SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics 2022-23

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

31 October 2023

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 2022-23

1. Main Points

All incidents

- **99,532** incidents attended, of which:
  - **56.2%** were false alarms
  - **27.0%** were fires
  - **16.9%** were non-fire incidents

Fires

- **26,825** fires attended, down 3.5% on last year
  - **4,305** dwelling fires, down 7.1%
    - **3,873** of these were accidental, down 7.7%
    - **58.8%** of accidental dwelling fires started with a cooking appliance
    - **72.2%** of dwelling fires were confined to the original item ignited
  - **1,984** vehicle fires, down 0.8%
  - **18,217** outdoor fires (excluding road vehicles), down 3.5%

Non-fire Incidents

- **16,783** non-fire incidents attended, up 9.7%, of which:
  - **3,139** were flooding, up 94.1%
  - **2,224** were road traffic collisions, up 2.8%

False Alarms

- **55,924** false alarms, up 6.2%
- **55,076** false fire alarms, up 6.4%, of which:
  - **44,228** were due to detecting apparatus, up 9.2%
  - **8,573** were due to good intentions, down 4.4%
  - **2,275** were malicious, up 0.8%

Fatal Fire Casualties

- **42** fatal fire casualties, up from 40 last year
  - **32** of these occurred in dwelling fires, up from 31 last year
- **54.8%** of fatal fire casualties were male
- **4.7** times higher rate of fatal casualties in the most deprived areas than in the least deprived over the last 8 years

Non-fatal Fire Casualties

- **922** non-fatal fire casualties, up 14.7%
- **5.4 times** higher rate of non-fatal casualties in the most deprived areas compared with the least deprived areas over the last 8 years

Non-fire Casualties

- **398** fatal casualties, up 7.0%, of which:
  - **85** were at road traffic collisions
  - **140** were at effecting entry/exit incidents
- **2,481** non-fatal casualties, up 2.9%

2. Summary

In 2022-23, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended a total of 99,532 incidents, up from 95,734 last year (4.0% increase).

There were 26,825 fires attended in 2022-23, down from 27,786 attended last year (3.5% decrease). Of all fires, 9,771 were primary fires. This is a 0.2% decrease from last year. There was a 7.1% decrease on the number of dwelling fires attended compared to last year, with 4,305 attended in 2022-23. Road vehicle fires were similar to recent historic averages, with 1,984 attended this year, 16 fewer than 2021-22 (0.8% decrease). Secondary fires decreased by 5.4%, with 16,628 attended in 2022-23 and 17,574 attended last year.

SFRS attended 16,783 non-fire incidents in 2022-23, up from 15,294 attended last year (9.7% increase).

There has been an 83.1% increase in the number of non-fire incidents attended in the last ten years. Flooding incidents increased this year, with 3,139 attended in 2022-23, up from 1,617 last year (94.1% increase). This increase is likely due to weather conditions experienced in winter 2022. Lift release incidents increased by 23.1% in 2022-23 to 830 incidents, compared to the 674 incidents attended last year. There were 2,224 road traffic collisions attended by SFRS, up from 2,163 in 2021-22 (2.8% increase).

There were 55,924 false alarm incidents attended in 2022-23, up from 52,654 last year (6.2% increase). Fire false alarms make up 55,076 of these incidents, up from 51,741 last year. There were 44,228 fire false alarms due to apparatus this year, up from 40,513 in 2021-22 (9.2% increase). This made up 44.4% of all incidents attended in 2022-23.

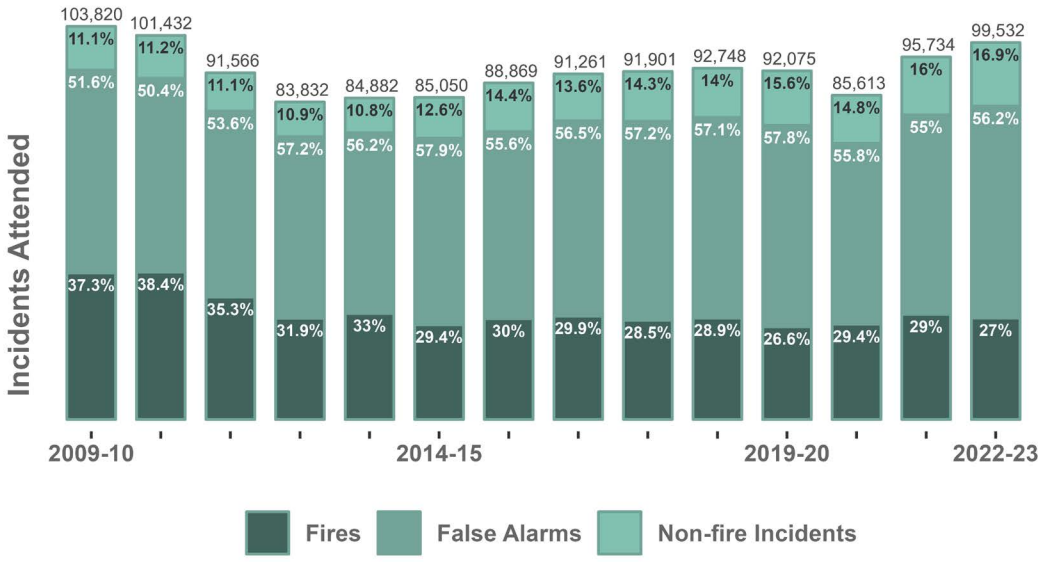


Figure 1: Total number of incidents attended with percentage share by type.

Fatal Casualties Attended

There were 449 fatal casualties in 2022-23, up from 420 last year.

There were 42 fire fatalities this year, up from 40 in 2021-22. 32 of these occurring in dwelling fires, 5 in other buildings and 3 were in road vehicles.

There were 398 non-fire fatalities attended in 2022-23. This is a 7.0% increase on last year.

Fatal casualties at road traffic collisions attended by SFRS increased from 60 last year to 85 in 2022-23 (41.7% increase). There was a 6.0% increase in the number of fatal casualties at effecting entry/exit incidents, with 132 recorded last year and 140 recorded in 2022-23. Fatal casualties at assist other agencies incidents increased from 58 last year to 65 in 2022-23 (12.1% increase).

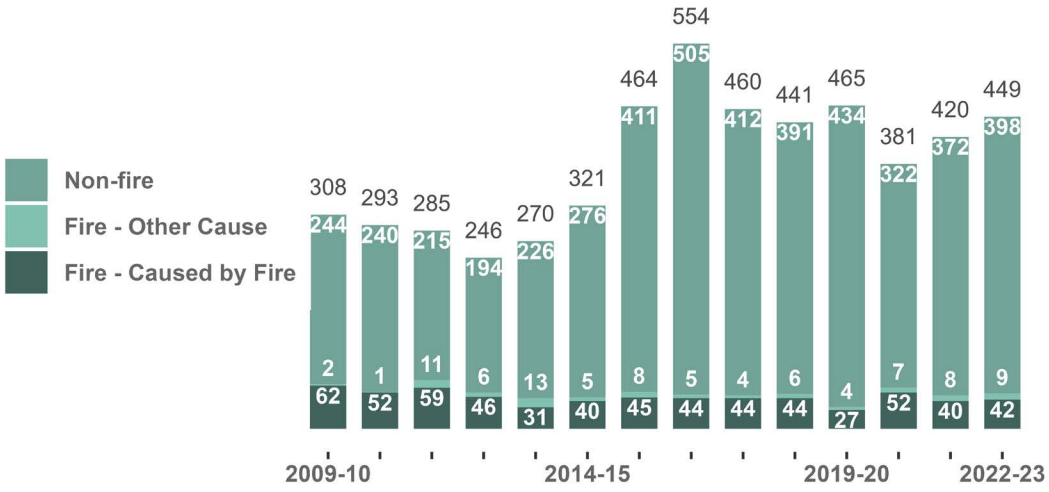


Figure 2: Fatal Casualties Attended.

Non-fatal Casualties Attended

There were 3,403 non-fatal casualties attended in 2022-23, up from 3,215 attended last year (5.8% increase).

There were 922 non-fatal fire casualties, up from 804 last year. Data quality concerns have been a focus for SFRS in recent years and ensuring that all operational staff record casualties in the same manner has been a focus in the last year. Improvements in recording practices have likely impacted this figure and could contribute to the increase in non-fatal fire casualties seen this year. In 2022-23, 835 (90.6%) of these casualties were in dwellings, 51 (5.5%) were in other buildings and 20 (2.2%) were in road vehicles.

There were 2,481 non-fatal non-fire casualties, which is an increase of 2.9% from last year. There were 1,384 non-fatal casualties at road traffic collisions attended by SFRS this year, compared with 1,296 in 2021-22 (6.8% increase).

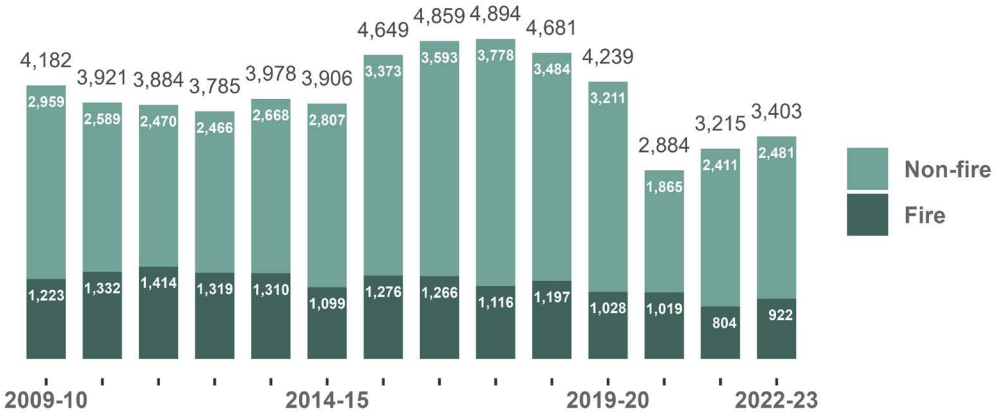


Figure 3: Non-fatal Casualties Attended.

3. Fires

In 2022-23, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 26,825 fires, down from 27,786 last year (3.5% decrease).

The term 'primary fire' is used to describe fires which may result in either harm to people, require five or more fire appliances, or fires which take place in buildings, vehicles and some outdoor locations. There were 9,771 primary fires in 2022-23, down from 9,795 last year (0.2% decrease). Primary fires have been steadily decreasing each year since this series began. There has been an 11.9% decrease in the number of primary fires over the last ten years, with 11,086 recorded in 2012-13.

Dwelling fires[1] have also been steadily decreasing over the last decade, with 4,305 dwelling fires attended in 2022-23. This is 1,524 (26.1% decrease) fewer than dwelling fires attended in 2012-13 and 330 (7.1% decrease) fewer than dwelling fires attended in 2021-22.

There were 1,984 fires in road vehicles attended in 2022-23, 16 fewer than last year (0.8% decrease).

There appears to be no overall long-term trend in these types of fires, with figures showing little variation over the last decade.

There were 16,628 secondary fires attended by SFRS in 2022-23, down from 17,574 last year (5.4% decrease). There is no clear overall long-term trend in secondary fires, with the figure being influenced by a number of socioeconomic and environmental factors. Since 2012-13, this figure has increased by 16.5%.

There were 18,217 outdoor fires[2] in 2022-23, excluding road vehicle fires. This is 667 fewer than last year, with 18,884 attended in 2021-22 (3.5% decrease). Outdoor fires are influenced by a number of factors, including weather conditions. Due to this, there is no clear overall long-term trend in outdoor fires.

