

**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Director of Strategic Change and Communities  
to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel  
of 21 November 2023**

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**Subject: Local Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel with information about the mid-year performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Panel scrutinises the 2023/24 mid-year performance (quarter two) report of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire and provides feedback to the Local Senior Officer.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The Police and Fire and Rescue Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 created a national police force and a national fire and rescue service. The implications of the legislation for local authorities are that the Council will:

- Comment on SPA and SFRS Strategic Plans;
- Contribute to the preparation of the local plan for police and local fire and rescue plan and approve the plans;
- Monitor the delivery of police and fire and rescue functions in the area and make recommendations for improvement; and
- Provide feedback to the Local Police Commander and the Fire and Rescue Service Local Senior Officer.

- 3.2 The Local Fire Plan for South Ayrshire was agreed at Leadership Panel on 19 September 2017. Performance is reported twice yearly and this report relates to the mid-year performance.

**4. Proposals**

- 4.1 The Local Senior Officer, Ian McMeekin, has provided the attached a covering overview (Appendix 1) (including the mid-year performance report (Appendix A), the Pre-Budget Scrutiny Submission by SFRS (Appendix B) and The Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics for 2022/23 (Appendix C)) which Panel members are

invited to scrutinise and provide feedback on. The Local Senior Officer will be in attendance at the Panel meeting to discuss the performance information provided.

## **5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 Not applicable.

## **7. Human Resources Implications**

7.1 Not applicable.

## **8. Risk**

### **8.1 *Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations***

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

### **8.2 *Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations***

8.2.1 If the recommendation is rejected then there is a risk that the Council is considered to not have discharged its responsibility under the Police and Fire and Rescue Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 in terms of scrutinising local performance.

## **9. Equalities**

9.1 The proposals in this report allow scrutiny of performance. The report does not involve proposals for policies, strategies, procedures, processes, financial decisions and activities (including service delivery), both new and at review, that affect the Council's communities and employees, therefore an equality impact assessment is not required.

## **10. Sustainable Development Implications**

10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** - The proposals in this report do not represent a qualifying plan, programme, policy or strategy for consideration for SEA. There exists therefore no obligation to contact the Scottish Government Gateway and no further action is necessary. An SEA has not been undertaken.

## **11. Options Appraisal**

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

## **12. Link to Council Plan**

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Priority 3 of the Council Plan: Civic and Community Pride.

### **13. Results of Consultation**

- 13.1 There has been no consultation on the content of this report which relates to performance of an external organisation.

**Background Papers**    **Report to Leadership Panel of 19 September 2017 - [Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan for South Ayrshire](#)**

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E-mail [kevin.anderson@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.anderson@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Date:** 14 November 2023

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL – 21 NOVEMBER 2023**

**SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE  
2023/24 QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE AND SERVICE UPDATE REPORT**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To advise members of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel as to the progress being made against South Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan priorities, and to provide panel members with an update on other key fire and rescue service matters.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is proposed that members of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel:
- i. Note the contents of the performance summary report for the period 1 April to 30 September 2023.
  - ii. Note all Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) updates.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The SFRS is legally obliged to produce Local Fire and Rescue Plans for all 32 local authorities across Scotland. The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for South Ayrshire was developed and, following a public consultation, was presented to the former Partnerships Panel for formal approval.
- 3.2 The continuation of these priorities has been agreed for future reference, via the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel, and will be subject to ongoing monitoring via this forum.

**4. PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

- 4.1 An analysis of operational responses across South Ayrshire for the period 1 April to 30 September 2023 identified a 9% decrease in activity levels when compared to the corresponding period in 2022. A further review of activity over the rolling three years average indicates a 0.5% increase in operational demand over the six-month period.

- 4.2 In reviewing operational activity on a broader level, false alarms accounted for 57.3% of all demand, with fire related and special service activity accounting for 28.6% and 14.1% respectively.
- 4.3 For the period 1 April to 30 September 2023, overall progress is monitored across six indicators, utilising the three-year rolling average as a basis of measuring performance. Year on year and the rolling five-year average figures are also used to review short and long terms changes in demand and trends.
- 4.4 Utilising the defined approach in Section 4.3, review of performance against these indicators identified three are above and three are below the three-year average.
- 4.5 Further analysis of this performance is provided within the accompanying performance report (*Appendix A*).

## **5. CURRENT POSITION – SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE UPDATES**

- 5.1 The Chief Officer of the SFRS attended the Criminal Justice Committee's Pre-Budget Scrutiny meeting at the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday, 13 September. A copy of the report (*Appendix B*), submitted to the Committee, is enclosed for the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel's reference.
- 5.2 The Local Area hosted a Fire Safety Awareness Event for the care home sector at Ayrshire College's Kilmarnock Campus on Wednesday, 8 November 2023. This pivotal event focused on insights gleaned from previous fire safety enforcement incidents within this sector, aiming to equip duty holders with essential information to enhance the safety protocols of these premises.
- 5.3 Ayrshire Local Area Fire Protection Officers are diligently collaborating with various partners to identify unoccupied and derelict buildings across all three Ayrshire local authority areas. This initiative aims to mitigate the risks of deliberate fire-setting and to compile data crucial for ensuring the safety of our responding firefighters.
- 5.4 The SFRS attended repeat calls to a building fire incident within the Smith Street area of Ayr on Monday, 25 September 2023. A Level 3 Response to the former Station Hotel was requested by the initial Incident Commander. The last responding appliance left the incident on Tuesday, 3 October 2023.
- 5.5 The SFRS has recently published its annual Official Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics publication for 2022-23. A copy of this report (*Appendix C*) is attached for the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel's consideration.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 Fire and Rescue Service activity is subject to regular monitoring and review by South Ayrshire Council's Service and Partnerships Performance Panel. The contents of

this document, and accompanying performance report, forms part of this monitoring process.

- 6.2 Members of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel will be kept up to date as to progress against the Local Fire and Rescue Plan and to any future fire and rescue service updates as they arise.

**Area Commander Ian McMeekin**  
**Local Senior Officer**  
**Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**  
**21 Novemeber 2023**

*For further information, please contact Area Commander Ian McMeekin 01294 607000*



**South Ayrshire Performance Report  
1st April 2023 - 30th September 2023**



**SCOTTISH  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**  
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Working together  
for a safer Scotland**

*south*  
**AYRSHIRE**  
COUNCIL

# South Ayrshire Performance Report

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# Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan Priorities

The Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan has been developed to set out the priorities and objectives within South Ayrshire and allows our local authority partners to scrutinise the performance outcomes of these priorities. We will continue to work closely with our partners in South Ayrshire to ensure we are all “**Working Together for a Safer Scotland**” through targeting risks to our communities at a local level.

The plan has been developed to complement key partnership activity embedded across South Ayrshire's Community Planning Partnership. Through effective and co-ordinated partnership working we will seek to deliver continuous improvement in our performance and effective service delivery in our area of operations.

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for South Ayrshire identified six areas for demand reduction and is subject to regular monitoring and reporting through the Partnership Panel. A summary of the priorities and current activity is detailed below with further detail and analysis contained within this performance report.

	Accidental Dwelling Fires	Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties	Unintentional Injury and Harm	Deliberate Fire Setting	Non-Domestic Fire Safety	Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
Ayr East	3	0	2	12	0	22
Ayr North	8	0	3	26	1	26
Ayr West	8	0	2	35	3	56
Girvan & South Carrick	3	0	7	6	4	40
Kyle	4	1	3	26	2	22
Maybole, North Carrick & Coylton	4	0	2	9	3	49
Prestwick	5	0	0	28	1	27
Troon	8	1	3	44	1	28
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>270</b>

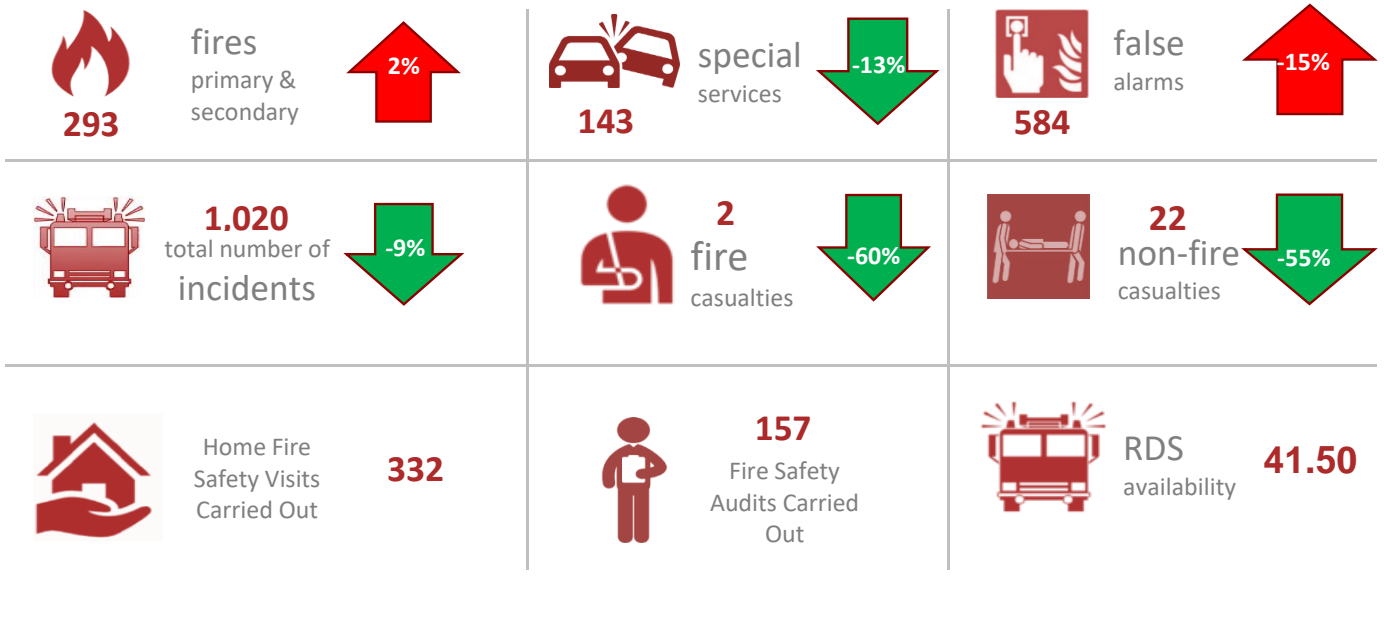
<b>Year on Year Change</b>	◆ 13%	● -60%	● -55%	◆ 26%	◆ 50%	● -25%
<b>3 Year Average Change</b>	◆ 4%	● -8%	▲ -5%	◆ 9%	◆ 22%	▲ -3%
<b>5 Year Average Change</b>	▲ 0%	● -24%	● -17%	◆ 1%	● -6%	▲ -4%

## 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.

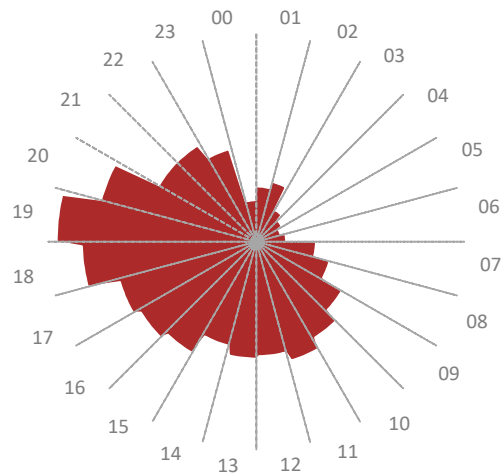
- Activity levels have reduced by more than 5%
- ▲ Activity levels have reduced by up to 5%
- ◆ Activity levels have increased overall

# South Ayrshire Delivery Activity Summary

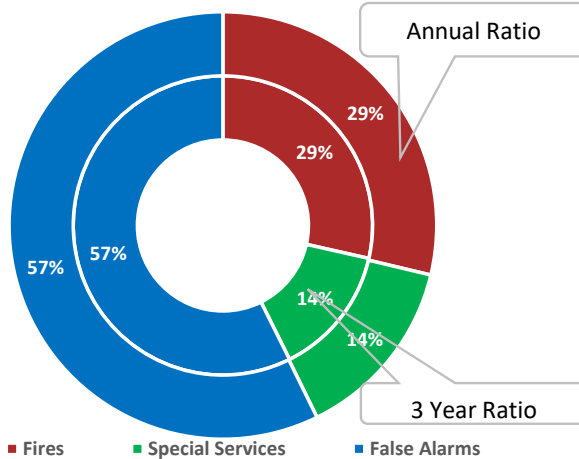


## Activity by Time of Day

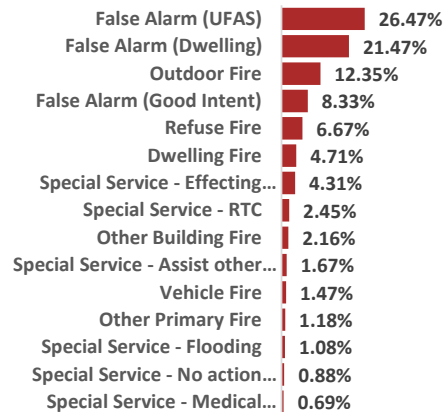
Hour (am)	Total	Hour (pm)	Total
Midnight	18	Mid-day	50
1am	24	1pm	51
2am	27	2pm	47
3am	16	3pm	56
4am	13	4pm	59
5am	11	5pm	62
6am	13	6pm	76
7am	26	7pm	87
8am	33	8pm	70
9am	43	9pm	49
10am	49	10pm	49
11am	54	11pm	42



## Incidents by Classification



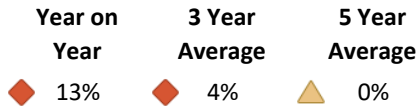
## Top 15 Incident Types by % of Total



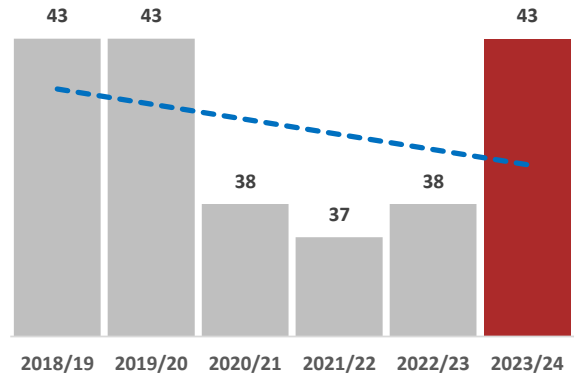
# Domestic Safety - Accidental Dwelling Fires



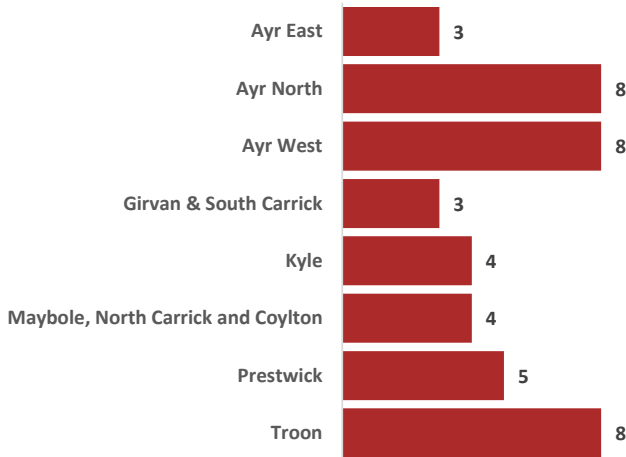
## Performance Summary



## Accidental Dwelling Fires to Date



## Accidental Dwelling Fires by Ward Area



## Severity of Accidental Dwelling Fires



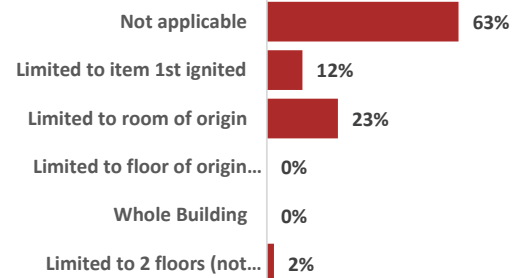
No Firefighting Action

53%

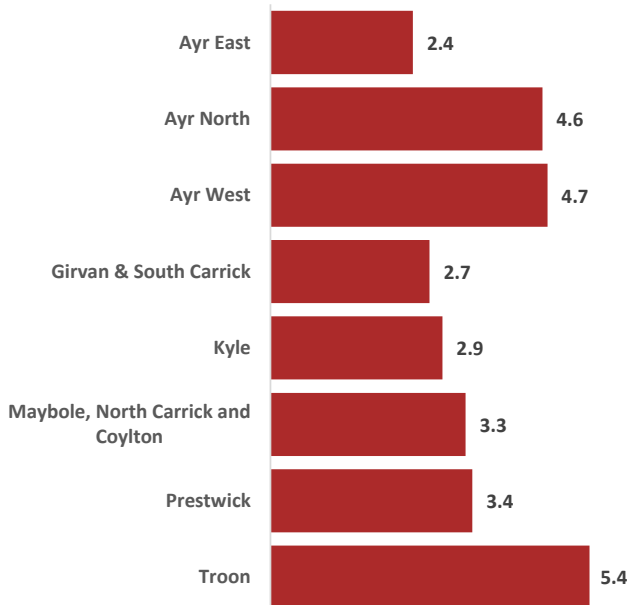
Direct Firefighting

23%

## Extent of Fire Damage



## Incidents Per 10,000 Population - South Ayrshire



## Automatic Detection & Actuation



Detection Present

81%



Detection Actuated

94%



Calls Made via Linked Alarms

21%

## Incidents Per 10,000 Population - Ayrshire



## Human Factors



Distraction

19%



Alcohol/Drug Impairment

7%



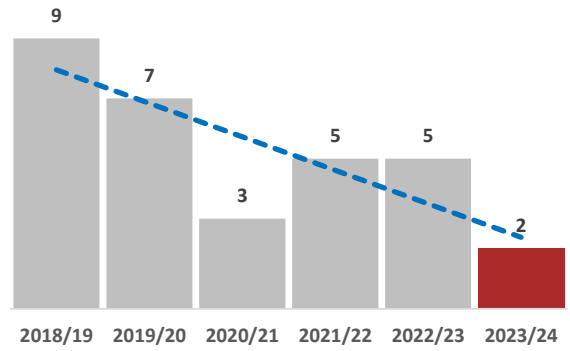
# Domestic Safety - Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



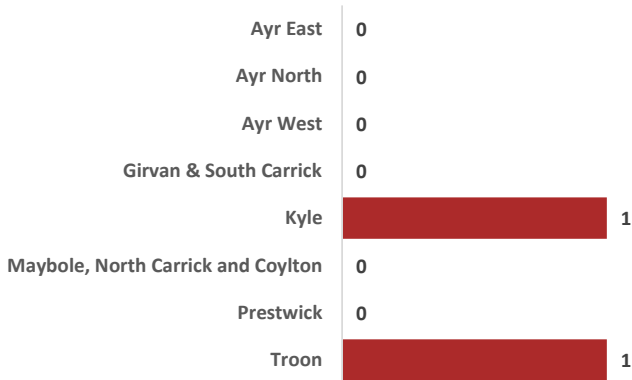
## Performance Summary

Year on Year: -60%  
 3 Year Average: -8%  
 5 Year Average: -24%

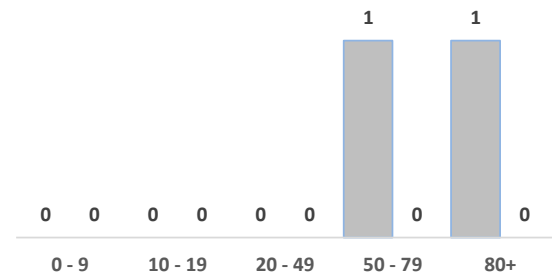
## Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties Year to Date



## Fire Casualties by Ward Area



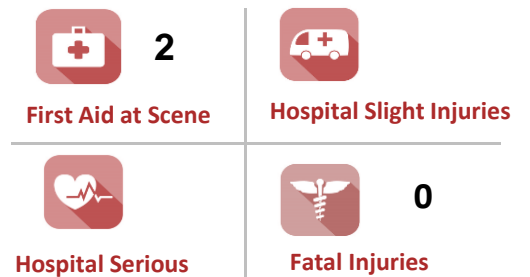
## Age / Gender Profile



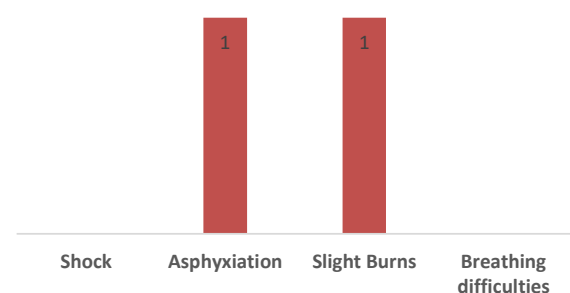
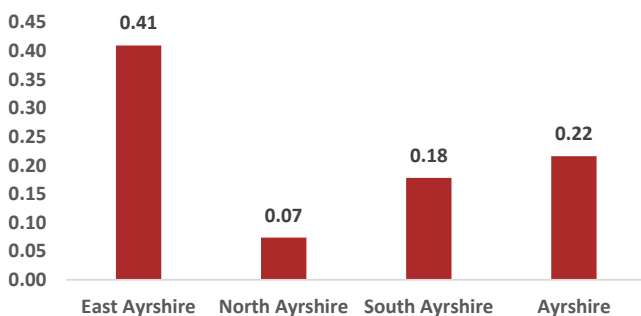
## Casualties Per 10,000 Population - South Ayrshire



## Extent of Harm



## Casualties Per 10,000 Population - Ayrshire



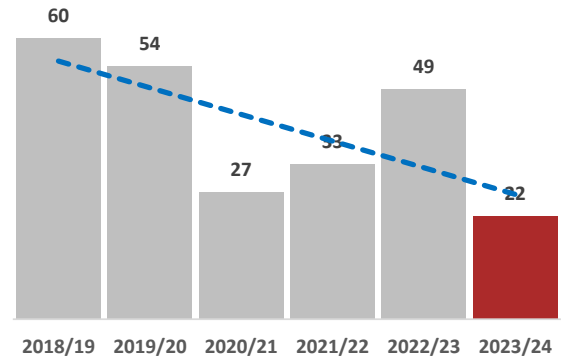
# Unintentional Injury or Harm



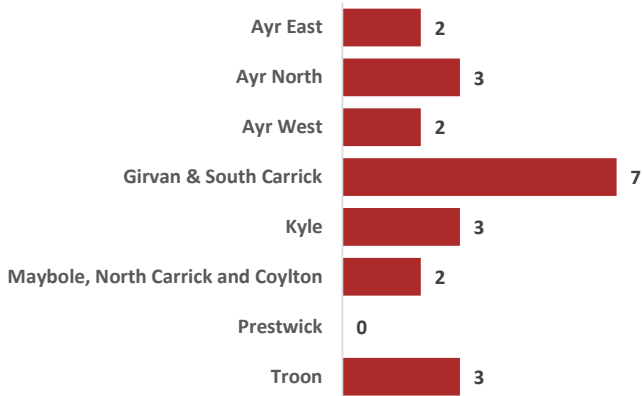
## Performance Summary



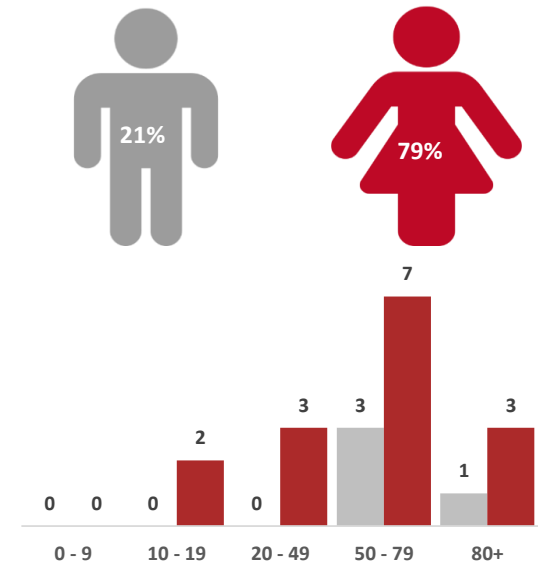
## Special Service Casualties Year to Date



