Agenda Item	**3**
Report No	**BIER/30/26**

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: **Black Isle & Easter Ross Area Committee**

Meeting Date: **09/11/2026**

Report Title: **Scottish Fire and Rescue Area Committee Performance Report**

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

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides an update to Black Isle & Easter Ross Area Committee members on progress against the priorities outlined in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Committee Plans for Black Isle & Easter Ross.

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 Black Isle & Easter Ross.

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, 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 Black Isle & Easter Ross Area Committee Performance Report

4.1 The attached performance report provides the current figures for Quarters 1&2 of 2026/27 from the central Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) performance management database against the key indicators and timelines from previous reports. Please note that turnaround times and statistics available at this time of year can be delayed and some that have not yet been processed may carry forward to the next quarter.

4.2 In achieving priorities within the Area Plan for Easter Ross work is ongoing within our current HFSV framework as we move towards the implementation of a new system which will significantly increase information sharing between partner agencies and ensure our resources are targeted towards the most vulnerable in our communities. PDIR's are routinely carried out at all domestic incidents regardless of type which are aimed at reducing accidental dwelling house fires following our attendance. Local engagement with academy pupils throughout the area has been targeted towards the elimination of deliberate fire setting and nuisance calls.

The Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) Policy provides a means of targeting premises that the Service attends repeatedly and by engagement to reduce the number of calls. This has led to a change in duty holder responsibilities in the event of an activation and work is ongoing to support premises affected by the new response procedures. This change to how we respond incidents of this type has greatly reduced unnecessary call outs which has freed up capacity to increase our operational availability, undertake more community safety prevention work and to upskill our staff and reduce operational road risk.

4.3 It must be emphasised that the baseline figures for some of these 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.

4.4 The performance report shows that Accidental Dwelling fires are around average for the area with 3 recorded Accidental Dwelling fires in this reporting period.
There were 0 Fire Fatalities and 0 Non-fatal Fire Casualties in this reporting period. There was 29 Deliberate Fires in this reporting period.

Special Service – there were 7 road traffic collisions (RTC) reported during this period with 4 RTC Non-fatal Casualties.

From 1 July 2023, SFRS have implemented UFAS incident procedure following our previous public consultation. During this reporting period we attended 21 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents. This remains lower than pre 2023 figures. With this being the case, personnel will 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.

A total of 74 home fire safety visits (HFSV) were carried out during this period.

Designation: Local Senior Officer for Highland

Date: **26/10/2026**

Author: Station Commander Douglas McAulay

Background Papers Highland – Black Isle & Easter Ross Area Committee – Performance Report



Highland

Black Isle and Easter Ross Area Committee

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Scrutiny Report

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Highland

Black Isle and Easter Ross Area Committee

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Scrutiny Report

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8	Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)
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10	Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs)
11	Station Availability and Establishment
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13	Community Safety & Engagement
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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.

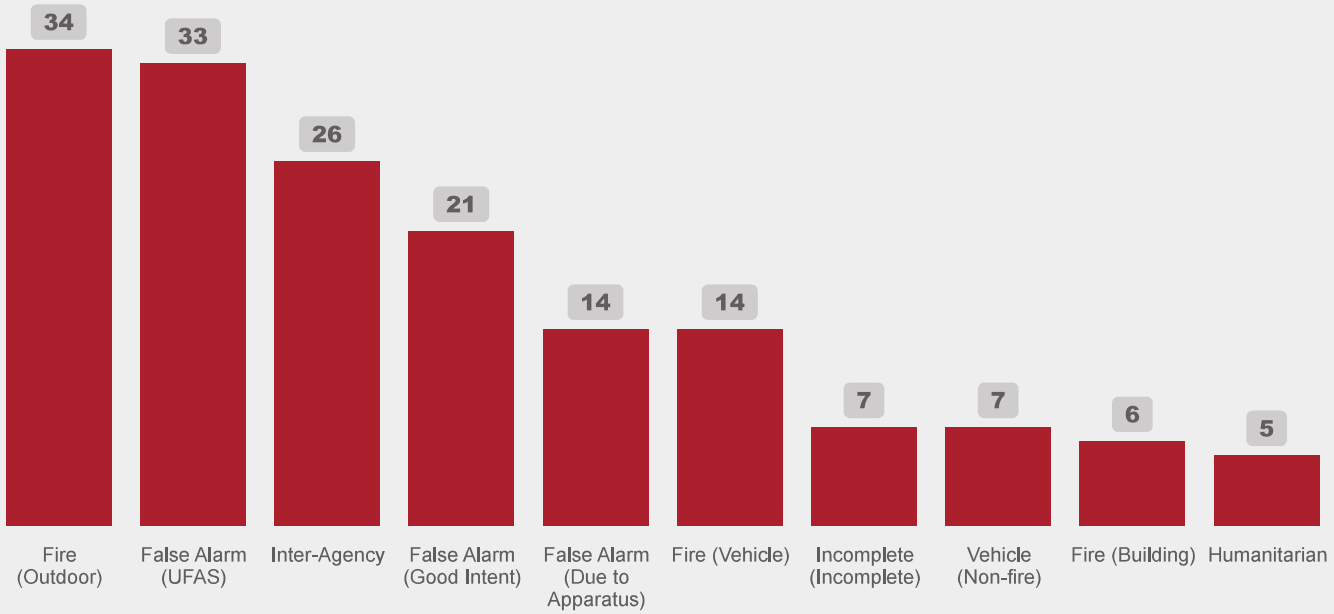
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1. Summary

