



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

Official Document

Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics 2023-24

An Official Statistics
publication for Scotland
31 October 2024

Working together for a safer Scotland

Contents

1.	Main Points	1
2.	Summary	3
3.	Fires	6
4.	Casualties in Fires	18
5.	Non-fire Incidents and Casualties	29
6.	False alarms	33
	Appendix A: Key for Local Authority Maps	38

This publication and associated statistics are designated as Official Statistics.

This means that it is produced to high professional standards set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). It is produced free from any political interference.

In 2019 the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was named in legislation as a Producer of Official Statistics which allows us to classify this series.

This publication is accompanied by the following documents:

- Tables and Charts Workbook
- Guidance Notes on Statistics
- Statistical News 2023-24

1. Main Points

All incidents

- **80,488** incidents attended, of which:
 - **50.2%** were false alarms
 - **29.9%** were fires
 - **19.9%** were non-fires

Fires

- **24,060** fires attended, down 10.3% on last year
 - **4,249** dwelling fires, down 1.3%
 - **3,811** accidental dwelling fires, down 1.6%
 - **26.4%** had no smoke alarms present
 - **32.3%** were confined to the original item
 - **1,879** road vehicle fires, down 5.3%
 - **15,795** outdoor fires (excluding road vehicle fires), down 13.3%

Non-fire Incidents

- **16,046** non-fire incidents attended, down 4.6%
 - **1,896** were flooding, down 39.7%
 - **2,224** were Road Traffic Collisions, down 0.6%

False Alarms

- **40,382** false alarm incidents, down 27.8%
- **39,638** false fire alarm incidents, down 28.1%
 - **30,445** were due to apparatus, down 31.2%
- **17,088** Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals, down 45.6%

Fatal Fire Casualties

- **42** fatal fire casualties, down from 43 last year
 - **36** of these were in dwelling fires
- **54.8%** of fatal fire casualties were male
- **4.5** times higher rate of fatal casualties in the most deprived areas than in the least deprived over the last 10 years

Non-fatal Fire Casualties

- **815** non-fatal fire casualties, down 11.6%
- **5.4** times higher rate of non-fatal casualties in the most deprived areas compared with the least deprived areas over the last 10 years

Non-fire Casualties

- **423** fatal casualties, up 5.0%
 - **75** occurred at Road Traffic Collisions, down 16.7%
 - **73.9%** increase in fatal casualties at Medical Incidents
- **2,499** non-fatal casualties, down 0.6%



2. Summary

In 2023-24, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 80,488 incidents, down from 99,607 in 2022-23 (19.2% decrease).

There were 24,060 fire incidents in 2023-24, down from 26,828 last year (10.3% decrease). Primary fires decreased by 6.6% from last year, with 9,774 in 2022-23 and 9,130 in 2023-24. There were 4,249 dwelling fires this year, down from 4,304 last year (1.3% decrease). Road vehicle fires decreased by 106 (5.3%) from 1,985 last year to 1,879 in 2023-24. There were 14,532 secondary fires this year, down from 16,628 in 2022-23 (12.6% decrease).

There were 16,046 non-fire incidents in 2023-24, down from 16,826 last year (4.6% decrease). This is the second-largest figure since this series began, with 2022-23 seeing the largest number of non-fire incidents attended. Over the last decade, there has been a 75.1% increase in the number of non-fire

incidents attended, with 9,166 attended in 2013-14. Flooding incidents decreased from 3,145 in 2022-23 to 1,896 in 2023-24 (39.7% decrease). Except for this year, flooding incidents have been increasing each year over the last decade, with the figure for 2023-24 being the second highest recorded after 2022-23. There were 2,242 Road Traffic Collisions attended by SFRS this year, down from 2,255 last year (0.6% decrease).

SFRS attended 40,382 false alarm incidents in 2023-24, down from 55,953 (27.8% decrease). Of these, 39,638 were fire false alarms, down from 55,105 (28.1% decrease). This decrease is likely due to the introduction of a new policy in how SFRS responds to Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) which was introduced in July 2023. There were 17,088 UFAS incidents in 2023-24, down from 31,404 in 2022-23 (45.6% decrease).

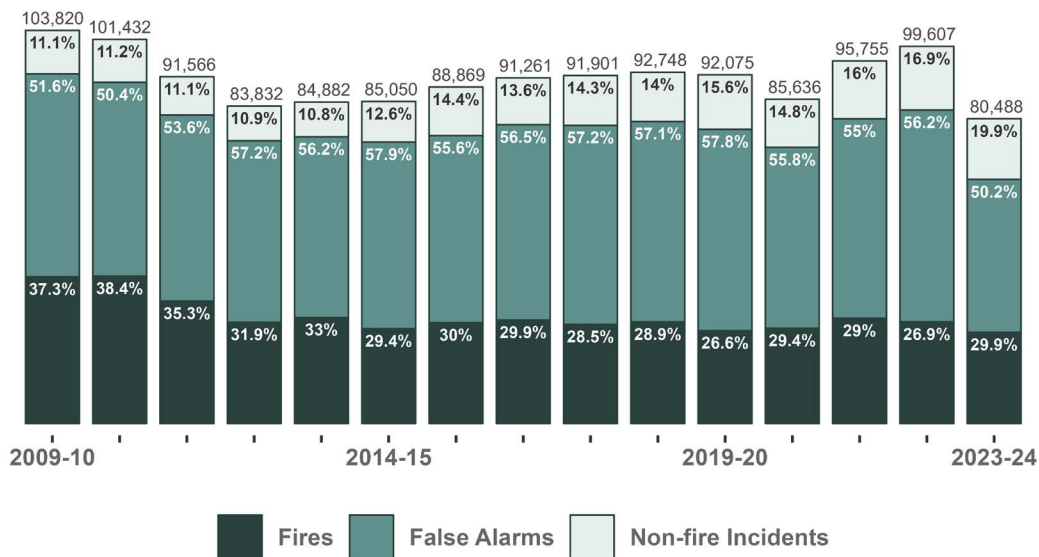


Figure 1: Total number of incidents attended with percentage share by type.

Fatal Casualties Attended

There were 470 total fatal casualties in 2023-24, up from 454 in 2022-23 (3.5% increase).

There were 42 fatal fire casualties in 2023-24, down from 43 in 2022-23. Of these, 36 occurred in dwelling fires, 1 was in other buildings, and 3 were in road vehicles.

There were 423 non-fire fatal casualties this year, up from 403 last year (5.0% increase). 75 of these occurred in Road Traffic Collisions attended by SFRS. This is down from 90 in 2022-23 (16.7% decrease). There were 157 fatal casualties at Effecting Entry or Exit incidents in 2023-24, up from 140 last year (12.1% decrease).

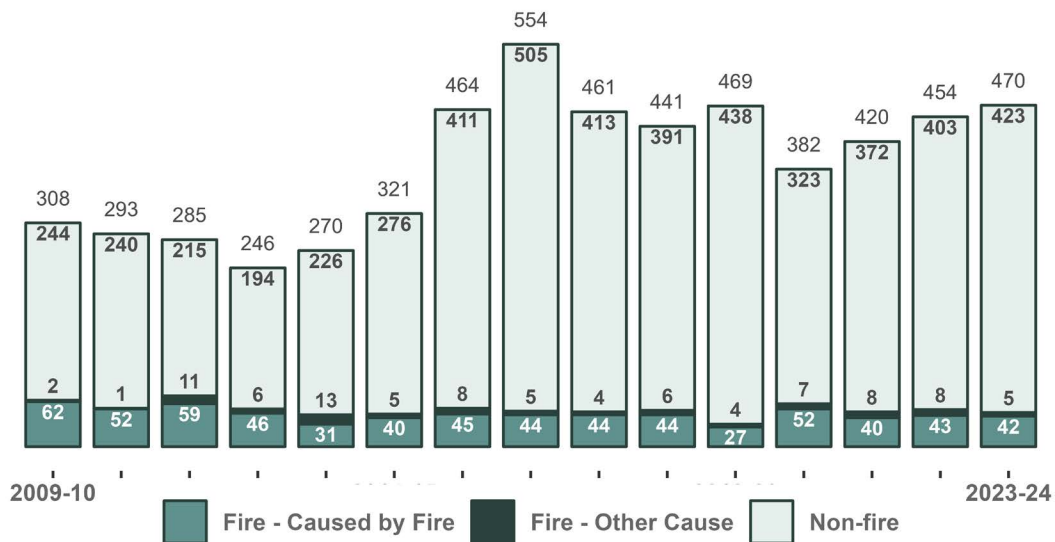


Figure 2: Fatal Casualties Attended.

Non-fatal Casualties Attended

There were 3,314 non-fatal casualties in 2023-24, down from 3,435 in 2022-23 (3.5% decrease).

There were 815 non-fatal fire casualties in 2023-24, down from 922 last year (11.6% decrease). Of these, 712 occurred in dwellings, 60 occurred in other buildings and 17 occurred in road vehicles.

There were 2,499 non-fire non-fatal casualties this year, down from 2,513 (0.6% decrease). There were 1,422 non-fatal casualties at Road Traffic Collisions attended by SFRS in 2023-24, up from 1,412 last year (0.7% increase).

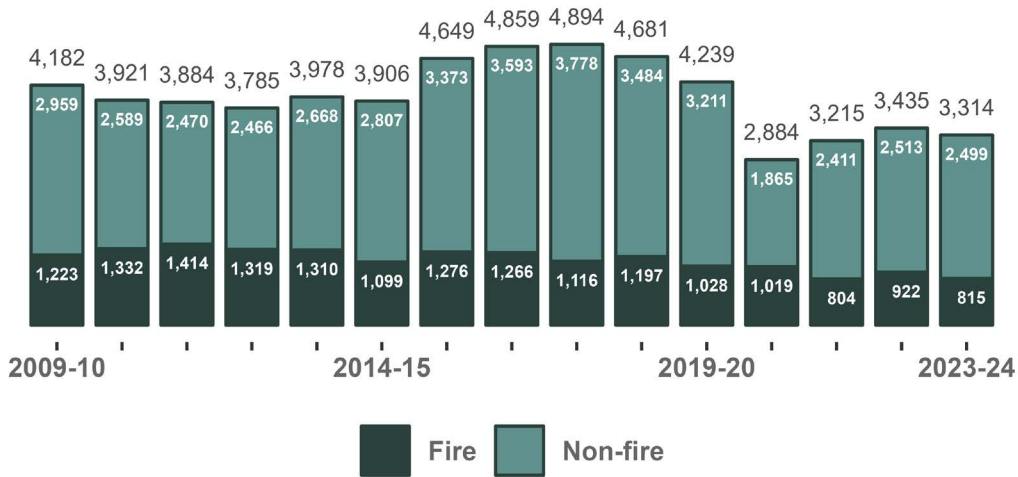


Figure 3: Non-fatal Casualties Attended.

3. Fires

In 2023-24, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 24,060 fires, down from 26,828 last year (10.3% decrease).

The term 'primary fire' is used to describe fires which may result in either harm to people, require five or more appliances, or fires which take place in buildings, vehicles and some outdoor locations. There were 9,130 primary fires in 2023-24, down from 9,774 in 2022-23 (6.6% decrease). Primary fires have been steadily decreasing each year since this series began (1995-96). Over the last decade, there has been an 13.2% decrease in the number of primary fires, with 10,521 recorded in 2013-14.

Dwelling fires ¹ have also been steadily decreasing since this series began (1995-96). There were 4,249 dwelling fires recorded in 2023-24, 1.3% fewer than last year and 20.2% fewer than 2013-14.

There were 1,879 road vehicle fires attended in 2023-24, 106 fewer than last year (5.3% decrease). There appears to be no overall long-term trend in

these types of fires, with figures showing little variation over the last decade.

Other primary fires have increased over the last decade, with 914 recorded in 2013-14 and 1,263 recorded in 2023-24 (38.2% increase). Specifically, outdoor structure fires have increased from 370 in 2013-14 to 456 this year and woodland fires have increased from 236 in 2013-14 to 543 this year.

There were 14,532 secondary fires attended by SFRS in 2023-24, down from 16,628 last year (12.6% decrease). There is no clear overall long-term trend for all secondary fires, but known environmental factors such as climate change, vegetation types and seasonality does affect the variability seen in grassland and other secondary fires. Refuse fires and chimney fires have less variability but are influenced more by socioeconomic factors including public awareness and education.



Trends in Fires

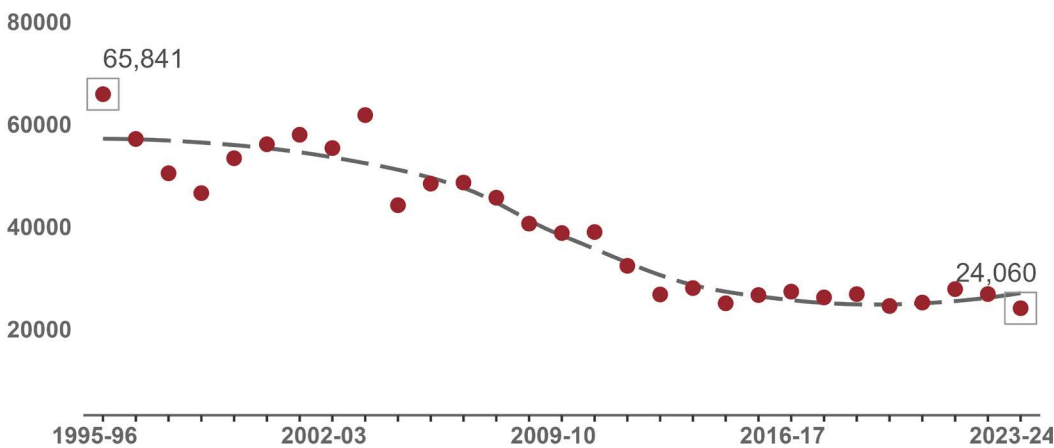


Figure 4: Long-term trend in the number of fires. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this instance, the most recent value is also the minimum or maximum value.

¹ Dwellings are properties that people ordinarily live in such as houses and apartments, please see Guidance Notes document for a full definition.