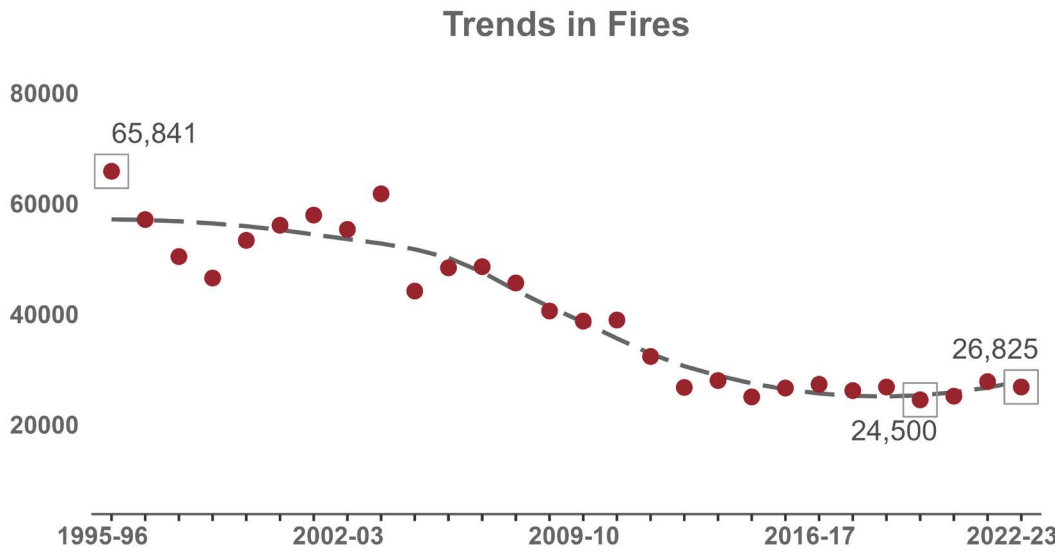


Figure 4: Long-term trend in the number of fires. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

1 *Dwellings are properties that people ordinarily live in such as houses and apartments, please see the guidance notes document for a full definition.*

2 *Outdoor fires can be primary or secondary fires*

Trends in Primary Fires

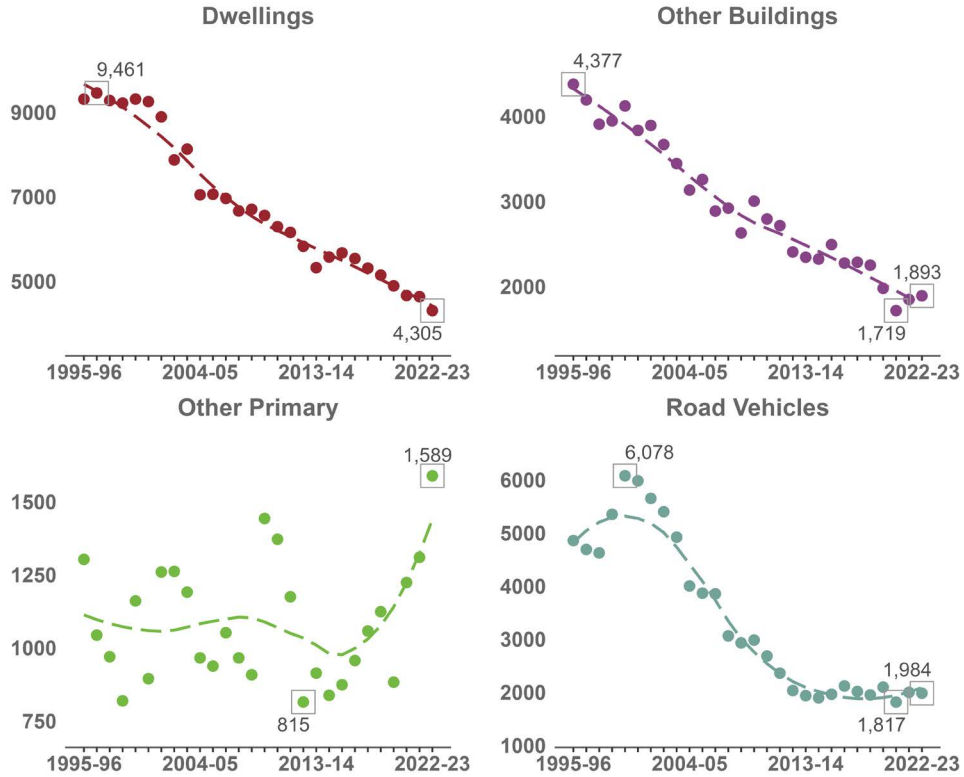


Figure 5: Primary fire trends. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the minimum or maximum value.

Trends in Secondary and Chimney Fires

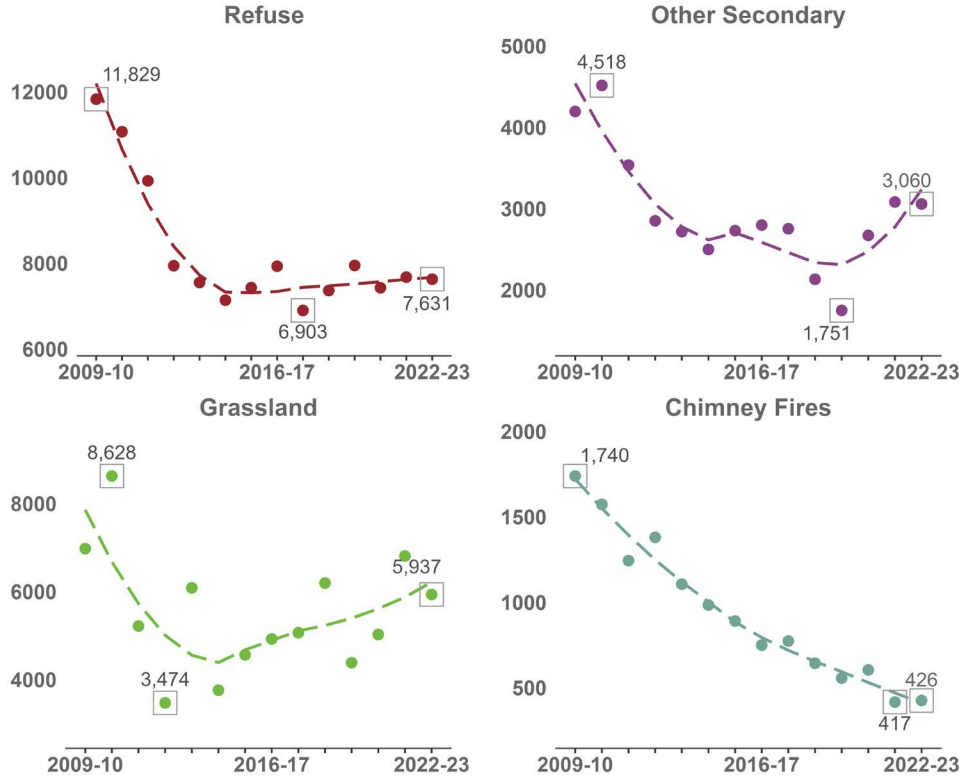


Figure 6: Secondary fire trend. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

Great Britain Comparisons

Across Great Britian[3], 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 4,895 fires per million population in Scotland. Comparable figures for England and Wales were not available at the time of this publication. Please note population figures for Scotland 2021-22 were used in 2022-23 as this was the most recent publication available. Please see Statistical News document for further details.

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 2022-23, there were 1,783 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 2022-23, there were 786 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 2022-23, Scotland recorded 3,034 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 12 and 13 for more details on these factors.*

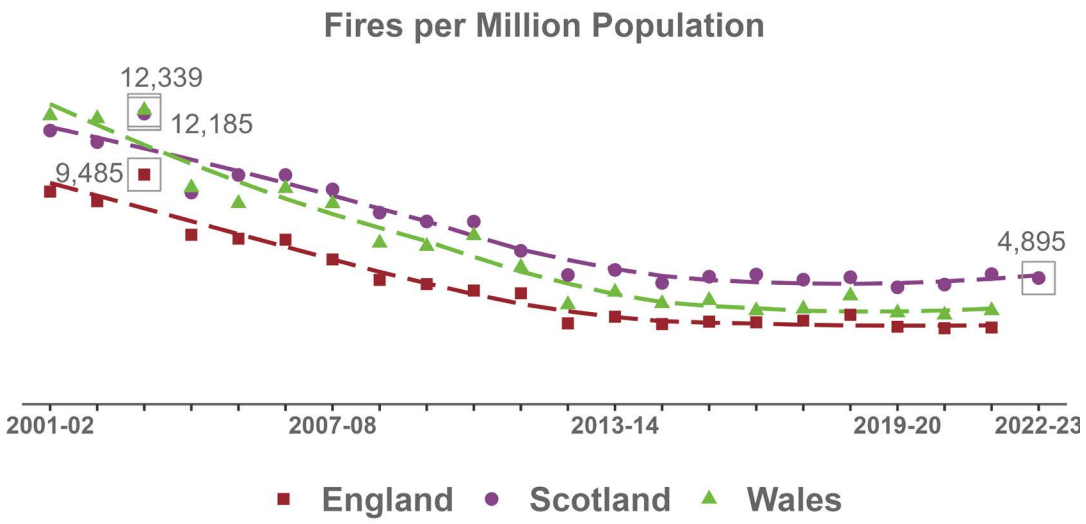


Figure 7: Fires per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values. Please note that figures for England and Wales were not available when this document was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

3 *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.*

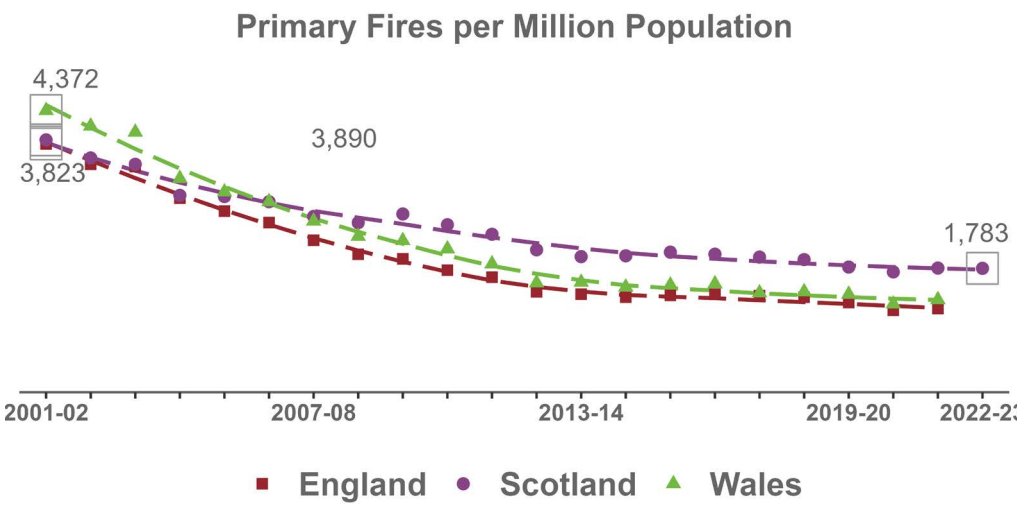


Figure 8: Primary fires per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

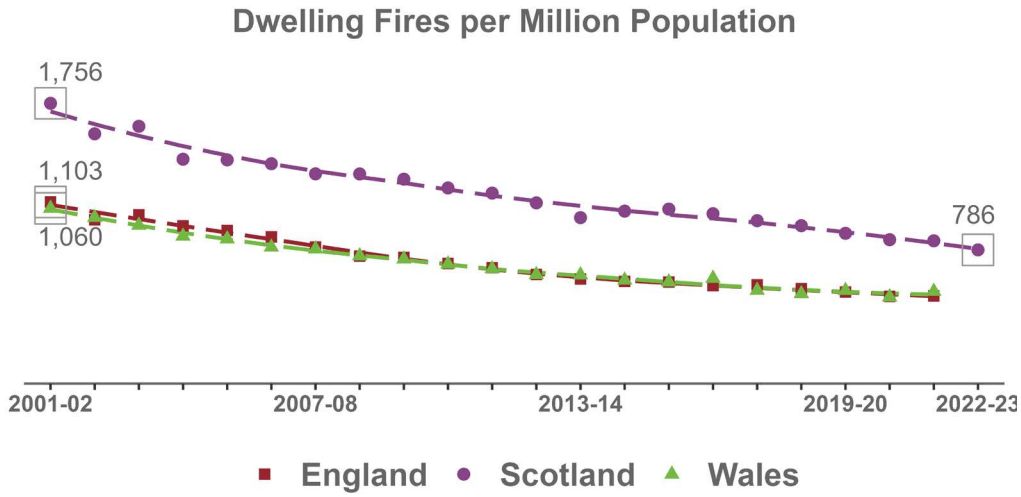


Figure 9: Dwelling fires per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