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

174 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	**54** Fires	**44** Non-Fire Incidents	**69** False Alarms	**33** UFAS
12 People Rescued by Firefighters	**0** People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	**0** Fire Fatalities	**12** People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	**1** Non-Fire Fatalities
74 Home Fire Safety Visits	**19** Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types



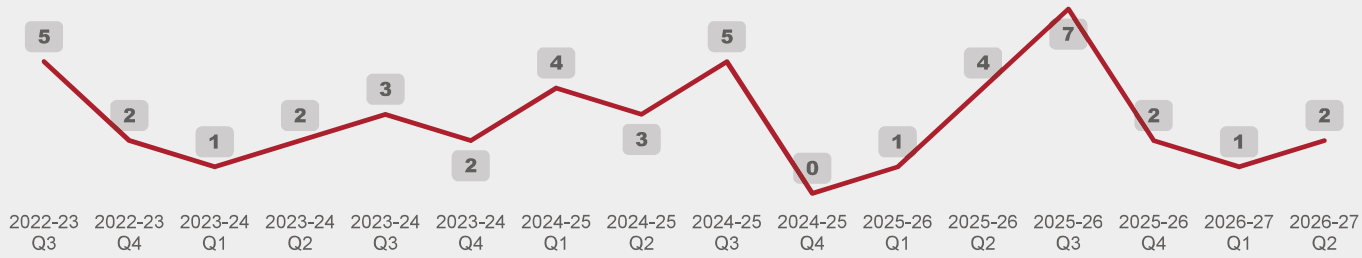
The information above provides a summary of the six-months (1 April - 30 September 2026) activity against headline indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

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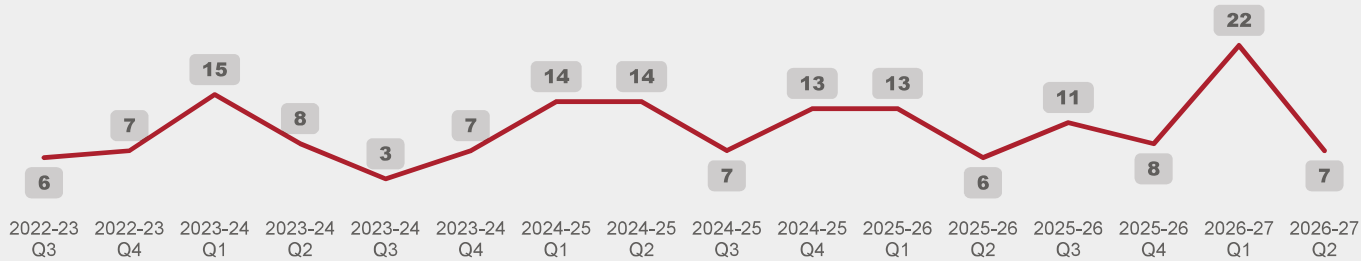
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

