



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Item: 1

Police and Fire Sub-committee: 19 May 2026.

Performance against Orkney Fire and Rescue Plan.

Report by Local Senior Officer.

1. Overview

- 1.1. All matters concerning the scrutiny of and engagement with the Police and the Fire and Rescue Service in terms of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and the Fire (Scotland) Act 2025 respectively, fall within the remit of the Police and Fire Sub-committee.
- 1.2. The quarterly performance report, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, reflects the performance outcomes outlined within the Orkney Fire and Rescue Plan, and provides performance information for the period 1 January to 31 March 2026.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Sub-committee:
 - i. Scrutinise the statistical performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services, Orkney Islands area, for the period 1 January to 31 March 2026, detailed in the Quarterly Performance Report, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, in order to obtain assurance that progress is being made against the objectives.

For Further Information please contact:

David McGroarty, Group Commander for Orkney, Telephone 07961572722, Email david.mcgroarty@firescotland.gov.uk.

Implications of Report

1. **Financial:** None arising directly from this report.
2. **Legal:** None arising directly from this report.
3. **Corporate Governance:** Not applicable.
4. **Human Resources:** Not applicable.
5. **Equalities:** An Equality Impact Assessment is not required in respect of performance monitoring reports.
6. **Island Communities Impact:** An Island Communities Impact Assessment is not required in respect of performance monitoring.
7. **Links to Council Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:
 - Growing our economy.
 - Strengthening our Communities.
 - Developing our Infrastructure.
 - Transforming our Council.
8. **Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:
 - Cost of Living.
 - Sustainable Development.
 - Local Equality.
 - Improving Population Health.
9. **Environmental and Climate Risk:** Not applicable.
10. **Risk:** Not applicable.
11. **Procurement:** Not applicable.
12. **Health and Safety:** Not applicable.
13. **Property and Assets:** Not applicable.
14. **Information Technology:** Not applicable.
15. **Cost of Living:** Not applicable.

List of Background Papers

Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Orkney.

Appendix

Appendix 1: Quarterly Performance Report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2026.



Orkney Islands

2025-26 Q4

Scrutiny Report



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

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ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Orkney Islands

2025-26 Q4

Scrutiny Report

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About the statistics within this report

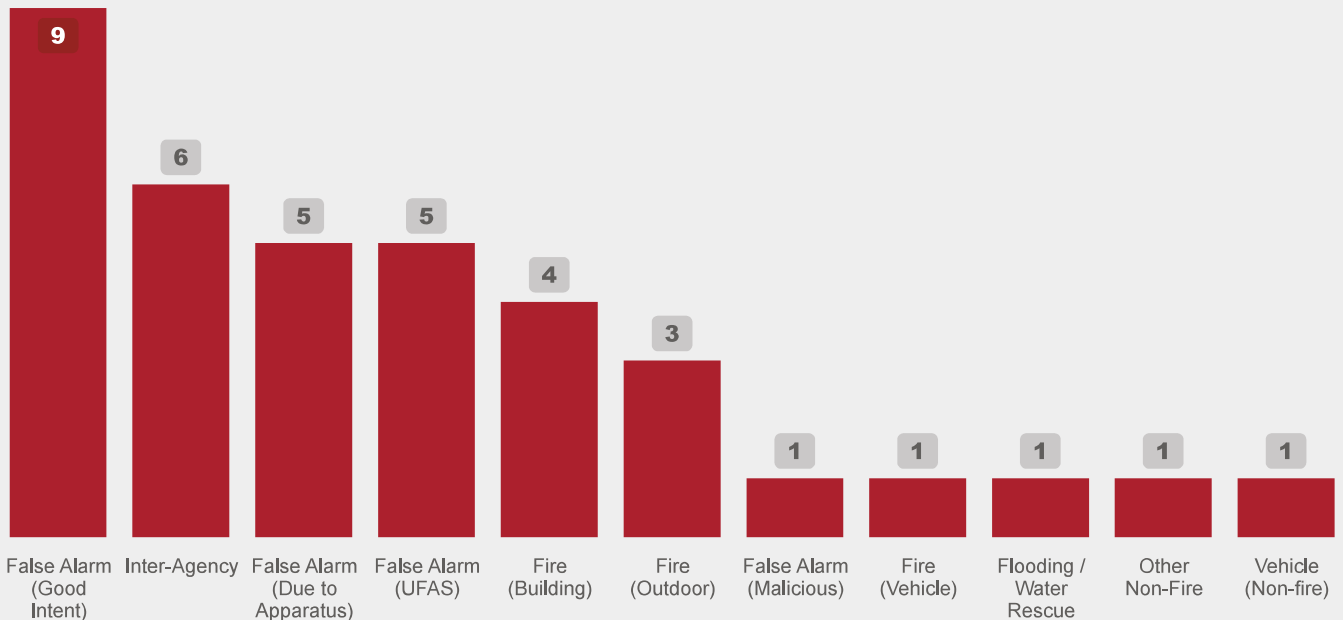
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference in the period totals quoted in our reports after local publication which result from revisions or additions to the data in our systems. The Scottish Government publishes official statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

