

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education
to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel
of 11 June 2024**

Subject: Review of Local Fire Plan for South Ayrshire: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of the review that has taken place on the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for South Ayrshire.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Panel:

2.1.1 considers the review of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2023 (attached as Appendix 1) and provides feedback; and

2.1.2 approves the content of the Local Fire Plan (attached as Appendix 1).

3. Background

3.1 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is required under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, as amended by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, to prepare Local Fire and Rescue Plans for each local authority in Scotland.

3.2 Local Fire and Rescue Plans set out national and local operating context and outline specific priorities for that area. In their preparation, due regard is given to the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland and the SFRS Strategic Plan.

4. Proposals

4.1 The publication of the new Strategic Plan 2022-25 in October 2022 instigated a requirement to carry out a mandatory review of all Local Fire and Rescue Plans. This review will provide SFRS with information on how well they are performing against existing priorities, as well as highlighting areas for continued improvement and opportunities for change against the growing needs of communities.

4.2 The information contained within this Review Report will contribute towards the development of a new Local Fire and Rescue Plan that is tailored to local need.

4.3 The local priorities remain consistent for South Ayrshire and new local plans will be developed after SFRS publish their new Strategic Plan for 2026-2028.

4.4 The Local Senior Officer has provided the findings of the review (attached as Appendix 1) which Panel members are invited to scrutinise, provide feedback and approve. The Local Senior Officer will be in attendance at the Panel meeting to discuss the 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 Priority 3 of the Council Plan: Civic and Community Pride.

13. Results of Consultation

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

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

[Local Fire and Rescue Plan – South Ayrshire 2017](#)

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**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



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

SOUTH AYRSHIRE AREA

**LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN
REVIEW 2023**

Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

INTRODUCTION

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is required under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, as amended by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, to prepare Local Fire and Rescue Plans for each local authority in Scotland.

Local Fire and Rescue Plans set out our national and local operating context and outline our specific priorities for that area. In their preparation, due regard is given to the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland and the SFRS Strategic Plan.

The publication of our new Strategic Plan 2022-25 in October 2022 instigated a requirement to carry out a mandatory review of all Local Fire and Rescue Plans. This review will provide us with information on how well we are performing against our existing priorities, as well as highlighting areas for continued improvement and opportunities for change against the growing needs of our communities.

The information contained within this Review Report will contribute towards the development of a new Local Fire and Rescue Plan that is tailored to local need.

Performance Data – what the figures told us.

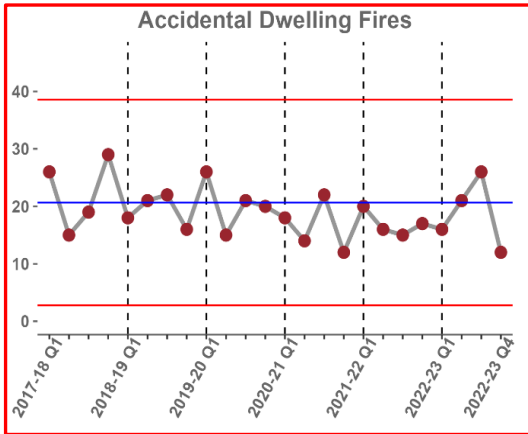
South Ayrshire – Local Fire and Rescue Plan Priority: Domestic safety

Across South Ayrshire, recent studies on accidental home fires point out that most of these incidents, including those leading to injuries, are caused by cooking-related mishaps. A key factor contributing to these accidents is distraction.

Many of those facing a heightened risk of fire incidents also grapple with various challenges like aging, health issues, or limited mobility. Often, they are already under the care of different support agencies. This situation opens doors for these agencies to collaborate effectively. By sharing crucial information, exchanging training methods, and developing efficient referral systems, they can collectively enhance the safety of those most vulnerable to fire hazards.

The SFRS has a vital part in safeguarding those at risk of home injuries. Through their on-site responses and the implementation of Home Safety Visits, the SFRS is well-positioned to identify and assess risk factors in individuals. Subsequently, they can facilitate connections between these individuals and partner agencies, ensuring additional support and protection.

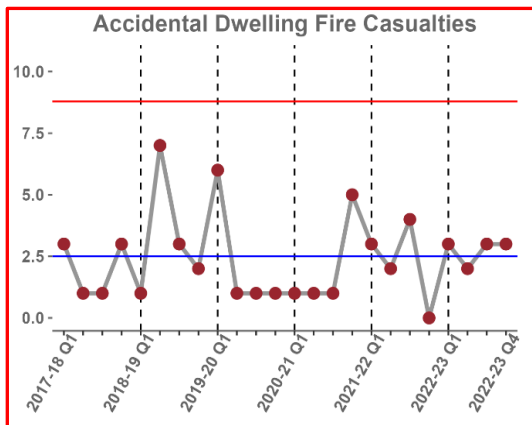
Accidental Dwelling Fires:



Accidental dwelling fires in South Ayrshire have been subject to random variation since 2017-18 Q1.

With the exception of 2022-23 Q3, figures have been on or below average since 2020-21 Q4, indicating a possible decreasing trend. This is consistent with national patterns in the data which show a consistently decreasing trend since 2017-18.