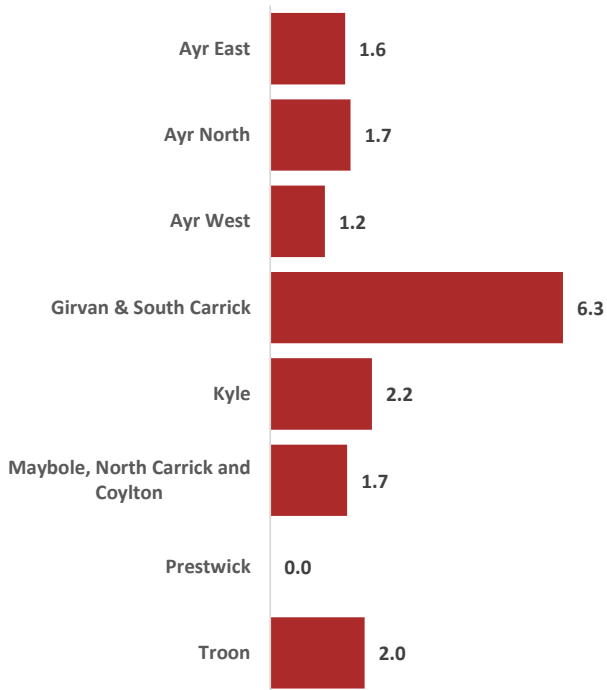
## Non-Fire Casualties by Ward Area



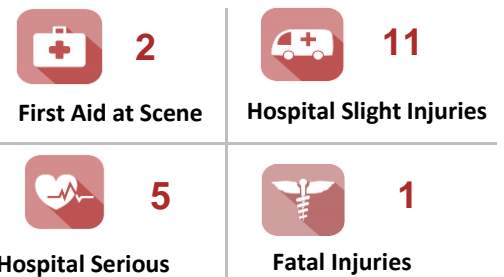
## Age / Gender Profile



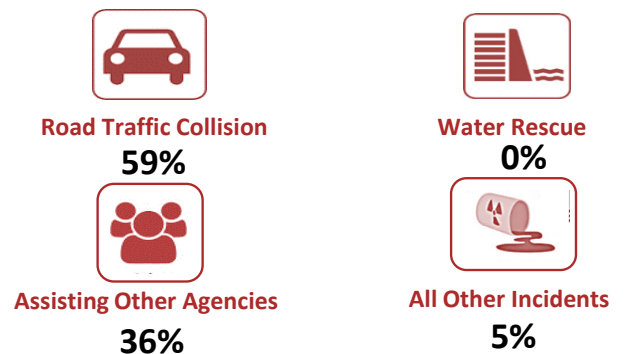
## Casualties Per 10,000 Population - South Ayrshire



## Extent of Harm



## Non-Casualties Per 10,000 Population - Ayrshire



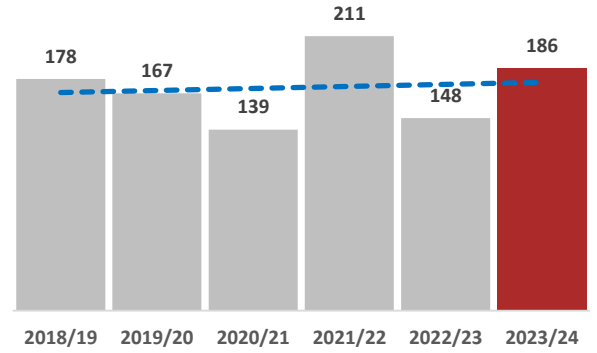
# Deliberate Fire Setting



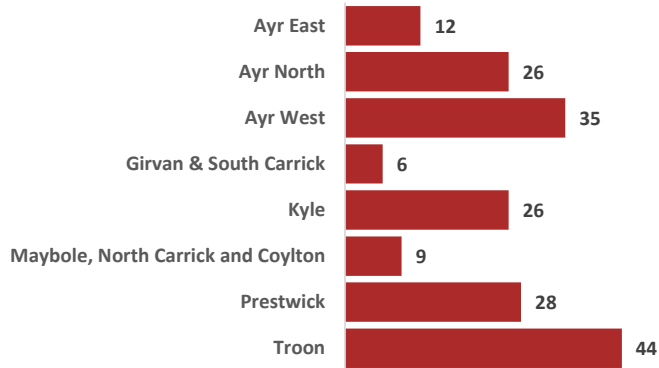
## Performance Summary

Year on Year	3 Year Average	5 Year Average
◆ 26%	◆ 9%	◆ 1%

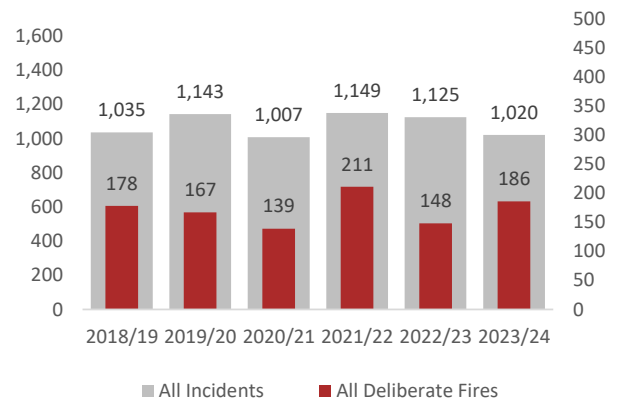
## Deliberate Fires Year to Date



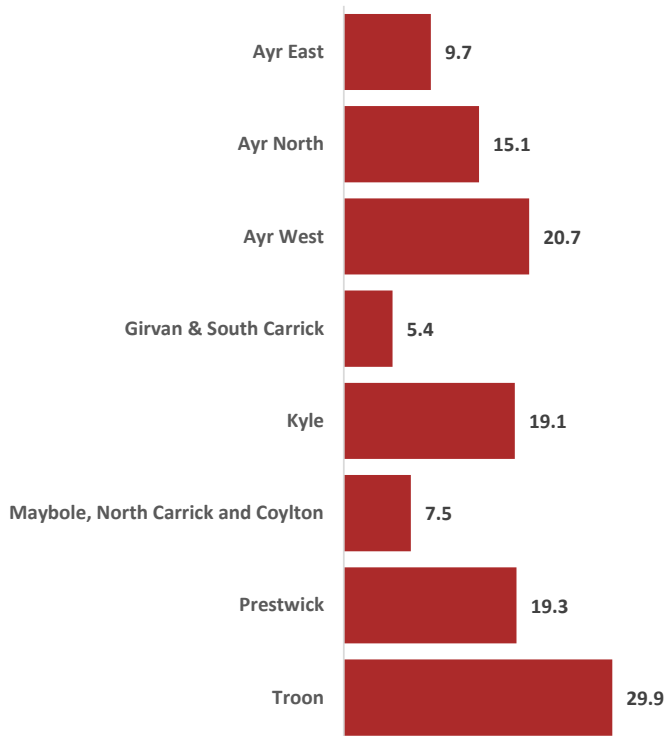
## Deliberate Fires by Ward Area



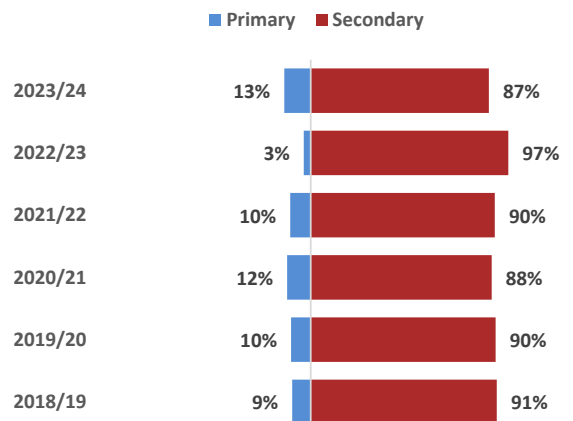
## Deliberate Fires Compared to Operational Activity



## Incidents Per 10,000 Population - South Ayrshire



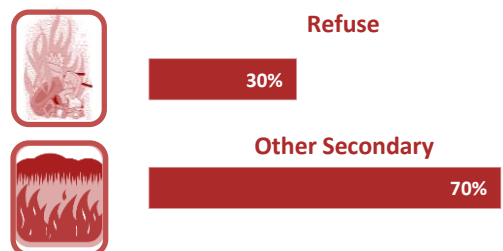
## Deliberate Fires by Classification



## Incidents Per 10,000 Population - Ayrshire



## Secondary Fire Ratio by Activity Type



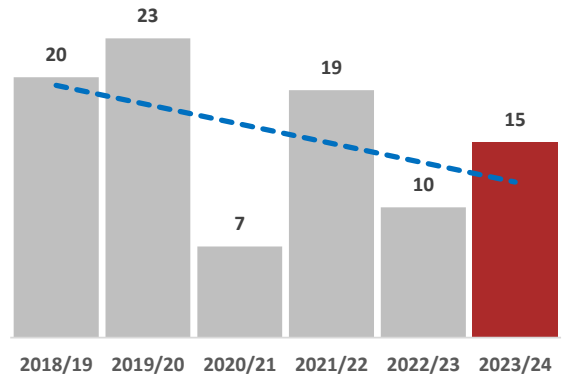
# Non-Domestic Fire Safety



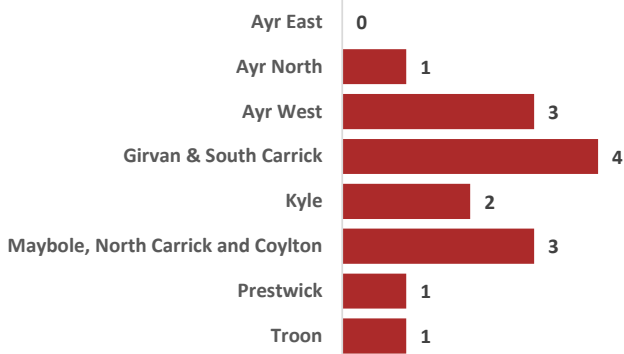
## Performance Summary

Year on Year 50%    3 Year Average 22%    5 Year Average -6%

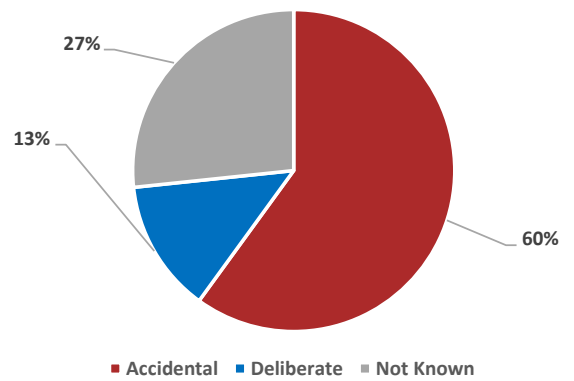
## Non-Domestic Fires Year to Date



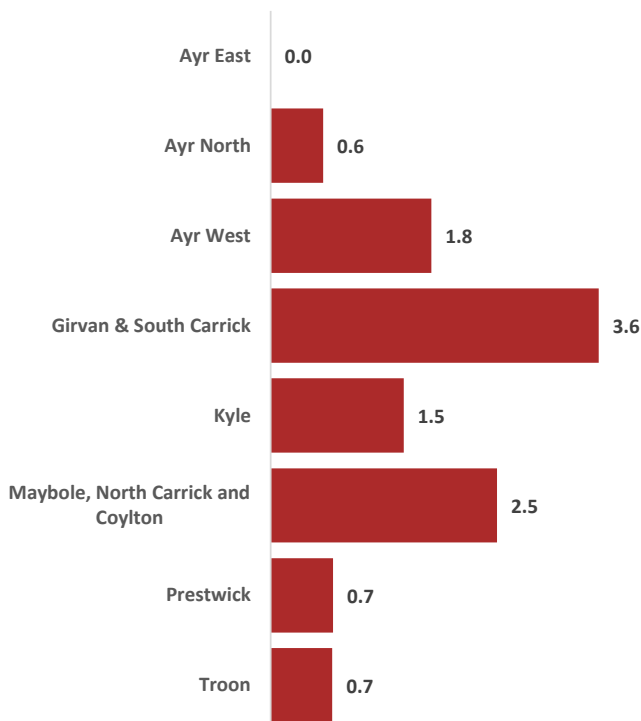
## Non-Domestic Fires by Ward Area



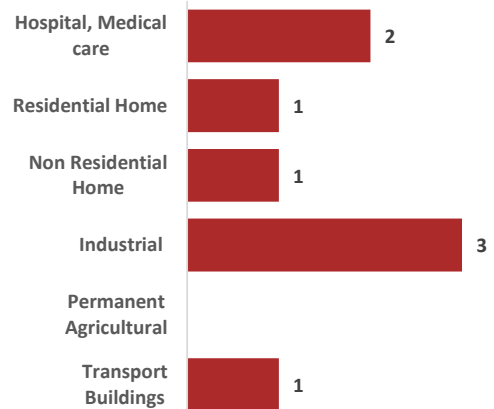
## Non-Domestic Fires by Nature of Origin



## Incidents Per 10,000 Population - South Ayrshire



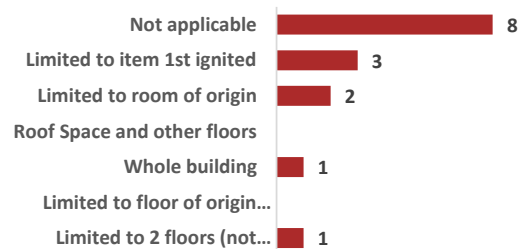
## Non-Domestic Fires by Premises Type



## Incidents Per 10,000 Population - Ayrshire



## Extent of Fire Damage



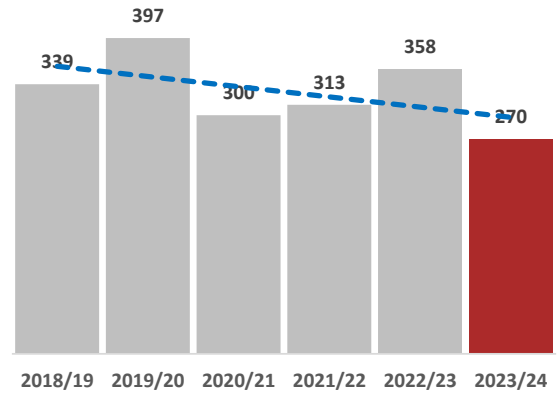
# Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



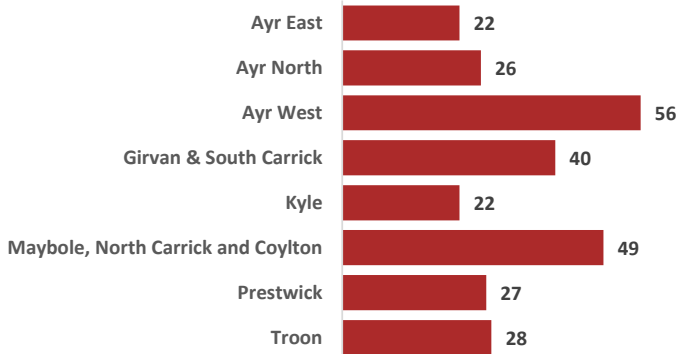
## Performance Summary

Year on Year ● -25%    3 Year Average ▲ -3%    5 Year Average ▲ -4%

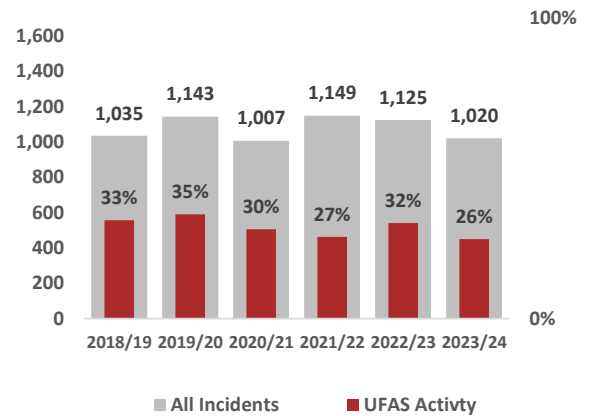
## Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Year to Date



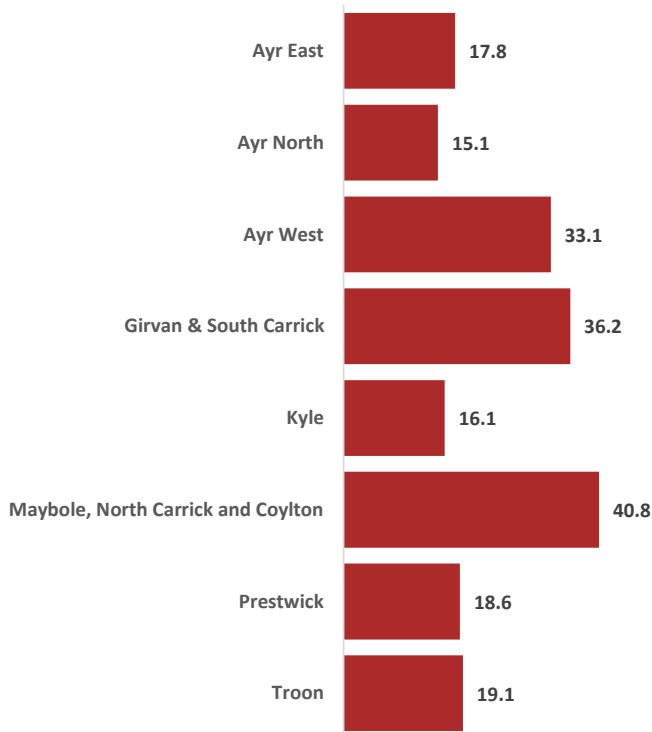
## Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals by Ward Area



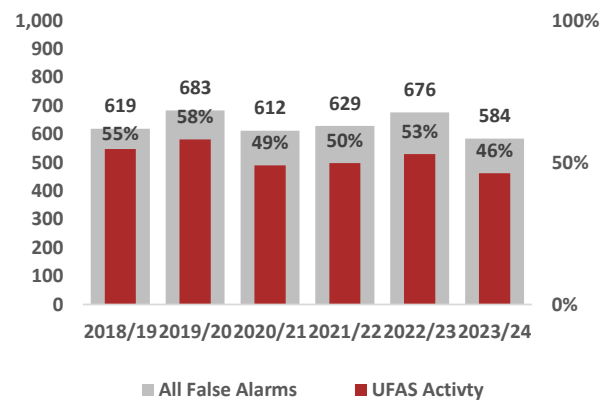
## UFAS Percentage Against all Incidents



## Incidents Per 10,000 Population - South Ayrshire



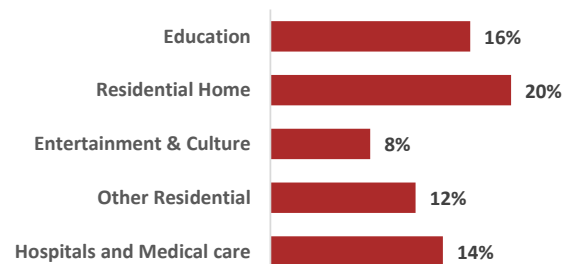
## UFAS Percentage Against all False Alarms



## Incidents Per 10,000 Population - Ayrshire



## Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals - Top 5 Premises





# Home Fire Safety Visits



**332**  
Home Fire  
Safety Visits  
Carried Out

Smoke Detectors Fitted  
During Home Fire Safety  
Visits

Percentage of High Risk  
Home Fire Safety Visits  
Carried Out  
**41%**

Percentage of Visits Carried Out  
Following Attendance at an  
Incident  
**42%**

# Fire Safety Audits



Fire Safety  
Audits Carried  
Out  
**157**



New Audits  
**86%**



Re-Audits  
**1%**



Post Fire Audits  
**9%**



Complaint Audits  
**2%**



Broadly Compliant **10%**



Areas of Improvement **83%**



Notice of Deficiencies **6%**



Enforcement Notice **0%**



Prohibition Notice **0%**

# Retained Duty System

Appliance Availability	Mon - Fri (08:00 - 18:00)	Mon - Thu (18:00 - 08:00)	Weekend (Fri 18:00 - Mon 08:00)	Total
Ayr	65.56%	91.11%	75.87%	22.13%
Maybole	58.06%	73.76%	64.65%	65.72%
Girvan	41.10%	50.89%	36.16%	42.50%
Colmonell	5.58%	74.07%	54.74%	46.60%
Troon - 1	44.75%	77.75%	62.87%	62.44%
Troon - 2	0.04%	19.32%	8.56%	9.60%
<b>South Ayrshire</b>	<b>35.85%</b>	<b>64.48%</b>	<b>50.48%</b>	<b>41.50%</b>
<b>Ayrshire</b>	<b>70.18%</b>	<b>96.28%</b>	<b>90.41%</b>	<b>86.36%</b>

Total Mobilisations	Total Time Deployed	No. of Personnel	Contracts
177	128:37:40	11	775%
193	145:43:03	11	850%
57	39:43:11	7	525%
35	27:52:57	5	450%
179	115:45:45	13	9.5

# Glossary of Terms

## Term - What it means

### **ADF**

Accidental Dwelling Fire

### **CSET**

Community Safety Engagement Toolkit is an internal IT system used to record home fire safety visits and community safety activities

### **FSET**

Fire Safety Experiential Training is a bespoke training programme developed by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in Ayrshire and delivered to community planning partners to raise awareness of fire safety within the domestic environment

### **HFSV**

Home Fire Safety Visit

### **PDIR**

Post Domestic Incident Response, a term used by Prevention and Protection Directorate 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

### **Primary Fires**

These include all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances

### **RDS**

Retained Duty System. Professional on call firefighters who may have other primary employment responsibilities outside the Fire and Rescue Service but respond to emergency calls within their local area as and when required

### **RTC**

Road Traffic Collision

### **Secondary Fires**

These are the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or fire or more appliances attend. They include fires in single derelict buildings

### **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



SCOTTISH  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

Scottish Parliament  
Criminal Justice Committee

# Pre-Budget Scrutiny

September 2023

Submission by the Scottish  
Fire and Rescue Service

Working together for a safer Scotland



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# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Criminal Justice Committee of the Scottish Parliament has asked for information regarding the impact of the Resource Spending Review (RSR) on services within the Justice and Veterans Portfolio including the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).

Our ambition, as set out in our Strategic Plan 2022-25, is to modernise our Service by doing more for our communities and changing how we work to address the changing risks our communities face.

We also have to modernise to address the significant challenges we face in terms of replacing our ageing buildings and fleet of vehicles while reducing our carbon consumption (Sections 4 and 5).

But to achieve the modernisation we aspire to requires investment. We want to invest in developing the role our firefighters play in Scotland and we need to invest in training, innovation and technology to improve firefighter and public safety.

While there is the potential to achieve some limited efficiencies within the Service, we have to recognise that we are an extremely lean service which has already undergone significant reform to achieve savings (Section 2).

We recognise the current funding challenges across the public sector in Scotland, however the predicted flat cash settlement for the following three years and continued increase in running costs (Section 3) means that we cannot generate the level of savings required without impacting on the Service we provide.

We have introduced a series of changes within this financial year (Section 3) which our modelling shows will have the least impact on the emergency response we provide or the risk communities face but in doing so we have also had to reprioritise investment in other areas (Section 7).

Undoubtedly, with investment, we could do much more for our communities and support our public services partners in improving broader outcomes.

SFRS is currently providing a safe and effective service to the people of Scotland.

