



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Item: 4

Police and Fire Sub-committee: 27 August 2024.

Performance against Orkney Fire and Rescue Plan.

Report by Scott Gibson, Local Senior Officer.

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 April to 30 June 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 April to 30 June 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.
6. **Island Communities Impact:** An Island Communities Impact Assessment is not required in respect of performance monitoring.
7. **Island Communities Impact:** Not applicable.
8. **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.
9. **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.
10. **Environmental and Climate Risk:** Not applicable.
11. **Risk:** Not applicable.
12. **Procurement:** Not applicable.
13. **Health and Safety:** Not applicable.
14. **Property and Assets:** Not applicable.
15. **Information Technology:** Not applicable.
16. **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 April to 30 June 2024.



ORKNEY PERFORMANCE REPORT

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



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Quarter One: 2024/25

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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.

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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 April – 30 June 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.

Q1 : All Incidents Attended – 23		
<p>HI 1 Accidental Dwelling Fires</p>  <p>Q1 – 0 Incidents YTD – 0 Incidents</p>	<p>HI 2 ADF Fatal Casualties</p>  <p>Q1 – 0 YTD – 0</p>	<p>HI 3 ADF Non-Fatal Casualties</p>  <p>Q1 – 0 YTD – 0</p>
<p>HI 4 Home Fire Safety Visits</p>  <p>Q1 – 75 Visits YTD – 75 Visits</p>	<p>HI 5 Non-domestic Building fires</p>  <p>Q1 – 0 Incidents YTD – 0 Incidents</p>	<p>HI 6 Fire Safety Enforcement Audits</p>  <p>Q1 – 15 Audits YTD – 15 Audits</p>
<p>HI 7 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals</p>  <p>Q1 – 5 Incidents YTD – 5 Incidents</p>	<p>HI 8 Road Traffic Collisions (RTC)</p>  <p>Q1 – 3 incidents YTD – 3 Incidents</p>	<p>HI 9 RTC Casualties</p>  <p>Q1 – 3 YTD – 3</p>

Incidents per Ward Area in Q1

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	0	0	0
Kirkwall East	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Kirkwall West and Orphir	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
North Isles (Orkney)	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Stromness and South Isles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Mainland	0	0	0	0	2	1	1

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

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

- There were **0 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** during quarter one. These incident statistics for Q1 is below the 3 year average for ADFs.
- There were **0 ADF Fatalities**, and **0 ADF Casualties** during quarter one. This remains below the 3 year average.
- There was **0 Non-Domestic Building Fires** during Q1 which is below the 3 year average.
- We responded to **57 False Alarm incidents** with **5** classed as **Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during Q1 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 **1 Active Action Plans** in place following audit where our Officers are working with the responsible persons for compliance. 15 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 **75 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 **3 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is below the average. There were **0 RTC Related Fatalities** and **3 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)