Accidental Dwelling Fire casualties and fatalities:



Accidental dwelling fire non-fatal casualties have remained within control limits since 2017-18 Q1.

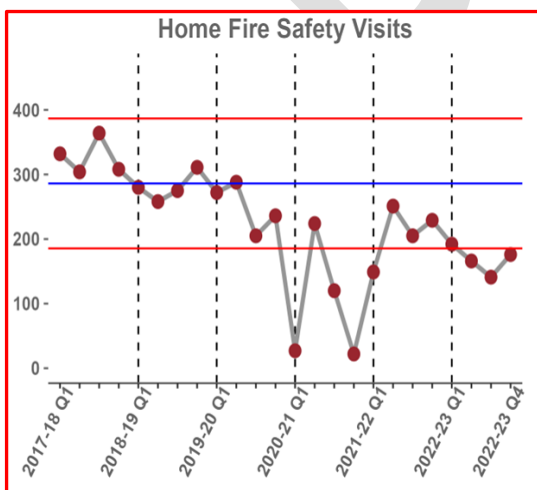
Nationally, figures have remained consistently below average since 2020-21 Q1.

In 2020-21, there was 1 dwelling fire fatality. In 2022-23, there was 1 fire fatality, occurring in a road vehicle fire.

Fire fatalities by type: 2020-21 - 2022-23

Fiscal Year	Fire Category	Total
2020-21	Dwelling Fire	1
2022-23	Road Vehicle Fire	1

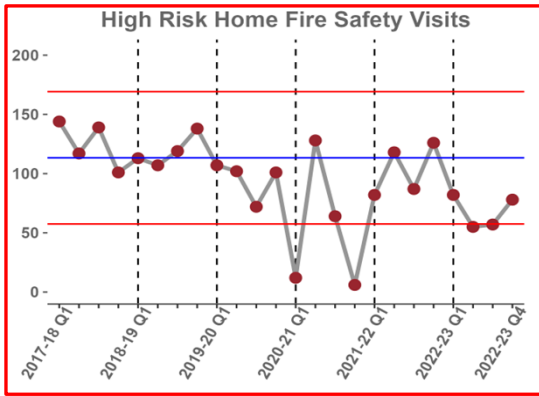
Home Fire Safety Visits:



Home Fire Safety Visits in South Ayrshire were subject to random variation before the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020-21. There was a substantial decrease in Home Fire Safety Visits in 2020-21 Q1, shown by the data point being far below the lower control limit.

Figures remained low in 2020-21 and have since remained below average or below the lower control limit showing that the number of visits carried out has not return to levels seen before the pandemic. This is consistent with national patterns in the data.

Home Fire Safety Visits that were High Risk:



Similar to overall Home Fire Safety Visit figures, visits that were considered high risk were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, with a large reduction seen between 2019-20 Q4 to 2020-21 Q1.

In 2021-22 figures returned to levels similar to before the pandemic, however figures for 2022-23 have been below average and Q2 and Q3 were on the lower control limit.

This shows that the number of high-risk visits has not returned to levels seen before the pandemic. Overall patterns in South Ayrshire are consistent with what has been seen nationally across Scotland.

South Ayrshire – Local Fire and Rescue Plan Priority: Deliberate fire setting

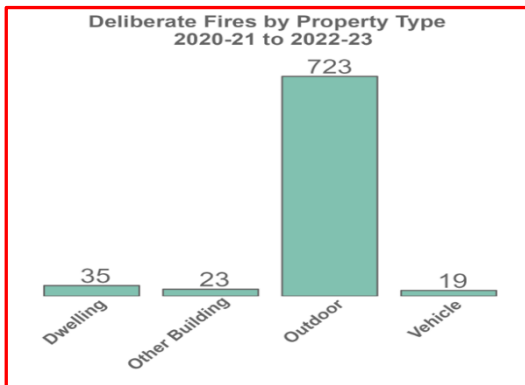
The persistent issue of deliberate secondary fire setting is closely linked with anti-social behaviour (ASB), particularly among youths. These intentional acts, mainly involving setting refuse and grasslands alight, account for a significant portion of our operational duties. This trend not only impedes our ability to respond effectively to emergencies but also affects our preventative efforts.

Our analysis indicates a random variation in deliberate fires since the first quarter of the 2017-18 financial year. Notably, data from the first quarter (Q1) of each year consistently records higher figures than other quarters, with Q1 figures invariably exceeding the average annually. This pattern is in line with national trends observed in similar data sets.

Such behaviour poses considerable risks, including personal injuries, property damage, and environmental harm. Recognised as both anti-social behaviour and a criminal offence, our approach involves collaborating to identify community areas most affected by these incidents. Our aim is to reduce such occurrences by addressing their underlying causes.

In situations deemed necessary, the SFRS collaborates with Police Scotland to investigate these deliberate fire settings, striving to determine their origins and identify those responsible. Addressing ASB through diversionary and engagement activities is a key aspect of our strategy, which includes raising awareness about the severe impact of these deliberate fires.