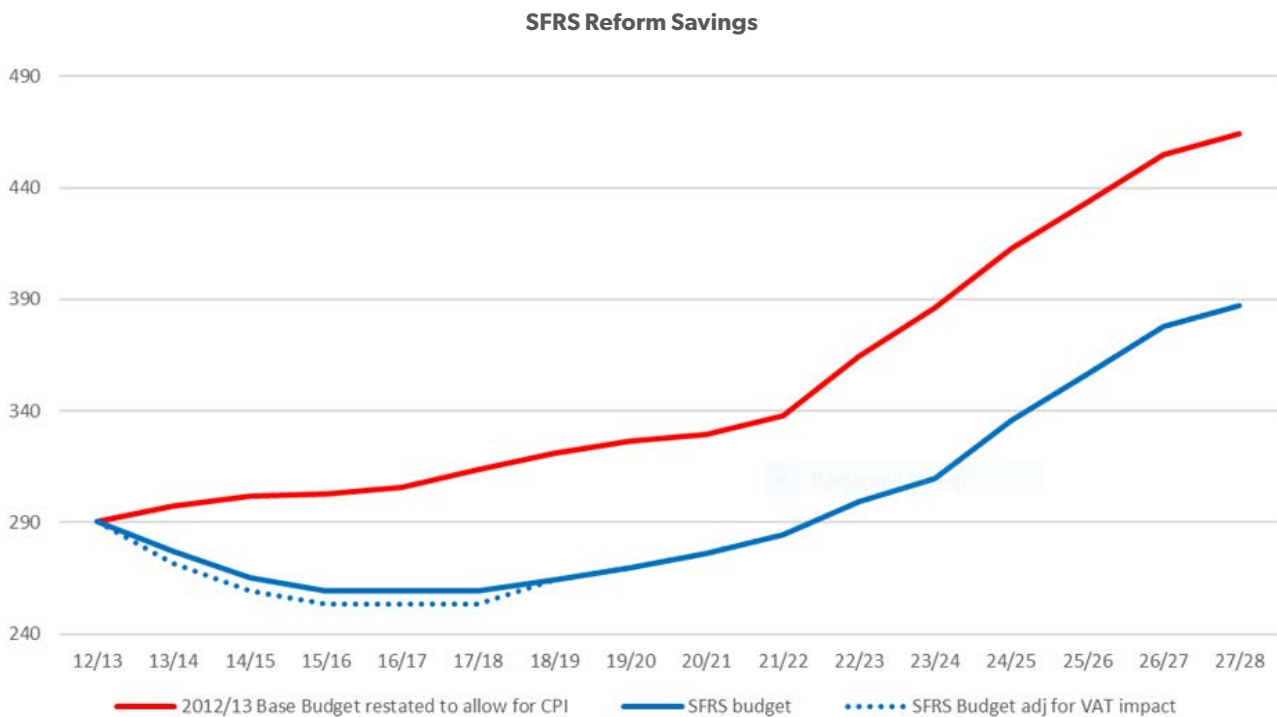
But, if we are required to make further changes to address the budget gap - and without investment in the areas that would help us to deliver benefits across the communities we serve - then we will have to introduce changes which will impact negatively on community safety.

## 2. BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Impact of Reform

The Scottish Government's (SG) Reform of the Fire and Rescue Service in Scotland Outline Business Case, September 2011 (OBC) was clear that a single national fire and Rescue Service for Scotland would deliver the highest levels of savings in comparison to the pre-reform services. It was estimated in the OBC that this would generate efficiency savings of £293m over 15 years. This was not based on what the actual structure and cost base of a single national service would be, as that was unknown at the time, but represented the best estimate of savings arising from Reform. We are, in fact, on track to exceed the efficiency savings that were anticipated in 2011.

As part of reform, SFRS was asked to achieve £328 million in cumulative savings by 2027/28. As at the end of 2022/23, SFRS has delivered £486 million with a further estimated £36.5million in additional savings required by 2026/27 to meet the Resource Spending Review. The graph below shows the reform savings based on a baseline budget in 2012/13 and applying Consumer Price Index (CPI) to compare against actual SFRS budget. SFRS was unable to recover VAT until 2018/19 which was a disbenefit from reform.



Graph 1: SFRS Reform Savings

Our forecasted position, as a consequence of reform, is cumulative gross savings of £871 million by 2027/28.

To achieve efficiencies, we reduced the headcount of support staff through a voluntary severance programme and vacancy management; disposed of assets through our Strategic Intent programme; removed duplication and standardised terms of employment and staff grading. We also consolidated and standardised ICT, operational equipment, fleet, business processes and procedures. In terms of operational services, we developed a Target Operating Model (TOM) for a single

national service which enabled a reduction in some areas of duplication and the standardisation of our duty patterns, specialist rescue provisions, off station structure and appliance crewing arrangements.

Our success in achieving savings has not been without challenge. We have seen a reduction in headcount from the pre-reform position, in particular a reduction of 661 Whole Time operational posts and a significant reduction in executive and senior management.

## 2.2 Summary of 2022/23 submission

The Interim Chief Officer, Interim Deputy Chief Officer and Acting Director of Finance and Procurement of the SFRS appeared before the Committee on 26 October 2022. Below is a summary of the key points from last year.

- In managing the financial consequences posed by the RSR, the Service adopted a two-stage approach. We sought tactical and proportional savings across the whole organisation in 23/24, followed by more strategic change and savings options from 24/25 onwards.
- We were clear that the challenges in achieving our required savings would mean very hard choices having to be made by the Service.
- To reconcile the anticipated budget gap, and as 80% of our budget is spent on staff and of that figure 80% is spent on operational staff costs, we needed to explore opportunities to reduce the staff cost base. Whilst adhering to our commitment to no compulsory redundancies, this would inevitably lead to a reduction in staffing, including firefighter numbers, which would be achieved through retirements and vacancy management.
- In such circumstances, we would be unable to maintain the whole-time firefighter TOM as we moved to meet short term financial targets. This would create challenges in managing appliance availability across Scotland and would reduce appliance availability within communities affected.
- Any changes in our operational response model would be undertaken on a risk-based approach using robust, externally assured data and evidence to minimise impacts upon community and firefighter safety through use of our Community Risk Index Model (CRIM).
- Planned modernisation of the Service that required upfront investment would have to be delayed and reprioritised, which would impact our ability to meet our Long-Term Vision (LTV) ambitions and meaning new investment in some areas would be reduced.
- We would need to review stations and resources which may lead to fire appliance removals and possibly some station closures. This could also mean there would be fewer local community resources dedicated to prevention work and wider community resilience activities.
- We were actively seeking further collaboration with Police Scotland, the Scottish Ambulance Service and others to explore how we can collectively make savings.
- In making savings we would always do so in a manner that minimises impact upon community safety. However, any retrenchment in our services to our communities may nevertheless ultimately have an impact on those same communities.



## 3. CURRENT FINANCIAL PRESSURES

### 3.1 Pay and Inflation

At the beginning of this year, we faced the prospect of Industrial Action (IA) from firefighters over pay. In March 2023 through the National Joint Council (NJC) a national pay agreement was reached with the Fire Brigades Union (FBU). The offer for all firefighters was a 7% increase in pay and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for 2022/23, effective from 1 July 2022 and a further 5% increase in pay and CPD, effective from 1 July 2023. This settlement increased the annual operational staff budgeted pay bill by £21.9m over the two years. A further £2.5m will be required in 2024/25 as firefighter pay is calculated on a July-to-July basis.

For support staff a one-year pay settlement covering the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 was agreed. This comprised a fixed increase of £1,500 for support staff earning below £25,000 (based on full-time equivalent) which equated to an increase of between 6.5% and 7.97% for affected staff, a 5% increase for support staff earning above £25,000 (based on full-time equivalent) and a 5% increase in the standby allowance to £25.15 per day from 1 April 2023. We also moved all support staff on the first incremental pay point to the second incremental pay point. These developments increased the support staff pay bill by £2.1m.

SG were able to offer additional financial support to the Service of £14.4million in 2023/24 to help meet the cost of the firefighter pay award. SG previously provided one off funding of £3.3m in 2022/23 and permitted SFRS to incur a planned overspend in 2022/23 up to £2.9m to cover the pay offer.

In the same period, our non-pay related costs for goods and services was £62.2m. This is 20% of all SFRS costs and is subject to inflationary pressures calculated using the CPI which is built into existing contract terms. Headline inflation last year was at 10.1% and these cost increases were passed on to existing contracts. To manage these increases we have spent less on smoke detectors as part of our prevention activities, less on learning and development, and less on property maintenance for our stations. Our electricity and fuel costs were well above inflation rates with increases in budget of £1.9m (59%) for electricity and £0.98m (46%) for fuel. Whilst the inflation rate is now reducing the current 6.89% level will add approximately £4million to the cost of services for next year.

### 3.2 SFRS 2023/24 Savings Plan

To balance our budget for 2023/24 the SFRS Board approved an initial savings plan across the whole organisation.

Area of Saving / Efficiency	£000
Wholetime	1,190
On Call	1,624
Support	1,875
Employee Other	1,304
<b>Sub Total Employee Costs</b>	<b>5,993</b>
Property Costs	1,223
Supplies & Services	2,356
Transport Costs	647
Third Party Payments / Council Charges	215
Financing	303
Income	320
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,057</b>

Table 1: Area of Saving / Efficiency Totals

While developing these options for 2023/24, the Service was faced with the prospect of IA being taken by the FBU over pay. While this was eventually avoided through an agreed national pay settlement, we could not conclude our financial planning for the year until we knew the outcome of the pay negotiations.

The time pressures we faced were incredibly challenging and highlight a key issue we face: that is the need to plan our budget annually rather than taking a more strategic budget planning approach over a three or four-year period. The short-term savings options we identified are set out below and more detail can be found in our Operational Changes Information Pack.

The CRIM provided us with a detailed understanding of how community risk is changing in Scotland and enabled us to build an evidence-based approach to identify where change to SFRS resources (people and assets) across our station network could be made.

Based on our evidence-led modelling, and to assist in the amelioration of our budget pressures during 2023, we have temporarily removed 10 second or third appliances from multi pump stations that will have the least impact on community safety across Scotland.

Aligned to this we have implemented changes identified in our Operational Strategy to our high reach appliances, placing them in the most strategic locations where they can provide more optimised and effective community safety on a national basis. We have also amended the crewing for water rescue at Polmadie Community Fire Station so that it is more in line with all other water rescue stations throughout Scotland.

From 1 July 2023, we introduced a change to how we respond to Automatic Fire Alarms as part of the modernisation of our Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) policy. Initial analysis is showing that we are attending 55-60 fewer false alarms per day – more than a 50% reduction. As well as creating additional capacity within the Service, this also reduces the number of journeys our crews make under blue light conditions, improving road safety and reducing our carbon output.

### 3.3. 2024 and beyond

The RSR set out an indicative flat cash budget position for the Service until 2026/27 and we initially estimated total savings of £36.5m would be required of the Service.

The SFRS budget is set on an annual basis by SG and we are legally required to deliver a balanced budget each financial year. The SFRS Board approved an annual resource budget for 2023/24 of £308.133million for resource and £34million for our capital which reflected core capital funding of £32.5million and the potential of an additional £1.5million ring fenced funding for net zero projects.

As detailed at 3.2 above, to achieve a balanced position for 2023/24 £11million of savings were identified and included in the budget for this year. These savings will be delivered through our Strategic Service Review Programme (SSRP) covering all elements of our service provision.

As outlined above, some temporary changes have been made this year in respect of second and third appliances which are based at our multi-pump stations.

If changes of this scale were to be made permanent following stakeholder consultation, the TOM for wholetime firefighters could be reduced by 166 posts. Such a reduction would lead to annual savings of up to £9.8million. However, as our figures show below this is well below the predicted level of savings we require to make based on current financial modelling.

Our central planning scenario suggests that next year (2024/25) we will require resource budget savings of between £14.1million to £26.5million on top of the £11million savings for 2023/24. Over the four-year RSR period cumulative savings of between £37million and £48.4million will be required but this will vary in line with pay and inflation pressures.

Financial Scenarios	Savings 2024/25 £M's (No change to TOM)	Savings 2024/25 £M's (Reduce TOM by 166)
Upper	£36.0	£23.3
Central	£26.5	£14.1
Lower	£23.4	£11.1

Table 2: Financial Scenarios Savings

## 4. THE SFRS ESTATE

Our estate is largely not fit for purpose and the problem is getting worse. Our assets are worth around £0.5 billion comprising land and buildings, including 357 fire stations, 1,620 fleet vehicles and tens of thousands of items of operational equipment.

The SFRS Property and Fleet estate has an insurmountable backlog in capital spend requirements and needs critical investment to ensure that we have the right stations, training facilities and vehicles fit for the 21st century to support evolving community risk including the impacts of climate change.

Our core capital funding has remained at £32.5million for the last seven years. As a minimum we need at least £60million per annum in investment in our assets. The lack of increased funding and reduction in real terms not only impacts our ability to modernise our assets but increases the pressure on our resource budget as more reactive maintenance is required to fix problems in our ageing estate. Our required budget for maintenance is £15million and the Service has only been able to allocate £10million per annum, thereby adding £5 million to the maintenance backlog which has an adverse effect on the planned to reactive maintenance ratio.

Ensuring we have the right resources at the right location is key for both our response and prevention activities. We also need modern training facilities to support training for new and emerging risks. To help address the challenges of our investment needs against a limited capital programme, the SFRS Board approved a Risk Based Approach to investment. The latest report highlights that 44.7% of the operational property estate is in poor or bad condition, and in terms of suitability 75.5% of the operational estate is classed as poor or bad. Around 61% of our buildings are over 30 years old. While priority is given to the most urgent needs, our current capital funding means it will take years to resolve urgent problems while the condition and suitability of our estate continues to deteriorate.

We are committed to prioritising investment in those stations affected by Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete, (RAAC) roof panel problems. This form of construction was common in the 1960s through to the 1980s and now brings a risk of roof collapse as the concrete ages. We have 14 stations which have RAAC roofs, and they are key stations within our network. Since becoming aware of the issue in 2019, we have taken remedial actions to protect firefighters in those stations but without permanent improvements or rebuilds neither we nor our partners, who share many of those facilities with us, or the communities who also make use of our buildings will be able to do so safely in the future.

At the same time, we recognise the growing evidence of the health risks associated with exposure to a range of contaminants for firefighters. We have established an Executive-led, cross-Service working group to manage this issue and we will continue to work closely with the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) as we do so. This issue is of vital importance to us and to the safety of firefighters. But we need to invest in - and modernise - our estate. In simple terms we need to establish in our stations 'clean' and 'dirty' work zones and deploy new technology and working practices in managing potential exposure to contaminants to protect the health of firefighters.

### 4.1 Modernising the Estate

The SFRS has, rightly, set out its ambition to be both an employer of choice and one that reflects more closely the make-up of our communities. To help attract a more diverse set of people to join the Service we need to have modern facilities. However, over 100 stations have minimum toilet facilities and no dedicated drying area, no rest or canteen area. Over 120 stations are without a dedicated locker room and over 150 have insufficient showering facilities. Most concerning of all 282 stations lack proper dignified facilities and none of our stations are properly designed to manage contaminant issues. In the short term we simply do not have the budget to address these issues.

To help in our efforts to improve the property estate, including controlling the spread of contaminants and providing dignified facilities, we are exploring innovative design options based on modern methods of construction using modular building technology. This is essentially a building that can be prefabricated offsite, and provides a modern, carbon neutral, contaminant safe and low-cost community fire station. This is particularly appropriate for rural and island stations. The design concept is such that if other community services require space or accommodation, additional modules can be added to the initial fire station at low cost. Building these new stations will require investment and in conjunction with the Scottish Futures Trust and our partners, we are producing a business case to seek additional investment for this project.

Based on community risk assessments and following full public consultation, there is the potential to move, merge or close some stations across a locality. The income this could potentially generate, if we are allowed to retain the capital receipts, would be reinvested into our plans to modernise our estate and wider Service. However, this is not a quick solution and we already know that would not be sufficient to fully address our capital backlog.

To ensure that we get maximum public value from our estate, we also share our buildings with other public service partners and communities. To date we have 65 stations being shared with the Scottish Ambulance Service, Police Scotland and others. We want to continue to expand on this and make our stations public service hubs that are fit for that purpose. We also regularly share our training sites with partners either for their own use, when our premises are more suitable than their own, or for multi-agency exercising.

We know that many other public services face similar investment needs. We believe that investment in our plans would also help meet those wider demands too. The nature of our Service is such that we need to retain a physical presence across Scotland to respond quickly to communities when the need arises. As part of the modernisation of our estate,

we would also look to share those assets with our partners; enabling them to work in partnership with us and others while retaining their presence in the same communities. We want our community fire stations to become full community resilience hubs hosting a range of public and other services. By investing in this community asset concept, we believe that it makes economic sense and will provide better value for money to Scotland. But even more importantly, this would support the building of community resilience and provide a base for a wider array of public services to remain within local communities, helping to improve wellbeing.

In that sense a modernised fire service would become a true community anchor for wider public service reform.

## 5. THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The need to respond to the climate emergency is a key priority for SFRS and our Service Delivery model needs to adapt to this. Scotland is likely to see more wildfire and flooding incidents in both rural and urban areas because of climate change. In much of Scotland, we are likely to see prolonged periods of heightened risk of wildfires as the effects of the climate emergency materialise.

As part of the SFRS Wildfire Strategy, we have provided additional vehicles, equipment, training and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in a risk based and tiered model across Scotland. This enhances the existing model for dealing with this challenging incident type and has incorporated the latest thinking and developments in this field. The wildfire specific PPE that has been provided as part of this strategy is currently deployed to the 25 strategically situated stations identified in the tiered approach, however providing this PPE to all personnel if budgets allow will be an ongoing consideration.

In those periods of prolonged wildfire risk, we will also have to explore the implications of fighting such fires while being largely dependent upon On Call firefighters across large parts of the country. Extended periods fighting wildfires will have implications for them in their primary employment. Therefore, the modernisation of the On Call Service which we initiated in recent years will have to be sustained and will require further investment.

We will also see more extreme rainfall patterns across Scotland with heightened risks of flooding in many cities, towns and villages. In working with our partners, we will need to identify which critical national infrastructure sites, public services, high risk commercial premises and households are most vulnerable to the impacts of flooding. When these events occur, we need to be able to swiftly respond to protect those communities and households over prolonged periods and likely with multiple events occurring concurrently. As with wildfires we need to ensure our firefighters are appropriately trained and equipped to support people during these emergencies. The challenge of

the climate emergency is real, is materialising now, and requires us to continue investing in our Service Delivery model to ensure that we can respond appropriately.

We also have to play our part in reducing our energy use and other carbon emitting activities across our estate and our fleet. Investment in our aging estate is key to reducing our energy consumption and the Service requires significant ongoing investment to have a realistic chance of meeting the Scottish Government's net zero targets. In 2020 we set out our plans in our [Climate Change Response Plan 2045](#), which is supported by our [Energy and Carbon Strategy](#). In support of our actions, SG have made additional ring-fenced funding available to us and other public services to help meet our energy and carbon reduction commitments. But the size and scale of investment required to meet our targets is significant. Our Carbon Management Plan 2020-25 estimated a need for £48 million to decarbonise our activities over the five-year period, however due to inflation this figure is expected to be closer to £60 million. To date we have invested £11.5 million. New technology will play a part in helping us to further reduce our energy consumption in our estate but as highlighted above our estate is old and difficult to bring up to modern environmental standards.

We have made significant progress in decarbonising our light fleet by introducing electric powered vehicles and to support that we are building a joint charging network with our Blue Light partners. However, due to the nature of our heavy fleet, which accounts for over one third of our total carbon footprint, we are severely restricted in our options to reduce these emissions. New technology to replace our reliance on diesel-fuelled vehicles is progressing but it is slow to develop in the wider market, presents significant operational challenges, and is expensive to acquire. As a result, our estate will have to be net zero by 2030 in order to meet SG's 2030 target of a 75% reduction of emissions against our baseline.

## 6. SERVICE DELIVERY CHANGES

If we cannot change our operating model, we will find it progressively more difficult to make our saving requirements and adapt to the changing risks across our communities. Furthermore, failure to change will compromise our ability to identify reinvestment from within the Service. Modernising our Service Delivery model in conjunction with our assets is the key to both the financial and operational sustainability of the Service.

Our work to better understand changing community risk in Scotland and what that might mean for our Service Delivery model and station footprint predates the RSR pressures. The Service needs to adapt and modernise to meet the changing needs and risks of our communities.

For the last few years, we have been building our knowledge of changing community risk across the country and developing plans for our Service Delivery model. By using the CRIM, we will explore not just where we need to locate stations and resources but how we crew our appliances and operate from our stations; this applies to both Wholetime and On Call services.

We will explore options around changes to crewing models that might result in proposals to move from a single crewing model for the whole of Scotland to models that are appropriate to the level of the risk facing local communities. There are potential options to change the number of and crewing arrangements for appliances in some stations. We will also explore options for where we place specialist equipment and skills in our stations to ensure they provide maximum value to the communities who need them most.

We remain committed to working in partnership with representative bodies to develop the role of the firefighter in Scotland to encompass wider life-threatening emergency responses and contribute further to preventing risk and harm. To achieve this, we need to renegotiate the employment contract and role map of firefighters with their representative bodies. We will further need to invest in training and equipment to support our firefighters to take on new roles. But we are clear that the benefits to the people of Scotland in us doing so would be significant and the potential financial savings across the wider public service system would also be significant.

To sustain our service delivery model, the Service will continue to use the CRIM to identify where we can deliver change, safely, across our three Service Delivery Areas (SDAs) in the North, West and East of Scotland. We know delivering change, even with a strong risk assessed evidence base will be challenging, complex and time consuming. While there are some areas where reductions can be safely made there are other areas which we know require investment to enhance the current levels of provision.

Due to our existing structure, which has already been streamlined through reform, the only real option we have is to reduce firefighter numbers.

To achieve our anticipated savings of £14.1m next year we would need to reduce our firefighter posts by 339 – the equivalent of an additional 18 second appliances.

If we only pursue those areas where reductions can be made, we believe we will compromise the safety of Scotland's communities to a level which we cannot in good conscience support.

## 7. IMPACT OF FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

### 7.1 Impact on planned initiatives

We are committed to using our full organisational capacity and capability to modernise our Service. However, within the existing resource and capital envelope available to us we need to make hard choices in how we prioritise our budgets. With more investment we can achieve significantly more, but as it stands, we have had to prioritise developments while balancing our budget. The key reprioritisation steps we have taken to date are set out below.

The modernisation of our business systems is a priority for the Service to enable us to work better and in more efficient ways. We need to invest in core business support systems such as our People, Payroll, Finance, Training (PPFT) systems. We initiated a major project intended to modernise our PPFT systems and redesign how our support functions operate. This work has had to be delayed in part through cost estimates to replace our aging systems. Consequently, we have scaled back the scope of the programme and are seeking collaboration opportunities with other partners to see if we can secure improvements in how we work while reducing our operating cost base.

Our Corporate Support Services accounts for around 6% of expenditure and provide critical support to Operational Service Delivery. We are however seeking to improve how our support services work by streamlining processes, reducing duplication, automating where we can and through that seek to generate savings. We are exploring these issues jointly with Police Scotland, and where appropriate other public services, with an intention of building collaborative solutions that add further value to the internal improvement work that we are undertaking.

As detailed above in recent years we have sought to reach agreement with the FBU about developing the role of firefighters to take on wider prevention and emergency response, including medical response and to reflect that in both the firefighter employment contract and their pay. Given the financial constraints we are faced with this potential development has been delayed. Without funding to support agreed changes in firefighters' terms and conditions of employment we cannot bring this about. An Outline Business Case setting out this development in more detail, including the costs and benefits of the proposal, was submitted to SG with the backing of the FBU, but has not been progressed.

We remain committed to reducing our carbon footprint but investment in decarbonisation of our activities and building a blue light electric vehicle infrastructure is not progressing at the rate we would like. Due to the wider operational pressures we are facing, and the need to invest our limited budgets in other areas, we are simply not investing enough to reach net zero. We have not met our targets on the five-year climate change response plan due to lack of investment. We are faced with the eternal conundrum of meeting today's priorities at the expense of the longer term. Ideally, we wish to do both.

To help meet our budgetary pressures we are slowing down investment in our Fleet replacement. We have 1620 vehicles within our fleet and of that 577 are older than their planned replacement age. This means 29% of our light fleet, 39% of our heavy fleet and 56% of our specialist vehicles are older than planned. To free up limited capital investment, we are now slowing down our replacement programmes which, in the years to come, will lead to maintenance and other costs increasing within the Service.

As we noted above the SFRS estate is large, ageing and deteriorating. Our minor repairs programme has been slowed down to enable us to use our limited resources to meet our most significant pressures. This impacts on staff perceptions of the Service and on morale as minor repairs to things like windows are put off. These 'hygiene' factors in the estate are important but we simply need to sacrifice them to pay more focussed attention on the more pressing concerns we have. As noted above we have prioritised stations with RAAC panel roof issues but on current levels of funding it will take over 10 years to deal with this problem, during which time the 14 sites remain subject to an ongoing quarterly inspection regime at a cost of £100,000 per annum to monitor condition, whilst the risk of further deterioration increases significantly. This results in limited opportunities for the Service to invest in other much needed replacements and refurbishments across our property portfolio.