1. Summary

2025-26 Q4

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  37 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes) |  8 Fires |  9 Non-Fire Incidents |  20 False Alarms |  5 UFAS |
|  0 People Rescued by Firefighters |  2 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires) |  0 Fire Fatalities |  0 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire) |  0 Non-Fire Fatalities |
|  33 Home Fire Safety Visits |  12 Fire Safety Audits | | | |

Top 10 Incident Types



The information above provides a summary of the three-months (1 January – 31 March 2026) activity against headline indicators.

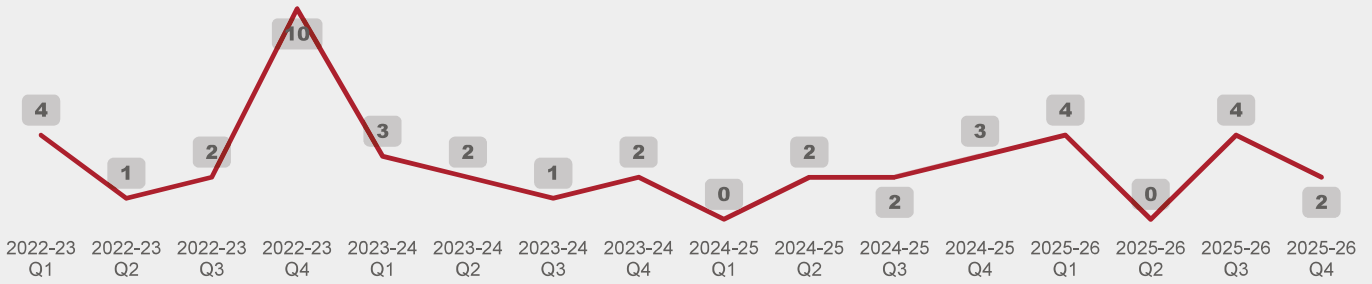
It aims to provide an at a glance view of our performance during the current reporting period.

Activity has been within the operational capacity of our Orkney based resources.

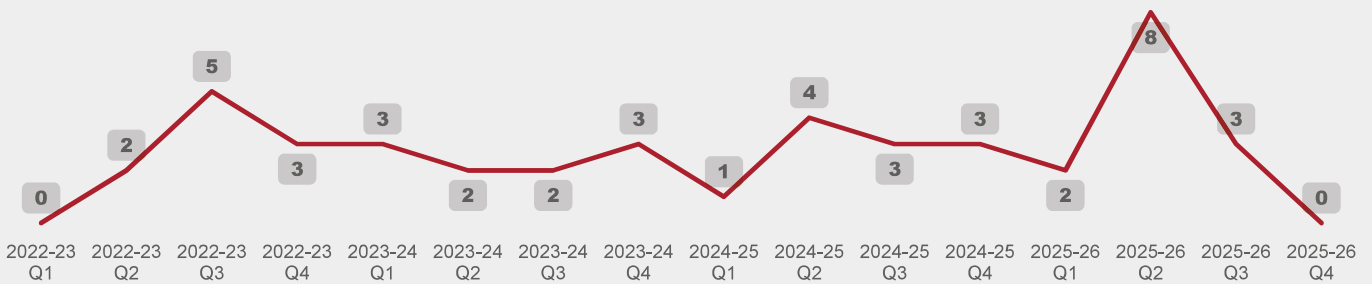
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

