



**ORKNEY**  
ISLANDS COUNCIL

**Item: 4**

**Police and Fire Sub-committee: 25 February 2025**

**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 October to 31 December 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 October to 31 December 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:** Not applicable.
6. **Island Communities Impact:** Not applicable.
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 October to 31 December 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 Three:  
1 October – 31 December 2024**

**Working together  
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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.

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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 October – 31 December 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>Q3 : All Incidents Attended – 52</b>		
<p><b>HI 1</b> <b>Accidental Dwelling Fires</b></p>  <p><b>Q3 – 2 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 4 Incidents</b></p>	<p><b>HI 2</b> <b>ADF Fatal Casualties</b></p>  <p><b>Q3 – 0</b> <b>YTD – 0</b></p>	<p><b>HI 3</b> <b>ADF Non-Fatal Casualties</b></p>  <p><b>Q3 – 0</b> <b>YTD – 0</b></p>
<p><b>HI 4</b> <b>Home Fire Safety Visits</b></p>  <p><b>Q3 – 46 Visits</b> <b>YTD – 157 Visits</b></p>	<p><b>HI 5</b> <b>Non-domestic Building fires</b></p>  <p><b>Q3 – 2 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 5 Incidents</b></p>	<p><b>HI 6</b> <b>Fire Safety Enforcement Audits</b></p>  <p><b>Q3 – 14 Audits</b> <b>YTD – 31 Audits</b></p>
<p><b>HI 7</b> <b>Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals</b></p>  <p><b>Q3 – 4 Incidents</b> <b>YTD – 15 Incidents</b></p>	<p><b>HI 8</b> <b>Road Traffic Collisions (RTC)</b></p>  <p><b>Q3 – 4 incidents</b> <b>YTD – 8 Incidents</b></p>	<p><b>HI 9</b> <b>RTC Casualties</b></p>  <p><b>Q3 – 0</b> <b>YTD – 5</b></p>

### Incidents per Ward Area in Q3

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



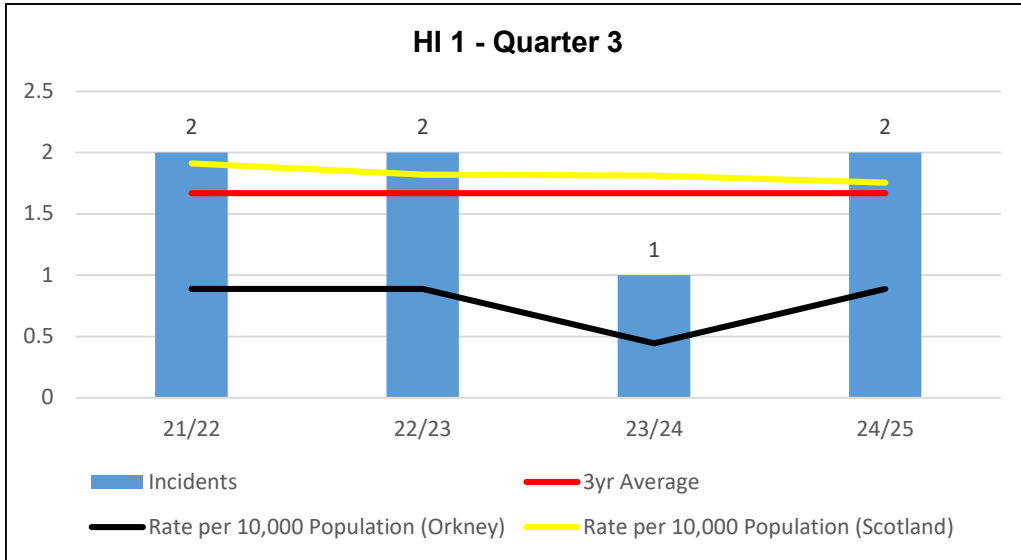
## PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

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

- There were **2 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** during quarter three. These incident statistics for Q3 is above the 3 year average for ADFs.
- There were **0 ADF Fatalities**, and **0 ADF Casualties** during quarter three. This remains below the 3 year average.
- There was **3 Non-Domestic Building Fires** during Q3 which is above the 3 year average.
- We responded to **28 False Alarm incidents** with **4** classed as **Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during Q3 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. **14** 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.
- Our Community Safety Advocates and Station personnel undertook **46 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 **4 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is line with the average. There were **0 RTC Related Fatalities** and **0 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