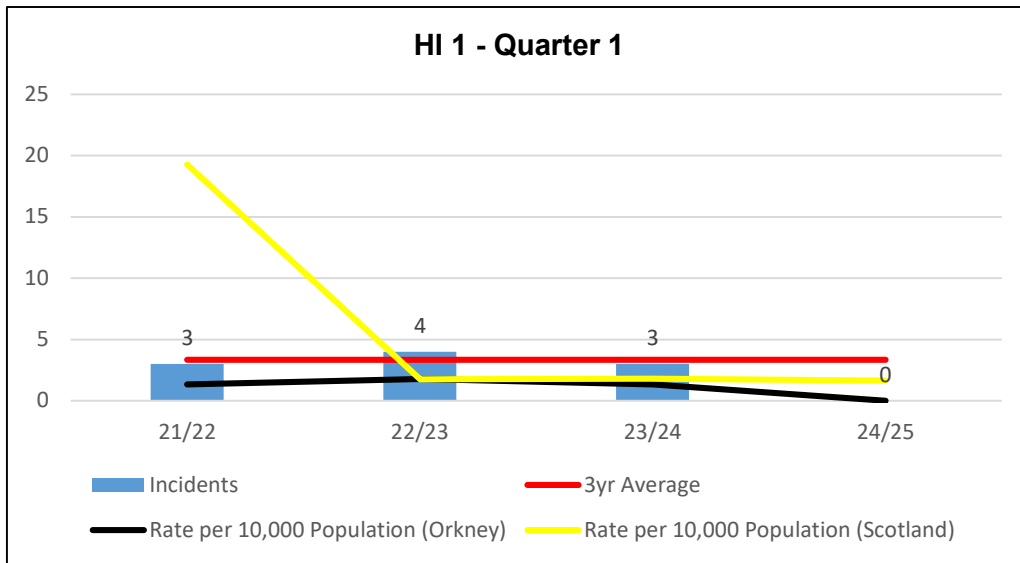


Table 1: 2024/25 Year to Date Performance

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
HI 1: ADF's	3	4	3	0

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

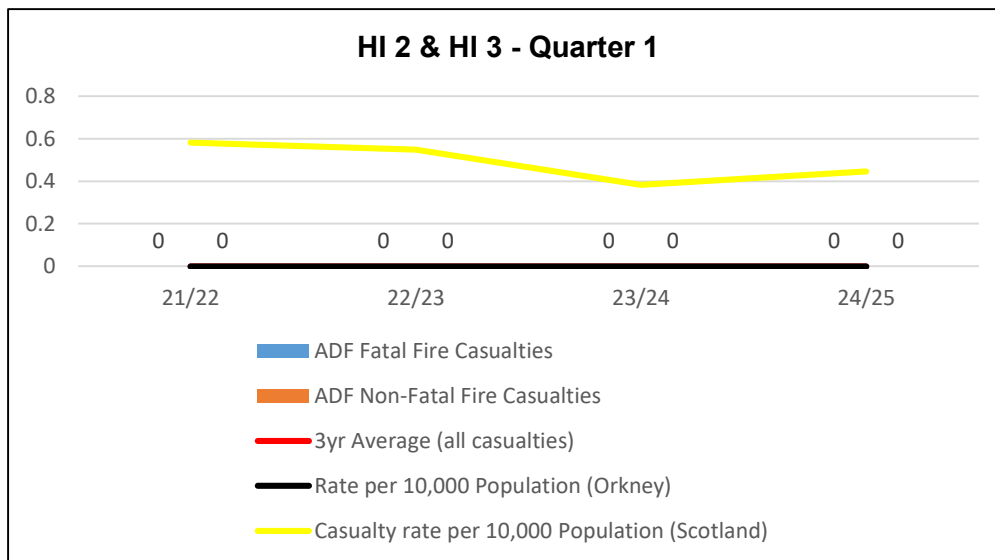


Table 2: 2024/25 Year to Date Performance

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

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 **0 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** is lower than the previous year and below the 3-year average.