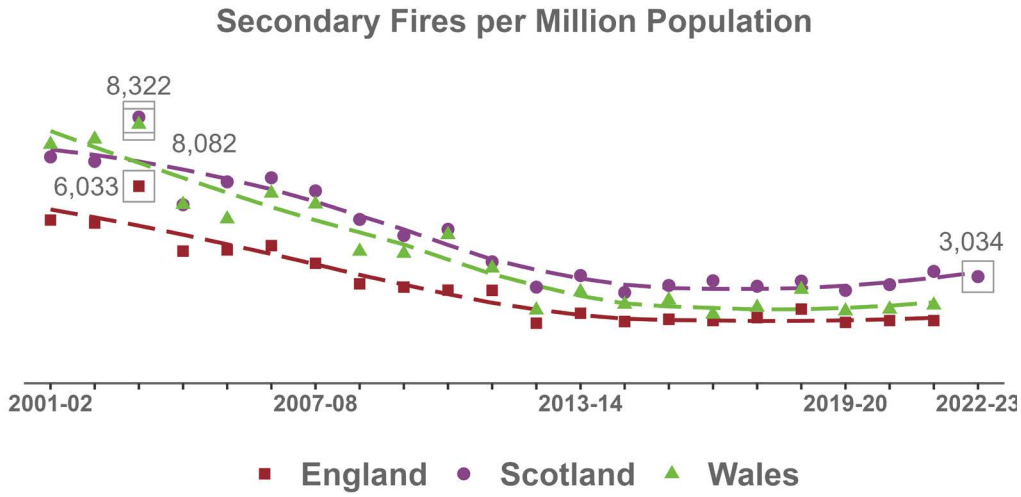


Figure 10: Secondary fires per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

Motive

In 2022-23, there were 15,367 fires in Scotland that were recorded as being deliberately[4] set. This is 57.3% of all fires attended this year, compared to 2021-22 when deliberate fires made up 58.9% of all fires attended. Figure 11 shows how the proportion of deliberately set fires varies by incident category in 2022-23.

Deliberate dwelling fires make up 10.0% of all dwelling fires, with 432 being recorded in 2022-23. Over the last ten years, this figure has reduced substantially, with 832 recorded in 2012-13 (48.1% decrease).

Accidental dwelling fires have reduced from 4,196 last year to 3,873 in 2022-23 (7.7% decrease). This is 22.5% lower than ten years ago (4,997 recorded in 2012-13).

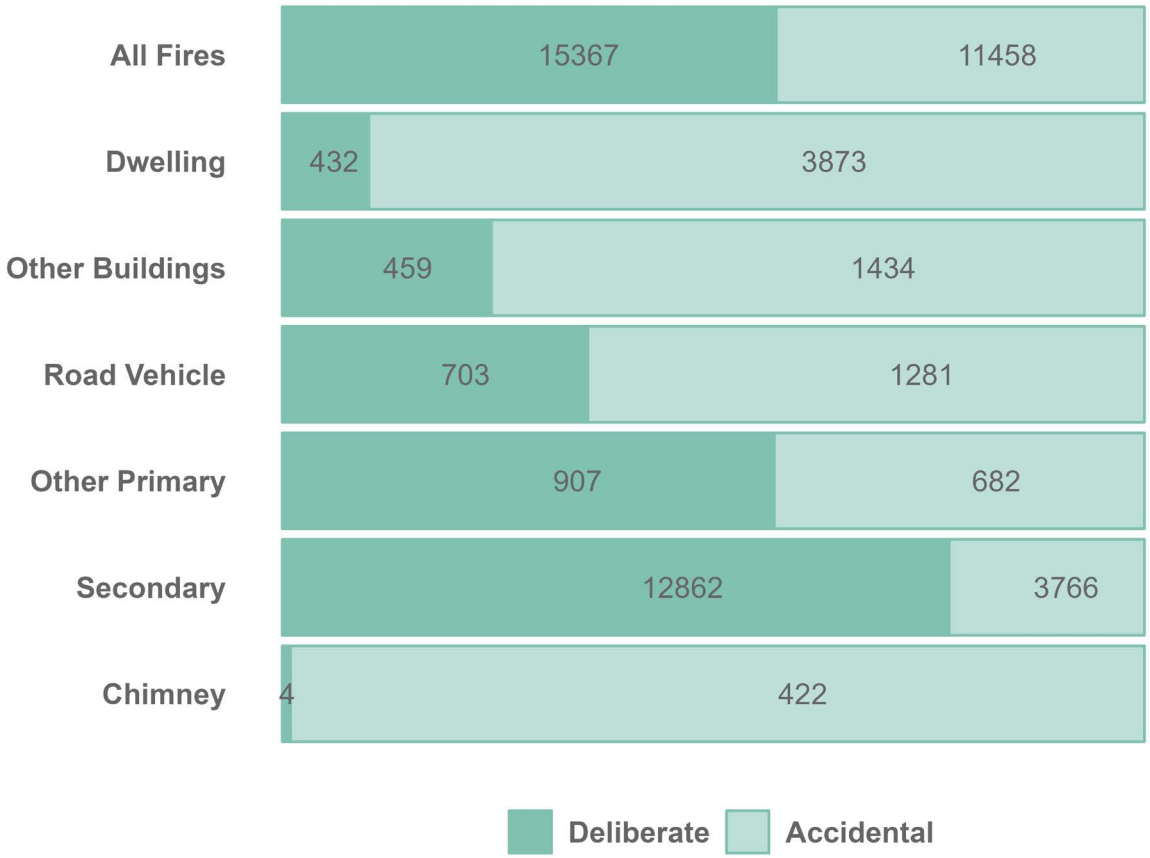


Figure 11: Fires by motive, 2022-23. Written values represent the number of fire incidents in each category.

4 *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

Similar to previous years, the main source of ignition in accidental dwelling fires was cooking appliances, with 2,276 (58.8%) fires resulting from this source.

Impairment

In 2022-23, 569 (14.7%) accidental dwelling fires had impairment through alcohol or drugs as being a suspected contributing factor. Such incidents have a much higher casualty rate. *See page 24 for details*.

Spread of Fire

In 2022-23, 1,692 (39.3%) dwelling fires caused smoke or heat damage only and 1,415 (32.9%) were confined to the original item ignited. 361 (8.4%) fires spread beyond the initial room that the fire started in.

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms were absent in 1,125 (26.1%) dwelling fires in 2022-23. This has reduced from 1,802 (30.9%) in 2012-13. This is likely attributed to the change in legislation in Scotland regarding smoke alarms. All households in Scotland must have interlinked smoke and heat alarms. Increasing prevalence of these alarms is likely to be an important factor in the reducing number of dwelling fires.

Deprivation (SIMD[5])

Using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), figure 12 highlights the differences in rates of dwelling fire in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas. The two most deprived areas have a rate above the Scotland average. The most deprived areas have a rate 2.0 times higher than the Scotland average and 4.6 times higher than the least deprived areas.

Since 2012-13, dwelling fires have reduced by 27.6% in the most deprived areas and 29.7% 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 4.2 times higher than the least deprived areas.

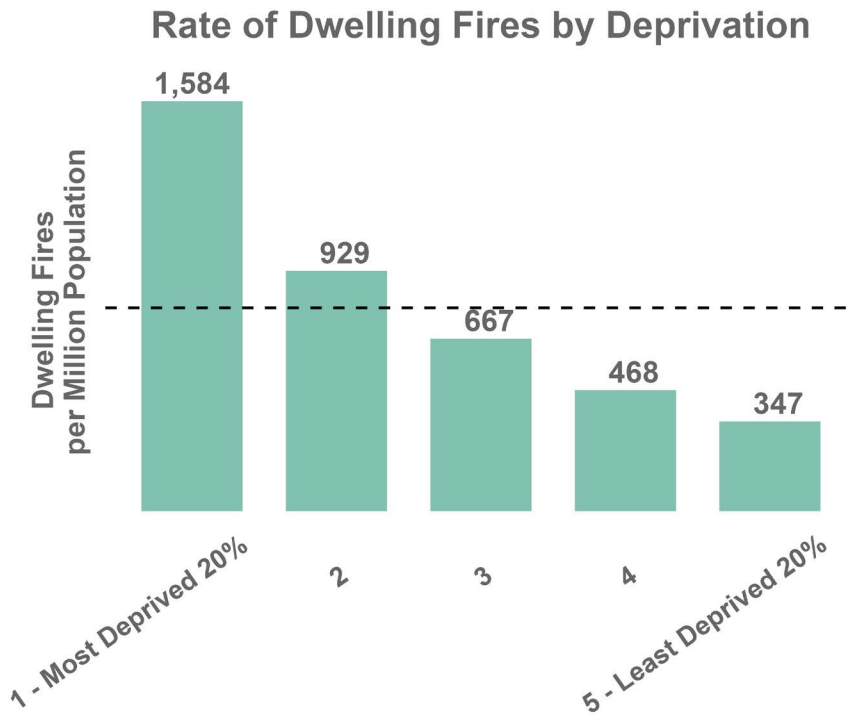


Figure 12: Rate of dwelling fires per million population by level of deprivation, 2022-23. The Scotland average is 786.

5 *Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020*

Urban-Rural[6]

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. The rate in remote small towns is 1.3 times higher than the Scotland average.

Since 2012-13, dwelling fires have reduced in more urban areas and increased in the more remote areas. Dwelling fires in large urban areas have reduced from 2,817 in 2012-13 to 1,910 this year (32.2% decrease). In other urban areas there has been a 22.9% decrease in this same time period, and in accessible small towns a 28.3% decrease.

Dwelling fires in remote rural areas have increased from 195 in 2012-13 to 207 in 2022-23 (6.1% increase). Remote small towns have increased from 143 in 2012-13 to 147 this year (2.8% increase). In contrast, dwelling fires in accessible rural areas have decreased from 373 in 2012-13 to 286 this year (23.3% decrease).

