



Na h-Eileanan Siar

**2024-25 Q3 & Q4
Scrutiny Report**



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR



**2024-25 Q3 & Q4
Scrutiny Report**

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About the statistics within this report

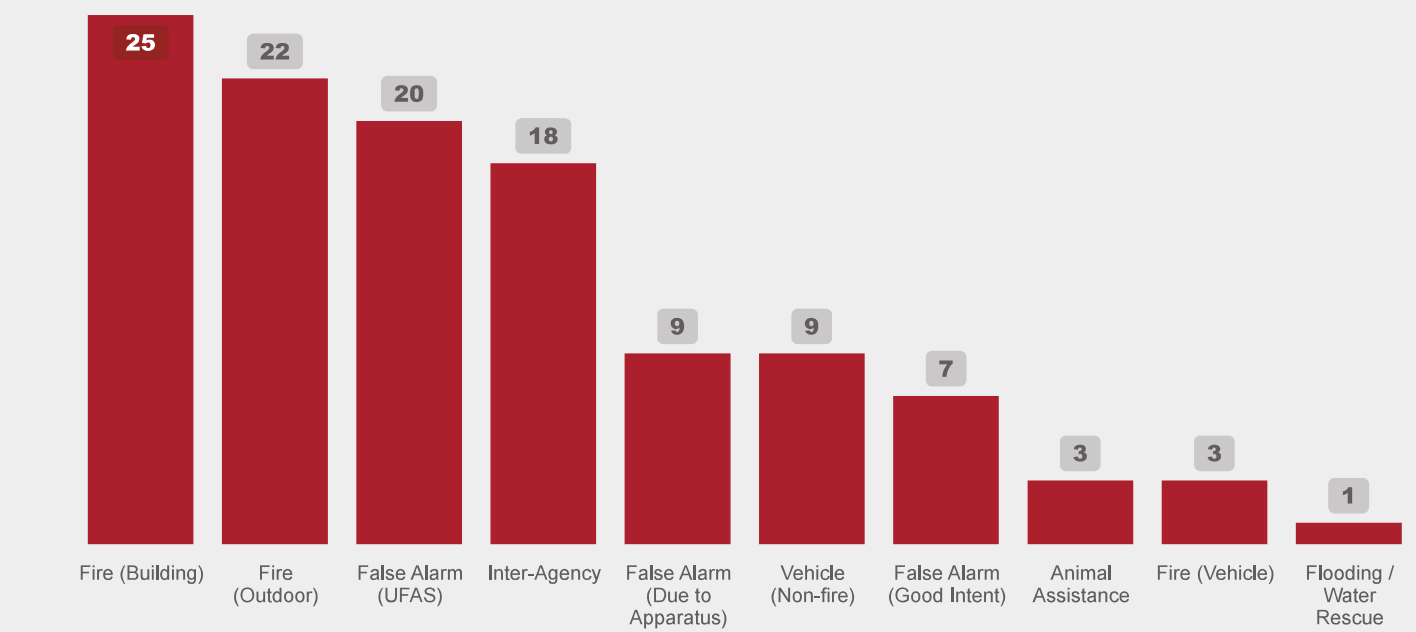
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference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

1. Summary

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

 117 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	 50 Fires	 31 Non-Fire Incidents	 36 False Alarms	 20 UFAS
 5 People Rescued by Firefighters	 2 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	 0 Fire Fatalities	 12 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	 2 Non-Fire Fatalities
 15 Home Fire Safety Visits	 17 Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types

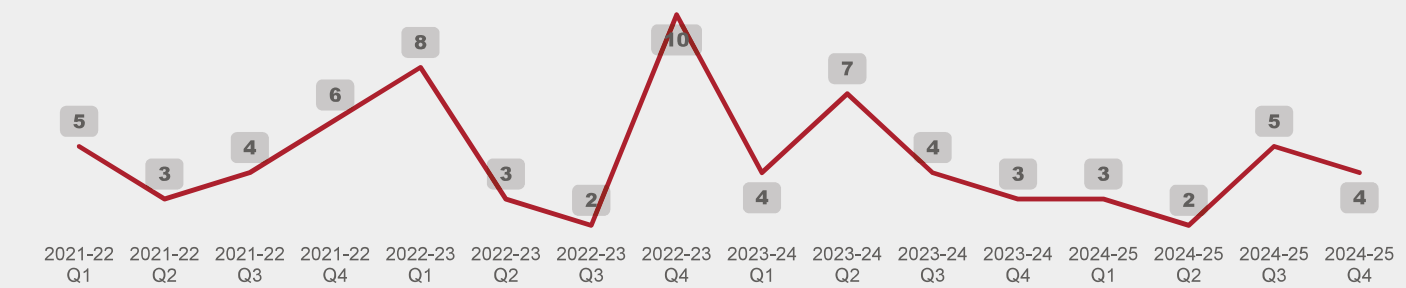


The table above provides a summary of the six months (1 October 2024 - 31 March 2025) activity, based on targets set against headlines indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

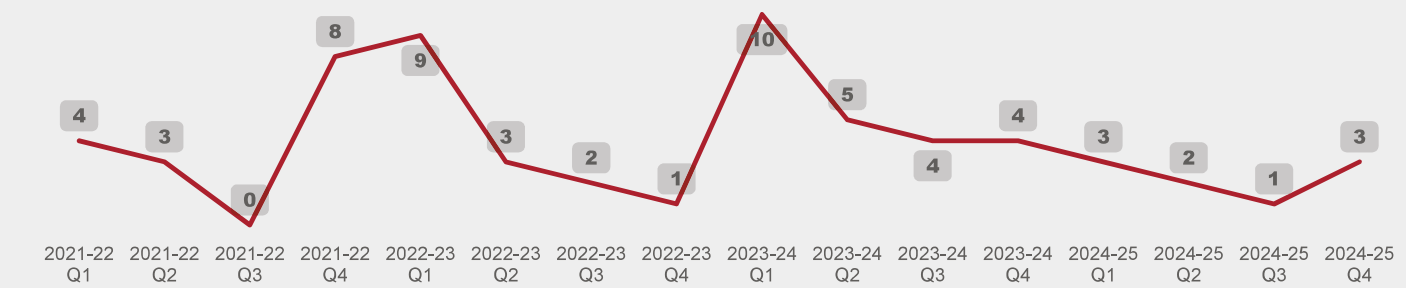
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

