

Agenda item	5
Report no	RC/037/19

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Ross and Cromarty Committee

Date: 21 October 2019

Report title: Scottish Fire and Rescue Committee Performance Report for Q1 and Q2 of 2019

Report by: Local Senior Officer for Highland

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Ross and Cromarty Committee Members on progress against the priorities outlined in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Committee Plan for Ross and Cromarty 2019-2020.

Priority areas are identified through a range of Intervention, Prevention and Protection activities which are delivered through partnership to reduce the risk to the communities of Ross and Cromarty.

The report also contains previously agreed information and performance data as requested by Area Committees.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Committee Members are invited to **comment on** and **scrutinise** the attached Ross and Cromarty Performance Report.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Not applicable.

4. **Ross and Cromarty SFRS Performance Report**

4.1 The attached performance report provides the current figures for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2019/20 from the central Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) performance management database against the key indicators and timelines of previous reports.

4.2 In achieving the priorities within the Local Committee Plan for Ross and Cromarty 2019-2020 a number of activities are being progressed including: the delivery of free home fire safety visits (HFSVs) and post domestic incident response (PDIR) aimed at reducing dwelling house fires. SFRS continues to play an active part in the delivery of partnership safety initiatives and the reduction of fire-related antisocial behaviour through targeted youth engagement activities and thematic action plans.

4.3 **Operational Incidents**

Analysis of the detail behind the performance report for the Ross and Cromarty area shows mixed outcomes across the performance indicators during Q1 and Q2 2019-20 when compared with the previous reporting periods. However, it must be emphasised that the baseline figures for some indicators are very low and this can make meaningful statistical analysis challenging.

- a. The occurrence of twelve (12) Accidental Dwelling Fires attended by SFRS in Q1 and Q2 of 2019/20 is a decrease of eleven (11) on the twenty-three (23) attended in Q3 and Q4 of 2018/19.

Analysis of these domestic fires identifies: two (2) incidents where damage was limited to the item first ignited; three (3) where damage was contained to room of origin; four (4) where damage was limited to the floor of origin; one (1) where damage extended to whole building.

Of the twelve (12) fires: four (4) required no form of intervention by SFRS crews; one (1) only involved removal of an item from a heat source; five (5) were extinguished using a Hosereel jet; one (1) was extinguished using a main jet; and one (1) was extinguished by smothering using a fire blanket.

These statistics suggest that the dwelling fires were detected at a very early stage and is testament to the success of SFRS domestic fire prevention activities and the swift response from SFRS crews to contain the fires.

- b. During Q1 and Q2 of 2019/20 SFRS attended no Accidental Dwelling Fires in the Ross and Cromarty area which led to fatalities or Fire Casualties. This continues the pleasing current trend.
- c. There were thirty-eight (38) Deliberate Fires attended by SFRS during Q1 and Q2. These fires included: thirteen (13) that were set by the owner of the property; five (5) with undetermined ownership; and twenty (20) that were known to be set by persons who did not own the property.

Detailed analysis identifies that: nineteen (19) were wildfires; six (6) were refuse fires; and 10 (10) involved buildings; two (2) involved wheelie bins and one (1) involved garden equipment.

Sixteen (16) deliberate fires occurred within the Cromarty Firth ward; fourteen (14) in Dingwall and Seaforth; and seven (7) in Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh.

SFRS has been working with a number of key partner agencies to tackle the spike in wilful fire raising within the Cromarty Firth ward. Ongoing activity to address broader anti-social behaviour issues is continuing throughout the area.

- d. SFRS attended thirty-one (31) Special Service Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) during Q1 and Q2 of 2019/20. Of those incidents attended: fifteen (15) only required crews to make vehicles or the scene safe; three (3) required medical assistance; eight (8) required extrication of casualties; two (2) involved no action and two (2) involved giving advice.

Three (3) of the RTCs occurred within the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh ward; twelve (12) in Dingwall and Seaforth; five (5) in Cromarty Firth; and eleven (11) in Tain and Easter Ross.

- e. A total of eighty-one (81) occurrences of Unwanted False Alarm Signals (UFAS) were attended by SFRS during Q1 and Q2 in the Ross and Cromarty area. This represents a decrease of thirteen (13) incidents from the ninety-four (94) incidents which occurred in the previous six months.

Detailed analysis has identified that UFAS incidents were dispersed over fifty (50) premises. This is an increase of two (2) than in the previous six months. Twenty (20) premises produced more than one UFAS occurrence and these accounted for (50) of the total incidents attended. No premises generated sufficient repeated UFAS to reach the trigger point for additional SFRS intervention.

SFRS continues to work with the responsible person for each premise which generates repeated false alarms. The aim is to prevent the reoccurrence of this type of incident by advising on equipment and its effective management.

4.4 **Station Crewing Levels**

SFRS continues to actively deliver and refine its Retained Duty System (RDS) recruitment and training processes to meet national and local needs. Key stations and communities are targeted across the Ross and Cromarty area. SFRS promotes campaigns within partner agencies, through local media and key community contacts. Continued local area support is requested for recruitment in the following communities:

- Achiltibuie
- Aultbea
- Applecross
- Dingwall
- Fortrose
- Glenelg
- Invergordon
- Kinlochewe
- Lochcarron

Date: 21 October 2019

Author: **Station Commander Ricky Dibble**

Attachment: Highland – Ross and Cromarty Committee - Performance Report