Trends in Primary Fires

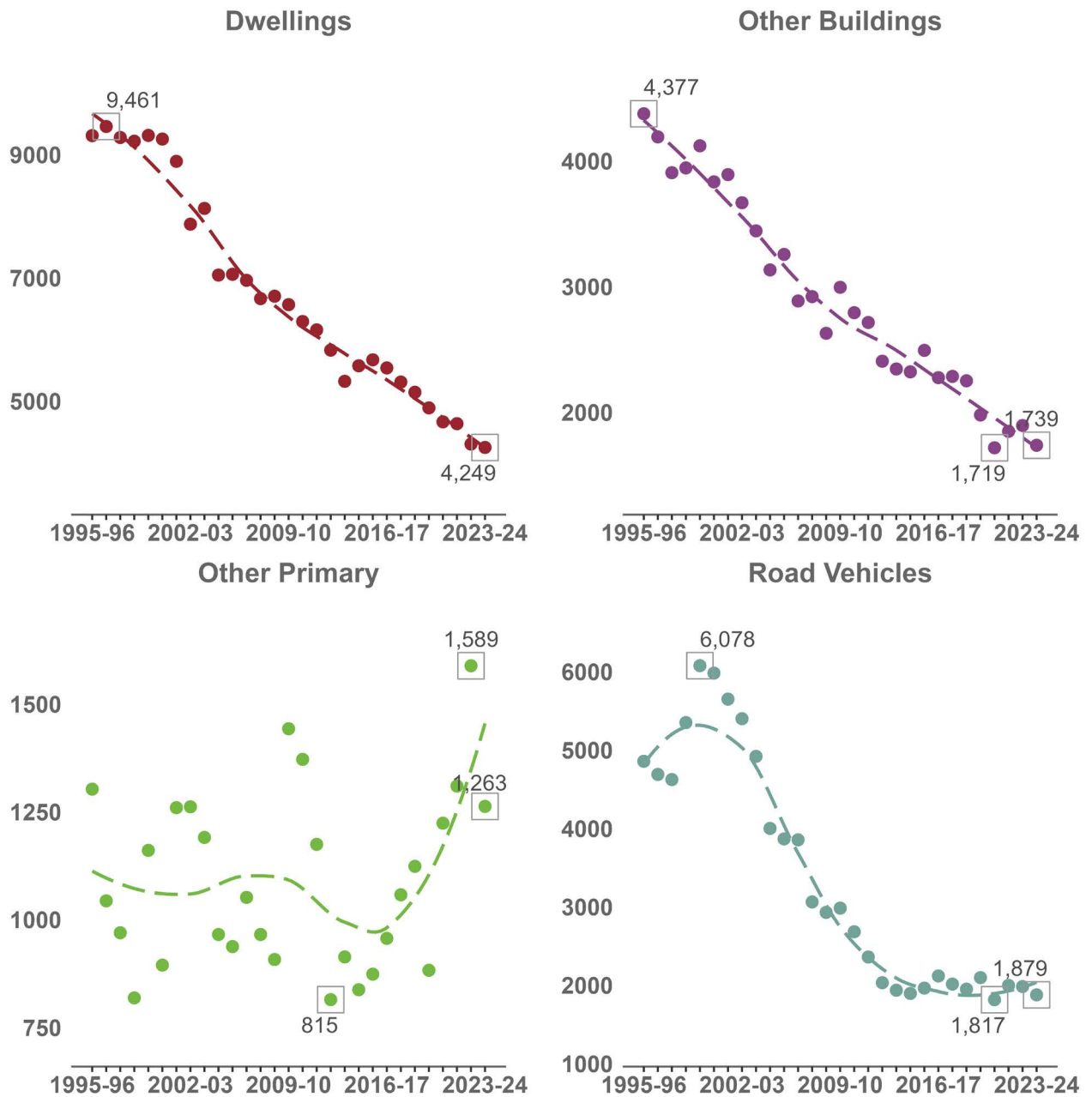


Figure 5: Primary fire trends. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the minimum or maximum value.

Trends in Secondary and Chimney Fires

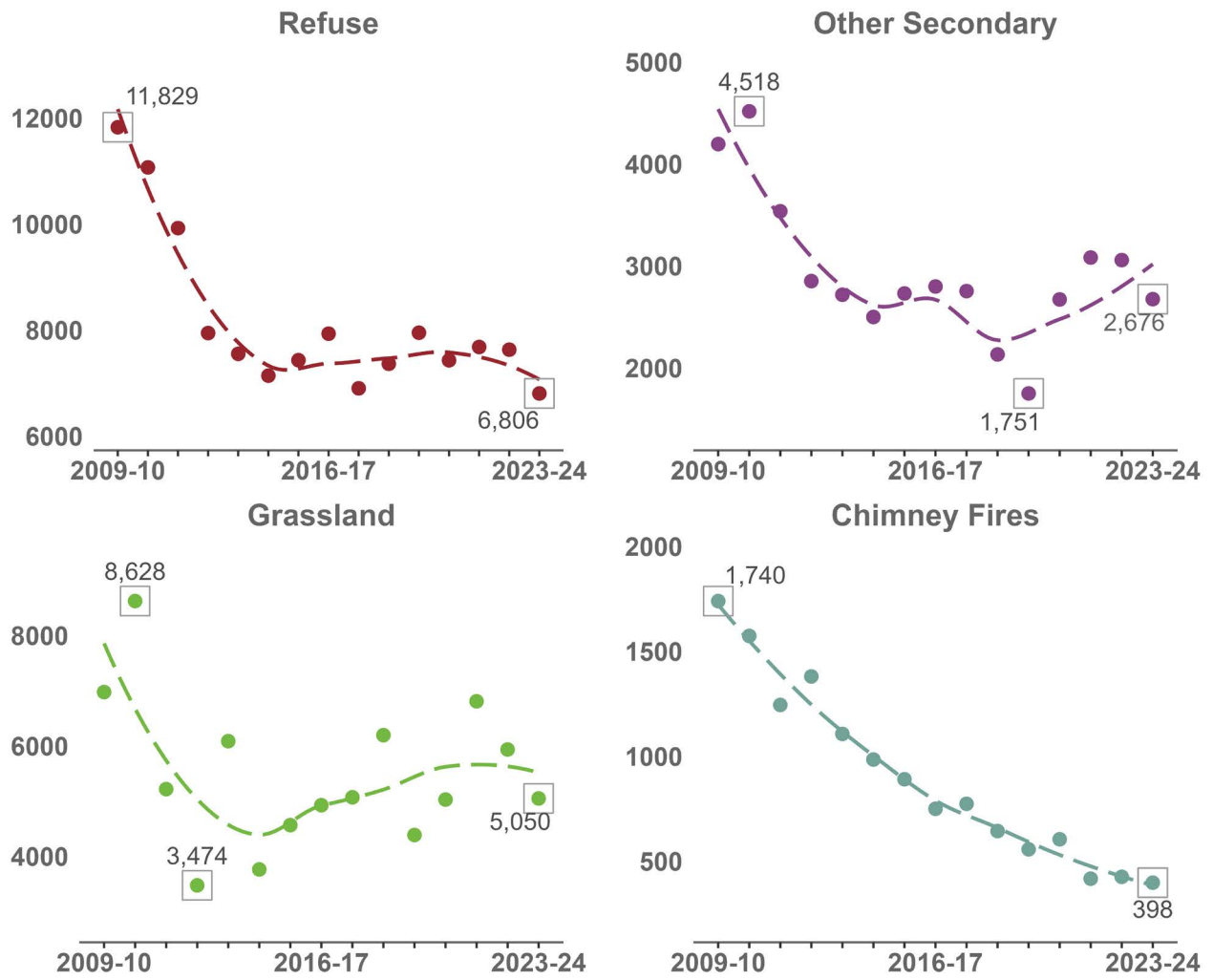


Figure 6: Secondary fire trend. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

Great Britain Comparisons

Across Great Britain ², there has been similar long-term trends in fires throughout the years, with there being a consistent decline in fires per million population in England, Scotland and Wales. This trend has levelled off since the early 2010s and has remained consistently low since then. There were 4,382 fires per million population in Scotland. Comparable figures for England and Wales were not available at the time of this publication. Please see Statistical News document for further information.

Primary fires have consistently decreased in each nation. Since the late 2000s, Scotland has had a higher rate per million population than England and Wales. In 2023-24, there were 1,663 primary fires per million population in Scotland.

Similarly, dwelling fires have steadily decreased in England, Wales and Scotland. Scotland has had a consistently higher rate per million population than the other nations. In 2023-24, there were 774 dwelling fires per million population.

Secondary fires in each nation had an overall decreasing trend between the early 2000s until the early 2010s. This trend has levelled off in each nation. In 2023-24, Scotland recorded 2,647 secondary fires per million population.

The deprivation and urban-rural profile of communities influences fire rates at a national level. This could explain why there are differing rates between nations. [See pages 14 and 15 for more details on these factors.](#)

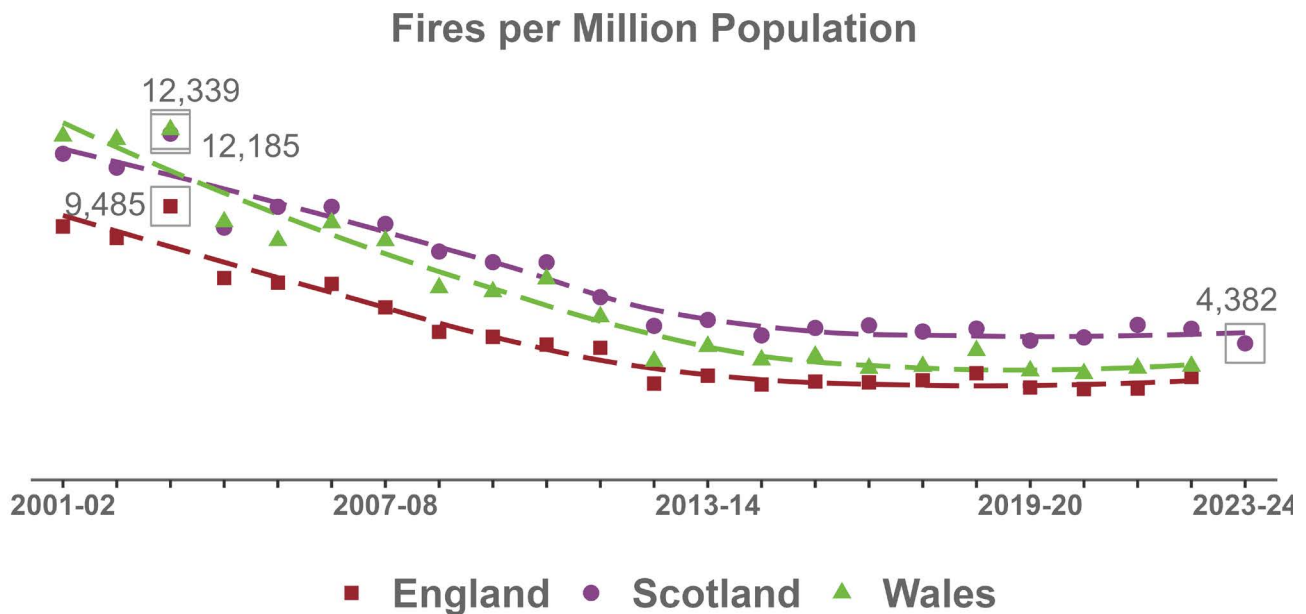


Figure 7: Fires per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values. Please note that figures for England and Wales were not available when this document was published. See Statistical News document for further details.

² Scottish population figures used throughout this document were sourced from National Records of Scotland. Fire statistics for England and Wales were sourced from the Home Office and the Welsh Government. Comparable statistics for Northern Ireland are not available.

Primary Fires per Million Population

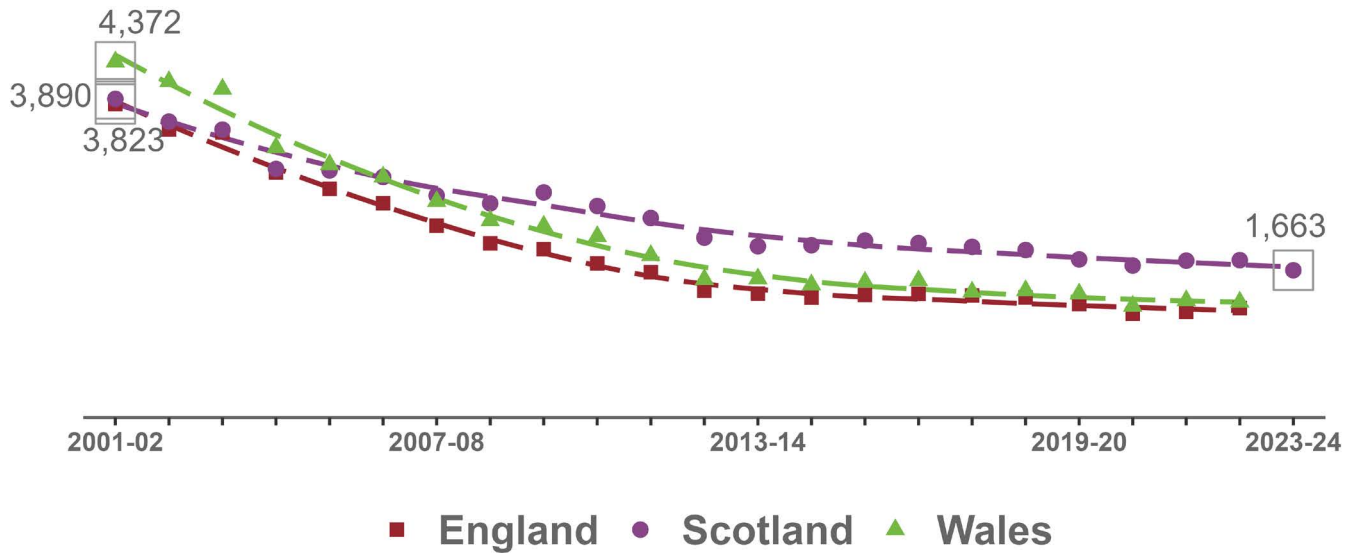


Figure 8: Primary fires per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

Dwelling Fires per Million Population

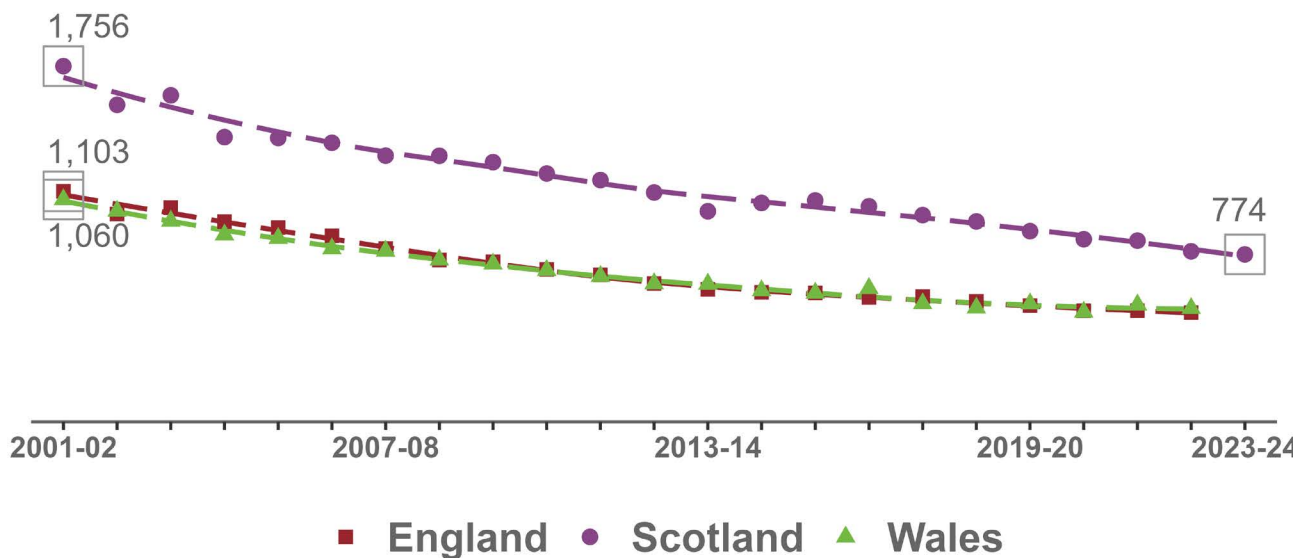


Figure 9: Dwelling fires per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

Secondary Fires per Million Population

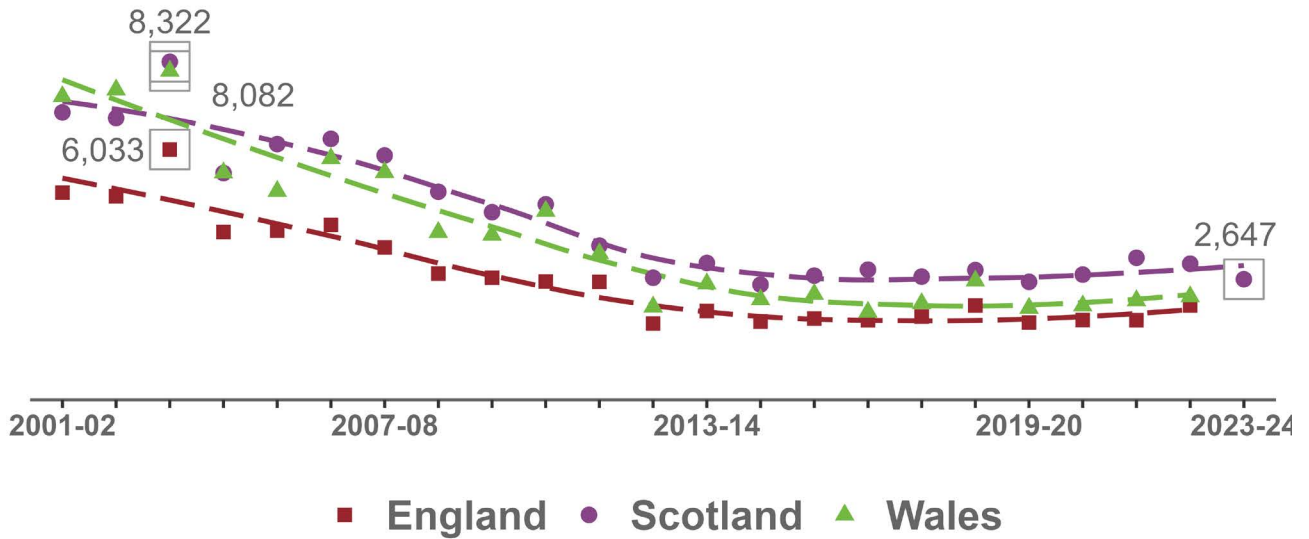


Figure 10: Secondary fires per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

Motive

In 2023-24, there were 13,426 fires recorded as being deliberately³ set; this is 55.8% of all fires. Figure 11 shows how the proportion of deliberately set fires varies by incident category.