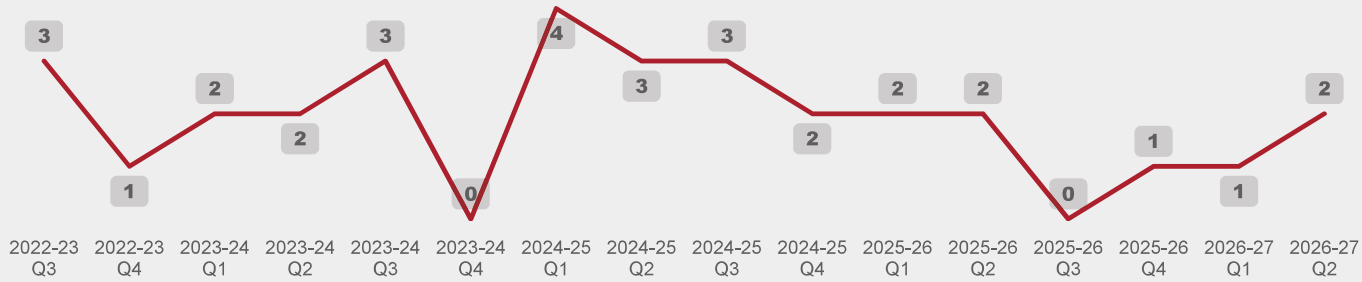
Accidental Dwelling Fires



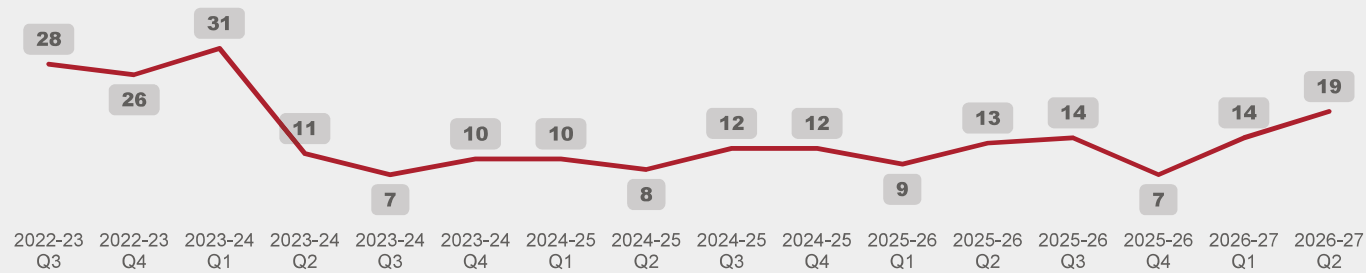
Deliberate Fires



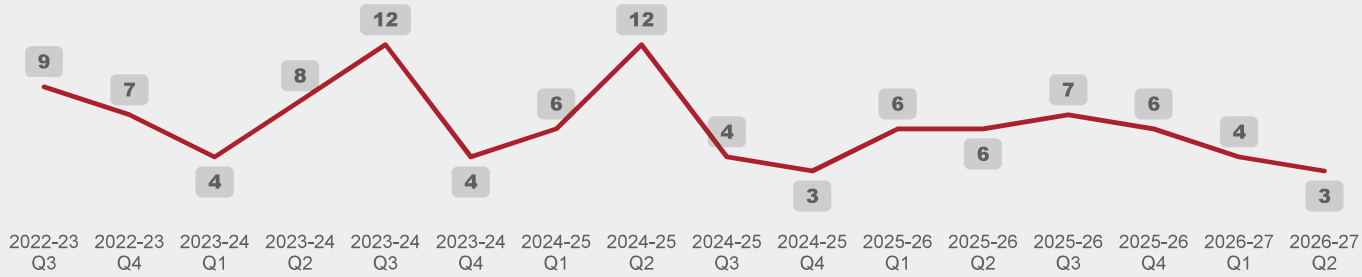
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



Road Traffic Collisions

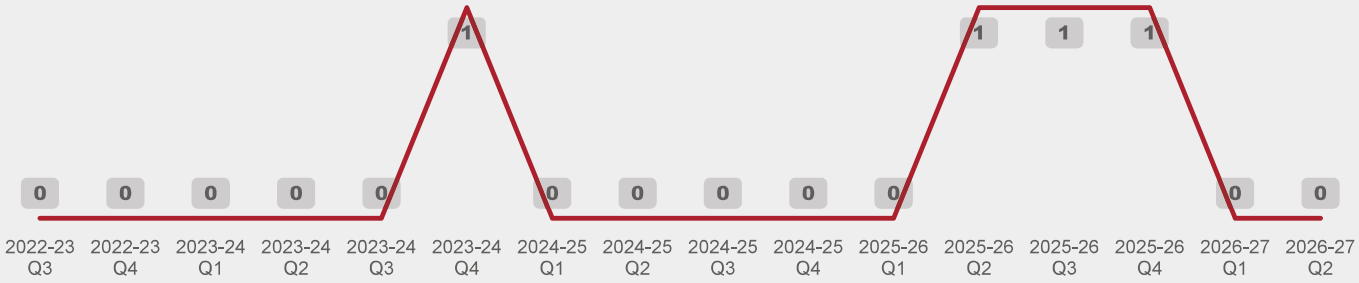


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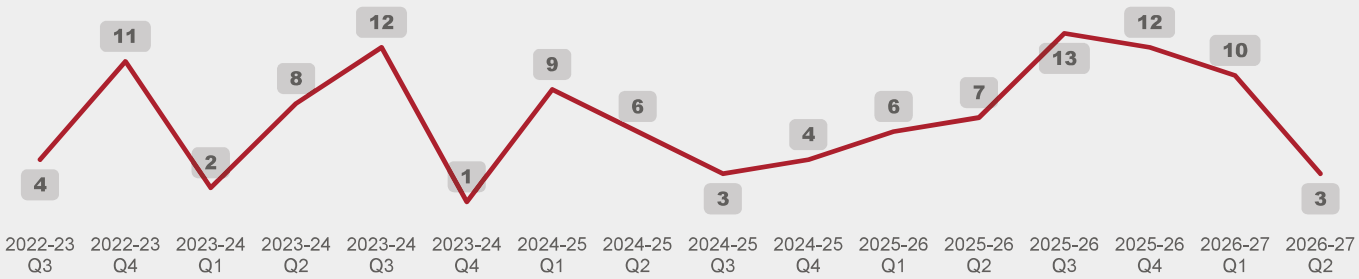
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

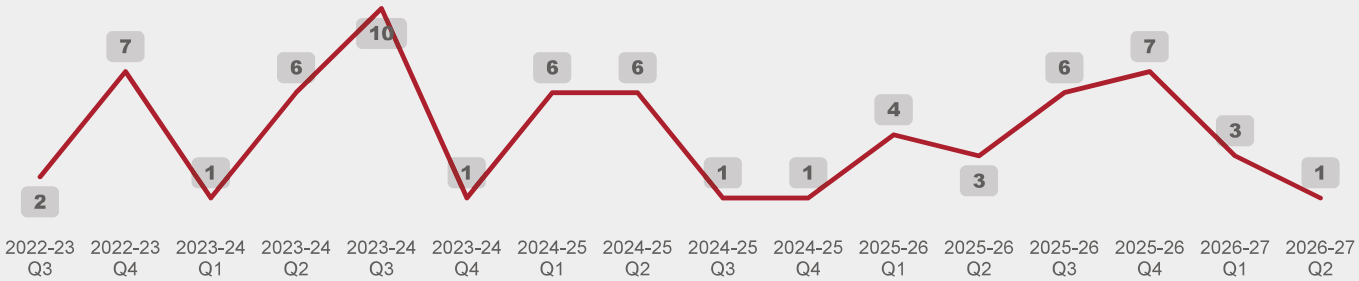
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



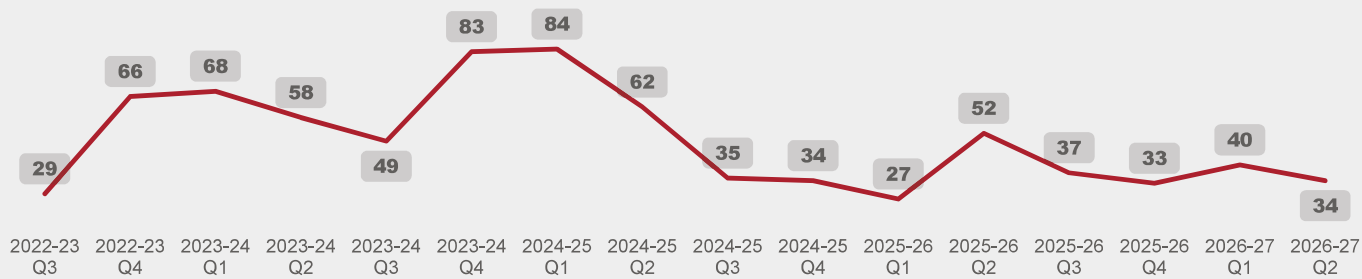
Non-Fire Casualties



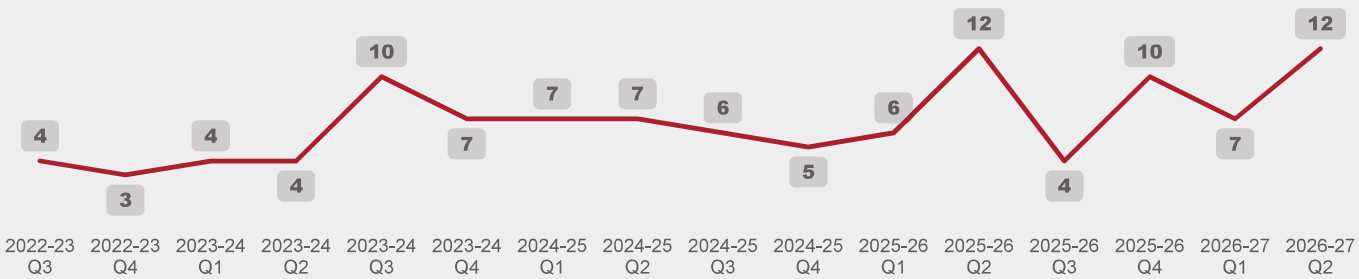
Road Traffic Collision Casualties



Home Fire Safety Visits



Fire Safety Audits



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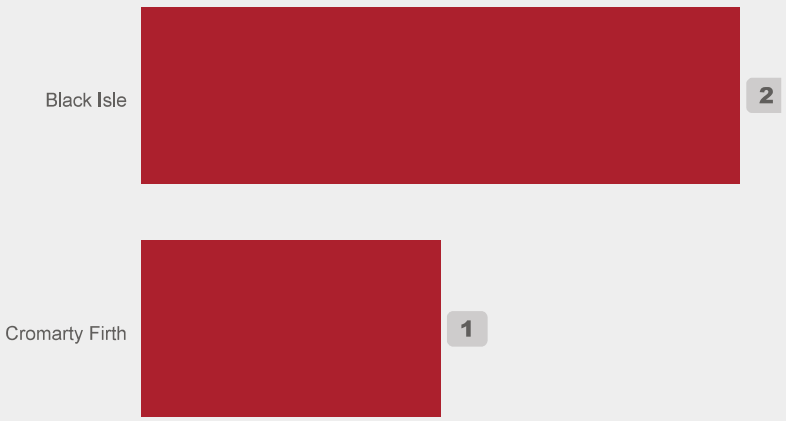
3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward

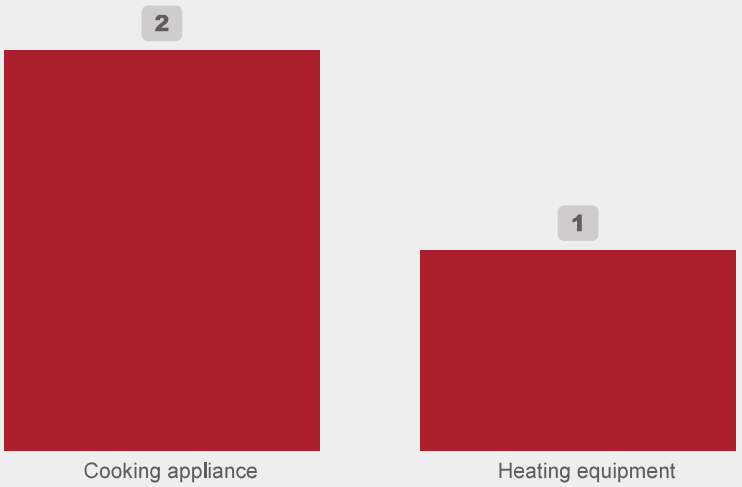


Extent of Damage	Incidents
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	1
Limited to item 1st ignited	1
Not applicable	1