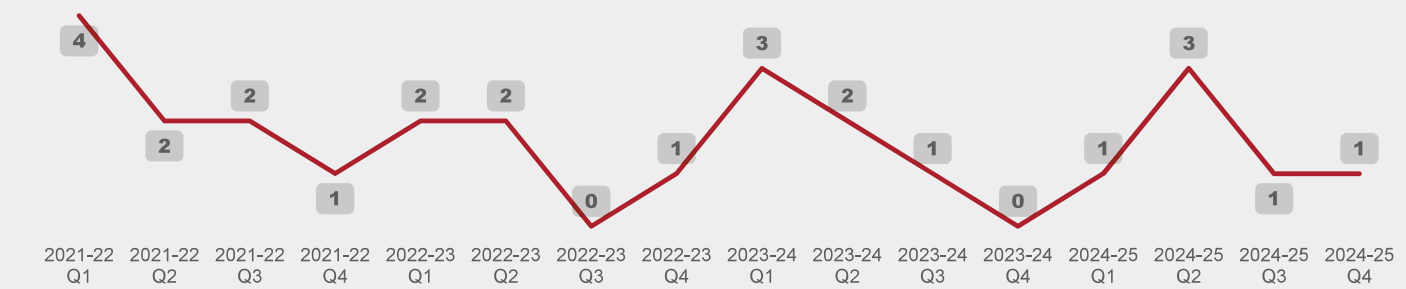
Accidental Dwelling Fires



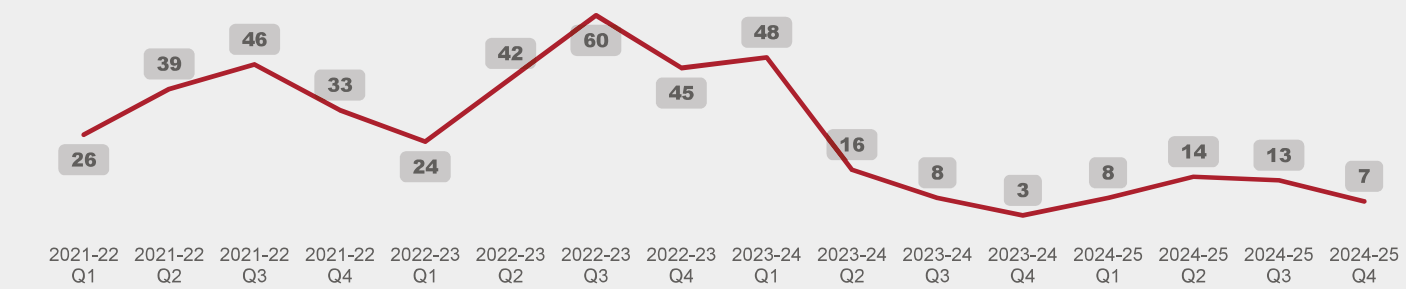
Deliberate Fires



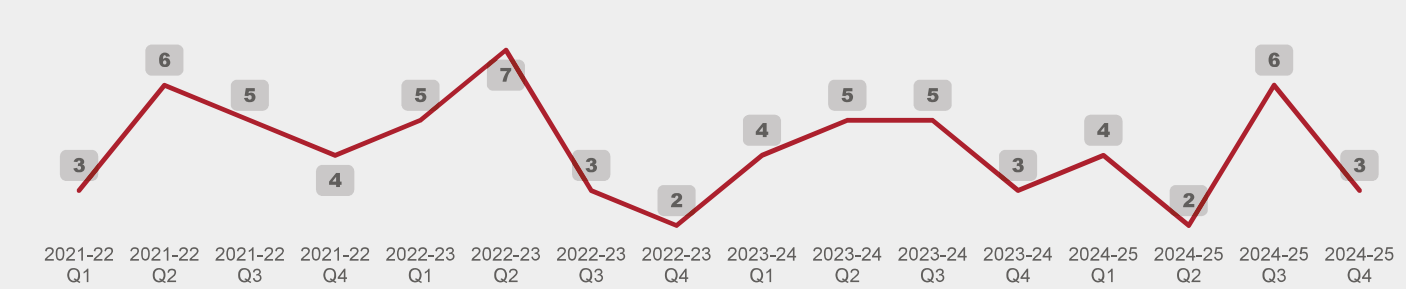
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



