SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Official Document

Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics 2024-25

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

31 October 2025

Working together for a safer Scotland

Contents

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 2024-25

1. Main Points

All incidents

- **74,610** incidents attended, of which:
  - **47.5%** were false alarms
  - **30.7%** were fires
  - **21.7%** were non-fires

Fires

- **22,925** fires attended, down 4.9% on last year
  - **4,104** dwelling fires, down 3.6%
    - **3,687** accidental dwelling fires, down 3.5%
    - **26.3%** had no smoke alarms present
    - **32.7%** were confined to the original item
  - **2,014** road vehicle fires, up 7.0%
  - **14,935** outdoor fires (excluding road vehicle fires), down 5.6%

Non-fire Incidents

- **16,209** non-fire incidents attended, up 1.0%
  - **1,639** were flooding, down 13.6%
  - **2,247** were Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), up 0.2%

False Alarms

- **35,476** false alarm incidents, down 12.2%
- **34,688** false fire alarm incidents, down 12.5%
  - **25,499** were due to apparatus, down 16.3%
- **12,189** Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals, down 28.7%

Fatal Fire Casualties

- **36** fatal fire casualties, down from 42 last year
  - **29** of these were in dwelling fires
- **66.7%** 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

- **1,069** non-fatal fire casualties, up 30.8%
- **5.5** 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

- **432** fatal casualties, up 2.1%
  - **71** occurred at Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), down 5.3%
  - **7.6%** increase in fatal casualties at Effecting Entry/Exit Incidents
- **2,654** non-fatal casualties, up 6.1%

2. Summary

In 2024-25, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 74,610 incidents, down from 80,550 in 2023-24 (7.4% decrease).

There were 22,925 fires this year, down from 24,099 in 2023-24 (4.9% decrease). Of these, 8,811 were primary fires, down from 9,145 last year (3.7% decrease). There were 4,104 dwelling fires this year, down from 4,258 last year (3.6% decrease). Road vehicle fires increased by 7.0% from 1,882 last year to 2,014 in 2024-25. Secondary fires decreased this year, with 13,784 recorded this year and 14,556 recorded last year (5.3% decrease).

In 2024-25, there were 16,209 non-fire incidents, up from 16,054 in 2023-24 (1.0% increase). Over the last decade, there has been a 50.9% increase in the number of non-fire incidents attended, with 10,743 incidents attended in 2014-15. Flooding incidents decreased from last year, from 1,896 last year to 1,639 in 2024-25 (13.6% decrease). There were 2,247 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) attended by SFRS this year, up from 2,243 last year (0.2% increase).

There were 35,476 false alarm incidents, down from 40,397 in 2023-24 (12.2% decrease). Of these, 34,688 were fire false alarms, down from 39,652 last year (12.5% 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). There were 12,189 UFAS incidents recorded in 2024-25, down from 17,096 last year (28.7% decrease).

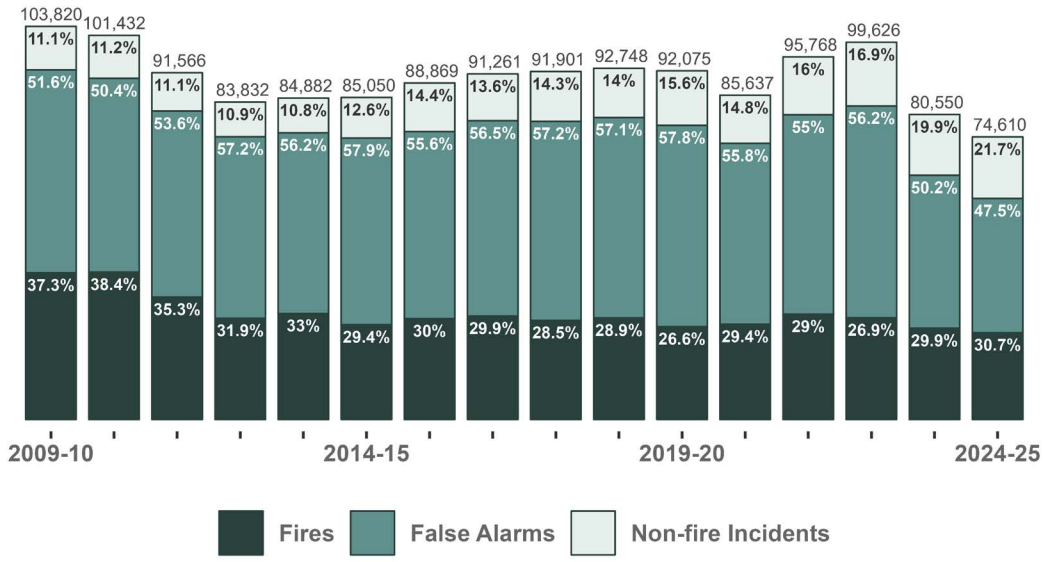


Figure 1: Total number of incidents attended with percentage share by type.

Fatal Casualties Attended

There were 478 total fatal casualties in 2024-25, up from 470 last year (1.7% increase).

There were 36 fatal fire casualties in 2024-25, down from 42 last year. Of these, 29 (80.6%) were in dwellings and 6 (16.7%) were in road vehicles. There were no fatal fire casualties in other buildings.

There were 432 non-fire fatal casualties this year, up from 423 last year (2.1% increase). 71 occurred in Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), down from 75 last year (5.3% decrease). There was a 7.6% increase in fatal casualties at Effecting Entry/Exit incidents, with 157 recorded last year and 169 recorded in 2024-25.

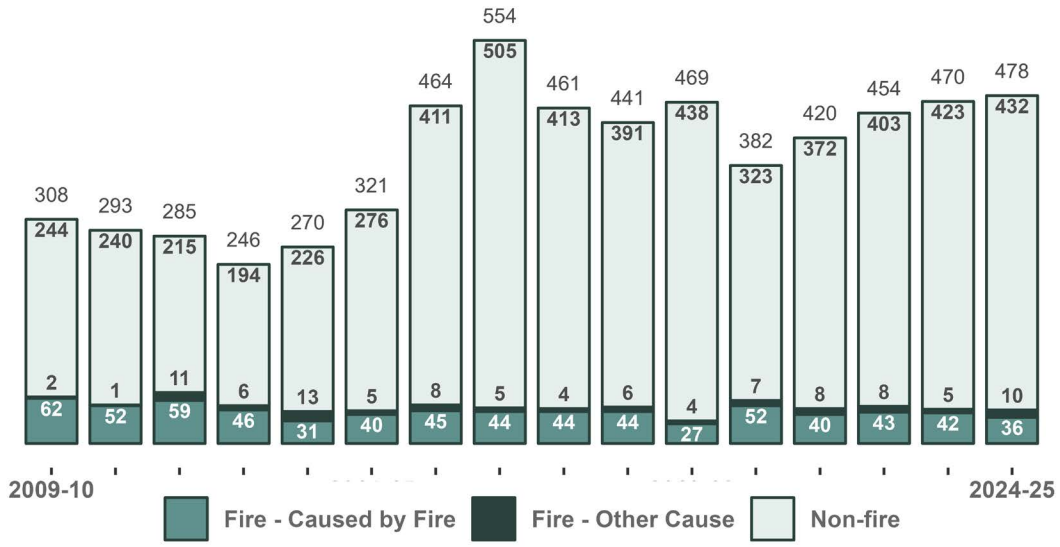


Figure 2: Fatal Casualties Attended.

Non-fatal Casualties Attended

There were 3,723 non-fatal casualties in 2024-25, up from 3,318 last year (12.2% increase).

There were 1,069 non-fatal fire casualties in 2024-25, up from 817 last year (30.8% increase). This increase is predominantly due to an increase in the number of incidents where a precautionary check was recommended. Of the 1,069 non-fatal casualties, 950 (88.9%) were in dwellings, 70 (6.5%) were in other buildings and 29 (2.7%) were in road vehicles.

There were 2,654 non-fatal casualties at non-fire incidents attended by SFRS in 2024-25, up from 2,501 last year (6.1% increase). There were 1,522 non-fatal casualties at Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) this year, up from 1,422 last year (7.0% increase).

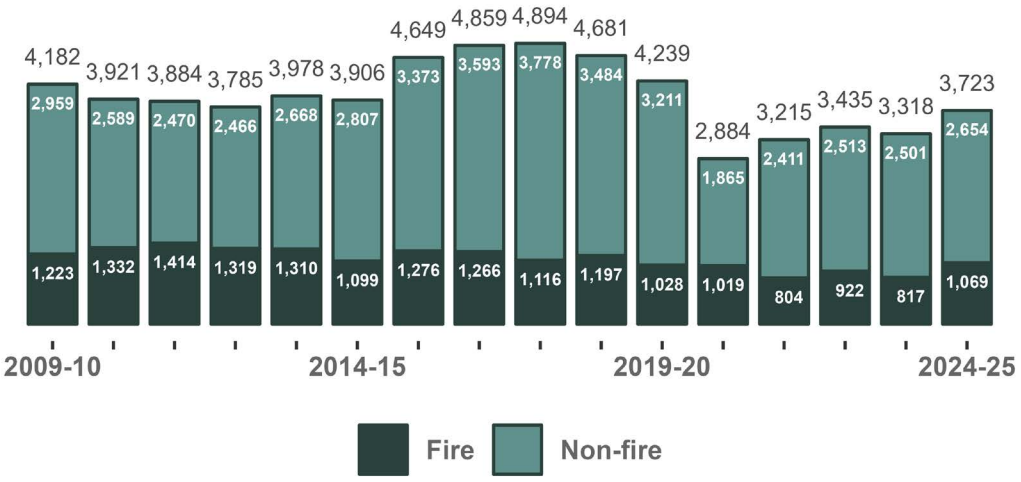


Figure 3: Non-fatal Casualties Attended.

3. Fires

In 2024-25, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 22,925 fires, down from 24,099 in 2023-24 (4.9% 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 8,811 primary fires in 2024-25, down from 9,145 last year (3.7% decrease). Primary fires have been steadily decreasing each year since this series began (1995-96). Over the last decade, there has been a 17.1% decrease in the number of primary fires, with 10,633 recorded in 2014-15.

Dwelling fires [1] have also been steadily decreasing since this series began (1995-96). There were 4,104 dwelling fires this year, down from 4,258 in 2023-24 (3.6% decrease). Since 2014-15, there has been a 26.4% decrease in the number of dwelling fires.

There were 2,014 road vehicle fires in 2024-25, up from 1,882 last year (7.0% increase). 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 decreased from 1,265 last year to 1,151 this year (9.0% decrease). This figure had been showing an upward trend since 2012-13. Over the last two years this figure has been decreasing, although it still remains higher than was seen a decade ago. There has been a 37.4% increase in the number of other primary fires over the last decade, with 838 recorded in 2014-15 and 1,151 recorded in 2024-25.

There were 13,784 secondary fires attended by SFRS in 2024-25, down from 14,556 last year (5.3% decrease). This is the lowest figure recorded since 2014-15 when there were 13,406 secondary fires attended. 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.

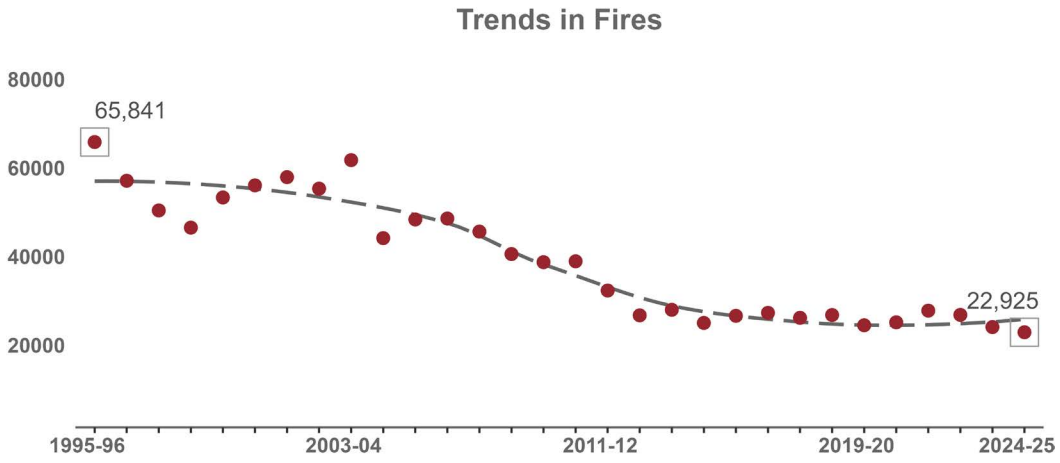


Figure 4: Long-term trend in the number of fires. *

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

* 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.