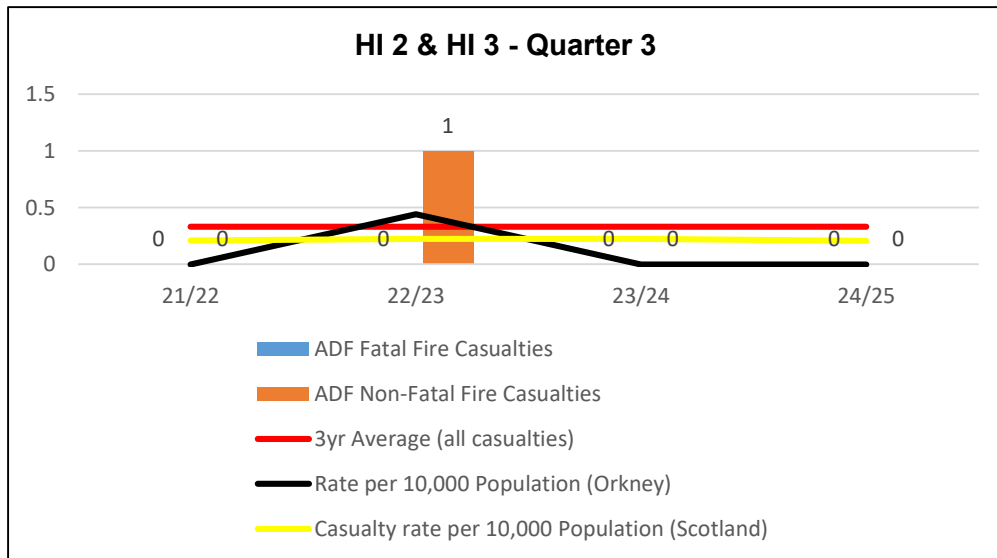
## HI 1 – Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)



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

	21/22	22/23	23/24	<b>24/25</b>
<b>HI 1: ADF's</b>	8	7	6	<b>4</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	1	0	<b>0</b>

**What we aim to Achieve:**

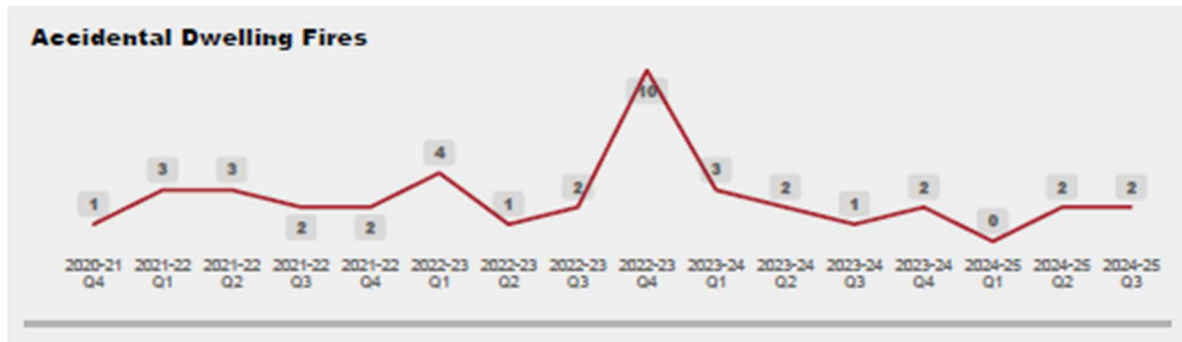
- Downward trend in the number of accidental dwelling fires.
- Downward trend in the number of accidental dwelling fires casualties and fatalities.

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

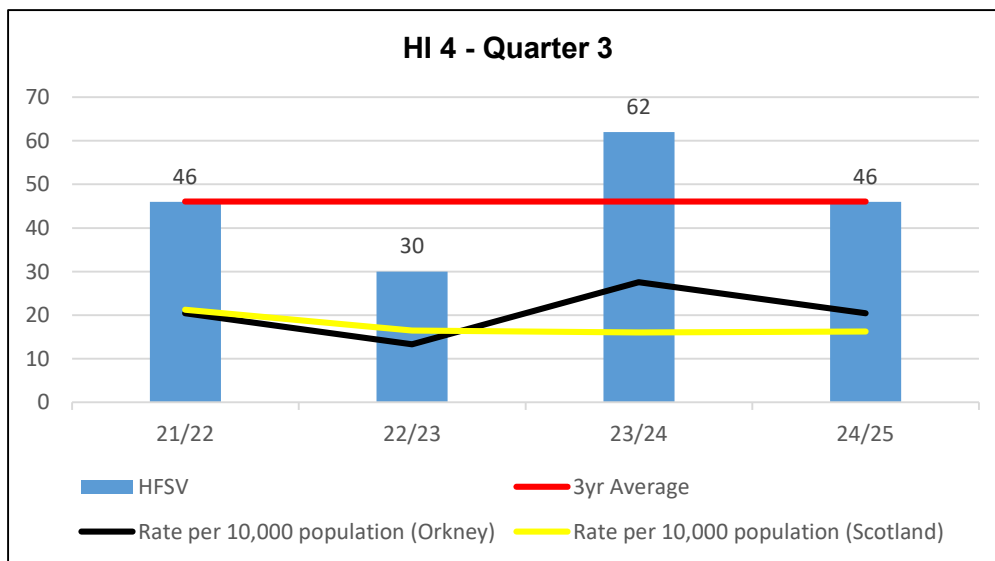
There were **0 ADF Fatalities** for this period and year to date.