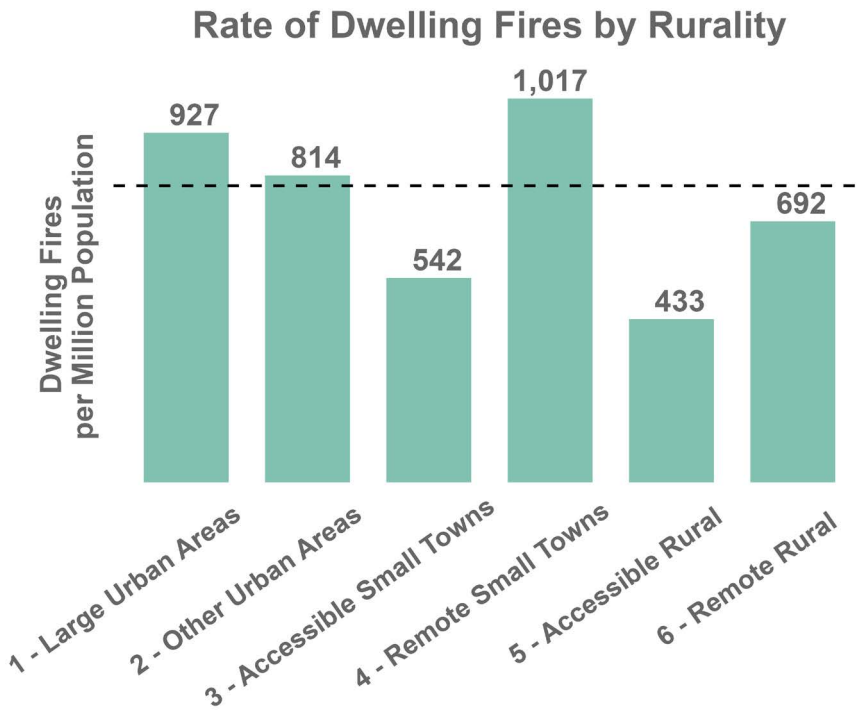


Figure 13: Rate of dwelling fires per million population by level of rurality, 2022-23. The Scotland average is 786.

6 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

Dundee City has the highest rate of accidental dwelling fires, with 218.9 fires per 100,000 dwellings. West Dunbartonshire has a rate of 213.8 fires per 100,000 dwellings, and Glasgow City has a rate of 194.3. In contrast, Clackmannanshire and Fife have the lowest rates, at 87.6 and 98.1. The Scotland average is 143.5.

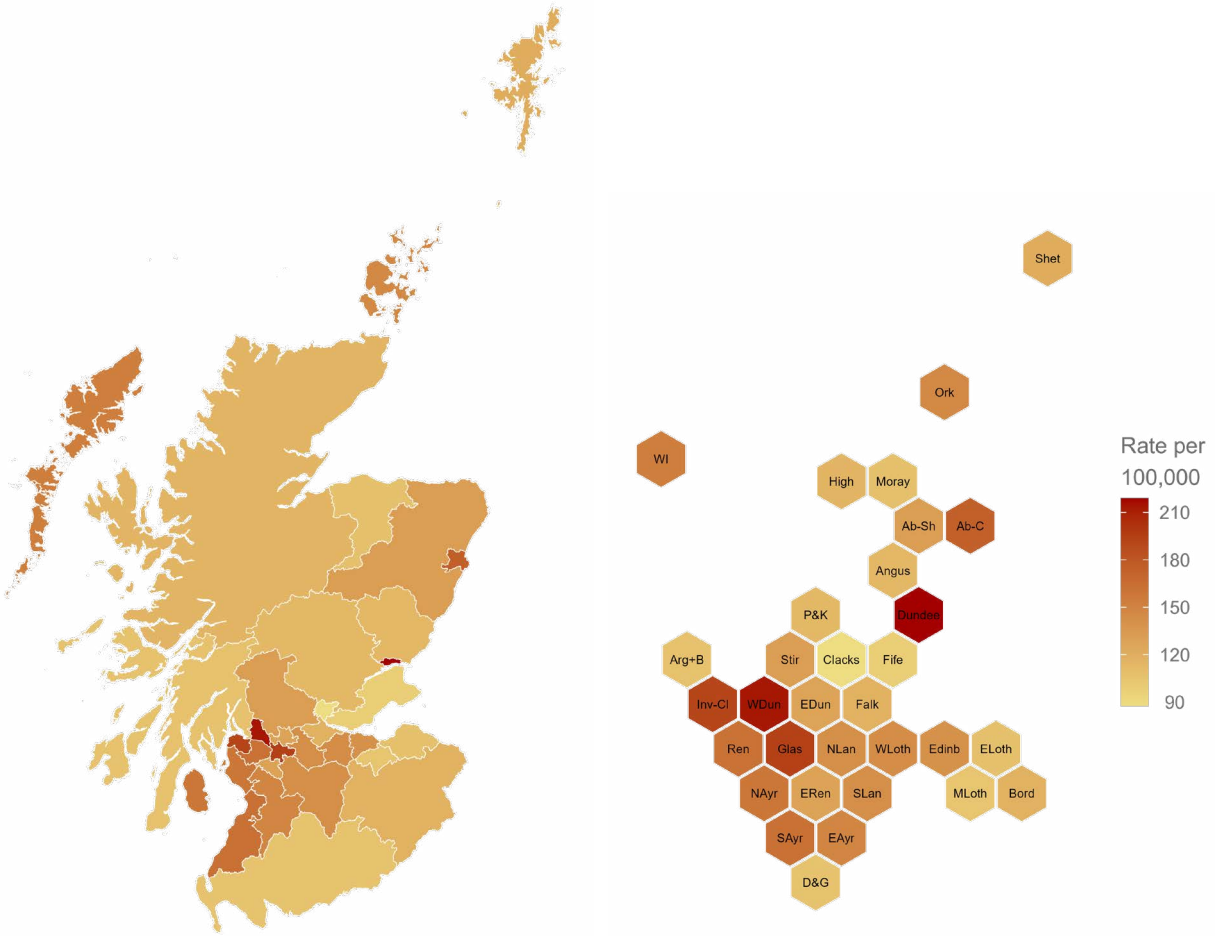


Figure 14: Accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 dwellings, choropleth and area normalised cartogram 2022-23.

Deliberate Fires

There is a higher rate of deliberate fires in urban local authority areas, specifically in the central belt of Scotland. The highest rates of deliberate fire per 100,000 population are in West Lothian at 607.3, Dundee City at 553.8 and West Dunbartonshire at 452.2. The lowest rates of deliberate fires are found in Shetland Islands at 30.5, Orkney Islands at 44.4 and Na h-Eileanan Siar at 56.3. The Scotland average is 280.5. Please note population figures for Scotland 2021-22 were used in 2022-23 as there was not a more recent publication available. Please see Statistical News document for further details.

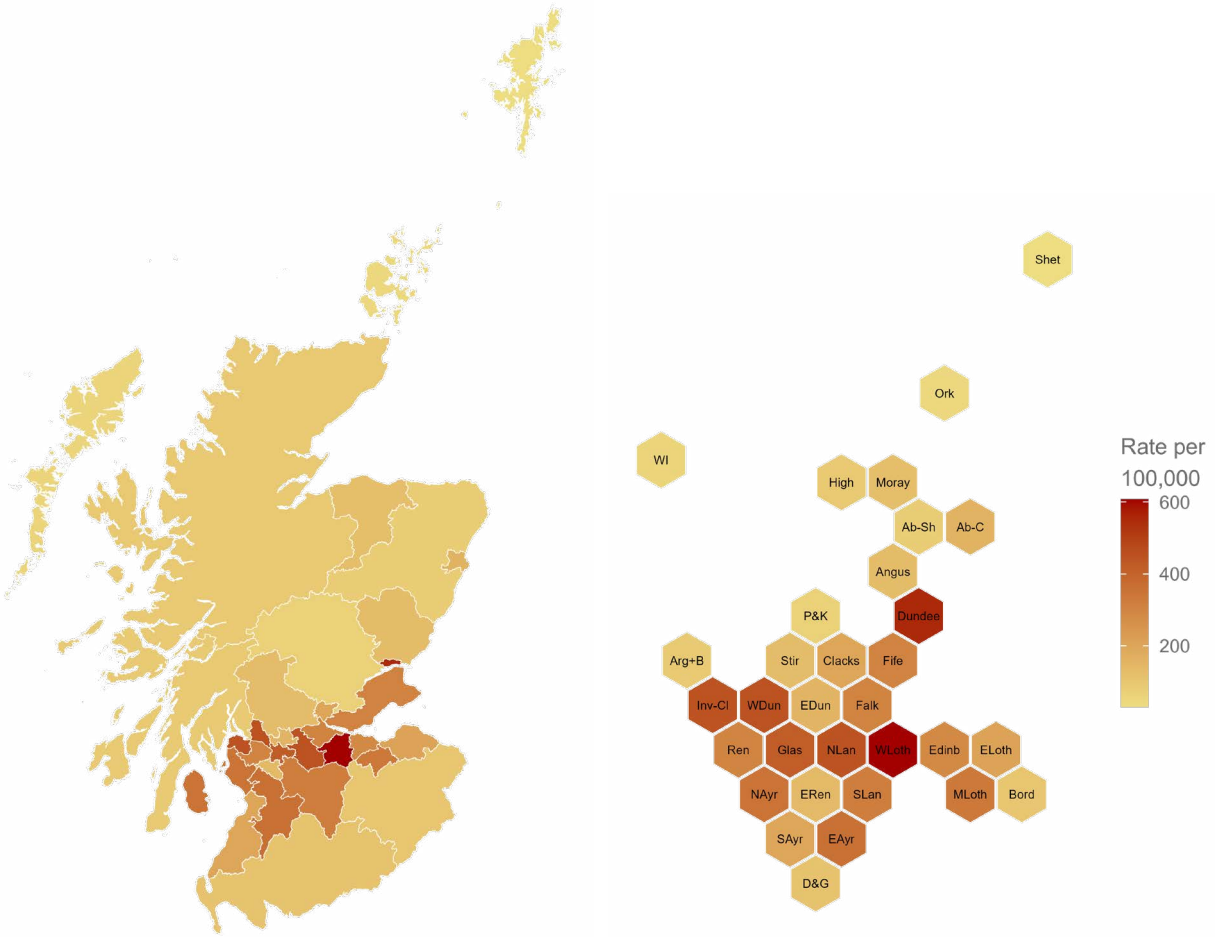


Figure 15: Deliberate fires per 100,000 population, choropleth and area normalised cartogram 2022-23.

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

4. Casualties in Fires

In 2022-23, there were 42 fatal fire casualties, up from 40 last year. Annual totals have varied considerably in the past. The ten-year average for fatal fire casualties is 41. Figure 16 shows an overall downward trend since 1990, with this figure levelling off since the early 2010s.

Of the 42 fatalities, 32 were in dwellings (76.1%), 5 were in other buildings (12.0%) and 3 were in road vehicles (7.1%).