Road Traffic Collisions



3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

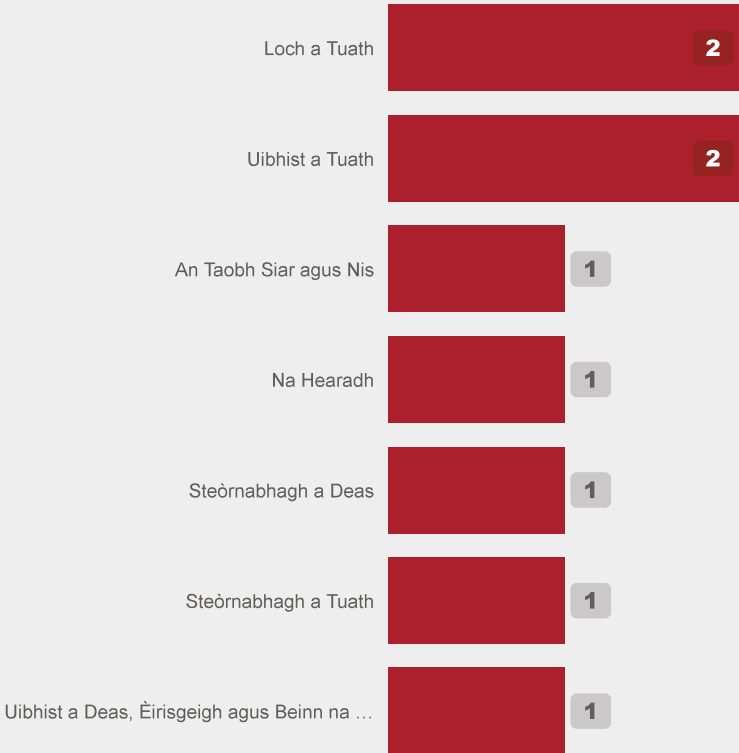
2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)

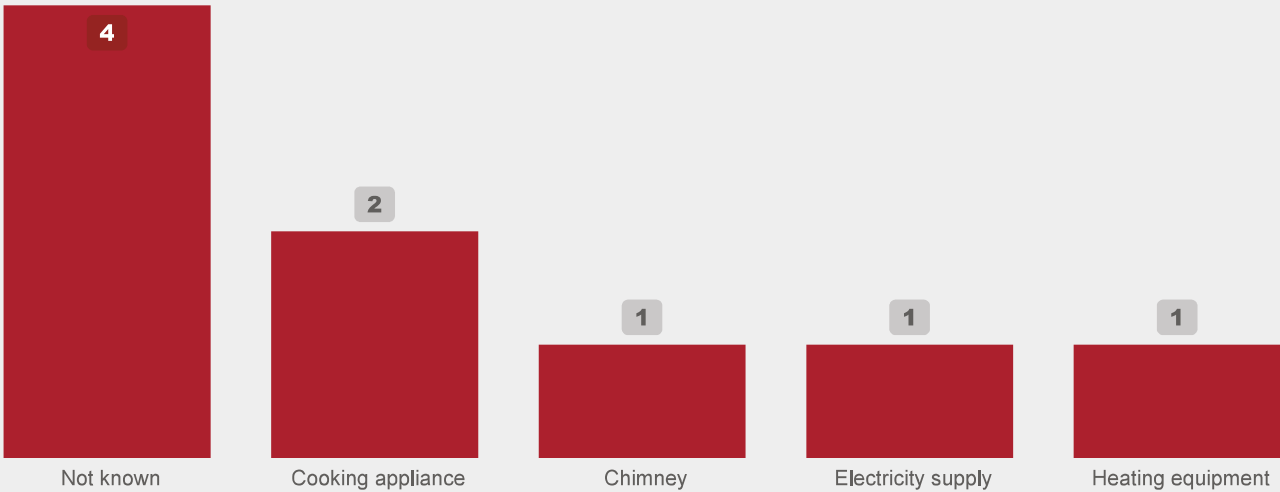


Extent of Damage	Incidents
Whole building	3
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	2
Limited to item 1st ignited	2
Not applicable	1
Whole roof (including roof space)	1

Incidents by Ward



Source of Ignition (Top 10)



9
Accidental Dwelling Fires
in this period

There were **9 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** during quarters 3 and 4 which is slightly higher than the previous period.
All ADF's are followed up with HFSV's and agency referrals where required.

4. Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Shock / Anaphylactic shock	1

Casualties by Ward



1

Non-Fatal Casualties

0

Fatal Casualties

0

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given at Scene



1

Hospital Slight Injuries



0

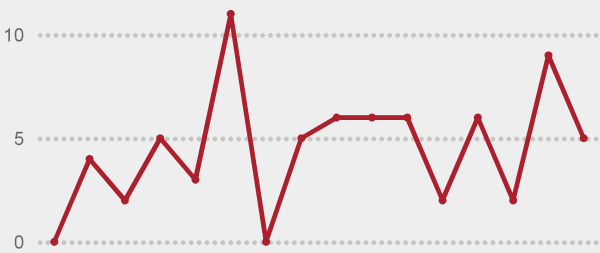
Hospital Serious Injuries

There was 1 ADF Non-Fatal Casualty during this period. This has reduced compared to the same reporting period of the previous year.

5. Non-Fire Casualties

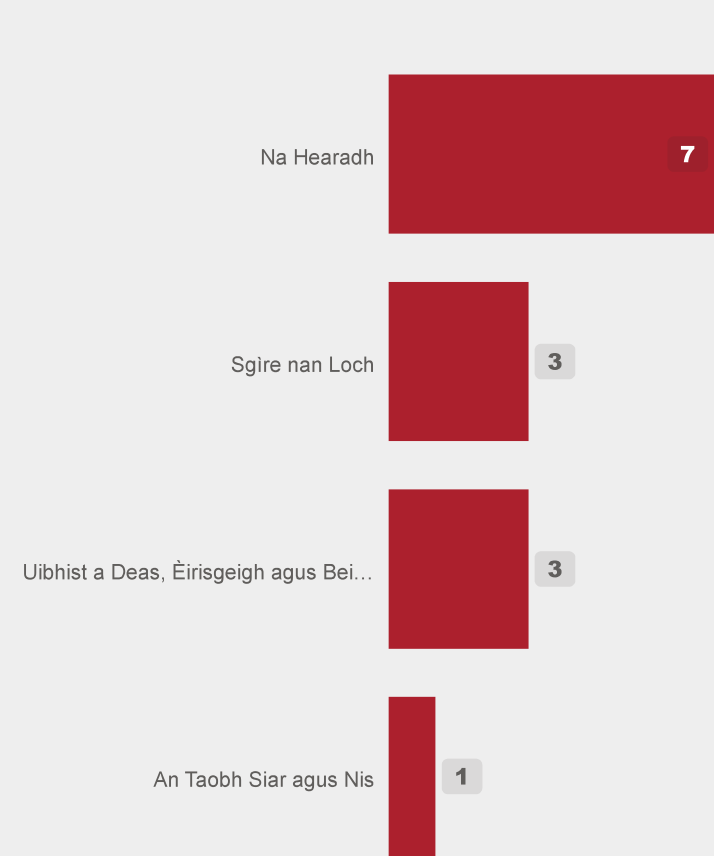
2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Not known	6
Back / Neck injury (spinal)	2
Chest / Abdominal injury	2
Bruising	1
Chest pain / Heart condition / Cardiac arrest	1
Collapse	1
Cuts/Lacerations	1