## 7.2. SFRS Contingency Savings Options

The SFRS operates on an annualised budget and as an Other Significant Public Body we cannot hold reserves and any borrowing we incur counts against SG's borrowing and therefore requires SG authorisation. These restrictive financial management arrangements mean contingency planning is incredibly difficult to achieve. It also means our ability to plan changes and reinvest in the Service to generate savings over several financial years is compromised. The need to function on an annualised basis means our savings currently must be planned and delivered in year and consequently long-term planning becomes very challenging.

This is why we have made changes to our operating model in 2023/24 to help balance the budget for the year without unduly increasing community risk. That approach is not viable in perpetuity. As we have set out above, we believe

that through modernisation, supported by an ability for us to reinvest internally generated savings and with modest additional investment, we can do more to protect and enhance community safety and wellbeing. We firmly believe that this is the route to a more sustainable Service that will continue to meet the challenges generated by changes in community risk across Scotland. If we must keep making in-year savings we anticipate that community safety will be compromised.

The only real contingency plan open to us is the modernisation of the Service or we will, by force of circumstance, end up in a scenario whereby we are retrenching our Service provision across Scotland. That would bring additional risks to community safety, and it is not a road that we wish to go down.



## 8. CONCLUSION

In realising savings, we have placed maintaining community and firefighter safety at the heart of our decision making. However, the more we need to find in-year savings and the longer the period over which we will have to make those savings, the more difficult it becomes to maintain that commitment.

The immediate in year savings to ensure we can balance our 2023/24 budget have generated considerable public, political and stakeholder debate and subsequent pressure on the Service to reconsider our actions. In the communities directly impacted by the temporary removal of appliances, the alterations to our high reach provision and the amendments to the water rescue crewing model in Polmadie in Glasgow, stakeholders have made their concerns known to the Service.

Following our announcement of the operational changes for 2023/24 we have undertaken more than 100 engagements with local elected members across affected areas and received in excess of 60 media and Freedom of Information enquiries. We were also asked by three Local Authority scrutiny committees to meet with the full council in their area

to explain the changes we were implementing. As part of our engagement approach, we published details of how we had arrived at these operational changes and met with those councils who requested that of us.

The level of concern generated illustrates the high value that communities and other stakeholders place in the services provided by SFRS. This therefore makes change as part of a savings programme very complex and challenging whilst also ensuring we can deliver balanced budgets on an annual basis.

Despite these challenges, we remain committed to modernising our Service because it is the right thing to do to meet the changing needs of communities across the country. But we do not underestimate the challenge. Unless we can plan and implement Service modernisation over time, our ability to reach a sustainable financial model that provides the platform for our Service Delivery model to meet the changing risks across communities will be compromised. And, without investment it is our firm belief that the changes we will be forced to implement, may ultimately come at the cost of public safety.



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FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

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Scottish Parliament Criminal Justice Committee Pre-Budget Scrutiny  
September 2023 – Submission by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Version 2.0 18 September 2023



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FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

# Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics 2022-23

An Official Statistics  
publication for Scotland

31 October 2023

Working together for a safer Scotland



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This publication and associated statistics are designated as Official Statistics.

This means that it is produced to high professional standards set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). It is produced free from any political interference.

In 2019 the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was named in legislation as a Producer of Official Statistics which allows us to classify this series.

This publication is accompanied by the following documents:

- [Tables and Charts Workbook](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Statistics](#)
- [Statistical News 2022-23](#)

# 1. Main Points

## All incidents

- **99,532** incidents attended, of which:
  - **56.2%** were false alarms
  - **27.0%** were fires
  - **16.9%** were non-fire incidents

## Fires

- **26,825** fires attended, down 3.5% on last year
  - **4,305** dwelling fires, down 7.1%
    - **3,873** of these were accidental, down 7.7%
    - **58.8%** of accidental dwelling fires started with a cooking appliance
    - **72.2%** of dwelling fires were confined to the original item ignited
  - **1,984** vehicle fires, down 0.8%
  - **18,217** outdoor fires (excluding road vehicles), down 3.5%

## Non-fire Incidents

- **16,783** non-fire incidents attended, up 9.7%, of which:
  - **3,139** were flooding, up 94.1%
  - **2,224** were road traffic collisions, up 2.8%

## False Alarms

- **55,924** false alarms, up 6.2%
- **55,076** false fire alarms, up 6.4%, of which:
  - **44,228** were due to detecting apparatus, up 9.2%
  - **8,573** were due to good intentions, down 4.4%
  - **2,275** were malicious, up 0.8%

## Fatal Fire Casualties

- **42** fatal fire casualties, up from 40 last year
  - **32** of these occurred in dwelling fires, up from 31 last year
- **54.8%** of fatal fire casualties were male
- **4.7** times higher rate of fatal casualties in the most deprived areas than in the least deprived over the last 8 years

## Non-fatal Fire Casualties

- **922** non-fatal fire casualties, up 14.7%
- **5.4 times** higher rate of non-fatal casualties in the most deprived areas compared with the least deprived areas over the last 8 years

## Non-fire Casualties

- **398** fatal casualties, up 7.0%, of which:
  - **85** were at road traffic collisions
  - **140** were at effecting entry/exit incidents
- **2,481** non-fatal casualties, up 2.9%



## 2. Summary

In 2022-23, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended a total of 99,532 incidents, up from 95,734 last year (4.0% increase).

There were 26,825 fires attended in 2022-23, down from 27,786 attended last year (3.5% decrease). Of all fires, 9,771 were primary fires. This is a 0.2% decrease from last year. There was a 7.1% decrease on the number of dwelling fires attended compared to last year, with 4,305 attended in 2022-23. Road vehicle fires were similar to recent historic averages, with 1,984 attended this year, 16 fewer than 2021-22 (0.8% decrease). Secondary fires decreased by 5.4%, with 16,628 attended in 2022-23 and 17,574 attended last year.

SFRS attended 16,783 non-fire incidents in 2022-23, up from 15,294 attended last year (9.7% increase).

There has been an 83.1% increase in the number of non-fire incidents attended in the last ten years. Flooding incidents increased this year, with 3,139 attended in 2022-23, up from 1,617 last year (94.1% increase). This increase is likely due to weather conditions experienced in winter 2022. Lift release incidents increased by 23.1% in 2022-23 to 830 incidents, compared to the 674 incidents attended last year. There were 2,224 road traffic collisions attended by SFRS, up from 2,163 in 2021-22 (2.8% increase).

There were 55,924 false alarm incidents attended in 2022-23, up from 52,654 last year (6.2% increase). Fire false alarms make up 55,076 of these incidents, up from 51,741 last year. There were 44,228 fire false alarms due to apparatus this year, up from 40,513 in 2021-22 (9.2% increase). This made up 44.4% of all incidents attended in 2022-23.

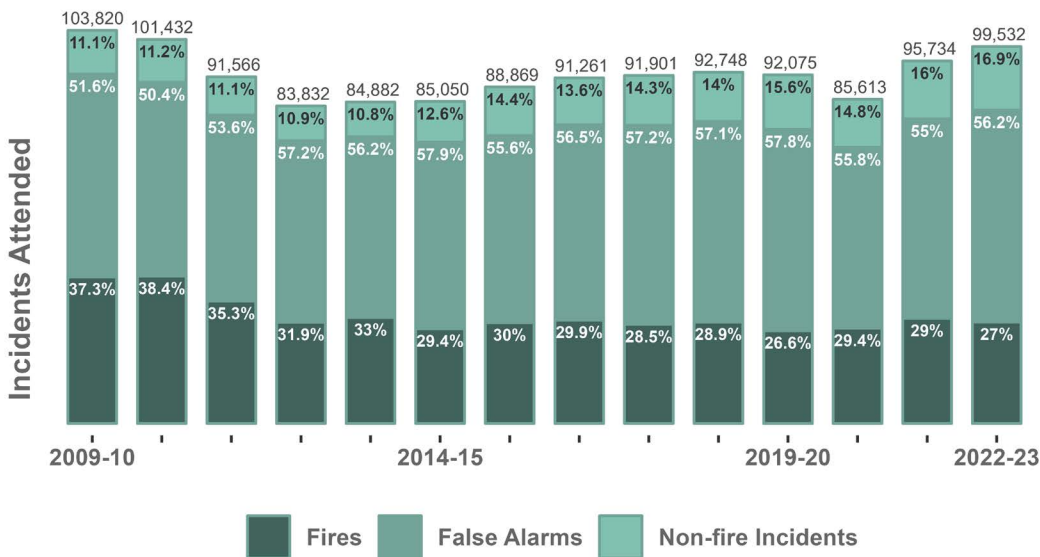


Figure 1: Total number of incidents attended with percentage share by type.



## Fatal Casualties Attended

There were 449 fatal casualties in 2022-23, up from 420 last year.

There were 42 fire fatalities this year, up from 40 in 2021-22. 32 of these occurring in dwelling fires, 5 in other buildings and 3 were in road vehicles.

There were 398 non-fire fatalities attended in 2022-23. This is a 7.0% increase on last year.

Fatal casualties at road traffic collisions attended by SFRS increased from 60 last year to 85 in 2022-23 (41.7% increase). There was a 6.0% increase in the number of fatal casualties at effecting entry/exit incidents, with 132 recorded last year and 140 recorded in 2022-23. Fatal casualties at assist other agencies incidents increased from 58 last year to 65 in 2022-23 (12.1% increase).

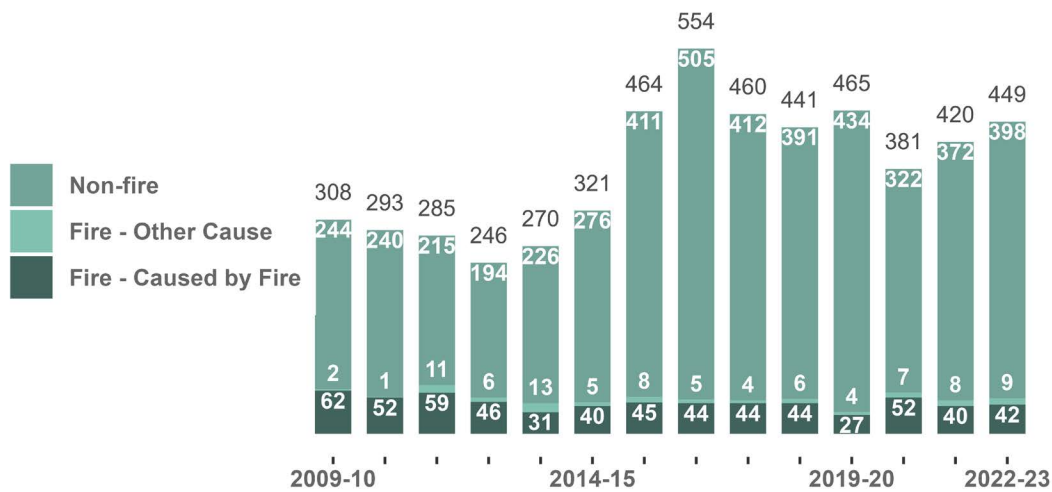


Figure 2: Fatal Casualties Attended.

## Non-fatal Casualties Attended

There were 3,403 non-fatal casualties attended in 2022-23, up from 3,215 attended last year (5.8% increase).

There were 922 non-fatal fire casualties, up from 804 last year. Data quality concerns have been a focus for SFRS in recent years and ensuring that all operational staff record casualties in the same manner has been a focus in the last year. Improvements in recording practices have likely impacted this figure and could contribute to the

increase in non-fatal fire casualties seen this year. In 2022-23, 835 (90.6%) of these casualties were in dwellings, 51 (5.5%) were in other buildings and 20 (2.2%) were in road vehicles.

There were 2,481 non-fatal non-fire casualties, which is an increase of 2.9% from last year. There were 1,384 non-fatal casualties at road traffic collisions attended by SFRS this year, compared with 1,296 in 2021-22 (6.8% increase).

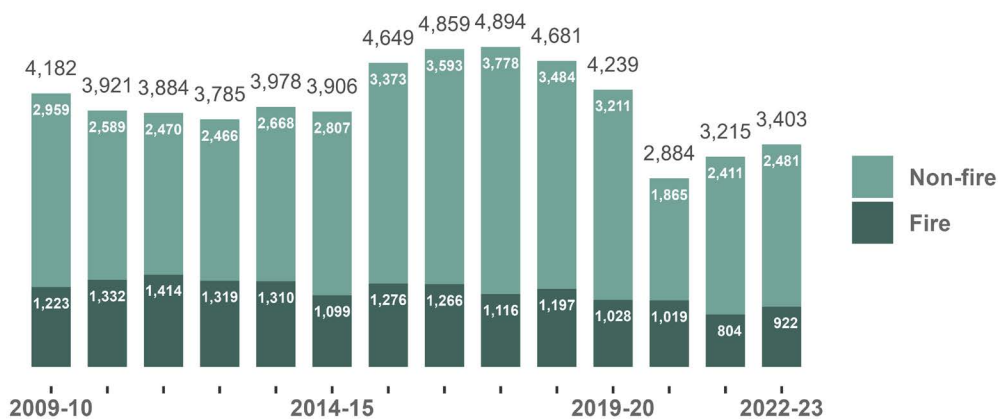


Figure 3: Non-fatal Casualties Attended.

### 3. Fires

In 2022-23, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 26,825 fires, down from 27,786 last year (3.5% decrease).

The term 'primary fire' is used to describe fires which may result in either harm to people, require five or more fire appliances, or fires which take place in buildings, vehicles and some outdoor locations. There were 9,771 primary fires in 2022-23, down from 9,795 last year (0.2% decrease). Primary fires have been steadily decreasing each year since this series began. There has been an 11.9% decrease in the number of primary fires over the last ten years, with 11,086 recorded in 2012-13.

Dwelling fires<sup>1</sup> have also been steadily decreasing over the last decade, with 4,305 dwelling fires attended in 2022-23. This is 1,524 (26.1% decrease) fewer than dwelling fires attended in 2012-13 and 330 (7.1% decrease) fewer than dwelling fires attended in 2021-22.

There were 1,984 fires in road vehicles attended in 2022-23, 16 fewer than last year (0.8% decrease).

There appears to be no overall long-term trend in these types of fires, with figures showing little variation over the last decade.



There were 16,628 secondary fires attended by SFRS in 2022-23, down from 17,574 last year (5.4% decrease). There is no clear overall long-term trend in secondary fires, with the figure being influenced by a number of socioeconomic and environmental factors. Since 2012-13, this figure has increased by 16.5%.

There were 18,217 outdoor fires<sup>2</sup> in 2022-23, excluding road vehicle fires. This is 667 fewer than last year, with 18,884 attended in 2021-22 (3.5% decrease). Outdoor fires are influenced by a number of factors, including weather conditions. Due to this, there is no clear overall long-term trend in outdoor fires.

**Trends in Fires**

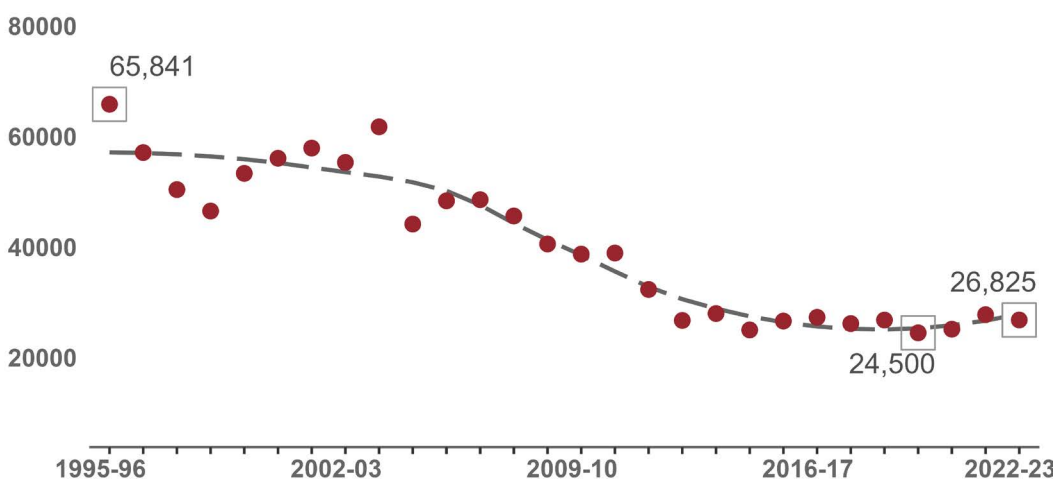


Figure 4: Long-term trend in the number of fires. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

<sup>1</sup> Dwellings are properties that people ordinarily live in such as houses and apartments, please see the guidance notes document for a full definition.

<sup>2</sup> Outdoor fires can be primary or secondary fires

## Trends in Primary Fires

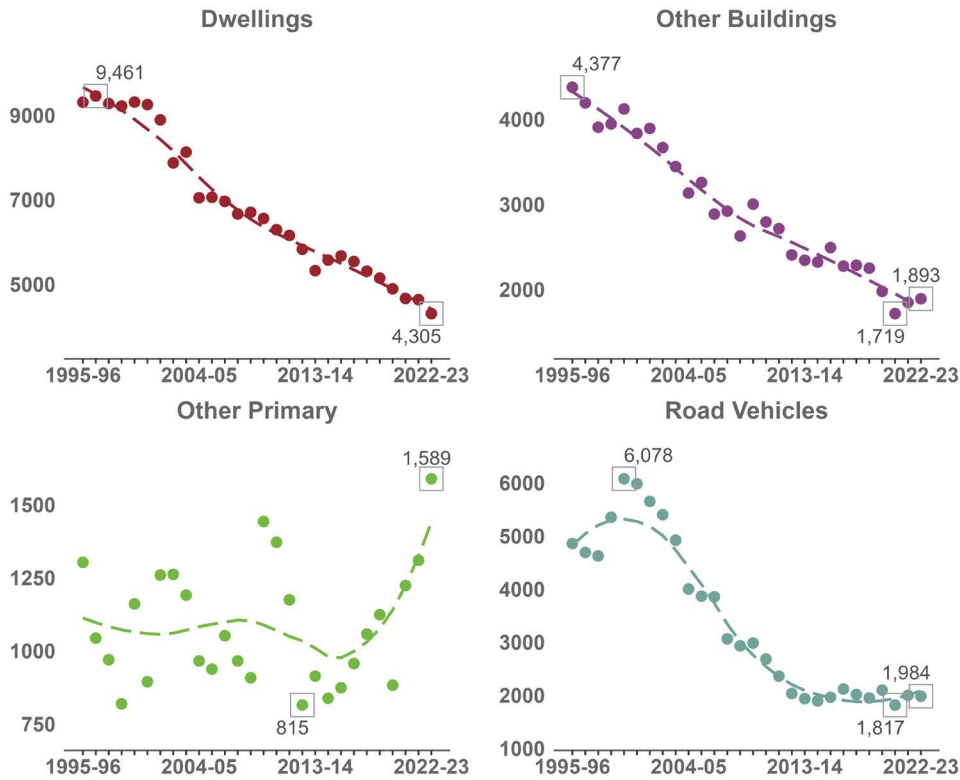


Figure 5: Primary fire trends. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the minimum or maximum value.

## Trends in Secondary and Chimney Fires

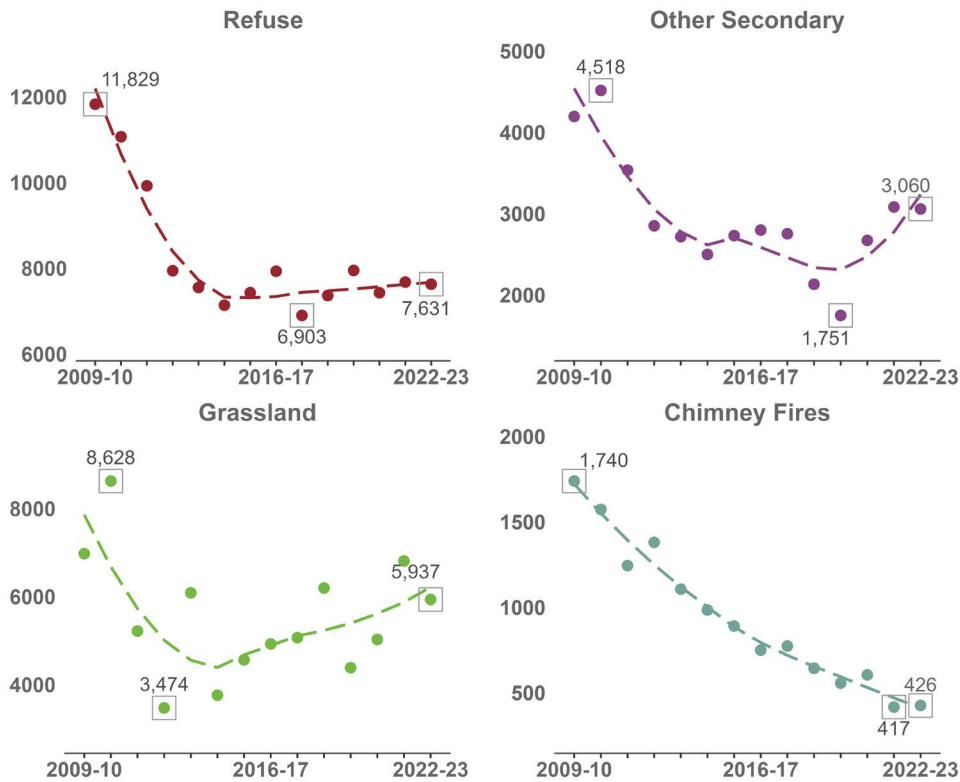


Figure 6: Secondary fire trend. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

## Great Britain Comparisons

Across Great Britain<sup>3</sup>, there has been similar long-term trends in fires throughout the years, with there being a consistent decline in fires per million population in England, Scotland and Wales. This trend has levelled off since the early 2010s and has remained consistently low since then. There were 4,895 fires per million population in Scotland. Comparable figures for England and Wales were not available at the time of this publication. Please note population figures for Scotland 2021-22 were used in 2022-23 as this was the most recent publication available. Please see Statistical News document for further details.

Primary fires have consistently decreased in each nation. Since the late 2000s, Scotland has had a higher rate per million population than England and Wales. In 2022-23, there were 1,783 primary fires per million population in Scotland.

Similarly, dwelling fires have steadily decreased in England, Wales and Scotland. Scotland has had a consistently higher rate per million population than the other nations. In 2022-23, there were 786 dwelling fires per million population.

Secondary fires in each nation had an overall decreasing trend between the early 2000s until the early 2010s. This trend has levelled off in each nation. In 2022-23, Scotland recorded 3,034 secondary fires per million population.

The deprivation and urban-rural profile of communities influences fire rates at a national level. This could explain why there are differing rates between nations. [See pages 12 and 13 for more details on these factors.](#)

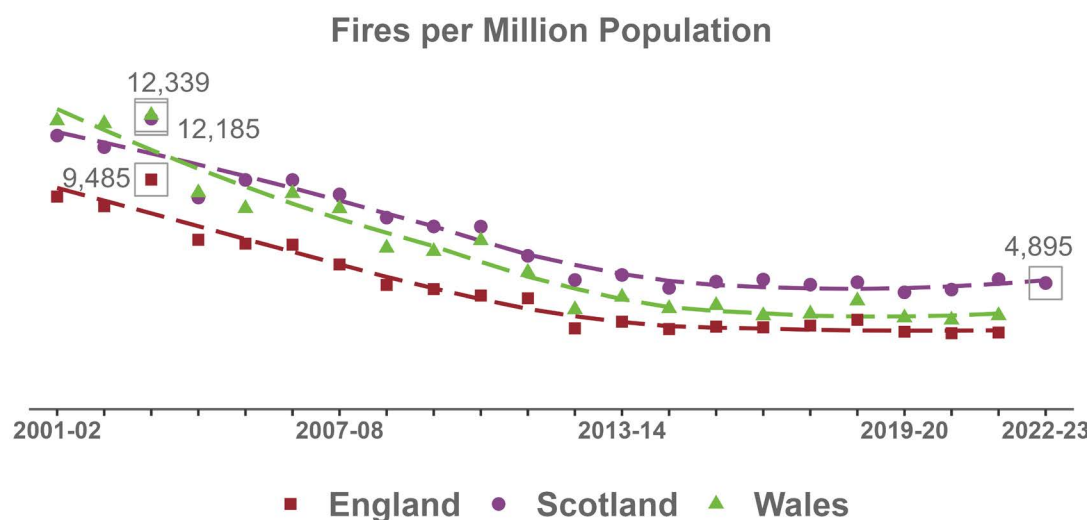


Figure 7: Fires per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values. Please note that figures for England and Wales were not available when this document was published. See Statistical News document for further details.