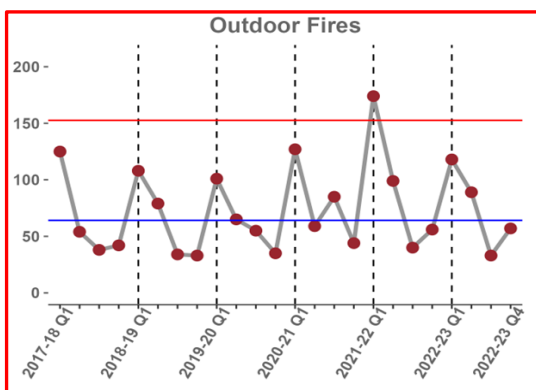
Deliberate fires by property type:



Between 2020-21 and 2022-23, most deliberate fires have occurred in outdoor settings, with 723 fires in total occurring in this property type over this time.

This is followed by dwelling fires (35 fires in total), other building fires (23 in total) and vehicle fires (19 in total).

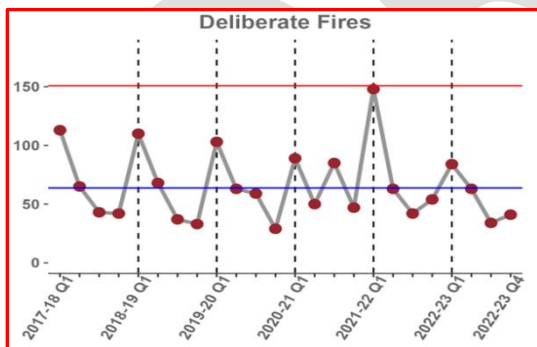
Outdoor Fires:



Outdoor fires have been subject to random variations since 2017-18 Q1 with no overall trend being shown for the data. Figures are consistently higher in Q1 of each year when compared to other quarters, with all figures in Q1 being above average and 2021-22 Q1 being above the upper control limit, indicating a possible seasonal pattern.

This is consistent with national patterns in the data.

Deliberate Fires:



Deliberate fires have been subject to random variation since 2017-18 Q1.

Figures in Q1 of each year appear to be higher than other quarters, with figures in Q1 being consistently above average each year.

This is consistent with national patterns in the data.

South Ayrshire – Local Fire and Rescue Plan Priority: Non-Domestic Fire Safety

In business and workplace settings across South Ayrshire, incidents of fire fall under the Non-Domestic Fires category, governed by the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The SFRS places a high priority on buildings identified as high risk, collaborating with businesses to ensure they meet legislative requirements.

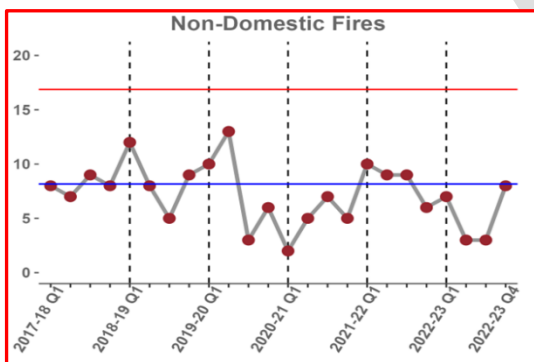
'Sleeping risk' premises, such as residential care homes and student accommodations, are notably categorised as High-Risk Premises. This is largely due to the increased likelihood of fatal fires occurring at night when people are less vigilant. These types of premises form a substantial portion of the focus in the South Ayrshire area.

Central to the SFRS's approach is the annual auditing of high-risk properties. This thorough evaluation is essential to confirm that fire safety standards within these buildings are satisfactory. In some cases, this process includes joint inspections with other organisations like the Health and Safety Executive, Police Scotland, Trading Standards, the Local Authority Licensing Department, and Environmental Health.

Additionally, any fire incident in these specified buildings mandates a Post Fire Audit. This step is critical for a detailed assessment of the risks posed by the fire and to identify the necessary fire safety measures to protect individuals using these facilities.

It is also important to note that Non-Domestic Fires have had a significant economic impact on the broader Ayrshire economy, costing an estimated £45 million over a five-year span. This underscores the vital need for stringent fire safety practices and regular inspections in non-domestic buildings throughout South Ayrshire.

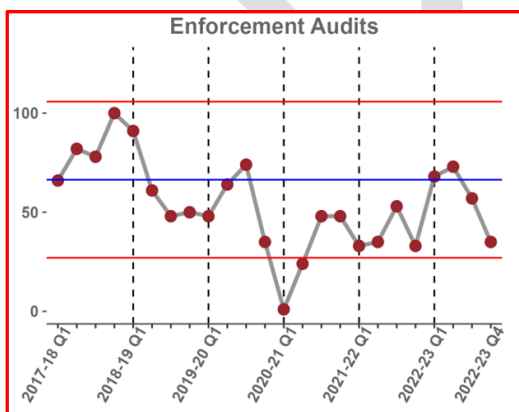
Non-domestic fires:



Non-domestic fires have been subject to random variation since 2017-18 Q1. Since 2021-22 Q4, all figures have been close to or below average, suggesting that non-domestic fires may be on an overall downward trend.

This downward trend is seen nationally across Scotland.

