

Agenda Item	3
Report No	CC/01/25

## The Highland Council

**Committee:** Caithness Area Committee

**Date:** 20/1/25

**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.

### 2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to comment on and scrutinise the attached Area Performance Report.

### 3 Implications

3.1 **Resource** - There are no implications arising from this report

3.2 **Legal** - There are no implications arising from this report

3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)** - There are no implications arising from this report

3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** - There are no implications arising from this report

3.5 **Risk** - There are no implications arising from this report

3.6 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – There are no implications arising from this report

3.7 **Gaelic** - There are no implications arising from this report

### 4 Caithness Area Committee Performance Report

4.1 The attached performance report provides the figures for Quarters one and two which covers the six-month period between 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The tables also identify the three-year average, as well as comparison between Caithness and Highland per 10,000 population from the central Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) performance management database against the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) and timelines from previous reports.

4.2 In achieving priorities within the Area Plan, work is ongoing within our current Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) framework as we move towards the implementation of a new system which will significantly increase information sharing between partner agencies and ensure our resources are targeted towards the most vulnerable in our communities. Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR) are routinely carried out at all domestic incidents regardless of type which are aimed at reducing accidental dwelling house fires following our attendance.

Local crews are continually 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 within the area, with further courses being planned for 2025.

## 5 Operational Incidents

5.1 It must be emphasised that the report is now over a six-month period, which will allow a more accurate analysis of the figures for comparison against previous Quarters. The following summaries will also break down the content into additional reporting headings which will allow for more specific comparisons to be made against the 13 KPI's.

The figures which are low in comparison to other districts, also make it inappropriate to provide more detailed data analysis which could compromise personal information.

Of the 13 KPIs, the following performance should be noted for the six-month period 1 April to 30 September 2024.

- There were **10 Accident Dwelling Fires (ADF)** which is above 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 **2 ADF Casualties**. All ADF's are offered Home Fire Safety Visits and agency referrals where required.
- There was **12 Deliberate Fires**, which is average. There were **2 Deliberate Primary Fires** and **9 Deliberate Secondary Fires**. Referrals are made to other agencies for those at work within our communities.
- There were **2 Non-Domestic Building Fires** which is below the average.
- We attended **5 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)**. There was **0 RTC Related Fatalities** and **0 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 **12 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** showing a significant 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.
- Our Community Safety Advocates and Station personnel undertook **115 Home Fire Safety Visits**. The majority targeted the most at risk in our communities.

## **6 Station Crewing Levels**

- 6.1 SFRS continues to actively deliver and refine its On-Call RDS/VDS recruitment and training processes to meet national and local requirements. Recruitment and Retention is constantly being promoted within all areas of Caithness utilising local crews, banner advertising, leaflet drops, partner agencies, third-sector groups, local employers, and other key community contacts.

Designation: Local Senior Officer for Highland

Date: 20/1/25

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.



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

**Working together  
for a safer Scotland**

**QUARTERS 1 & 2  
1 APRIL – 30 SEPTEMBER  
2024**

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

The activity totals and other statistics quoted in this report 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 differences in the period totals quoted in our reports after original publication which result from revisions or additions to the data on our systems.

From 2015-16 onwards responsibility for the publication of end-year statistical data transferred from the Scottish Government to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). This change of responsibility does not change the status of the figures quoted in this and other SFRS reports reported to the Committee.

## INTRODUCTION

The 6-monthly monitoring report covers the SFRS's performance and activities in support of the seven priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Highland:

- Priority 1 – Domestic Fire Safety
- Priority 2 – Unintentional Harm
- Priority 3 – Non-Fire Emergencies
- Priority 4 – Deliberate Fire Setting
- Priority 5 – Non-Domestic Fire Safety
- Priority 6 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
- Priority 7 – Operational Resilience and Preparedness














As well as supporting the seven priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Highland, this monitoring report shows how SFRS activities and performance contribute to the wider priorities of the Highland Council Community Planning Partnership (CPP), as set out in the Highland Community Plan.

The figures in this report are provisional, to provide the Committee with the SFRS's direction of travel in the Highland area, in terms of performance against headline indicators and targets. Most figures will not change; however, members should note that there may be some small variations for some indicators when the final confirmed figures are published by the SFRS.

The Highland Council Scrutiny and Audit Committee agreed to the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Highland, covering the subsequent 3-year period. In support of delivering the priorities in this plan, 13 headline indicators and targets have been set, and form the basis of the report.

## PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The table below provides a summary of the six months (1 April to 30 September 2024) 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>Q1 &amp; Q2: All Incidents Attended – 107</b>		
<b>Accident Dwelling Fires (ADF)</b> 	<b>ADF Fatal Casualties</b> 	<b>ADF Non-Fatal Casualties</b> 
<b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 10 incidents</b> <b>YTD – 10 incidents</b>	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 0</b> <b>YTD – 0</b>	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 2</b> <b>YTD – 2</b>
<b>Home Fire Safety Visits</b> 	<b>Non-Fire Emergency</b> 	<b>Road Traffic Collisions (RTC)</b> 
<b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 115 Visits</b> <b>YTD – 115 Visits</b>	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 30 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 30 Incidents</b>	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 5 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 5 Incidents</b>
<b>Fatal RTC Casualties</b> 	<b>Non-Fatal RTC Casualties</b> 	<b>All Deliberate Fires</b> 
<b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 0</b> <b>YTD – 0</b>	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 0</b> <b>YTD – 0</b>	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 12 incidents</b> <b>YTD – 12 incidents</b>
<b>Deliberate Primary Fires</b> 	<b>Deliberate Secondary Fires</b> 	<b>Non Domestic Fires</b> 
<b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 2 incidents</b> <b>YTD – 2 incidents</b>	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 9 incidents</b> <b>YTD – 9 incidents</b>	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 2 incidents</b> <b>YTD – 2 incidents</b>
<b>Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals</b> 		
<b>Q1 &amp; Q2 – 12 incidents</b> <b>YTD – 12 incidents</b>		

## PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

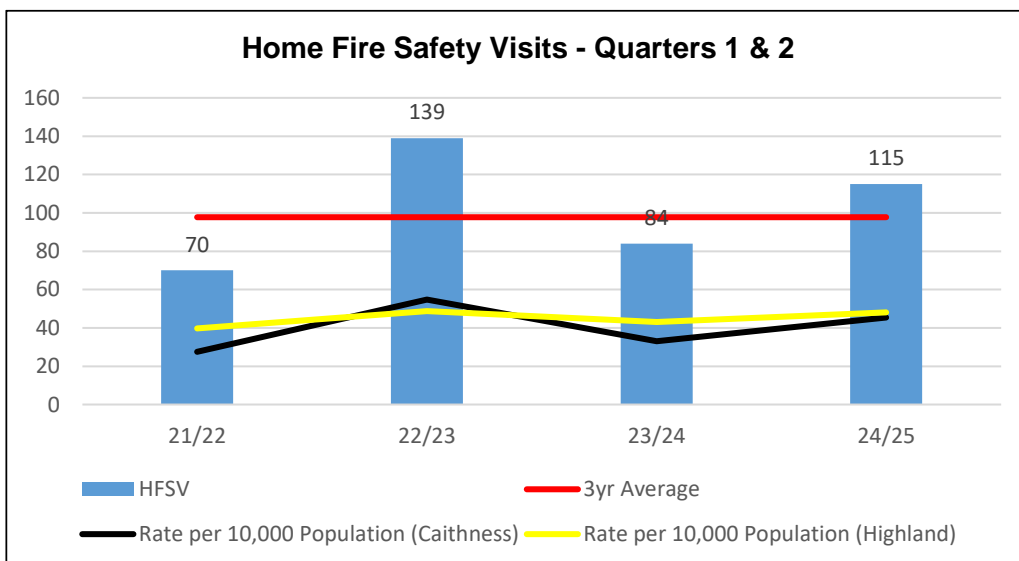
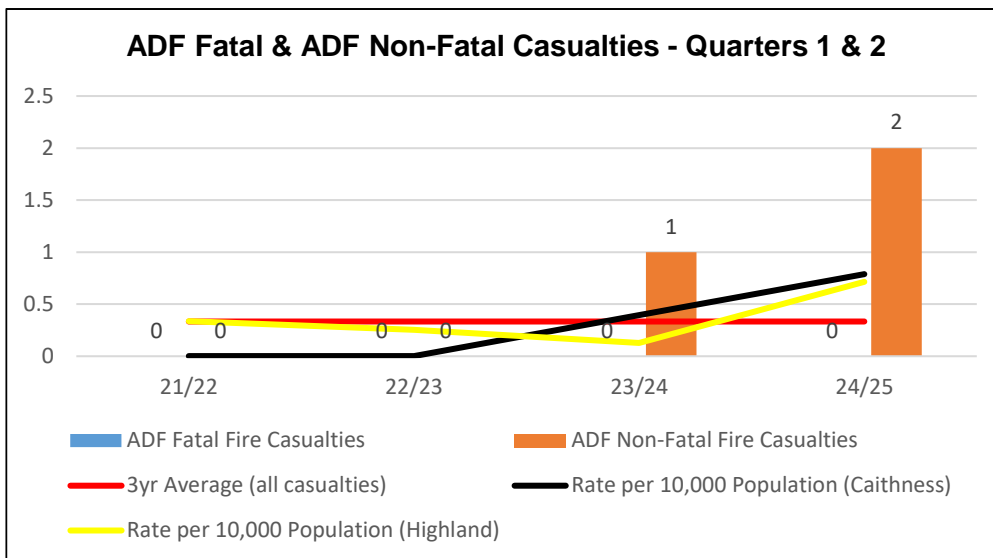
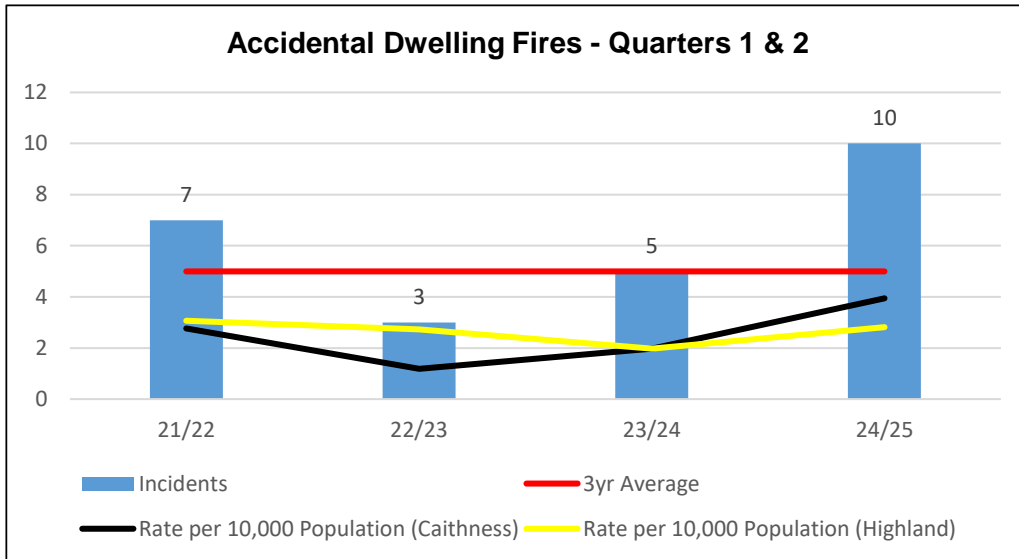