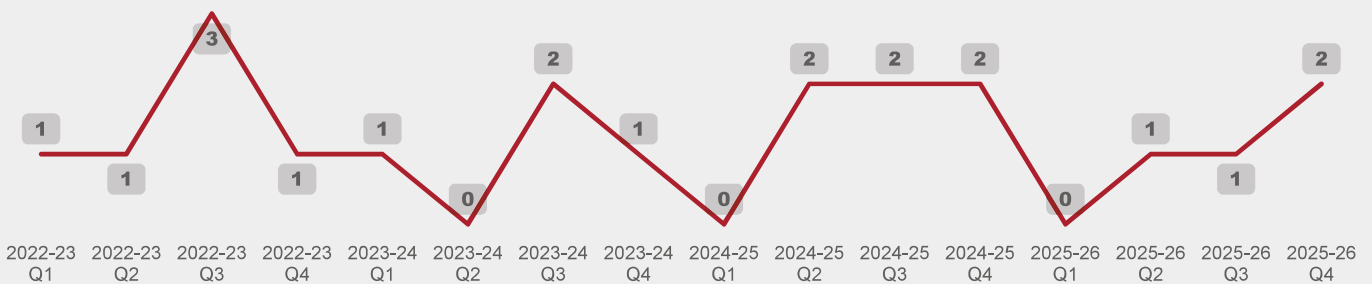
Accidental Dwelling Fires



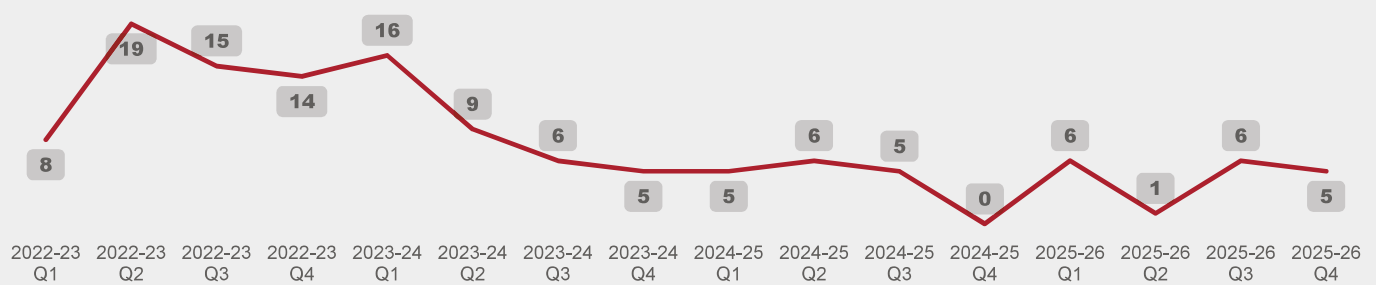
Deliberate Fires



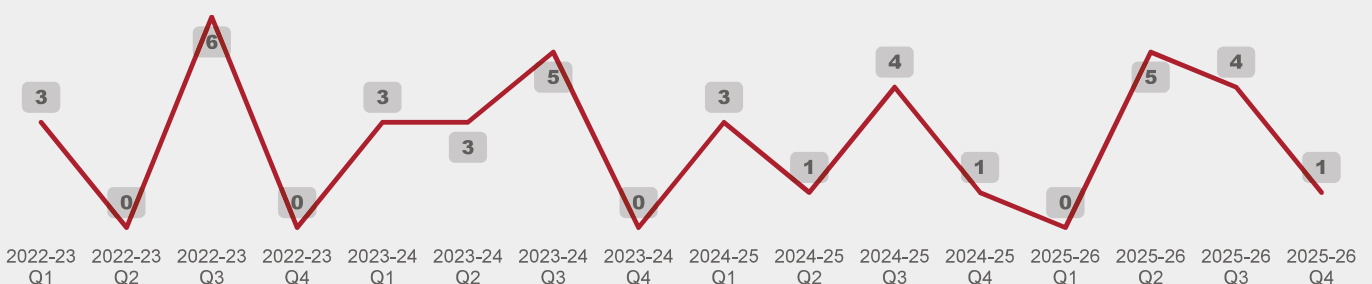
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