3

Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

Source of Ignition (Top 10)



There were **3 Accident Dwelling Fires (ADFs)** within this reporting period, which sees a significant reduction when compared to the previous period. The majority 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 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	0	0
Non-Fatal Casualties	Fatal Casualties	People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

0	0	0
First Aid Given at Scene	Hospital Slight Injuries	Hospital Serious Injuries

We are pleased to report that there were no casualties as a result of Accidental Dwelling Fires within this reporting period.

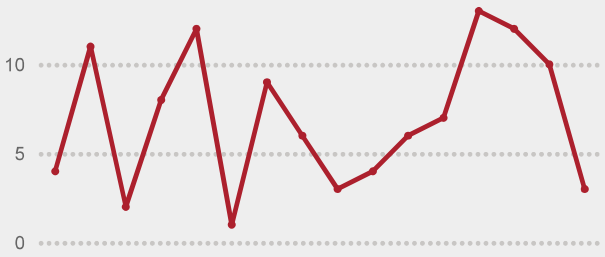
It should be noted that these figures do not include those who have been recommended to have a precautionary check up.

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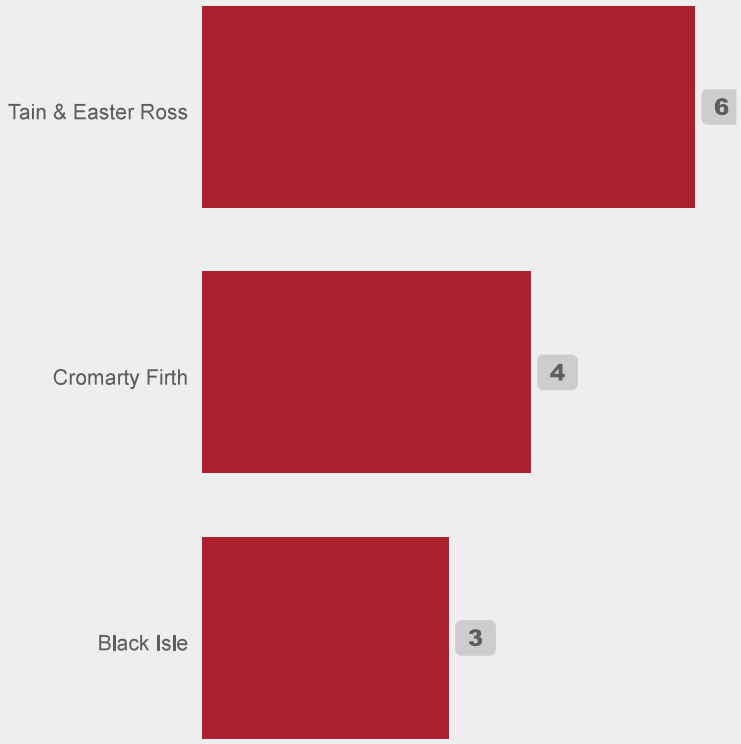
5. Non-Fire Casualties

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Fracture	4
Back / Neck injury (spinal)	2
Not known	2
Other medical condition	2
Chest pain / Heart condition / Cardiac arrest	1
Head injury	1
Unconscious, fitting or unresponsive (no other evident significant injury)	1

12 Non-Fatal Casualties

1 Fatal Casualties

12 People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

1 First Aid Given at Scene

7 Hospital Slight Injuries

4 Hospital Serious Injuries

Within this reporting period, there was **1 Fatal Non-Fire Casualty**, **12 Non-Fatal Non-Fire Casualties** and **12 People Rescued by Firefighters**. This shows a reduction in the number of Fatal and Non-Fatal Casualties compared to the previous period, however there has been a slight increase in the number of persons who were rescued by firefighters.

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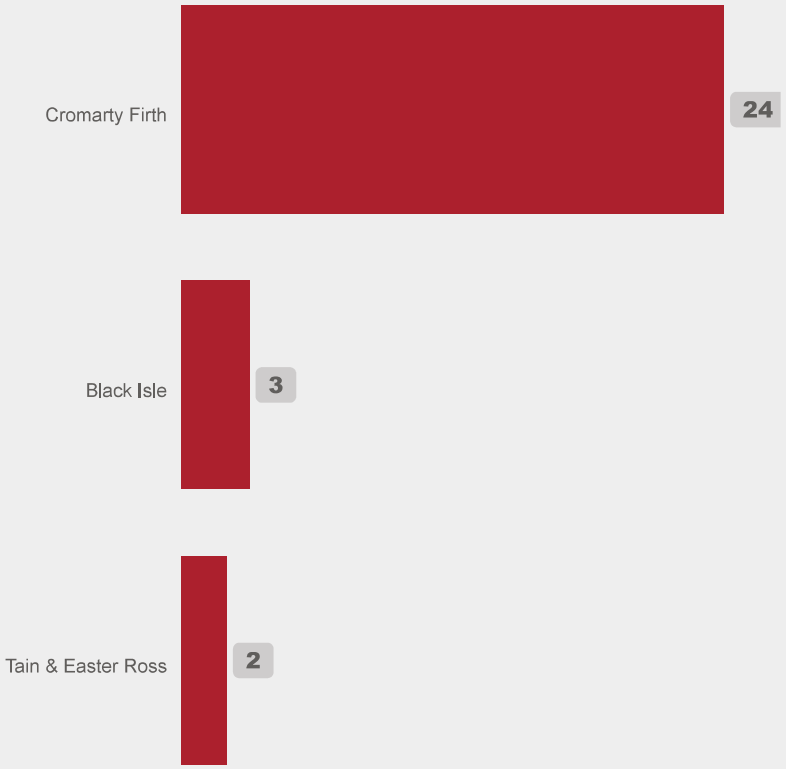
6. Deliberate Fires