Audit figures:



Audit figures were subject to random variation between 2017-18 Q1 and 2019-20 Q4.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, figures decreased, with the figures for 2020-21 and 2021-22 being below average; notably, the figure for 2020-21 Q1 and Q2 were below the lower control limit. Since 2022-23 Q1, figures have returned to pre-pandemic levels, however 2022-23 Q4 is closer to the lower control limit.

More data points would be needed to confirm whether there is a cause for concern or a decreasing trend. Across Scotland, audit figures decreased during the Covid-19 pandemic and have not yet returned to levels seen before the pandemic.

South Ayrshire – Local Fire and Rescue Plan Priority: Unintentional injury and harm

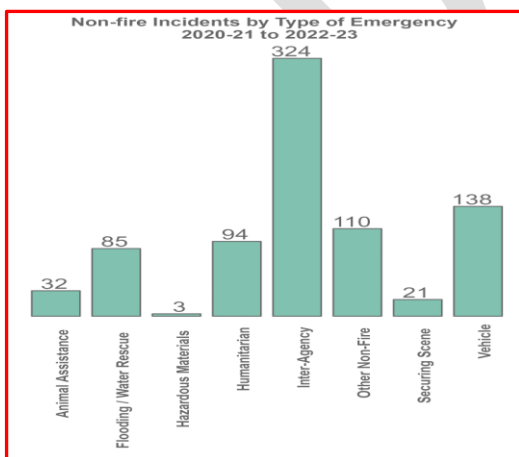
Unintentional injuries and harm, including road traffic collisions, flooding, and water rescues, significantly impact the South Ayrshire community and the SFRS. These incidents not only pose immediate risks to life and property but also have long-term effects on mental well-being and the local economy.

Road traffic collisions, while decreasing in frequency, continue to cause trauma and disrupt lives. The SFRS plays a crucial role in rescue operations and the broader emotional recovery of the community. Similarly, the increase in flooding incidents presents challenges in property damage, displacement of residents, and recovery efforts. Water rescues require swift and skilled response, underscoring the need for constant SFRS training and preparedness.

The SFRS's collaboration with other agencies in emergencies, such as effecting entries and exits, reflects its multifaceted role in public safety. These collaborations are essential in managing complex situations that extend beyond fires.

Collectively, these incidents strain public resources and have a lasting effect on the community's economic and social fabric. The emotional and psychological toll on individuals and the operational strain on the SFRS highlight the importance of preventive measures, public education, and continued investment in emergency services.

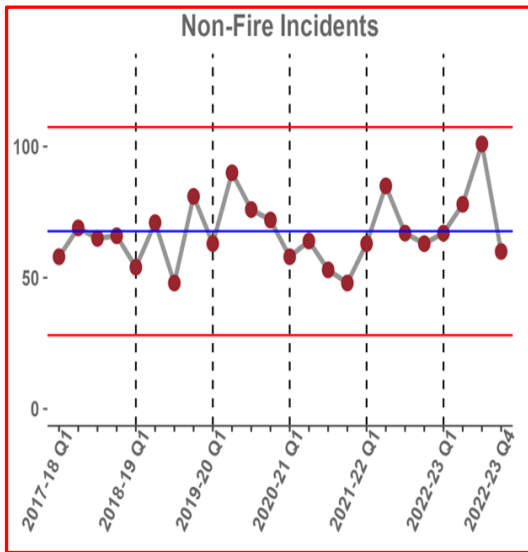
Non fire emergencies:



Please note 'Humanitarian' includes Evacuation (no fire), Lift Release, Other Rescue/Release of Persons, Removal of Objects from People and Removal of People from Objects. 'Inter-Agency' includes Assist Other Agencies, Effecting Entry/Exit, Medical Responder and Suicide. 'Other Non-Fire' includes Advice Only, No Action (not false alarm), Stand By and Water Provision. 'Securing Scene' includes Making Safe (not RTC), and Spills and Leaks (not RTC). 'Vehicle' includes Road Traffic Collisions and Other Transport (no fire).

Most non-fire incidents that occurred between 2020-21 and 2022-23 were inter-agency incidents, with 324 of this incident type occurring within this time. This was followed by vehicle incidents (138), other non-fire incidents (110) and humanitarian incidents (94).

Non fire incidents:



Non-fire incidents in South Ayrshire have been subject to random variation since 2017-18 Q1. Nationally, during the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a decrease in non-fire incidents attended and an increase in incidents since then.

This is similar to what can be seen in South Ayrshire, with all data points during 2020-21 being below average and levels returning to close to average since then. The data point for Q3 of 2022-23 is close to the upper control limit. This has returned to levels close to average in Q4, indicating no cause for concern.

South Ayrshire – Local Fire and Rescue Plan Priority: Operational Resilience and Preparedness

The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Fire (Additional Function) (Scotland) Order 2005 stipulate the SFRS's obligations and roles in responding to emergencies. It is imperative that our firefighters possess the requisite skills, understanding, and expertise to manage a diverse range of incidents, which can greatly vary in their complexity and nature. Recognising the specific risks in their communities is essential to ensure that the level of response is commensurate with the risk involved. Targeted training is conducted to guarantee the safety of our firefighters and to facilitate an efficient and effective allocation of our resources during emergencies.