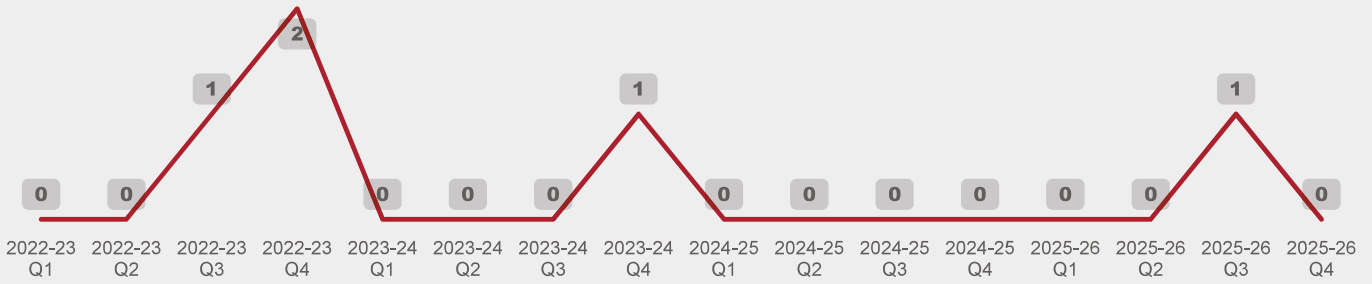
Road Traffic Collisions



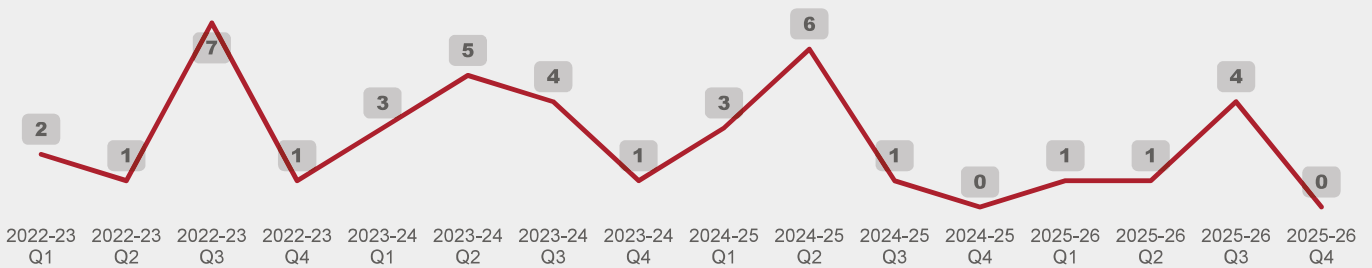
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

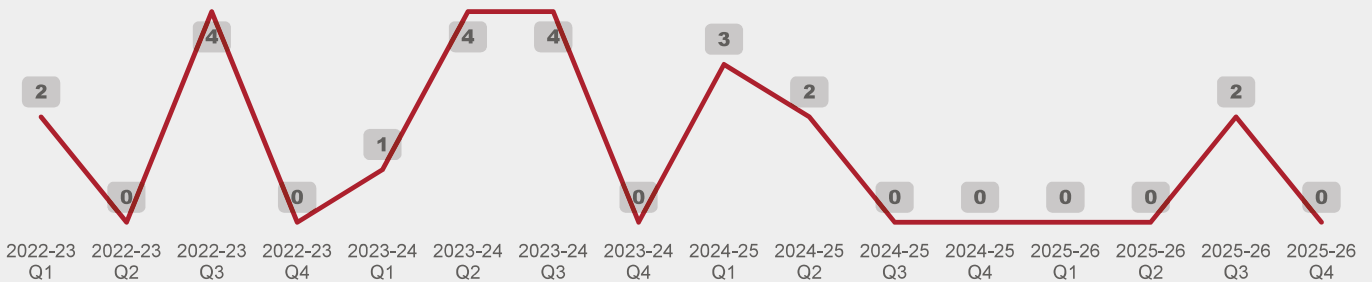
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