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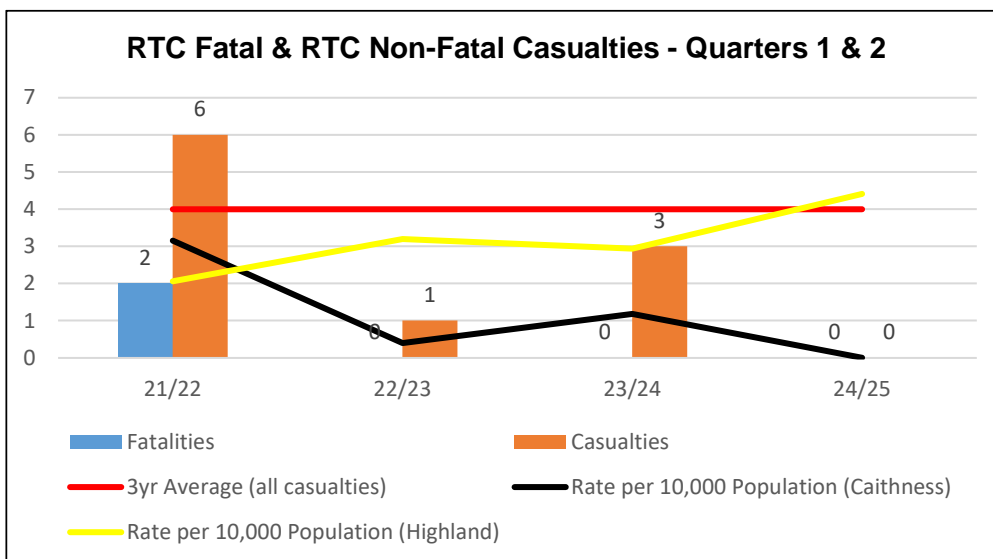
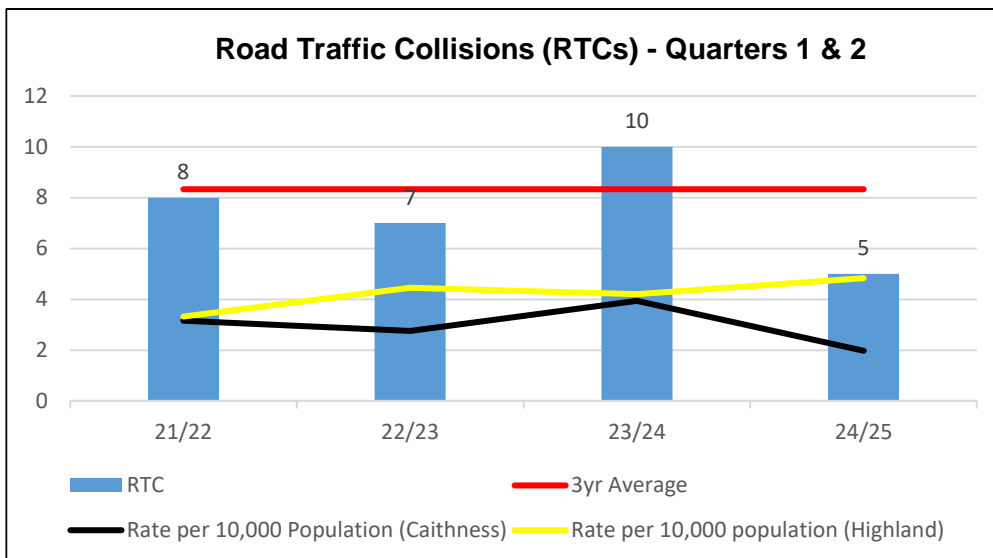
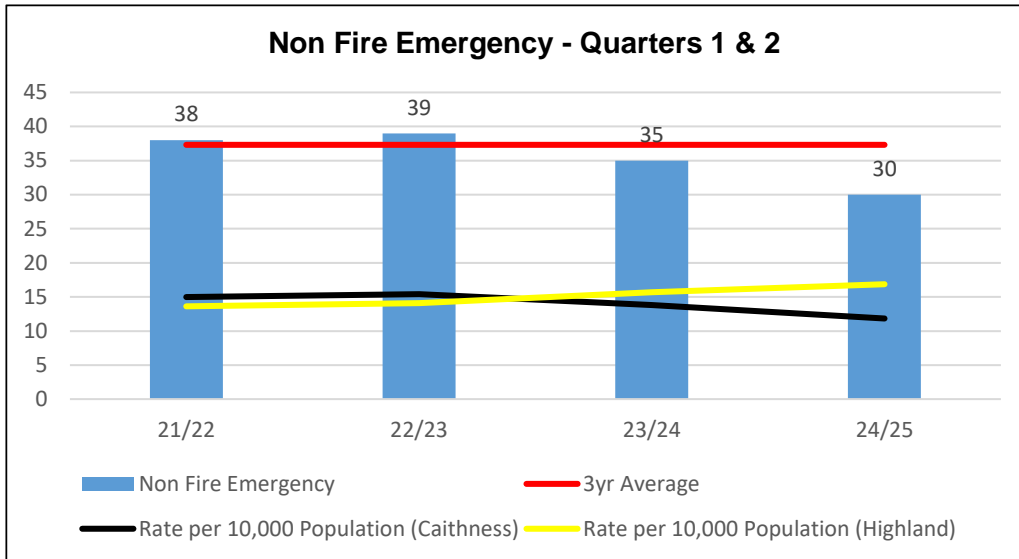