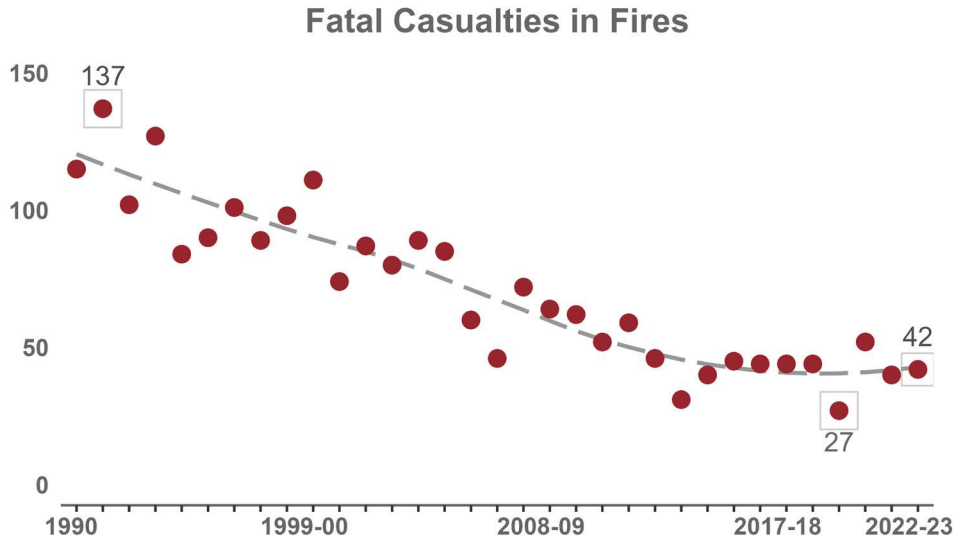


Figure 16: Long-term trend in the number of fatal fire casualties. Note that the series changed from calendar year to financial year after 1993. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

Fire fatalities often appear in clusters throughout the years. This has occurred for many years. Due to this, total fire fatality figures appear to be volatile between years.

Figure 17 shows the 13-week rolling average of fire fatalities from 2017-18 to 2022-23. 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.

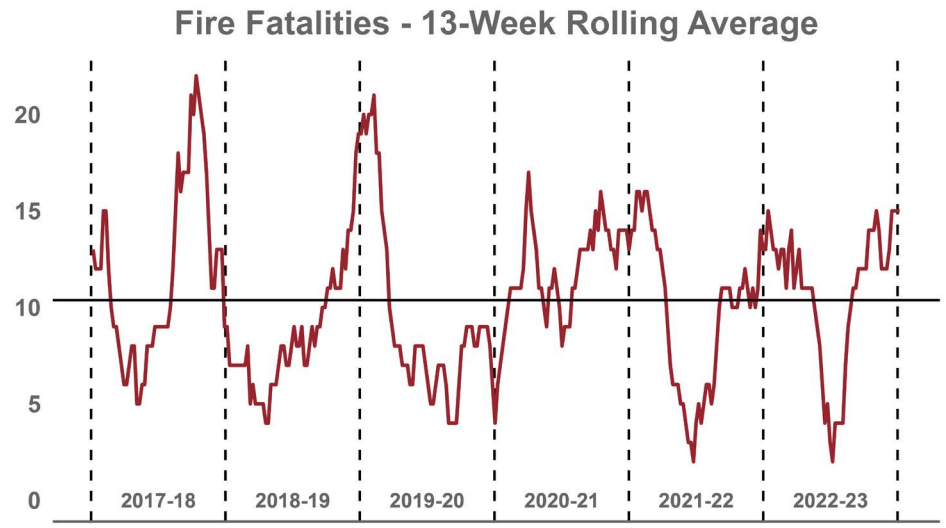


Figure 17: Fire Fatalities as a 13-week rolling average. The horizontal black line represents the average of the 13-week rolling values. Vertical dashed lines represent the change in fiscal year.

There were 922 non-fatal fire casualties in 2022-23, up from 804 last year (14.7% increase). Data quality concerns have been a focus for SFRS in recent years and ensuring that all operational staff record casualties in the same manner has been a focus in the last year. Improvements in recording practices have likely impacted this figure and could contribute to the increase in non-fatal fire casualties seen this year.

Figure 18 shows the historical overall decreasing trend in non-fatal casualties in fires since the early 2000s. Since 2012-13, there has been a 30.1% decrease in the number of non-fatal casualties.

In 2022-23, 835 (90.6%) of these casualties were in dwellings, 51 (5.5%) were in other buildings and 20 (2.2%) were in road vehicles.

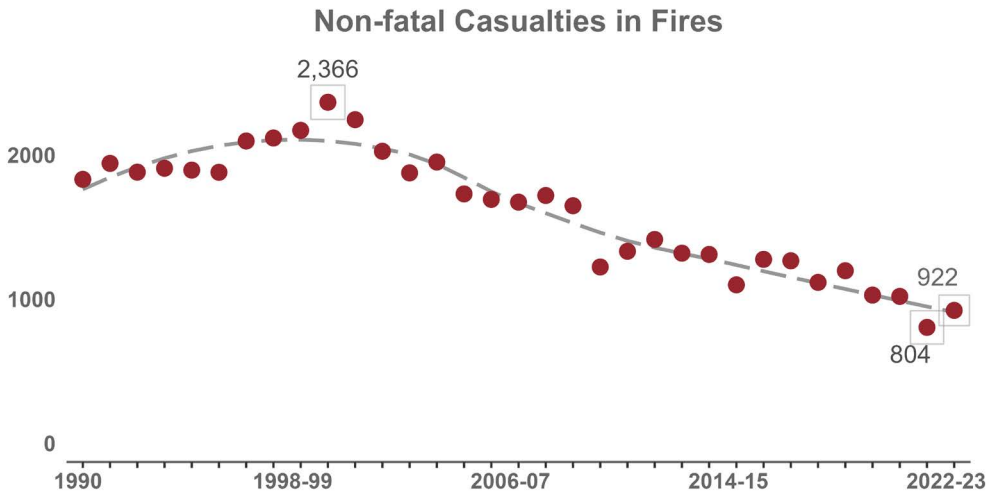


Figure 18: Long-term trend in the number of non-fatal fire casualties. Note that the series changed from calendar year to financial year after 1993. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

In 2022-23, 595 of casualties required treatment, up from 555 last year (7.2% increase). 327 casualties did not require treatment, but a precautionary check was recommended. Last year, there were 249 casualties where a precautionary check was recommended (31.3% increase).

Of those requiring treatment, 288 (48.4%) were given treatment at the scene and 307 (51.6%) attended hospital.

The main cause of injury was overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes, with 61.0% of casualties having this injury type. Burns accounted for 11.8% and a combination of burns and being overcome by gas or smoke accounted for a further 2.1%.

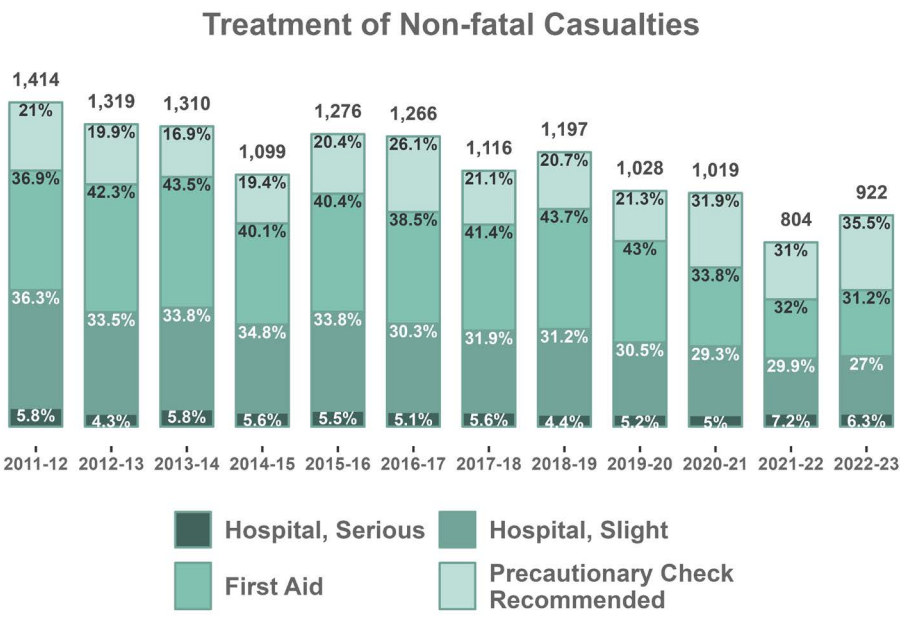


Figure 19: Treatment of non-fatal casualties.

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 that of Wales and England. Differing demographic, deprivation and urban-rural profiles of each nation are likely factors in explaining the different rates.

In 2022-23, 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 note population figures for Scotland 2021-22 were used in 2022-23 as there was not a more recent publication available. Please see Statistical News document for further details.

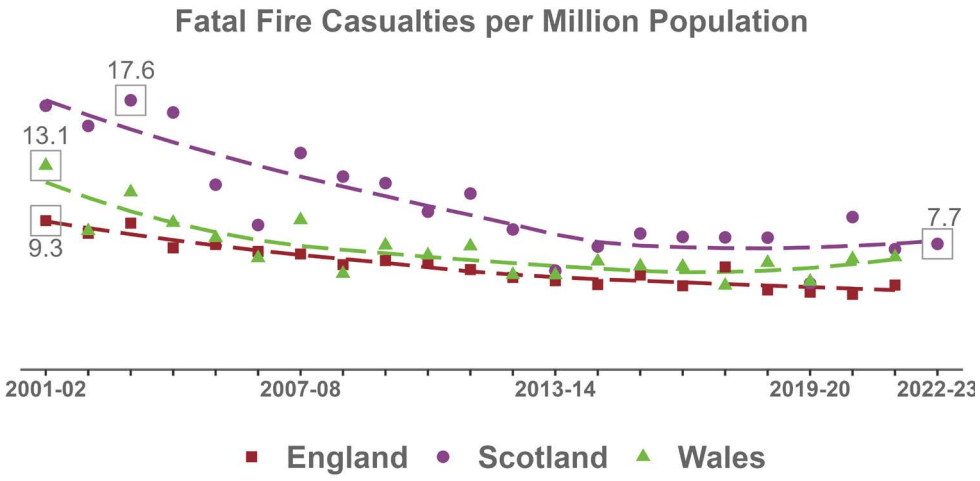


Figure 20: Fatal fire casualties per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

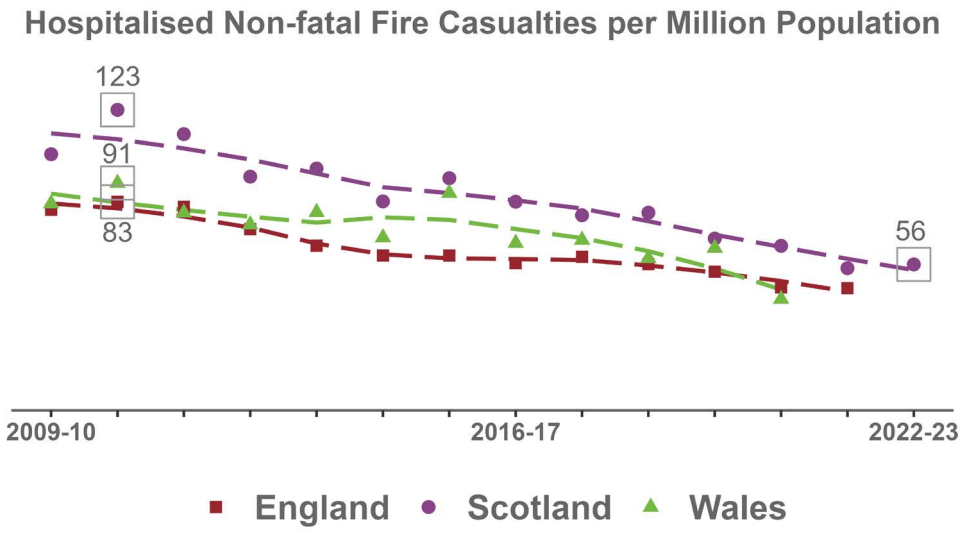


Figure 21: Hospitalised fire casualties per million population in Great Britain. Values displayed on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent value. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values

Casualty Profile

Age

Figure 22 highlights the strong relationship between age and fatal casualties per million population rates. Those aged below 39 have on average 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 3.2 times the Scotland average and those aged 90 and over having a rate 6.3 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.