<sup>3</sup> Scottish population figures used throughout this document were sourced from National Records of Scotland. Fire statistics for England and Wales were sourced from the Home Office and the Welsh Government. Comparable statistics for Northern Ireland are not available.

### Primary Fires per Million Population

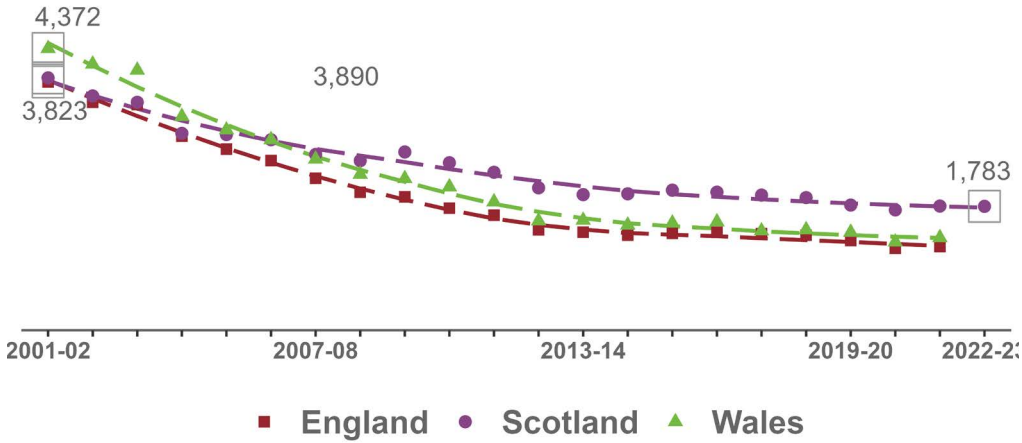


Figure 8: Primary fires per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

### Dwelling Fires per Million Population

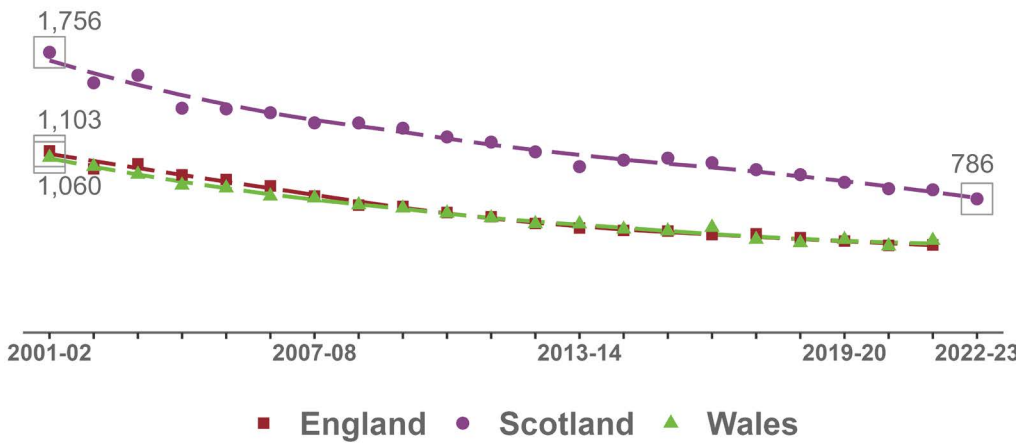


Figure 9: Dwelling fires per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

### Secondary Fires per Million Population

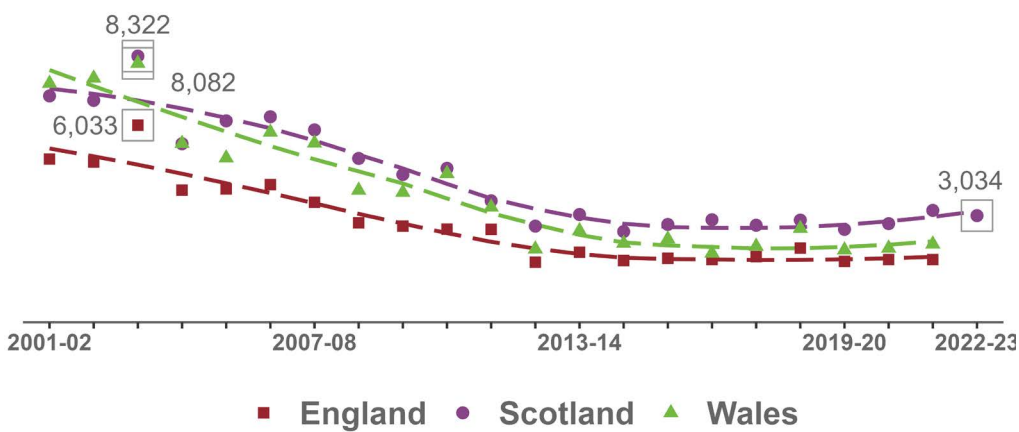


Figure 10: Secondary fires per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

## Motive

In 2022-23, there were 15,367 fires in Scotland that were recorded as being deliberately<sup>4</sup> set. This is 57.3% of all fires attended this year, compared to 2021-22 when deliberate fires made up 58.9% of all fires attended. Figure 11 shows how the proportion of deliberately set fires varies by incident category in 2022-23.

Deliberate dwelling fires make up 10.0% of all dwelling fires, with 432 being recorded in 2022-

23. Over the last ten years, this figure has reduced substantially, with 832 recorded in 2012-13 (48.1% decrease).

Accidental dwelling fires have reduced from 4,196 last year to 3,873 in 2022-23 (7.7% decrease). This is 22.5% lower than ten years ago (4,997 recorded in 2012-13).

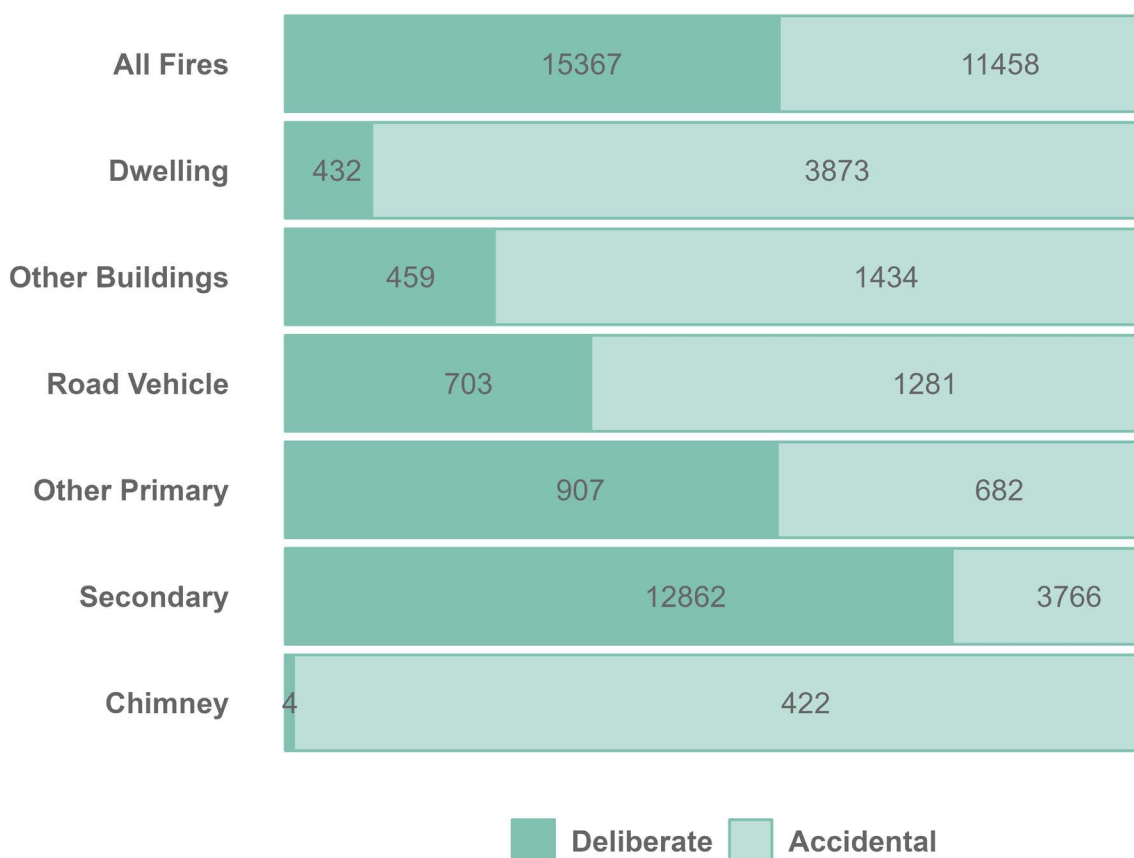


Figure 11: Fires by motive, 2022-23. Written values represent the number of fire incidents in each category.

<sup>4</sup> Fires classed as 'Deliberate' should not be interpreted as necessarily resulting from arson or criminal intent.

## Dwelling Fires

Fire casualties and fire fatalities often occur in dwelling fires, and so, it is important to understand the factors relating to safety in dwelling fires.

### Ignition Source

Similar to previous years, the main source of ignition in accidental dwelling fires was cooking appliances, with 2,276 (58.8%) fires resulting from this source.

### Impairment

In 2022-23, 569 (14.7%) accidental dwelling fires had impairment through alcohol or drugs as being a suspected contributing factor. Such incidents have a much higher casualty rate. [See page 24 for details.](#)

### Spread of Fire

In 2022-23, 1,692 (39.3%) dwelling fires caused smoke or heat damage only and 1,415 (32.9%) were confined to the original item ignited. 361 (8.4%) fires spread beyond the initial room that the fire started in.

### Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms were absent in 1,125 (26.1%) dwelling fires in 2022-23. This has reduced from 1,802 (30.9%) in 2012-13. This is likely attributed to the change in legislation in Scotland regarding smoke alarms. All households in Scotland must have interlinked smoke and heat alarms. Increasing prevalence of these alarms is likely to be an important factor in the reducing number of dwelling fires.





## Deprivation (SIMD<sup>5</sup>)

Using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), figure 12 highlights the differences in rates of dwelling fire in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas. The two most deprived areas have a rate above the Scotland average. The most deprived areas have a rate 2.0 times higher than the Scotland average and 4.6 times higher than the least deprived areas.

Since 2012-13, dwelling fires have reduced by 27.6% in the most deprived areas and 29.7% in the least deprived areas.

A similar pattern is seen for secondary fires, with the most deprived areas having a rate 1.9 times higher the Scotland average and 4.2 times higher than the least deprived areas.

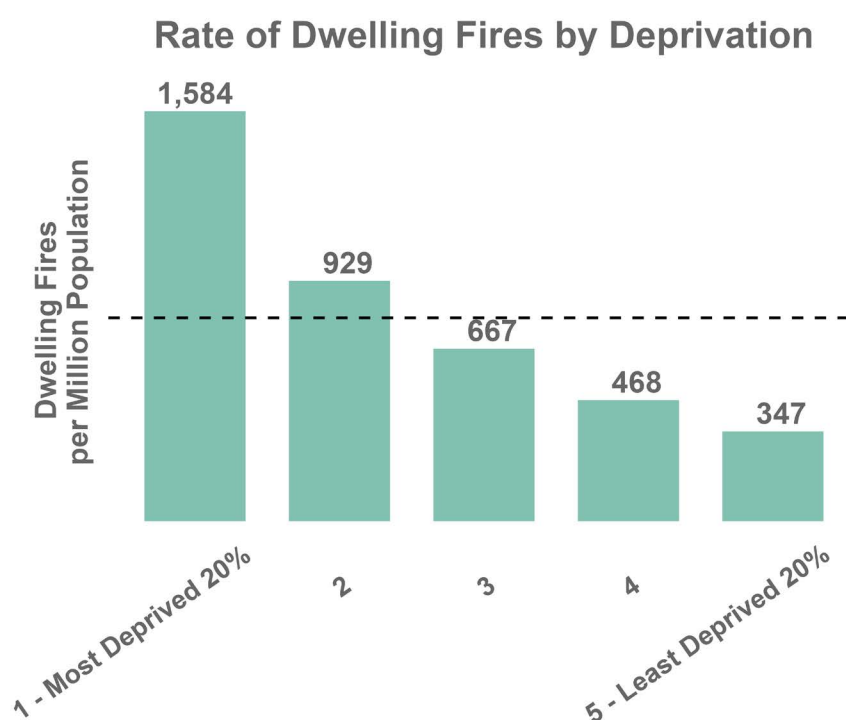


Figure 12: Rate of dwelling fires per million population by level of deprivation, 2022-23. The Scotland average is 786.

<sup>5</sup> Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020

## Urban-Rural<sup>6</sup>

Similar to previous years, the rate of dwelling fires is above average in large urban areas, other urban areas and remote small towns. The rate of dwelling fires in accessible small towns, accessible rural and remote rural areas is below average. The rate in remote small towns is 1.3 times higher than the Scotland average.

Since 2012-13, dwelling fires have reduced in more urban areas and increased in the more remote areas. Dwelling fires in large urban areas have reduced from 2,817 in 2012-13 to 1,910 this year (32.2%

decrease). In other urban areas there has been a 22.9% decrease in this same time period, and in accessible small towns a 28.3% decrease.

Dwelling fires in remote rural areas have increased from 195 in 2012-13 to 207 in 2022-23 (6.1% increase). Remote small towns have increased from 143 in 2012-13 to 147 this year (2.8% increase). In contrast, dwelling fires in accessible rural areas have decreased from 373 in 2012-13 to 286 this year (23.3% decrease).

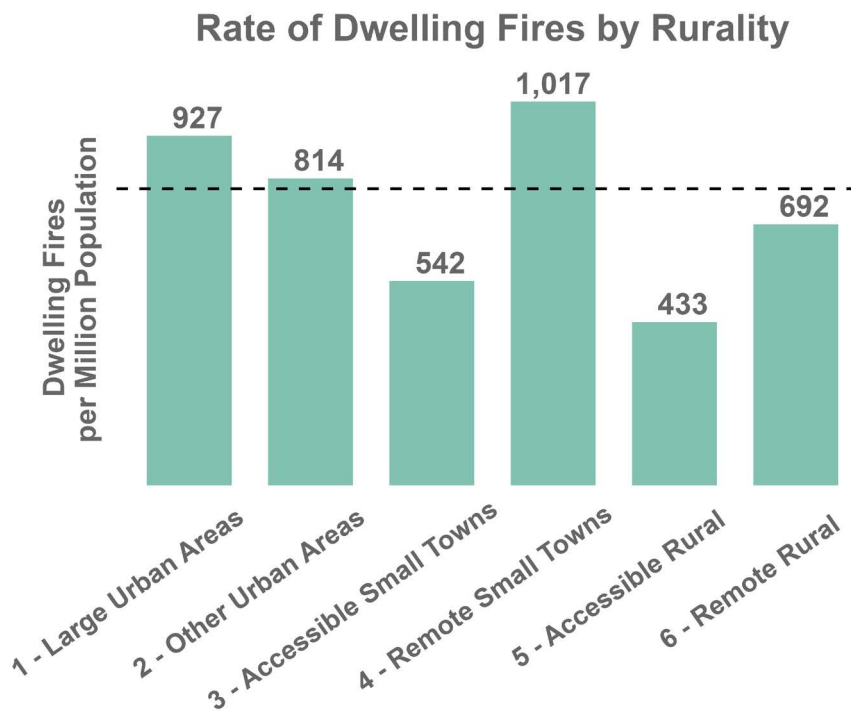


Figure 13: Rate of dwelling fires per million population by level of rurality, 2022-23. The Scotland average is 786.

<sup>6</sup> Scottish Government Urban Rural Six Fold Classification

## Local Authority Comparisons

The number of incidents and casualties vary across the 32 local authority areas in Scotland. We use rates adjusted for population or the number of dwellings to fairly compare these areas.

### Accidental Dwelling Fires

Dundee City has the highest rate of accidental dwelling fires, with 218.9 fires per 100,000 dwellings. West Dunbartonshire has a rate of 213.8 fires per 100,000 dwellings, and Glasgow City has a rate of 194.3. In contrast, Clackmannanshire and Fife have the lowest rates, at 87.6 and 98.1. The Scotland average is 143.5.

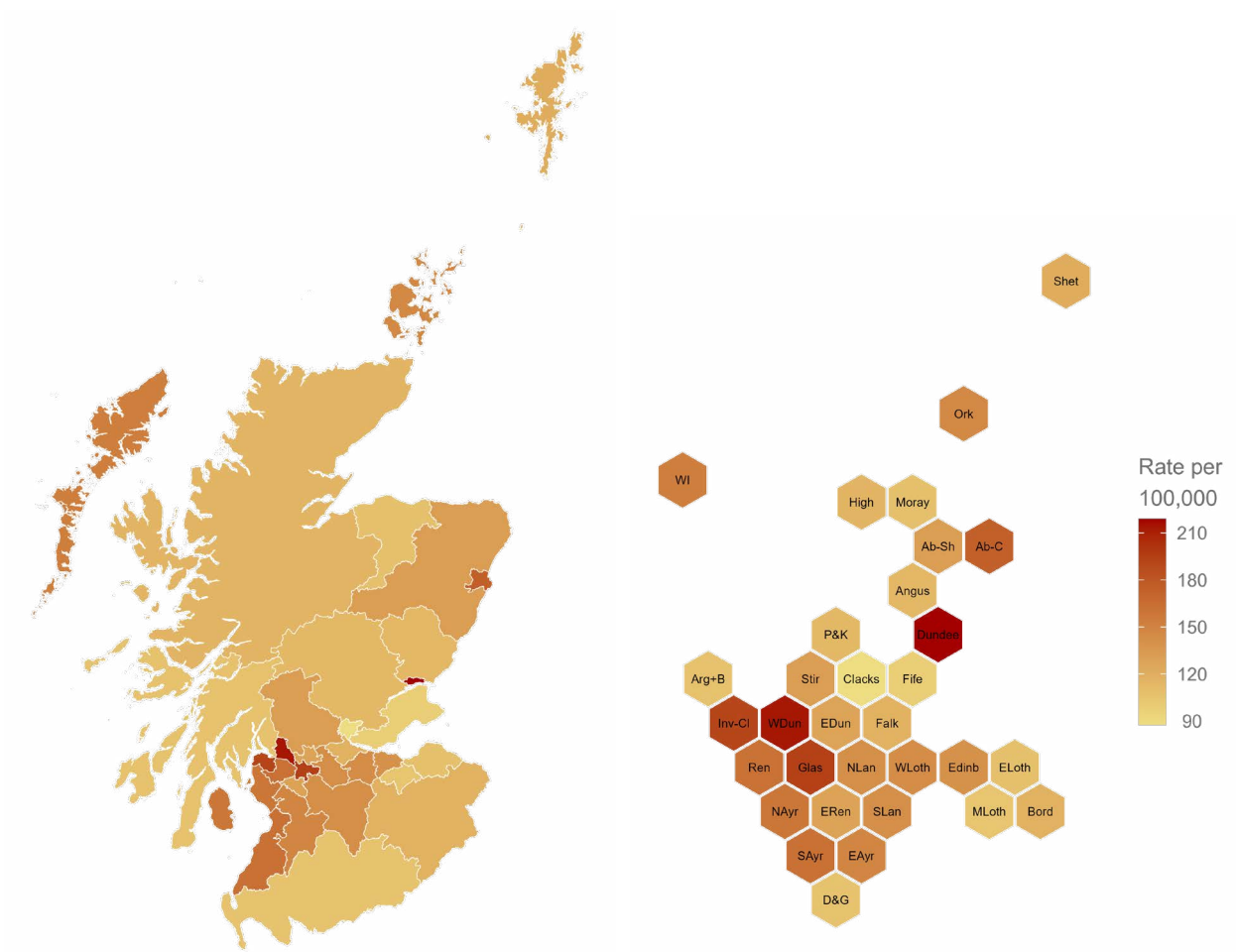


Figure 14: Accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 dwellings, choropleth and area normalised cartogram 2022-23.

## Deliberate Fires

There is a higher rate of deliberate fires in urban local authority areas, specifically in the central belt of Scotland. The highest rates of deliberate fire per 100,000 population are in West Lothian at 607.3, Dundee City at 553.8 and West Dunbartonshire at 452.2. The lowest rates of deliberate fires are

found in Shetland Islands at 30.5, Orkney Islands at 44.4 and Na h-Eileanan Siar at 56.3. The Scotland average is 280.5. Please note population figures for Scotland 2021-22 were used in 2022-23 as there was not a more recent publication available. Please see Statistical News document for further details.

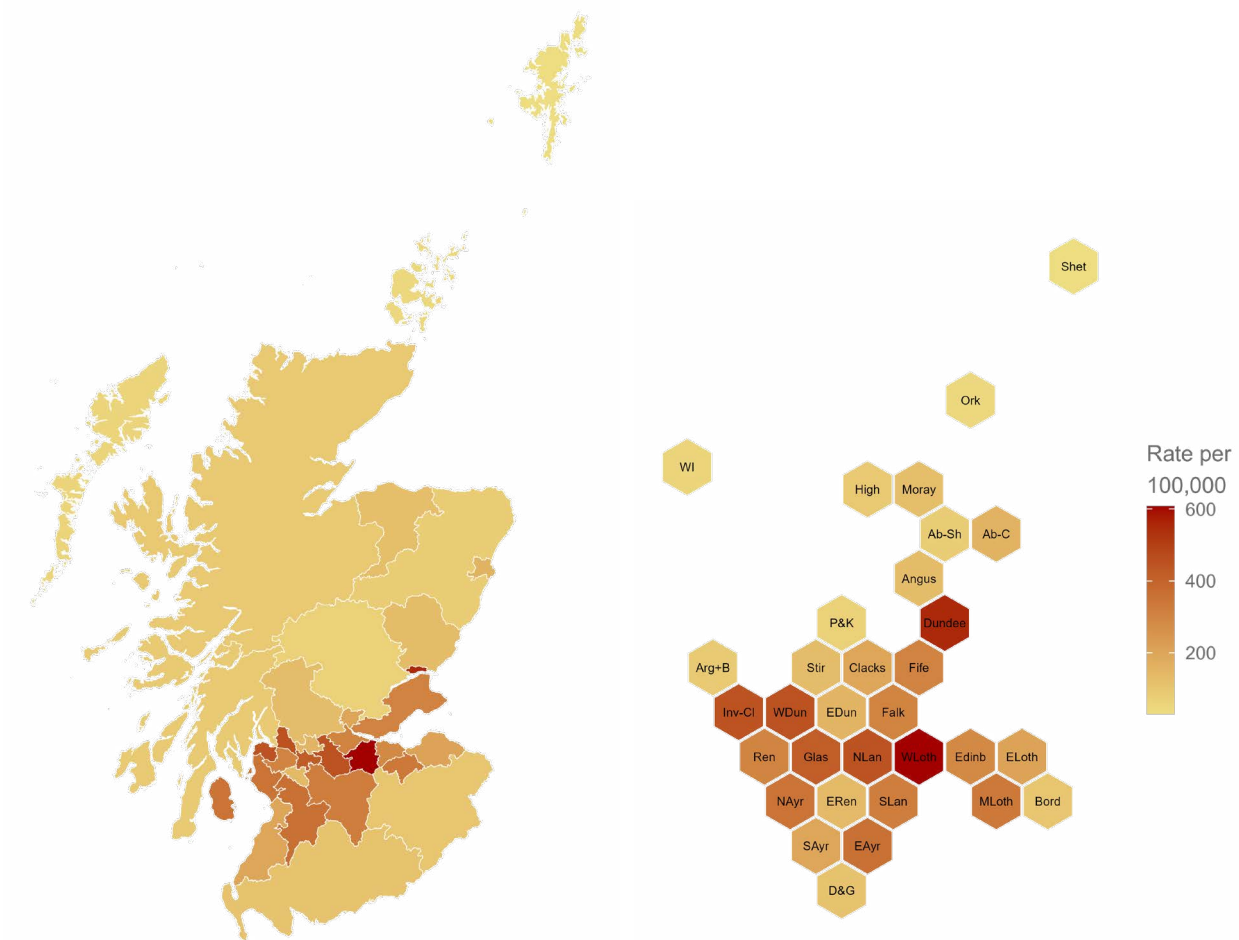


Figure 15: Deliberate fires per 100,000 population, choropleth and area normalised cartogram 2022-23.

For more local authority graphs and statistics please see the [downloadable tables and charts workbook](#).