The SFRS's emergency response framework includes firefighters who are part of the On Call Duty System. These firefighters, responding from their homes or primary workplaces as part of an 'On-Call' scheme, are crucial in balancing their professional, personal, and firefighting responsibilities. Each station within the On Call Duty System is equipped with an adequate number of firefighters to guarantee readiness at all times.

In some instances, emergencies call for a collaborative response from various emergency services and organisations. Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, additional responsibilities are imposed on the SFRS to be well-prepared for and capable of handling major emergencies. As a key emergency responder, the SFRS is required to have the capacity and capability for comprehensive planning and response to significant emergencies, working in conjunction with partners at both the local and national levels. This multi-agency method is crucial for risk assessment and for the development of effective response plans, which are then thoroughly tested to ensure a smooth transition back to normalcy following major incidents.

Preparation measures might include dealing with adverse weather events, natural disasters, pandemics, chemical incidents, or major transport emergencies. Furthermore, the potential threat of terrorism obliges the SFRS to be prepared to work alongside other agencies in such events.

Acknowledging the potential evolution of the SFRS's role, we are focused on further protecting community members during emergencies. Assisting with situations such as 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests' is one area where combining resources can significantly improve outcomes. Apart from emergency response, there is also a focus on promoting community resilience and enhancing survival rates from cardiac arrests through proactive engagement and education across South Ayrshire communities.

Details of the advancements made in this priority area are outlined in the Performance Local Priorities Section of this evaluation document.

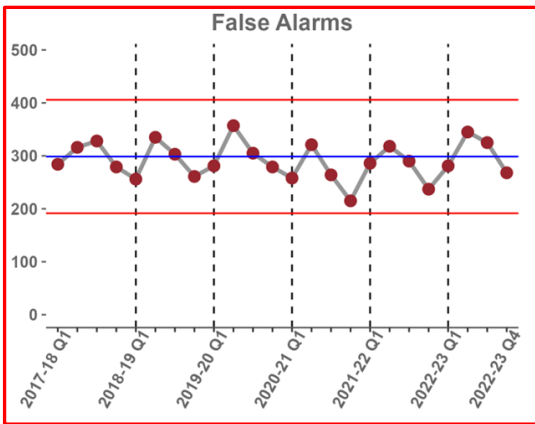
South Ayrshire – Local Fire and Rescue Plan Priority: Unwanted fire alarms signals

Fire protection in buildings is centered around safeguarding life and property by preventing fire spread and ensuring early detection for timely evacuation. However, the challenge of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) due to false activations has been significant. These false alarms disrupt operations and necessitate unwarranted responses by the SFRS, leading to risks and environmental impacts.

The SFRS classifies UFAS from relevant premises under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and from dwellings. To address frequent false alarms, SFRS has implemented policies aimed at reducing such incidents, particularly in buildings with recurring UFAS. These unnecessary responses pose risks like increased road accidents and strain on resources, impacting community safety perceptions.

SFRS's engagement strategies in residential areas, including sheltered housing, focus on prevention and reducing UFAS. Recent changes in how the SFRS mobilises to false alarms in relevant premises will significantly influence the data produced and future prioritisation. This strategic shift is expected to refine response protocols, ensuring more efficient use of resources and better data analysis for targeted interventions. These efforts underline SFRS's commitment to enhancing fire safety and minimising false alarm occurrences in South Ayrshire.

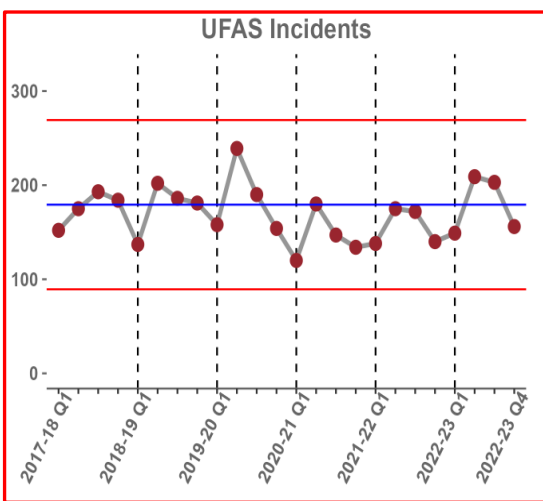
False alarms:



False alarm incidents in South Ayrshire have been subject to random variation since 2017-18 Q1, with no clear trend in the data.

Nationally, there are no clear increasing or decreasing trends for false alarm incidents in Scotland.