There were **0 ADF Casualties** which is below the 3-yearly average. The overall **2 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** is above that of the previous year but is 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	24/25
<b>HI 4: Home Fire Safety Visits</b>	163	86	134	<b>157</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:

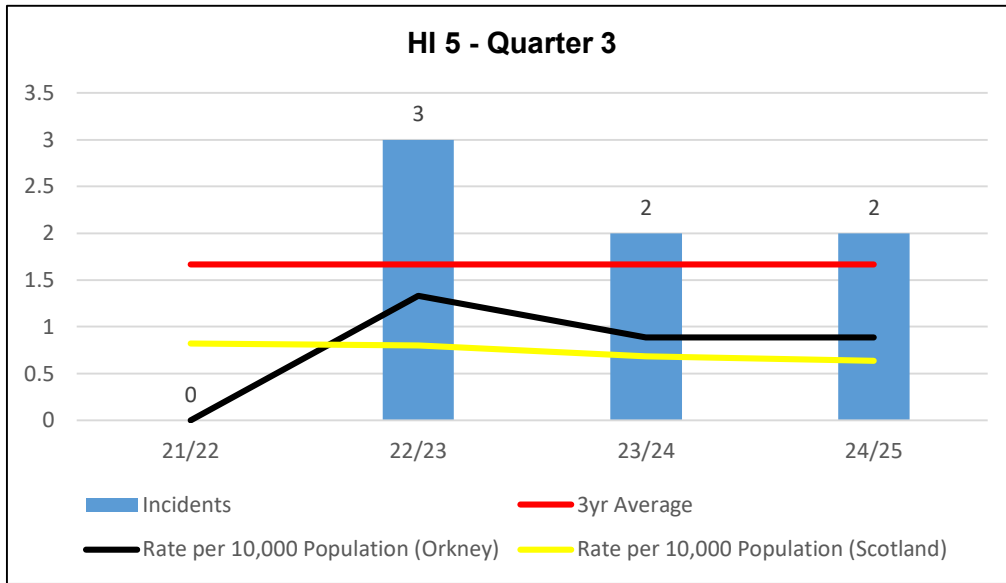
Our Community Safety Advocates and Station personnel undertook **46 Home Fire Safety Visits**. 42 of 46 visits being conducted across Orkney sat in the high risk category supporting targeted interventions.

To support our communities, we provided 7 onward referrals that further supported individual's needs, adult social work was also notified to support the needs of 4 vulnerable individuals. 6 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.

In addition to the above our Community Safety Advocate delivered further road safety awareness training using the Virtual Reality Headsets, provided CPR training and has been enhancing the community safety training for our personnel on Hoy and Westray.

## 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	7	3	<b>5</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 **2 non-domestic building fires** this period which is the same compared to the same period last year.