## 4. Casualties in Fires

In 2022-23, there were 42 fatal fire casualties, up from 40 last year. Annual totals have varied considerably in the past. The ten-year average for fatal fire casualties is 41. Figure 16 shows an overall downward trend since 1990, with this figure levelling off since the early 2010s.

Of the 42 fatalities, 32 were in dwellings (76.1%), 5 were in other buildings (12.0%) and 3 were in road vehicles (7.1%).

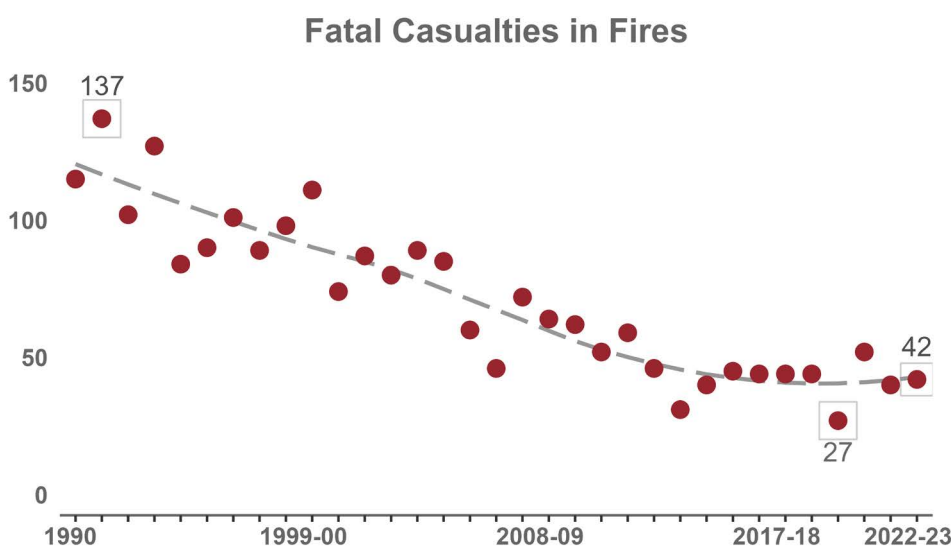


Figure 16: Long-term trend in the number of fatal fire casualties. Note that the series changed from calendar year to financial year after 1993. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

Fire fatalities often appear in clusters throughout the years. This has occurred for many years. Due to this, total fire fatality figures appear to be volatile between years.

Figure 17 shows the 13-week rolling average of fire fatalities from 2017-18 to 2022-23. The peaks of the charts represent these clusters of fire fatalities.

The total fire fatality figure for a year is dependent on whether these peaks fall within that year. For instance, the chart shows that in 2019-20 there is a

peak very close to the beginning of the fiscal year. If this peak were to have occurred slightly earlier in the calendar year, it would have occurred at the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Consequently, the total fire fatalities figure for 2019-20 would have been considerably lower and the total for 2018-19 would have been higher. This highlights that clusters of fatalities have a large influence on the total fire fatality figure for a year and so, large variations between years are to be expected.

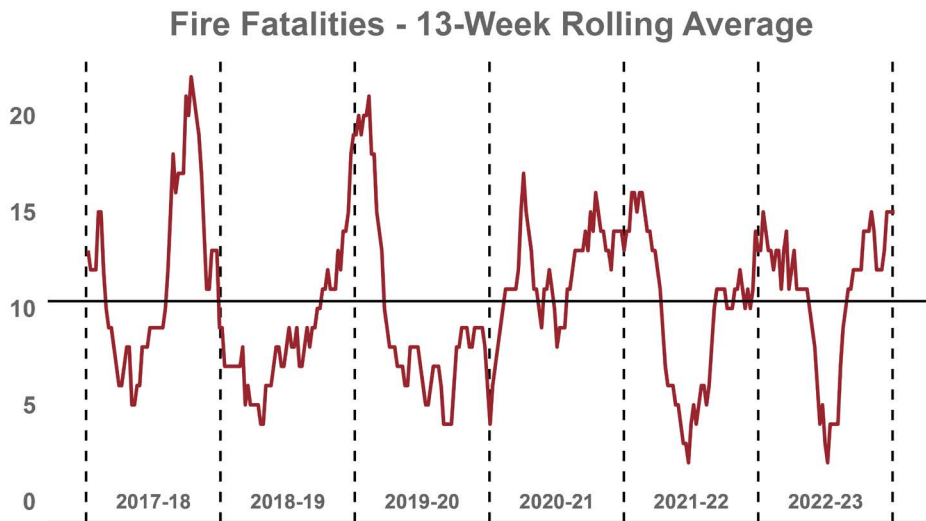


Figure 17: Fire Fatalities as a 13-week rolling average. The horizontal black line represents the average of the 13-week rolling values. Vertical dashed lines represent the change in fiscal year.

There were 922 non-fatal fire casualties in 2022-23, up from 804 last year (14.7% increase). Data quality concerns have been a focus for SFRS in recent years and ensuring that all operational staff record casualties in the same manner has been a focus in the last year. Improvements in recording practices have likely impacted this figure and could contribute to the increase in non-fatal fire casualties seen this year.

Figure 18 shows the historical overall decreasing trend in non-fatal casualties in fires since the early 2000s. Since 2012-13, there has been a 30.1% decrease in the number of non-fatal casualties.

In 2022-23, 835 (90.6%) of these casualties were in dwellings, 51 (5.5%) were in other buildings and 20 (2.2%) were in road vehicles.



Figure 18: Long-term trend in the number of non-fatal fire casualties. Note that the series changed from calendar year to financial year after 1993. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

In 2022-23, 595 of casualties required treatment, up from 555 last year (7.2% increase). 327 casualties did not require treatment, but a precautionary check was recommended. Last year, there were 249 casualties where a precautionary check was recommended (31.3% increase).

The main cause of injury was overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes, with 61.0% of casualties having this injury type. Burns accounted for 11.8% and a combination of burns and being overcome by gas or smoke accounted for a further 2.1%.

Of those requiring treatment, 288 (48.4%) were given treatment at the scene and 307 (51.6%) attended hospital.

### Treatment of Non-fatal Casualties

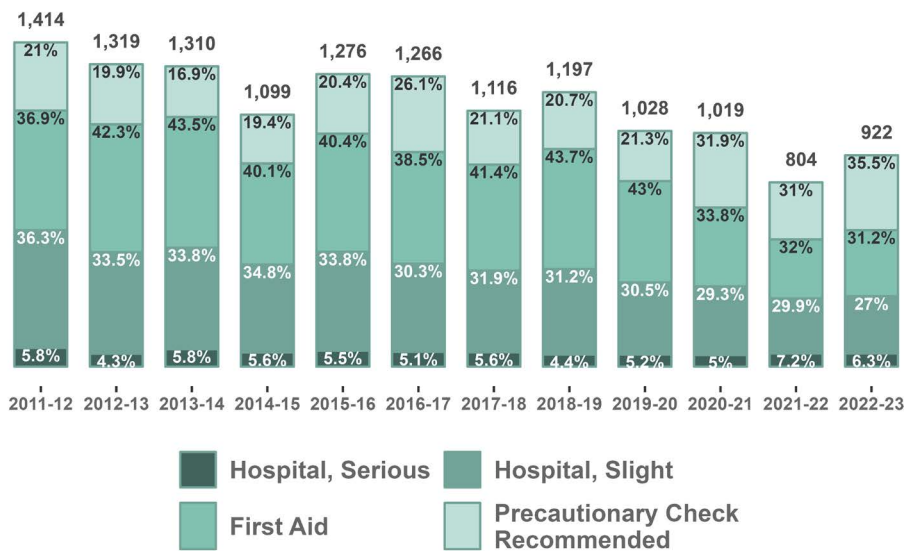


Figure 19: Treatment of non-fatal casualties.

## Great Britain Comparisons

Fatal fire casualties per million population have been on a long-term downward trend in each nation since the early 2000s. This trend has levelled off in each nation from around the early 2010s. Scotland has historically had a higher rate per million population than that of Wales and England. Differing demographic, deprivation and urban-rural profiles of each nation are likely factors in explaining the

different rates.

In 2022-23, Scotland had a rate of 7.7 fatalities per million population. Comparable figures for England and Wales were not available at the time of this publication. Please note population figures for Scotland 2021-22 were used in 2022-23 as there was not a more recent publication available. Please see Statistical News document for further details.

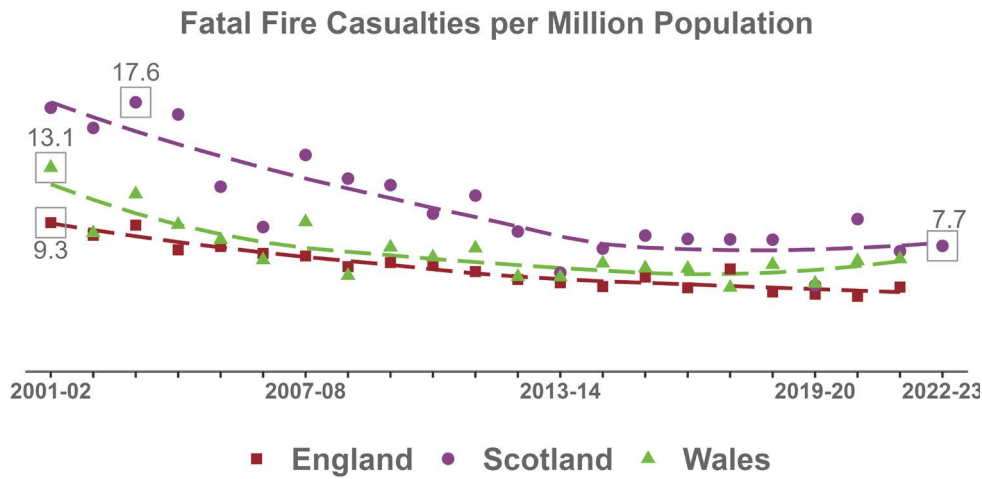


Figure 20: Fatal fire casualties per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

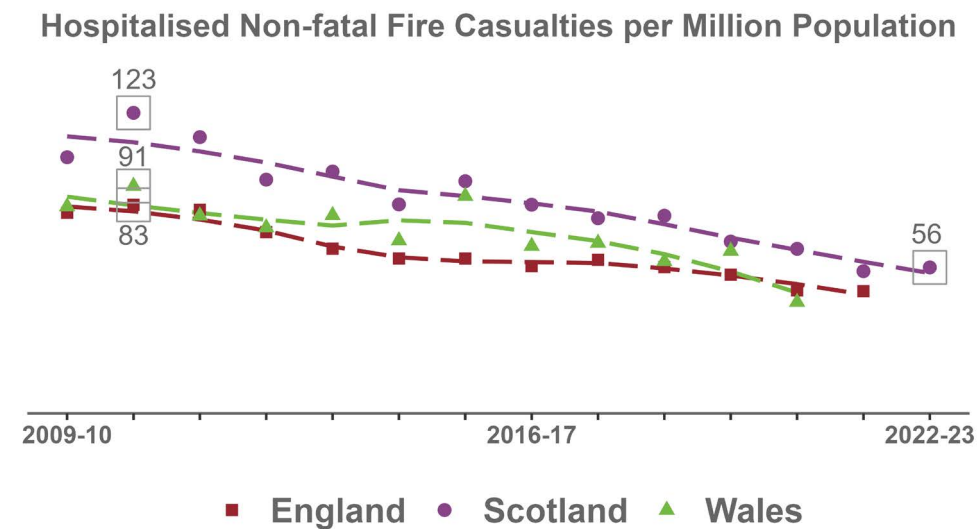


Figure 21: Hospitalised fire casualties per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent value. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.



## Casualty Profile

### Age

Figure 22 highlights the strong relationship between age and fatal casualties per million population rates. Those aged below 39 have on average a rate of fatal casualties below average, with those aged 0-4 years having a rate of 0.0. Those aged 80 and over have a rate considerably higher than other age categories, with those aged 80-89 having a rate 3.2 times the Scotland average and those aged 90 and over having a rate 6.3 times higher than the Scotland average. Ten-year averages have been used to give a robust comparison as one-year figures can vary a lot.

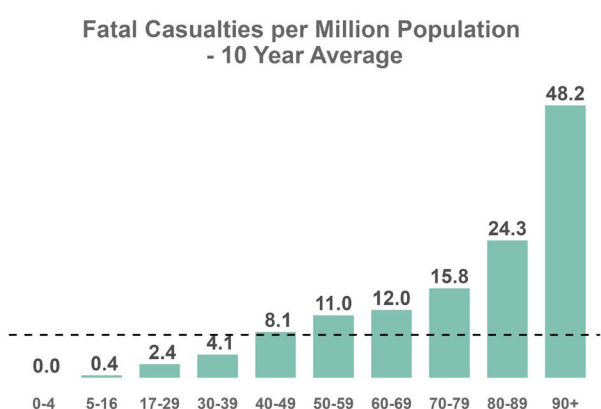


Figure 22: Ten-year average rate per million population of fatal casualties by age band. The dotted line represents the average figure of 7.6.

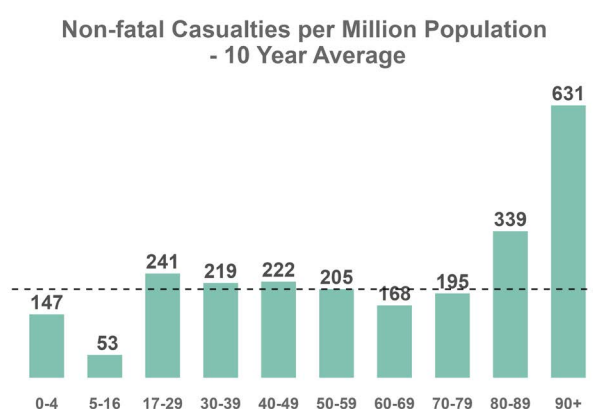
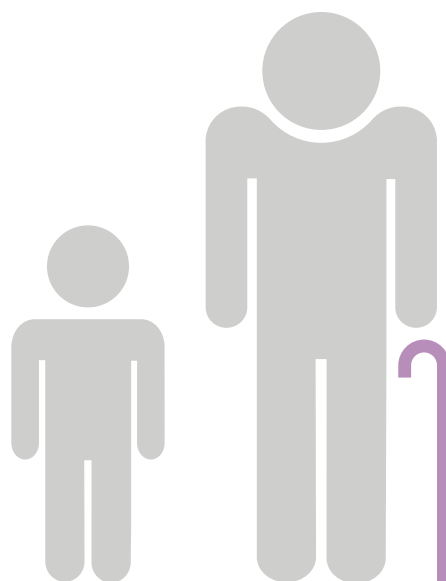


Figure 23: Ten-year average rate per million population of non-fatal casualties by age band. The dotted line represents the average figure of 205.1.

The relationship between age and non-fatal casualties is not as strong as it is for fatal casualties. Those aged 16 and under have a rate below average, with those aged 0-4 having a rate 1.4 times below the Scottish average and those aged 5-16 having a rate 3.9 times below the Scotland average. Those aged between 17 and 59 have a rate slightly above average. In contrast to fatal casualties, those aged 60-79 have a rate below average.

Similar to fatal casualties, those aged 80-89 and over 90 have a rate above average, with those aged 80-89 having a rate 1.7 times the Scotland average and those aged 90 and over having a rate 3.1 times the Scotland average.



## Gender

Of the 42 fatal fire casualties, 23 (54.8%) were male and 18 were female (42.9%). Similar to previous years, males have a higher rate of fatal fire casualties than females. There was a rate of 7.5 fatal fire casualties per million population in 2022-23. For males, this rate was higher at 8.6 fatal fire casualties per million population. Females have a lower rate at 6.4 fatalities. The gap between males and females

has narrowed in comparison to previous years, with 2021-22 having a rate of 9.4 for males and 5.3 for females and 2020-21 having a rate of 14.6 for males and 4.6 for females.

A similar pattern is seen for non-fatal casualties, with males having a rate of 187.8 casualties per million population in 2022-23 and females having a rate of 132.2 casualties.

## Deprivation

There is a strong relationship between deprivation and fatal casualties in Scotland, shown by Figure 24. Those in the most deprived 20% have a rate far above average, with a rate 1.9 higher than the Scotland eight-year average and 4.7 times higher than those in the least deprived 20%.

A similar pattern is seen for non-fatal casualties, with those in the most deprived 20% having a rate 2.1 times the Scotland average and 5.4 times higher than the least deprived 20%.

## Rate of Fatal Casualties by Deprivation

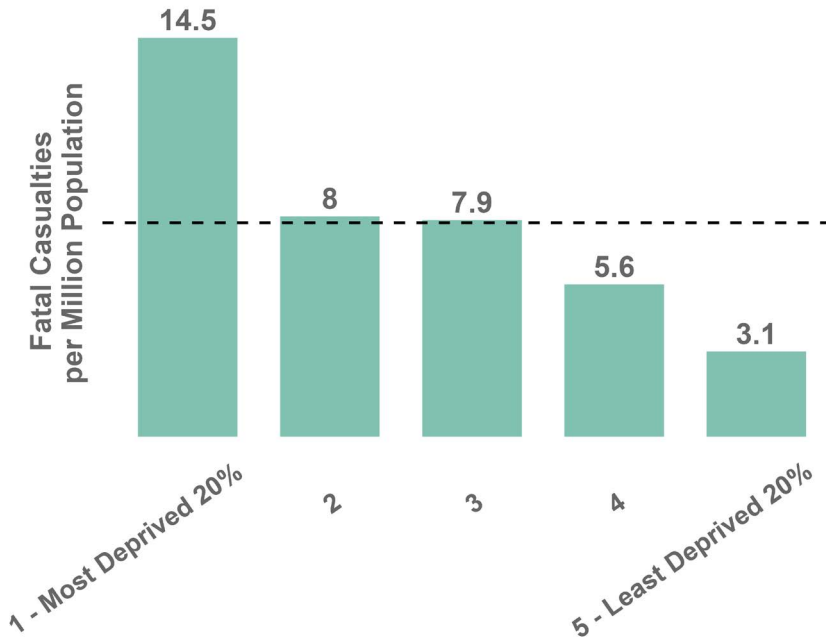


Figure 24: Eight-year<sup>7</sup> average rate of fatal fire casualties per million population by level of deprivation. The Scotland average is 7.8. Eight years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

## Rate of Non-fatal Casualties by Deprivation

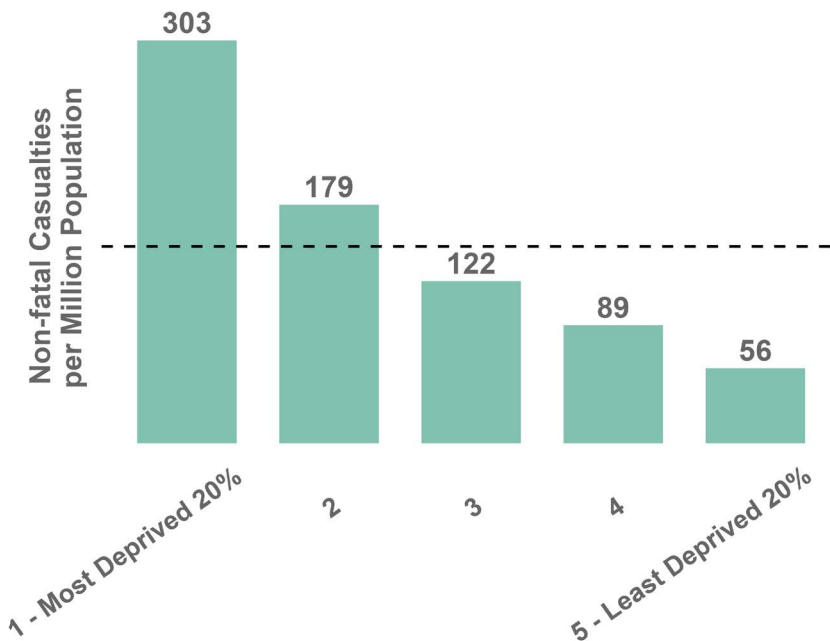


Figure 25: Eight-year<sup>7</sup> average rate of non-fatal fire casualties per million population by level of deprivation. The Scotland average is 147.8. Eight years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

<sup>7</sup> An eight-year average is used as the annual totals vary substantially and multiple years of data is needed to produce robust statistics

Figures 26 and 27 highlight that deprivation is a very strong factor in the historic casualty profile regardless of gender or age. Please note that these charts are presented to highlight the historic casualty profile only; each bar should not be interpreted as the true risk of any individual or group.

Figure 26 shows that for fatal casualties, there is a clear link between deprivation and fatal casualty rate. Except for males aged 17-19, and 70 or over, those in the most deprived areas have a higher rate of fatal casualties per million population.

Females over 40 and in the most deprived areas have fatal casualty rates above average. For females aged

between 40 and 60, all except those in the most deprived areas have a fatal casualty rate lower than the Scotland average. Males over 50 have a much higher fatal casualty rate compared to females, with almost all deprivation areas in these age categories being above the Scotland average.

Those over 90 have not been included in this chart due to the higher number of fatal casualties and low population rates resulting in some areas exceeding 100 fatal casualties per million population. There have been 14 fatal casualties in those aged over 90 in the last eight years, of which 7 were male. Of the 17 fatal casualties in over 90s, 8 were in SIMD quintiles 4 or 5.

## Fatal Casualties per Million Population - 8 Year Average

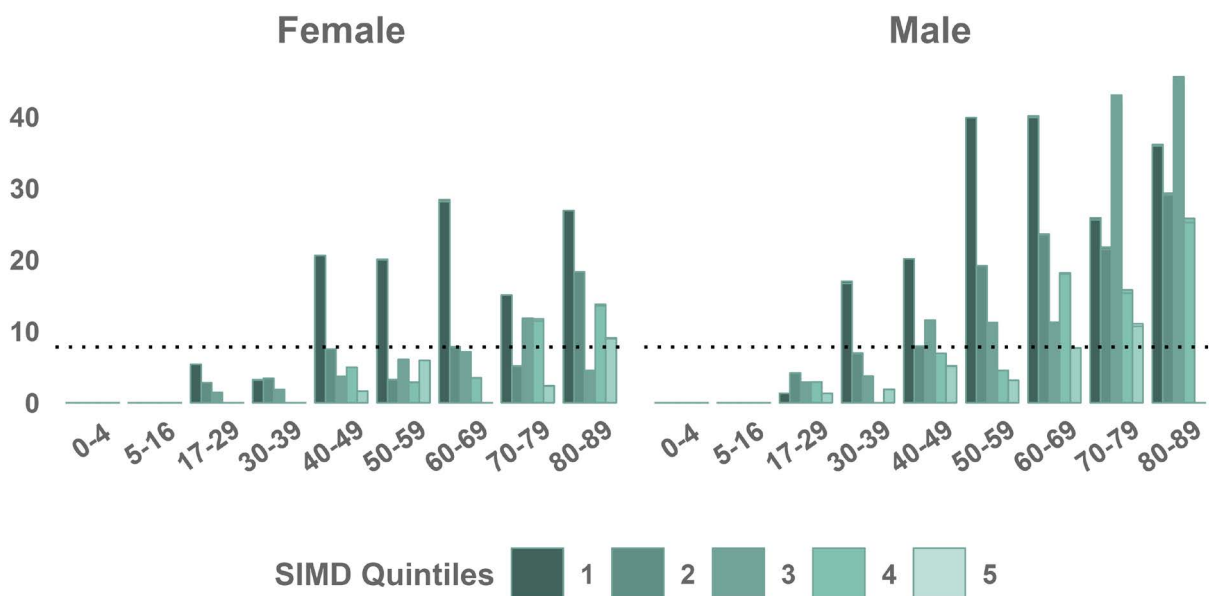


Figure 26: Fatal fire casualties per million population by gender, age and by level of deprivation where 1 is the 20% most deprived areas and 5 is the 20% least deprived areas. The horizontal line represents the Scotland average (7.8).

For non-fatal hospitalised casualties, the rates are higher than the Scotland average for all age categories in the 20% most deprived areas, except for those who are aged between 5 and 16 years. Males in the 40% most deprived areas have higher rates than females, with all males above age 17 years in SIMD quintile 2 being above the Scotland average.