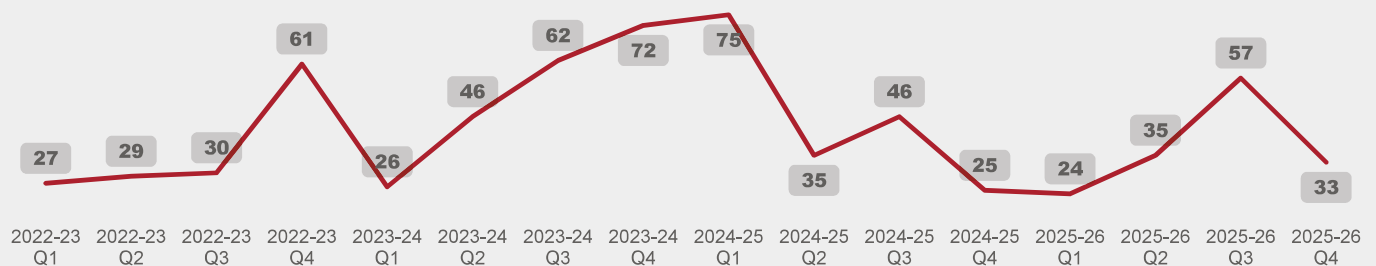
Non-Fire Casualties



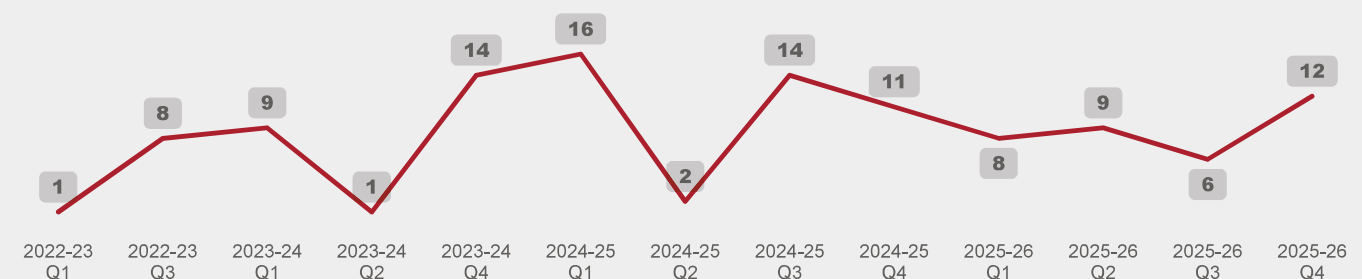
Road Traffic Collision Casualties



Home Fire Safety Visits



Fire Safety Audits



3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

2025-26 Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



| Extent of Damage | Incidents |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Limited to item 1st ignited | 1 |
| Limited to room of origin | 1 |

Incidents by Ward



Source of Ignition (Top 10)



2

Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

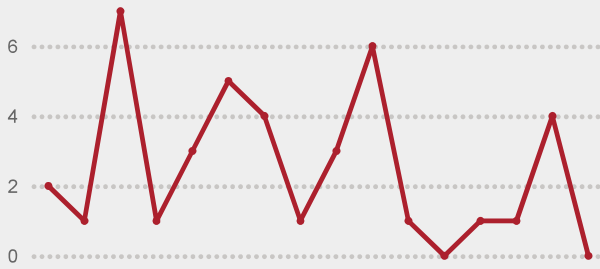
During this reporting period there were **2 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)** which is a reduction from the previous reporting period and well within a tolerable threshold.

We continuously monitor local and national trends in order to provide members of the public with the most relevant and up to date home fire safety advice.

5. Non-Fire Casualties

2025-26 Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward

Nature of Injury/Cause of Death | Casualties

0

Non-Fatal
Casualties

0

Fatal
Casualties

0

People
Rescued by
Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given
at Scene



0

Hospital Slight
Injuries



0

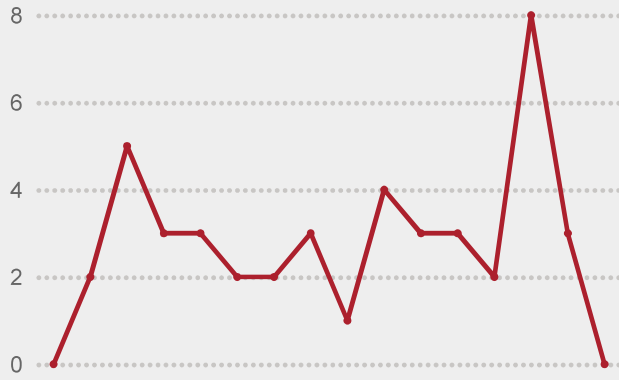
Hospital Serious
Injuries

There were 0 ADF Fatalities for this reporting period.

6. Deliberate Fires

2025-26 Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward

Property Type

Incident

0

**Deliberate Fires
in this period**

Hour of Day

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

There were **0 Deliberate Fires** for this period. Orkney has benefited from very low activity in comparison to other regions of Scotland.