Deliberate dwelling fires make up 10.3% of all dwelling fires, with 438 recorded in 2023-24. This

figure has continually declined over the last decade, with 650 recorded in 2013-14 (32.6% decrease).

In 2023-24, there were 3,811 accidental dwelling fires, down from 3,873 last year (1.6% decrease). This has declined by 18.4% over the last decade, with 4,673 recorded in 2013-14.

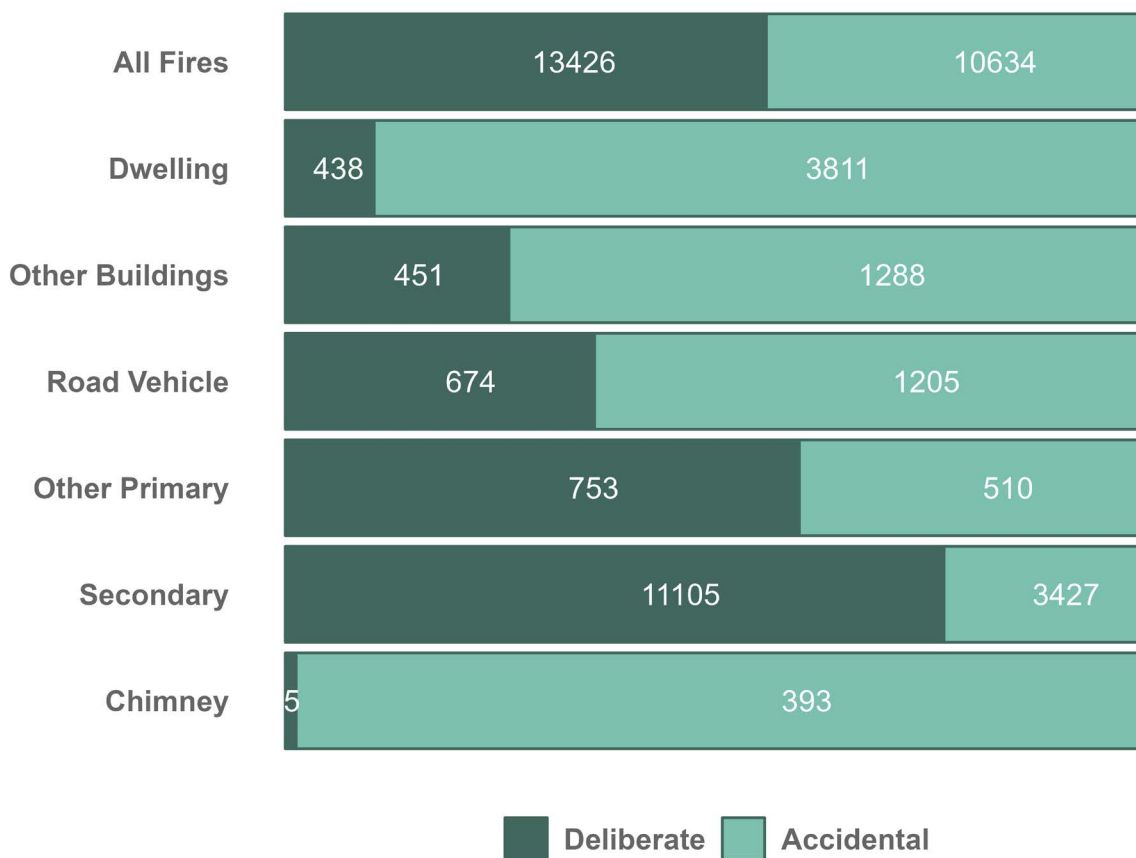


Figure 11: Fires by motive, 2023-24. Written values represent the number of fire incidents in each category.

³ Fires classed as 'Deliberate' should not be interpreted as necessarily resulting from arson or criminal intent.

Dwelling Fires

Fire casualties and fire fatalities often occur in dwelling fires, and so, it is important to understand the factors relating to safety in dwelling fires.

Ignition Source

There were 2,204 accidental dwelling fires where the main source of ignition was cooking appliances. This makes up 57.8% of all accidental dwelling fires in 2023-24. Cooking appliances has consistently been the main source of ignition in accidental dwelling fires since this series began (2009-10).

Impairment

In 2023-24, there were 515 (13.5%) accidental dwelling fires where impairment through alcohol or drugs was seen as a contributory factor. Such incidents have a much higher casualty rate. [See page 27 for details.](#)

Spread of Fire

In 2023-24, 1,650 (38.8%) of dwelling fires caused smoke or heat damage only, and 1,371 (32.3%) were confined to the original item. 364 (8.6%) fires spread beyond the initial room that the fire started in.

Smoke Alarms

In 1,122 (26.4%) of dwelling fires in 2023-24, smoke alarms were absent. Since 2013-14, this has reduced from 1,521 (28.6%). This is likely attributed to the change in legislation in Scotland regarding smoke alarms. All households are required to have smoke detectors in place. Increasing prevalence of smoke alarms is likely to be an important factor in the reducing number of dwelling fires.



Deprivation (SIMD⁴)

Figure 12 highlights the differences in rates of dwelling fires in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas. Similar to previous years, the two most deprived areas have a rate above the Scottish average, with the most deprived area having a rate almost double the Scottish average. Over the last decade, dwelling fires have reduced by similar rates in the most and least deprived areas, with the number of dwelling fires reducing by 24.3%

in the most deprived areas and 24.6% in the least deprived areas.

A similar pattern is seen for secondary fires, with the most deprived areas having a rate 1.9 times higher the Scotland average and 4.3 times higher than the least deprived areas. Please see Tables and Charts workbook for further information.

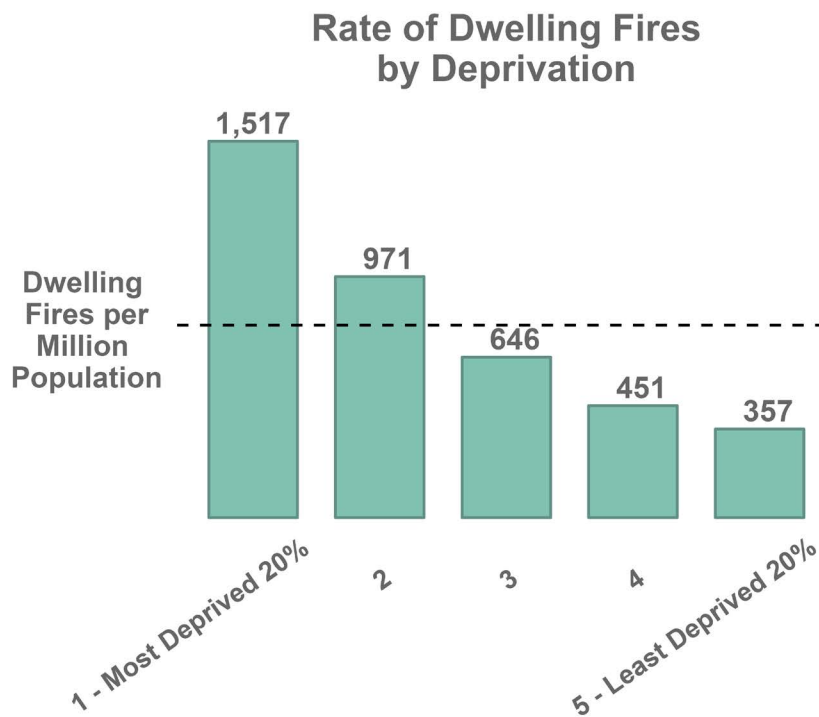


Figure 12: Rate of dwelling fires per million population by level of deprivation, 2023-24. The Scotland average is 775.

⁴ Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020

Urban-Rural⁵

Similar to previous years, the rate of dwelling fires is above average in large urban areas, other urban areas and remote small towns. The rate of dwelling fires in accessible small towns, accessible rural and remote rural areas is below average.

Over the last decade, the number of dwelling fires in urban areas have reduced at a quicker rate than remote areas. Dwelling fires in large urban areas have reduced from 2,519 in 2013-14 to 1,870 in 2023-24 (25.8% decrease). In other urban areas

there has been a 13.8% reduction over the same time period, and in accessible small towns a 23.2% reduction.

In contrast, the number of dwelling fires in remote small towns and remote rural areas have reduced by 0.6% and 12.8% respectively over the same time period. Accessible rural areas make up a larger proportion of the overall decrease, with dwelling fires decreasing by 22.8% since 2013-14.

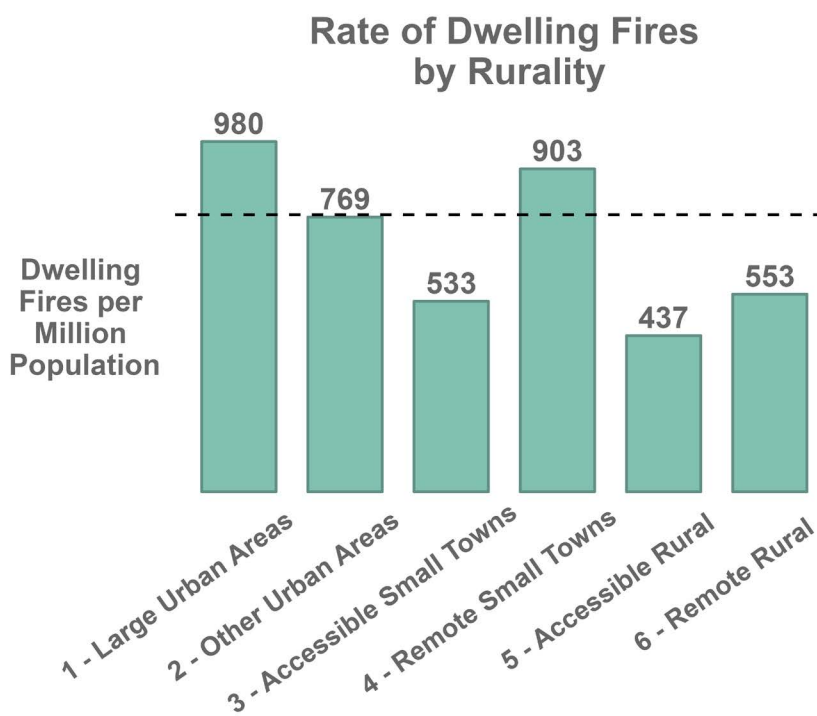


Figure 13: Rate of dwelling fires per million population by level of rurality, 2023-24. The Scotland average is 775.

⁵ Scottish Government Urban Rural Six-Fold Classification

Local Authority Comparisons

The number of incidents and casualties vary across the 32 local authority areas in Scotland. We use rates adjusted for population or the number of dwellings to fairly compare these areas.

Accidental Dwelling Fires

West Dunbartonshire had the highest rate of accidental dwelling fires, with 264.8 accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 dwellings. Shetland Islands had a rate of 197.8 accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 dwellings and Glasgow City had a rate of 191.1. In contrast, Orkney Islands and Highland had the lowest rates, at 68.3 and 88.2.

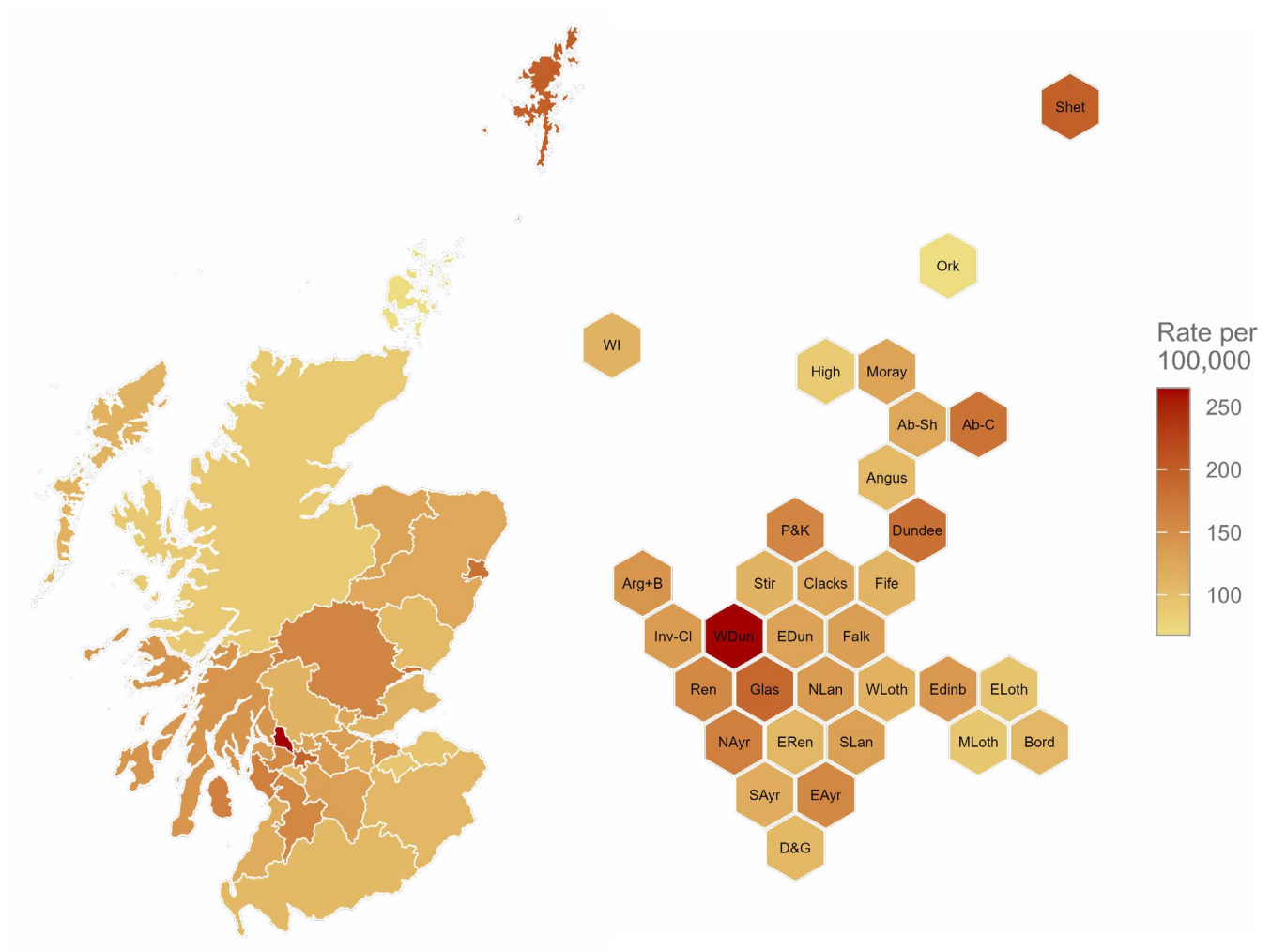


Figure 14: Accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 dwellings, choropleth and area normalised cartogram 2023-24.