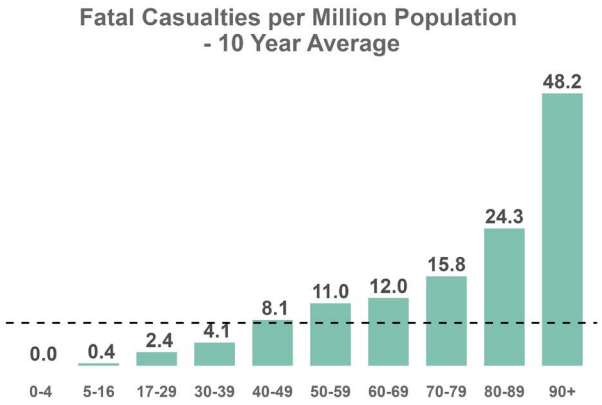


Figure 22: Ten-year average rate per million population of fatal casualties by age band. The dotted line represents the average figure of 7.6.

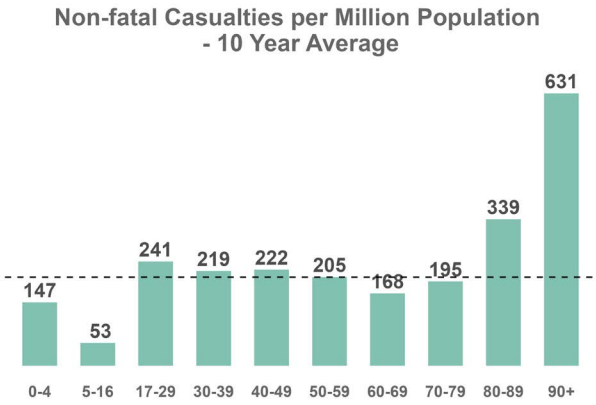
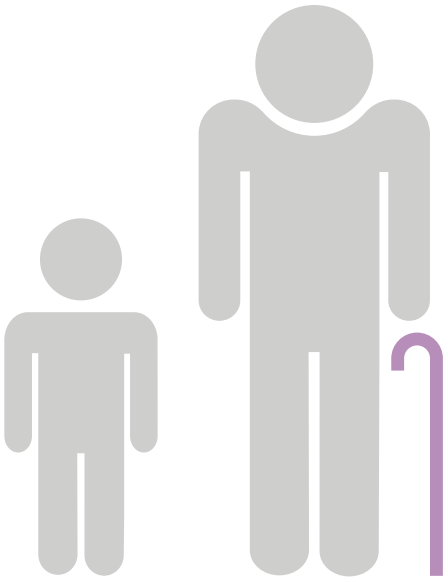


Figure 23: Ten-year average rate per million population of non-fatal casualties by age band. The dotted line represents the average figure of 205.1

The relationship between age and non-fatal casualties is not as strong as it is for fatal casualties. Those aged 16 and under have a rate below average, with those aged 0-4 having a rate 1.4 times below the Scottish average and those aged 5-16 having a rate 3.9 times below the Scotland average. Those aged between 17 and 59 have a rate slightly above average. In contrast to fatal casualties, those aged 60-79 have a rate below 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 1.7 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 18 were female (42.9%). Similar to previous years, males have a higher rate of fatal fire casualties than females. There was a rate of 7.5 fatal fire casualties per million population in 2022-23. For males, this rate was higher at 8.6 fatal fire casualties per million population. Females have a lower rate at 6.4 fatalities. The gap between males and females has narrowed in comparison to previous years, with 2021-22 having a rate of 9.4 for males and 5.3 for females and 2020-21 having a rate of 14.6 for males and 4.6 for females.

A similar pattern is seen for non-fatal casualties, with males having a rate of 187.8 casualties per million population in 2022-23 and females having a rate of 132.2 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 1.9 higher than the Scotland eight-year average and 4.7 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 2.1 times the Scotland average and 5.4 times higher than the least deprived 20%.

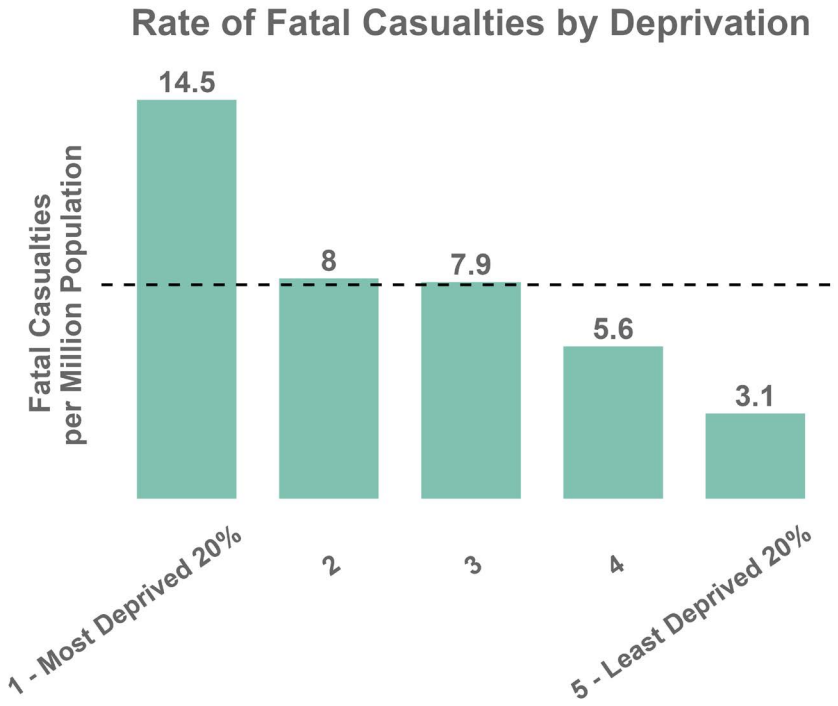


Figure 24: Eight-year[7] average rate of fatal fire casualties per million population by level of deprivation. The Scotland average is 7.8. Eight years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

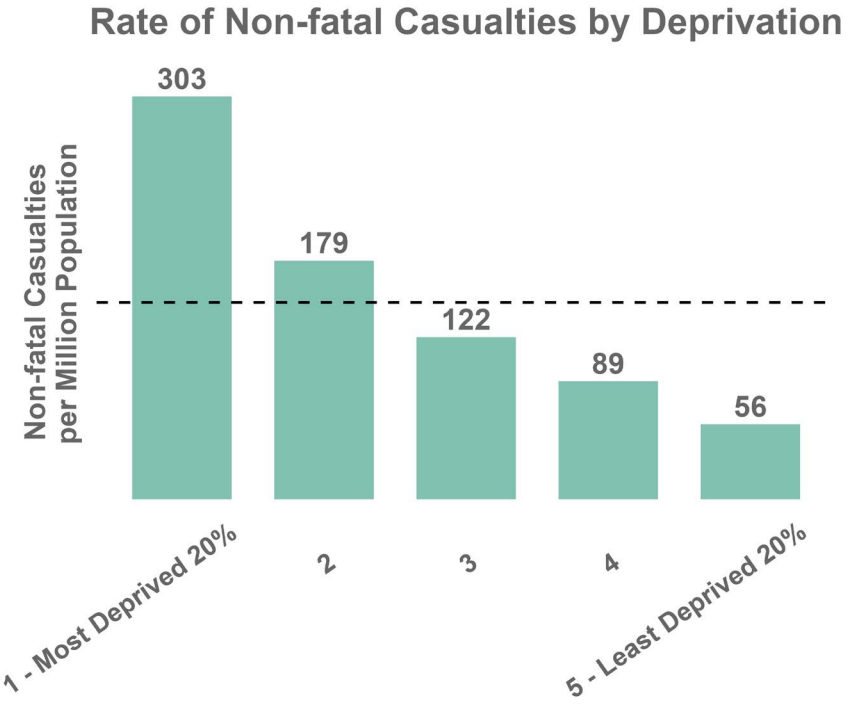


Figure 25: Eight-year[7] average rate of non-fatal fire casualties per million population by level of deprivation. The Scotland average is 147.8. Eight years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

7 *An eight-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. Except for males aged 17-19, and 70 or over, those in the most deprived areas have a higher rate of fatal casualties per million population.

Females over 40 and in the most deprived areas have fatal casualty rates above average. For females aged between 40 and 60, all except those in the most deprived areas have a fatal casualty rate lower than the Scotland average. Males over 50 have a much higher fatal casualty rate compared to females, with almost all deprivation areas in these age categories being 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 14 fatal casualties in those aged over 90 in the last eight years, of which 7 were male. Of the 17 fatal casualties in over 90s, 8 were in SIMD quintiles 4 or 5.

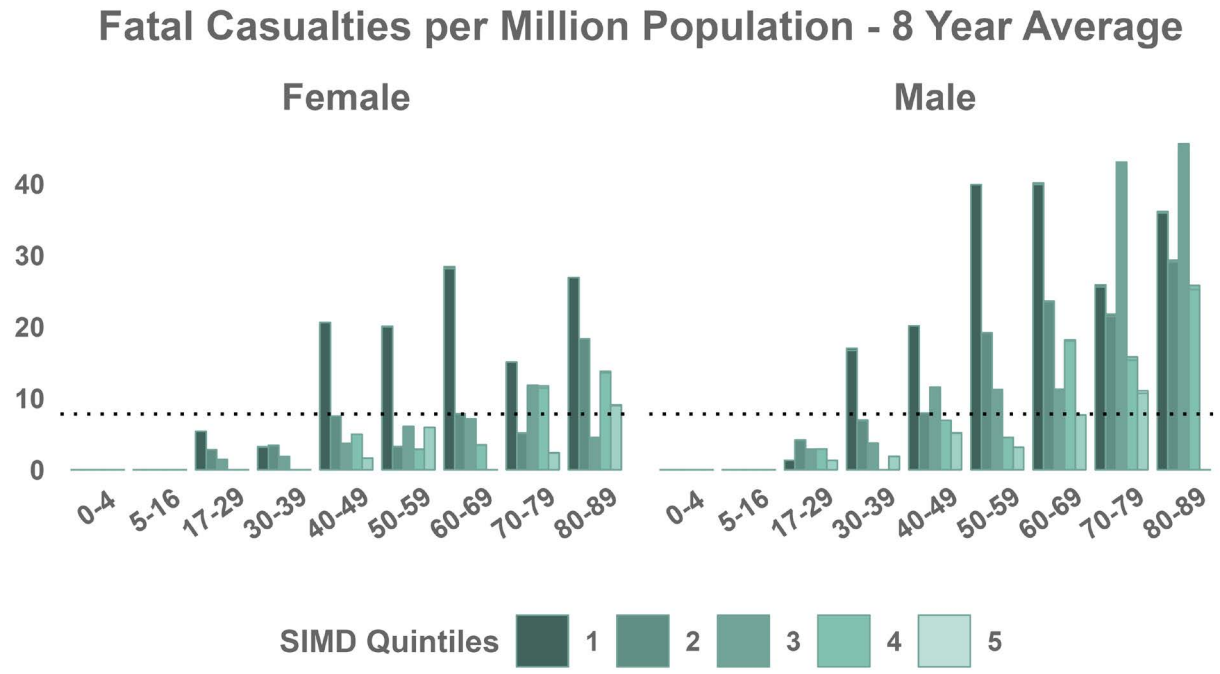


Figure 26: Fatal fire casualties per million population by gender, age and by level of deprivation where 1 is the 20% most deprived areas and 5 is the 20% least deprived areas. The horizontal line represents the Scotland average (7.8).