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

HI 4 – Home Fire Safety Visits

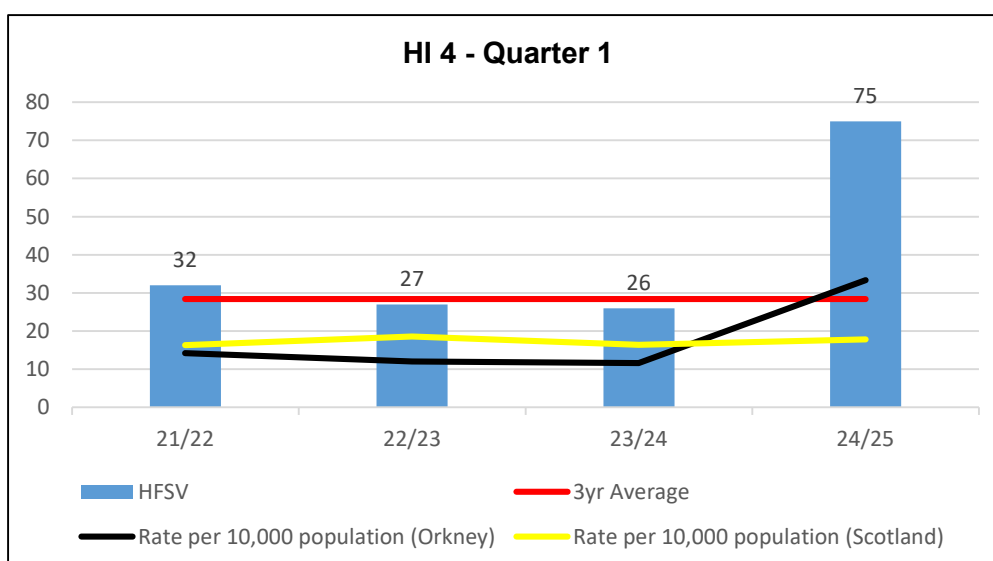


Table 3: 2024/25 Year to Date Performance

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
HI 4: Home Fire Safety Visits	32	27	26	75

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 **75 Home Fire Safety Visits**.

Our operational personnel engage with householders at time of incident through our Post Incident Domestic Response procedure offering information and advice as well as the fitment of detection where necessary.

To support our communities, we made **21 referrals to partner agencies and 3 Adult at Risk of Harm referrals** based on the needs of the individuals. 5 complete sets of interlinked detection was also fitted. Our partner referrals to the 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.

Delivery of road safety using VR headsets engaging with 77 persons (Criminal Justice 7, Fireskills 7 and Westray School 63).

PRIORITY 2 – NON-DOMESTIC FIRE SAFETY

HI 5 – Non-Domestic Building Fires

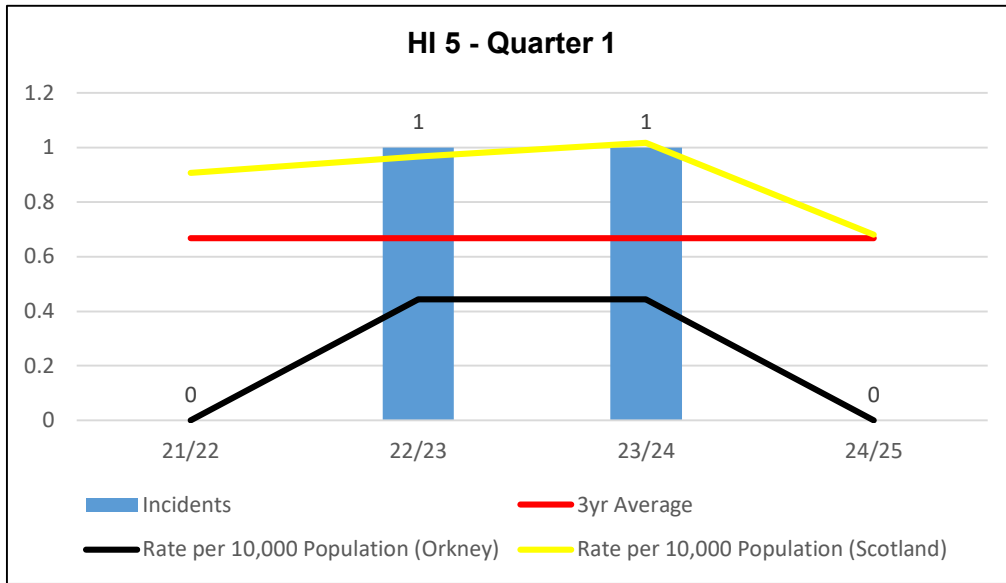


Table 4: 2024/25 Year to Date Performance

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
HI 5: Non-Domestic Building Fires	0	1	1	0

HI 6 – Fire Safety Enforcement Audits - A total of 15 audits were undertaken during Quarter 1.

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 **0 non-domestic building fires** this period which the same as last year and above the average per population.

What we are doing to improve on this performance:

Focus has been placed on Short Term Let 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, 80 have been completed within Q1.

Over this reporting period our Auditing Officers have conducted 15 audits none of which required any further actions. Preparation and planning is in place to audit sleeping risks ahead of the Orkney Island Games 2025. Our enforcement officer is continuing to progress an outstanding action plan.

PRIORITY 3 – UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

HI7 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

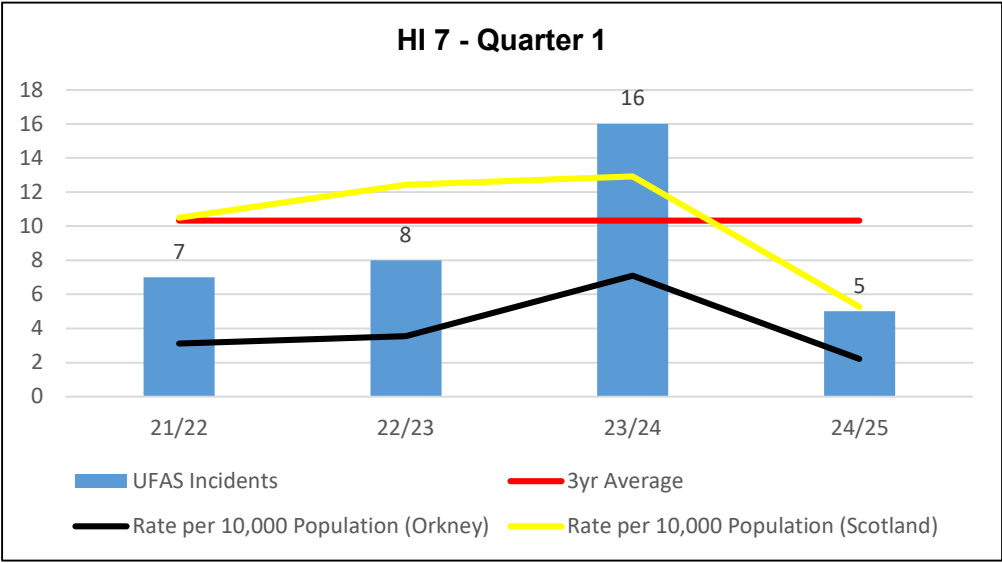


Table 5: 2024/25 Year to Date Performance

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
HI 7: UFAS Incidents	7	8	16	5

Property Type	Number
Residential Home	1
Sheltered Housing	1
Youth Hostel	1
Airport Terminal	1
Retail	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 **17 False Alarm incidents** with **5** classed as **Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during Q1 which is significantly below the average based on the previous 3-year figures.

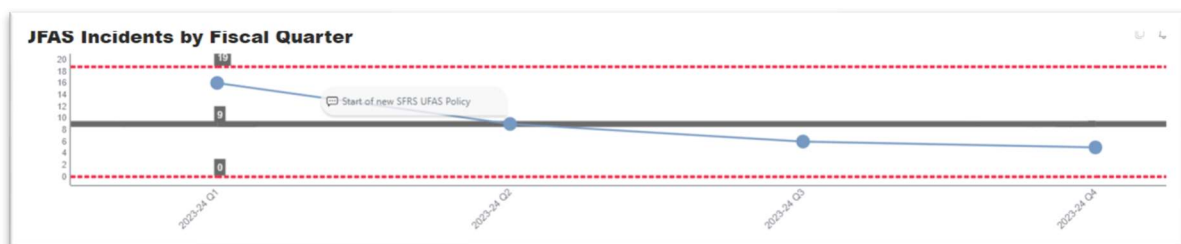
What we are doing to improve on this performance:

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.

The 1st of July 2023 seen the introduction of our updated response to UFAS. The graph below demonstrates the steady decline in response to UFAS incidents.



We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of its implementation and to embrace good practice.