Trends in Primary Fires

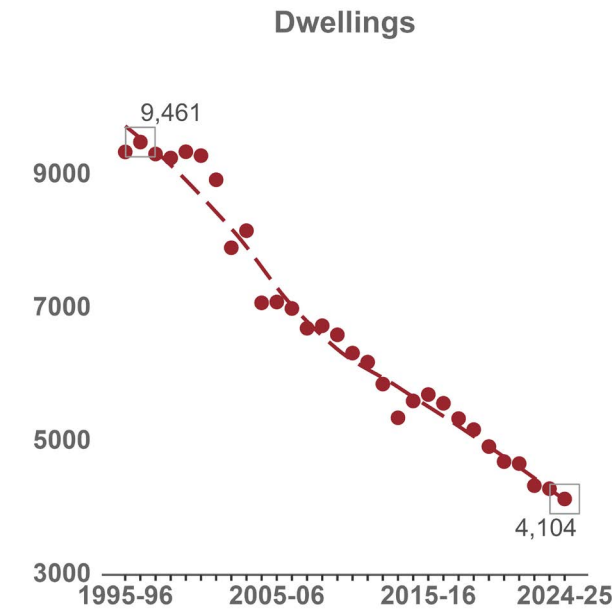


Figure 5.1: Primary fire trends by Dwellings. *

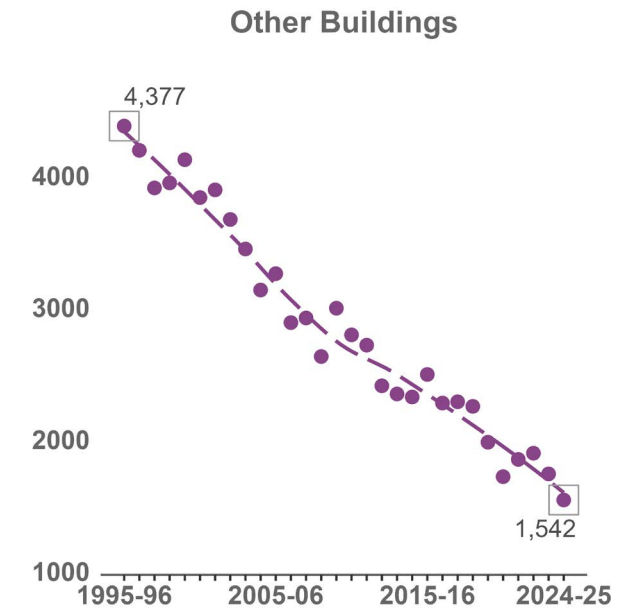


Figure 5.2: Primary fire trends by Other Buildings. *

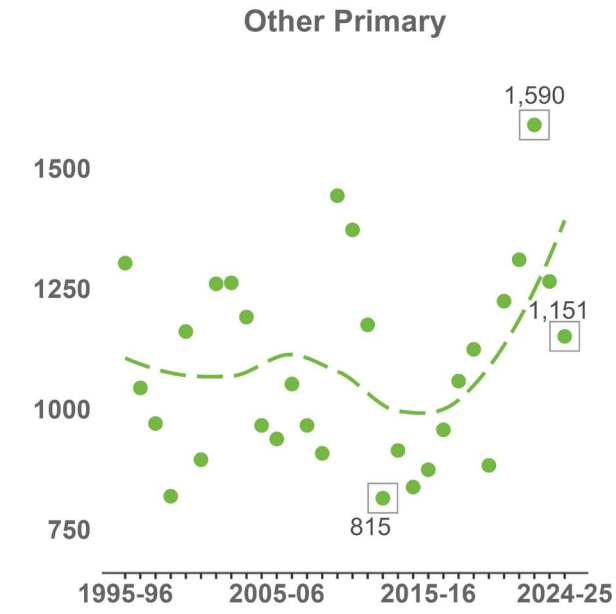


Figure 5.3: Primary fire trends by Other Primary. *

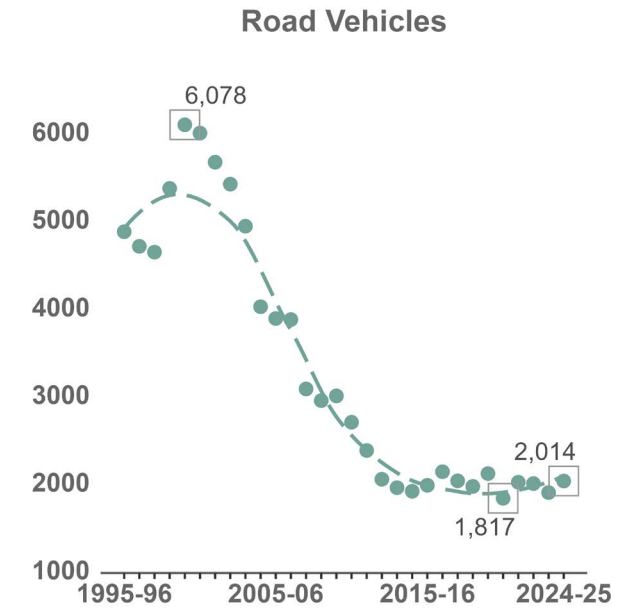


Figure 5.4: Primary fire trends by Road Vehicles. *

* 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

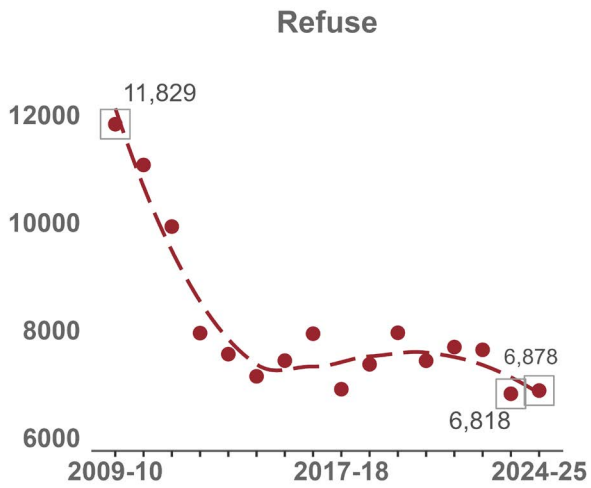


Figure 6.1: Secondary fire trend by Refuse. *

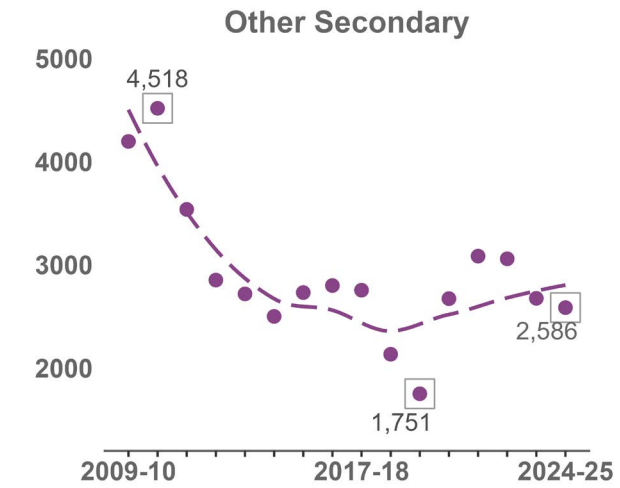


Figure 6.2: Secondary fire trend by Other Secondary. *

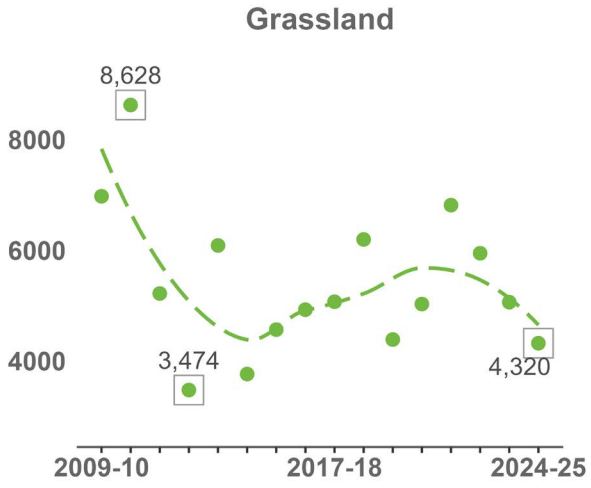


Figure 6.3: Secondary fire trend by Grassland. *

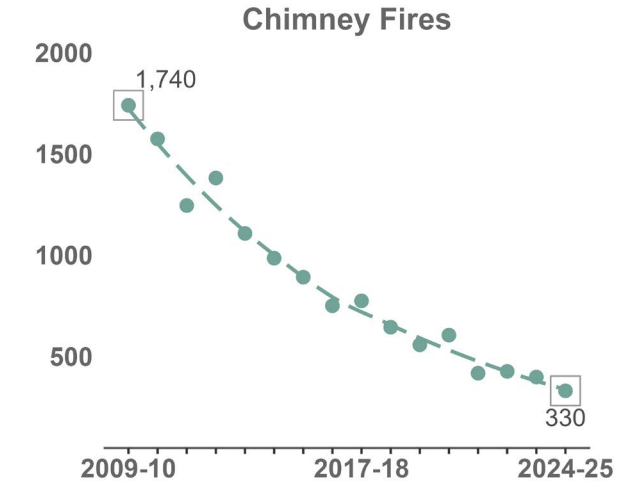


Figure 6.4: Secondary fire trend by Chimney Fires. *

* 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 4,133 fires per million population in Scotland in 2024-25. There were 2,431 fires per million population in England in 2024-25. Comparable figures for 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 2024-25, there were 1,588 primary fires per million population in Scotland. England had fewer primary fires per million population, with a rate of 1,052.

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 2024-25, there were 740 dwelling fires per million population in Scotland. England had a rate of 432 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 2024-25, Scotland recorded 2,485 secondary fires per million population. England had a substantially smaller rate of secondary fires per million population, with a rate of 1,379 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.**

[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.

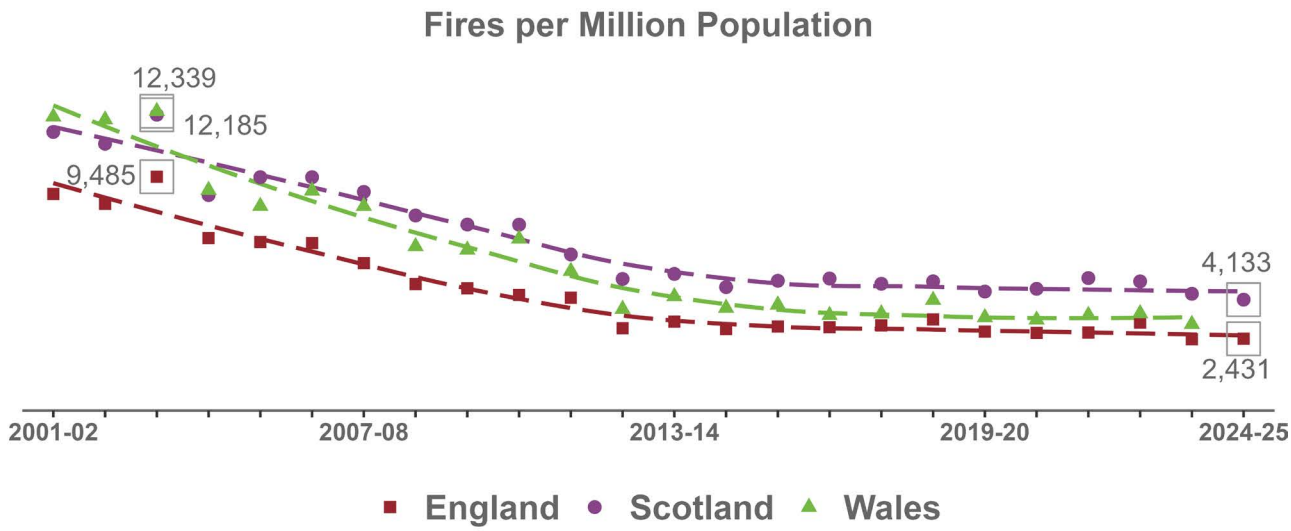


Figure 7: Fires per million population in Great Britain. *

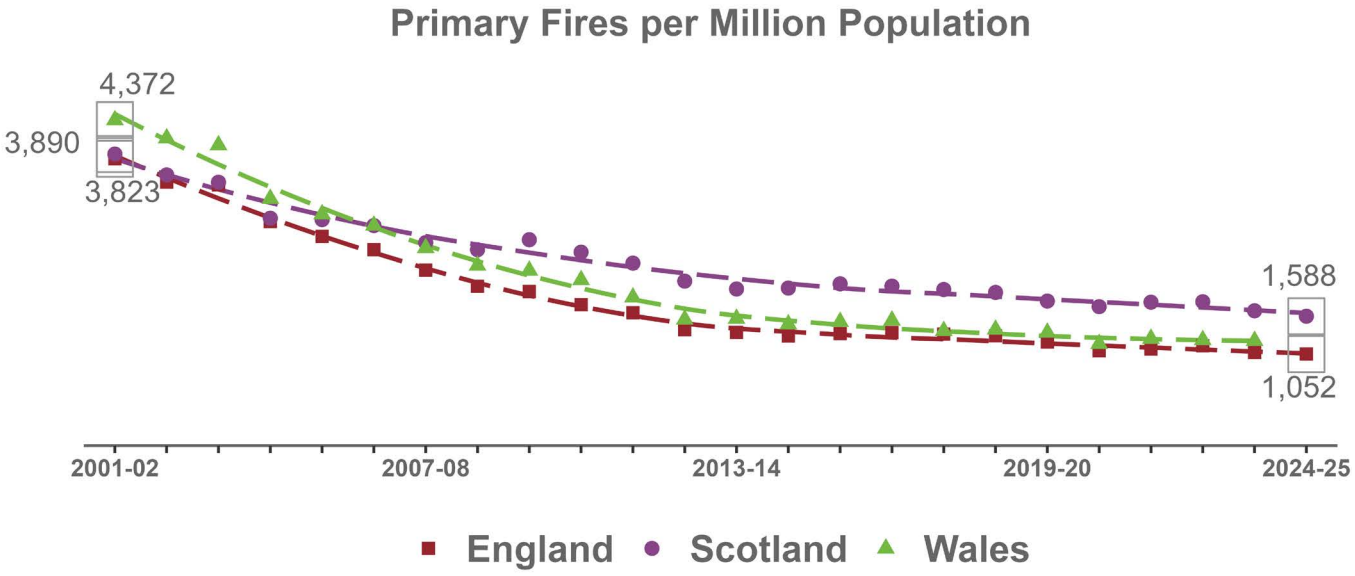


Figure 8: Primary fires per million population in Great Britain. *

* 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. Please note that figures for Wales were not available when this document was published. See Statistical News document for further details.

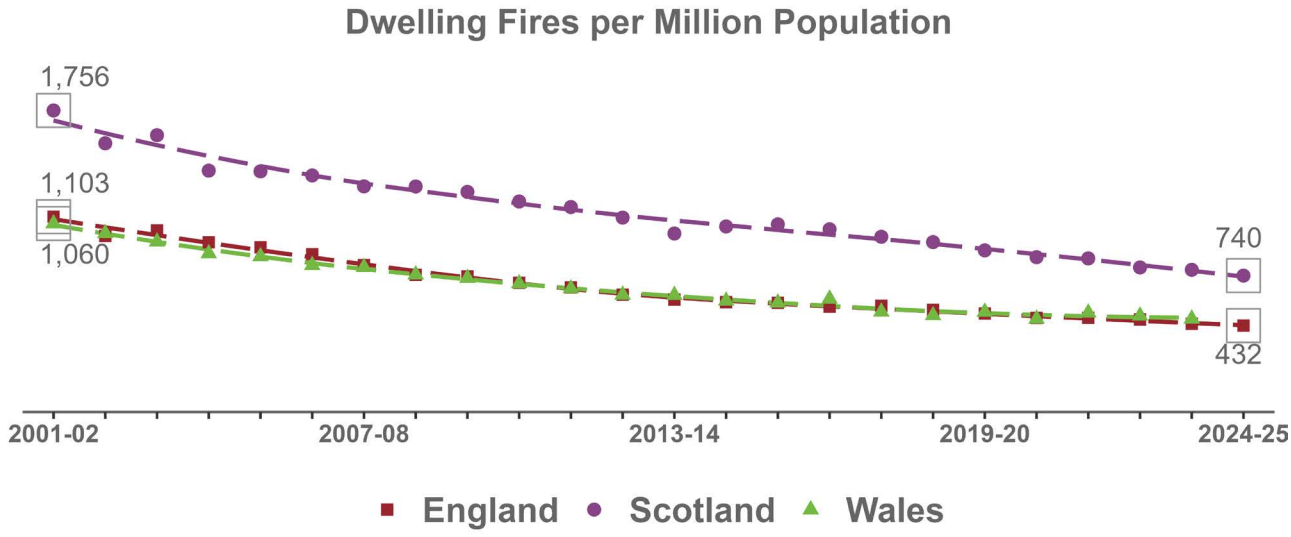


Figure 9: Dwelling fires per million population in Great Britain. *

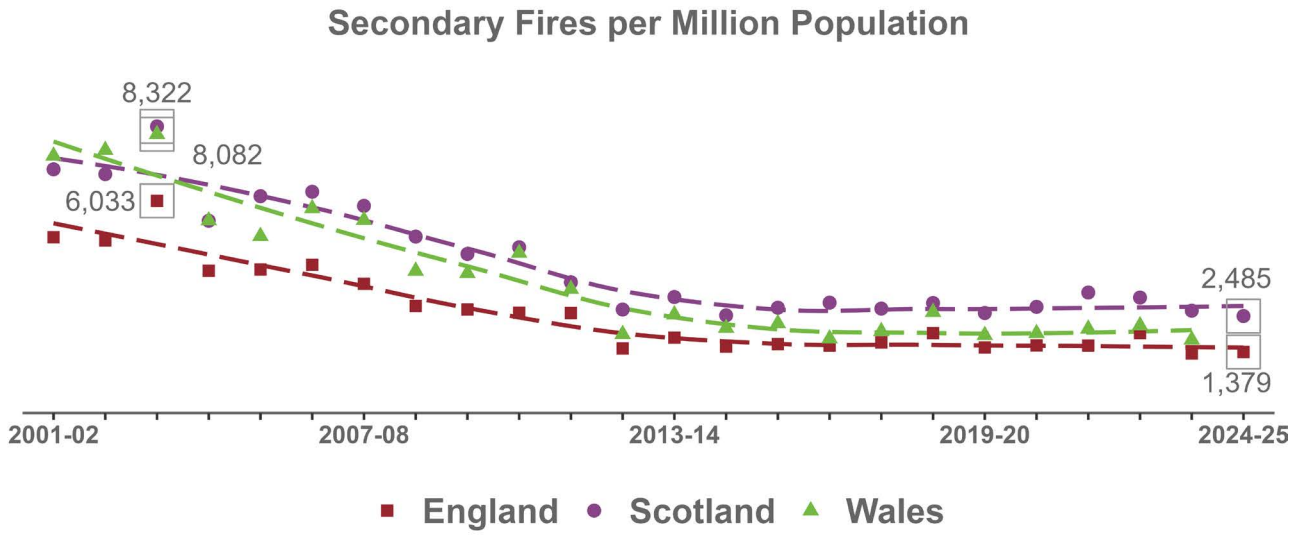


Figure 10: Secondary fires per million population in Great Britain. *

* 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. Please note that figures for Wales were not available when this document was published. See Statistical News document for further details.

Motive

There were 12,670 deliberate fires in 2024-25, down from 13,444 last year (5.8% decrease). This makes up 55.3% of fires in 2024-25, similar to last year when 55.8% of fires were deliberate. [3] Figure 11 shows how the proportion of deliberately set fires varies by incident type.

Deliberate dwelling fires make up 10.2% of dwelling fires, with 417 recorded in 2024-25. This figure has continually declined over the last decade, with 622 recorded in 2014-15 (33.0% decrease).

In 2024-25, there were 3,687 accidental dwelling fires, down from 3,820 last year (3.5% decrease). This has declined by 25.6% over the last decade, with 4,953 recorded in 2014-15.

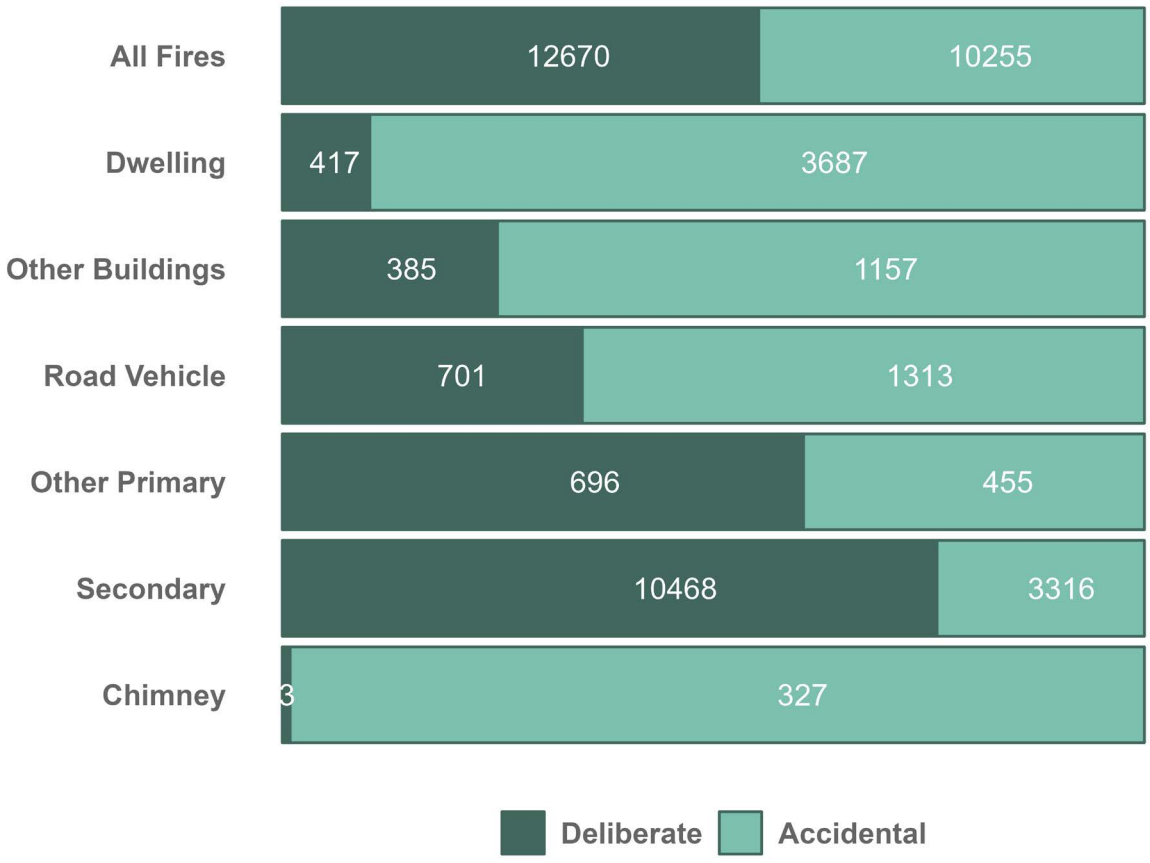


Figure 11: Fires by motive, 2024-25. Written values represent the number of fire incidents in each category.

[3] Fires classed as 'Deliberate' should not be interpreted as necessarily resulting from 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 2,094 accidental dwelling fires where cooking appliances were the main source. This makes up 56.8% of all accidental dwelling fires. Cooking appliances as a source of ignition has made up the highest percentage of accidental dwelling fires since this series began (2009-10).

Impairment

There were 459 accidental dwelling fires where impairment through alcohol or drugs was seen as a contributory factor. This is 12.4% of all accidental dwelling fires. Such incidents have a much higher casualty rate. **See page 27 for details**.

Spread of Fire

There were 1,546 dwelling fires which caused smoke or heat damage only (37.7% of all dwelling fires). 1,341 (32.7%) dwelling fires were confined to the original item. 919 (22.4%) dwelling fires spread beyond the initial item.

Smoke Alarms

There were 1,081 (26.3%) dwelling fires where smoke alarms were absent. In 53.5% of dwelling fires, smoke alarms were present, operated and raised the alarm. In Scotland, all households are required to have smoke detectors in place. Increasing prevalence of smoke alarms is likely to be an important factor in reducing number of dwelling fires.

Deprivation (SIMD [4])

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, there is a higher rate of dwelling fires in the most deprived areas, with the most deprived areas having a rate almost double the Scottish average. Overall, the number of dwelling fires in the most and least deprived areas have decreased at similar rates, with there being a 27.9% decrease in dwelling fires in the most deprived areas since 2014-15, and a 26.4% decrease 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 4.6 times higher than the least deprived areas. Please see Tables and Charts workbook for further information.

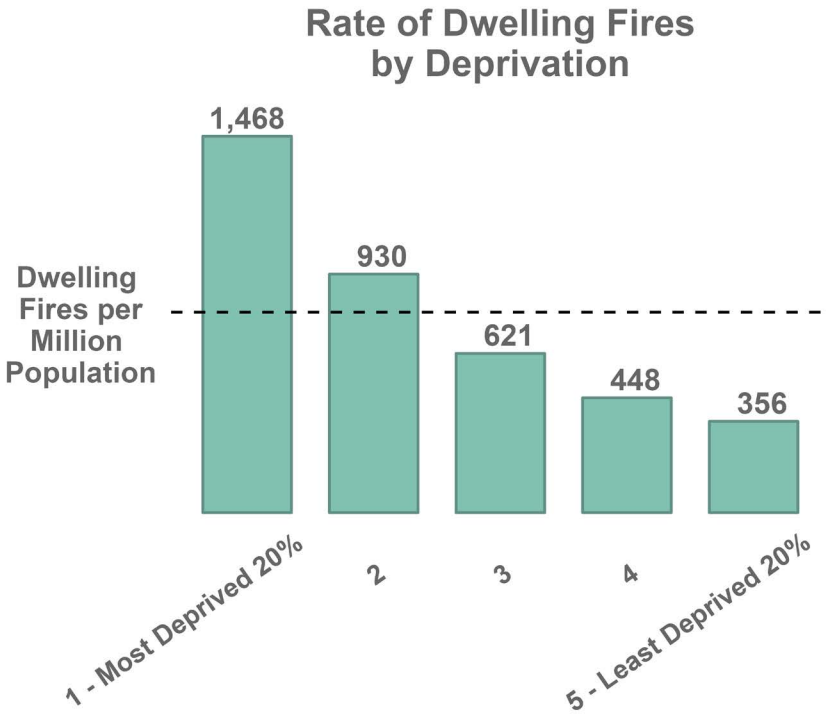


Figure 12: Rate of dwelling fires per million population by level of deprivation, 2024-25. The Scotland average is 753.

[4] Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.

Urban-Rural [5]

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, there has been a similar rate of decrease in the number of dwelling fires regardless of the urban rural area, with the exception of remote small towns. The number of dwelling fires in large urban areas has decreased by 31.7% from 2,581 in 2014-15 to 1,763 in 2024-25. In other urban areas, there has been a 23.1% decrease over the same time period, and in accessible small towns there is a decrease of 23.0%. In the most remote areas of remote rural and accessible rural there is a decrease of 22.6% and 20.9% respectively.

In contrast, the number of dwelling fires in remote small towns has decreased by 6.3% from 175 in 2014-15 to 164 in 2024-25.

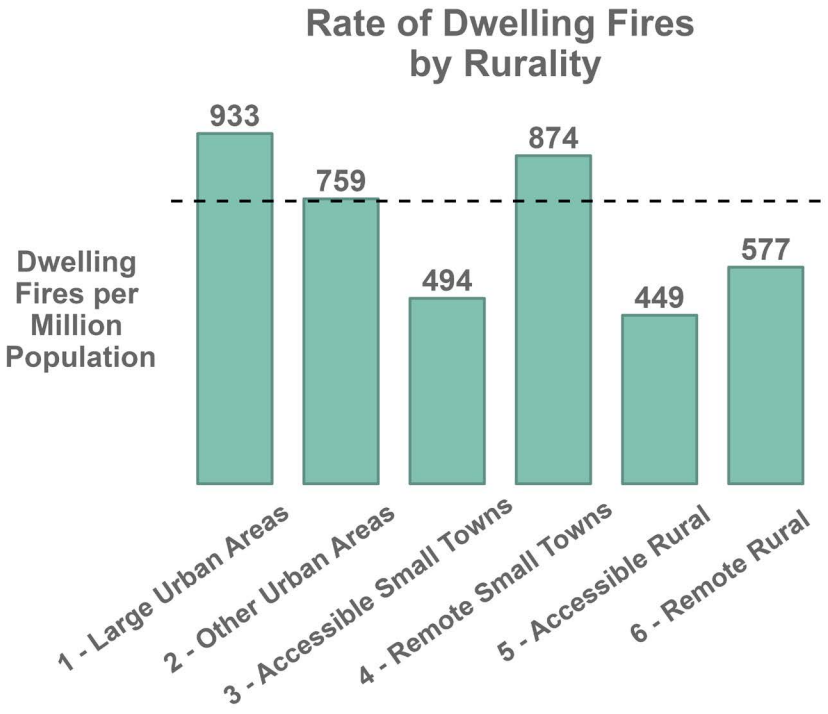


Figure 13: Rate of dwelling fires per million population by level of rurality, 2024-25. The Scotland average is 753.

[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, at a rate of 251.1 accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 dwellings. Dundee City had the second highest rate at 218.8. Shetland Islands had a rate of 188.6 accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 dwellings. In contrast, Orkney Islands had a rate of 59.2 and Midlothian had a rate of 80.3.

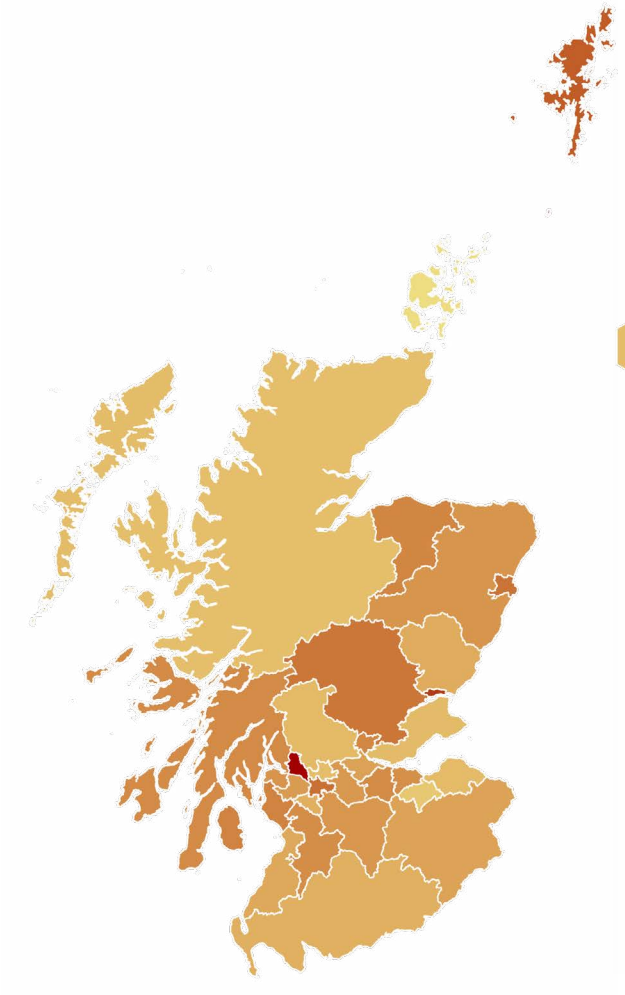


Figure 14.1: Choropleth Map of the Accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 dwellings, 2024-25.

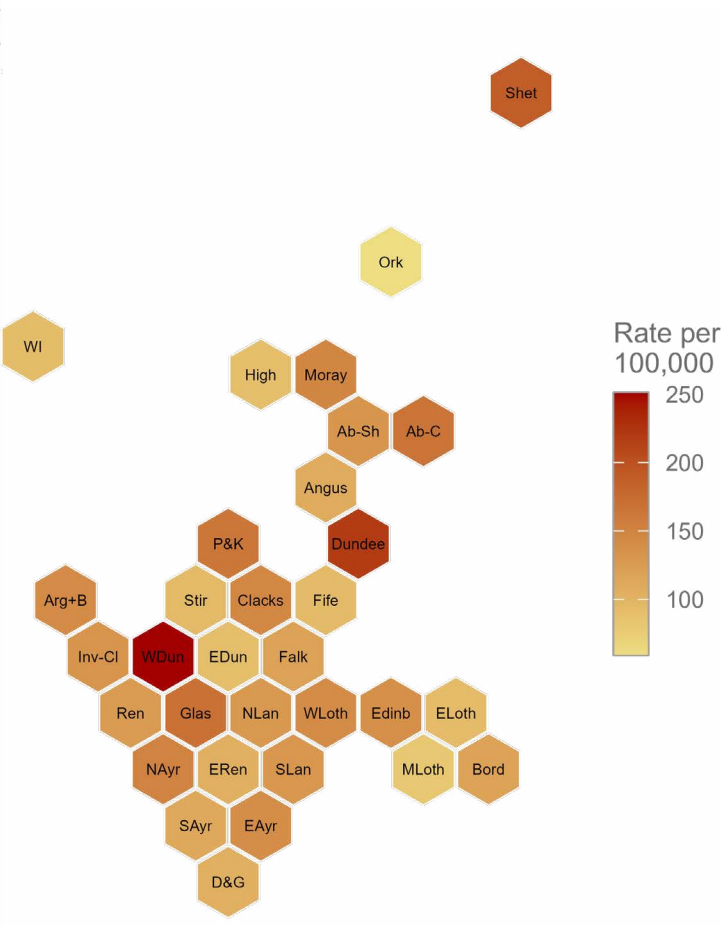


Figure 14.2: Area normalised Cartogram of the Accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 dwellings, 2024-25.

Deliberate Fires

There is a higher rate of deliberate fires in urban local authority areas, specifically in the central belt of Scotland. Dundee City had the highest rate of deliberate fires per 100,000 population, with a rate of 561.1. West Lothian had a rate of 411.9, and North Lanarkshire had a rate of 370.9. The lowest rate of deliberate fires was in Shetland Islands with a rate of 12.9 deliberate fires per 100,000 population. Na h-Eileanan Siar and Argyll and Bute had rates of 34.6 and 47.9 respectively.

For more local authority graphs and statistics please see the **downloadable tables and charts workbook.**

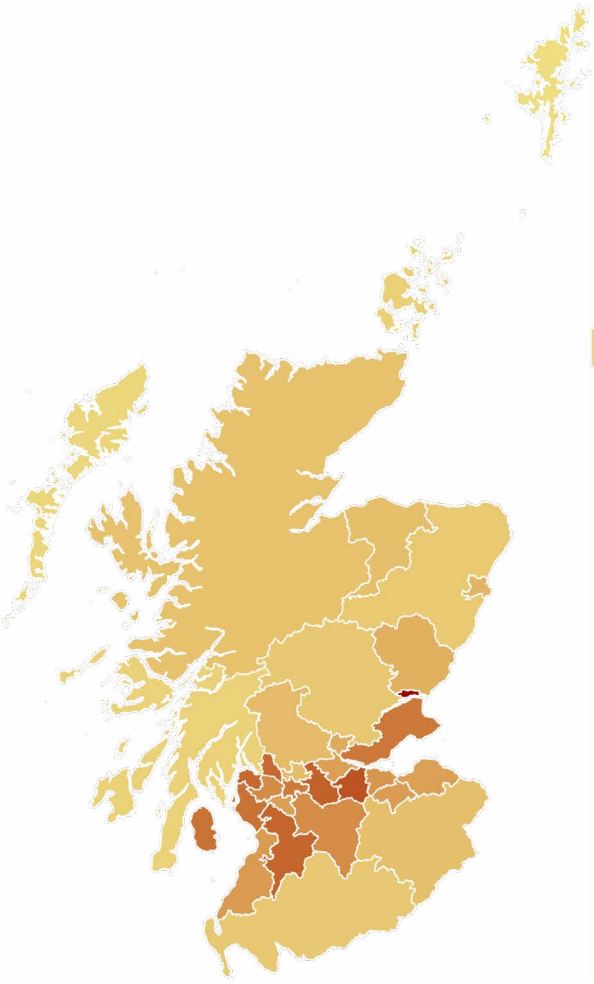


Figure 15.1: Choropleth Map of the Deliberate fires per 100,000 population, 2024-25.

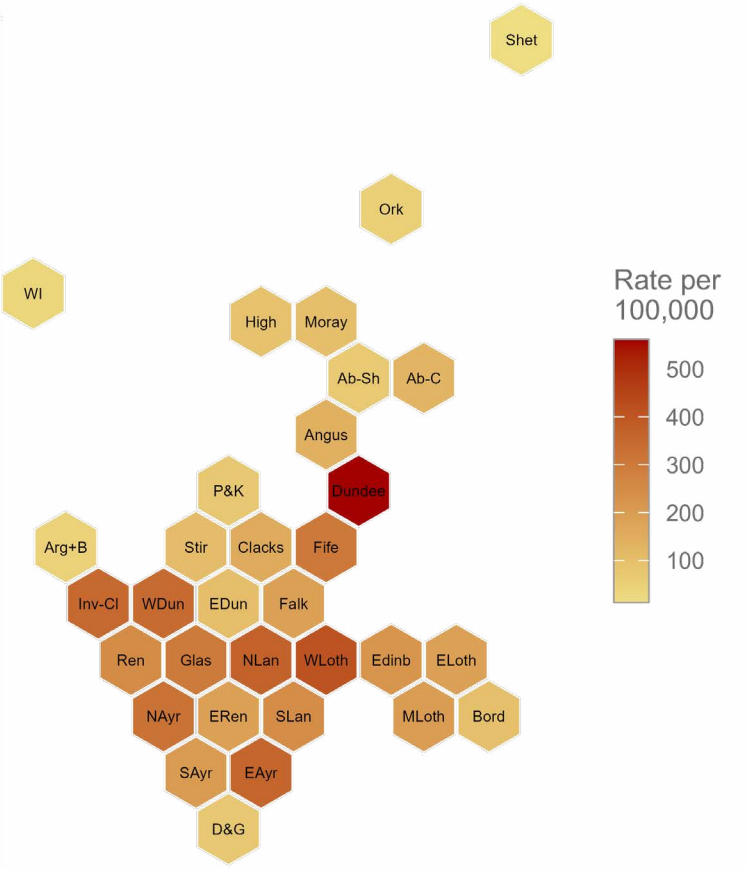


Figure 15.2: Area normalised Cartogram of the Deliberate fires per 100,000 population, 2024-25.

4. Casualties in Fires

In 2024-25, there were 36 fatal fire casualties, down from 42 last year. This year's total is lower than the ten-year average for fatal fire casualties, which is 42. Figure 16 shows an overall downward trend since 1990, with this figure levelling off since the early 2010s.

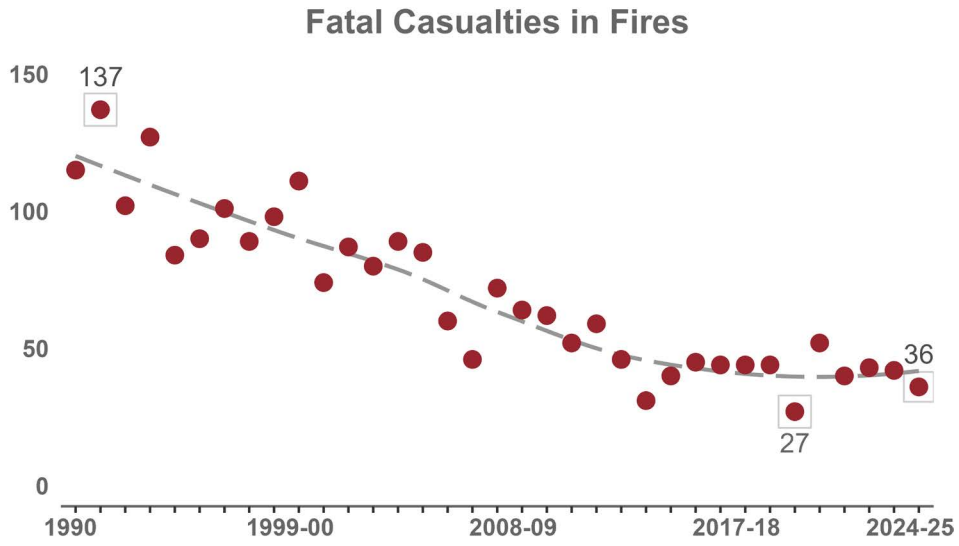


Figure 16: Long-term trend in the number of fatal fire casualties. *

Of the 36 fire fatalities, 29 (80.6%) were in dwellings and 6 (16.7%) were in road vehicles. There were no fatal fire casualties in other buildings.

Fire fatalities often appear in clusters throughout the years. Due to this, total fire fatality figures can appear to be volatile between years, as is referenced in Figure 17. Figure 17 shows the 13-week rolling average of fire fatalities from 2018-19 to 2024-25. 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.

* 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.

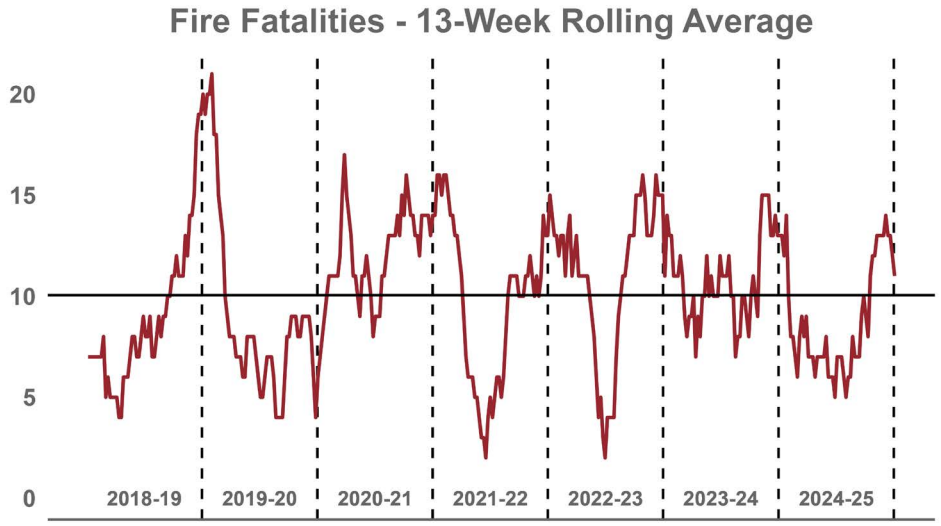


Figure 17: Fire Fatalities as a 13-week rolling average. The horizontal black line represents the average of the 13-week rolling values. Vertical dashed lines represent the change in fiscal year.

There were 1,069 non-fatal fire casualties in 2024-25, up from 817 last year (30.8% increase). This increase is predominantly due to an increase in the number of incidents where a precautionary check was recommended, with 260 precautionary checks recommended in 2023-24, and 448 recommended in 2024-25 (72.3% increase). [6] Historically, total non-fatal fire casualties have been decreasing overall since the early 2000s, as can be seen in Figure 18.

Of the 1,069 non-fatal casualties, 950 (88.9%) were in dwellings, 70 (6.5%) were in other buildings and 29 (2.7%) were in road vehicles.

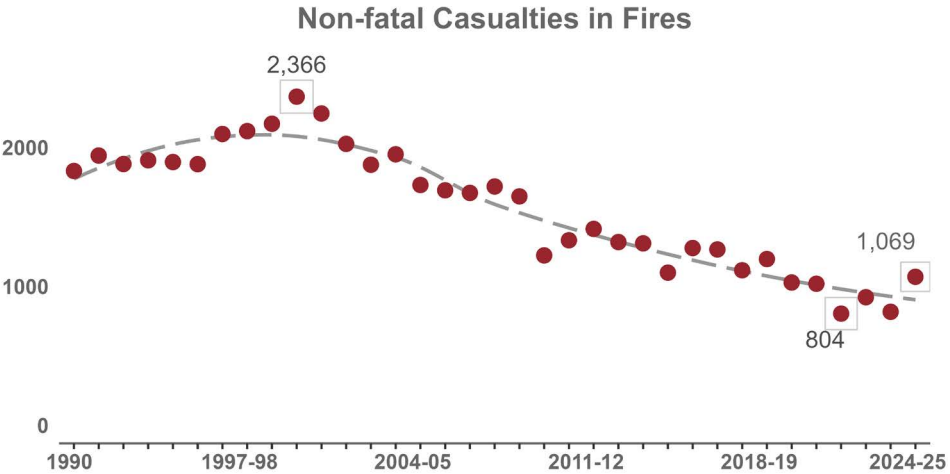


Figure 18: Long-term trend in the number of non-fatal fire casualties. Note that the series changed from calendar year to financial year after 1993. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

[6] Please note that this increase may be due to an improvement in the recording of casualties. Please refer to Guidance Notes Section 6 and 7 for further details on the recording of precautionary checks

In 2024-25, 621 casualties required treatment, up from 557 last year (11.5% increase). 448 non-fatal casualties did not require treatment, but a precautionary check was recommended, up from 260 last year (72.3% increase).

The main cause of injury in non-fatal casualties was being overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes, with 67.9% of casualties having this injury type. Burns accounted for 9.9%, and physical injuries accounted for 3.0%.

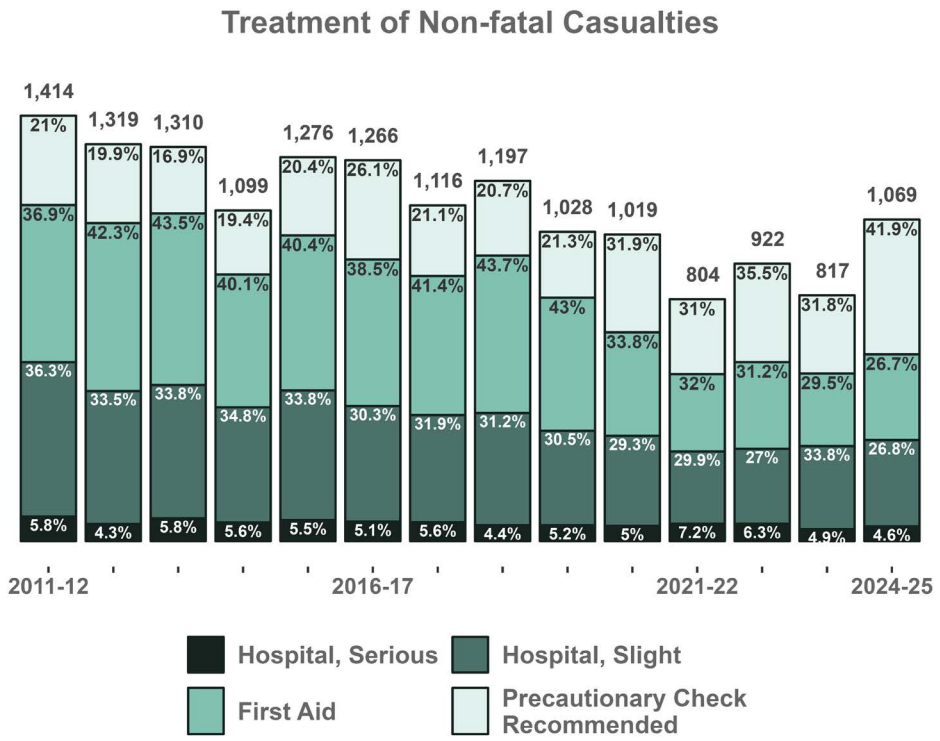


Figure 19: Treatment of non-fatal casualties.