Deliberate Fires

There is a higher rate of deliberate fires in urban local authority areas, specifically in the central belt of Scotland. Inverclyde has a substantially higher rate of deliberate fires per 100,000 population than any other area, at 667.7 deliberate fires per 100,000 population. Dundee City and West Lothian have the

next highest rates, at 446.9 and 435.3 respectively. The lowest rates of deliberate fires are in Shetland Islands at 21.7, Orkney Islands at 45.4 and Argyll and Bute at 58.0.

For more local authority graphs and statistics please see the [downloadable tables and charts workbook](#).

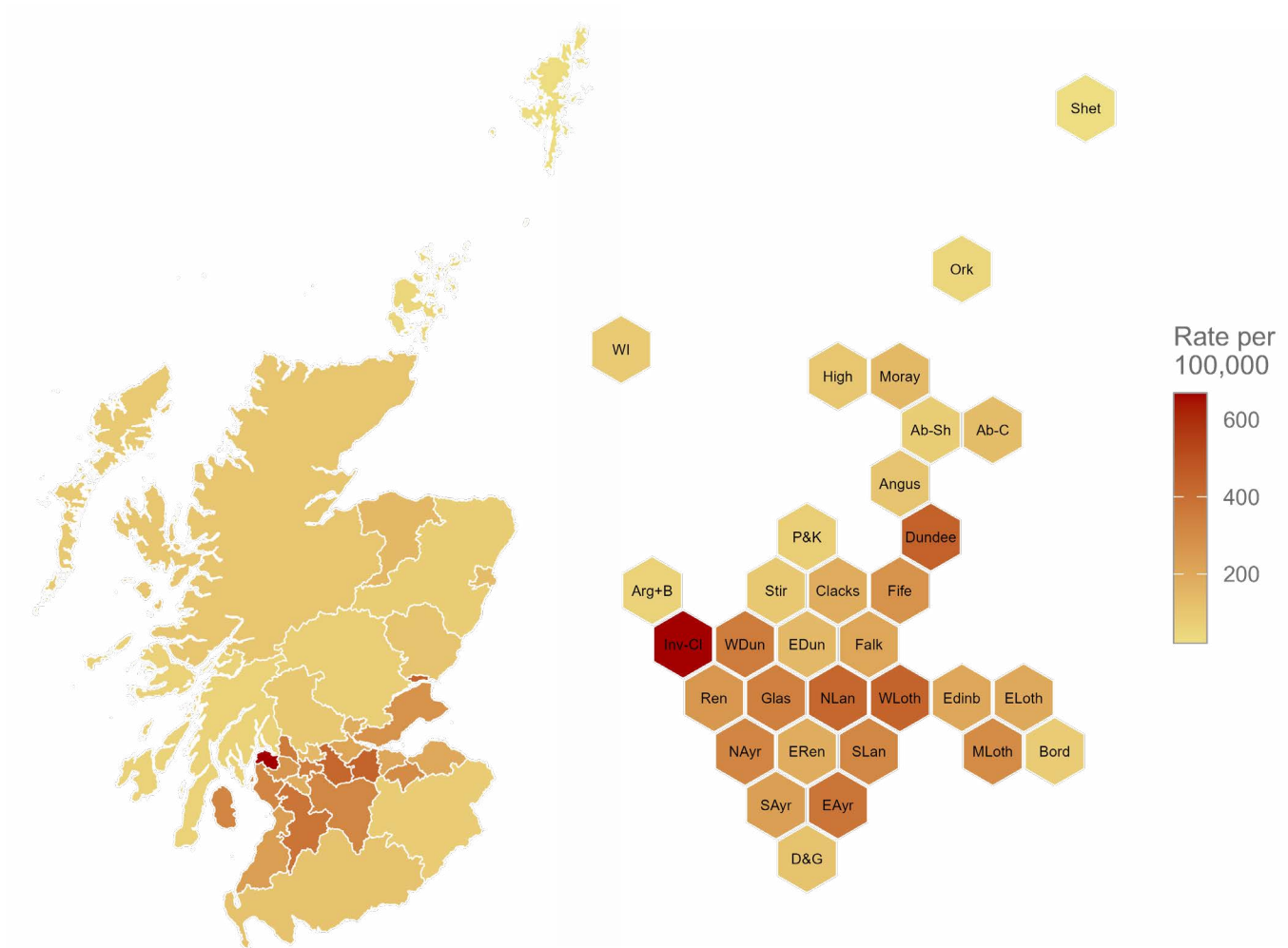


Figure 15: Deliberate fires per 100,000 population, choropleth and area normalised cartogram 2023-24.

4. Casualties in Fires

In 2023-24, there were 42 fatal fire casualties, down from 43 last year. This is consistent with the ten-year average for fatal fire casualties, which is also 42. Figure 16 shows an overall downward trend since 1990, with this figure levelling off since the early 2010s.

Of the 42 fatal fire casualties, 36 (85.7%) were in dwellings, 1 (2.4%) was in other buildings and 3 (7.1%) were in road vehicles.

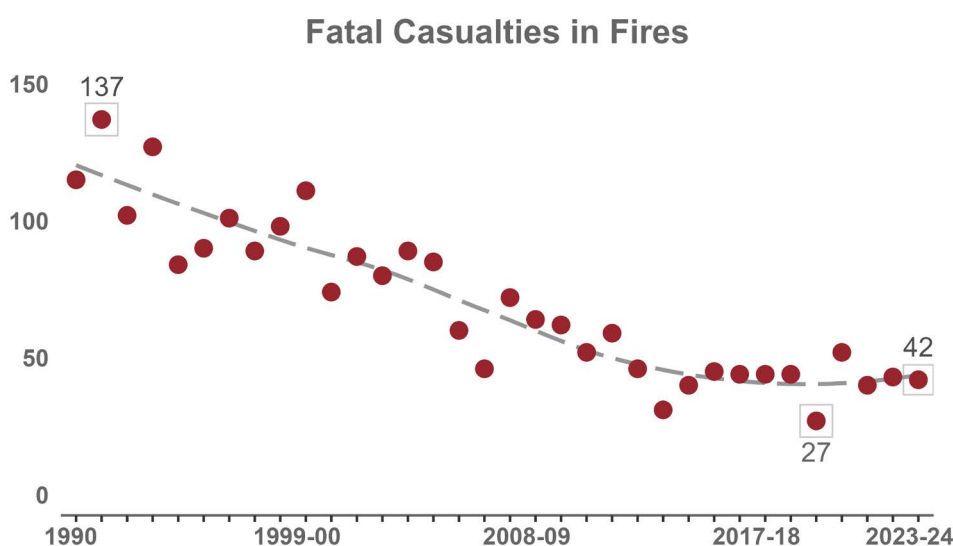


Figure 16: Long-term trend in the number of fatal fire casualties. Note that the series changed from calendar year to financial year after 1993. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

Fire fatalities often appear in clusters throughout the years. Due to this, total fire fatality figures appear to be volatile between years, as is referenced in Figure 17.

Figure 17 shows the 13-week rolling average of fire fatalities from 2017-18 to 2023-24. The peaks of the charts represent these clusters of fire fatalities.

The total fire fatality figure for a year is dependent on whether these peaks fall within that year. For instance, the chart shows that in 2019-20 there is a peak very close to the beginning of the fiscal year. If

this peak were to have occurred slightly earlier in the calendar year, it would have occurred at the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Consequently, the total fire fatalities figure for 2019-20 would have been considerably lower and the total for 2018-19 would have been higher. This highlights that clusters of fatalities have a large influence on the total fire fatality figure for a year and so, large variations between years are to be expected.

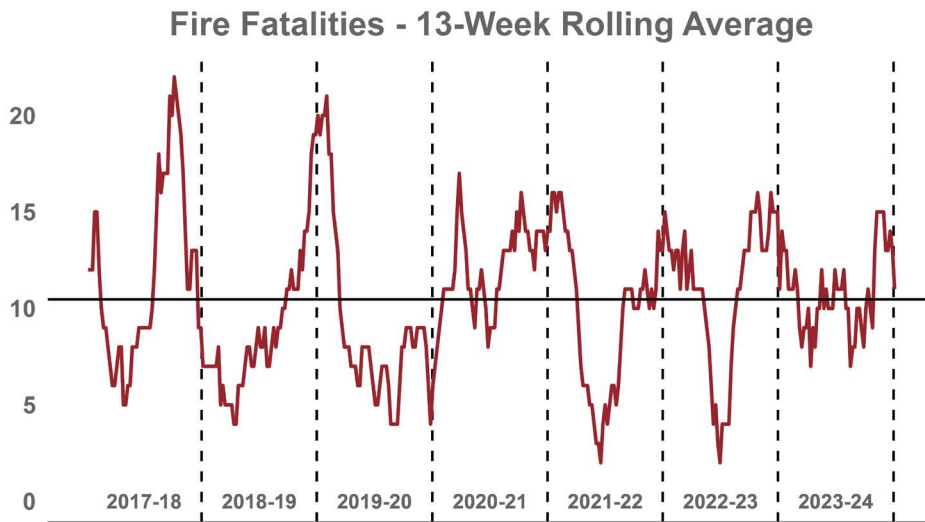


Figure 17: Fire Fatalities as a 13-week rolling average. The horizontal black line represents the average of the 13-week rolling values. Vertical dashed lines represent the change in fiscal year.

There were 815 non-fatal fire casualties in 2023-24, down from 922 last year (11.6% decrease). This is the second lowest figure in this series since it began.

Figure 18 shows the historical overall decreasing trend in non-fatal casualties in fires since the early

2000s. Since 2013-14, there has been a 37.8% decrease in the number of non-fatal casualties.

Of the 815 non-fatal casualties in 2023-24, 712 (87.4%) were in dwellings, 60 (7.4%) were in other buildings and 17 (2.1%) were in road vehicles.

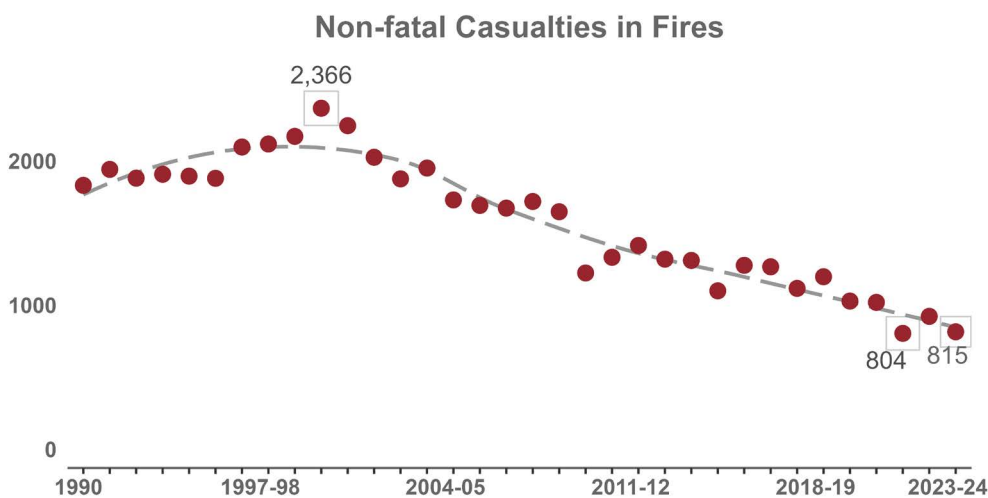


Figure 18: Long-term trend in the number of non-fatal fire casualties. Note that the series changed from calendar year to financial year after 1993. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

In 2023-24, 553 of non-fatal casualties required treatment, down from 595 last year (7.1% decrease). 262 non-fatal casualties did not require treatment, but a precautionary check was recommended. This is down from 327 in 2022-23 (19.9% decrease).

The main cause of injury in non-fatal casualties was being overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes, with 63.9% of casualties having this injury type. Burns accounted for 13.6%, and a combination of burns and being overcome by gas or smoke accounted for 2.7%.

Treatment of Non-fatal Casualties

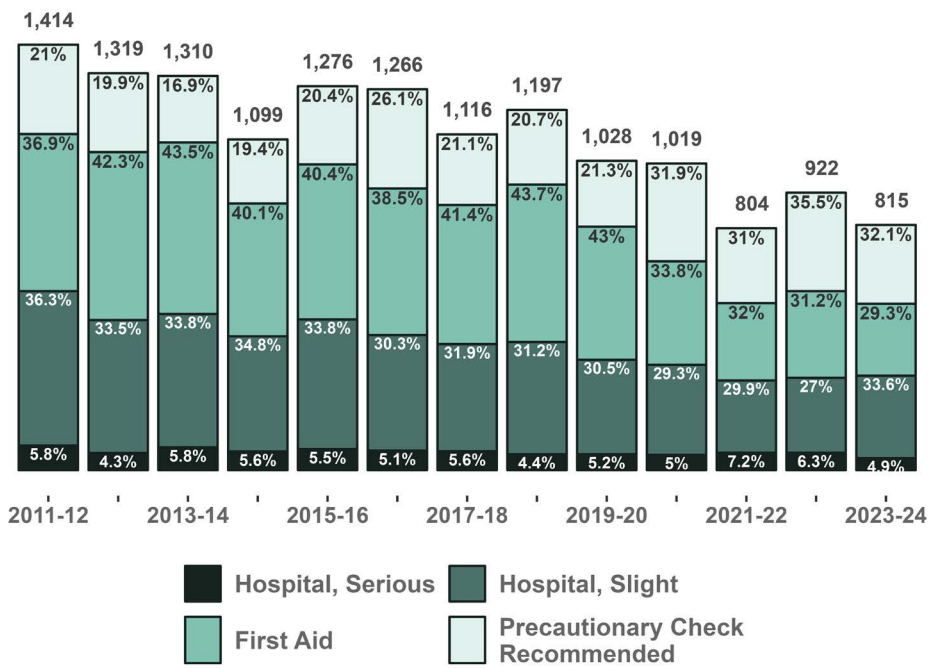


Figure 19: Treatment of non-fatal casualties.

Great Britain Comparisons

Fatal fire casualties per million population have been on a long-term downward trend in each nation since the early 2000s. This trend has levelled off in each nation from around the early 2010s. Scotland has historically had a higher rate per million population than Wales and England. Differing demographic, deprivation and urban-rural profiles of each nation are likely factors in explaining the different rates.

In 2023-24, Scotland had a rate of 7.7 fatalities per million population. Comparable figures for England and Wales were not available at the time of this publication. Please see Statistical News document for further information.

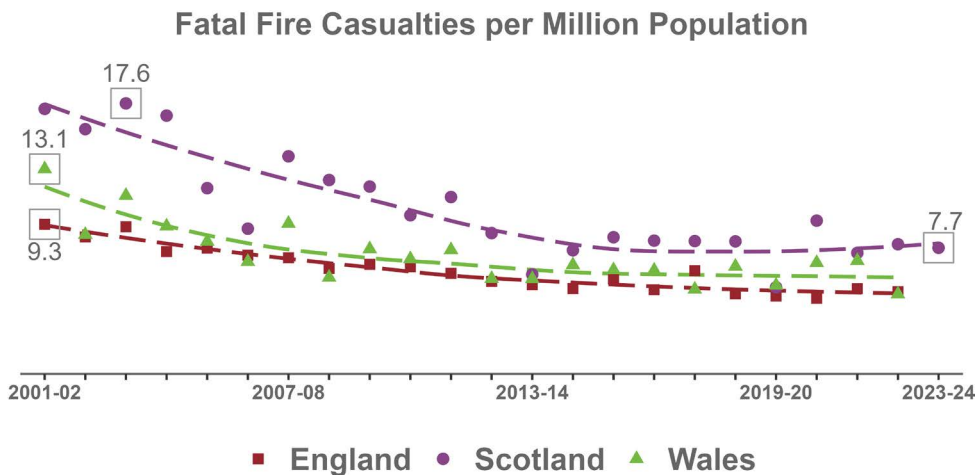


Figure 20: Fatal fire casualties per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

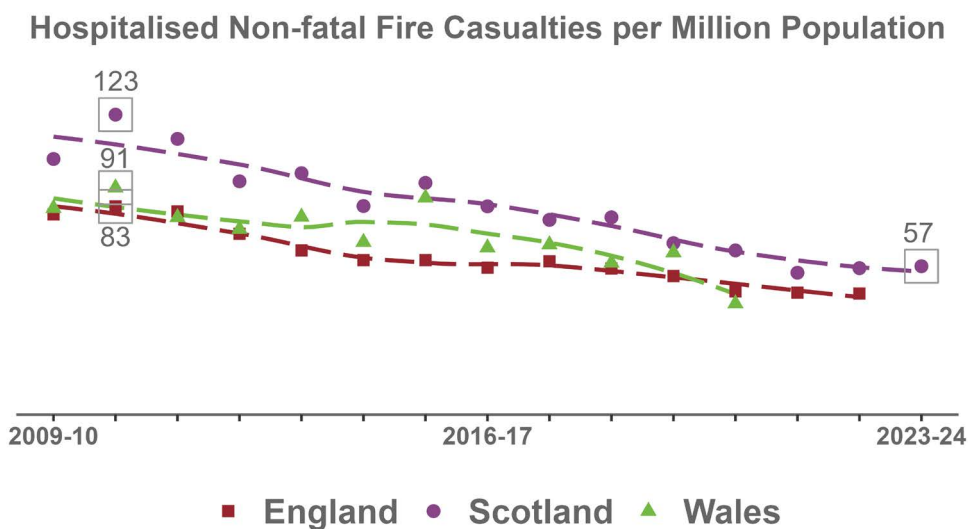


Figure 21: Hospitalised non-fatal fire casualties per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent value. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

Casualty Profile

Age

Figure 22 highlights the strong relationship between age and fatal casualties per million population rates. Those aged below 39 have a rate of fatal casualties below average, with those aged 0-4 years having a rate of 0.0. Those aged 80 and over have a rate considerably higher than other age categories,

with those aged 80-89 having a rate 2.6 times the Scotland average and those aged 90 and over having a rate 6.1 times higher than the Scotland average. Ten-year averages have been used to give a robust comparison as one-year figures can vary a lot.

Fatal Casualties per Million Population - 10 Year Average

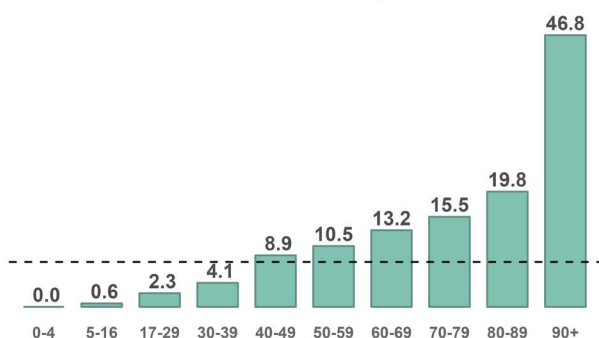


Figure 22: Ten-year average rate per million population of fatal casualties by age band. The dotted line represents the average figure of 7.7.

Non-fatal Casualties per Million Population - 10 Year Average

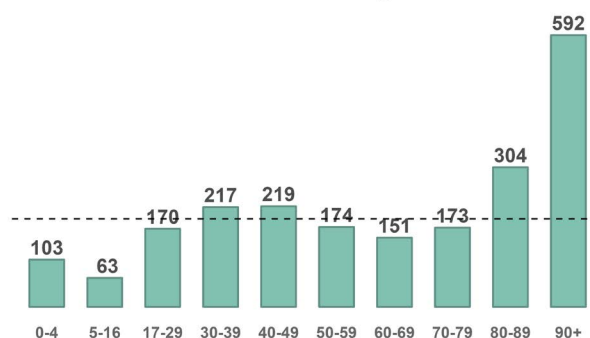
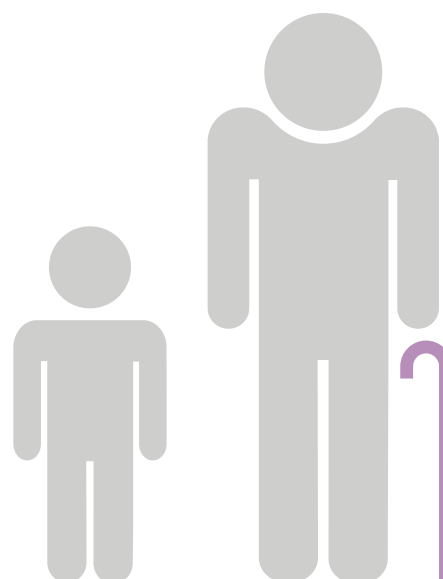


Figure 23: Ten-year average rate per million population of non-fatal casualties by age band. The dotted line represents the average figure of 191.8.

The relationship between age and non-fatal casualties is not as strong as it is for fatal casualties. Those aged 29 and under have a rate below average, with those aged 0-4 having a rate 1.9 times below the Scottish average and those aged 5-16 having a rate 3.0 times below the Scotland average. In contrast to fatal casualties, those aged 50-79 have a rate below average, and those aged 30-39 have a rate above average.

Similar to fatal casualties, those aged 80-89 and over 90 have a rate above average, with those aged 80-89 having a rate 1.6 times the Scotland average and those aged 90 and over having a rate 3.1 times the Scotland average.



Gender

Of the 42 fatal fire casualties, 23 (54.8%) were male and 19 (45.2%) were female. Males have consistently had a higher rate of fatal fire casualties than females in previous years. There was a rate of 7.7 fatal fire casualties per million population in 2023-24. For males, this rate was higher at 8.6 and females had a lower rate of 6.7.

A similar pattern is seen for non-fatal casualties, with males having a rate of 168.2 casualties per million population in 2023-24 and females having a rate of 121.2 casualties.

Deprivation

There is a strong relationship between deprivation and fatal casualties in Scotland, shown by Figure 24. Those in the most deprived 20% have a rate far above average, with a rate 1.8 higher than the Scotland ten-year average and 4.5 times higher than those in the least deprived 20%.

A similar pattern is seen for non-fatal casualties, with those in the most deprived 20% having a rate 2.0 times the Scotland average and 5.4 times higher than the least deprived 20%.

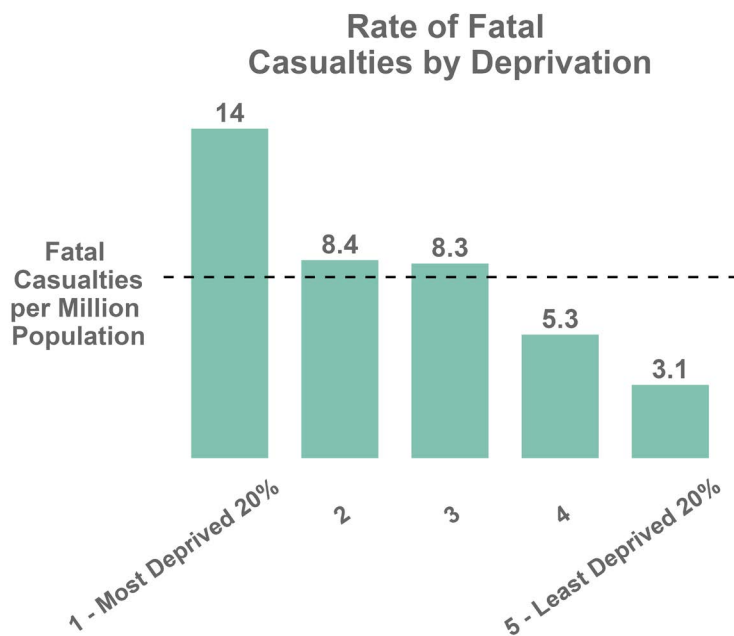


Figure 24: Ten-year⁶ average rate of fatal fire casualties per million population by level of deprivation. The Scotland average is 7.7. Ten years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

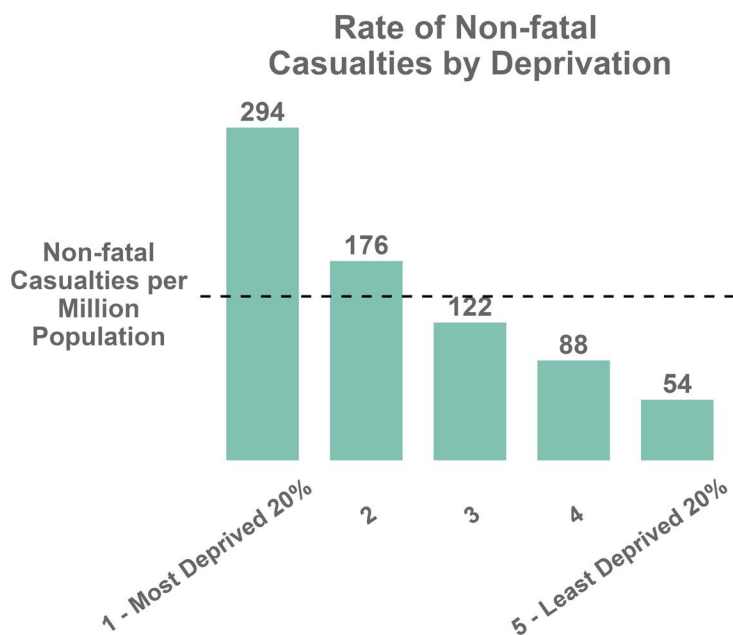


Figure 25: Ten-year⁶ average rate of non-fatal fire casualties per million population by level of deprivation. The Scotland average is 145. Ten years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

⁶ A ten-year average is used as the annual totals vary substantially and multiple years of data is needed to produce robust statistics.

Figures 26 and 27 highlight that deprivation is a very strong factor in the historic casualty profile regardless of gender or age. Please note that these charts are presented to highlight the historic casualty profile only, each bar should not be interpreted as the true risk of any individual or group.

Figure 26 shows that for fatal casualties, there is a clear link between deprivation and fatal casualty rate. With the exception of males aged between 70-79 and males below age 29, those in the most deprived areas have a higher rate of fatal casualties per million population, regardless of age or gender.

Females over 80 and females in the most deprived areas have a higher fatal casualty rate than other

females, particularly those in the least deprived areas. Males over 60 have a higher fatal casualty rate in all deprivation areas compared to females, with the least deprived 20% having a rate close to or above the Scottish average.

Those over 90 have not been included in this chart due to the higher number of fatal casualties and low population rates resulting in some areas exceeding 100 fatal casualties per million population. There have been 20 fatal casualties in those aged over 90 in the last ten years, of which 12 were male. Of the 20 fatal casualties in over 90s, 9 were in SIMD quintiles 2 or 3.

Fatal Casualties per Million Population - 10 Year Average

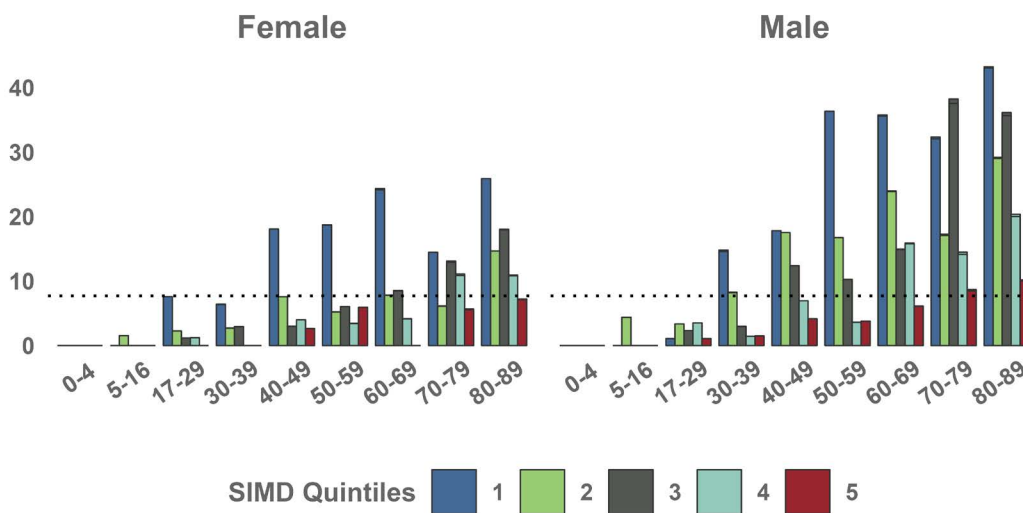


Figure 26: Fatal fire casualties per million population by gender, age and by level of deprivation where 1 is the 20% most deprived areas and 5 is the 20% least deprived areas. The horizontal line represents the Scotland average (7.7).

For non-fatal hospitalised casualties, the rates are higher for all adults in the 20% most deprived areas, except for those who are aged over 90. Males in

the 40% most deprived areas have higher rates than females, with all males above age 17 years in SIMD quintile 2 being above the Scotland average.