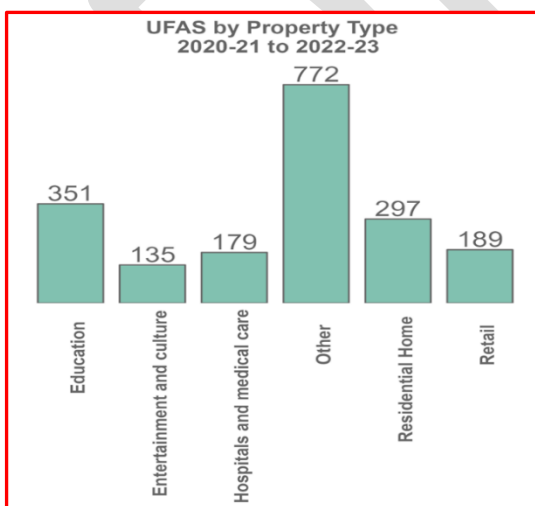
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS):



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) were subject to random variation between 2017-18 Q1 and 2019-20 Q3. Figures decreased during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020-21 Q1, when most offices were closed, and home working was encouraged.

This meant that less people were in workplace buildings, and so there was less opportunity for an unwanted signal to occur. This is shown by all figures for 2020-21 and 2021-22 being on or below average. Figures for 2022-23 appear to be similar to levels seen before the pandemic.

UFAS by Property Type:



Between 2020-21 and 2022-23, most UFAS occurred in property types that fall under the category 'Other', with 772 occurring here within this time.

This was followed by education (351), residential homes (297) and retail (189).

Performance Local Priorities

South Ayrshire – Local Fire and Rescue Plan Priority: Domestic Fire Safety

Within the current South Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan, we said we would:

Seek to reduce accidental dwelling fires and fire-related injuries within the home by:

- Promoting and undertaking Home Fire Safety Visits to those deemed at risk from fire.
- Working with our partners in South Ayrshire to share information where fire risks within the home have been identified and to provide solutions to protect those who are at risk.
- Focusing engagement activities in those areas where service demand has been identified.
- Supporting the provision of assistive technology within the home to increase occupant safety.

Monitor our progress in the promotion of our domestic safety strategy by:

- Reviewing the number of accidental dwelling fires and their severity.
- Reviewing the number and the severity of fatal and non-fatal fire-related injuries.
- Increasing the presence of working smoke/heat detection within homes affected by fire.

Achieve a reduction in the frequency and severity of accidental dwelling fires and fire-related injuries by:

- Supporting the safety and well-being of South Ayrshire residents.
- Supporting the independent living of vulnerable members within our communities.
- Reducing the social and economic cost of fires and fire-related injuries.
- Reducing demand on the SFRS and its partners.

During the lifespan of the South Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan, we did:

- The implementation of comprehensive Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) has been a key initiative. These visits involve a detailed risk assessment of fire hazards in homes by trained personnel, who also offer advice, guidance, and install long-life battery smoke and heat alarms if necessary. During the timeframe of 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023, SFRS's operational crews and Community Action Teams (CAT) in South Ayrshire conducted a total of 1,877 Home fire safety visits; with the highest number of visits being conducted within the Ayr South ward area.
- The importance of early fire detection in reducing both human and economic losses has been underscored. Since 2001, a significant reduction in fire incidents has been attributed to the regular installation of smoke and heat detectors in residences, particularly those lacking existing systems. During the timeframe of 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023, SFRS has fitted 103 smoke and heat detectors across South Ayrshire.

- Awareness campaigns at both national and local levels, such as the “Test it Tuesday” initiative, have played a crucial role in enhancing the functionality of these smoke/heat detectors within the community.
- The PDIR (Post Domestic Incident Response) Strategy entails a detailed analysis after each incident to determine its causes and identify preventive measures to reduce future risks. Since 1 April 2020, the SFRS has completed a total of 525 PDIRs, resulting in at least one Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) on **** occasions, thereby effectively targeting the most vulnerable in the community.
- The "Make the Call" initiative focused on contacting individuals closely associated with those at high risk, encouraging them to organise free Home Fire Safety visits or to seek advice. This campaign employed various outreach methods, encompassing social media, radio broadcasts, and the physical dissemination of informational material.
- Embed a dedicated Community Action Team member into the South Ayr ward area to interact with partners, reaching those most in need and reducing incidents of accidental dwelling fires and casualties.
- Collaborated closely with our Community Planning, Community Justice Ayrshire, and Ayrshire Equality Partners to gain a deeper understanding of the diverse needs of communities across South Ayrshire; thus, resulting in the provision of Hazardous Awareness Training to a range of partners, with the goal of enhancing the referral process for high-risk home fire safety visits.

South Ayrshire – Local Fire and Rescue Plan Priority: Deliberate Fire Setting

Within the current South Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan, we said we would:

Seek to reduce the instances of fire related anti-social behaviour by:

- Identifying those parts of South Ayrshire’s communities affected by deliberate fire setting to
- share this information with our partners.
- Utilise our Fire Reach, Firesetters and school’s education programmes to raise awareness of the impact of fire related anti-social behaviour.
- Working with partners to develop joint strategies to reduce the risk posed by deliberate fire setting and to mitigate its impacts.

Monitor the effectiveness of reducing fire related anti-social behaviour by:

- Review the number and type of deliberate fire setting incidents within South Ayrshire
- Evaluate the effectiveness of our youth engagement programmes.

Achieve a reduction in fire related anti-social behaviour by:

- Diverting SFRS resources towards other community-based activities
- Protect the natural and built environment.

- Promote active and responsible citizenship across South Ayrshire communities
- Enabling our communities in feeling safe from crime, disorder, and danger.