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 2024-25, Scotland had a rate of 6.5 fatalities per million population. In comparison, England had a rate of 4.6 fatalities per million population. Comparable figures for Wales were not available at the time of this publication. Please see Statistical News document for further information.

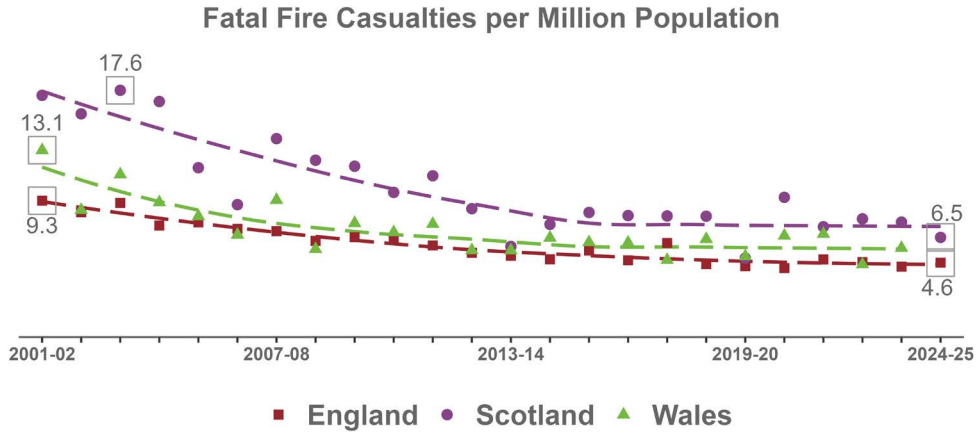


Figure 20: Fatal fire casualties per million population in Great Britain. *

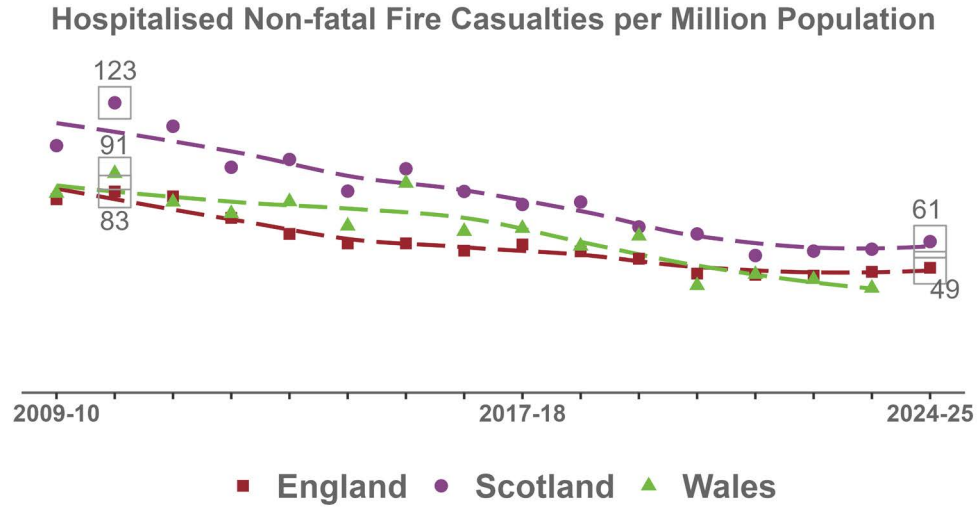


Figure 21: Hospitalised non-fatal fire casualties per million population in Great Britain. *

* Values displayed on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent value. Please note that figures for Wales were not available when this document was published. See Statistical News document for further details.

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 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 have a rate of 2.4 times the Scotland average and those aged 90 and over having a rate 5.1 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.

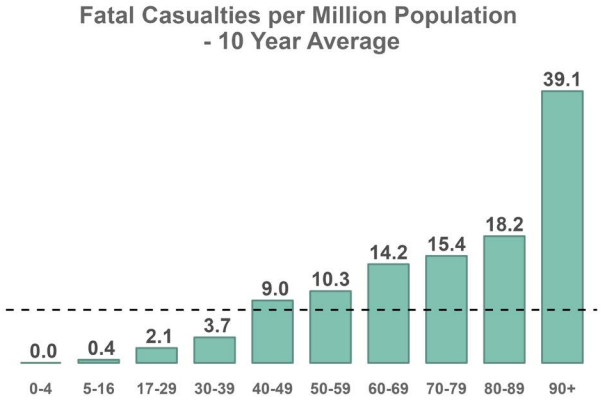


Figure 22: Ten-year average rate per million population of fatal casualties by age band. The dotted line represents the average figure of 7.6.

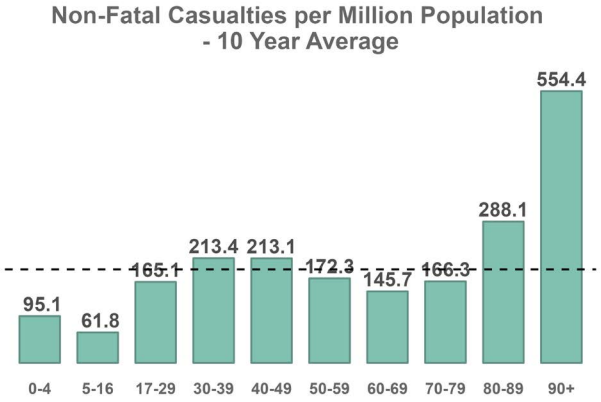
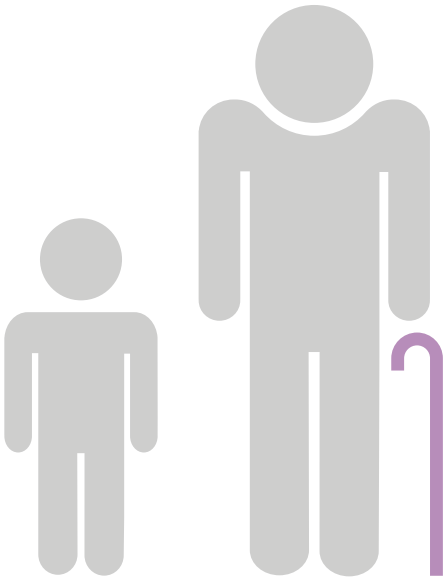


Figure 23: Ten-year average rate per million population of non-fatal casualties by age band. The dotted line represents the average figure of 190.7.

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 2.0 times below the Scotland average, and those aged 5-16 having a rate 3.1 times below the Scotland average. In contrast to fatal casualties, those aged 50-79 have a rate below average and those age 30-49 have a rate above average.

Similar to fatal casualties, those aged 80 and over have a rate above average, with those aged 80-89 having a rate 1.5 times the Scotland average and those aged 90 and over having a rate 2.9 times the Scotland average.



Gender

Of the 36 fatal fire casualties, 24 (66.7%) were male and 12 (33.3%) were female. Males have consistently had a higher rate of fatal fire casualties than females in previous years. There was a rate of 6.5 fatal fire casualties per million population in 2024-25. For males, this rate was higher at 8.9 and females had a lower rate at 4.2.

A similar pattern is seen for non-fatal casualties, with males having a rate of 201.1 casualties per million population in 2024-25 and females having a rate of 160.3 casualties.

Deprivation

There is a strong relationship between deprivation and fatal casualties in Scotland, shown by Figure 24. Those in the most deprived areas have a rate 1.8 times the Scotland average, and 4.5 times higher than 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 5.5 times higher than the least deprived 20%.

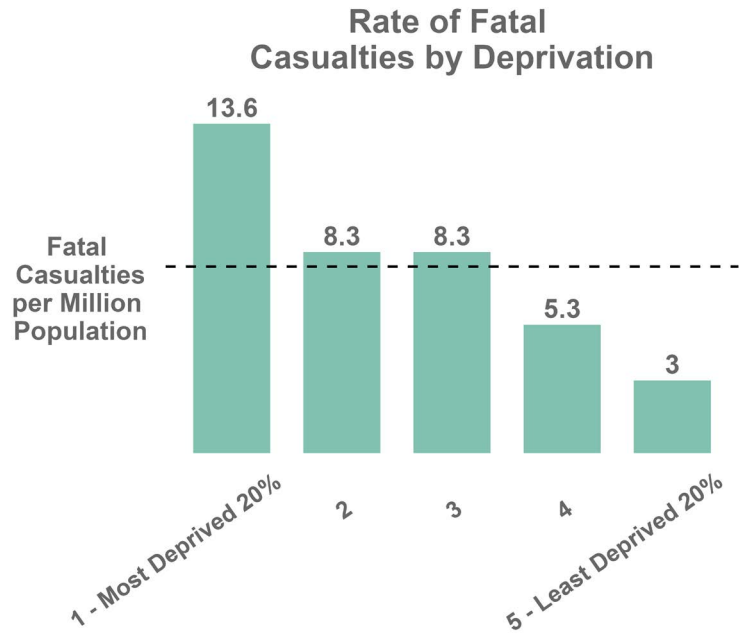


Figure 24: Ten-year **[7]** average rate of fatal fire casualties per million population by level of deprivation. The Scotland average is 7.7. * Ten years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

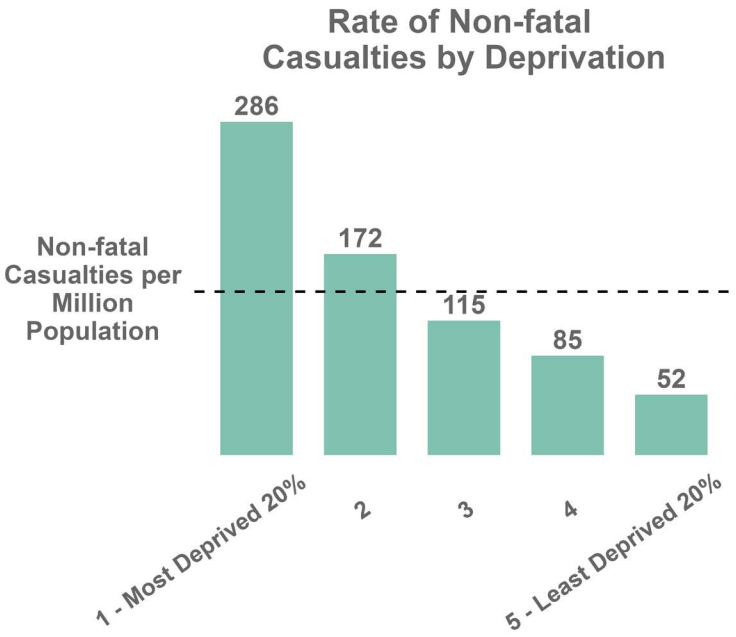


Figure 25: Ten-year **[7]** average rate of non-fatal fire casualties per million population by level of deprivation. The Scotland average is 140. Ten years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

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

* Please note mid-2022 Small Area Population Statistics have been used for 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 as this was the most recent update at the time of publication. Due to this, the average for 'Deprivation' and 'Urban Rural' will not match the average stated within the 'Age' subsection of this 'Casualty Profile' section, as mid-2024 Mid-Year Population estimates were used to create the 'Age' subsection and is therefore more up to date. Please see Statistical News document for further information.

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 above the Scotland 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 17 fatal casualties in those over 90 years old over the last ten years. Of those, 10 were male. Of the 17 fatalities in over 90s, 10 were in SIMD quintiles 3 or 4.

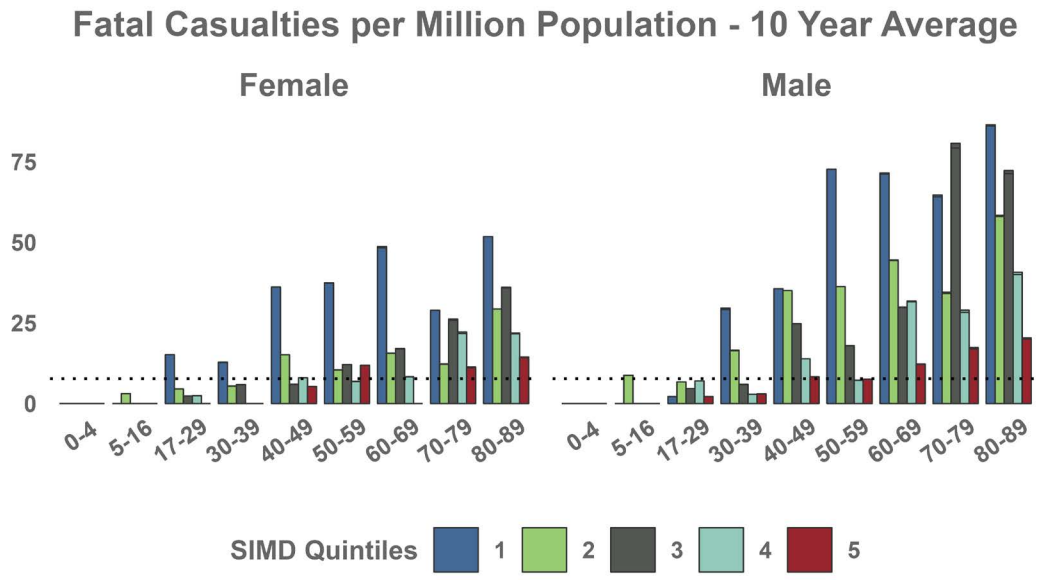


Figure 26: Fatal fire casualties per million population by gender, age and by level of deprivation where 1 is the 20% most deprived areas and 5 is the 20% least deprived areas. The horizontal line represents the Scotland average (7.7). *

* Please note mid-2022 Small Area Population Statistics have been used for 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 as this was the most recent update at the time of publication. Due to this, the average for 'Deprivation' and 'Urban Rural' will not match the average stated within the 'Age' subsection of this 'Casualty Profile' section, as mid-2024 Mid-Year Population estimates were used to create the 'Age' subsection and is therefore more up to date. Please see Statistical News document for further information.

For non-fatal hospitalised casualties, the rates are higher for all adults in the most 20% deprived areas, except for those who are aged over 90. Males in the most 40% deprived areas have higher rates than females, with all males above age 17 years in SIMD quintile 2 being above the Scotland average.