Hospitalised Casualties per Million Population - 10 Year Average

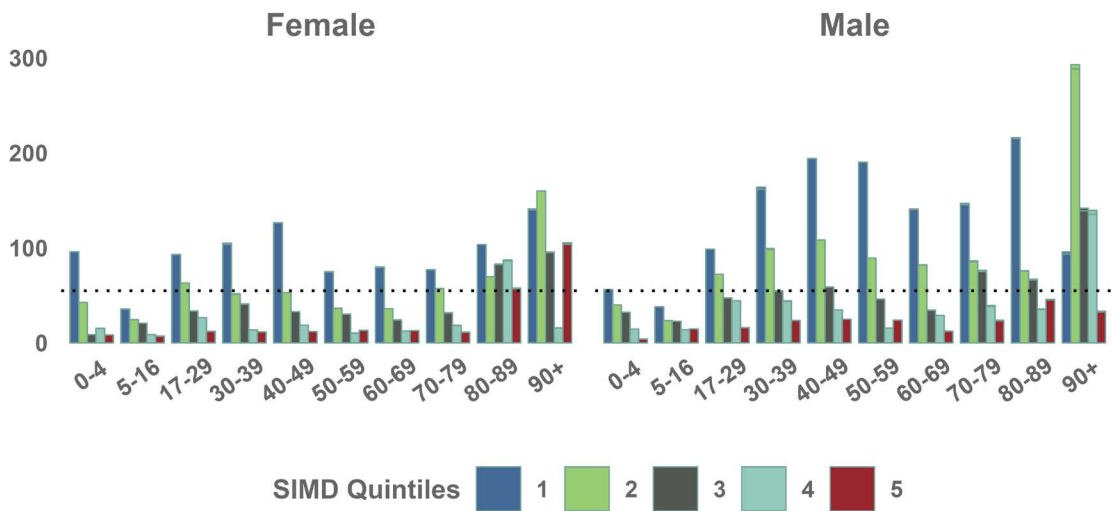


Figure 27: Hospitalised non-fatal fire casualties per million population by gender, age and by level of deprivation where 1 is the 20% most deprived areas and 5 is the 20% least deprived areas. The horizontal line represents the Scotland average (54.8).

Impairment

Impairment using alcohol or drugs was a suspecting factor in 13.5% of accidental dwelling fires in 2023-24. Of the 35 fatalities in accidental dwelling fires, 15 (42.9%) had impairment through alcohol or drugs as a suspected contributory factor.

Fires that have impairment as a suspected factor have, on average, a much higher rate of casualties, with the ten-year average showing a rate of 13.0 fatalities per 1,000 fires. This is compared to 2.8 fatalities per 1,000 fires where impairment was not a suspected factor.

A similar pattern is seen for non-fatal casualties, with a casualty rate of 369.2 where impairment was a suspected factor and 140.6 where impairment was not a suspected factor.

Urban-Rural

The rate of fatal casualties is higher in more rural areas than it is in more urban areas. In remote rural areas, the rate of fatal casualties is 1.6 times higher than the Scotland average and 1.7 times higher than large urban areas.

Large urban areas, other urban areas and accessible small towns have a rate below average.

The rate of non-fatal casualties is above average for the two most urban areas, with large urban areas and other urban areas having a rate 1.2 and 1.0 times respectively above the Scotland average.

Accessible small towns, remote small towns, accessible rural and remote rural areas are shown to have a rate below the Scotland average.

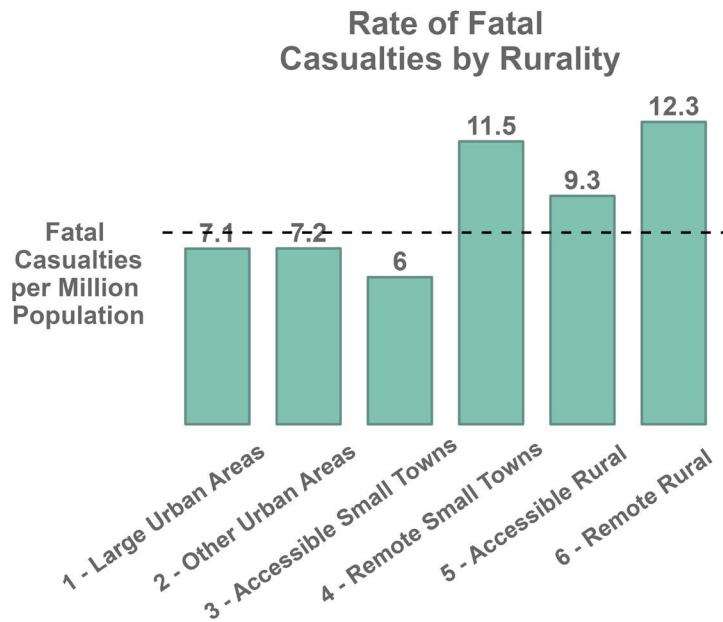


Figure 28: Ten-year average rate of fatal fire casualties per million population by level of rurality. The Scotland average is 7.7. Ten years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

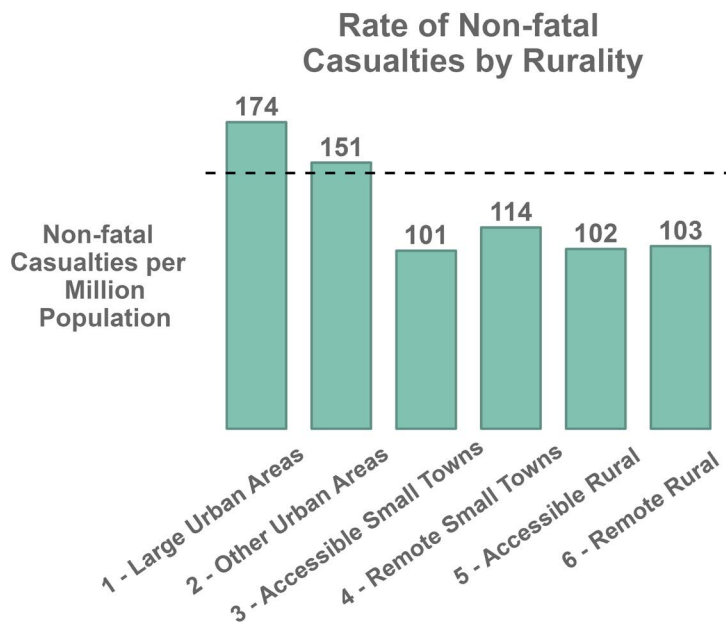


Figure 29: Ten-year average rate of non-fatal fire casualties per million population by level of rurality. The Scotland average is 145. Ten years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

5. Non-fire Incidents and Casualties



In 2023-24, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 16,046 non-fire incidents, down from 16,826 last year (4.6% decrease). Over the last decade, this figure has increased by 75.1%, with 9,166 non-fire incidents in 2013-14. Figure 30 shows the overall upward trend in non-fire incidents.

Flooding incidents have decreased substantially this year, with 3,145 flooding incidents in 2022-23 and 1,896 in 2023-24 (39.7% decrease). Last year saw an unusually high flooding figure compared to the previous years. With the exception of this year, flooding incidents have been increasing each year over the last decade, with the figure for 2023-24 being the second highest recorded after 2022-23.

Road Traffic Collisions decreased by 0.6%, with 2,255 recorded in 2022-23 and 2,242 recorded this year. Effecting Entry or Exit incidents have increased from 4,547 last year to 4,853 in 2023-24 (6.7% increase), as have Assist Other Agencies incidents from 1,411 last year to 1,457 (3.3% increase). Medical incidents have also increased from 457 last year to 513 in 2023-24 (12.3% increase).

[See figures 32 to 37 for trends in major non-fire incident categories.](#)

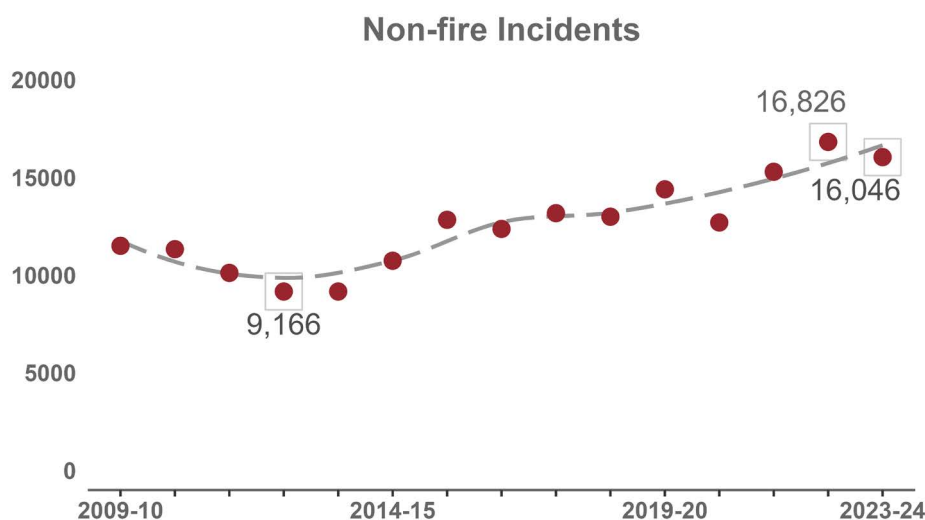


Figure 30: Trends in non-fire incidents. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

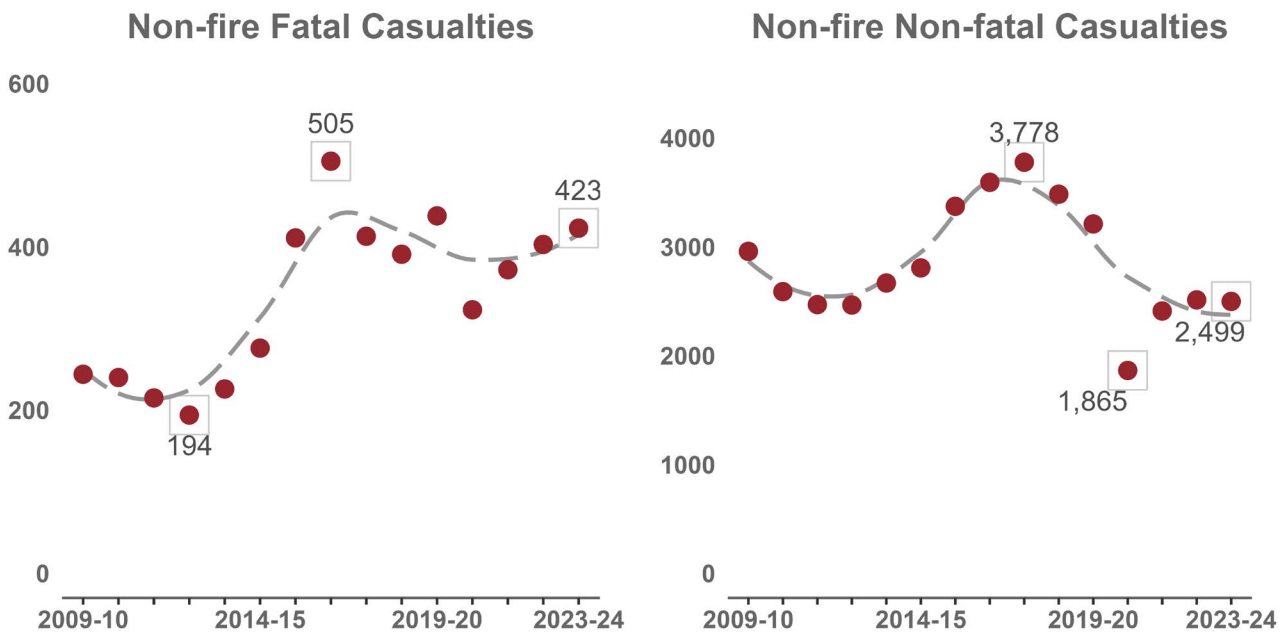


Figure 31: Trends in the number of non-fire casualties. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. Changes in operational procedures during the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted casualty figures. See Guidance Notes for further details.

In 2023-24, there were 423 fatal casualties at non-fire incidents that SFRS attended, up from 403 in 2022-23 (5.0% increase). From 2012-13 to 2016-17, this figure had continually increased along with a notable increase in attendances to incidents associated with inter-agency co-operation.⁷ However, it appears now that non-fire fatal casualties have levelled off, as can be seen in Figure 31. There has been a 73.9% increase in the number of fatal casualties at Medical Incidents in 2023-24 compared to last year and a 12.1% increase in fatal casualties at Effecting Entry or Exit incidents. Fatal casualties at Road Traffic Collisions attended by SFRS decreased from 90 last year to 75 in 2023-24 (16.7% decrease).

There were 2,499 non-fire non-fatal casualties in 2023-24, down from 2,513 in 2022-23 (0.6% decrease). Non-fatal casualties at Road Traffic Collisions increased from 1,412 last year to 1,422 in 2023-24 (0.7% increase). There was a 28.9% increase in the number of non-fatal casualties at Assist Other Agencies incidents, with 187 in 2022-23 and 241 in 2023-24. Non-fatal casualties decreased at Effecting Entry or Exit incidents, with 435 in 2022-23 and 417 in 2023-24 (4.1% decrease).

⁷ Inter-agency co-operation incidents includes Assist Other Agencies, Effecting Entry or Exit, Medical Incidents.

Road Traffic Collisions

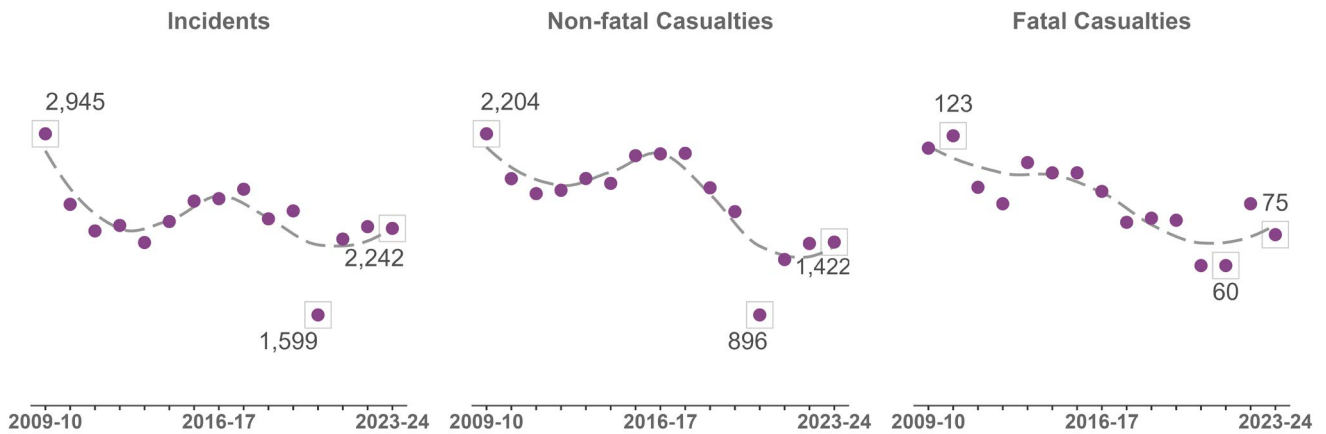


Figure 32: Trends in the Number of Road Traffic Collisions. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

Flooding and Rescue or Evacuation from Water

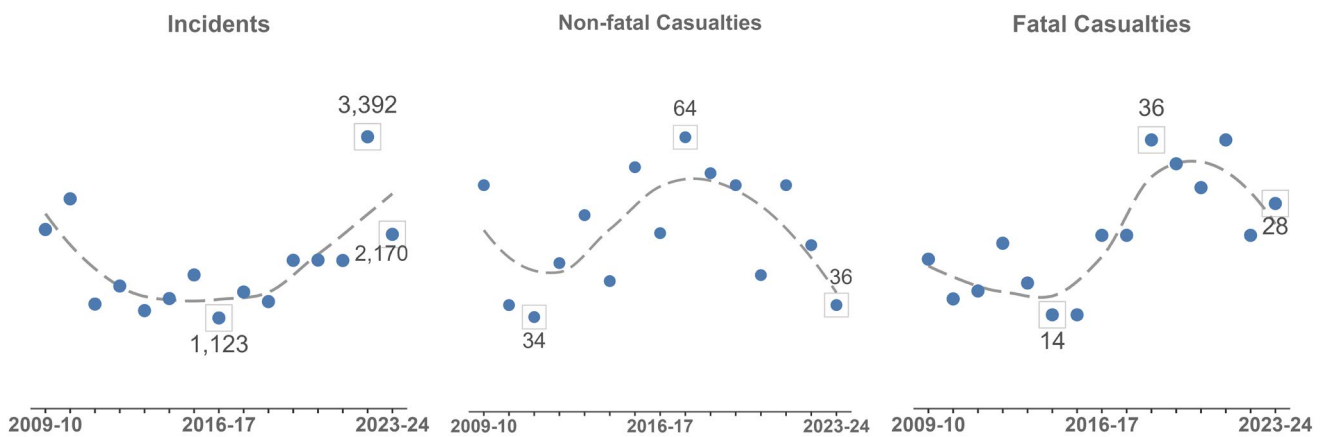


Figure 33: Trends in the Number of Flooding and Rescue or Evacuation from Water Incidents. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

Medical Incidents

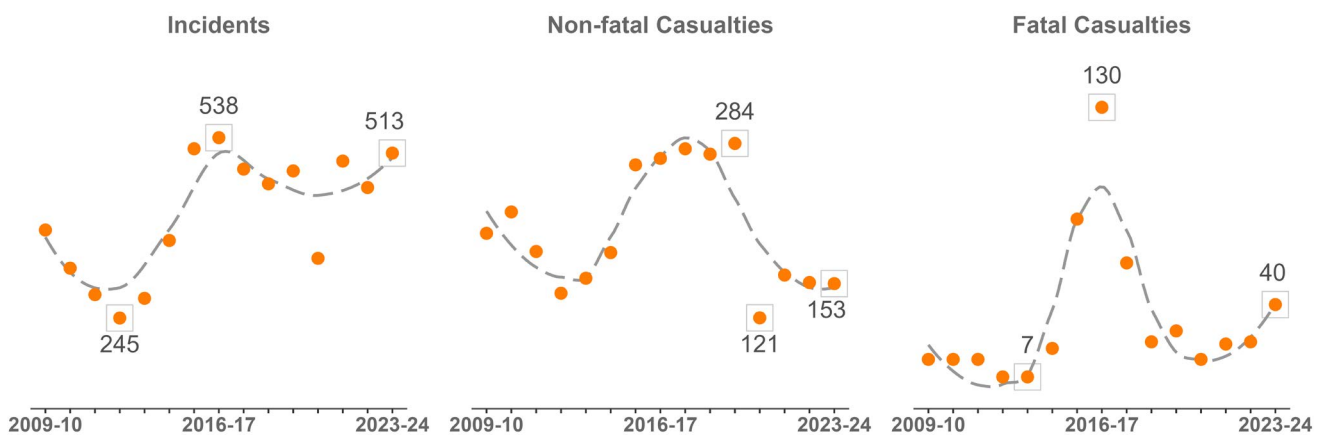


Figure 34: Trends in Number of Medical Incidents. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

Suicide (including attempts)

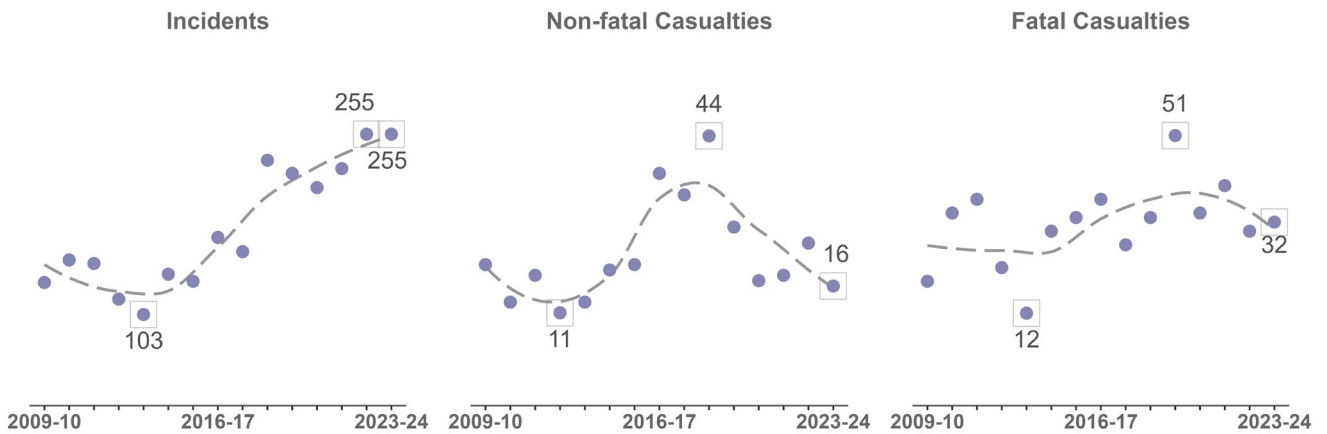


Figure 35: Trends in Suicide (including attempts). Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

Effecting Entry/Exit

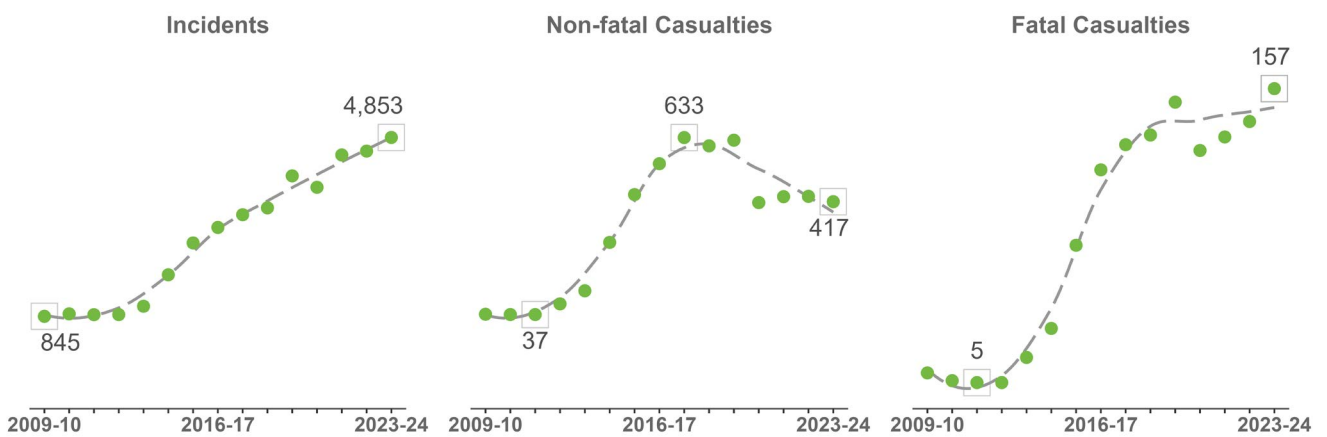


Figure 36: Trends in Effecting Entry or Exit. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

Assist Other Agencies

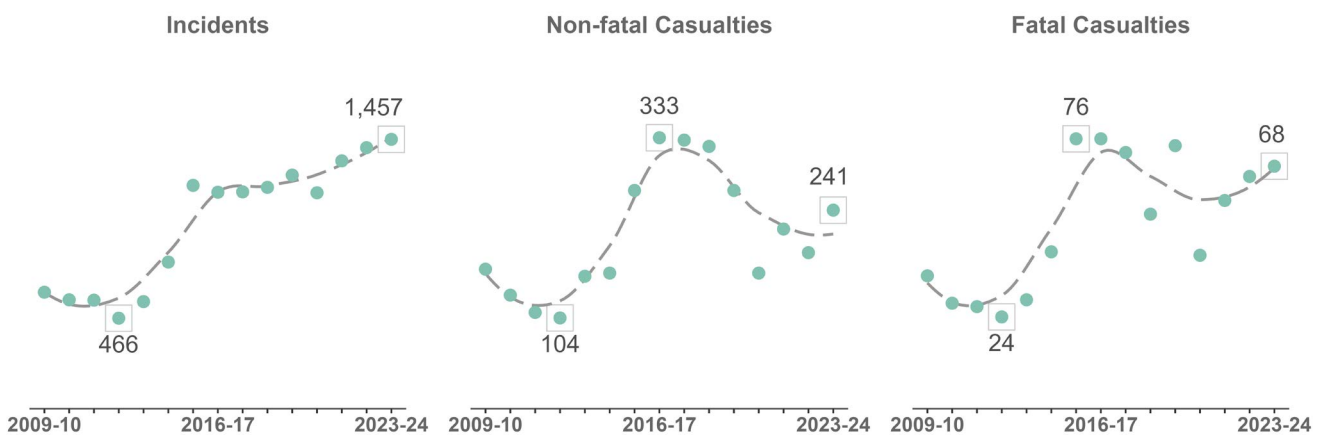
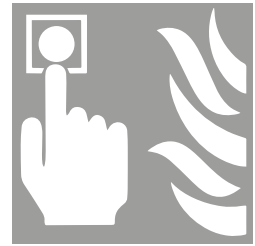


Figure 37: Trends in Assist Other Agencies. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

6. False alarms



In 2023-24, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 40,382 false alarm incidents, down from 55,953 in 2022-23 (27.8% decrease). Of those incidents, 39,638 were fire false alarms, down from 55,105 (28.1% decrease). This decrease is due to a new policy that was introduced in July 2023 which changed how SFRS respond to Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS). SFRS no longer attend automatic fire alarm call outs to commercial business and workplace premises unless a fire has been confirmed. For further information, please see: www.firescotland.gov.uk/businesses-and-landlords/reducing-unwanted-fire-alarm-signals-ufas/

Of the 40,382 false alarms incidents, there were 744 incidents categorised as other false alarms, down from 848 (12.3% decrease).

Of the 39,638 fire false alarms, 30,445 were due to apparatus, down from 44,251 (31.2% decrease). This accounts for 76.8% of all fire false alarm incidents attended in 2023-24, and 37.8% of all incidents attended this year (down from 44.4% last year).

Fire False Alarms

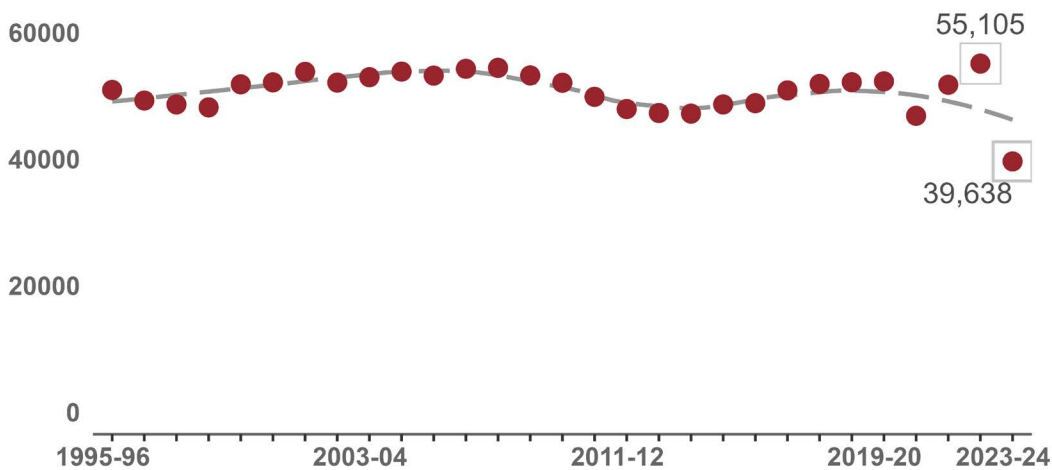


Figure 38: Long-term trend in fire false alarms. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent value is also the minimum value.

Trends in Fire False Alarms

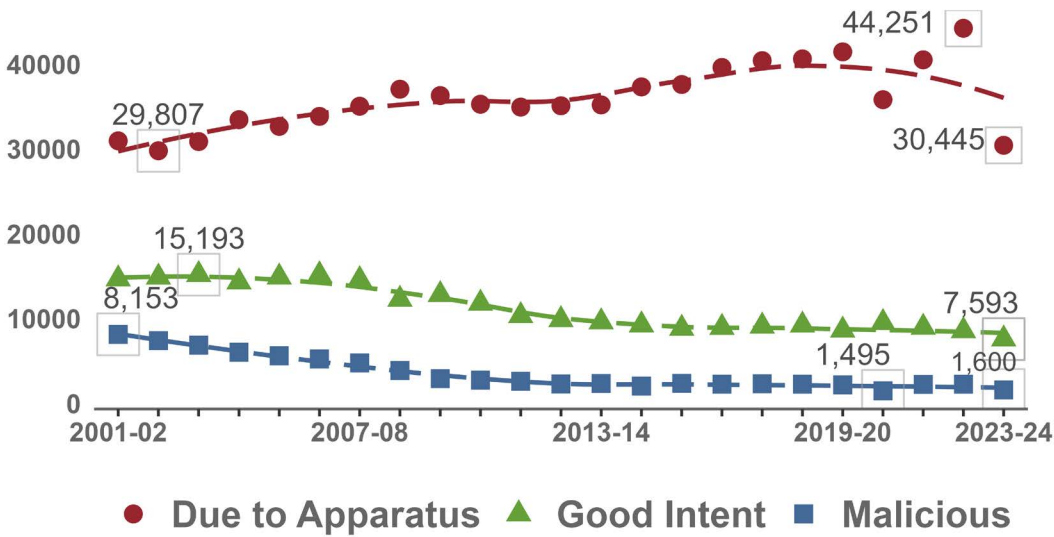


Figure 39: Trends in cause of fire false alarms. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the minimum value.

Trends in Fire False Alarms due to Apparatus

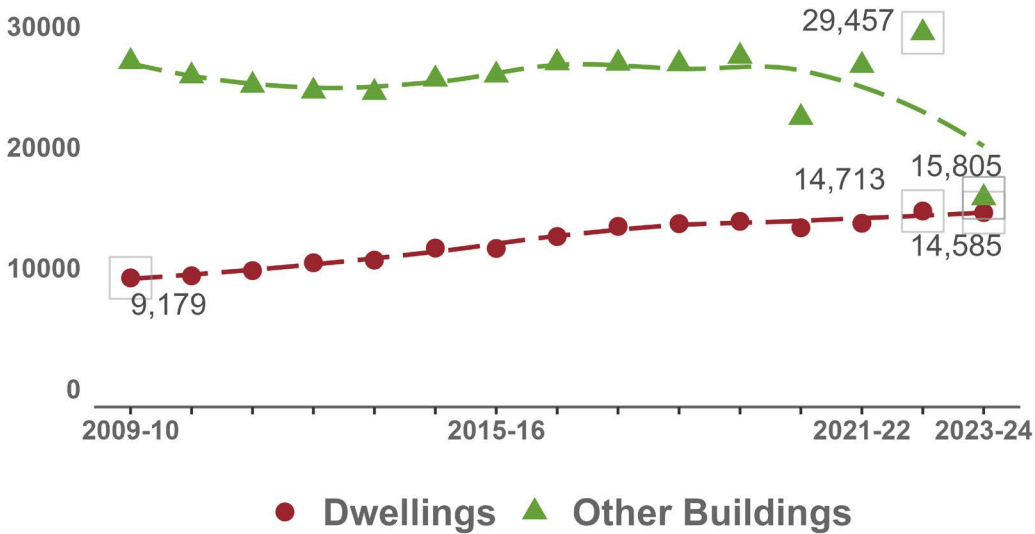


Figure 40: Trends in the location of fire false alarms due to apparatus. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the minimum value.

The main cause of decreasing fire false alarms this year is due to apparatus false alarms in other buildings, shown in Figure 40. Fire false alarms due to apparatus had previously been increasing in both dwellings and other buildings. However, with the

introduction of the new policy to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) in July 2023, this figure appears to now be reducing for other buildings, with 15,805 of these incidents recorded in 2023-24, down from 29,457 last year (46.3% decrease).