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 (**10 of our appliances above 90% availability, 1 available over 80% and 3 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	Apr – Jun 24 Availability %	Male	Female	Totals	FFs in Development
Eday	78.25%	4	1	5	1
Hoy	81.22%	5	0	5	2
Kirkwall – 1 st Appliance	100%	15	3	18	3
Kirkwall – 2 nd Appliance	92.39%				
North Ronaldsay	98.82%	3	2	5	1
Papa Westray	98.19%	7	0	7	2
Rousay	71.99%	6	0	6	1
Sanday	100%	10	0	10	3
Shapinsay	97.13%	6	1	7	1
St Margaret's Hope	96.90%	7	0	7	1
Stromness – 1 st Appliance	99.42%	16	2	18	4
Stromness – 2 nd Appliance	78.47%				
Stronsay	99.48%	10	1	11	1
Westray	100%	17	0	17	3

- 116 x Station based personnel.
- 2 x Wholetime On-Call Watch Commanders.
- 1 x Wholetime 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

Hamnavoe - Exercise

Sunday 2nd June crews from Stromness took part in a multi-agency exercise onboard Northlink Ferry, the MV Hamnavoe. The scenario was designed around discovery of an electrical vehicle (EV) fire as embarkation was underway. Northlink fire teams and SFRS BA wearers deployed onto the car deck to commence firefighting operations and search and rescue. In dealing with the EV a fogging system was deployed and EV fire blanket. One of the Northlink engineers has designed an innovative fogging system that can be deployed under a vehicle chassis to work in combination with the EV blanket. Stromness RNLI Lifeboat had been deployed as water safety and was utilised as part of an alternative withdrawal plan via the aft escape doors.



Fire Skills Graduation

20th June saw the graduation event and skills demonstration of Fireskills candidates. Supported through by our On Call personnel it is hoped that we may secure our first transition from Fireskills to On Call Firefighter. It is hoped that it is possible to evolve and enhance the delivery to include employability and other vocational skills.



CPD event: Sextortion and contextual safeguarding

Community Safety Advocate Michael Marcus attended the above named CPD event enhance his understanding and equip him with skills to tackle these issues in his role.

Sextortion: There has been a rise in financially motivated sexual extortion' or sextortion, especially affecting individuals aged 15-30. This crime involves online blackmail, where criminals threaten to release sexual images unless demands are met. Police Scotland will discuss the issue and the support available in Scotland.

Contextual safeguarding: Contextual safeguarding addresses the risks children face outside the home from external influences, including violence and abuse in neighbourhoods, schools, and online. It is crucial for both protection as well as prevention.

Our ‘Shaping Our Future Service: Your Say’ survey has now closed with more than 6,400 responses submitted across the past six weeks.

In addition to the online survey, we held more than 80 community engagement events in our fire stations and pop-up stalls at various public places across Scotland.

These events enabled us to capture a wealth of views and insight from stakeholders and members of the public.

We thank colleagues, partners, elected members and the community who completed the survey. We will now take time to review the responses, which will help to inform the development of options for public consultation later this year.










HMFSI

The North Service Delivery Area over a number of months have been engaging with His Majesty’s Fire Service Inspectorate. At the beginning of September, John Joyce QFSM GFireE as Assistant Inspector for HMFSI will lead on a number of visitations and interviews with SFRS employees and partners on Orkney.

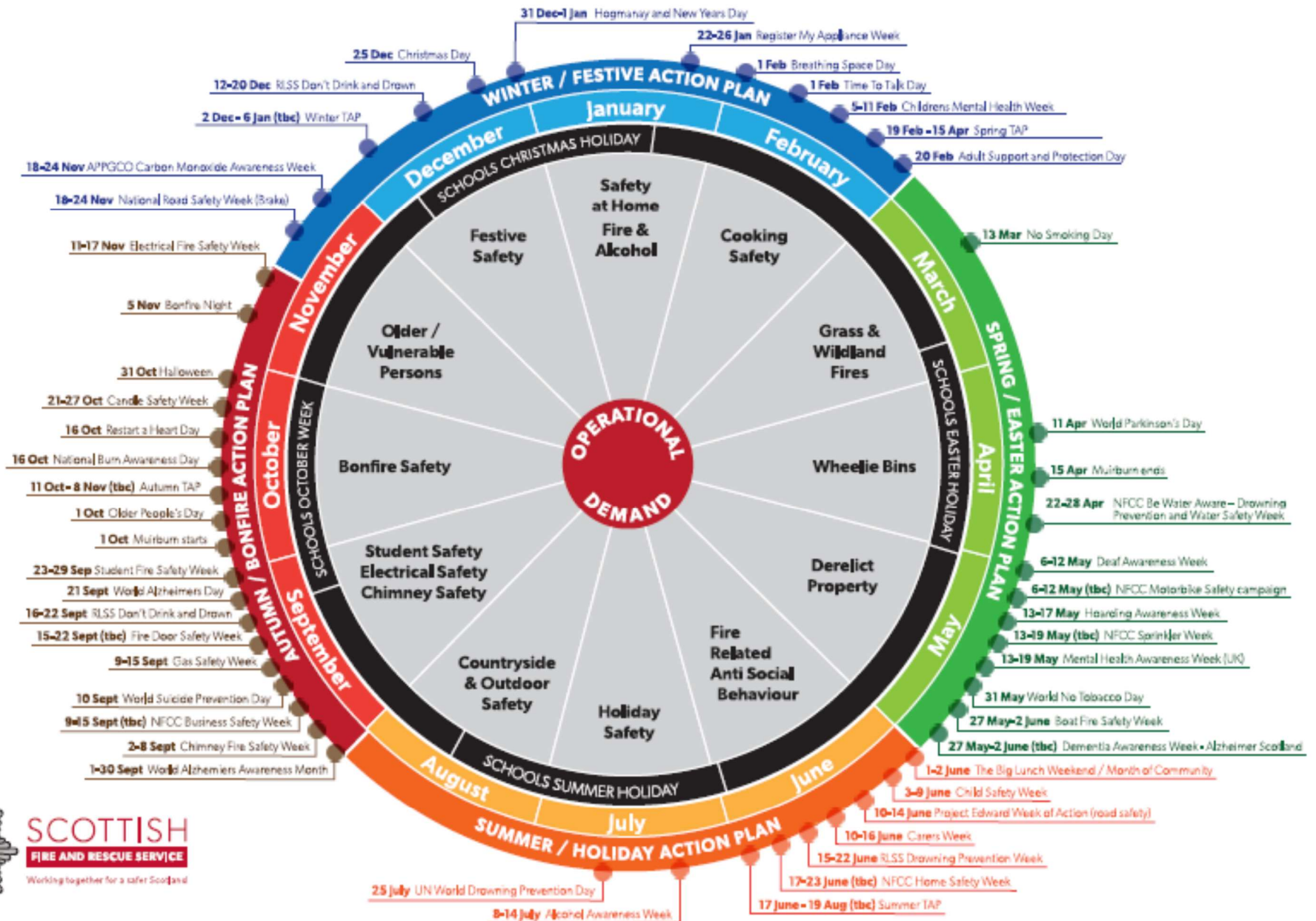
John Joyce joined HMFSI in 2022 after a career in the Fire and Rescue Service in Scotland. John served as a strategic level manager in a wide range of posts and functions and as Operational Commander at a diverse range of complex incidents. He achieved excellent outcomes in Project Management roles within the SFRS and following his retirement, within NHS Scotland Assure. John will be accompanied by Group Commander Lynn Gow, a secondee from SFRS to the HMFSI

Spring Thematic Action Plan

KEY OBJECTIVES

	K01	<i>Reduce fire-related anti-social behaviour and the number of deliberate primary and secondary fires.</i>
	K02	<i>(a) Reduce the number of outdoor fires involving grass/heather/heathland and/or forested areas. (b) Reduce the number of wildfires.</i>
	K03	<i>Reduce the number of fires in derelict/unoccupied buildings.</i>
	K04	<i>Reduce the number of fires involving refuse/rubbish.</i>
	K05	<i>Increased safety of commercial and public premises / UFAS.</i>
	K06	<i>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).</i>
	K07	<i>Promote water safety.</i>
	K08	<i>Promote road safety.</i>
	LO1	<i>Locally Identified Themes.</i>

Seasonal Community Safety Calendar 2024



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