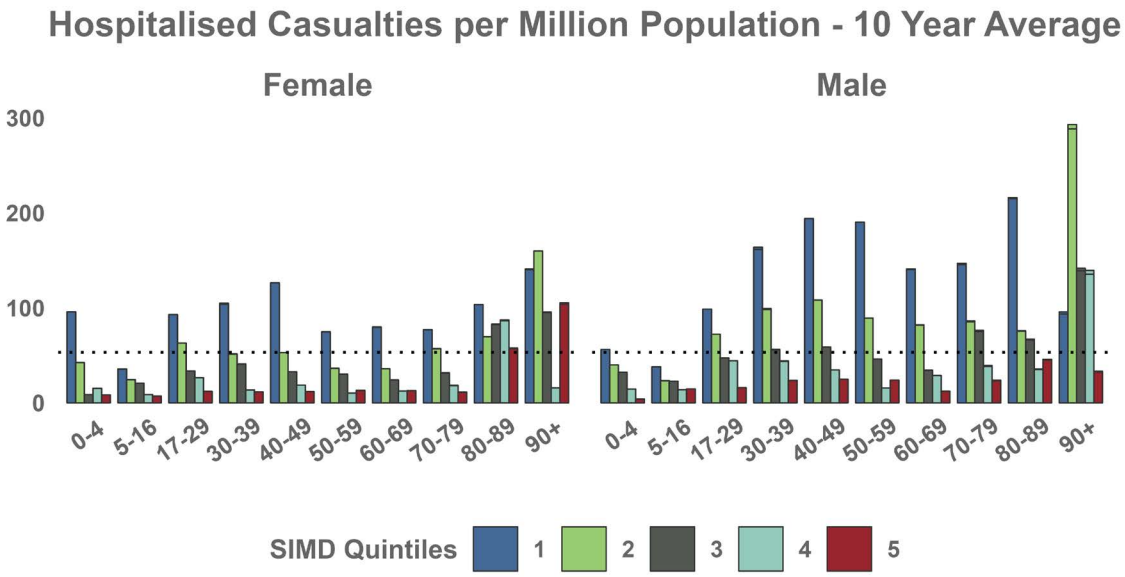


Figure 27: Hospitalised non-fatal fire casualties per million population by gender, age and by level of deprivation where 1 is the 20% most deprived areas and 5 is the 20% least deprived areas. The horizontal line represents the Scotland average (53).

Impairment

Impairment using alcohol or drugs was a suspecting factor in 12.4% of accidental dwelling fires in 2024-25. Of the 28 fatal fire casualties in accidental dwelling fires, 5 (17.9%) 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 12.9 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 344.1 where impairment was a suspected factor and 134.8 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 1.5 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 having a rate 1.2 times above the Scotland average, and other urban areas have a rate 1.0 times above.

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

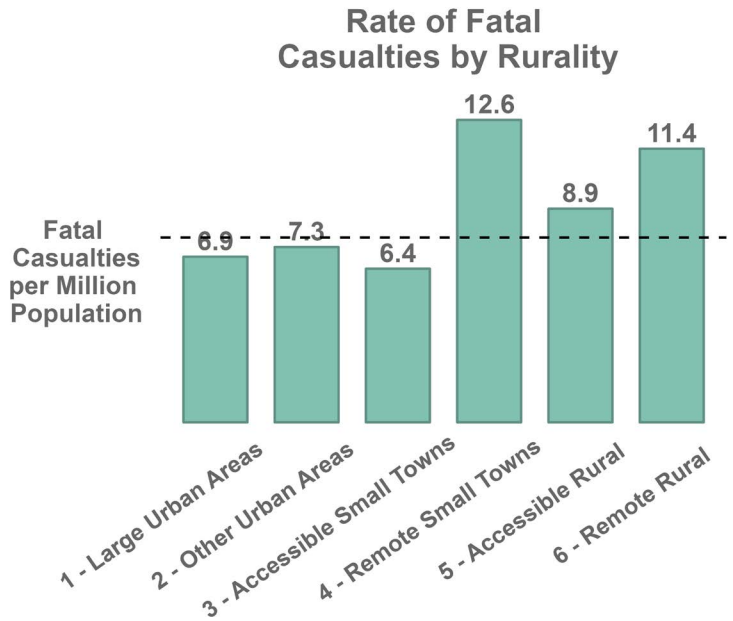


Figure 28: Ten-year average rate of fatal fire casualties per million population by level of rurality. The Scotland average is 7.7. * Ten years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

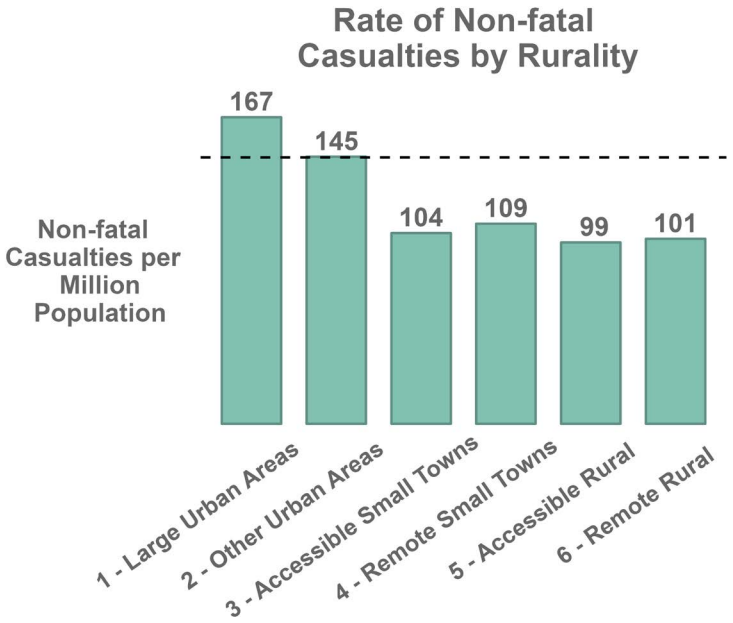


Figure 29: Ten-year average rate of non-fatal fire casualties per million population by level of rurality. The Scotland average is 140. Ten years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

* Please note mid-2022 Small Area Population Statistics have been used for 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 as this was the most recent update at the time of publication. Due to this, the average for 'Deprivation' and 'Urban Rural' will not match the average stated within the 'Age' subsection of this 'Casualty Profile' section, as mid-2024 Mid-Year Population estimates were used to create the 'Age' subsection and is therefore more up to date. Please see Statistical News document for further information.

5. Non-fire Incidents and Casualties

In 2024-25, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 16,209 non-fire incidents, up from 16,054 in 2023-24 (1.0% increase). Over the last decade, there has been a 50.9% increase in the number of non-fire incidents attended, with 10,743 incidents attended in 2014-15. Figure 30 shows the overall upward trend in non-fire incidents over the last decade.

Flooding incidents decreased from last year, from 1,896 last year to 1,639 in 2024-25 (13.6% decrease). Flooding incidents had been increasing steadily from 2016-17 to 2022-23. There was an unusually high number of flooding incidents in 2022-23, with figures reducing since then.

There were 2,247 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) attended by SFRS in 2024-25, up from 2,243 (0.2% increase). Effecting Entry/Exit incidents increased from 4,857 last year to 4,920 in 2024-25 (1.3% increase). This figure has been steadily increasing since 2012-13. Similarly, Assist Other Agencies incidents have been increasing since 2016-17. There were 1,470 of these incidents this year, up from 1,457 last year (0.9% increase). Medical incidents have decreased from last year, with 433 in 2024-25 and 513 in 2023-24 (15.6% decrease). Over the last decade, there has been no clear trend in these types of incidents.

See figures 32 to 37 for trends in major non-fire incident categories.

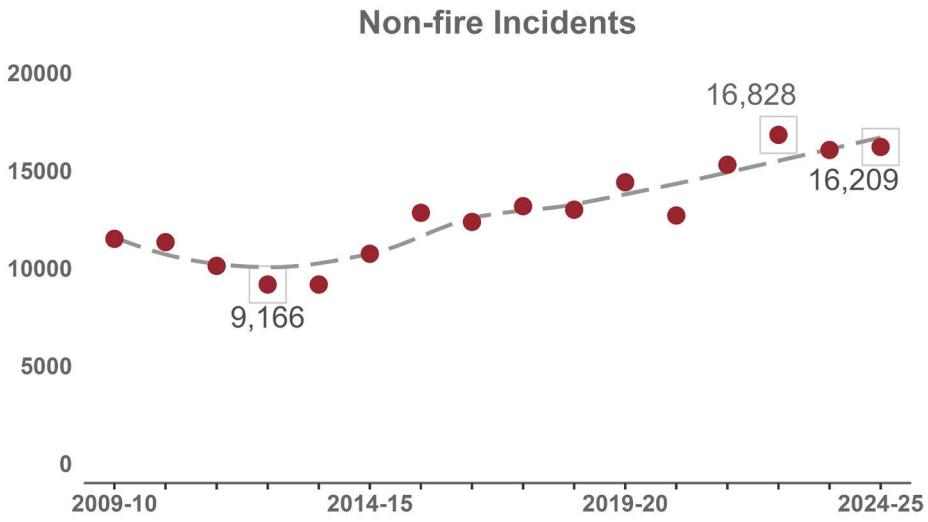


Figure 30: Trends in non-fire incidents. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

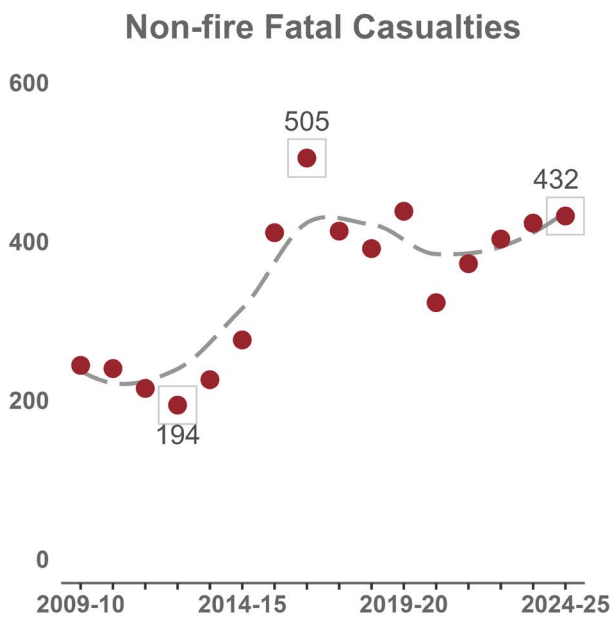


Figure 31.1: Trends in the number of non-fire fatal casualties. *

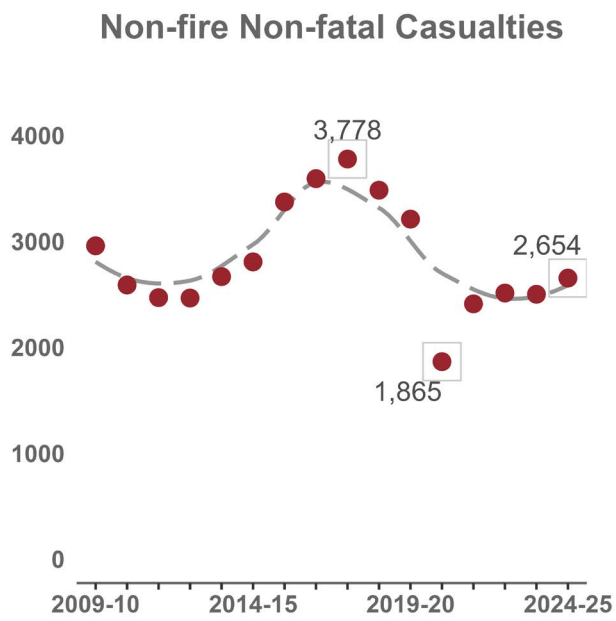


Figure 31.2: Trends in the number of non-fire non-fatal casualties. *

There were 432 fatal casualties at non-fire incidents attended by SFRS in 2024-25, up from 423 last year (2.1% 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. [8] Since 2016-17, this figure appears to be levelling off. There was a decrease in incidents attended and fatal casualties during the Covid-19 pandemic. The number of fatal casualties at non-fire incidents attended by SFRS has consistently increased between 2020-21 and 2024-25 to a level similar to what was seen before the pandemic. This can be seen in Figure 31. There were 71 fatal casualties at Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) attended, down from 75 last year (5.3% decrease).

There was a 7.6% increase in fatal casualties at Effecting Entry/Exit incidents, with 157 recorded last year and 169 recorded in 2024-25. Fatal casualties at Medical Incidents decreased from 40 last year to 33 this year (17.5% decrease).

There were 2,654 non-fatal casualties at non-fire incidents attended by SFRS in 2024-25, up from 2,501 last year (6.1% increase). There were 1,522 non-fatal casualties at Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) this year, up from 1,422 last year (7.0% increase). There was a 7.6% increase in non-fatal casualties at Effecting Entry/Exit incidents, with 419 recorded last year and 451 recorded in 2024-25.

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

* 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.

Road Traffic Collisions

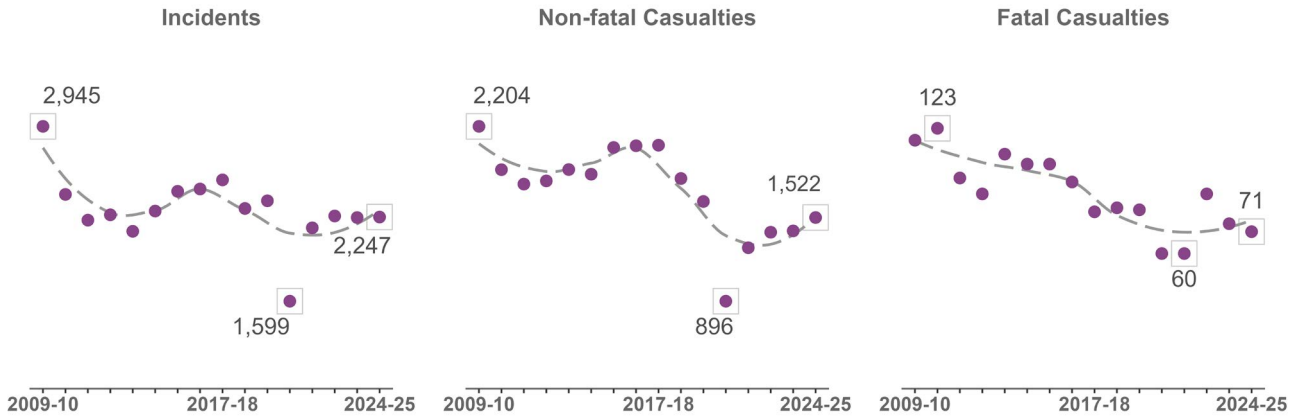


Figure 32.1: Trends in the Number of Road Traffic Collisions by Incidents. *

Figure 32.2: Trends in the Number of Road Traffic Collisions by Non-Fatal Casualties. *

Figure 32.3: Trends in the Number of Road Traffic Collisions by Fatal Casualties. *

Flooding and Rescue or Evacuation from Water

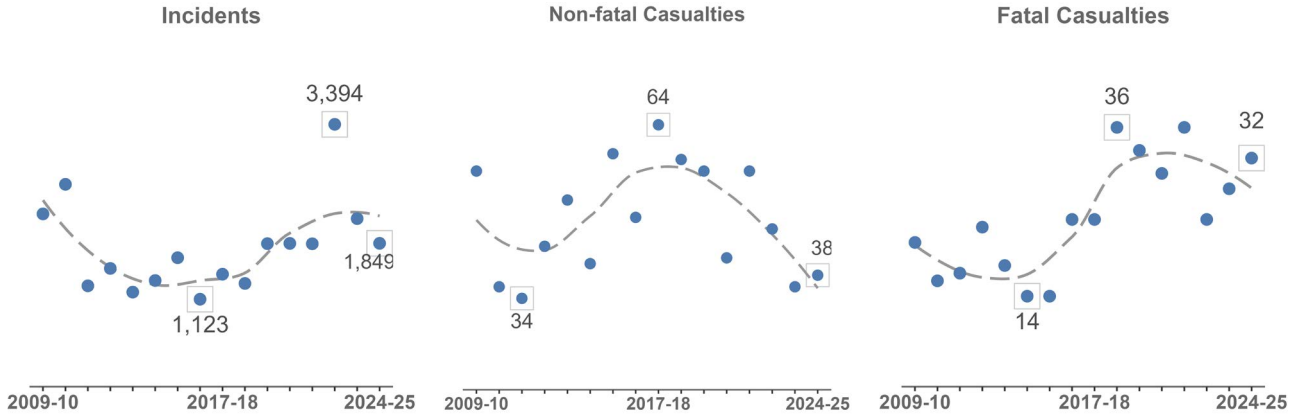


Figure 33.1: Trends in the Number of Flooding and Rescue or Evacuation from Water Incidents by Incidents. *

Figure 33.2: Trends in the Number of Flooding and Rescue or Evacuation from Water Incidents by Non-Fatal Casualties. *

Figure 33.3: Trends in the Number of Flooding and Rescue or Evacuation from Water Incidents by Fatal Casualties. *

Medical Incidents

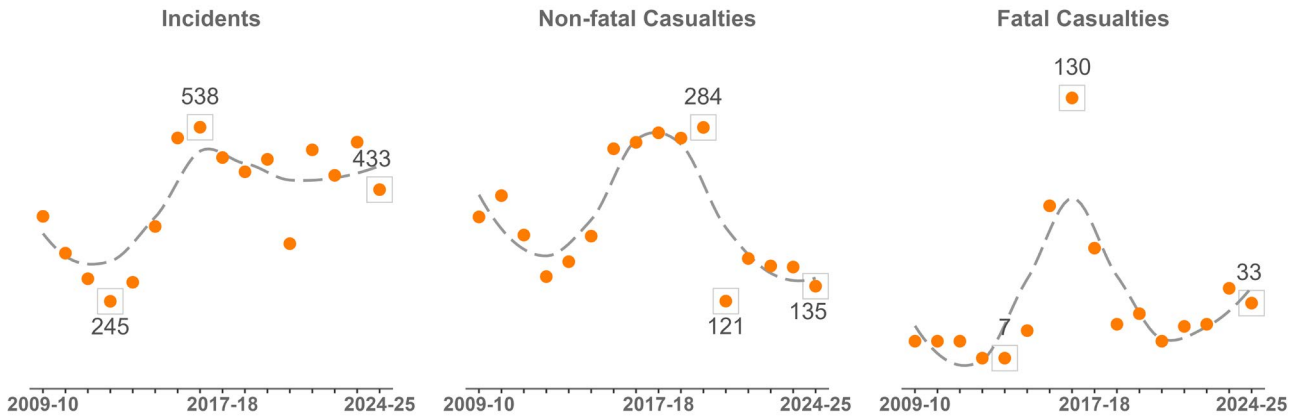


Figure 34.1: Trends in Number of Medical Incidents by Incidents. *

Figure 34.2: Trends in Number of Medical Incidents by Non-Fatal Casualties. *

Figure 34.3: Trends in Number of Medical Incidents by Fatal Casualties. *

* 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.

Suicide (including attempts)

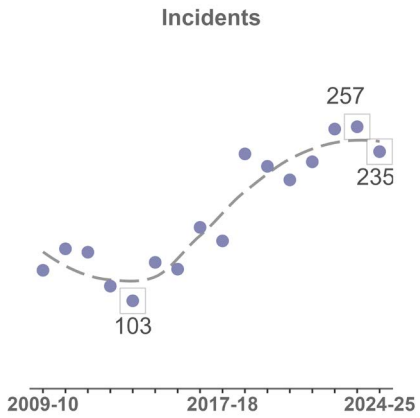


Figure 35.1: Trends in Suicide (including attempts) by Incidents. *

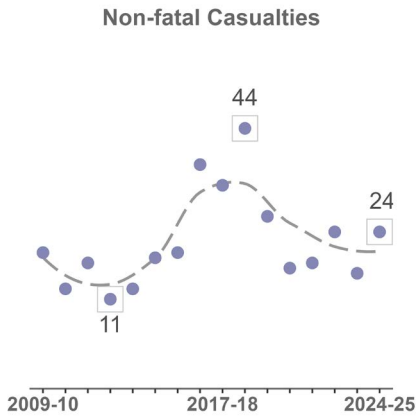


Figure 35.2: Trends in Suicide (including attempts) by Non-Fatal Casualties. *

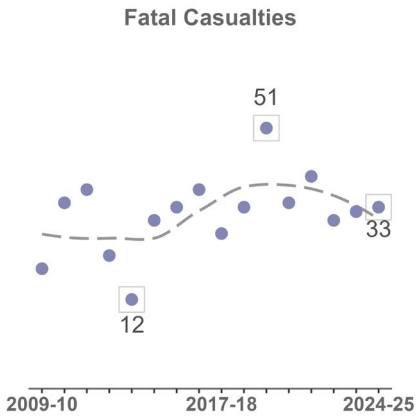


Figure 35.3: Trends in Suicide (including attempts) by Fatal Casualties. *

Effecting Entry/Exit

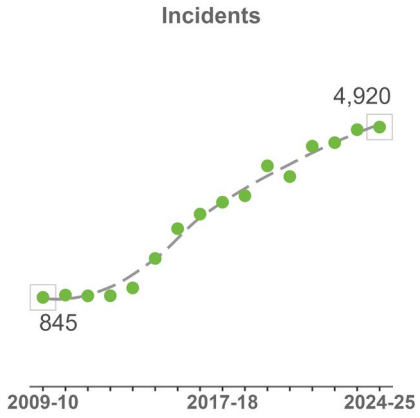


Figure 36.1: Trends in Effecting Entry or Exit by Incidents. *

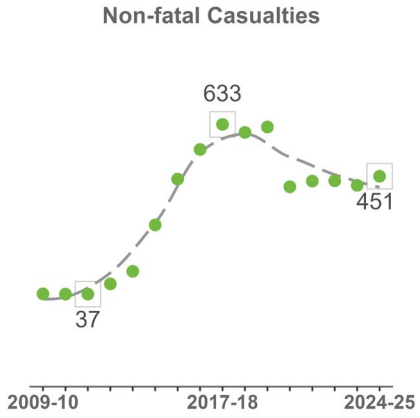


Figure 36.2: Trends in Effecting Entry or Exit by Non-Fatal Casualties. *

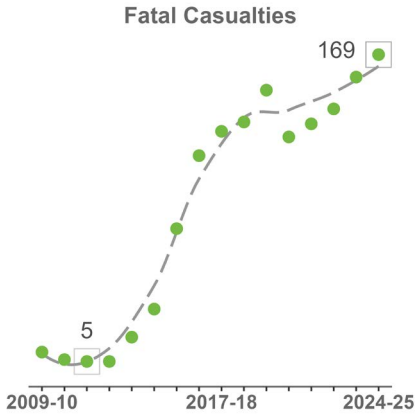


Figure 36.3: Trends in Effecting Entry or Exit by Fatal Casualties. *

Assist Other Agencies

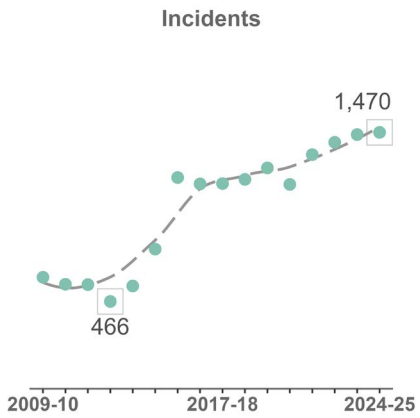


Figure 37.1: Trends in Assist Other Agencies by Incidents. *

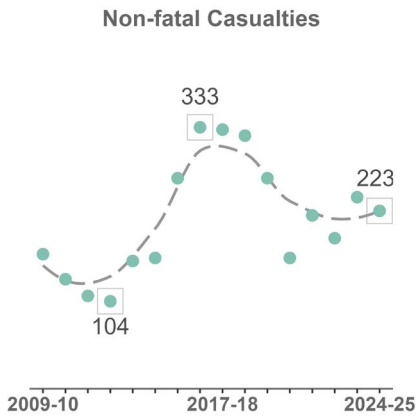


Figure 37.2: Trends in Assist Other Agencies by Non-Fatal Casualties. *

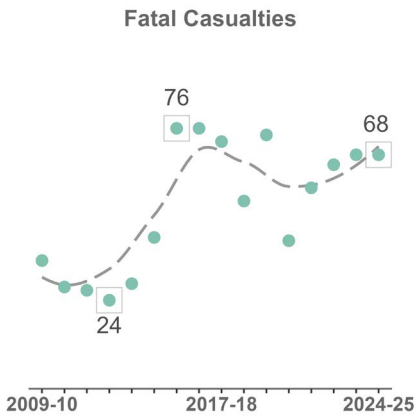


Figure 37.3: Trends in Assist Other Agencies by Fatal Casualties. *

* 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 2024-25, there were 35,476 false alarm incidents, down from 40,397 in 2023-24 (12.2% decrease). Of these incidents, 34,688 were fire false alarms, down from 39,652 last year (12.5% decrease). This decrease is due to a new policy that was introduced in July 2023 which changed how the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (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 the **SFRS Reducing UFAS page**.

There were 788 false alarm incidents categorised as other false alarms this year, up from 745 in 2023-24 (5.8% increase).

Of the 34,688 fire false alarms, there were 25,499 incidents that were due to apparatus in 2024-25. This is down from 30,457 last year (16.3% decrease). In 2024-25, this accounted for 34.2% of all incidents attended this year, down from 37.8% in 2023-24.

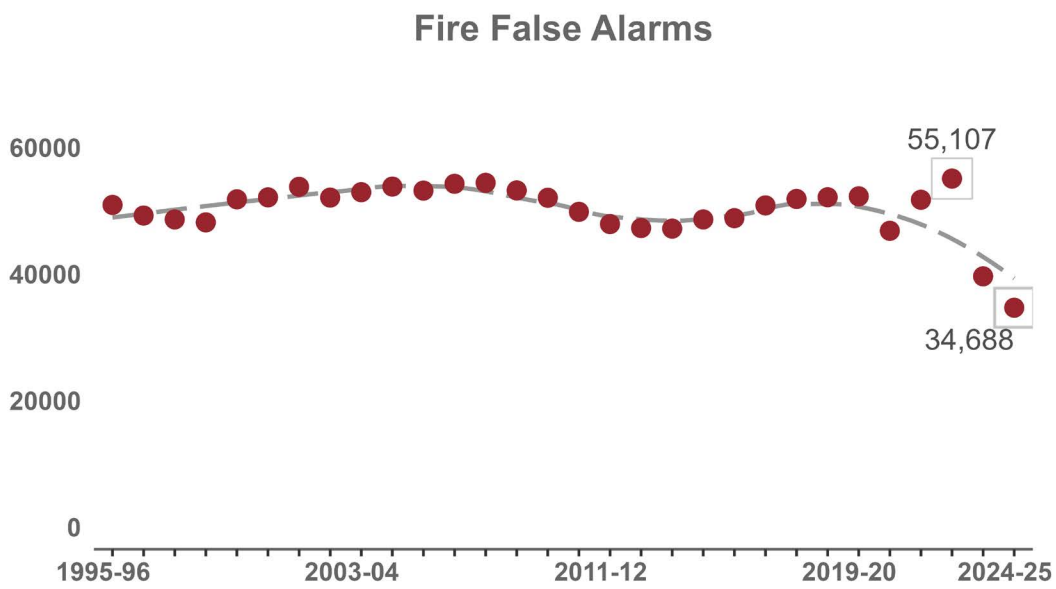


Figure 38: Long-term trend in fire false alarms. *

* 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.

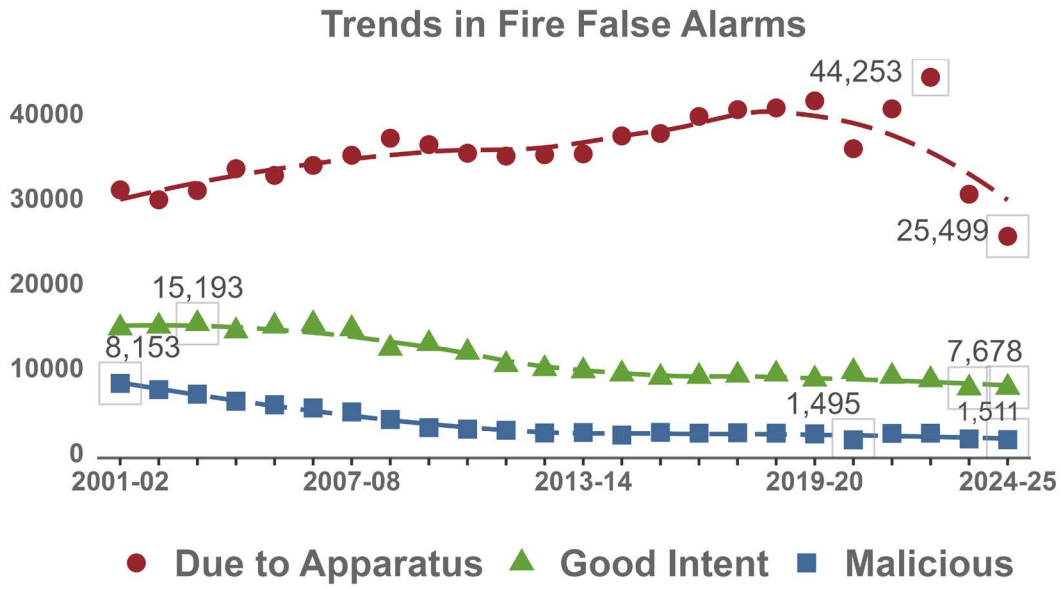


Figure 39: Trends in cause of fire false alarms. *

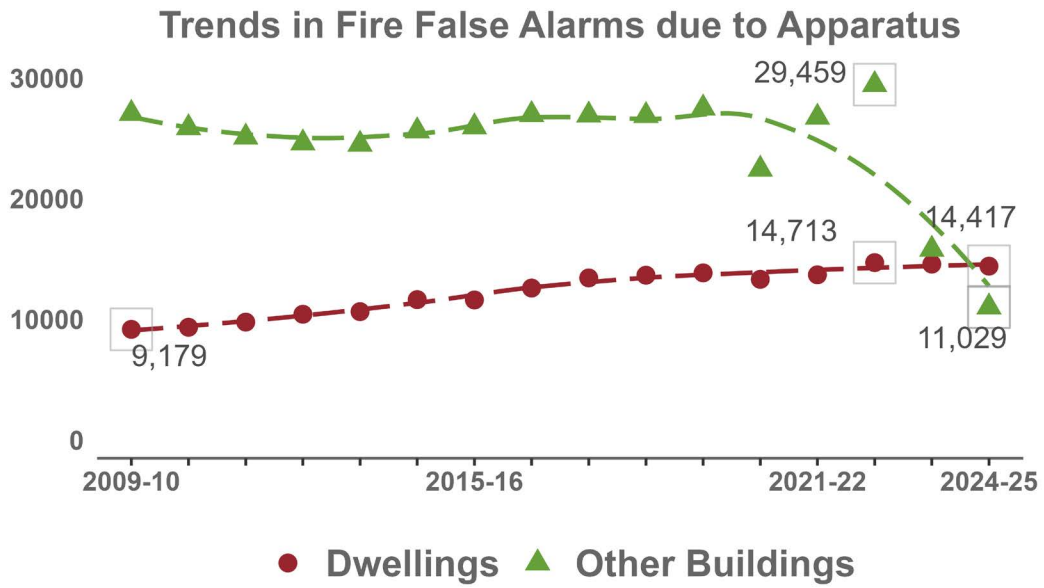


Figure 40: Trends in the location of fire false alarms due to apparatus. *

* 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.

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 homeworking was encouraged. This figure peaked in 2022-23 and then decreased significantly when the new UFAS policy was introduced in 2023. This figure has decreased further this year, with 17,096 recorded in 2023-24 and 12,189 recorded in 2024-25 (28.7% decrease). This makes up 16.3% of incidents in 2024-25, down from 21.2% in 2023-24.

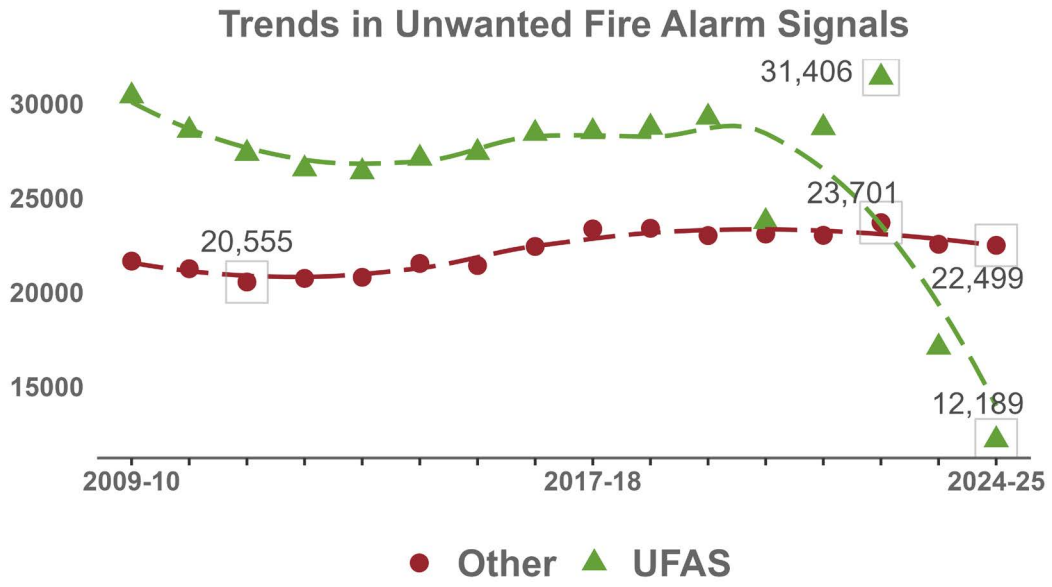


Figure 41: Trends in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) and Other fire alarm signals in Scotland. *

* 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 minimum 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 Dundee City having a rate of 469.0 per 100,000 population, Stirling having a rate of 462.8 and Glasgow City having a rate of 361.7. In contrast, Orkney Islands has a rate of 72.7 and Aberdeenshire has a rate of 77.0.

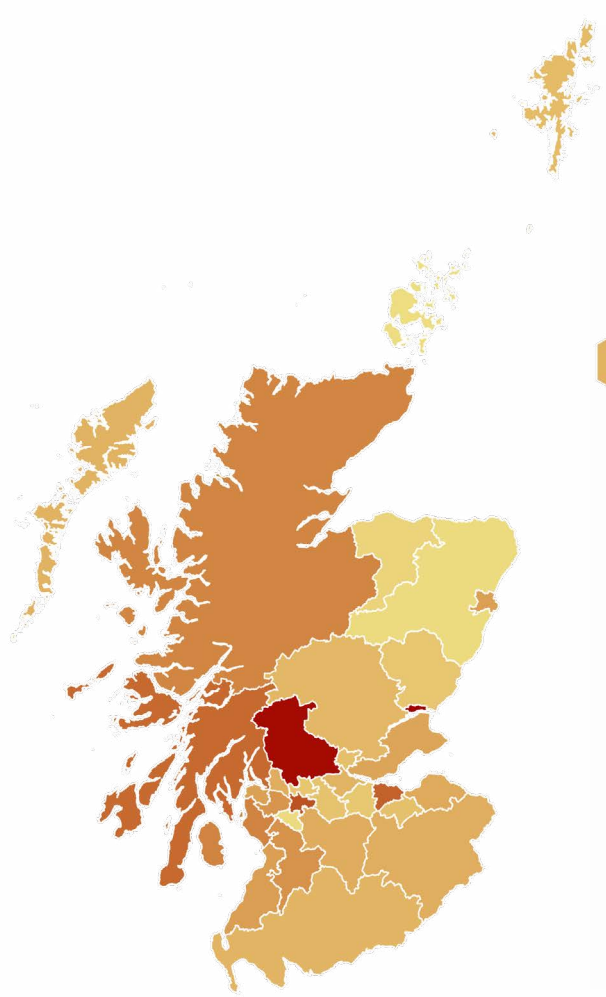


Figure 42.1: Choropleth Map of the Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) per 100,000 population, 2024-25.

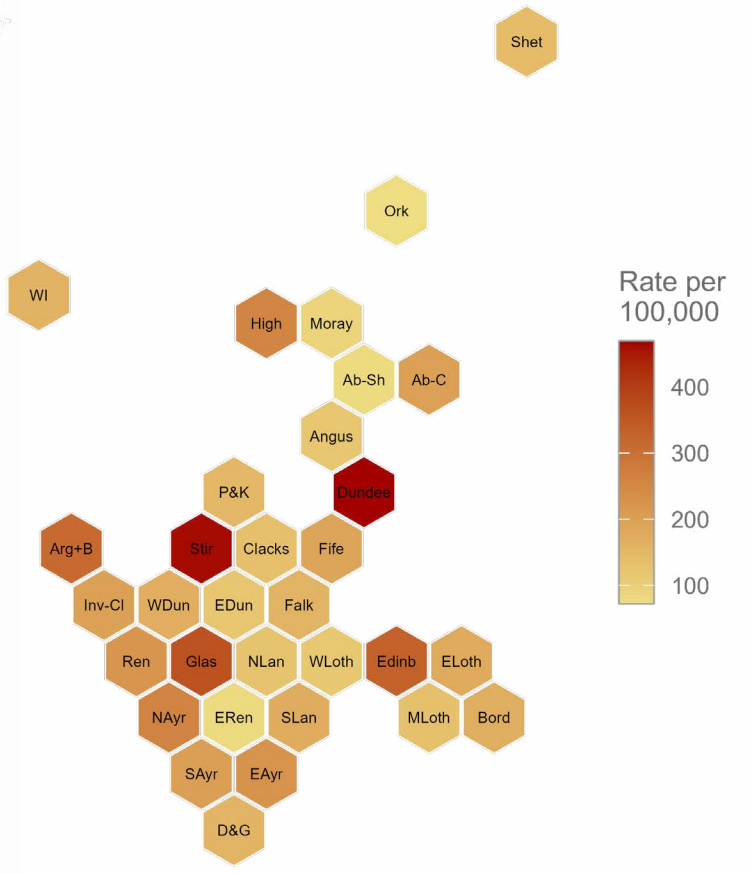


Figure 42.2: Area normalised Cartogram of the Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) per 100,000 population, 2024-25.

Great Britain Comparisons

In previous years, Scotland had a notable higher rate of fire false alarms compared to England and Wales. England and Wales have had 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 since 2022-23, with 2024-25 having the lowest rate per million population since this series began (2001-02) at 6,254 fire false alarms per million population. In comparison, England has a rate of 4,269 fire false alarms per million population.

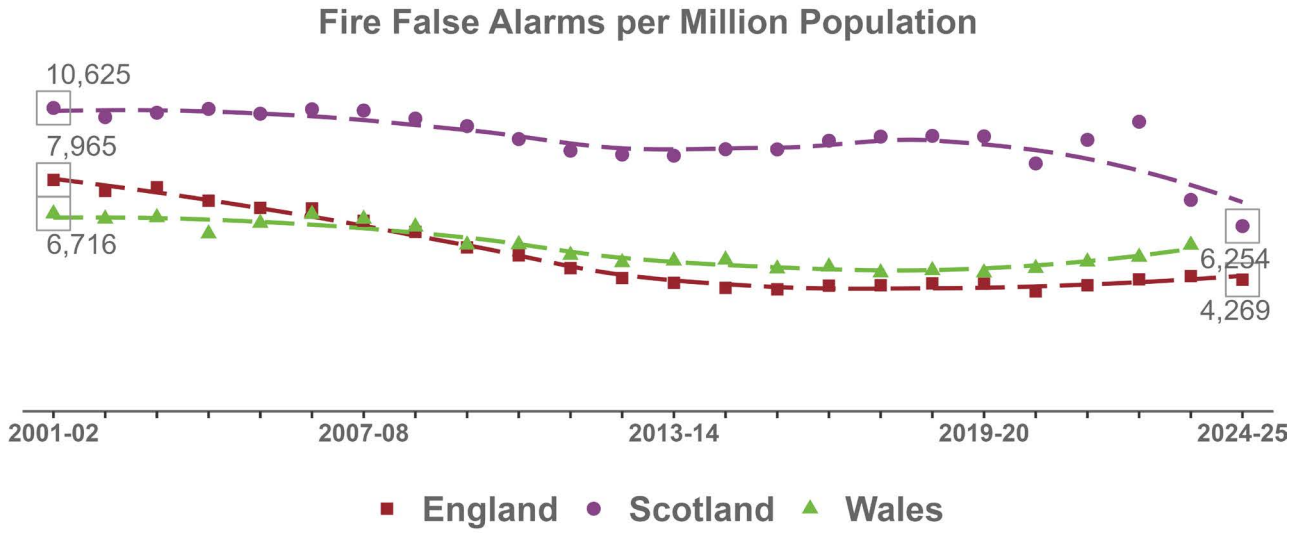


Figure 43: Trends in the fire false alarms by nation. *

In Scotland, there was a recent change in how UFAS incidents are handled, with a new policy introduced in 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. With the introduction of the new UFAS policy in 2023-24, and the gap closing between the rates in Scotland compared to England and Wales, this suggests that the main reason for the difference between the nations is due to the difference in the handling of UFAS incidents.

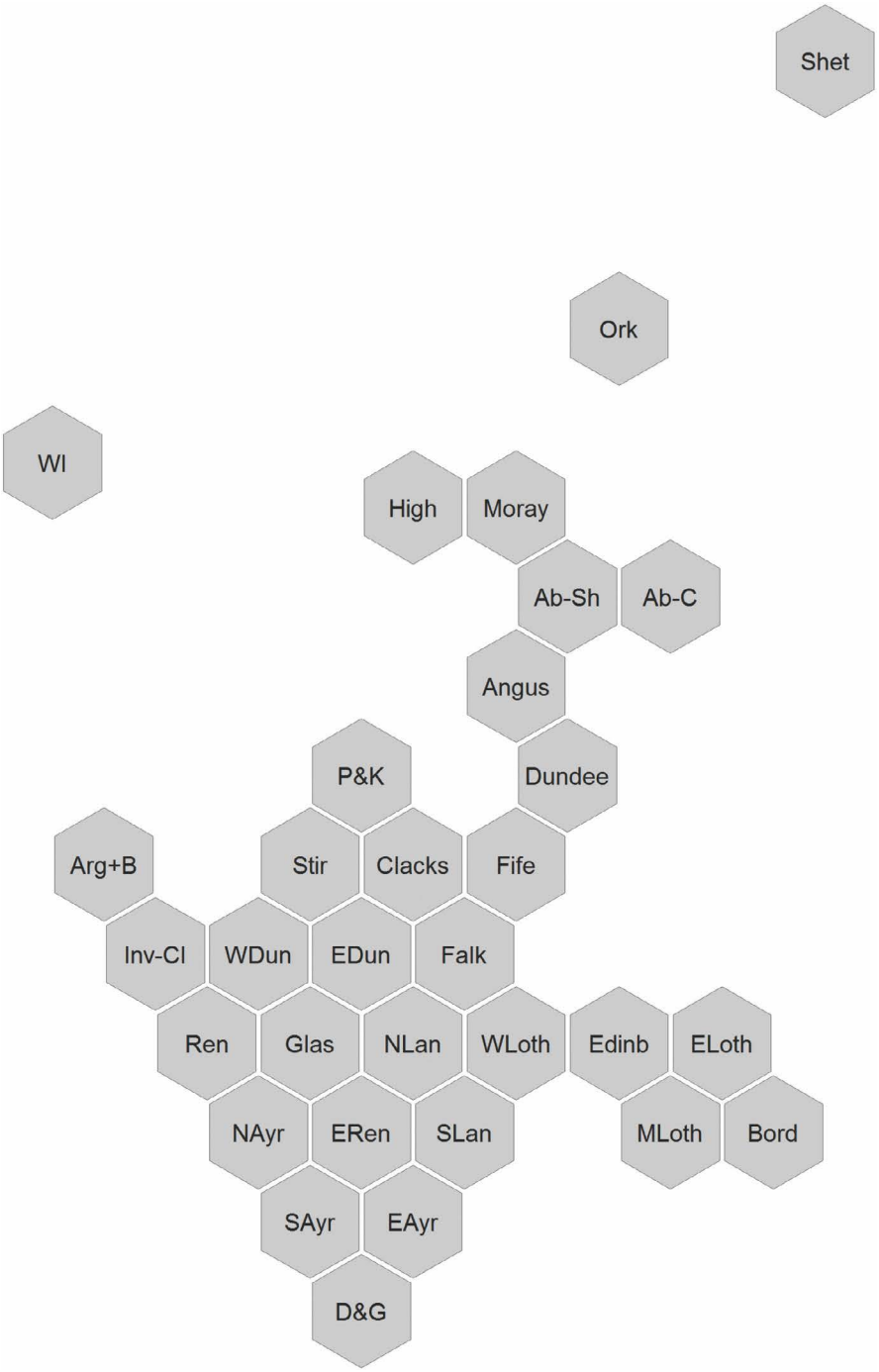
* Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the minimum value.

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-Cl	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



An Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the **Code of Practice for Official Statistics**. They are produced free from any political interference.

Correspondence and enquiries

Lead statistician for this bulletin and associated documents:
Rebecca Cameron

For enquiries or feedback please contact:
National.Statistics@firescotland.gov.uk

The next edition of Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics bulletin and associated documents is scheduled for release on 30th October 2026.

SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

firescotland.gov.uk

SFRS Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics 2024-25

Version 1.0 – 31 October 2025