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) describes an avoidable false alarm signal from a workplace, either from an automatic fire alarm or from a person.

UFAS incidents decreased steadily between 2009-10 and 2013-14, and then began to rise until the Covid-19 pandemic when most offices were closed

and home-working was encouraged. This figure peaked in 2022-23 and then reduced significantly this year. This is due to the introduction of a new response model for UFAS incidents in July 2023. There were 17,088 UFAS incidents in 2023-24, down from 31,404 in 2022-23 (45.6% decrease).

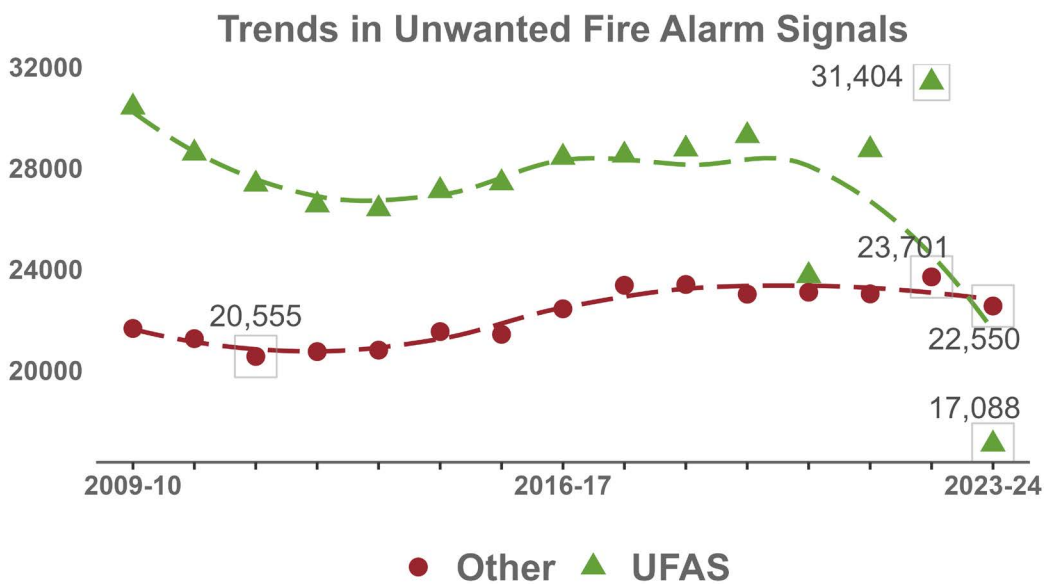


Figure 41: Trends in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) and Other fire alarm signals in Scotland. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

Local Authority Breakdown

Figure 42 shows a breakdown of UFAS incidents by local authority areas in Scotland. Urban areas often have a higher rate of UFAS incidents than rural areas, with Stirling having a rate of 641.4 per 100,000

population, Dundee City having a rate of 583.2 and Glasgow City having a rate of 514.7. In contrast, Aberdeenshire has a rate of 122.6 and Orkney Islands has a rate of 163.6.

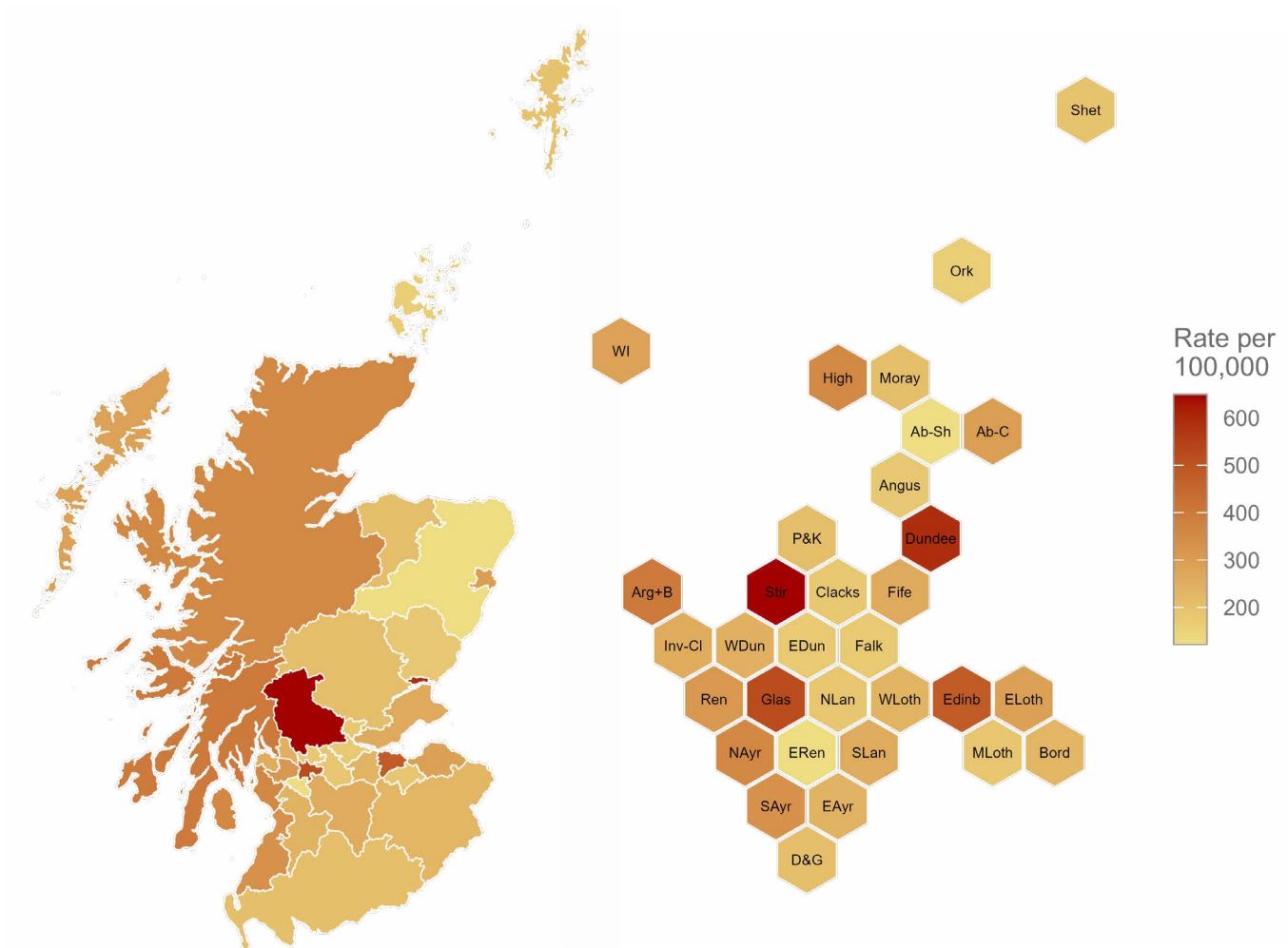


Figure 42: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) per 100,000 population, choropleth and area normalised cartogram 2023-24.

Great Britain Comparisons

There is a notable higher rate of fire false alarms in Scotland compared to England and Wales. England and Wales have seen a long-term decreasing trend in fire false alarms, having levelled off in recent years. Scotland saw a decreasing trend until the early 2010s; this then began increasing until 2022-23.

This rate has decreased in Scotland this year, with the lowest rate per million population in 2023-24 since this series began. Comparable figures for England and Wales were not available for 2023-24 at the time of this publication. Please see Statistical News document for further information.

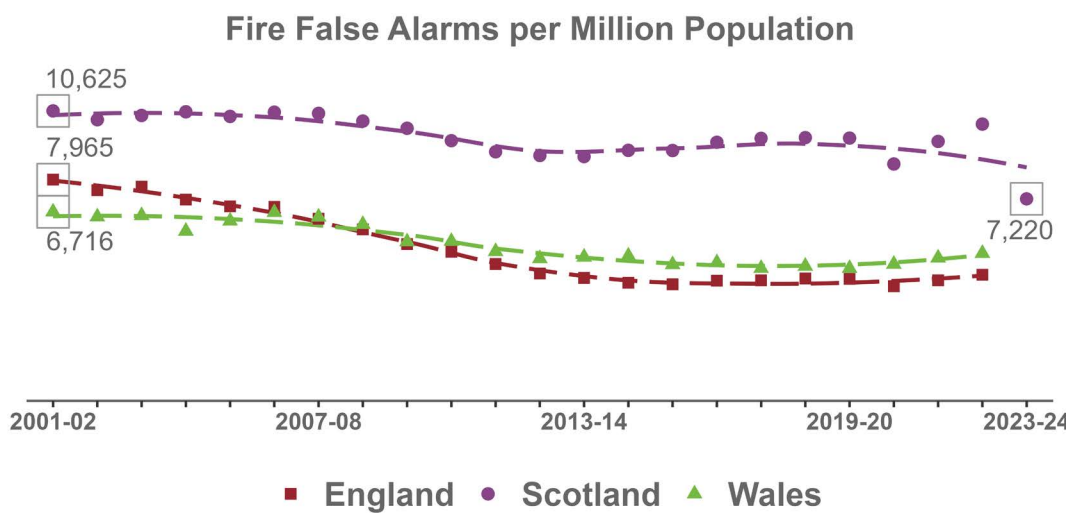


Figure 43: Trends in the fire false alarms by nation. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

It should be noted that while Scotland saw a decrease in fire false alarms during the pandemic in 2020-21, England and Wales did not. In Scotland, there was a recent change in how UFAS incidents are handled, but this did not come into place until July 2023. Prior to this, Scotland handled UFAS incidents in a substantially different way from England or Wales. This meant that, in general, England and Wales attended to fewer of these signals.

In 2020-21, Scotland attended 19.0% less of these signals than in previous years. This suggests that the main reason for the difference in Scotland compared to England and Wales is due to the difference in the handling of UFAS incidents.

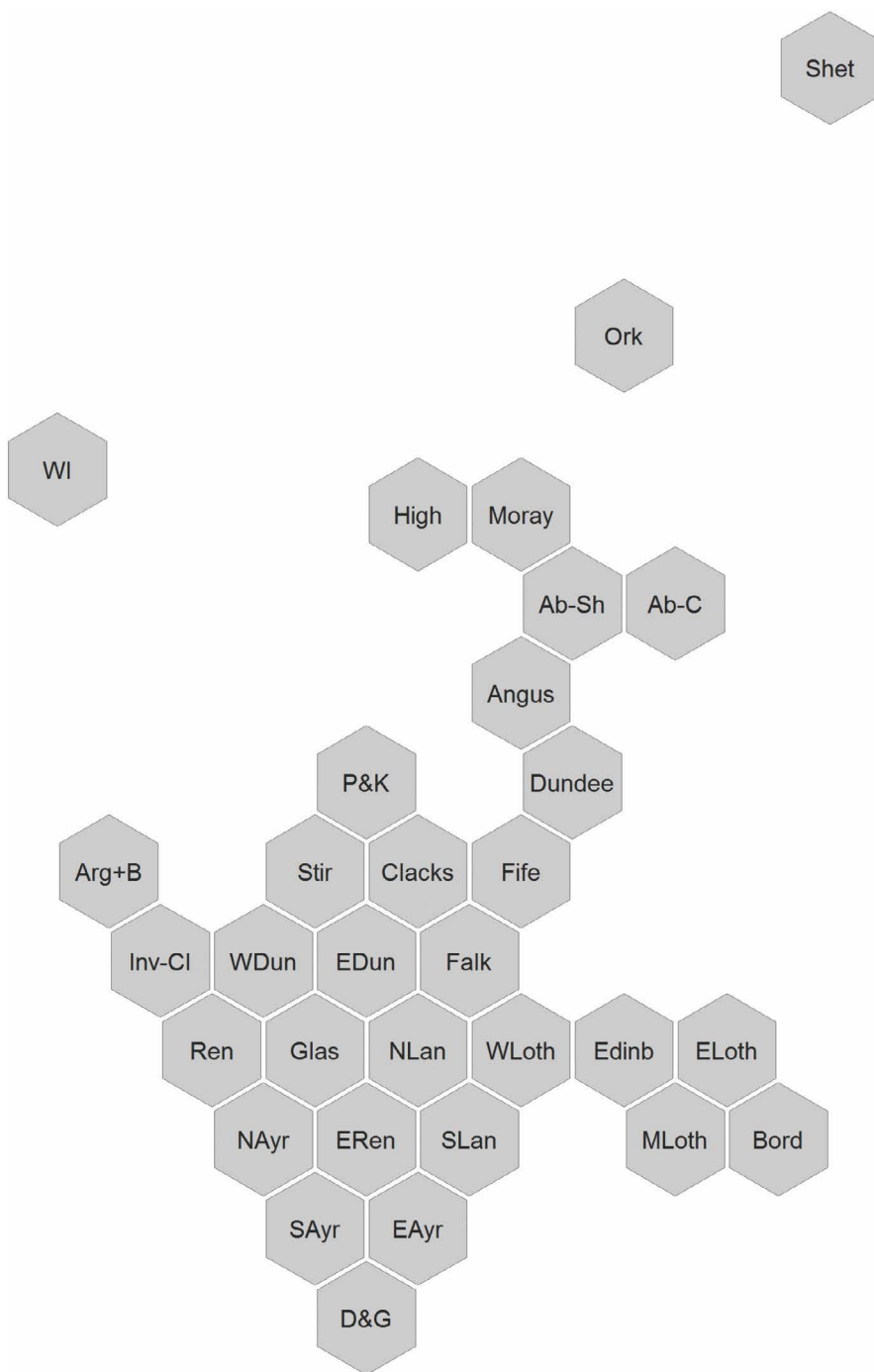
Appendix A – Key for Local Authority Maps

Key	Local Authority
1	Aberdeen City
2	Aberdeenshire
3	Angus
4	Argyll and Bute
5	Clackmannanshire
6	Dumfries and Galloway
7	Dundee City
8	East Ayrshire
9	East Dunbartonshire
10	East Lothian
11	East Renfrewshire
12	Edinburgh, City of
13	Na h'Eileanan Siar
14	Falkirk
15	Fife
16	Glasgow City
17	Highland
18	Inverclyde
19	Midlothian
20	Moray
21	North Ayrshire
22	North Lanarkshire
23	Orkney Islands
24	Perth and Kinross
25	Renfrewshire
26	Scottish Borders
27	Shetland Islands
28	South Ayrshire
29	South Lanarkshire
30	Stirling
31	West Dunbartonshire
32	West Lothian



Cartogram Local Authority Key

Key	Local Authority
Ab-C	Aberdeen City
Ab-Sh	Aberdeenshire
Angus	Angus
Arg+B	Argyll and Bute
Clacks	Clackmannanshire
D&G	Dumfries and Galloway
Dundee	Dundee City
EAyr	East Ayrshire
EDun	East Dunbartonshire
ELoth	East Lothian
ERen	East Renfrewshire
Edinb	Edinburgh, City of
WI	Na h'Eileanan Siar
Falk	Falkirk
Fife	Fife
Glas	Glasgow City
High	Highland
Inv-CI	Inverclyde
MLoth	Midlothian
Moray	Moray
NAyr	North Ayrshire
NLan	North Lanarkshire
Ork	Orkney Islands
P&K	Perth and Kinross
Ren	Renfrewshire
Bord	Scottish Borders
Shet	Shetland Islands
SAyr	South Ayrshire
SLan	South Lanarkshire
Stir	Stirling
WDun	West Dunbartonshire
WLoth	West Lothian



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