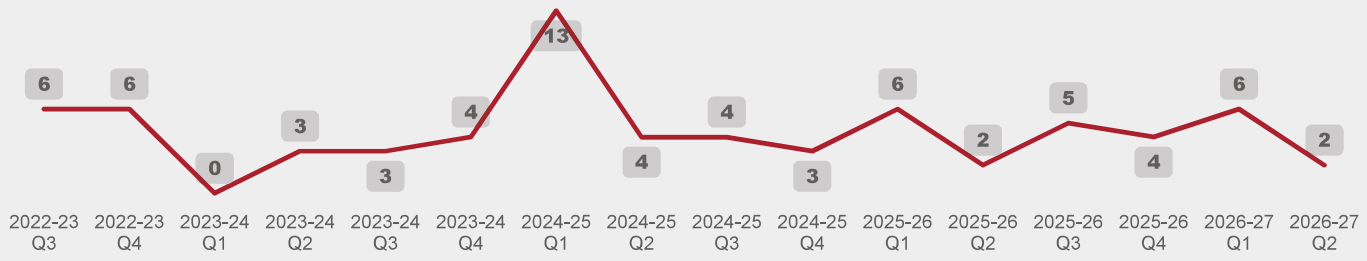


© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

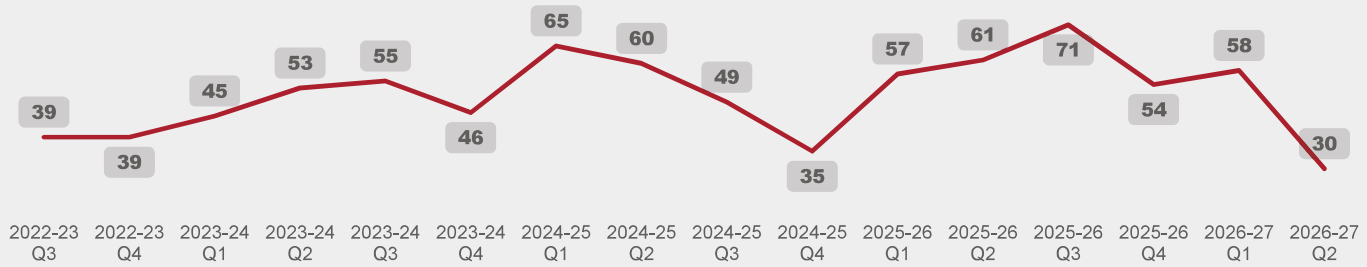
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

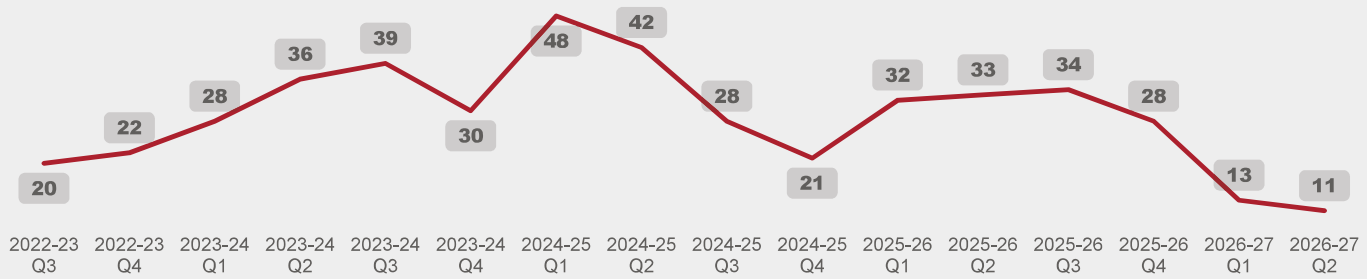
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



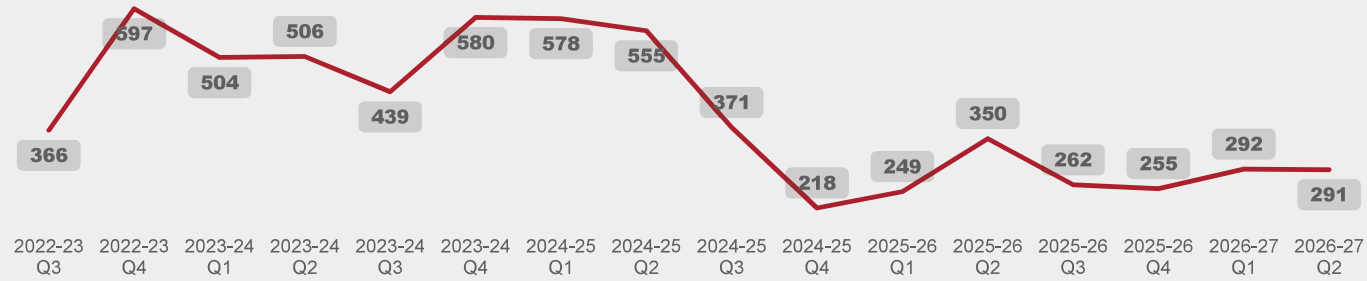
Non-Fire Casualties



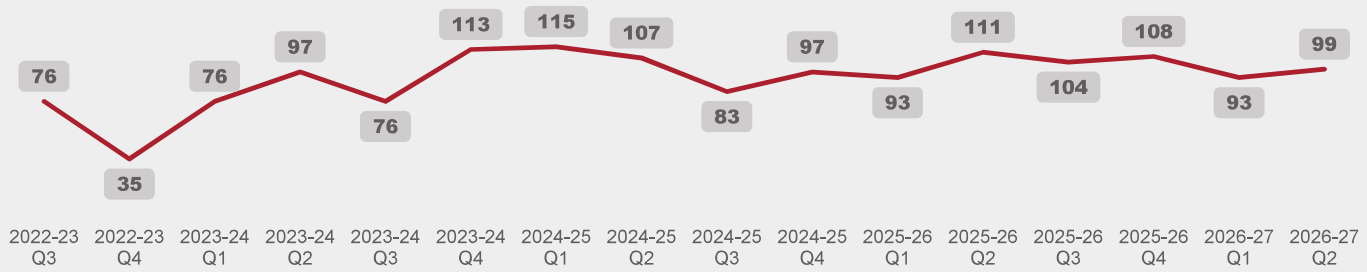
Road Traffic Collision Casualties



Home Fire Safety Visits



Fire Safety Audits



© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

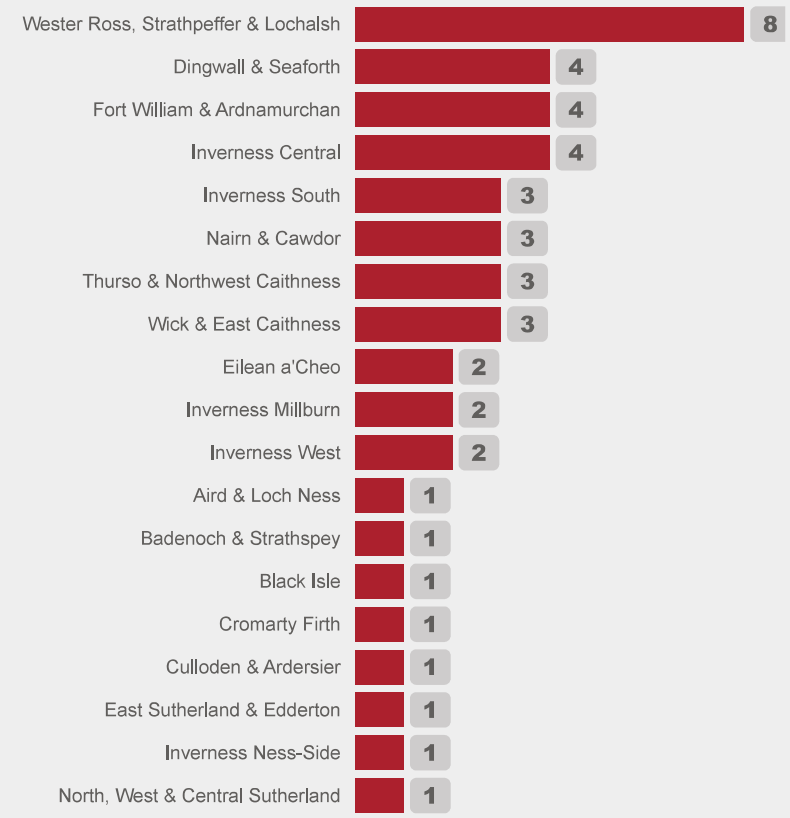
3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward

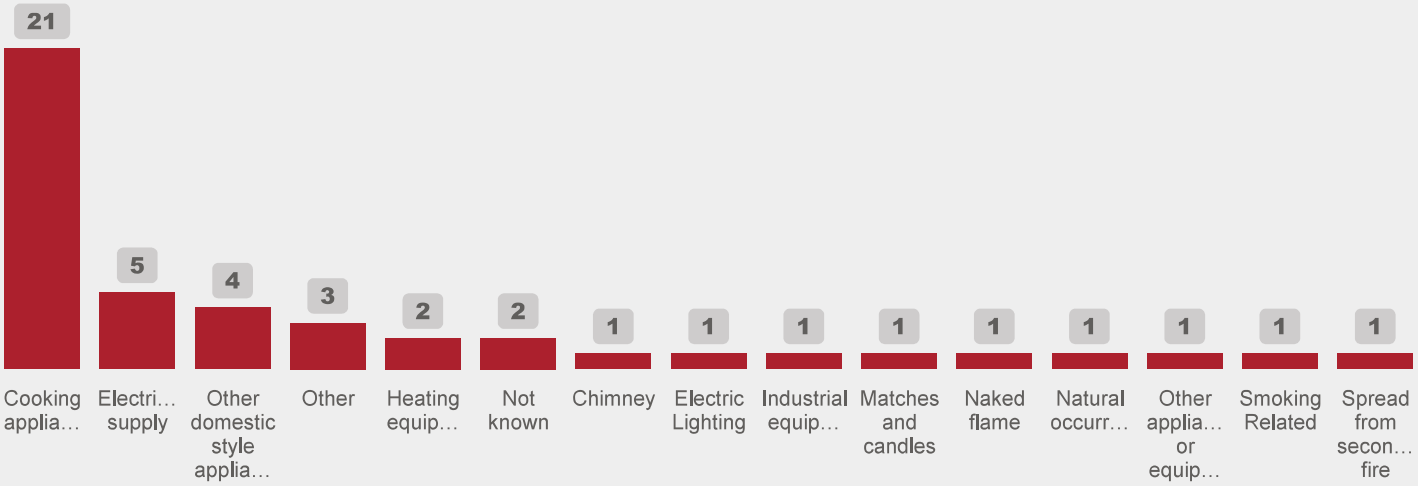


Extent of Damage	Incidents
Not applicable	13
Limited to room of origin	11
Limited to item 1st ignited	10
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	4
Whole building	4
Roof space and other floors(s)	2
Roof space only	2

46

Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

Source of Ignition (Top 10)



There were **46 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)** in this reporting period. This is a significant reduction 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 HFSVs and agency referrals where required.

© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

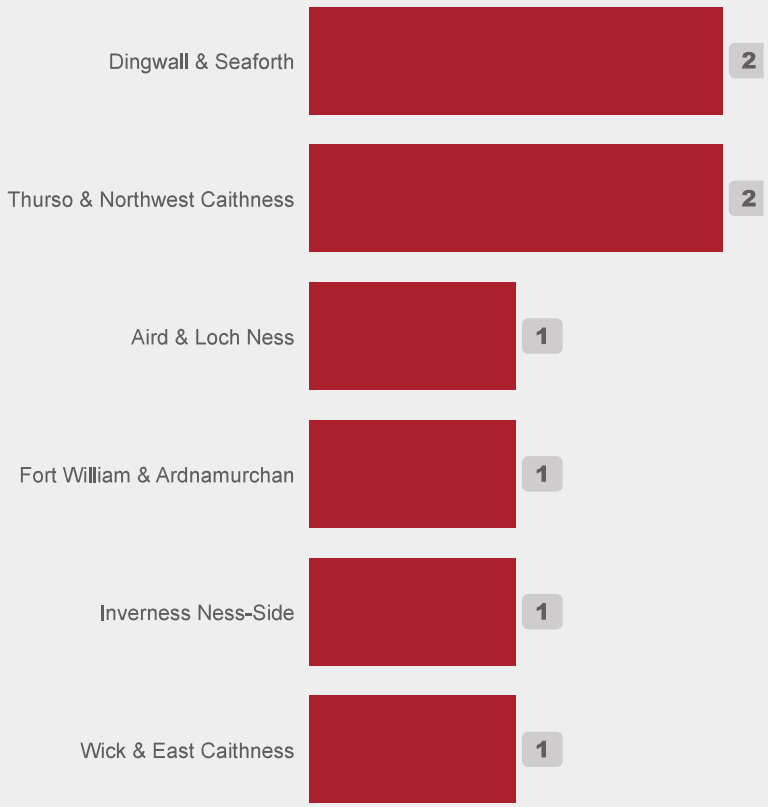
4. Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation	4
Back / Neck injury (spinal)	1
Breathing difficulties (Other than 'Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes, asphyxiation')	1
Not known	1
Other	1

7
Non-Fatal Casualties

1
Fatal Casualties

0
People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

5
First Aid Given at Scene

2
Hospital Slight Injuries

0
Hospital Serious Injuries

During this reporting period, there was **1 Fatal Casualty** and **7 Non-Fatal Casualties**, with only 2 requiring hospital treatment with what appeared to be slight injuries.

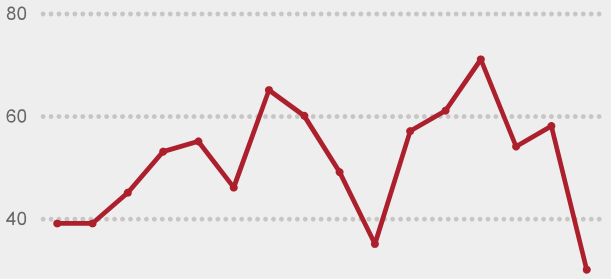
It should be noted that these figures do not include casualties who were advised to have a precautionary check up.

© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

5. Non-Fire Casualties

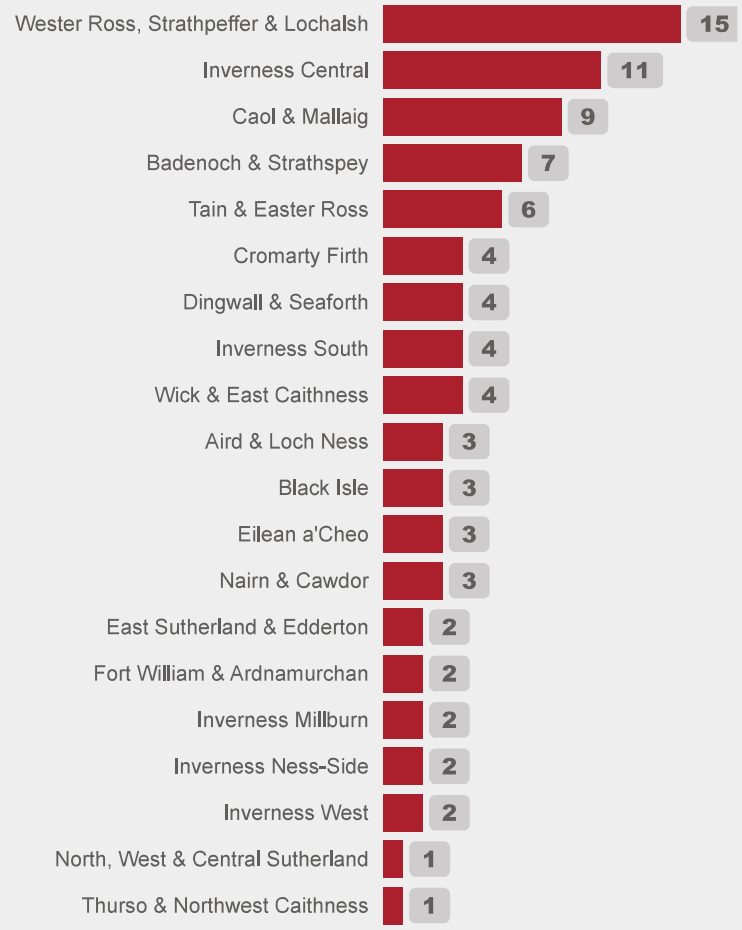
2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Fracture	15
Back / Neck injury (spinal)	12
Not known	12
Chest / Abdominal injury	6
Head injury	6
Other	6
Other medical condition	6
Drowning	5
Bruising	4
Cuts/Lacerations	4
Chest pain / Heart condition / Cardiac arrest	3
Collapse	3
Other physical injury	2
Unconscious, fitting or unresponsive (no other evident significant injury)	2
Hypothermia	1
Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation	1

Casualties by Ward



68
Non-Fatal Casualties

20
Fatal Casualties

63
People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

6
First Aid Given at Scene

35
Hospital Slight Injuries

27
Hospital Serious Injuries

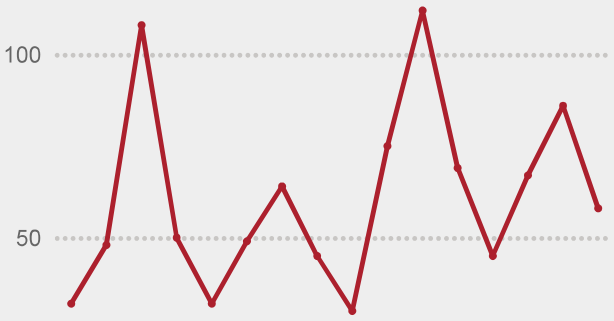
Within this reporting period, we have seen a decrease in the number of Non-Fatal Casualties and People Rescued by Firefighters, however there was a slight increase in the number of Fatal Casualties when compared to the previous reporting period.

© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

6. Deliberate Fires

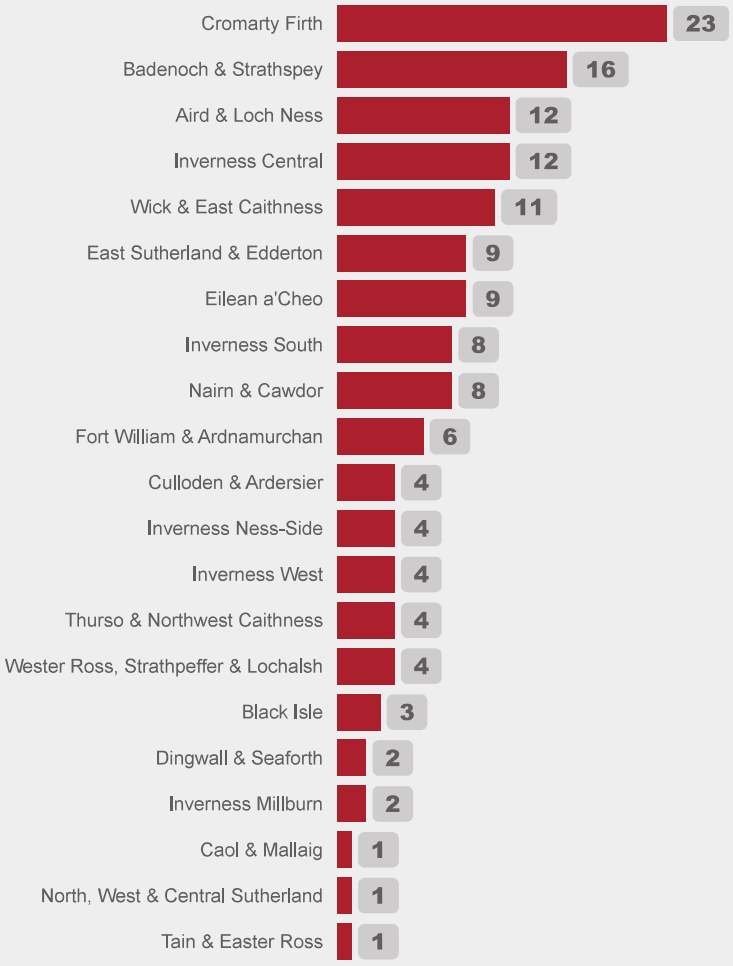
2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



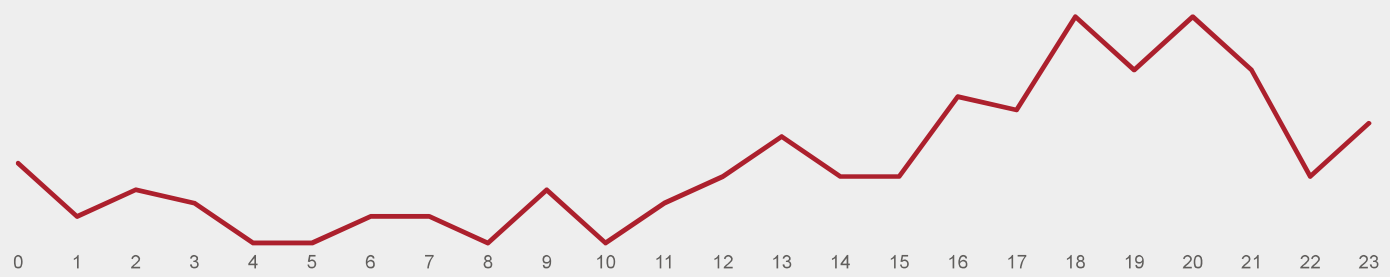
Property Type	Incident
Grassland, woodland and crops	72
Other outdoors (including land)	24
Refuse	19
Dwelling	7
Road Vehicle	7
Outdoor equipment and machinery	6
Outdoor structures	6
Non Residential	3

Incidents by Ward



144 **Deliberate Fires in this period**

Hour of Day



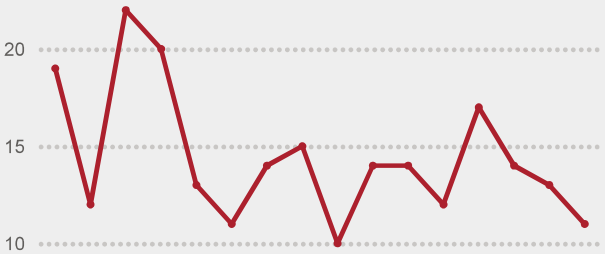
There has been an increase in the number of Deliberate Fires within this reporting period, with the Service responding to **144 Deliberate Fires** within the six month reporting period. Approximately half of these incidents were incidents involving grasslang, woodland and crops.

© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

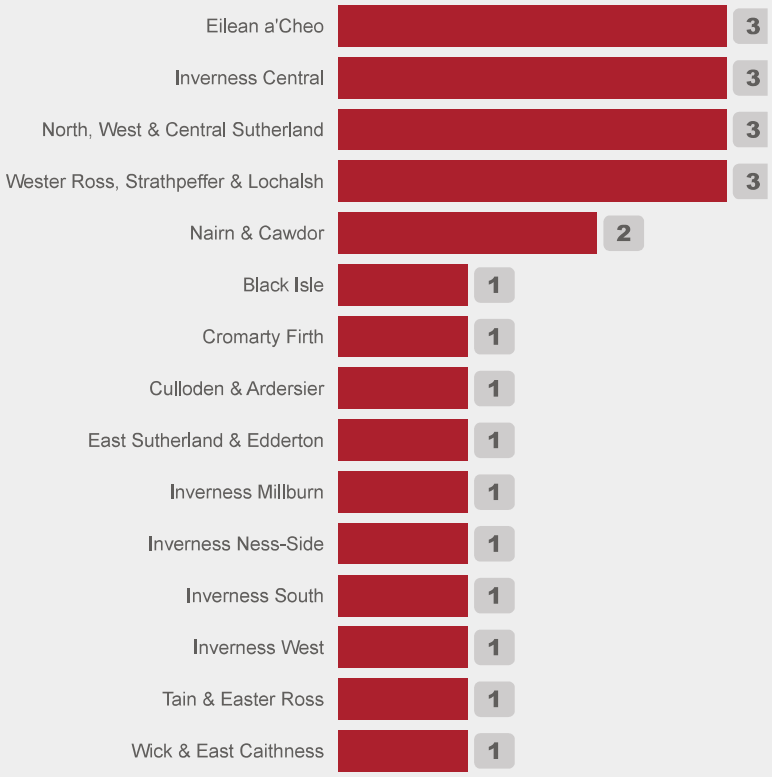
7. Non-Domestic Fires

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)

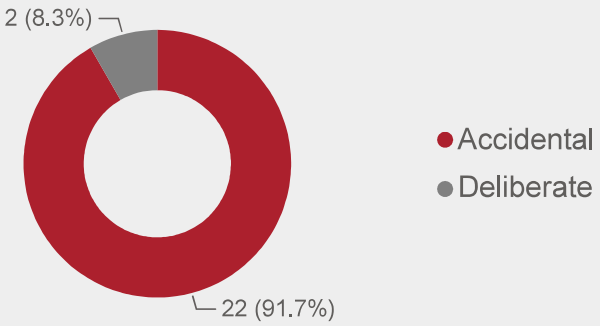


Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

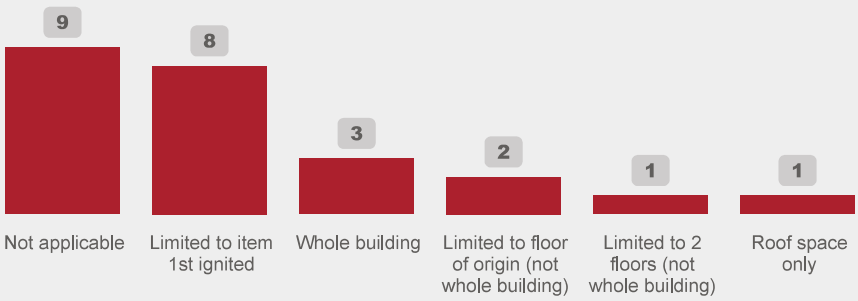
Property Type	Incidents
Permanent Agricultural	4
Food and Drink	3
Residential Home	3
Hospitals and medical care	2
Hotel/motel	2
Warehouses and bulk storage	2
Entertainment and culture	1
Industrial Manufacturing	1
Offices and call centres	1
Other buildings/use not known	1
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	1
Public Utilities	1
Retail	1
Sporting venues	1



24

Non-Domestic Fires in this period

Extent of Damage



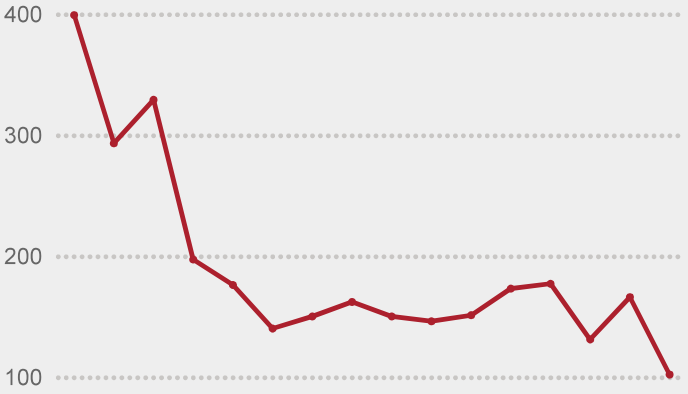
There has been a decrease in the number of Non-Domestic Fires within this reporting period when compared to the previous period.

© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

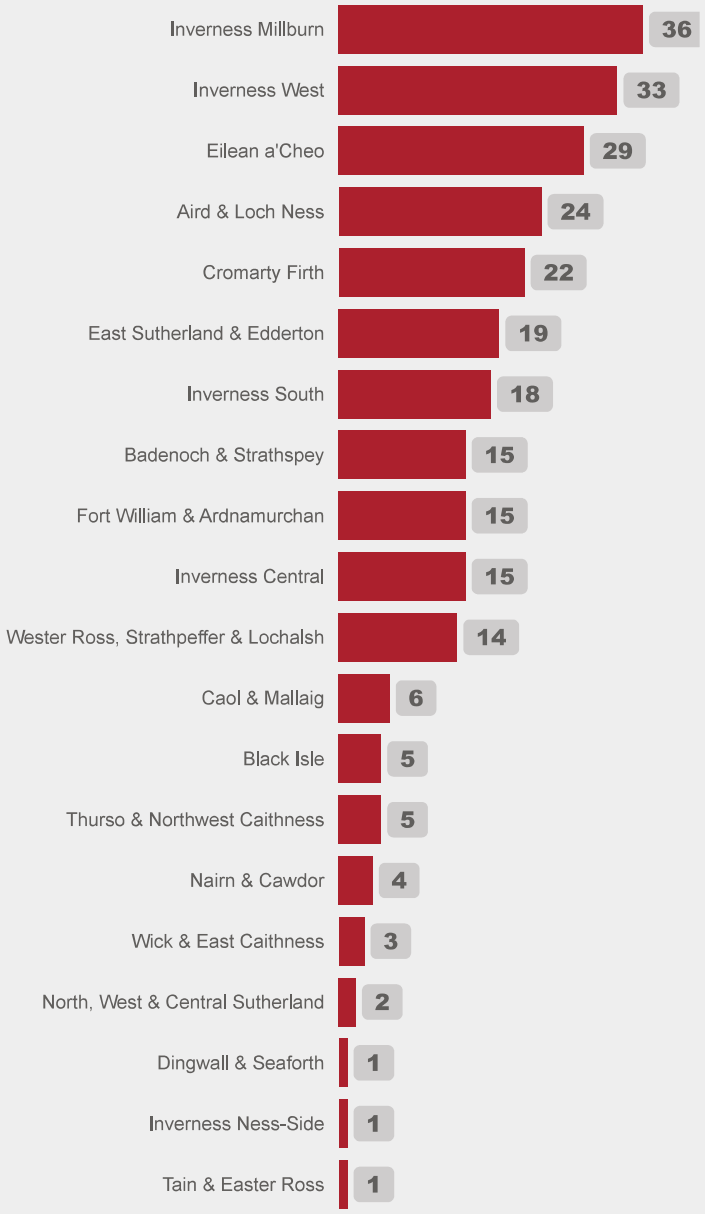
8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Hotel/motel	79
Residential Home	73
Hospitals and medical care	46
Boarding House/B&B other	11
Food and Drink	10
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	8
Other Residential Home	6
Student Hall of Residence	6
Hostel (e.g. for homeless people)	5
Retail	5
Sheltered Housing - not self contained	5
Education	4
Boarding House/B&B for homeless/asylum seekers	3
Offices and call centres	3
Boarding School accommodation	1
Nurses'/Doctors' accommodation	1
Religious	1
Sports pavilion/shower block/changing facility	1