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



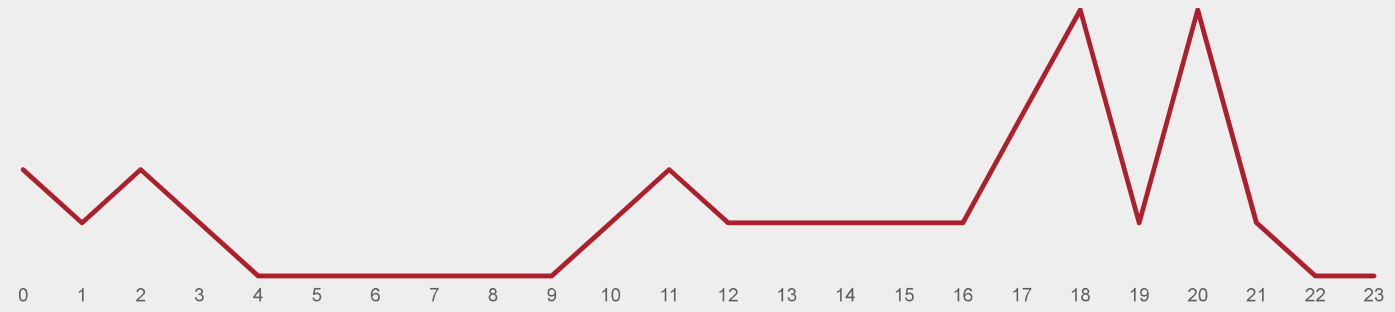
Incidents by Ward



Property Type	Incident
Grassland, woodland and crops	17
Other outdoors (including land)	5
Road Vehicle	5
Outdoor equipment and machinery	1
Outdoor structures	1

29 **Deliberate Fires in this period**

Hour of Day



Unfortunately there were **29 Deliberate Fires** during this reporting period, which is an increase when compared to the previous period.

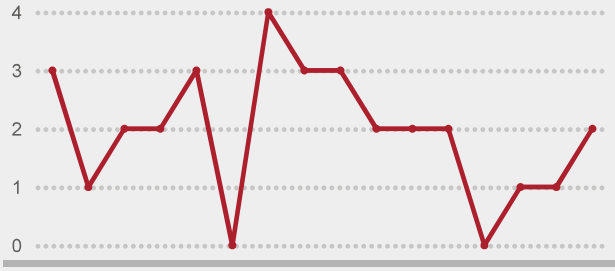
The majority of these incidents involved grassland, woodland and crops.

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7. Non-Domestic Fires

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)

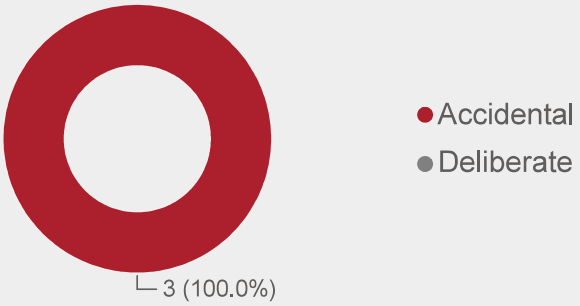


Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

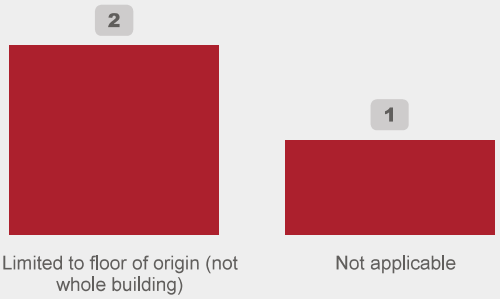
Property Type	Incidents
Industrial Manufacturing	1
Permanent Agricultural	1
Warehouses and bulk storage	1



3

Non-Domestic Fires in this period

Extent of Damage



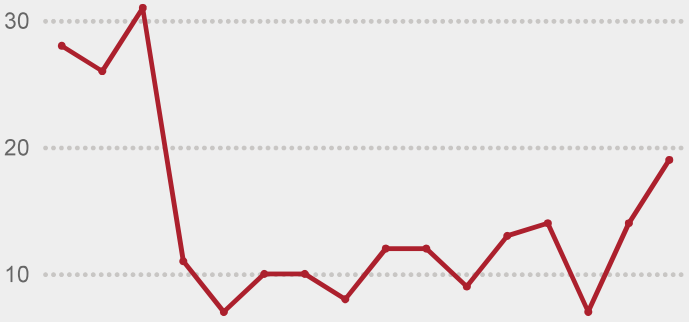
Within this reporting period there were **3 Non-Domestic Fires**, this shows a slight increase when compared to the previous reporting period.