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

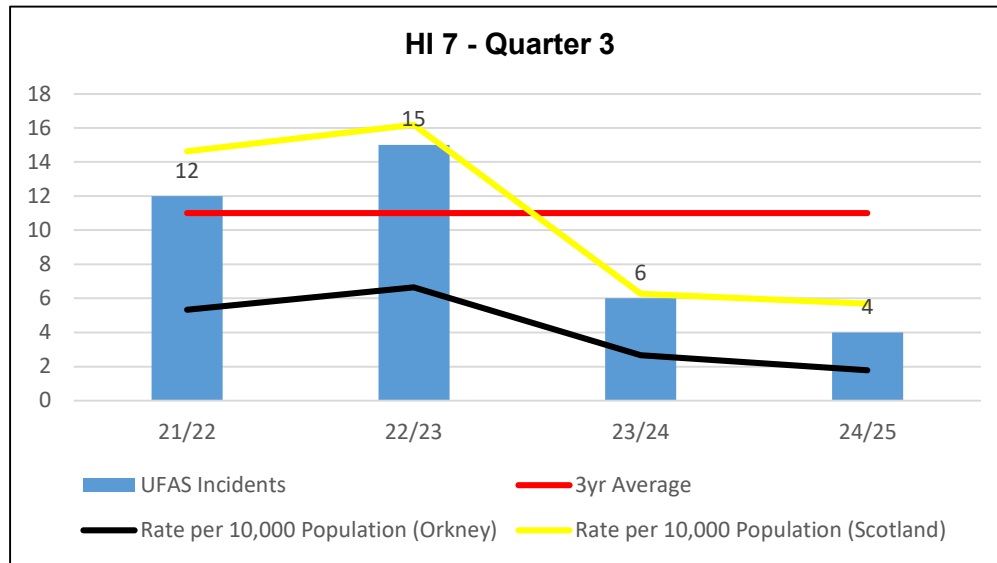
Focus has been placed on Short Term Let (SLT) applications. The review process during Q3 identified 2 properties requiring audit before finalisation of SLT application.

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.

Auditing work is during Q3 focused on identified sleeping risks and other key venues in support of the Orkney Games 2025. We are working with all partners to ensure safe delivery and planning of the coming games. A total of 14 audits had been carried out in Q3.

## 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>	35	42	31	<b>15</b>

Property Type	Number
Other Residential – Hostel	1
Sheltered Housing	1
Fire Station	1
Community Centre/Village or Parish Hall	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.

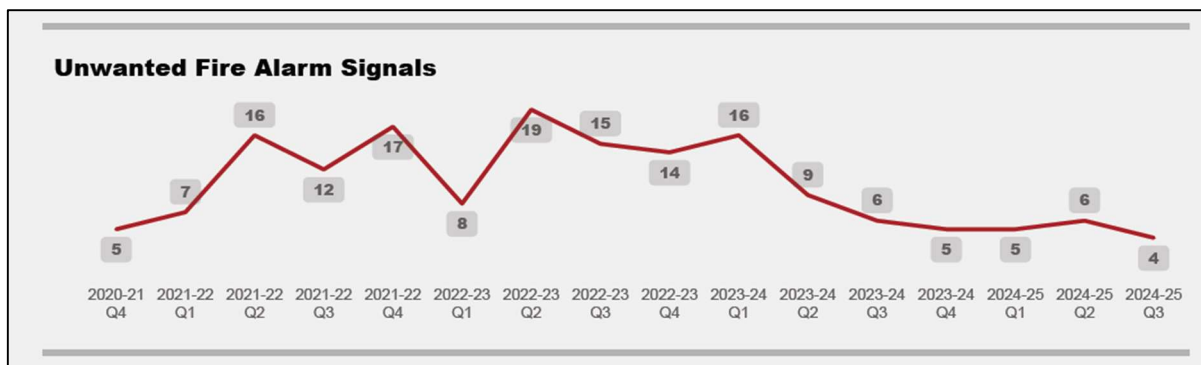
We responded to **28 False Alarm incidents** with **4** classed as **Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during Q3 which is significantly below the average based on the previous 3-year figures.

### 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 (**8 of our appliances above 90% availability, 4 available over 80% and 1 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. Our focus remains on Eday which is currently operating on a restricted capacity due to crewing levels as indicated within the availability figures. Our remaining crew are able to forward deploy and provide situational assessment and awareness for supporting resources as well as vital support for medical occurrences and other community based response as directed.

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	Oct – Dec 24 Availability %	Male	Female	Totals	FFs in Development
Eday	14.21%	2	1	3	1
Hoy	90.43%	5	0	5	1
Kirkwall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance	99.95%	15	3	18	1
Kirkwall – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance	89.82%				
North Ronaldsay	88.12%	3	2	5	1
Papa Westray	97.77%	7	0	7	2
Rousay	76.42%	5	0	5	0
Sanday	98.48%	8	0	8	3
Shapinsay	89.31%	7	1	8	1
St Margaret's Hope	90.83%	8	0	8	1
Stromness – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance	99.51%	15	2	17	0
Stromness – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance	81.63%				
Stronsay	100%	10	1	11	0
Westray	99.93%	10	0	10	0