268

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

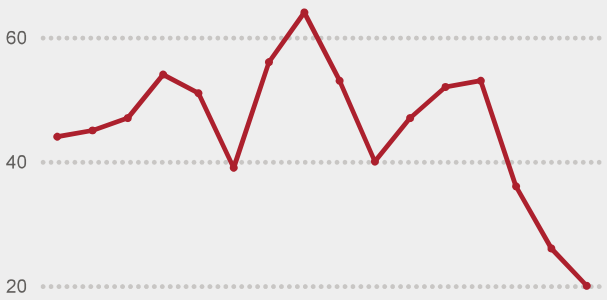
We have continued to see a decline in the number of UFAS incidents. Overall the number remains well below the 3-year average following the changes the Service made to how we respond to UFAS.

© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

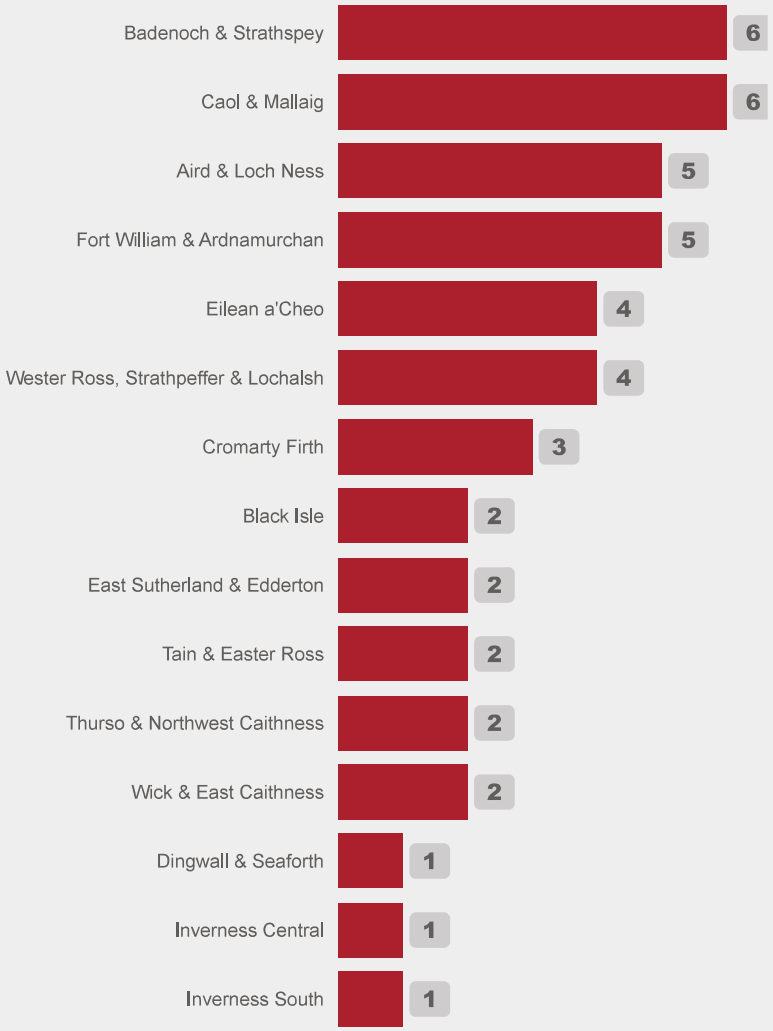
9. Road Traffic Collisions

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



46 **Road Traffic Collisions in this period**

Property Type	Incidents
Car	30
Multiple Vehicles	5
Van	3
Motorcycle	2
Other	2
Agricultural	1
Bus/coach	1
Caravan on tow	1
Motor Home	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	46

20 **Non-Fatal Casualties**

4 **Fatal Casualties**

12 **People Rescued by Firefighters**

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

3 **First Aid Given at Scene**

10 **Hospital Slight Injuries**

7 **Hospital Serious Injuries**

This reporting period shows a significant decrease 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.

© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

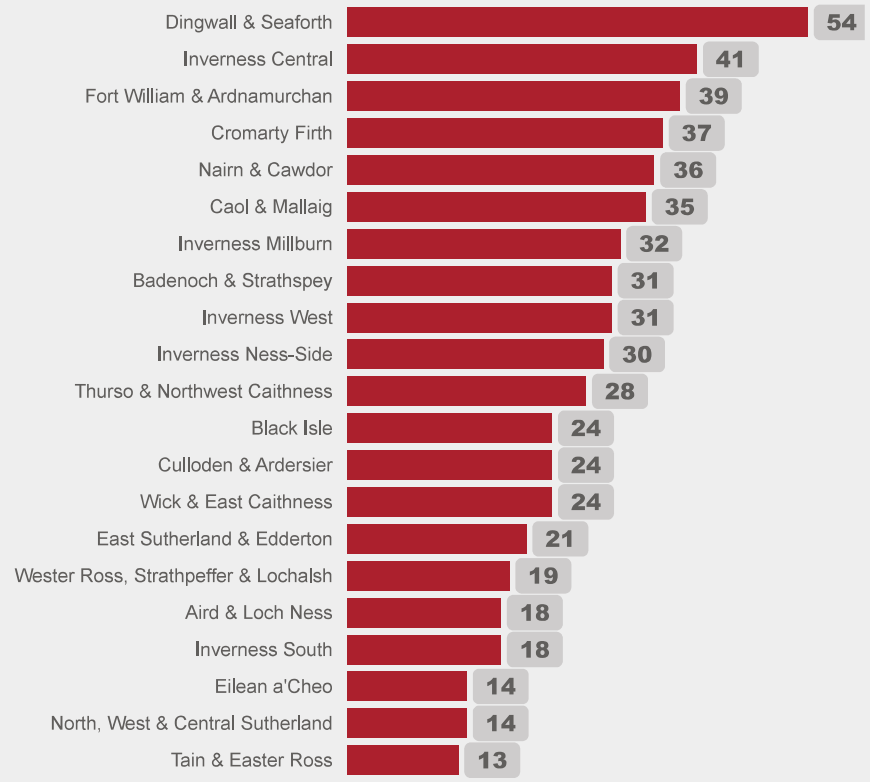
10. Home Fire Safety Visits

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

583

Home Fire Safety Visits

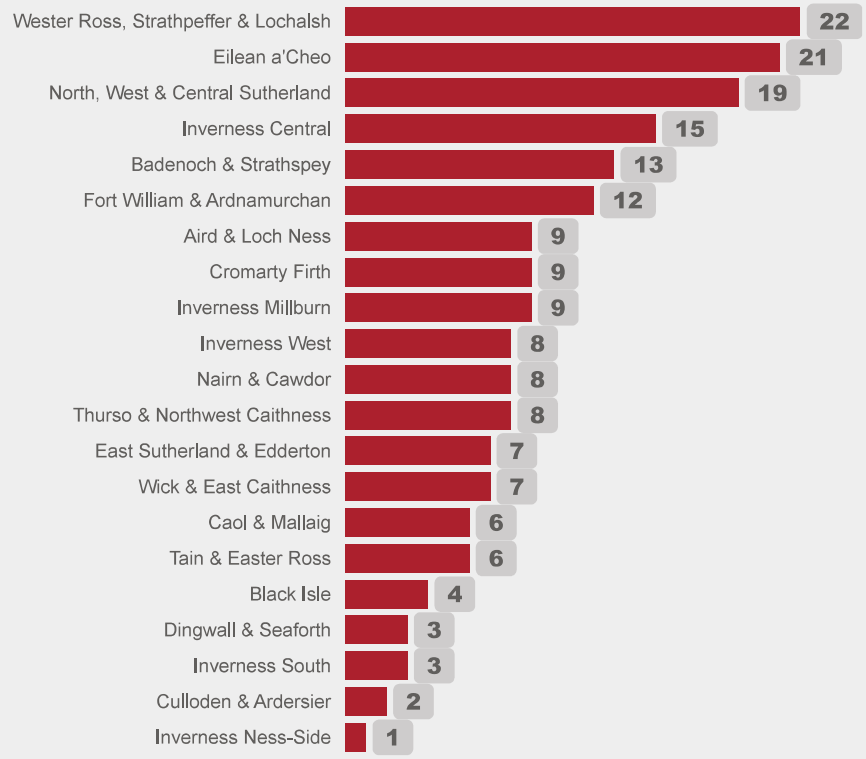
HFSVs by Ward



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Audit	192
Specific Visit	22
Consultation	18
Short Post Fire Audit	1

Audits by Ward



Our personnel undertook **583 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs)** within the six month 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 **192 Audits, 22 Specific Visits, 18 Consultations** and **1 Short Post Fire Audit** within this reporting period. They also processed numerous Licensing and Short Term Let applications.

© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

Good Egg Safety



The Highland Community Action Team worked alongside Police Scotland and Good Egg Safety to deliver two proactive child car seat safety events. Families travelling with children were invited to have car seats checked for suitability and correct installation. The events provided practical advice, promoted road safety awareness, and highlighted injury-prevention measures. More than 60 families benefited from direct engagement and received tailored guidance to help keep children safe during travel. The initiative strengthened relationships between partners and built on previous training Good Egg Safety delivered to Community Safety Advocates, increasing local capability to provide informed road safety advice. The activity supported community resilience, inclusion and prevention objectives, while creating opportunities for future engagement across Highland communities.

We seek to continue this partnership, with further delivery opportunities across the Highland area, giving our trained CSAs more opportunities to engage and raise awareness of its importance.

Ardersier Primary School Wildfire Awareness Project

We have been working in partnership with a group of Primary 7 pupils from Ardersier Primary School on a wildfire awareness project. The initiative was inspired by the significant wildfire incidents at Culbin Forest and Dava Moor, which had a direct impact on the local area and community.

The pupils have demonstrated excellent commitment and initiative by researching the causes and consequences of wildfires and developing a public awareness campaign. As part of this work, they have written letters to their local MSP, which are due to be presented at the Scottish Parliament, highlighting the importance of wildfire prevention and environmental protection.



The group is also planning a community awareness walk across Dava Moor, where they will display placards promoting key wildfire safety messages and encouraging responsible behaviour in rural environments.

In addition, the pupils have creatively adapted the lyrics of Billy Joel's We Didn't Start the Fire to produce a wildfire-themed song. In partnership with Eden Court Theatre, they are currently planning a music video production to further raise awareness of wildfire risks and prevention measures. Local media have also expressed an interest in supporting and promoting the project.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has been invited to support the initiative, providing advice, guidance and engagement opportunities where appropriate. This project represents an excellent example of partnership working, community engagement and youth-led advocacy, helping to educate the public on wildfire prevention while empowering young people to make a positive contribution to their community

© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

Kinlochleven Community Reassurance and Home Fire Safety Engagement Event

Following a fatal fire within Kinlochleven, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service worked with the Kinlochleven Community Centre and local representatives to provide reassurance, support and preventative fire safety advice. The engagement event offered residents an opportunity to discuss concerns, access information and learn about available support services. Two Home Fire Safety Visits were generated directly from the event, while further households received

referral information for future engagement. The team distributed fire safety literature widely and provided additional resources to community representatives to share through existing networks. The initiative strengthened trust between the community and emergency services, extended the reach of vital safety messages and reinforced the importance of prevention and resilience following a significant local incident.

Royal Visit to Dingwall



On 7 August 2026, Dingwall personnel had the privilege of meeting His Majesty King Charles III during his visit to Dingwall to mark the town's 800th anniversary since being granted Royal Burgh status.



The event provided an excellent opportunity to represent the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service within the local community and engage with attendees during this significant civic celebration.