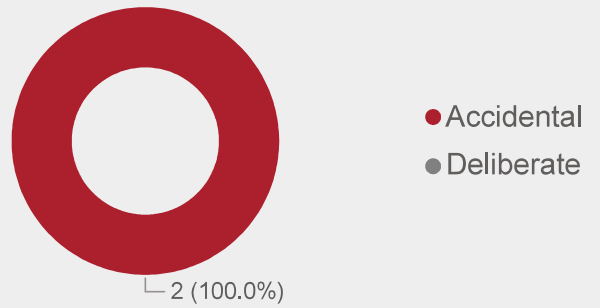
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

| Property Type | Incidents |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Permanent Agricultural | 2 |

Incidents by Ward



2

Non-Domestic Fires in this period

Extent of Damage

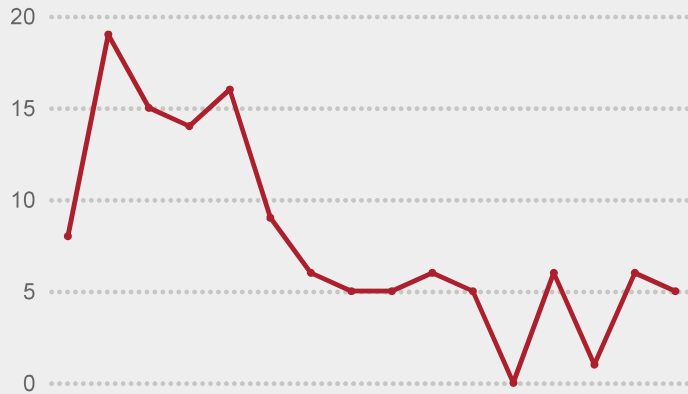


During this period there have been **2 Non-Domestic Fires** both located within agricultural / livestock settings. Post-Fire auditing

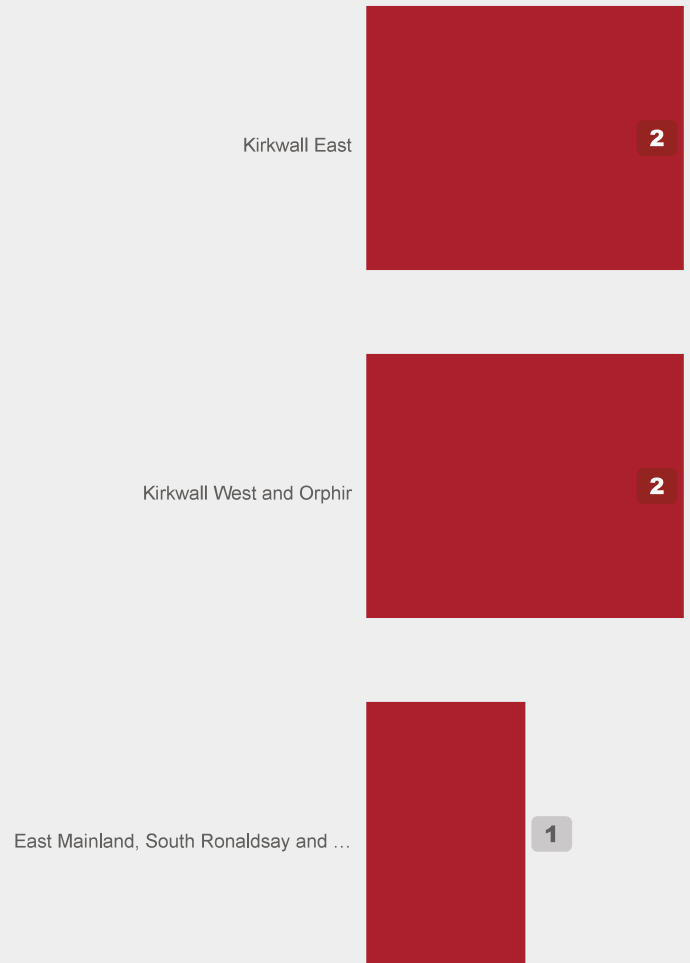
8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2025-26 Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

| Property Type | Incidents |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Other Residential Home | 2 |
| Nurses'/Doctors' accommodation | 1 |
| Public admin, security and safety | 1 |
| Religious | 1 |

5

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

There were **5 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during this period, which is a slight decrease to the previous reporting period.

The figures for UFAS continue to remain low following the Service's change to our attendance at commercial businesses and workplace premises.

9. Road Traffic Collisions

2025-26 Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



1

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

| Property Type | Incidents |
|---------------|-----------|
| Car | 1 |

| Incident Type | Incidents |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Vehicle (Non-fire) | 1 |

Incidents by Ward



0
Non-Fatal
Casualties

0
Fatal
Casualties

0
People
Rescued by
Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

 0
First Aid Given
at Scene

 0
Hospital Slight
Injuries

 0
Hospital Serious
Injuries

This reporting period saw only 1 Road Traffic Collision of minimal consequence. 0 Casualties and 0 Fatalities from RTCs.