- 107 x Station based personnel.
- 2 x Wholetime On-Call Watch Commanders.
- 1 x Wholetime On-Call Crew Commander.
- 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**

### **Chief Fire Officer and Chair of the SFRS Board Visitation**

- Chief Officer, Kirsty Darwent and DACO Stephen Wood met with Chief Executive, Oliver Reid and Leader of Orkney Islands Council Heather Woodbridge. This is the first of many engagements that the Chief Fire Officer wishes to host with Scotland's Local Authorities. This was an opportunity for the Chief to set out his strategies and priorities for the SFRS over the coming years. This was also a chance for the Chief Officer to ensure that the SFRS have been successful in building key relationships and supporting Local Authorities at a local level.
- Station engagement – Hosted at Kirkwall Fire Station where mainland Orkney Crews from Kirkwall, Stromness and St Margarets Hope had been afforded an opportunity to discuss openly with the Chief Officer and the Chair of the Board the unique operational context of providing a Fire and Rescue Service across Scotland's Island communities. DACO Stephen Wood and Group Commander David McGroarty supported the panel in providing local context.



- Awards - Held at the Saint Magnus Centre attending on the night for receipt of awards presented by Lord Lieutenant Elaine Grieve (Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November):
  - Long Service and Good Conduct - Crew Commander Barry Moncrieff, Shapinsay
  - 30 Year Clasp – FF Alastair Hourston, Papa Westray and FF Andrew Smith, Kirkwall
  - 40 Year Clasp – Crew Commander Thomas Cursiter, Stromness and Crew Commander Harald Stout, Stronsay



- Chief Officer Commendations presented by the Chief Officer

#### St Margaret's Hope Fire Station

- Crew Commander Barrie Moar
- FF Andy Robinson
- FF Kenneth Scott
- FF Glen Thomson



### Stromness Fire Station

- Watch Commander Conrad Omand
- Crew Commander Gary Scollie
- Crew Commander Ross Harvey
- FF John Phillips
- FF Scott Garson
- FF Barry Kenyon



### **Fire Brigades Union Visitation and Engagement**

Scott MacRory and Simon Leroux from the Fire Brigades Union visited Orkney in December of 2024 to engage with our personnel and to work with the local management team on promoting Health and Safety campaigns led by the FBU. This visit was welcomed and seen as an opportunity to foster and build relationships with representative bodies. Positive outcomes for the FBU had been the recruitment of Health and Safety Representatives and the promotion of lifelong learning giving our personnel access to additional opportunities for development.

### **Recruitment**









We recognise the importance of maintaining and building our local resilience within our communities and as such hosted medical assessment and Practical Selection Tests for 13 potential candidates. Watch Commander Conrad Omand, Watch Commander Scott Garson and Crew Commander Darren Muir have each been pivotal in their efforts to promote and support the recruitment process. It is also prudent to reflect the dedication demonstrated from our candidates in preparing for these next steps. A final thanks is directed to all partners who have supported the SFRS in our ongoing efforts to bolster resilience.

### **National Child Car Seat Safety Training Programme**

As a final look forward. Community Safety Advocate Michael Harcus will be attending the “Good Egg” training programme. We will work alongside the Orkney Road Safety Forum to develop a plan to assess, assist and educate members of the community on the correct sizing and fitting of child car seats.



## Winter Season Thematic Action Plan

	<p><i>Reduce accidental dwelling fires:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>Minimise the impact of accidental fire in the home over the peak Winter/Festive period.</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Reduce the overall number and severity of accidental fires in the home, accidental fire casualties and fatalities.</i></p> <p>KO1 (c) <i>Minimise the number of accidental fires and fire casualties in the home involving persons over 65 years of age.</i></p> <p>(d) <i>Provide relevant public information and advice relating to winter safety and cost of living / fuel poverty, including highlighting the increased risk from fire and accidents over the festive period due to alcohol consumption.</i></p>
	KO2 <i>Target Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) at high-risk households.</i>
	KO3 <i>Increased safety of commercial and public premises (Enforcement).</i>
	KO4 <i>Promote benefits of carbon monoxide detection within the home.</i>
	KO5 <i>Promote chimney safety including flues, solid fuel stoves, log burners and wood burning heaters.</i>
	KO6 <i>Promote road safety.</i>
	KO7 <i>Promote water safety.</i>
	<p><i>Consider additional winter safety themes:</i></p> <p>KO8 (a) <i>Electrical Safety</i>          (b) <i>Power Cuts</i>          (c) <i>Stairwell / Close Safety</i>          (d) <i>Flooding</i></p>