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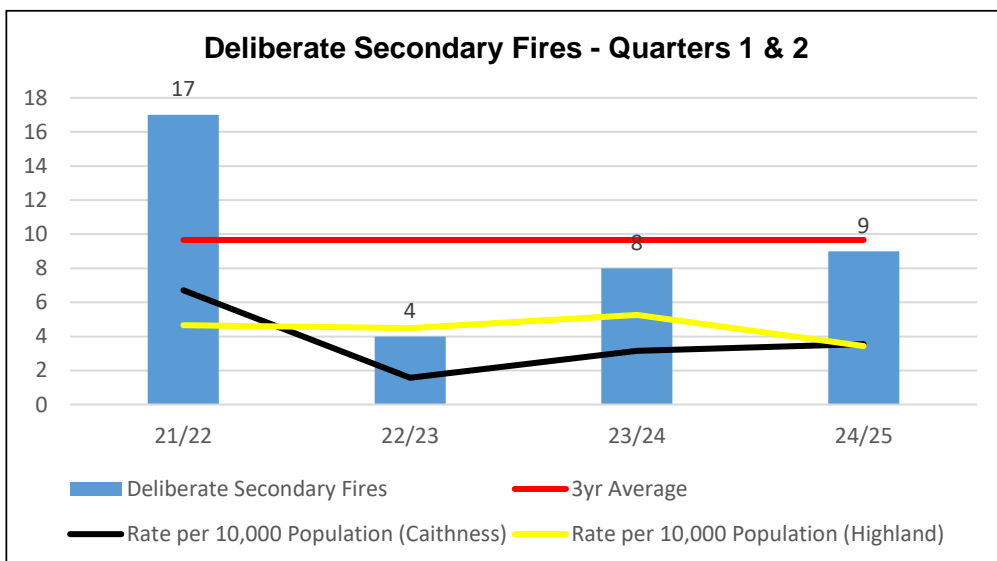
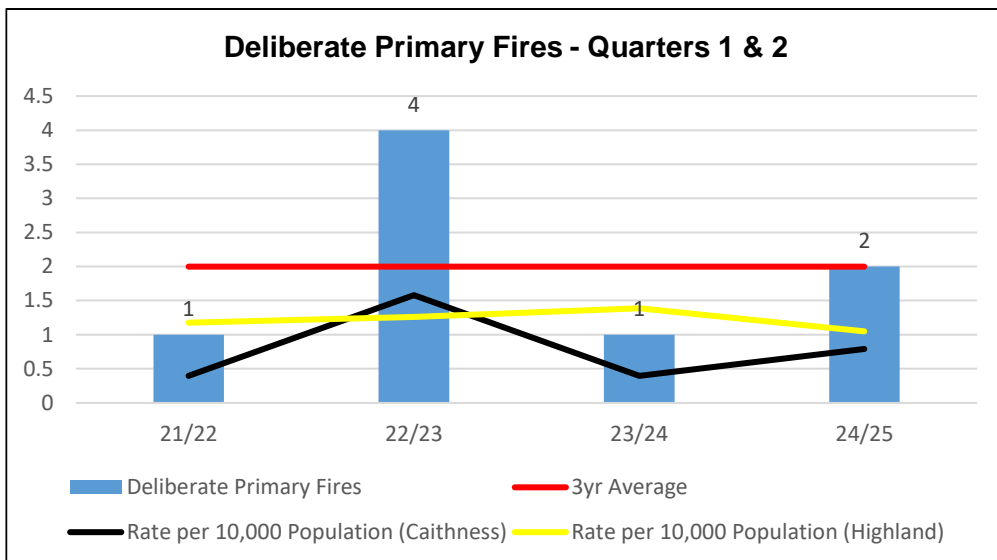
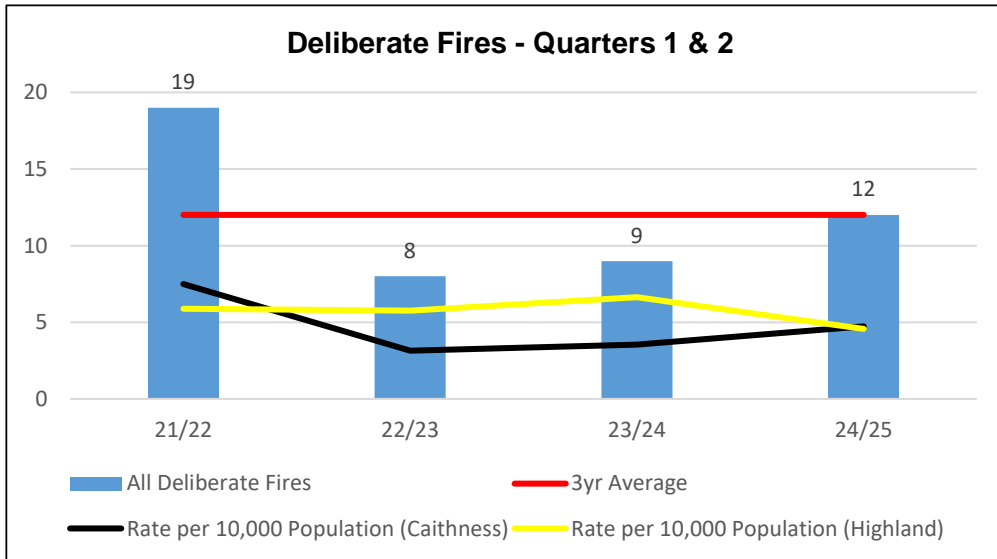
For more information please visit:

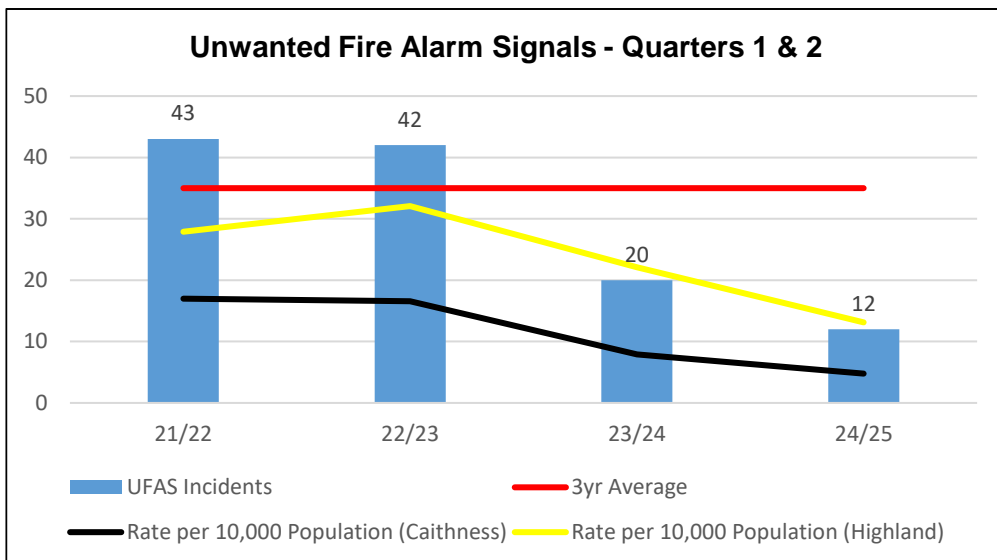
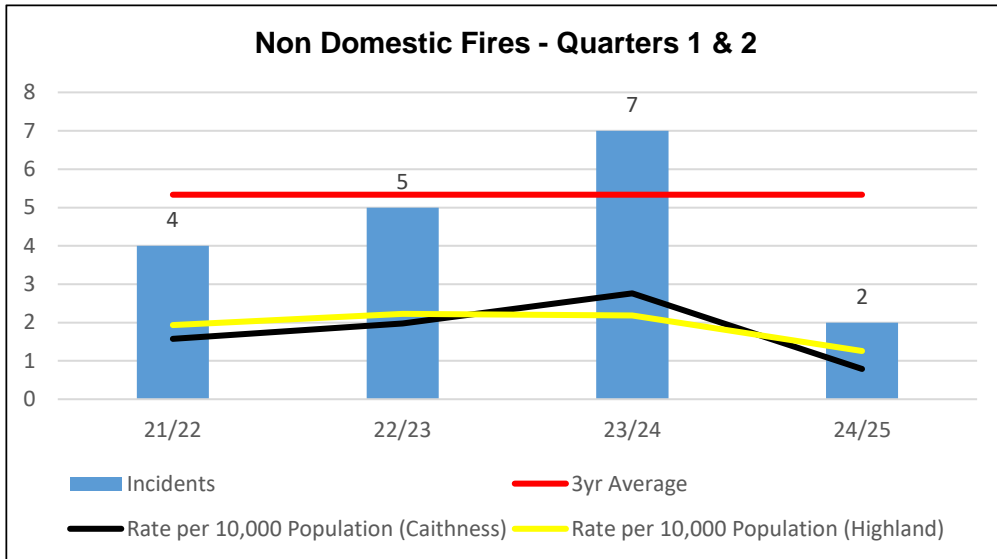
[Scottish Fire & Rescue Service: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals \(UFAS\) \(firescotland.gov.uk\)](https://firescotland.gov.uk)











## 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 serve the Caithness population.

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

Station	Apr – Sept 2024 Availability %	Male	Female	Staff
Dunbeath	60.78%	7	0	7
John O'Groats	44.11%	8	0	8
Lybster (CRU)	N/A	5	1	6
Thurso – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance	99.35%	14	2	16
Thurso – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance	58.69%			
Wick – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance	99.18%	18	0	18
Wick – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance	68.88%			