



**ORKNEY**  
ISLANDS COUNCIL

**Item: 4**

**Police and Fire Sub-committee: 19 November 2024.**

**Performance against Orkney Fire and Rescue Plan.**

**Report by Scott Gibson, Local Senior Officer.**

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## **1. Overview**

- 1.1. All matters concerning the scrutiny of and engagement with the Police services and the Fire and Rescue Services 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 July to 30 September 2024.

## **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 July to 30 September 2024, 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:**

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## 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.
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 July to 30 September 2024.



## ORKNEY PERFORMANCE REPORT

*Covering the activities and performance in support of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Orkney*



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

**Quarter Two: 2024/25**

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**ORKNEY**  
ISLANDS COUNCIL

## **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.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Introduction</b>	5
<b>Performance Summary</b>	6
<b>Performance Highlights</b>	7
<b>Priority 1 – Promoting Personal Safety and Wellbeing</b>	8
HI 1 – Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)	8
HI 2 – ADF Fatal Casualties	8
HI 3 – ADF Non-Fatal Casualties (including precautionary check-ups)	8
HI 4 – Home Fire Safety Visits	10
Referrals to Partner Agencies	10
<b>Priority 2 – Non-Domestic Fire Safety</b>	12
HI 5 – Non-Domestic Fires	12
HI 6 – Fire Safety Enforcement Audits	11
<b>Priority 3 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals</b>	14
HI 7 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)	14
UFAS Premises Type	14
<b>Priority 4 – Operational Resilience and Preparedness</b>	16
Station Establishment and Availability	17
<b>Appendix 1: Community Engagement</b>	18
<b>Autumn Season Thematic Action Plan</b>	21

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The 3-monthly monitoring report covers the SFRS's performance and activities in support of the four priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Orkney, namely:

- Priority 1 – Promoting Personal Safety and Wellbeing
- Priority 2 – Non-Domestic Fire Safety
- Priority 3 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
- Priority 4 – Emergency Response Preparedness and Community Resilience










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

The figures in this report are provisional, to provide the Committee with the SFRS's direction of travel in the Orkney 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 Orkney Council Police and Fire Sub-committee agreed the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Orkney in 2021, covering the subsequent 3-year period. In support of delivering the priorities in this plan, 9 headline indicators have been set, and form the basis of this performance report.

## PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The table below provides a summary of the three-months (1 July – 30 September 2024) activity and year to date (YTD) progress, based on annual targets set against headlines indicators. It aims to provide – at a glance – our direction of travel during the current reporting year.

<b>Q2 : All Incidents Attended – 52</b>		
<p><b>HI 1</b> <b>Accidental Dwelling Fires</b></p>  <p><b>Q2 – 2 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 2 Incidents</b></p>	<p><b>HI 2</b> <b>ADF Fatal Casualties</b></p>  <p><b>Q2 – 0</b> <b>YTD – 0</b></p>	<p><b>HI 3</b> <b>ADF Non-Fatal Casualties</b></p>  <p><b>Q2 – 0</b> <b>YTD – 0</b></p>
<p><b>HI 4</b> <b>Home Fire Safety Visits</b></p>  <p><b>Q2 – 36 Visits</b> <b>YTD – 111 Visits</b></p>	<p><b>HI 5</b> <b>Non-domestic Building fires</b></p>  <p><b>Q2 – 3 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 3 Incidents</b></p>	<p><b>HI 6</b> <b>Fire Safety Enforcement Audits</b></p>  <p><b>Q2 – 2 Audits</b> <b>YTD – 17 Audits</b></p>
<p><b>HI 7</b> <b>Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals</b></p>  <p><b>Q2 – 6 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 11 Incidents</b></p>	<p><b>HI 8</b> <b>Road Traffic Collisions (RTC)</b></p>  <p><b>Q2 – 1 incidents</b> <b>YTD – 4 Incidents</b></p>	<p><b>HI 9</b> <b>RTC Casualties</b></p>  <p><b>Q2 – 2</b> <b>YTD – 5</b></p>

### Incidents per Ward Area in Q2

Ward	HI 1	HI 2	HI 3	HI 5	HI 7	HI 8	HI 9
East Mainland, South Ronaldsay and Burray	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Kirkwall East	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Kirkwall West and Orphir	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
North Isles (Orkney)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Stromness and South Isles	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
West Mainland	1	0	0	1	0	0	0



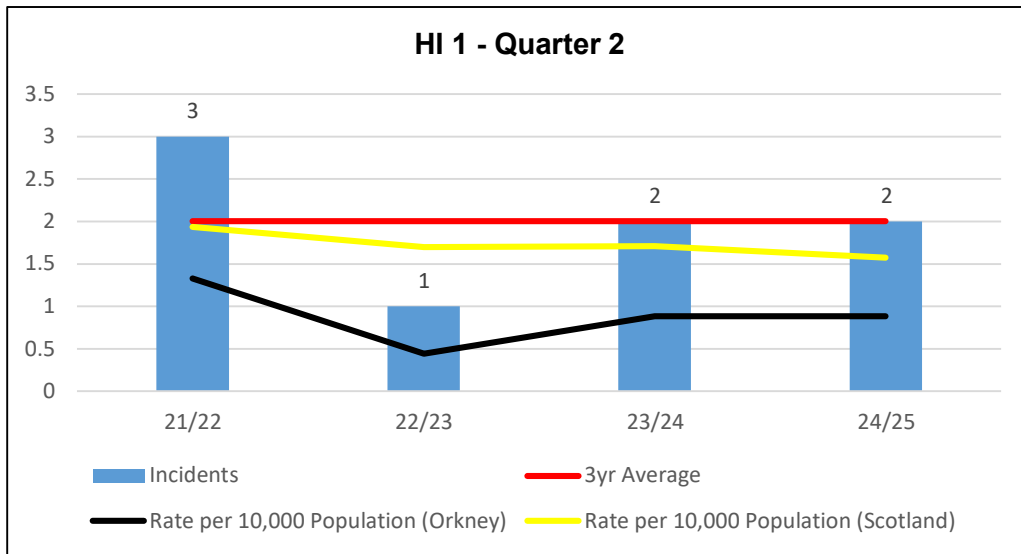
## PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Of the 9 headline indicators, the following performance should be noted for quarter two 2024/25:

- There were **2 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** during quarter two. These incident statistics for Q2 is in line with the 3 year average for ADFs.
- There were **0 ADF Fatalities**, and **0 ADF Casualties** during quarter two. This remains below the 3 year average.
- There was **3 Non-Domestic Building Fires** during Q2 which is above the 3 year average.
- We responded to **27 False Alarm incidents** with **6** classed as **Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during Q2 which is significantly below the average based on the previous 3-year figures. We continue to work towards reducing UFAS consulting with duty holders on ways to achieve this.
- At time of report we have **0 Active Action Plans** in place following audit where our Officers are working with the responsible persons for compliance. 2 Audits completed across the reporting period with no further actions required. We continue to focus on Short Term Let (STL) applications without objections, we have consulted and provided further guidance to additional SLT applications requiring further fire safety measures. All SLT applications pending are within the 28-day consultation time frame.
- Our Community Safety Advocates and Station personnel undertook **36 Home Fire Safety Visits**. The majority targeted the most at risk in our communities. We continue to work with our partners in gaining referrals and engage with our communities to provide education and vital safety information.
- We attended **1 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is below the average. There were **0 RTC Related Fatalities** and **2 RTC Related Injuries**. We continue to support Orkney's Road Safety Strategy through education and engagement.
- Our firefighters continue to train in all aspects of their role to ensure they are operationally prepared for what is required and we have continued where possible to gather information on local risks to assist us in an emergency through our operational intelligence visits.

# PRIORITY 1 – PROMOTING PERSONAL SAFETY AND WELLBEING

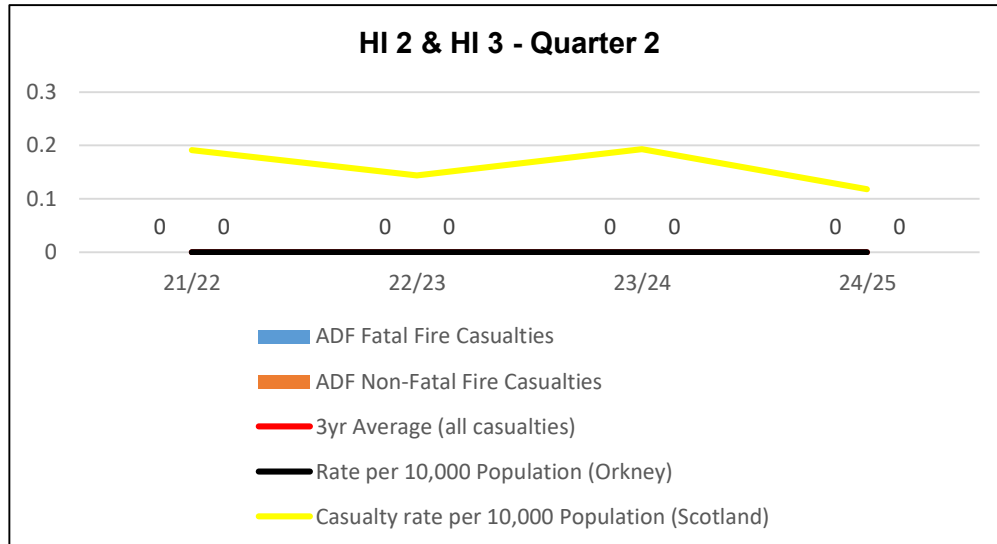
## HI 1 – Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)



**Table 1: 2024/25 Year to Date Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 1: ADF's</b>	6	5	5	<b>2</b>

## HI 2 - ADF Fatal Casualties & HI 3 - ADF Non-Fatal Casualties



**Table 2: 2024/25 Year to Date Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 2: ADF Fatal Casualties</b>	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>HI 3: ADF Non-Fatal Casualties</b>	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

**What we aim to Achieve:**

- Downward trend in the number of accidental dwelling fires.
- Downward trend in the number of accidental dwelling fires casualties and fatalities.

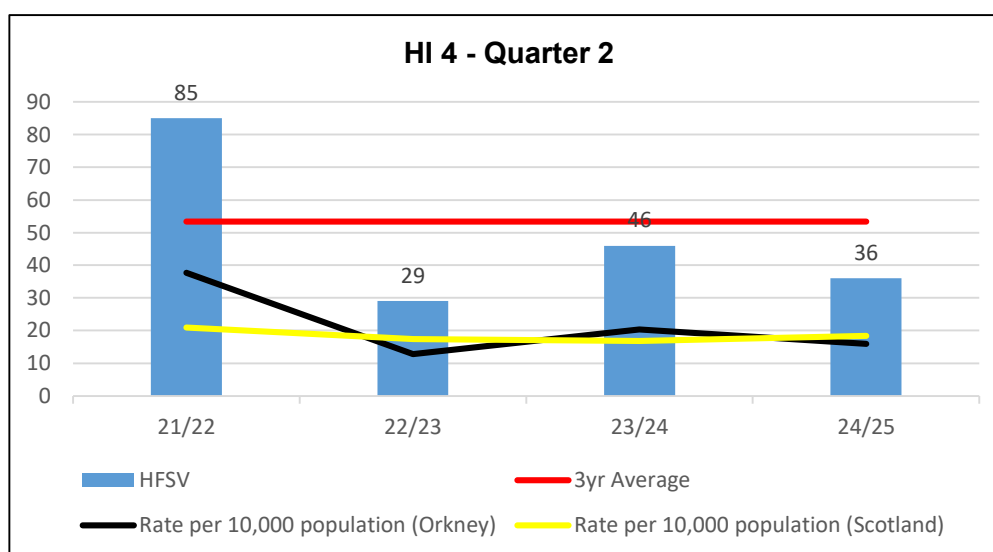
**What we are doing to improve on this performance:**

There were **0 ADF Fatalities** for this period and year to date.

There were **0 ADF Casualties** which is below the 3-yearly average. The overall **2 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** is the same as the previous year and in line with the 3-year average.

All ADF's are followed up with HFSV's and agency referrals where required.

## HI 4 – Home Fire Safety Visits



**Table 3: 2024/25 Year to Date Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 4: Home Fire Safety Visits</b>	117	56	72	<b>111</b>

### What we aim to Achieve

- Reduced societal and economic cost of unintentional harm or injury.
- Improved safety and wellbeing of Orkney residents.
- Support independent living of vulnerable residents within our communities.

### What we are doing to improve on this performance:

Our Community Safety Advocates and Station personnel undertook **36 Home Fire Safety Visits**.

WIOS, as part of the North Service Delivery Area, in Q2 delivered the highest percentage of high-risk HFSVs completed. 34 of 36 visits being conducted across Orkney sat in the high risk category supporting targeted interventions.

Our operational personnel engage with householders at time of incident through our Post Incident Domestic Response (PIDR) procedure offering information and advice as well as the fitment of detection where necessary. There has been a 37% increase in completed PIDR's across the WIOS Service Delivery area within this quarter.

To support our communities, we provided 11 onward referrals that further supported individual's needs, adult social work was also notified to support the needs of 3 vulnerable individuals. 5 complete sets of interlinked detection was also fitted. Our partner referrals to our partners are made through Social Services, NHS, Falls Prevention, Telecare, Deaf services, mental wellbeing services and Police Scotland in order to improve on the safety and wellbeing in the domestic setting.

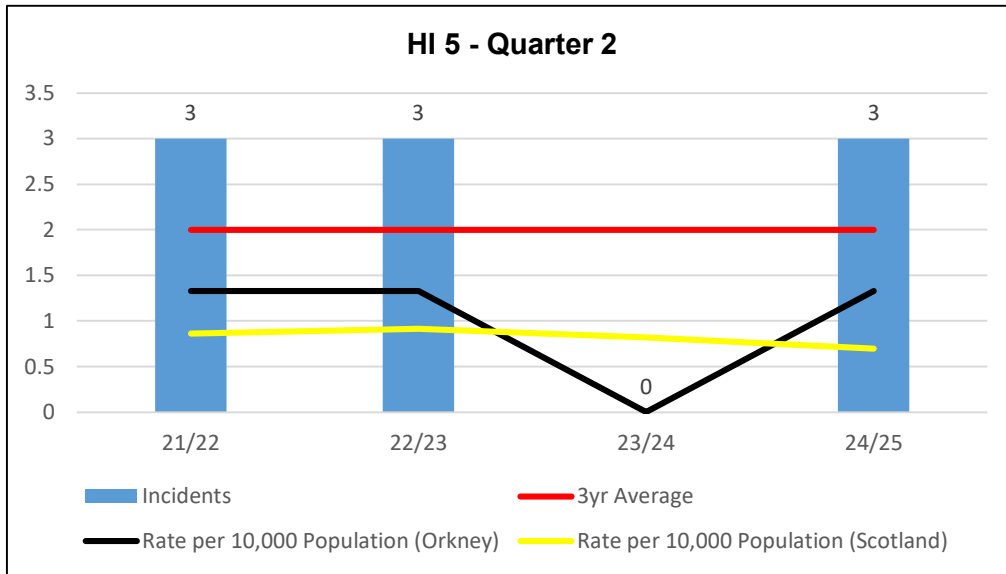
Working in conjunction with Orkney Island Council's Road Safety Strategy the Safe Drive event was delivered to S4 & S5 pupils from across Orkney at Kirkwall Grammer School.

VR headset experience to further enhance individual awareness of road safety, events were delivered to communities in Stronsay and Kirkwall as well as individuals involved in the criminal justice system. In total 190 members of the community were able to undertake this awareness experience.

Along with other partners we also delivered the safe Islander programme for 238 S1 pupils from across Orkney, delivered at Kirkwall Grammar School. The aim of the initiative was to educate pupils to identify fire hazards within the home, formulate escape plans and the testing of smoke alarms. This and the safe drive initiative were delivered by both CSA's from Orkney & Shetland, this close working relationship was reciprocated with Orkney's CSA Mick Marcus travelling to Shetland to support similar initiatives there.

## PRIORITY 2 – NON-DOMESTIC FIRE SAFETY

### HI 5 – Non-Domestic Building Fires



**Table 4: 2024/25 Year to Date Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 5: Non-Domestic Building Fires</b>	3	4	1	<b>3</b>

### HI 6 – Fire Safety Enforcement Audits

#### What we aim to Achieve

- Reduction in the number of non-domestic fires.
- Support for duty holders to understand their duties and responsibilities to comply with fire safety legislation.
- Reducing the social and economic impact of non-domestic fires and supporting business continuity and employment on Orkney.
- Contributing to the protection of our built and natural heritage.

We attended **3 non-domestic building fires** this period which is slightly higher than the same period last year.

#### What we are doing to improve on this performance:

Focus has been placed on Short Term Let (SLT) applications in order to ensure that we are responding within the agreed 28-day consultation period. Guidance for acceptance is communicated to applicants requiring additional action to make the standard. To date there has been no objections to any SLT applications, a further 39 have been completed within Q2. Working in collaboration with OIC we inspected a STL premise following a complaint made by the general public with fire safety concerns, since this the property has voluntarily ceased trading as a STL.

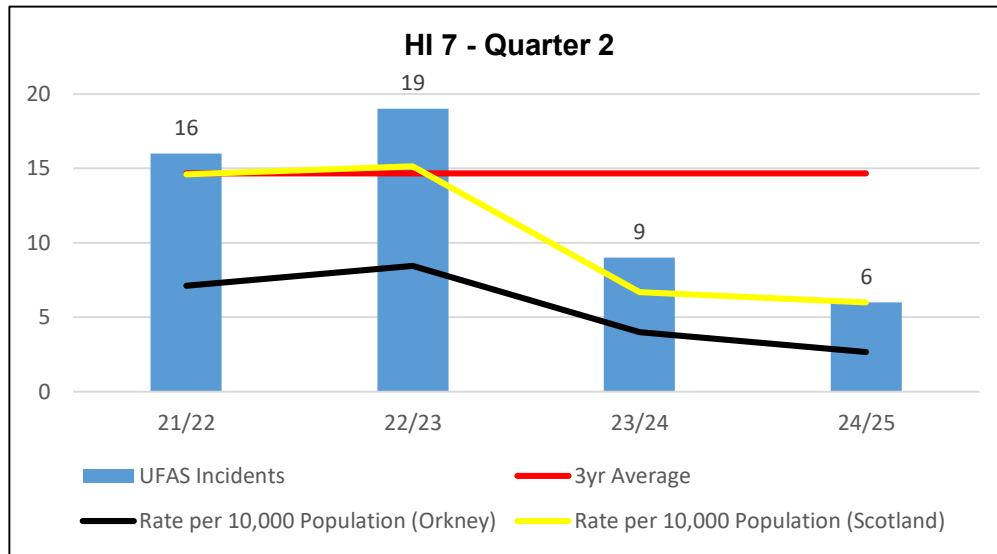
Our local Watch Command Support Officers have undertaken training to enable them to process Fire Safety for STLs providing Orkney with locally based Wholetime staff members to support this.

A formal prohibition notice and subsequent enforcement notice was served on a hotel on Orkney Islands during Quarter 2. This is a very resource intensive process which has seen a collaborative approach from relevant partners. Our enforcement officers are continuing to support the Duty Holder and remain in regular contact.

Further auditing work is planned for Q3 including preparation and planning of audits relating to sleeping risks and other key venues in support of the Orkney Games 2025.

## PRIORITY 3 – UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

### HI7 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



**Table 5: 2024/25 Year to Date Performance**

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 7: UFAS Incidents</b>	23	27	25	<b>11</b>

Property Type	Number
Youth Hostel	1
Sheltered Housing	1
Offices and Call Centres – Purpose Built	1
Hotel/Motel	1
Residential Home – Retirement/Elderly	1
Offices and Call Centres – Converted Office	1



**What we aim to Achieve:**

- Reduction in the number of UFAS incidents across Orkney, particularly amongst the highest offenders.
- Reduction in unnecessary demand on On-Call Firefighters and their primary employers.
- Reduced road risk for SFRS staff and the wider community.
- Release capacity for staff training and community engagement through reduction in UFAS attendance
- Reduced costs to SFRS associated with UFAS response.

We responded to **27 False Alarm incidents** with **6** classed as **Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during Q2 which is significantly below the average based on the previous 3-year figures.

**What we are doing to improve on this performance:**

We have continued our engagement with these premises and made recommendations to reduce occurrences.

Orkney has embedded an Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) Champion within its management structure. UFAS Champions are part of a network of national Champions that exists across Scotland to support local areas in delivering priorities that balance SFRS national direction against local needs, for reducing UFAS demand.

Our Operations Control centers will actively call challenge Alarm Receiving Centers to determine our response to Automatic Fire Alarm incidents.

## PRIORITY 4 – OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE AND PREPAREDNESS

### What we aim to Achieve

- Responding to and resolving operational incidents in a safe, effective and efficient manner that keeps staff, partners, and the public safe
- Contributing to wider safety by focusing on preventing emergencies occurring
- Planning and preparing for response and mitigating the social and economic impact of emergencies upon communities
- Reinforcing local resilience within communities and in Community Fire Stations

### What we are doing to improve on this performance:

During this period, we delivered our quarterly training commitment to operational firefighters, whereby we trained and tested their preparedness to deal with a variety of incident types.

Firefighters continue to carry out Operational Intelligence within their station area so that they are aware of the associated risks and hazards, and if required can take effective actions in dealing with incidents at these sites. All this information is continually updated on our tablets carried on frontline appliances thus giving our staff information at the point of need.

In areas of Orkney, we have seen successful recruitment and availability (**9 of our appliances above 90% availability, 3 available over 80% and 2 available over 70% of the time**). However, we recognise that we still face some challenges on our islands where population levels are low or decreasing.

To support our On-Call stations, increase recruitment and provide cover we employ 2 full-time On-Call Watch Commanders to plan and deliver activities to support resilience in the community.

We continue to implement options to increase resilience and flexibility of response in support of the On-Call improvement programme.

- A joint mobilising process whereby two appliances who do not have safe minimum crewing numbers available can meet at an agreed rendezvous point to give them enough crew to safely respond to the incident.
- A formalised process which will allow On-Call staff to undertake paid duties at other stations to increase their staffing levels, undertake prevention activities and thereby increase appliance availability.

## Station Establishment and Availability

- 14 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 12 Stations

Station	Jul – Sept 24 Availability %	Male	Female	Totals	FFs in Development
Eday	79.62%	4	1	5	1
Hoy	82.82%	5	0	5	1
Kirkwall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance	99.95%	15	3	18	2
Kirkwall – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance	89.18%				
North Ronaldsay	94.59%	3	2	5	1
Papa Westray	94.96%	7	0	7	2
Rousay	93.56%	6	0	6	0
Sanday	100%	10	0	10	0
Shapinsay	93.66%	6	1	7	0
St Margaret's Hope	86.27%	7	0	7	0
Stromness – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance	97.51%	16	2	18	0
Stromness – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance	73.10%				
Stronsay	96.75%	10	1	11	1
Westray	99.01%	10	0	10	2

- 109 x Station based personnel.
- 2 x Wholtime On-Call Watch Commanders.
- 1 x Wholtime On-Call Crew Commander.
- 1 x Wholtime Community Safety Advocate.
- 2 x Station Commanders, 1 x Group Commander, 1 x Area Commander.
- In addition to the above Orkney is remotely supported through the provision of Fire Safety Enforcement, Instructional staff and administrative functions.

## **APPENDIX 1: COMMUNITY SAFETY ENGAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE EXERCISING**

### **Exercise Puffin – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024**



July 13<sup>th</sup> 2024 saw Exercise Puffin, a multi-agency exercise on Westray, planned by Orkney Island Council Airfield Supervisor to test their compliance with all the Civil Aviation Authority UK licenced aerodromes.

The exercise would simulate the scenario of an inbound scheduled aircraft reporting a mechanical fault. The communications from the pilot would escalate into the realisation that a hard (bad) landing was highly probable. With multiple casualties on board, first in attendance were the airport firefighters, with SFRS personnel assuming command when in attendance. Crews were further supported by our Operational Control room for the North area, based in Dundee and SC Alastair Holden at the scene.

Other partners involved were Orkney Island Council, Police Scotland, HM Coast Guard, the islands first responders & GP, Red Cross. A hot de-brief was conducted on the day, highlight learning points and areas of good practice going forward.



## Road Safety Awareness - Kirkwall 3<sup>rd</sup> August and 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024



In partnership with OIC's Road Safety Strategy, a road safety awareness day took place in the Great Western Road car park in August. With the underlying message of reduction & prevention rather than intervention, crews from Kirkwall demonstrated a live casualty (Cllr David Dawson) extrication from a vehicle.

The following month a multi-agency safe drive event was held at Kirkwall Grammar school for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> year pupils from across Orkney, again with the aim of improving road safety. Our community safety advocate Mick Harcus delivered a hard-hitting message to the pupils. The event was further supported Laura Torrance from Spinal Injuries Scotland, herself an unfortunate casualty of a road traffic collision, gave her account of her event and how the event has impacted her life.











## Flotta Visitation & Exercise 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024



As part of our ongoing familiarisation visits throughout the calendar year, SFRS engage with the head of the sites H&S team, giving SFRS personnel an appreciation of the levels of oil production and the hazards and risks associated with this site. Crews undertook a practical BA search and rescue exercise involving the use of sites foam making equipment. Discussion also took place on the planning of a larger scale practical exercise aimed at testing the planning, resources and resilience for all partners as well as the owners of the site.



## Autumn Season Thematic Action Plan

	KO1	<u>Reduce fire-related anti-social behaviour and the number of deliberate</u>
	KO2	<u>Reduce the number of fires involving refuse/rubbish</u>
	KO3	<u>Reduce accidents and injuries arising from outdoor fires and/or misuse of</u>
	KO4	<u>(a) Reduce the number of unsafe bonfires (bonfire attendances)</u> <u>(b) Support partnership working regarding refuse/rubbish/fly-tipping referrals/uplifts</u>
	KO5	<u>Support compliance with firework legislation (firework-related)</u>
	KO6	<u>Support the safety of operational personnel (reported acts of violence)</u>
	KO7	<u>(a) Reduce the number of outdoor fires involving grass/ heather/heathland</u> <u>(b) Reduce the number of wildfires</u>
	KO8	<u>Reduce the number of fires in derelict/unoccupied buildings</u>