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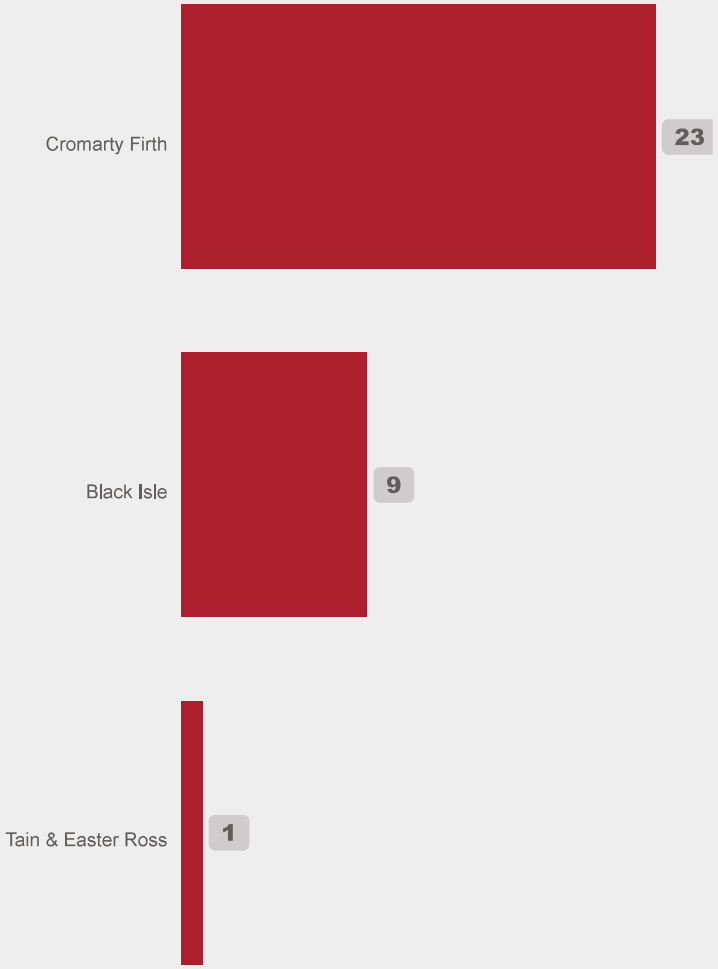
8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Residential Home	15
Hotel/motel	8
Hospitals and medical care	4
Boarding House/B&B other	3
Offices and call centres	1
Other Residential Home	1
Sheltered Housing - not self contained	1

33

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

We attended **33 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals** during this period, which is an increase when compared to the previous reporting period. However the figure remains lower in comparison to the period prior to the introduction of the Service's change to attendance at commercial businesses and workplace premises.

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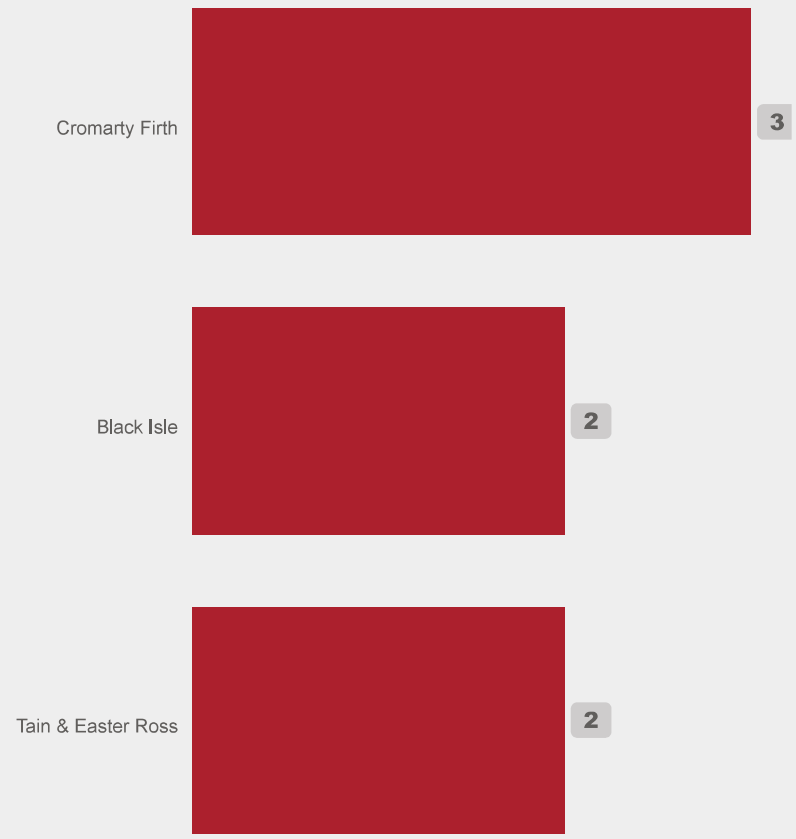
9. Road Traffic Collisions

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



7 **Road Traffic Collisions in this period**

Property Type	Incidents
Car	5
Motorcycle	1
Multiple Vehicles	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	7

4 **Non-Fatal Casualties**

0 **Fatal Casualties**

2 **People Rescued by Firefighters**

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

1 **First Aid Given at Scene**

1 **Hospital Slight Injuries**

2 **Hospital Serious Injuries**

In this reporting period we attended **7 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is a reduction compared to the previous period. There were **4 Non-Fatal RTC Casualties**, a reduction when compared to the previous period. There was also **2 People Rescued by Firefighters**.

Our Prevention teams continue to work with partner agencies to reduce the number of RTCs.

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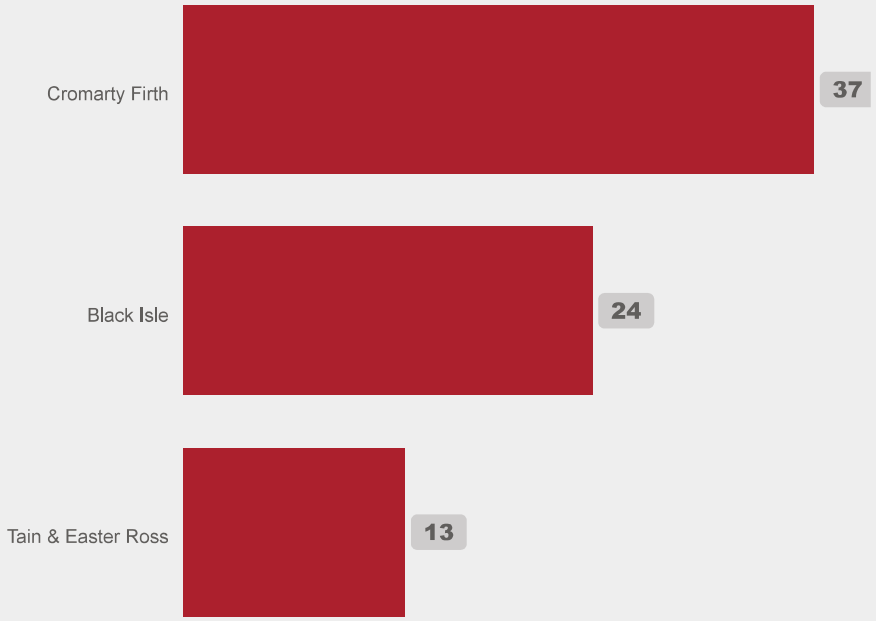
10. Home Fire Safety Visits

2026-27 Q1 & Q2

74

Home Fire Safety Visits

HFSVs by Ward



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Audit	19
Consultation	3

Audits by Ward



We undertook **74 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs)** within this reporting period. We continue to target the vulnerable and those most a risk from fire.

Our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers and Auditing Officers have undertaken **19 Fire Safety Enforcement Audits** and **3 Consultations** within this reporting period.

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- 4 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 3 Stations
- 2 x On-Call Volunteer Duty System vehicles/Community Response Units across 2 Stations

These Stations serve the Black Isle and Easter Ross population

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

Station	Apr – Sept 26 Availability* %	Staff 30/09/26
Balintore (CRU)	73.71%	7
Cromarty (CRU)	64.16%	5
Fortrose	76.00%	8
Invergordon – 1st Appliance	99.53%	19
Invergordon – 2nd Appliance	75.72%	
Tain	93.41%	11

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Charity Car Washes



Invergordon Fire Station held a Charity Car Wash in aid of the Firefighters Charity, raising a total of £621.15

Fortrose Fire Station held a Charity Car Wash in aid of the Firefighters Charity and Black Isle Cares. Tea, coffee and home baking was also available, with the home baking being provided by Black Isle Cares. Having washed 124 cars the total amount raised was £1467.71

Joint RTC Exercise



In April, crew from Cromarty Station went along to Dingwall Fire Station where they had a joint RTC exercise with the Scottish Ambulance Service. It was a great opportunity for partnership working and to maintain a common understanding of the roles the Fire Service and Ambulance Service undertake at an RTC.



Recruitment Evening

Invergordon Fire Station held a Recruitment Evening for On Call Firefighters. It allowed anyone who might have been interested in joining the Service the opportunity meet the crew, ask any questions they may have had and see what being an On Call Firefighter in your own community is about.

Watch Commander Frankin, Fortrose – Local Hero



Cllr Morven-May MacCallum nominated Watch Commander Richard Franklin, Fortrose Fire Station as their Local Hero.

Richard and his family were able to attend the seventh opening ceremony of the Scottish Parliament and they got to meet King Charles and Queen Camilla.

Richard has given over two decades of experience and dedication to the community of the Black Isle. Cllr MacCallum was privileges to celebrate both Richard's and the entire crews hard work.

Wildfire Unit Visit to Primary School

The Wildfire Unit from Invergordon Station attended Kiltearn Primary School in September as they were learning about the Environment/Human Impacts of the Cairngorm Wildfire and invited us along.

Summer Fete

Some crew and an appliance from Tain Station attended the Innis Mhor Care Home Summer Fete. The day was a great success, albeit the weather wasn't the best.

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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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Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.