Casualties by Ward



12

Non-Fatal Casualties

2

Fatal Casualties

5

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

0

First Aid Given at Scene

10

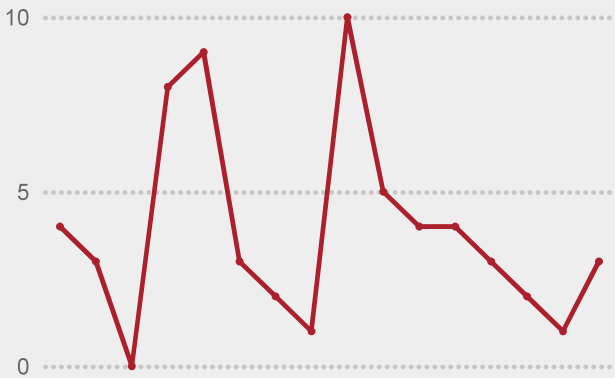
Hospital Slight Injuries

2

Hospital Serious Injuries

There has been incline in the number of Non-Fatal Casualties when compared to previous years, with 10 of the non-fatal casualties being as a result of Road Traffic Collisions (RTC), however all of their injuries appeared to be slight.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Property Type	Incident
Refuse	3
Grassland, woodland and crops	1

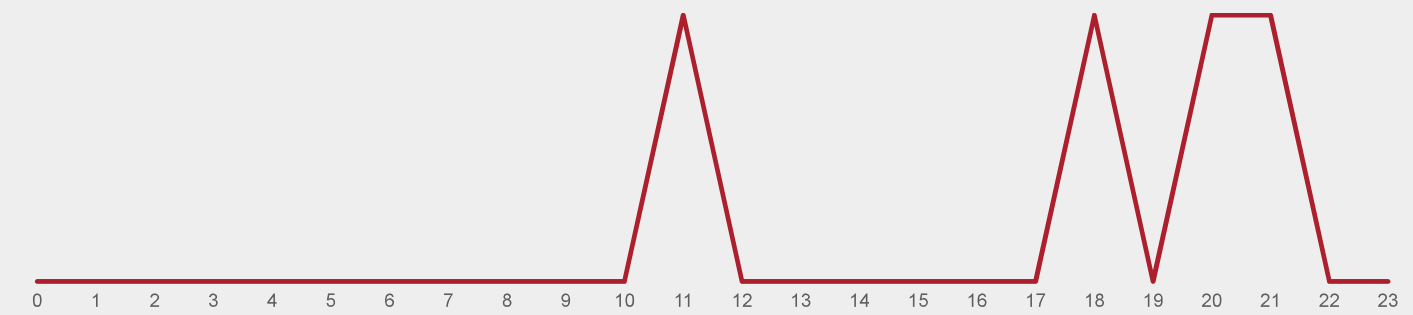
Incidents by Ward



4

Deliberate Fires
in this period

Hour of Day

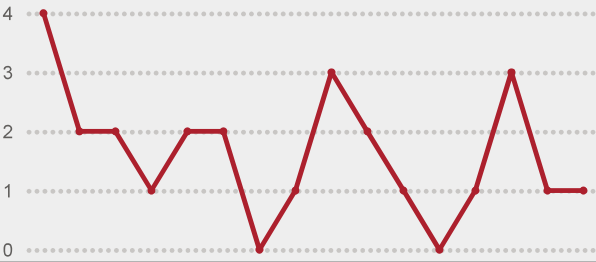


There has been a decline in the number of these incidents, however of the **4 Deliberate Fires**, three of them took place in the early evening between the hours of 1800 and 2100 hours.

7. Non-Domestic Fires

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

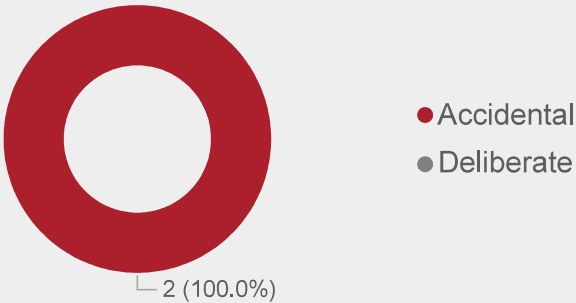
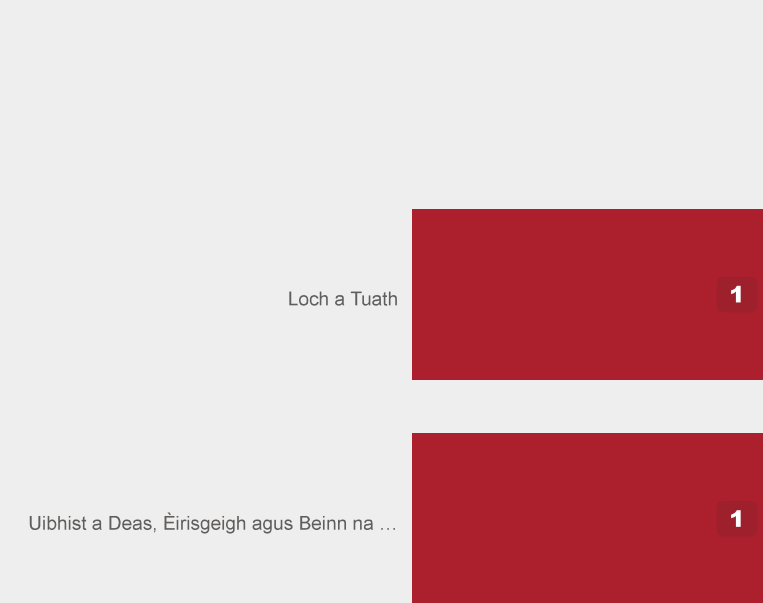
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Education	1
Hospitals and medical care	1