During the lifespan of the South Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan, we did:

- Successfully develop and introduce a Deliberate Fire Reduction Strategy.
- Established a comprehensive monitoring framework where each antisocial behaviour (ASB) related deliberate fire incident is meticulously recorded, including its location. This information is then disseminated to partners for the initiation of collaborative, preventive initiatives via daily coordinated meetings.
- Expanded the number of Youth Volunteer Schemes across the region from one to two; thus, enhancing our capacity to work with young people.
- Hosted MCR Pathway mentoring events to increase the number of mentors available across the local authority area.
- Developed bespoke Fireskills and engagement programmes to support our joint ambitions within the South Ayrshire Wellbeing Alliance.
- Extended the reach of the SFRS by aligning local services to educational programmes delivered by Ayrshire College and South Ayrshire Council's Education Services.
- Enhanced access SFRS Community Fire Stations to enable educational establishments to further support young people with additional support needs.
- From 1 April 2020 onwards, the Ayrshire Area has successfully carried out numerous formal and informal engagements in schools, impacting and shaping the perspectives of thousands of young individuals. These sessions have particularly emphasised the risks and repercussions associated with deliberate fire setting. Notably, these initiatives have shown remarkable effectiveness around the Bonfire Night period each year, demonstrated by a steady decrease in incidents related to ASB and deliberate fire setting annually.

South Ayrshire – Local Fire and Rescue Plan Priority: Non-Domestic Fire Safety

Within the current South Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan, we said we would:

Seek to reduce the instances of fires within non-domestic property by:

- Undertaking our fire safety audit programme in accordance with the SFRS Enforcement Framework
- Engaging with duty holders to promote responsible fire safety management of premises that come under the auspices of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005
- Working in partnership to ensure the appropriate provision of fire safety standards are incorporated in new premises under construction or premises undergoing material changes.
- Working in partnership with other enforcement agencies and organisations to support legislative compliance.

Monitor the effectiveness of reducing fires in non-domestic premises by:

- Reviewing the number of fires in non-domestic premises and the type of premises involved
- in fire
- Reviewing the number and types of fire safety audits carried out across South Ayrshire
- Reviewing the outcome of fire safety audits carried out in non-domestic premises.

Achieve a reduction in fires within non-domestic premises by:

- Enable the industrial, commercial, and service sector to maintain business continuity and employment across South Ayrshire
- Reduce the potential for loss of life and injury.
- Protect South Ayrshire's culture and heritage.
- Protect the natural and built environment and reduce the impact of fire on our communities.

During the lifespan of the South Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan, we did:

- Development of a Local Fire Safety Enforcement Delivery Plan. This involves determining the risk level of premises through comprehensive on-site audits, which conclude with a Risk Rating Score.
- Created a Post Non-Domestic Incident Response Procedure. This aids Duty Holders in learning from incidents impacting local sectors such as the economy, care, health, and education.
- Organised engagement events for Duty Holders in the care home sector; aimed to enhance an understanding of non-compliance issues and foster strong relationships between the SFRS, Health and Social Care Partnership, and Care Commission.
- Enhanced the Local Area's database for unoccupied and derelict buildings. This measure is taken to protect the local built environment in South Ayrshire and minimise the visual impact on visitors.
- Implementation of Fire Safety Enforcement (FSE) Audits. These audits are conducted by either legislative Fire Protection or Auditing Officers (AO), who are both trained in enforcing the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006.
- Conducted Post Fire Audits on all relevant premises after a fire incident. These are short form FSE audits aimed at identifying immediate remedial actions and scheduling subsequent audits based on assessed risk.
- Achieved the highest performance levels for all Fire Safety Enforcement Teams in Scotland.

South Ayrshire – Local Fire and Rescue Plan Priority: Unintentional Harm and Injury

Within the current South Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan, we said we would:

Seek to reduce the instances of fire related anti-social behaviour by:

- Utilising our Home Fire Safety Visit programme to assess for non-fire related risk and refer those deemed at risk from injury and harm to partners to provide additional support.
- Raising awareness of fire and rescue service personnel as to those factors that increase the risk of unintentional injury or harm.
- Working in partnership to deliver targeted road safety programmes to young drivers.
- Focusing resources where demand has been identified and deliver key safety messages.

Monitor the effectiveness of reducing fire related anti-social behaviour by:

- Reviewing the number of requests for assistance from other agencies and for the provision
- of medical and first responder support.
- Reviewing the number of attendances at RTCs and the frequency and severity of injuries
- arising from RTCs.
- Reviewing the number of other non-fire related emergencies and the frequency and
- severity of injuries arising from these incidents.

Achieve a reduction in fire related anti-social behaviour by:

- Reduce the social and economic cost of unintentional harm and injury.
- Support vulnerable members within our communities to live independently within their communities.
- Ensure the safety and well-being of those living, working, and visiting South Ayrshire.