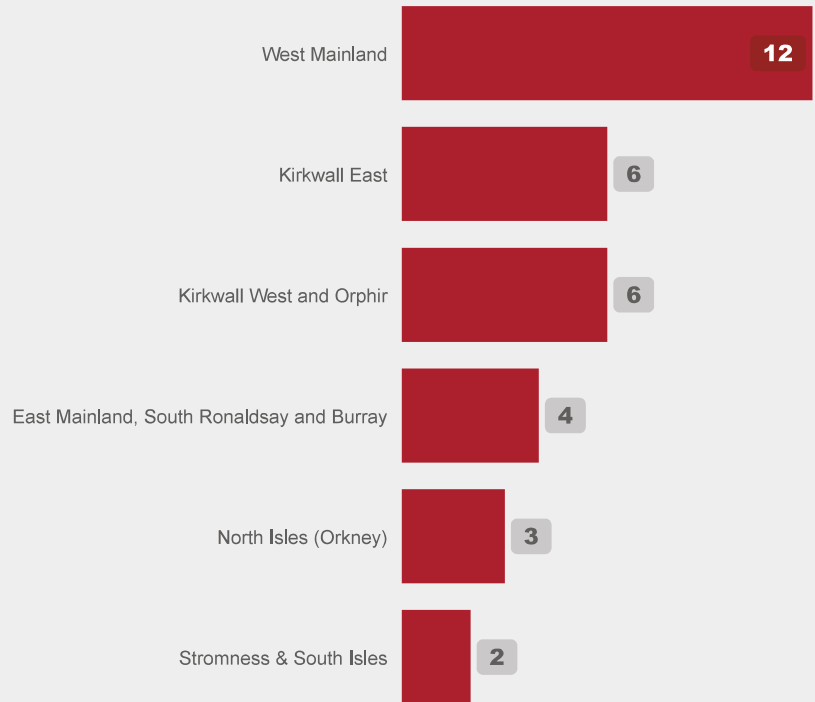
10. Home Fire Safety Visits

2025-26 Q4

HFSVs by Ward

33

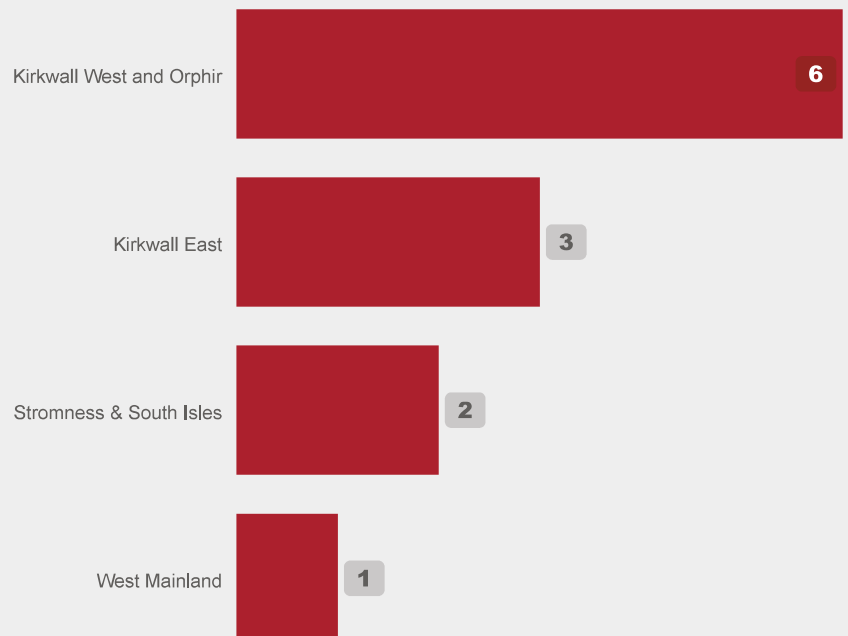
Home Fire
Safety Visits



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

| Job Type | Count |
|----------|-------|
| Audit | 12 |

Audits by Ward



There were **33 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs)** undertaken by our personnel during this period.

We continue to work with partners and referring agencies to target those at most need and vulnerable to harm within our communities.

Orkney Resource Availability

Across Orkney we have 14 On-Call Rescue Appliances operating from 12 Community Fire Stations and are crewed by 104 operational personnel.

The average availability for our resources, outside of our known dormant location, is 88.77%.

Availability and response to incidents can also be bolstered via our Joint mobilising Principles. On occasions where stations are below the requisite skill levels, joint mobilising of resources is also utilised across some locations to support operational availability. Our Operations Control Room has built in protocols and action plans in place for the mobilisation of resources to remote island locations.