For non-fatal hospitalised casualties, the rates are higher than the Scotland average for all age categories in the 20% most deprived areas, except for those who are aged between 5 and 16 years. 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.

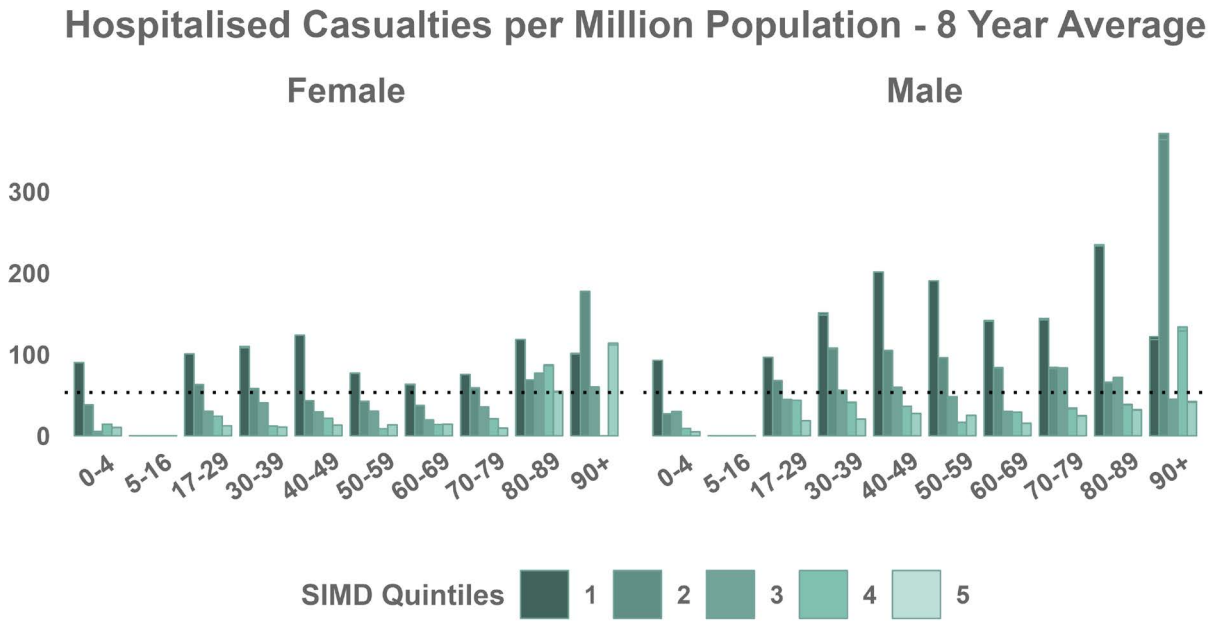


Figure 27: Hospitalised fire casualties per million population by gender, age and by level of deprivation where 1 is the 20% most deprived areas and 5 is the 20% least deprived areas. The horizontal line represents the Scotland average (77.7).

Impairment

Impairment using alcohol or drugs was a suspecting factor in 14.7% of accidental dwelling fires in 2022-23. Of the 29 fire fatalities in accidental dwelling fires, 2 (6.9%) had impairment through alcohol or drugs as a suspected 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 11.9 fatalities per 1,000 fires. This is compared to 2.6 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 371.7 where impairment was a suspected factor and 141.1 where impairment was not a suspected factor.

Urban-Rural

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 1.1 times above the Scotland average.

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

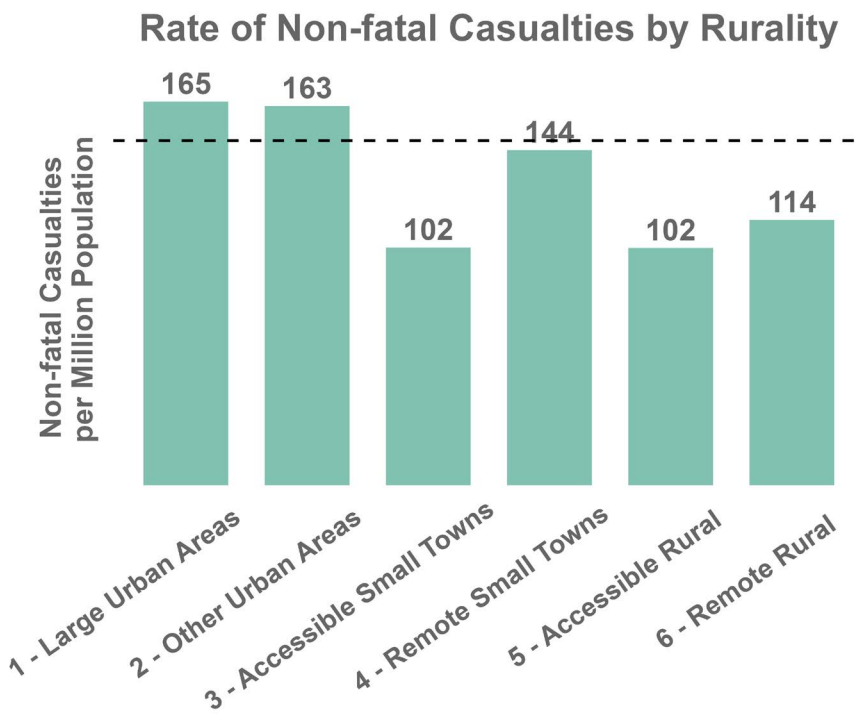


Figure 28: Eight-year average rate of non-fatal fire casualties per million population by level of rurality. The Scotland average is 147.8. Eight years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

For fatal casualties, the more rural areas have a rate higher than the more urban areas. In remote rural areas, the rate of fatal casualties is 1.8 times higher than the Scotland average and 2.2 times higher than large urban areas.

Large urban areas and accessible small towns have a rate below average, while other urban areas have a rate slightly above the Scotland average.

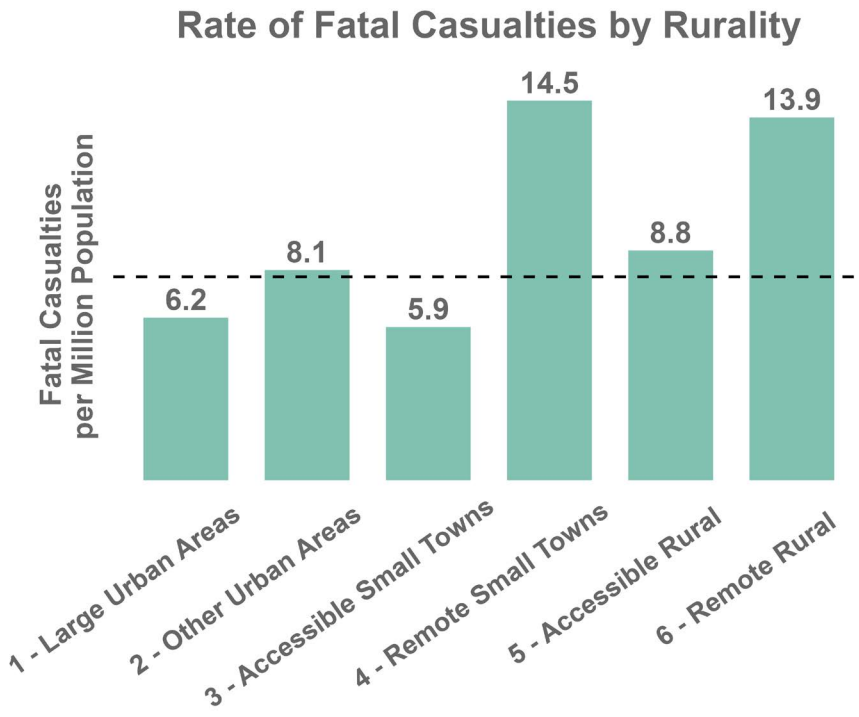


Figure 29: Eight-year average rate of fatal fire casualties per million population by level of rurality. The Scotland average is 7.8. Eight years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

5. Non-fire Incidents and Casualties

In 2022-23, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 16,783 non-fire incidents, up from 15,294 attended last year (9.7% increase). Over the last ten years, there has been an 83.1% increase in non-fire incidents attended, with 9,166 non-fire incidents in 2012-13. Figure 30 shows the overall upward trend in non-fire incidents.

Flooding incidents make up a large proportion of this increase within the last year. There were 3,139 flooding incidents attended in 2022-23, compared to 1,617 last year (94.1% increase). This is the largest figure for flooding incidents since this series began and is likely due to weather conditions experienced in winter 2022.

Lift release incidents increased by 156 (23.1%) from 674 last year to 830 in 2022-23. The figure for 2022-23 is the largest figure recorded for lift release since this series began. Assist other agencies incidents increased by 72 (5.4%) from 1,337 in 2021-22 to 1,409 this year. There was an increase in the number of road traffic collisions attended by SFRS, with 2,163 recorded last year and 2,224 recorded in 2022-23 (2.8% increase). In the last decade, road traffic collision incidents have decreased by 40, with 2,264 incidents recorded in 2012-13 (1.8% decrease).

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

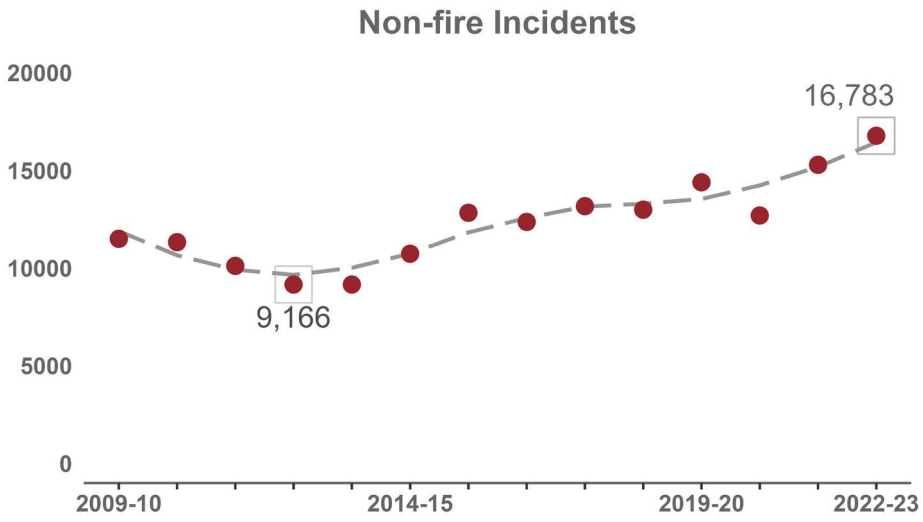


Figure 30: Trends in non-fire incidents. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