During the lifespan of the South Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan, we did:

- Worked closely with Community Planning, Justice, and Safety Partners to identify communities and locations exposed to risk related to unintentional injury and harm.
- Developed additional supporting referral pathways to enable partners to engage and communicate risk more frequently for those most vulnerable in our communities.
- Delivered training on the differing needs of local communities across Ayrshire.
- Supported the delivery of driver safety events to support young drivers across the South Ayrshire local authority area.
- Enhanced the skills of local crews through participation in United Kingdom Rescue Organisation competitions and development events.

South Ayrshire – Local Fire and Rescue Plan Priority: Operational Resilience

Within the current South Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan, we said we would:

Seek to ensure operational response and preparedness within South Ayrshire is maintained by:

- Identifying and assessing the risk to our communities through Operational Intelligence
- Gathering.
- Undertake planned training events to support the acquisition and maintenance of skills to
- provide the capability to respond to emergency incidents.
- Continuing with On Call/RDS firefighter recruitment campaigns to support operational responses across South Ayrshire.
- Review our operational responses to incidents to ensure ongoing firefighter safety and
- to ensure the ongoing protection our communities from harm.
- Work in partnership to plan, prepare and test our responses to major emergencies.
- Support and promoting the reduction of harm from 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests'
- Local Fire and Rescue Plan | South Ayrshire.

During the lifespan of the South Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan, we did:

- Supported the development of national fire and rescue service approaches to how we respond to high rise buildings.
- Gather and record schematics and risk information on ***** Ayrshire premises, which is easily accessible in real time by operational crews using handheld tablets.
- Ensured all our Firefighters maintain readiness by completing their annual training programme – the SFRS Training for Operational Competence (TFoC) framework.
- Ensured key risks in our area are covered by an effective operational response and devised On Call Supervisory Manger development sessions to manage performance in all South Ayrshire Local Community Fire Stations.
- Enhanced the number of flexible On Call Watch Commander support posts to support the availability on of on-call duty systems appliances in South Ayrshire.
- Implemented a Bank Workers scheme for on-call duty systems community fire stations serving the communities of Maybole, Girvan and Colmonnel.
- Worked closely with our partners in the Ayrshire Local Resilience Partnership (LRP) in both steady state activities and exercising to both fulfil our statutory obligations in relation to the preparation, planning, response and recovery from major incidents or events.
- Revised how we respond to false alarms in targeted relevant premises.
- Continued to test our operational response for Prestwick Airport, locations supporting the South Ayrshire rail network and other sites deemed to be cortical to the national infrastructure.

South Ayrshire – Local Fire and Rescue Plan Priority: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Within the current South Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan, we said we would:

Seek to reduce the instances of Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals by:

- Investigating every cause of alarm and engaging with those responsible for fire warning systems following an operational attendance at a UFAS incident.
- Analysing our UFAS attendances at those premises that give cause to frequent generation of false alarms to identify trends and support occupiers to develop demand reduction plans.
- Instigating, where required, formal fire safety enforcement measures to ensure appropriate.
- demand reduction action is taken by those responsible for premises generating unacceptable levels of false alarms.

Monitor the effectiveness of mobilising to Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals by:

- Reviewing the number of attendances at non-domestic premises and the type of premises
- generating unwanted false alarm signals across South Ayrshire
- Evaluating the outcomes of occupier's demand reduction plans to review progress and
- identify and share good practice.
- Reviewing our attendances at UFAS incidents to ensure our attendances are based on an
- assessment of risk and demand

Achieve a reduction in Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals by:

- Minimising the disruption to business and service continuity across South Ayrshire.
- Increase the capacity of the fire and rescue service to carry out other activities.
- Reduce the risk to firefighters and public whilst responding to UFAS incidents.

During the lifespan of the South Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan, we did:

- Delivered a series of workshops, in collaboration with the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce, focusing on strategies to reduce unwanted fire alarm signals across various types of properties.
- Conducted a comprehensive consultation on proposals to modify the SFRS's response approach to false alarms in relevant premises.
- Assisted businesses in preparing for the changes in the SFRS's response strategy to false alarms.
- Supported the implementation of the SFRS's alternative operational responses to false alarms.

Conclusion

The sections outlined above clearly illustrate how the SFRS, working in tandem with various partners, has skillfully navigated a range of challenges faced by communities, consistent with the objectives set forth in this local plan. Although not every area has witnessed quantifiable reductions, our statistics predominantly echo national trends. This reflects the extraordinary demands on Service Delivery during periods fraught with challenges, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, its subsequent recovery phase, and the recent economic difficulties.

The imperative to continue our efforts in these domains cannot be overemphasised, ensuring that the safety and well-being of our communities remain at the forefront of our strategic planning, policy development, and actions.

Additionally, the integral role of the SFRS within Community Planning, the Community Justice Partnership, and Local Resilience Partnerships should be recognised. Initiatives such as the Regional Growth Deal, Community Wealth Building, and Caring for Ayrshire present valuable opportunities to amalgamate the efforts of various organisations, thus significantly contributing to the enhancement and prosperity of our local communities.

For the upcoming South Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan, it is proposed that these identified priorities be advanced on principle, pending finalisation and comprehensive consultation.

- Domestic Fire Safety
- Unintentional Harm and Injury
- Deliberate Fire Setting
- Non-Domestic Fire Safety and Economic Growth
- Operational Resilience and Preparedness
- Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals