

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>4.</b>
<b>Report no</b>	<b>CC/01/24</b>

## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Caithness Committee  
**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
**Report Title:** Scottish Fire and Rescue Area Committee Performance Report  
**Report By:** Local Senior Officer for Highland

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Caithness Area Committee Members on progress against the priorities outlined in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Committee Plan for Caithness.
- 1.2 Priority areas are identified through a range of Intervention, Prevention and Protection activities which are delivered in partnership to reduce the risk to the communities of Caithness.
- 1.3 The report also contains previously agreed information and performance as requested by Area Committees.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee are invited to **comment on**, and **scrutinise** the attached Area Performance Report.

### 3. Caithness Area Committee Performance Report

- 3.1 The attached performance report provides the current figures for Quarter 3 of 2023/24 and from the previous four reporting years from the central Scottish

Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) performance management database against the Key Performance Indicators and timelines from previous reports.

- 3.2 In achieving the priorities within the Area Plan for Caithness numerous prevention activities are being progressed:

Operational On-Call Retained Duty System (RDS) and Volunteer Duty System (VDS) Crews and Community Safety Advocates (CSAs) facilitate the delivery of Free Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) and Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR). Both of which are aimed at reducing accidental dwelling fires proactively and following attendance at incidents.

Local crews are supporting community safety initiatives throughout the area, including the reduction of fire-related antisocial behaviour through engagement activities and thematic action plans.

Our local CSAs and crews have been proactive in co-ordinating local multi-agency initiatives in Caithness with the aim of engaging with young people targeting inequalities and employability issues.

In addition, during the reporting period, SFRS personnel ran another very successful Fire skills Program engaging young people in Thurso, with an additional two currently being planned for 2024.

### **3.3 Operational Incidents**

It must be emphasised that the baseline figures for some of the indicators within the report are very low and this can make meaningful statistical analysis challenging. The low figures can also make it inappropriate to provide detailed data analysis which could compromise personal information.

The performance report shows nine incidents occurred in Caithness, which have been recorded as Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF), Fire Fatalities, Fire Casualties and or Deliberate Fires.

Analysis of these incidents show that 3 accidental fires occurred in a domestic setting, and 2 deliberate fires occurring within the non-domestic setting.

There were no accidental fire casualties or fatalities during the reporting period.

There were 6 Road Traffic Collisions occurred in this reporting period.

10 UFAS incidents were attended in this reporting period.

SFRS implemented the Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) [UFAS Incident Procedure](#) on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, following our previous [public consultation](#).

SFRS remain proactive in prevention and protection activities, particularly during the reporting period. Partnership working with initiatives such as the Caithness Cares Group are progressing to address these potential issues and provide mitigating support mechanisms.

Caithness crews will continue to work in partnership with the clear aim of seeking to eliminate all incident types through preventative work and targeted engagement with partners.

Crews also undertake Operational Intelligence (OI) visits to higher risk premises to gather vital information on the hazards and risks which significantly benefit firefighter, partner and public safety and can greatly improve operational response.

### 3.4 Station Crewing Levels

SFRS continues to actively deliver and refine its On-Call RDS/VDS recruitment and training processes to meet national and local requirements. Key stations and communities are targeted across the Caithness 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:

- Dunbeath
- Lybster Community Response Unit (CRU)

**Designation:** Local Senior Officer for Highland

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Author:** Station Commander Gary Cringles

**Background Papers:** Highland – Caithness Area Committee - Performance Report



## CAITHNESS COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

### DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.



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**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**  
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**QUARTER 3  
OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2023**

## **ABOUT THE STATISTICS IN THIS REPORT**

The key performance indicators (KPIs) have been extracted from the suite of KPIs contained within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Framework Document 2013.







<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00416181.pdf>

The KPIs also represent the main priority areas for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, identified by elected members and communities during the ward consultation sessions in 2013 as;

- Reducing accidental dwelling house fires and the resultant fatalities and casualties
- Reducing deliberate fires
- Reducing road traffic collisions
- Reducing the number of attendances to unwanted fire alarm signals (false alarms)

## PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The table below provides a summary of the three months (1 October – 31 December 2023) activity and year to date (YTD) progress, based on annual targets set against headline indicators. It aims to provide – at a glance – our direction of travel during the current reporting year.