## Hospitalised Casualties per Million Population - 8 Year Average

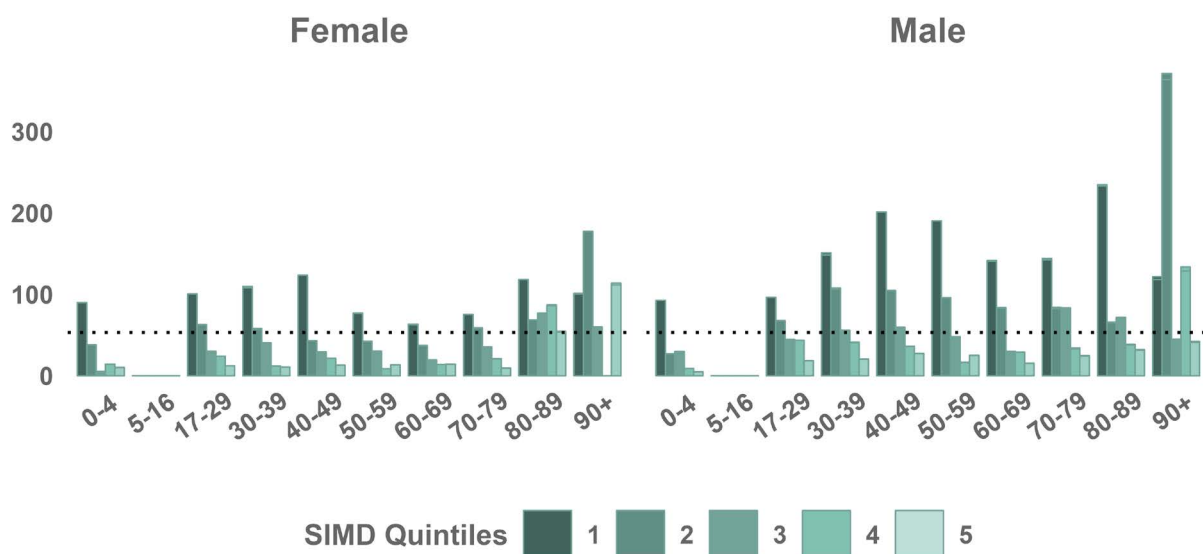


Figure 27: Hospitalised fire casualties per million population by gender, age and by level of deprivation where 1 is the 20% most deprived areas and 5 is the 20% least deprived areas. The horizontal line represents the Scotland average (77.7).

### Impairment

Impairment using alcohol or drugs was a suspecting factor in 14.7% of accidental dwelling fires in 2022-23. Of the 29 fire fatalities in accidental dwelling fires, 2 (6.9%) had impairment through alcohol or drugs as a suspected factor.

Fires that have impairment as a suspected factor have, on average, a much higher rate of casualties, with the ten-year average showing a rate of 11.9

fatalities per 1,000 fires. This is compared to 2.6 fatalities per 1,000 fires where impairment was not a suspected factor.

A similar pattern is seen for non-fatal casualties, with a casualty rate of 371.7 where impairment was a suspected factor and 141.1 where impairment was not a suspected factor.

## Urban-Rural

The rate of non-fatal casualties is above average for the two most urban areas, with large urban areas and other urban areas having a rate 1.1 times above the Scotland average.

Accessible small towns, remote small towns, accessible rural and remote rural areas have a rate below the Scotland average.

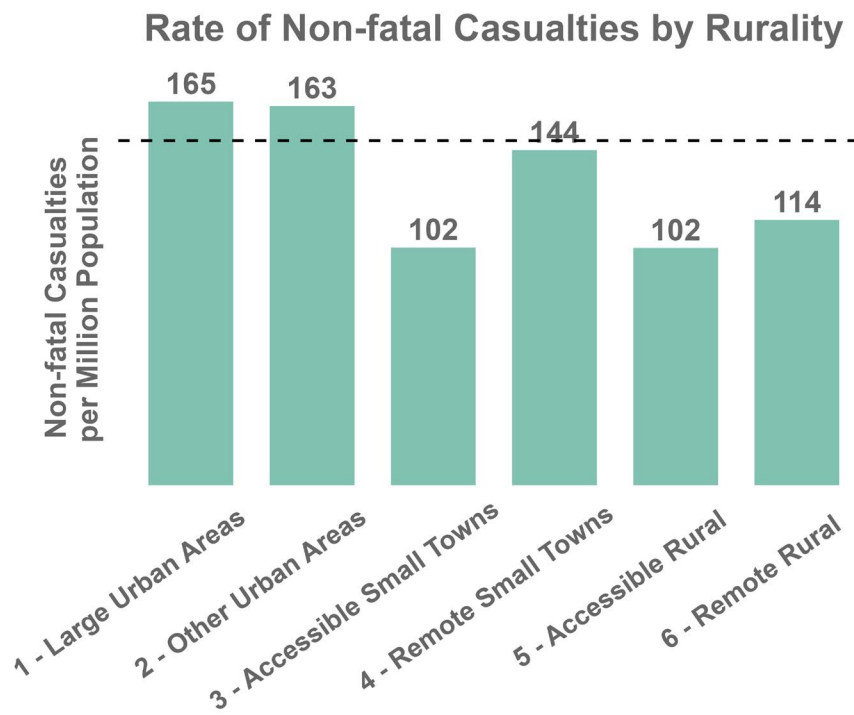


Figure 28: Eight-year average rate of non-fatal fire casualties per million population by level of rurality. The Scotland average is 147.8. Eight years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

For fatal casualties, the more rural areas have a rate higher than the more urban areas. In remote rural areas, the rate of fatal casualties is 1.8 times higher than the Scotland average and 2.2 times higher than large urban areas.

Large urban areas and accessible small towns have a rate below average, while other urban areas have a rate slightly above the Scotland average.

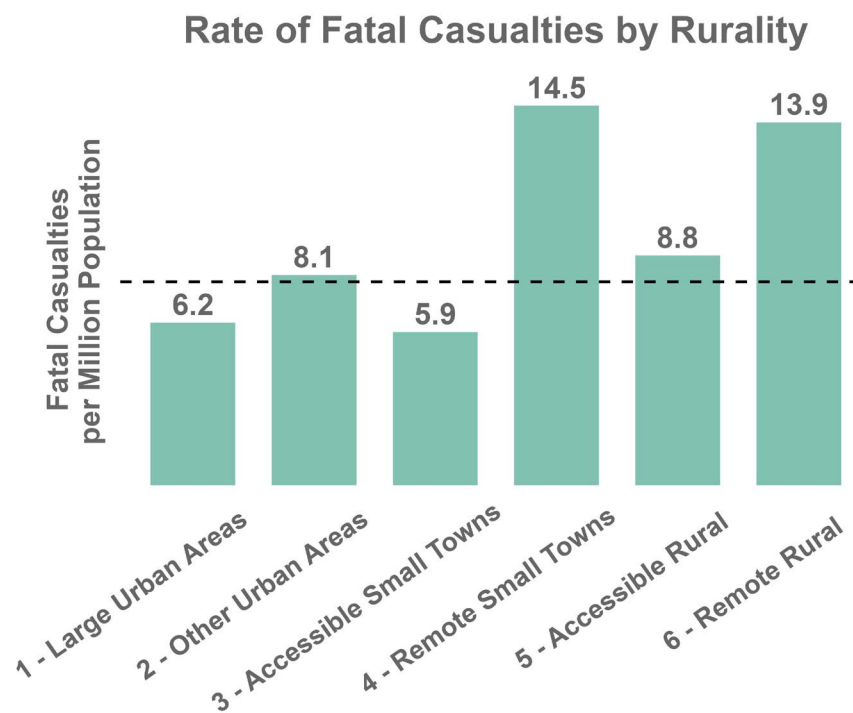


Figure 29: Eight-year average rate of fatal fire casualties per million population by level of rurality. The Scotland average is 7.8. Eight years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

## 5. Non-fire Incidents and Casualties



In 2022-23, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 16,783 non-fire incidents, up from 15,294 attended last year (9.7% increase). Over the last ten years, there has been an 83.1% increase in non-fire incidents attended, with 9,166 non-fire incidents in 2012-13. Figure 30 shows the overall upward trend in non-fire incidents.

Flooding incidents make up a large proportion of this increase within the last year. There were 3,139 flooding incidents attended in 2022-23, compared to 1,617 last year (94.1% increase). This is the largest figure for flooding incidents since this series began and is likely due to weather conditions experienced in winter 2022.

Lift release incidents increased by 156 (23.1%) from 674 last year to 830 in 2022-23. The figure for 2022-23 is the largest figure recorded for lift release since this series began. Assist other agencies incidents increased by 72 (5.4%) from 1,337 in 2021-22 to 1,409 this year. There was an increase in the number of road traffic collisions attended by SFRS, with 2,163 recorded last year and 2,224 recorded in 2022-23 (2.8% increase). In the last decade, road traffic collision incidents have decreased by 40, with 2,264 incidents recorded in 2012-13 (1.8% decrease).

[See figures 32 to 37 for trends in major non-fire incident categories.](#)

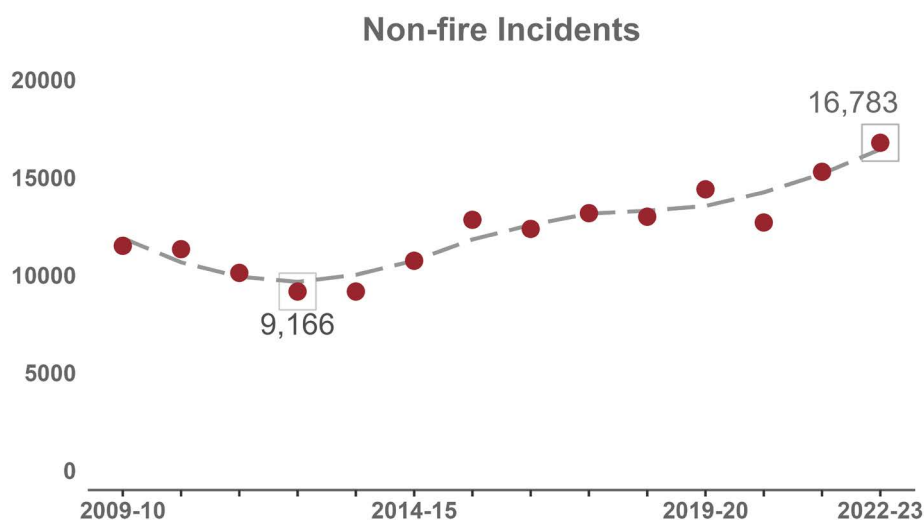


Figure 30: Trends in non-fire incidents. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.



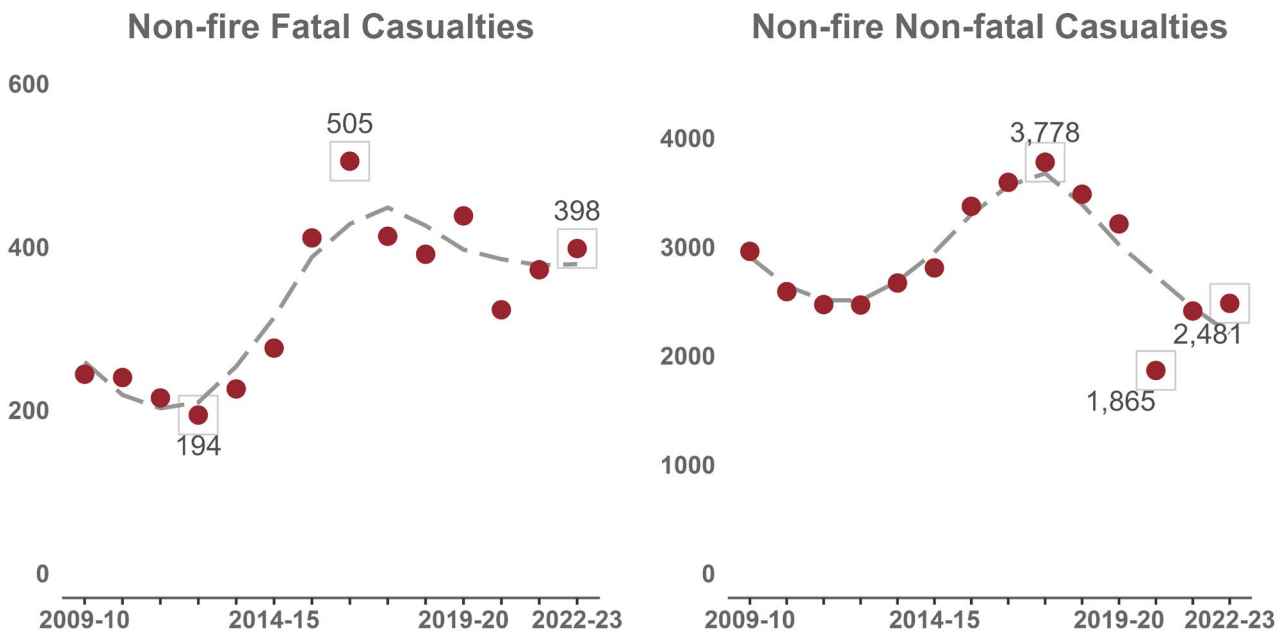


Figure 31: Trends in the number of non-fire casualties. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. Changes in operational procedures during the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted casualty figures. [See Guidance Notes for further details.](#)

In 2022-23, there were 398 fatal casualties at non-fire incidents that SFRS attended. This is an increase of 7.0% from 372 last year. This figure had increased previously due to increasing inter-agency co-operation, however, it appears to now be levelling off, as seen in figure 31. Fatal casualties at road traffic collisions attended by SFRS increased from 60 in 2021-22 to 85 this year (41.7% increase). In the last decade, this figure has decreased by 5.6%, with 90 fatal casualties recorded in 2012-13.

There was a 6.0% increase in the number of fatal casualties at effecting entry/exit incidents, with 132 recorded last year and 140 recorded in 2022-23. Fatal casualties at assist other agencies incidents increased from 58 last year to 65 in 2022-23 (12.1% increase). There was a 25.0% reduction in the number of fatal casualties at suicide incidents, with 40 recorded last year and 30 recorded in 2022-23.

There were 2,481 non-fatal non-fire casualties, which is an increase of 2.9%. This includes an increase of non-fatal casualties at road traffic collisions attended by SFRS. There were 1,384 non-fatal casualties at road traffic collisions this year, compared with 1,296 in 2021-22 (6.8% increase). In the last decade, this figure has decreased by 23.0%, with 1,796 non-fatal casualties recorded in 2012-13.

There was a 33.3% increase in the number of non-fatal casualties at suicide incidents, with 18 recorded last year and 24 recorded in 2022-23. There was a 15.7% reduction in non-fatal casualties at assist other agencies incidents with 217 recorded in 2021-22 and 183 recorded this year.

## Road Traffic Collisions

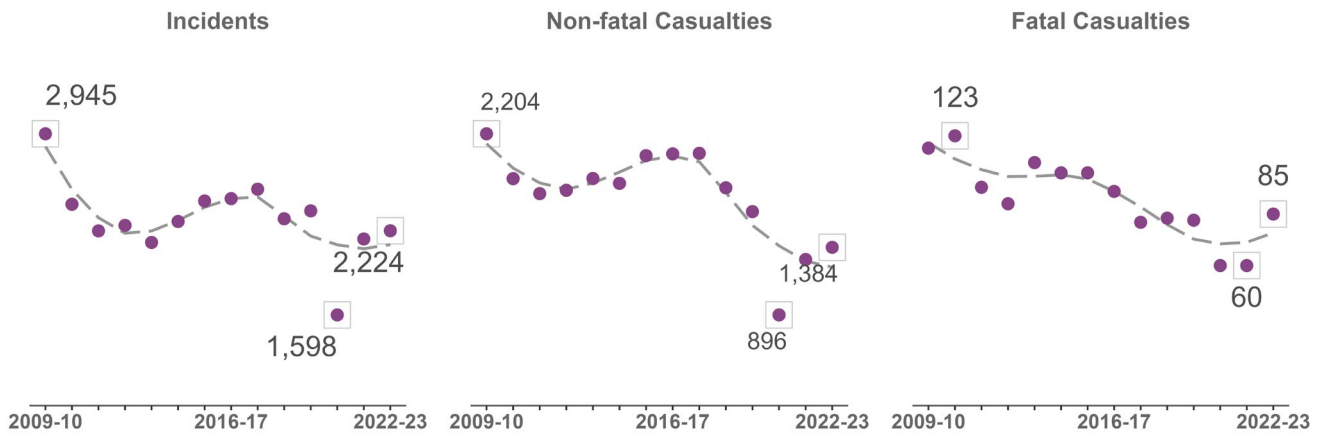


Figure 32: Trends in the Number of Road Traffic Collisions. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

## Flooding and Rescue or Evacuation from Water

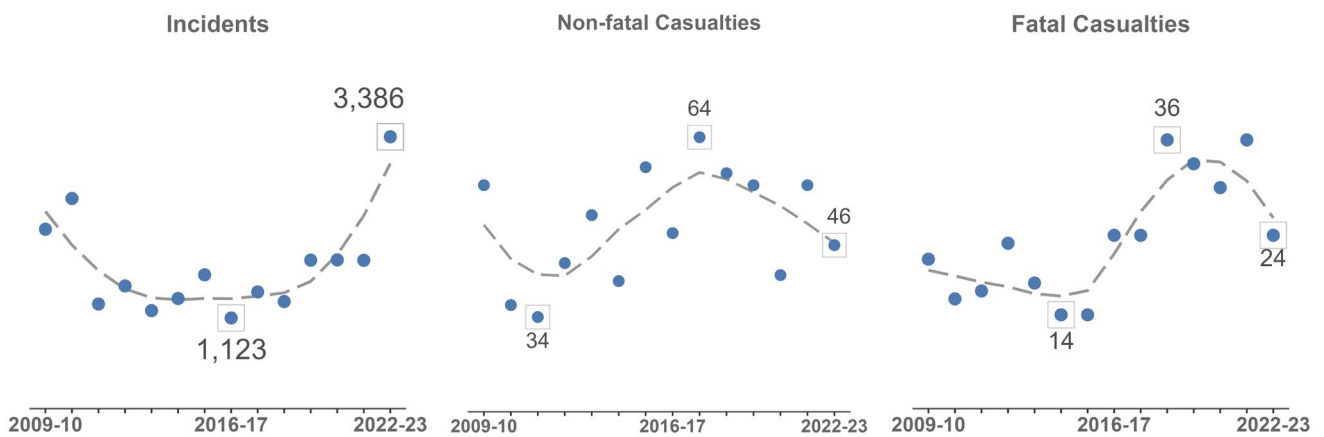


Figure 33: Trends in the Number of Flooding Incidents. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

## Medical Response

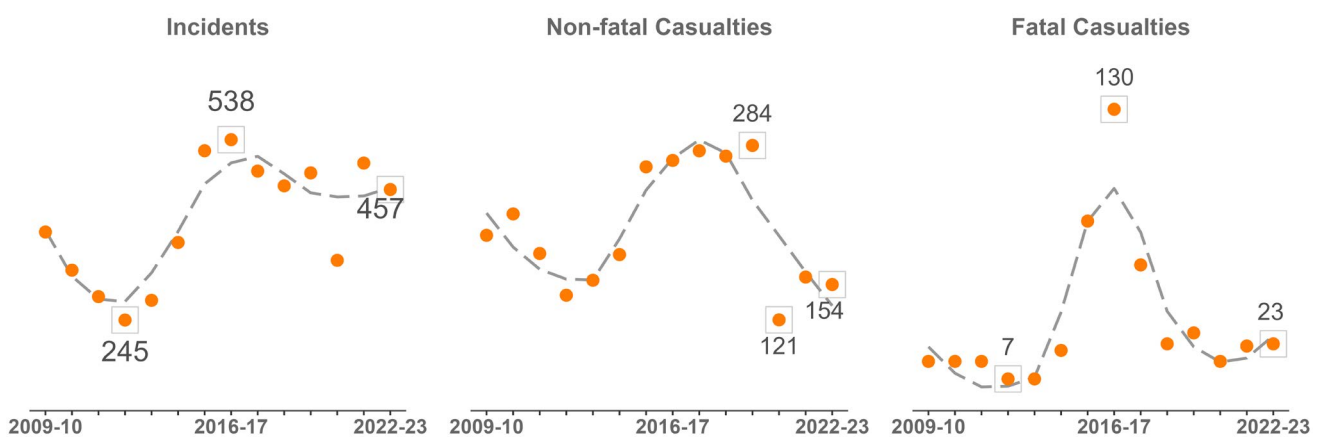


Figure 34: Trends in Number of Medical Incidents. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

## Suicide (including attempts)

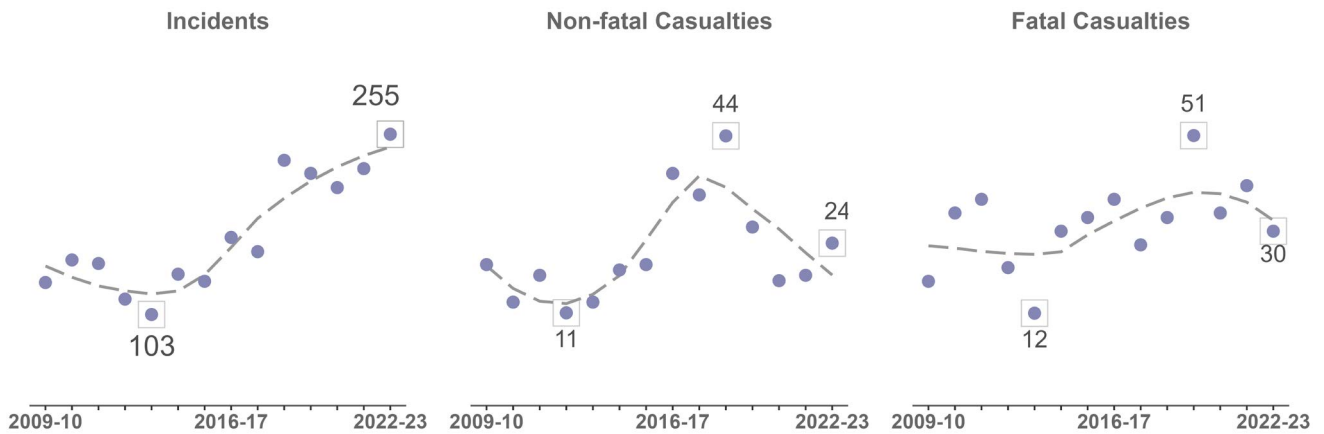


Figure 35: Trends in Suicide (including attempts). Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

## Effecting Entry/Exit

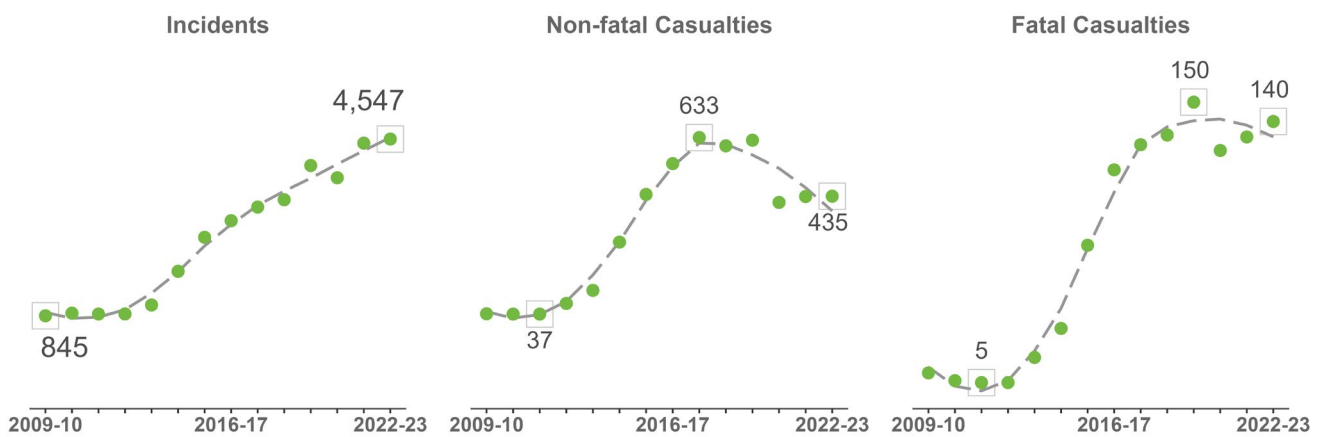


Figure 36: Trends in Effecting Entry/Exit. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

## Assist Other Agencies

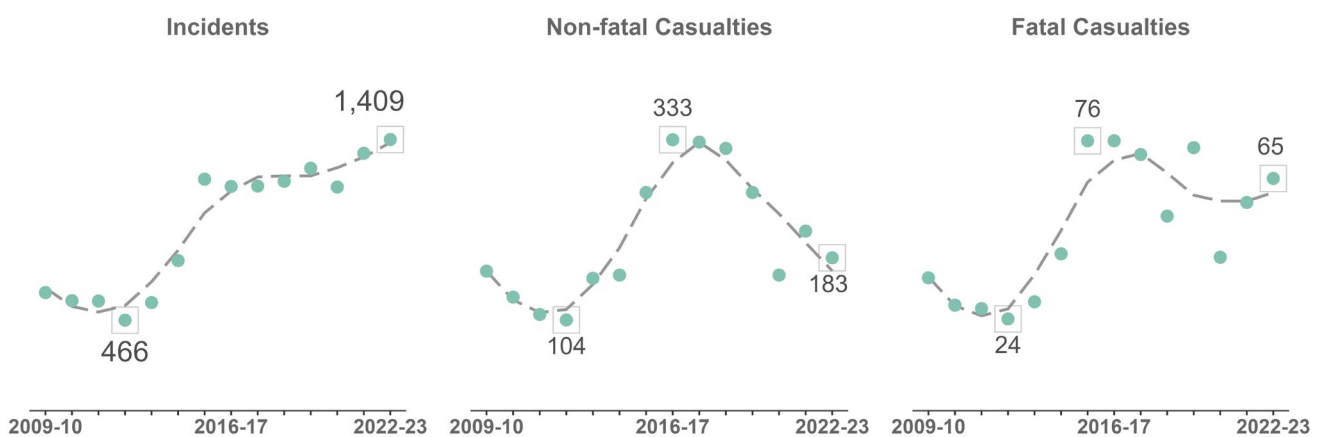
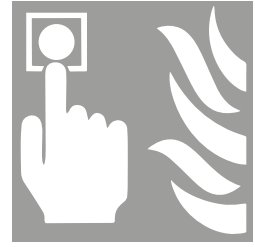


Figure 37: Trends in Assist Other Agencies. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

## 6. False alarms



In 2022-23, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 55,924 false alarm incidents, up from 52,654 incidents last year (6.2% increase). Of those attended this year, 55,076 were fire false alarms (up from 51,741 last year), and 848 were categorised as other false alarms (down from 913 last year).