Incidents by Ward



2

Non-Domestic Fires in this period

Extent of Damage

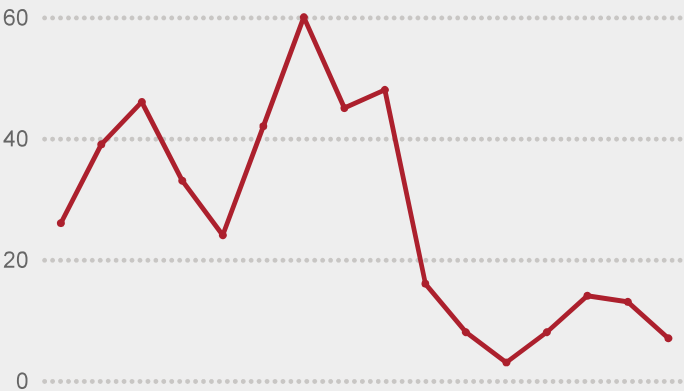


Non-Domestic fires for Quarters 3 and 4 have been low impact and caused little or no damage. Our focus on prevention has been supportive in achieving this.

8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Residential Home	5
Hospitals and medical care	4
Nurses'/Doctors' accommodation	4
Hotel/motel	3
Hostel (e.g. for homeless people)	1
Public Utilities	1
Sheltered Housing - not self contained	1
Transport buildings	1

20

Unwanted Fire Alarm
Signals in this period

We dealt with **20 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during the six month, which although slightly higher than the same period in the previous year, continues to be significantly lower in comparison to the periods prior to the introduction of the new UFAS Policy on 1 July 2023.

9. Road Traffic Collisions

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



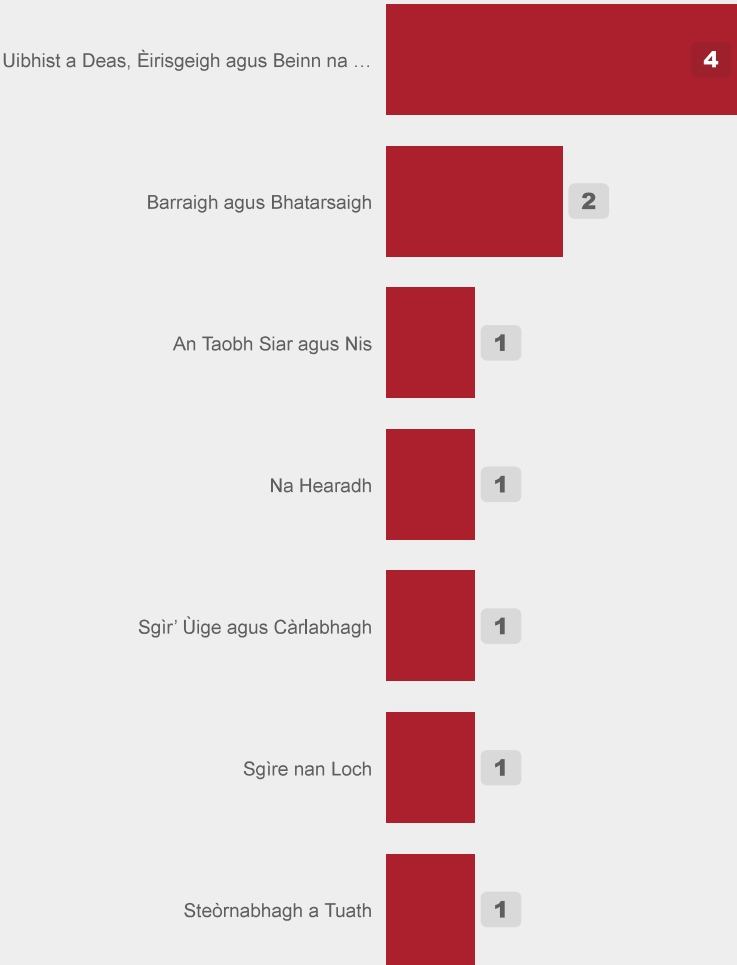
11

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
Car	10
Van	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	9
Flooding / Water Rescue	1
Inter-Agency	1