<b>Q3: All Incidents Attended – 58</b>		
<b>Accident Dwelling Fires (ADF)</b> 	<b>ADF Fatal Casualties</b> 	<b>ADF Non Fatal Casualties</b> 
<b>Q3 – 3 incidents</b> <b>YTD – 8 incidents</b>	<b>Q3 – 0</b> <b>YTD – 0</b>	<b>Q3 – 0</b> <b>YTD – 1</b>
<b>All Deliberate Fires</b> 	<b>Road Traffic Collisions (RTC)</b> 	<b>Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals</b> 
<b>Q3 – 2 incidents</b> <b>YTD – 11 incidents</b>	<b>Q3 – 6 incidents</b> <b>YTD – 16 incidents</b>	<b>Q3 – 10 incidents</b> <b>YTD – 30 incidents</b>

## PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

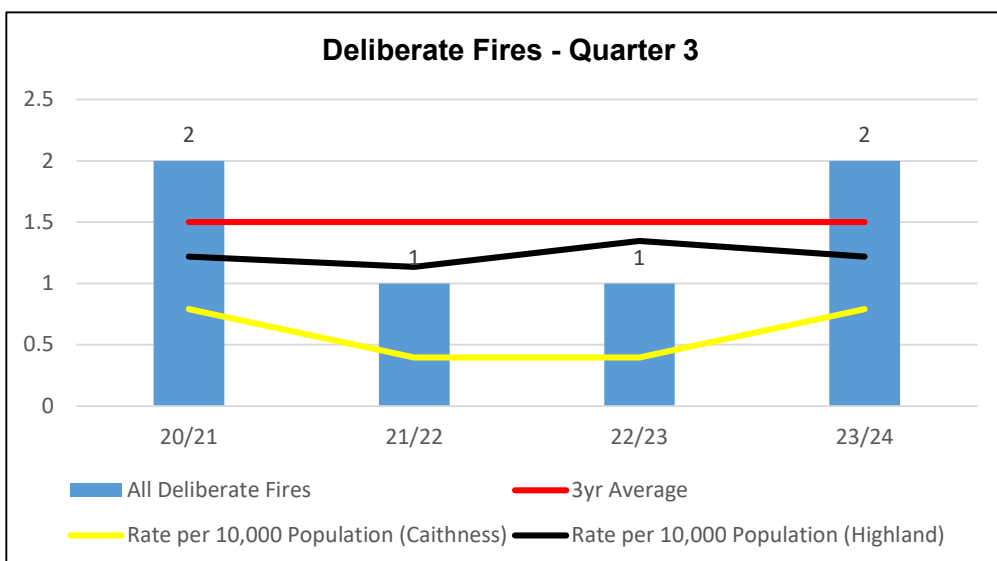
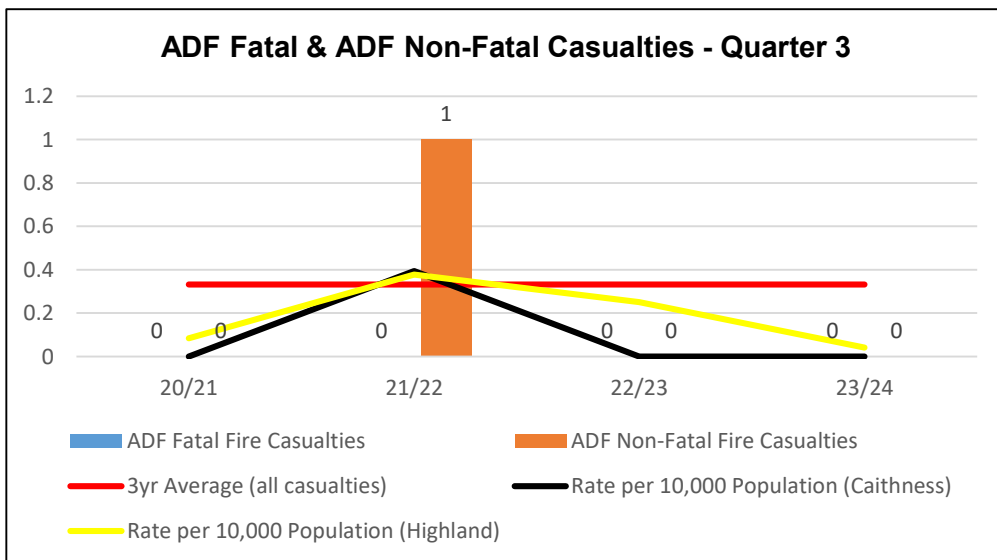
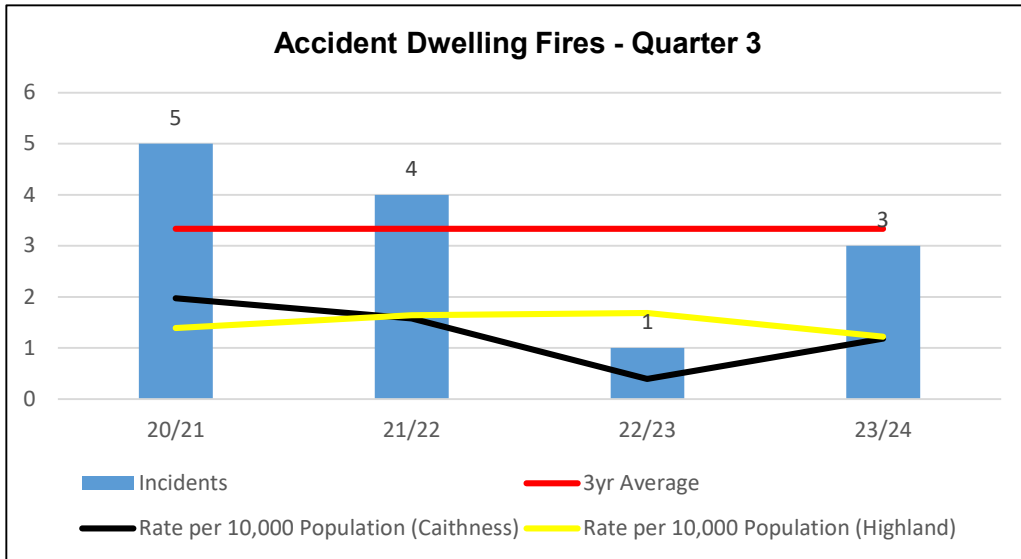
Of the 6 KPIs, the following performance should be noted for the three-month period 1 October to 31 December 2023