Our full staffing compliment is comprised of:

- 104 x Station Based Personnel
- 2 x Wholetime On-Call Watch Commanders
- 1 x Wholetime On-Call Crew Commander
- 1 x Wholetime Community Safety Advocate
- 1 x Part-time Fire Safety Auditing Officer
- 2 x Station Commanders, 1 x Group Commander and 1 x Area Commander
- In addition to the above Orkney is supported through national structures in the provision of additional Instructional Staff and Business Support Functions.

Focus on youth engagement

FireSkills is delivered at a local fire station by specially trained Fire and Rescue personnel. The flexible programme uses adapted Firefighter training activities to support young people develop their core skills. The activities can be adapted to provide a unique learning experience for young people. These activities include:

- problem solving
- basic first aid and CPR
- team working and team leading
- confidence and communication
- citizenship skills
- an understanding of the contribution that the SFRS and other agencies make to our communities

The programme consists of a range of individual sessions that can be bolted together to provide a course ranging from 2.5 hours to 40 hours.

FireSkills will usually take place during school hours, however, subject to local agreement it can be delivered at weekends or in the evening.

FireSkills Employability Award (FEA)

The FireSkills Employability Award provides formal recognition of the young people's achievements. In partnership with Ayrshire College, key sessions have been credit levelled on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) to provide 4 credits at level 4. This enables learners to:

- Add an accredited qualification to their portfolio which can support applications for employment or further or higher education.
- Identify transferrable skills and recognise prior learning for further education and employment opportunities










The FEA is designed to suit a wide range of learners. There are no pre-requisites for entry on to the programme. Because of the delivery level this programme would be best suited for those 14 years and over. Set criteria for the programme must be adhered to. All the learning outcomes must be undertaken and successfully achieved.

FireSkills future development

SFRS Personnel in Sanday have agreed to sign up to training to become future FireSkills instructors and will be given enhanced safeguarding and guidance on delivering the very first North Isles FireSkills course. This is a big step forward in being able to offer Isles based young people that opportunity to participate in what has become a very successful and life changing course.

Our next step is developing a bespoke FireSkills programme for the Young Farmers. It is hoped that we can develop a complimentary course that fits in with all of the excellent work that the Young Farmers engage in.

Spring Community Safety Thematic Action Plan 16th February – 31st May

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| | |  | K07 Promote water safety. |
|  | K01 Reduce fire-related anti-social behaviour and the number of deliberate primary and secondary fires. |  | K08 Promote road safety. |
|  | K02 (a) Reduce the number of outdoor fires involving grass/ heather/heathland and/or forested areas. (b) Reduce the number of wildfires. |  | K09 Promote Lithium-Ion Battery Safety. |
|  | K03 Reduce the number of fires in derelict/unoccupied buildings. | | |
|  | K04 Reduce the number of fires involving refuse/rubbish. | | |
|  | K05 Increased safety of commercial and public premises | | |
|  | K06 Increased Staycation awareness: (a) Promote fire safety within seasonal sleeping risks - caravan/ camping sites. (b) Promote fire safety within seasonal sleeping risks - hotels, guest houses/boarding houses, holiday centres and AirBnB type accommodation (Holiday Lets). | | |

14. Glossary of Terms

Term - What it means

ADF

Accidental Dwelling Fire.

HFSV

Home Fire Safety Visit.

PDIR

Post Domestic Incident Response, a term used to indicate actions taken following attendance at a fire or other incident in the home. PDIRs include amongst things the offer of a free follow up home fire safety visit.

RTC

Road Traffic Collision.

Special Service

Calls to incidents which are not fires or false alarms such as RTCs, rescues, flooding, incidents involving hazardous materials or the provision of assistance to other agencies.

UFAS

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. When an automatic fire detection and alarm system is activated as a result of anything other than an actual fire the activation is classed as a false alarm. If an attendance is made to such an event by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, then the event is recorded as an UFAS incident.

UFAS Policy Change

In response to COVID, on the 6th May 2020, the SFRS decided to send 1 pump to UFAS premises that did not have their own Predetermined attendance (PDA).

As of 1st July 2023, the COVID interim 1 pump response was ended and a new UFAS policy was implemented.

The new policy is to call challenge all UFAS incidents with the intention of non-attendance. Hospitals, care homes, and sleeping risk premises are all exempt and receive either 2 pumps or their premise specific PDA.



SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

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BUSINESS
INTELLIGENCE

Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.