Incidents by Ward



10

Non-Fatal Casualties

1

Fatal Casualties

2

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given at Scene



10

Hospital Slight Injuries



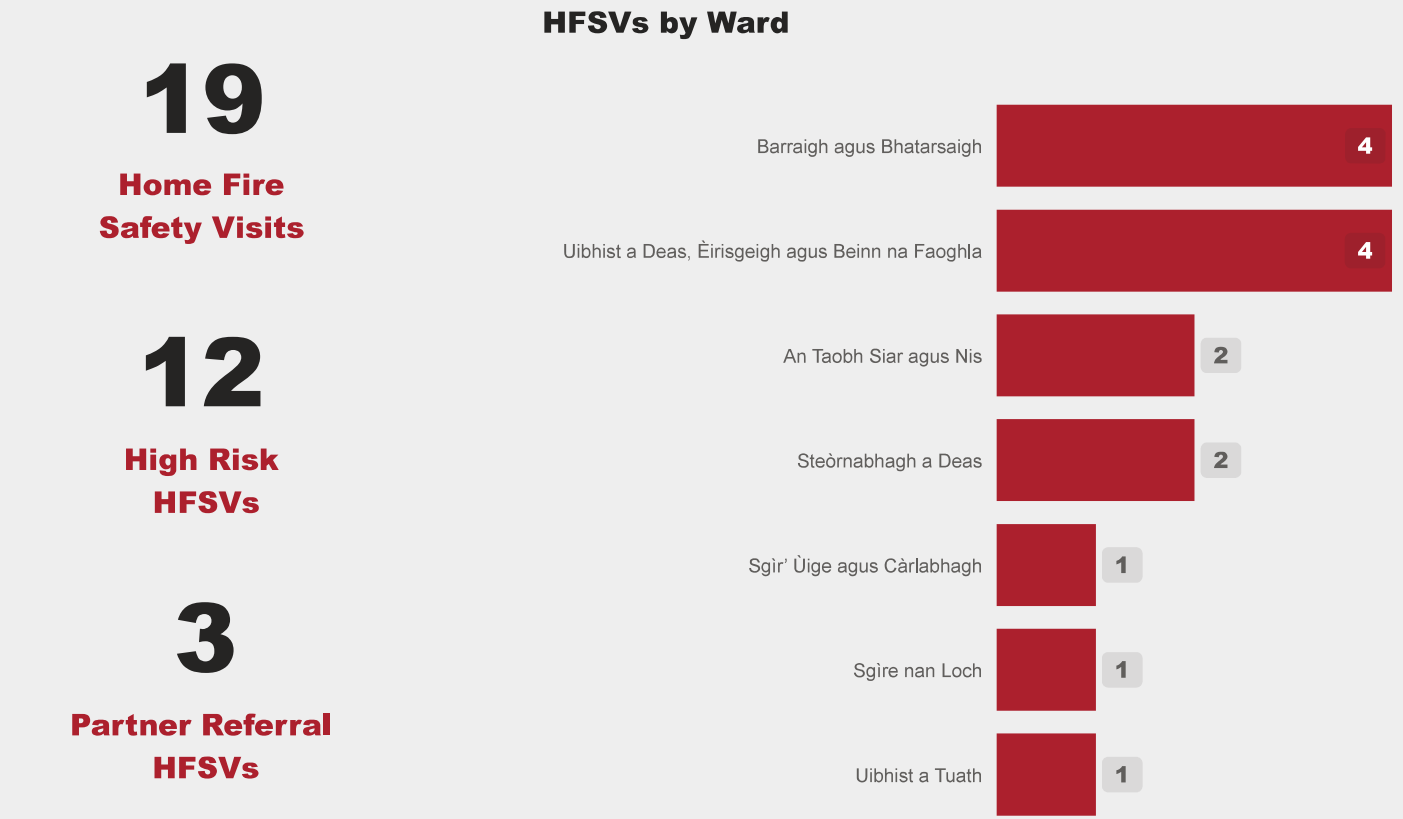
0

Hospital Serious Injuries

We attended 11 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) during the six month period, which sadly resulted in 1 RTC Related Fatality and 10 RTC Related Injuries.

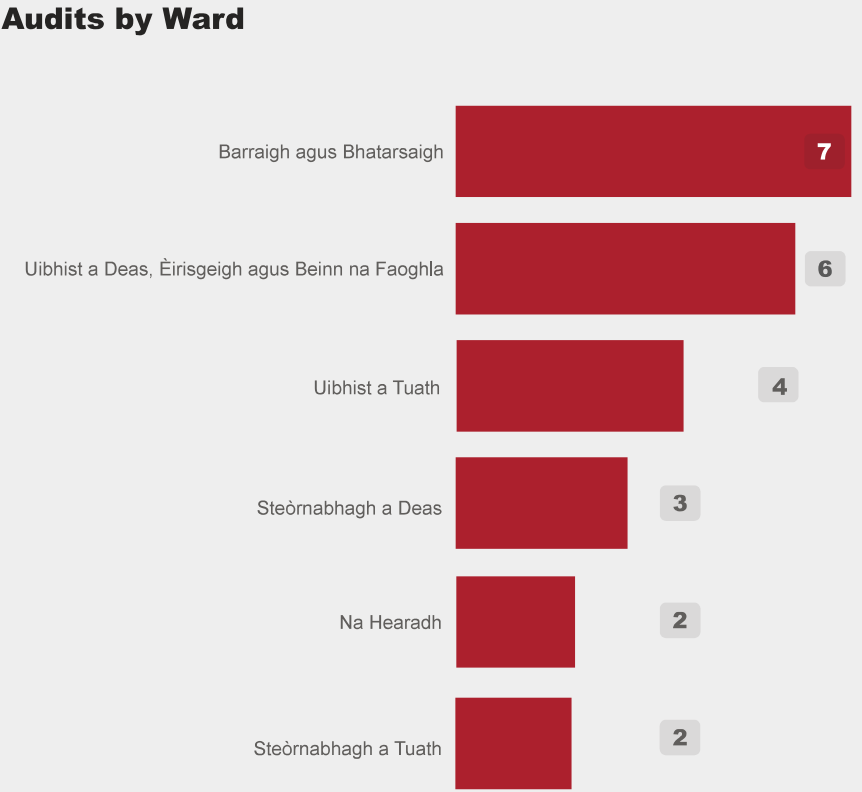
10. Home Fire Safety Visits

2024-25 Q3 & Q4



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Audit	24



In support of our communities in fulfilling their obligations, our SFRS Fire Safety Enforcement Officers and Auditing Officers have conducted 24 audits during this reporting period, covering:

7 Care Homes
2 Hospices
2 Hospitals
3 Hotels

7 Short Term Lets (Full Audits)
1 Hostel
2 HMO

- 16 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 14 Stations

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

***Please note Lochmaddy and Valtos figures are below the actual availability levels due to our recording system Gartan still having the rules for these appliances as Rapid Response Units (RRU). These stations are available more than figures shown. This issue is expected to be resolved when the national contract for a new availability system goes live.**

Station	Oct 24 – Mar 25 Availability* %	Male	Female	Staff
Barra	99.61%	10	0	10
Bayhead	64.62%	8	0	8
Benbecula – 1 st Appliance	85.18%	9	2	11
Benbecula – 2 nd Appliance	6.00%			
Great Bernera	81.71%	8	1	9
Leverburgh	90.64%	9	0	9
Lochboisdale	67.15%	7	0	7
Lochmaddy	48.63%	5	1	6
Ness	71.56%	7	1	8
Scalpay	83.61%	7	1	8
Shawbost	97.54%	9	1	10
South Lochs	74.69%	7	2	9
Stornoway – 1 st Appliance	100%	17	2	19
Stornoway – 2 nd Appliance	91.60%			
Tarbert	79.33%	10	1	11
Valtos	34.98%	4	2	6

- 131 Station based personnel
- 2 Rural Wholtime Watch Commander Positions.
- 2 Station Commanders, 1 Group Commander, 1 Area Commander
- In addition, Prevention, Protection and Training non-operational

Fire Safety Enforcement

In support of our communities in fulfilling their obligations, our SFRS Fire Safety Enforcement Officers and Auditing Officers have conducted 24 audits during this reporting period, covering;

- 7 care homes;
- 2 hospices;
- 2 hospitals;
- 3 hotels;
- 7 short-term lets (full audits);
- 1 hostel
- 2 HMO.

Additionally, our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers and Auditing Officers have received 65 holiday let applications within this period and 21 of these has been reviewed.

At the end of June, a new Fire Safety Auditing Officer will assume their post for a four-month term as part of a job-share arrangement. The volume of short-term let licence applications has generated a significant workload. To address this, SFRS plans to conduct retrospective reviews, with the new part-time Auditing Officer playing a crucial role in this process.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and welcome any inquiries for further details.

Bonfire and Fireworks Safety Talk - Tarbert



Firefighters from Tarbert Community Fire Station visited Sir E Scott School to deliver an important bonfire and fireworks safety talk, emphasising the risks of improper use and the potential consequences. Firefighters actively engaged with these young students about bonfire and fireworks safety highlighting that these displays can be exciting but dangerous if not used correctly. Crews engaged with around 100 primary school pupils and six staff members through a combination of video, a PowerPoint presentation, and an interactive Q&A session, ensuring the message was both informative and impactful.

Careers Day – Lewis Sports Centre

Firefighters participated in a Careers Day event at the Lewis Sports Centre, offering insight into their profession and emphasising the vital role they play in the local community and giving advice on any fire safety matters.



Gaelic Language Plan – Lochboisdale Community Fire Station



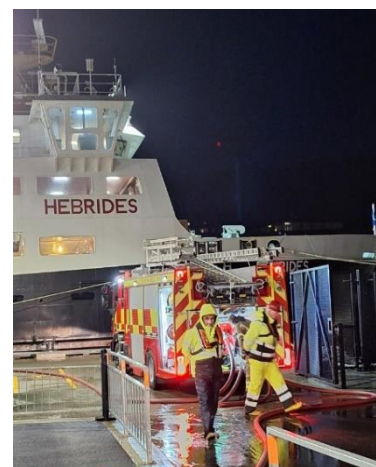
As set out in our Gaelic Language Plan, SFRS recognises that we are the communities we serve, we continue to engage with the public in our delivery and support the priorities for maintaining Gaelic as a sustainable and vital part of Scottish culture. The Western Isles is the main stronghold of the language where today it is still spoken by a majority of the people living in the area.

To highlight our commitment, Lochboisdale Community Fire Station welcomed eight students from the University of Glasgow as part of a three-week intensive Gaelic immersion course on South Uist hosted by Ceòlas Uibhist. This course allows the students to experience the breadth of Gaelic-language usage in a traditional community, including the use of the language within the workplace. Members of the

Lochboisdale crew gave the students a tour of the Station, the fire appliance, equipment, and in Gaelic talked about their roles and experiences as on-call firefighters responding to incidents and promoting safety within their community.

Exercise at Tarbert Ferry Terminal

This exercise at Tarbert ferry terminal was a vital opportunity for local crews to test their response and firefighting capabilities in a realistic environment on a ship tied up alongside. All crews performed exceptionally well, earning positive feedback from other participating agencies. Not only did this exercise reinforce the effectiveness of the response plan for the site, but it also allowed valuable operational insights to be gathered and shared with the Operational Assurance team, ensuring continuous improvement throughout the service.



Animal Rescue Training



Animal Rescue training courses, developed with British Horse Society input and attended by local vets, will enhance animal, public, and crew safety. This collaboration ensures responders are well-equipped to handle rescue situations effectively, improving overall outcomes for both animals and the community.

Tactical Burns Wildfire Training

A Tactical Burns Wildfire Training course took place, combining theoretical and practical training, which ensures Stornoway personnel are well-prepared for tactical back burning operations.



The ATV and wildfire unit delivery to the island, with the first group of personnel now trained, marks another important step in strengthening wildfire response capabilities. These skills will enhance operational readiness and overall resilience.

Breathing Apparatus Initial Course



12 personnel from Lewis and Harris completed their Breathing Apparatus initial training course strengthening local firefighting capabilities and ensures teams are well-prepared for operational challenges. This investment in skills and readiness enhances overall emergency response.



Exercise "BOLT"

The full-scale training exercise "BOLT" at Benbecula Airport demonstrates strong multi-agency coordination and readiness for emergency scenarios. These exercises are crucial for enhancing operational efficiency, collaboration, and response capabilities across agencies.



HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT (HFSV)

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has introduced a new, modernised Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) system that enhances how we identify, assess, and support those most at risk from fire. 2025 is a transitional year as we embed these new systems and referral pathways, and as a result, we may initially see a decline in referrals and HFSVs.

However, we are working hard at a local level to ensure we continue reaching the most vulnerable in our communities. We are actively encouraging new and existing partner organisations to sign up to our Data Sharing Framework (DSF), which enables secure, GDPR-compliant referrals and supports timely, person-centred interventions.

Please share this information with your networks, and if interested in establishing a referral pathway, we encourage you to contact the Western Isles Community Action Team to arrange a local, face-to-face discussion and begin the sign-up process. [Home fire safety visits | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)

WILDFIRE STRATEGY

We are advancing our Wildfire Strategy, aimed at enhancing our capability to manage and mitigate wildfires across Scotland. We are committed to improving wildfire prevention, response, and partnership efforts, ensuring both local communities and natural landscapes are better protected.

Area Commander Michael Humphreys has taken over as the Wildfire Capability Lead and Chair of the Scottish Wildfire Forum (SWF), following the groundwork laid by DACO Bruce Farquharson.

Our Wildfire Strategy focuses on four key pillars: **Partnership Working, Provision of Information, Prevention, and Response.**

Partnership Working and Information Sharing: We work closely with the land management sector and other agencies to ensure a unified approach to wildfire prevention. This includes fostering a shared understanding of **Muirburn** and **prescribed burning** practices, alongside utilising the collective expertise of our partners for prevention education and intervention when needed.

The Scottish Wildfire Forum plays a key role in raising awareness and sharing knowledge. Through the **Wildfire Danger Assessments** provided by the SWF, we inform **Tactical Advisors** and the public about wildfire risks using social media and traditional outlets. More information can be found on the [Scottish Wildfire Forum website](#).

Prevention: In early 2024, we revamped our wildfire prevention materials and expanded the wildfire section on our website from a single page to seven detailed theme pages. This coincided with a **22-week prevention campaign**, which successfully drove significant traffic and interaction with our online wildfire content. Visit our updated website pages at [Wildfires | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#).

Response: Our Wildfire Strategy, launched in 2023, is backed by a £1.6 million investment over three years. This includes acquiring all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), trailers, specialist equipment, and four 4x4 support vans, which will be deployed as part of a comprehensive response package.

Despite global challenges impacting supply chains, we continue to progress. Four of the **Tier 2** wildfire stations are set to receive the 4x4 support vans, and **Tier 3** stations will be equipped with ATVs and additional wildfire-specific PPE.

Tiered Approach:

All SFRS operational personnel are trained to at least **Tier 1** in wildfire response.

Tier 2 Stations: 24 stations (1 of which is Shawbost Fire Station) has received additional training and specialist PPE will arrive shortly.

Tier 3 Stations: 10 stations (1 of which is Stornoway Fire Station) will be equipped with Ford Rangers, trailers, and ATVs.

Stornoway crews have been trained to Tier 3 level and have now been trained in the use of all the new equipment and are now fully operational. Shawbost crews has been trained to Tier 2 level to fully support at wildfire operations.

Flexi Duty Officers: Western Isles has 1 FDO, who has undergone Wildfire Tactical Advisor training and will support wildfire incidents across the country.

BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

We can advise, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) continuously engage with the Scottish Government and Building Standards regarding a range of fire safety issues that may impact on the built environment, of which BESS is one of many priorities.

SFRS do not regulate building standards but can, and do, get involved with consultations for new and emerging premises types with regard to fire risk and fire safety. Specifically, for BESS construction, SFRS continue to engage with building standards and local planning teams on this issue to ensure any additional and exceptional risks from these premise types are identified and managed accordingly. Ultimately, it is the remit for building standards to ensure that appropriate legislation and regulation is in place, and the responsibility of Local Authority Building Control to verify construction projects against the requirements.

SFRS are working closely with the Scottish Government to ensure that the processes in place are appropriate review and comment on these types of premises during the planning stages.

Please be assured that the safety of our firefighters and communities is a priority. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will respond to all reports of fire which are received and have the ability to deploy a range of standard and specialist resources as determined by the needs of the incident. At these incidents, personnel will employ a range of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in order to effectively and safely resolve the incident, alongside working with partner agencies to mitigate the risk and impact to the public and the environment. The SOPs in use by SFRS are informed by the National Operational Guidance (NOG) produced by the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and this guidance includes incidents involving rechargeable batteries.

We would advise you to contact the Local Authority Building Control Team with any questions/concerns.

BESS sites do not fall within the building warrant consultation process, and we are not made aware of these in the same format as other consultations. That said, we have processes in place to respond to such proposals and make comment where necessary around any concerns or issues we foresee when responding to such incidents and for making effective preparations to deal with any incidents should the need arise.

When considering these proposals, we look at appliance access and water supplies amongst several other things and follow national guidance produced by the National Fire Chief's Council for BESS systems.

Stornoway Area. Greenspan Energy have been in contact with us regarding the BESS Development site in Stornoway in November 24, and information passed to us was that the site was still in pre-site design, and we have not had any contact since.

COMMUNITY ASSET REGISTER

- The Community Asset Register is a Scotland wide database of volunteers willing to help during an emergency. The database plots assets on a map so if an emergency incident occurs, we can identify those who could help. Assets can be people with either skills or equipment.
- There's no obligation on volunteers to provide support, as we will always respond to deal with emergencies. However, if we believe a volunteer could help, we ask if they're available. If they are, we explain where they should go and what they should do.
- Volunteers acting under our instruction, are insured and can claim certain expenses, such as mileage, however we don't pay hourly rates for their time.

To register: <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-area/community-asset-register/>

15. 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

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BUSINESS
INTELLIGENCE

Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.