There were 44,228 fire false alarms due to apparatus in 2022-23, up from 40,513 the year before (9.2% increase). This accounts for 80.3% of all fire false alarms attended in 2022-23, and 44.4% of all incidents attended (up from 42.3% last year).

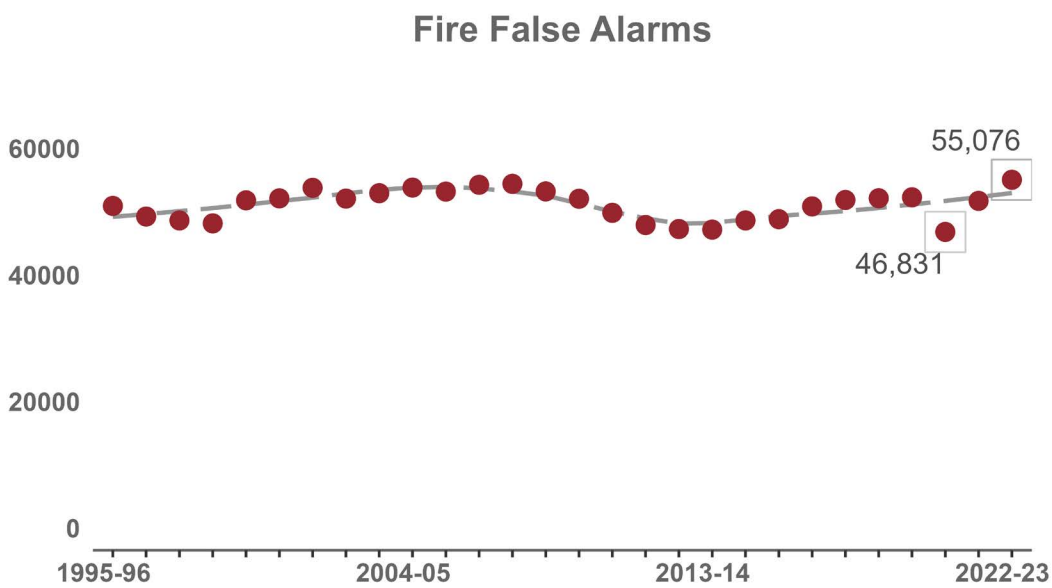


Figure 38: Long-term trend in fire false alarms. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent value is also the maximum value.

### Trends in Fire False Alarms

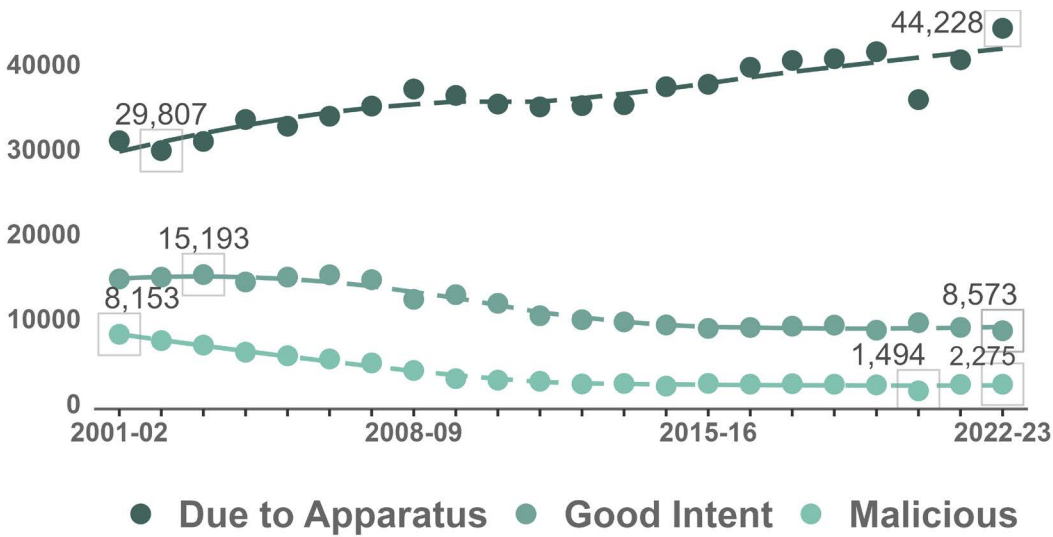


Figure 39: Trends in cause of fire false alarms. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

### Trends in Fire False Alarms due to Apparatus

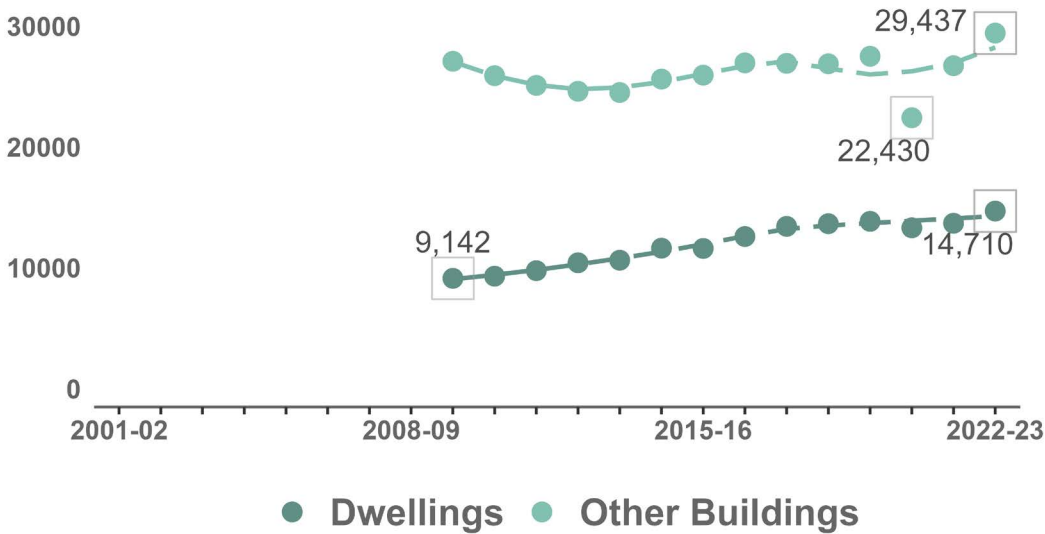


Figure 40: Trends in the location of fire false alarms due to apparatus. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

The main cause of increasing false alarms is due to apparatus false alarms in dwellings and other buildings. In the last decade, false alarms due to apparatus in dwellings has increased from 10,430 in 2012-13 to 14,710 in 2022-23 (41.0% increase). In other buildings, this has increased from 24,619 to 29,437 (19.6% increase). From last year, false alarms due to apparatus in dwellings has increased by 7.4% and in other buildings has increased by 10.1%.

## Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) describes an avoidable false alarm signal from a workplace, either from an automatic fire alarm or from a person.

UFAS incidents decreased steadily between 2009-10 and 2013-14, and then began to rise until the

COVID-19 pandemic when most offices were closed and home-working was encouraged. In 2022-23, SFRS attended 31,383 UFAS incidents, which is the highest recorded since this series began. This is an increase of 2,672 (9.3% increase) since last year.

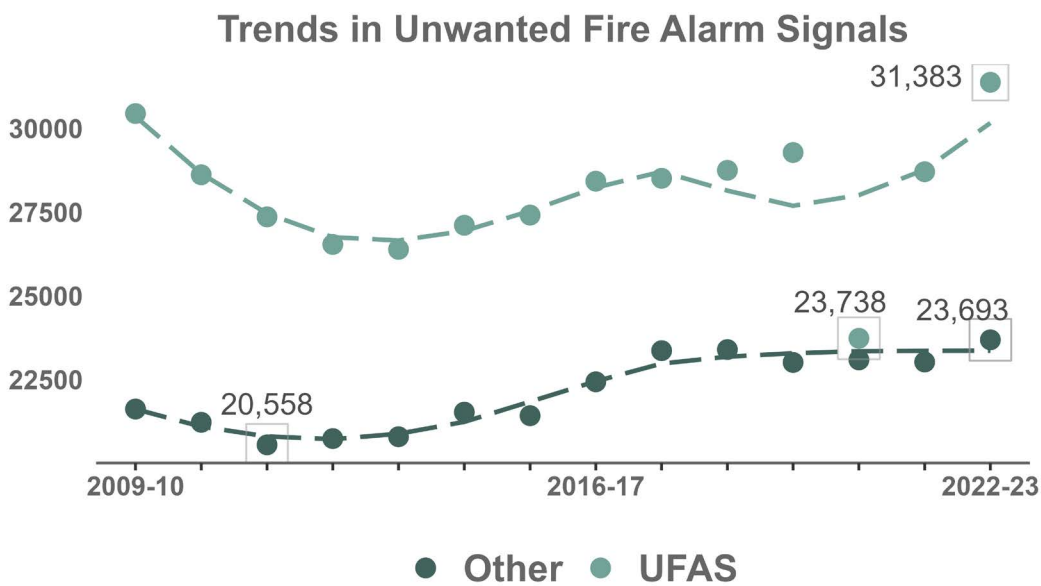


Figure 41: Trends in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) and Other fire alarm signals in Scotland. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

## Local Authority Breakdown

Figure 42 shows a breakdown of UFAS incidents by local authority areas in Scotland. Urban areas often have a higher rate of UFAS incidents than rural areas, with Glasgow City having a rate of 908.5 UFAS incidents per 100,000 population, Dundee City having a rate of 901.7 and Stirling having a rate of 831.3. In contrast, Orkney Islands have a rate of

248.4 and Shetland Islands have a rate of 296.4. There are exceptions to this, with Argyll and Bute having a rate of 816.5 and Na h-Eileanan Siar having a rate of 641.9. Please note population figures for Scotland 2021-22 were used in 2022-23 as there was not a more recent publication available. Please see Statistical News document for further details.

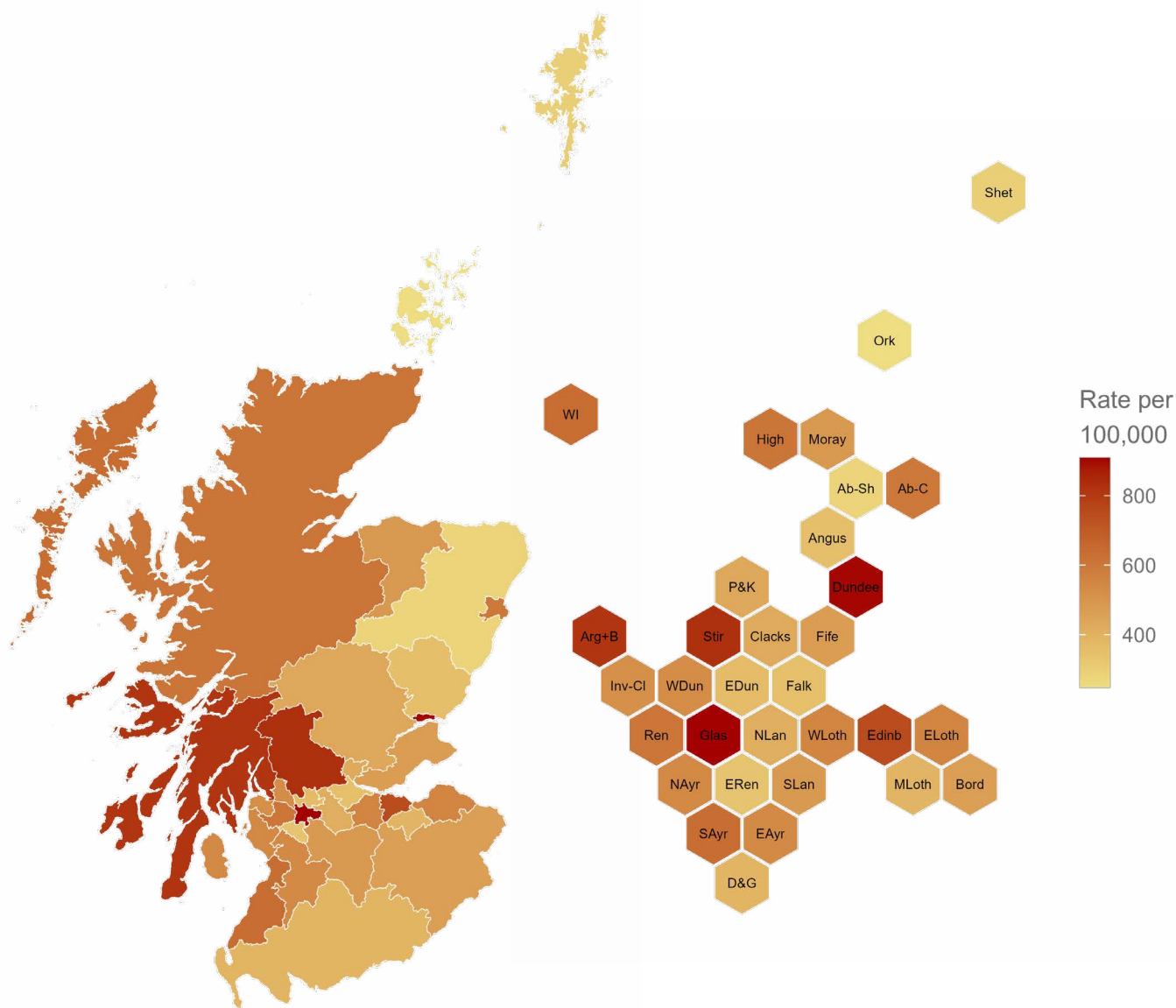


Figure 42: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) per 100,000 population, choropleth and area normalised cartogram 2022-23.

## Great Britain Comparisons

There is a notable higher rate of fire false alarms in Scotland compared to England and Wales. All nations have seen a long-term decrease in the trends of fire false alarms. However, in Scotland, this trend seems to be increasing, with there being a consistent increase in fire false alarms per million population in the last two years.

In 2021-22, Scotland had over double the rate of fire false alarms per million population when compared

with England, and just under double the rate when compared to Wales. Comparable figures for England and Wales were not available for 2022-23 at the time of this publication.

Please note population figures for Scotland 2021-22 were used in 2022-23 as there was not a more recent publication available. Please see Statistical News document for further details.

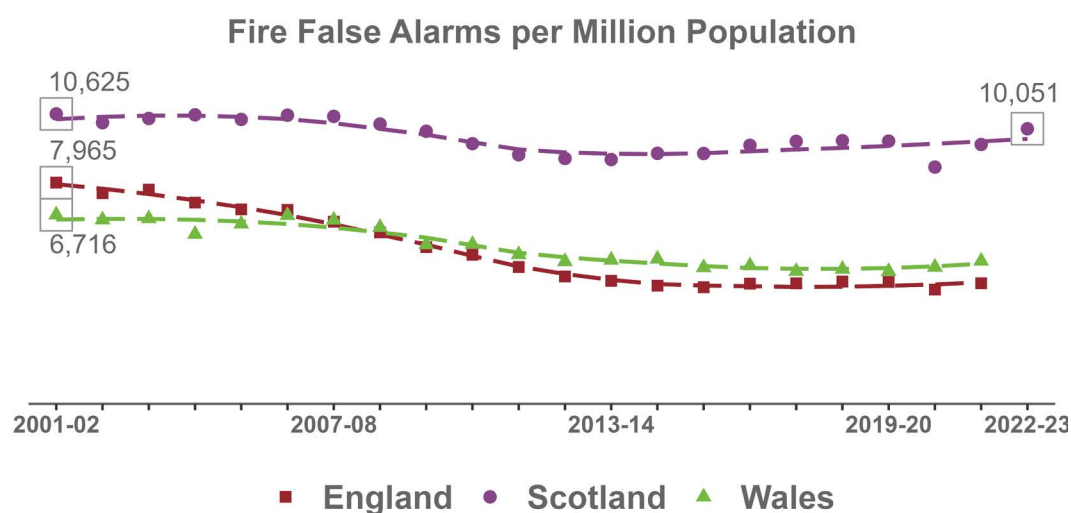


Figure 43: Trends in the fire false alarms by nation. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

It should be noted that while Scotland saw a decrease in fire false alarms during the pandemic in 2020-21, England and Wales did not. In Scotland, there was a recent change in how UFAS incidents are handled, but this did not come into place until July 2023. Prior to this, Scotland handled UFAS signals in a substantially different way from England

or Wales. This meant that, in general, England and Wales attended to fewer of these signals.

In 2020-21, Scotland attended 19.0% less of these signals than in previous years. This suggests that the main reason for the difference in Scotland compared to England and Wales is due to the difference in the handling of unwanted fire alarm signals.



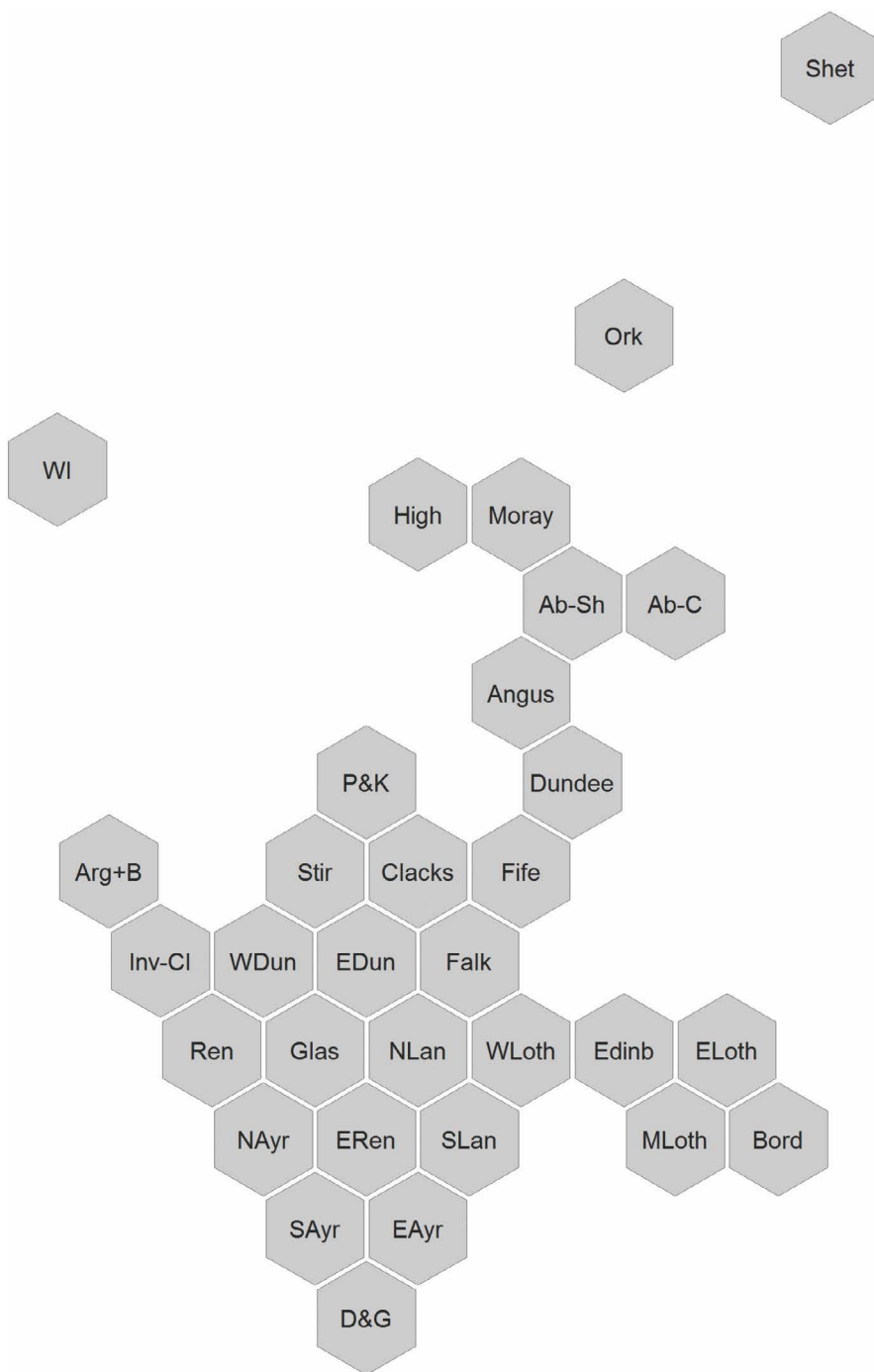
## Appendix A – Key for Local Authority Maps

Key	Local Authority
1	Aberdeen City
2	Aberdeenshire
3	Angus
4	Argyll and Bute
5	Clackmannanshire
6	Dumfries and Galloway
7	Dundee City
8	East Ayrshire
9	East Dunbartonshire
10	East Lothian
11	East Renfrewshire
12	Edinburgh, City of
13	Na h'Eileanan Siar
14	Falkirk
15	Fife
16	Glasgow City
17	Highland
18	Inverclyde
19	Midlothian
20	Moray
21	North Ayrshire
22	North Lanarkshire
23	Orkney Islands
24	Perth and Kinross
25	Renfrewshire
26	Scottish Borders
27	Shetland Islands
28	South Ayrshire
29	South Lanarkshire
30	Stirling
31	West Dunbartonshire
32	West Lothian



# Cartogram Local Authority Key

Key	Local Authority
Ab-C	Aberdeen City
Ab-Sh	Aberdeenshire
Angus	Angus
Arg+B	Argyll and Bute
Clacks	Clackmannanshire
D&G	Dumfries and Galloway
Dundee	Dundee City
EAyr	East Ayrshire
EDun	East Dunbartonshire
ELoth	East Lothian
ERen	East Renfrewshire
Edinb	Edinburgh, City of
WI	Na h'Eileanan Siar
Falk	Falkirk
Fife	Fife
Glas	Glasgow City
High	Highland
Inv-CI	Inverclyde
MLoth	Midlothian
Moray	Moray
NAyr	North Ayrshire
NLan	North Lanarkshire
Ork	Orkney Islands
P&K	Perth and Kinross
Ren	Renfrewshire
Bord	Scottish Borders
Shet	Shetland Islands
SAyr	South Ayrshire
SLan	South Lanarkshire
Stir	Stirling
WDun	West Dunbartonshire
WLoth	West Lothian





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The next edition of Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics bulletin and associated documents is scheduled for release on 31st October 2024.



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Version 1.0 – 31 October 2023