Glencoe Road Safety Event



The Highland Community Action Team, Police Scotland, the Oban Community Action Team, and firefighters from Kinlochleven Community Fire Station delivered a multi-agency road safety event in Glencoe. Held in a busy tourist destination, the event focused on reducing road risk through direct engagement with visitors, families, and motorists from across the UK and overseas. Key messages included safe driving on rural roads and reminders for international visitors to drive on the left-hand side of the road. We engaged with approximately 300 people during the event. The presence of a fire appliance attracted families and provided opportunities to discuss firefighter roles, rescue equipment and wider safety messaging. The event demonstrated effective partnership working, increased public awareness, and supported Road Safety and the wider Community Safety Engagement and Prevention.



We are currently exploring the possibility of expanding this type of pop-up event, at peak tourist seasons at locations with increased road risk.

© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

Fireskills Courses



We continue to deliver Fireskills courses across the Highland area. 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.

Wildfire Stakeholder Meeting, Glenmore Lodge, Cairngorms National Park

A wildfire stakeholder meeting was held at Glenmore Lodge within the Cairngorms National Park, involving representatives from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Forestry and Land Scotland, Cairngorms National Park Authority Rangers, and other key partners.

The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen partnership working in support of the new byelaws and to discuss a coordinated approach to wildfire prevention across the National Park. Discussions focused on how partner agencies can work together to educate both local residents and visitors on wildfire risks and promote responsible behaviour when enjoying the countryside.

The event provided an opportunity to share information, discuss current challenges and identify opportunities for joint prevention activity. Particular emphasis was placed on developing consistent safety messaging, increasing public awareness of wildfire risks during periods of heightened danger, and encouraging the safe us of outdoor spaces.

The meeting reinforced the importance of a collaborative approach to wildfire prevention, ensuring that all partners deliver clear and consistent messages to help protect communities, wildlife, habitats and the natural environment within the Cairngorms National Park.

- Strengthened partnership working between key agencies.
- Improved coordination of wildfire prevention messages.
- Increased awareness of the new byelaws.
- Identified opportunities for joint public education and engagement.
- Promoted wildfire safety amongst local residents and visitors.
- Supported a proactive approach to reducing wildfire risk.

This engagement delivers against the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan (HOIP) for Community-led action; Resilience/Inclusion/Response

Attendees welcomed the opportunity to work collaboratively, highlighting the importance of partnership working and public education in reducing wildfire risk across the National Park.

Due to the positive engagement and commitment from all partners, there are plans to expand this initiative into an annual event at the start of each wildfire season. This will provide an opportunity for partners to review current risks, promote consistent wildfire safety messages, raise awareness of relevant legislation and byelaws, and coordinate joint public engagement activities to reduce wildfire incidents across the Cairngorms National Park.

© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

Charity Car Washes



Throughout the six month period there are have several car washes in aid of charity. Inverness Station raised £1018.80 in aid of Highland Hospice and the Firefighters Charity.



Invergordon's car wash raised £621.15 in aid of the Firefighters Charity

Fortrose's car wash raised £1467.71 in aid of the Firefighters Charity and Black Isle Cares.

Grantown Station held two car washes raising nearly £2000 and was split between the Firefighters Charity, RAF Benevolent Fund, the Grantown Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner and the RAF Association.

Biker Down Event at Inverness Station

A fantastic group of 40 local riders took part in essential safety training, learning lifesaving skills that could make all the difference on the road.



Special thanks to Scott Ironside from the Scottish Ambulance Service, who delivered expert guidance on CPR, defibrillator use, and helmet removal. Your support made the day even more valuable.

Inverness Area Councillors' Event



Inverness Fire Station personnel welcomed local councillors for an experience day, providing an insight into their operational work and community fire safety programmes.

Elected members were very receptive to the interactive programme of events, leaving with a greater understanding of the role of the modern Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

Cairngorm Wildfire

The Cairngorm wildfire began on 15 July 2026 and ran for 34 days, covering an area up to 3300 hectares. Over its duration, this multi-agency complex incident was resourced from 3 logistical command points and required sustained firefighting using SFRS appliances, lightweight and high-volume pumps, water carriers, specialist wildfire equipment and tactical advisors, All Terrain Vehicles, partner-owned plant, 4x4 and aerial & community assets and extensive relief and welfare arrangements.

It involved firefighters from across Scotland and when totalling the number of multiple deployments during the incident, it equated to almost 4000 firefighters and command team officers. Our partners also provided local firefighting resources. The efforts were strengthened by close working with Police Scotland, RSPB, Forestry and Land Scotland, Cairngorm partners, Mountain Rescue, Coastguard and other agencies.

The incident impacted upon community infrastructure, tourism, businesses, forestry and protected land and was a significant logistical challenge. The communities and businesses of Glenmore, Aviemore and Nethybridge contributed significantly to the welfare arrangements for the firefighters and responding agencies throughout the incident.

SFRS are currently engaged in internal and external (strategic) debriefing and operational learning processes, engaging across all our staff, partners and communities involved to ensure any lessons learned are addressed.

Our Highland local area team are proactively working with our Community Planning Partnership groups to strengthen our preventative efforts and support for community resilience across Highland.

Recruitment and Availability

We have introduced smaller contract options (Band 2) for our On Call firefighter roles. The demands of being available to commit to the previous minimum 91 hours was identified as a barrier to recruitment. We are actively seeking to cover daytime which remains a challenge across many Highland communities and this now offers prospective firefighters a 31-hour contract, at specified times when the needs are greatest. We are seeing improvements in availability of appliances as a result of this change.

Community Response Units (CRUs)

Our CRUs are a valuable resource in Highland and provide a dedicated (volunteer – non statutory) response to limited incident types. Our 6 CRU stations attend road traffic collisions (not involving a fire) and wildfires and have received enhanced training, equipment and PPE to deploy as a Wildfire support crew. Whilst CRUs do not form part of our statutory response, they train alongside other On Call units to provide local support for these incidents.

Community Asset Register

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.

Community Asset Register | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Local Plan Consultation

Our 2026-2029 Highland Local Plan consultation has concluded, and a review and analysis of the responses is underway which will be reflected in the final approved plan which is due to be released early December.

© Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 2026

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 & Rescue Service 2026

SCOTTISH

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

BUSINESS

INTELLIGENCE

Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.