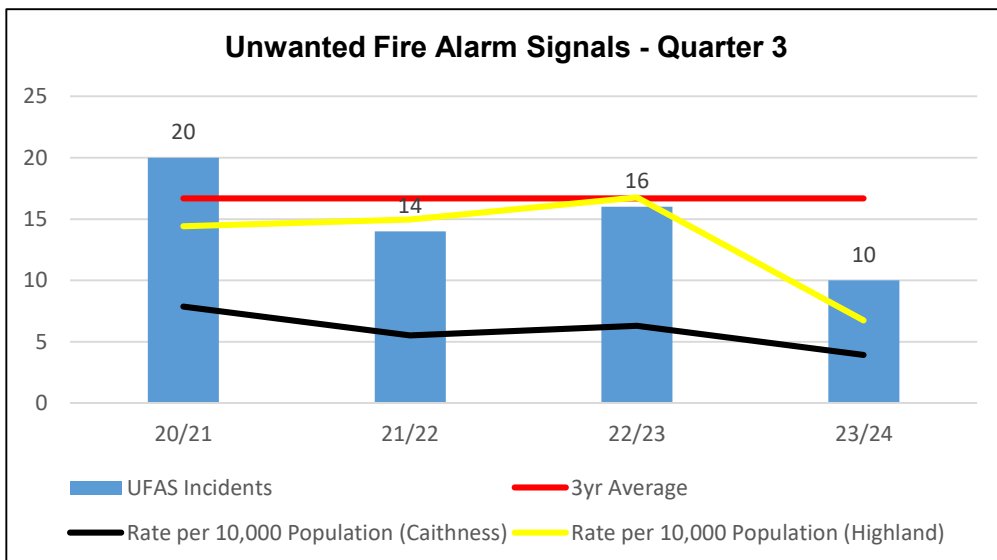
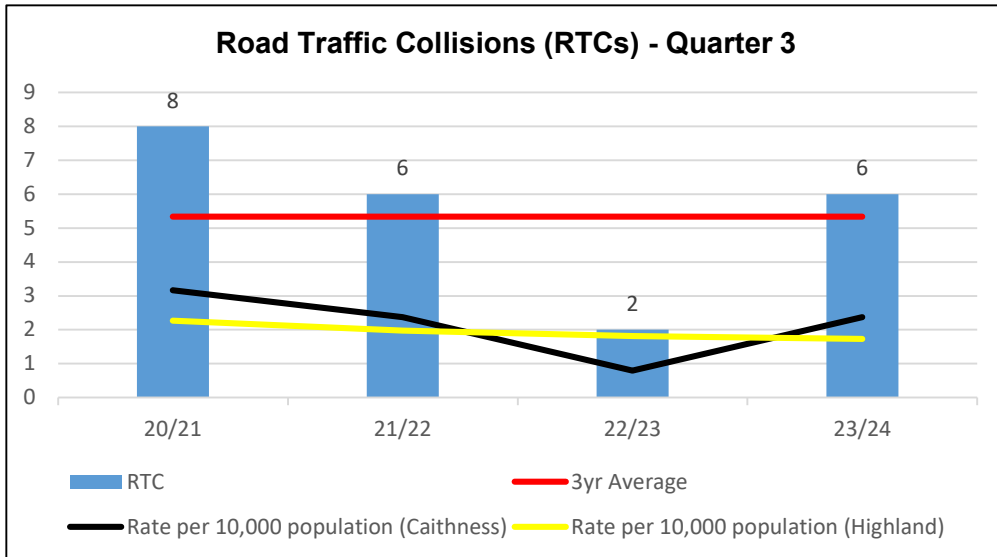
- There were **3 Accident Dwelling Fires (ADF)** which is below the 3-year average. The majority are classed as low severity, requiring little or no intervention from the Service and minimal fire damage. There were **0 ADF Fatalities**, and **0 ADF Casualties**. All ADF's are offered Home Fire Safety Visits and agency referrals where required.
- There was **2 Deliberate Fires**, which was one Deliberate Primary Fire and one Deliberate Secondary Fire which is above the average. Referrals are made to other agencies for those at work within our communities.
- We attended **6 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is above average. There was sadly one RTC Related Fatalities and two RTC Related Injuries. Our Prevention teams are working with partner agencies through the Highland Road Safety group, Older driver Virtual Reality Scheme and Road Safety Scheme for new drivers.
- We attended **10 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** showing a decrease. From 1 July 2023, we have stopped attending AFA call outs to commercial business and workplace premises, such as factories, offices, shops and leisure facilities unless a fire has been confirmed. Our control room operators now ask anyone who reports a fire alarm to check whether there is an actual fire or signs of fire, before sending the nearest fire appliance. This does not apply to sleeping premises, such as hospitals, care homes, hotels or domestic dwellings who will receive the full pre-determined attendance (PDA). This change follows the SFRS public consultation in 2021.

For more information please visit:

[Scottish Fire & Rescue Service: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals \(UFAS\) \(firescotland.gov.uk\)](https://firescotland.gov.uk)







## Station Establishment and Availability

- 6 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 4 Stations
- 1 x On-Call Volunteer Duty System vehicles / Community Response Units across 1 Stations

These Stations served the Caithness population.

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

Station	Oct-Dec 2023 Availability %	Male	Female	Staff
Dunbeath	54.50%	7	0	7
John O'Groats	56.34%	9	0	9
Lybster (CRU)	N/A	5	1	6
Thurso – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance	99.71%	16	2	18
Thurso – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance	40.94%			
Wick – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance	99.04%	17	0	17
Wick – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance	68.07%			