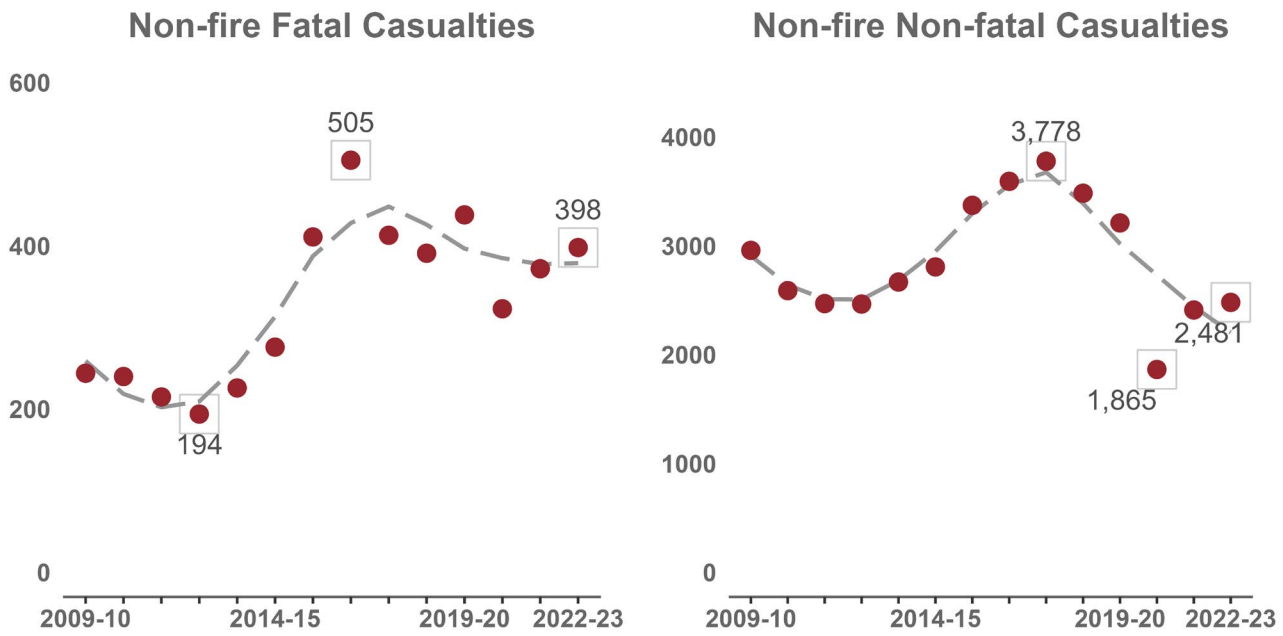


Figure 31: Trends in the number of non-fire casualties. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. Changes in operational procedures during the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted casualty figures. See Guidance Notes for further details.

In 2022-23, there were 398 fatal casualties at non-fire incidents that SFRS attended. This is an increase of 7.0% from 372 last year. This figure had increased previously due to increasing inter-agency co-operation, however, it appears to now be levelling off, as seen in figure 31. Fatal casualties at road traffic collisions attended by SFRS increased from 60 in 2021-22 to 85 this year (41.7% increase). In the last decade, this figure has decreased by 5.6%, with 90 fatal casualties recorded in 2012-13.

There was a 6.0% increase in the number of fatal casualties at effecting entry/exit incidents, with 132 recorded last year and 140 recorded in 2022-23. Fatal casualties at assist other agencies incidents increased from 58 last year to 65 in 2022-23 (12.1% increase). There was a 25.0% reduction in the number of fatal casualties at suicide incidents, with 40 recorded last year and 30 recorded in 2022-23.

There were 2,481 non-fatal non-fire casualties, which is an increase of 2.9%. This includes an increase of non-fatal casualties at road traffic collisions attended by SFRS. There were 1,384 non-fatal casualties at road traffic collisions this year, compared with 1,296 in 2021-22 (6.8% increase). In the last decade, this figure has decreased by 23.0%, with 1,796 non-fatal casualties recorded in 2012-13.

There was a 33.3% increase in the number of non-fatal casualties at suicide incidents, with 18 recorded last year and 24 recorded in 2022-23. There was a 15.7% reduction in non-fatal casualties at assist other agencies incidents with 217 recorded in 2021-22 and 183 recorded this year.

Road Traffic Collisions

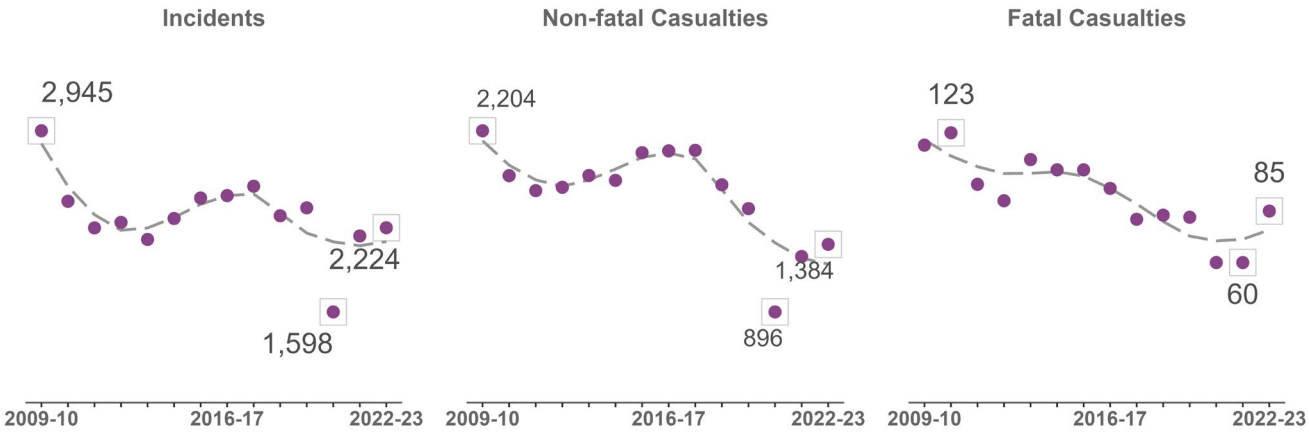


Figure 32: Trends in the Number of Road Traffic Collisions. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

Flooding and Rescue or Evacuation from Water

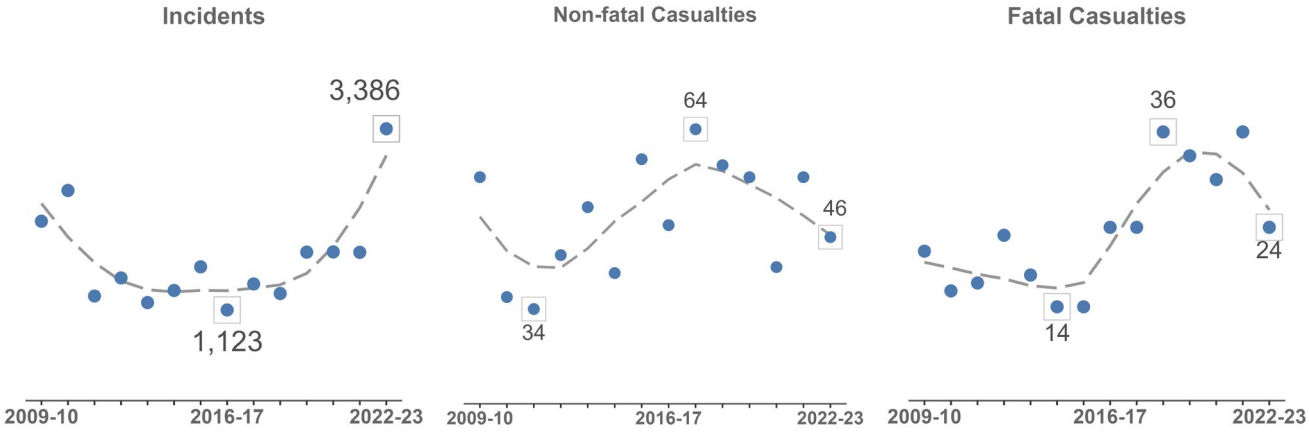


Figure 33: Trends in the Number of Flooding Incidents. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

Medical Response

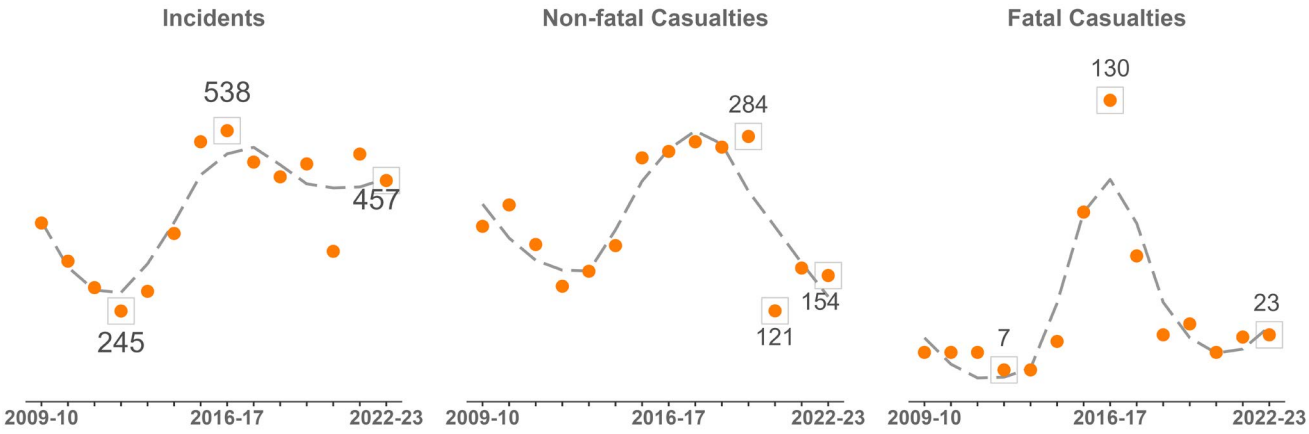


Figure 34: Trends in Number of Medical Incidents. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values.

Suicide (including attempts)

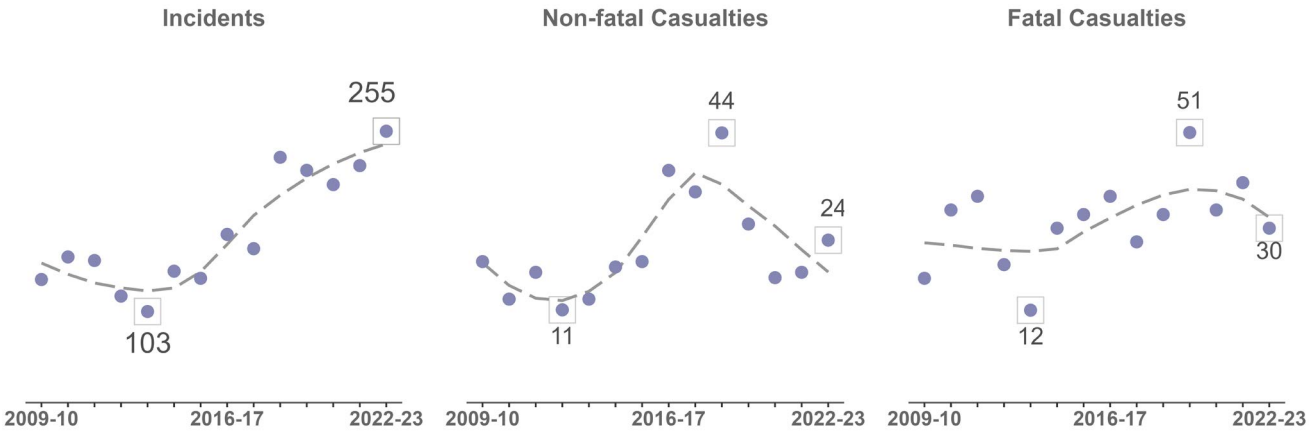


Figure 35: Trends in Suicide (including attempts). Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

Effecting Entry/Exit

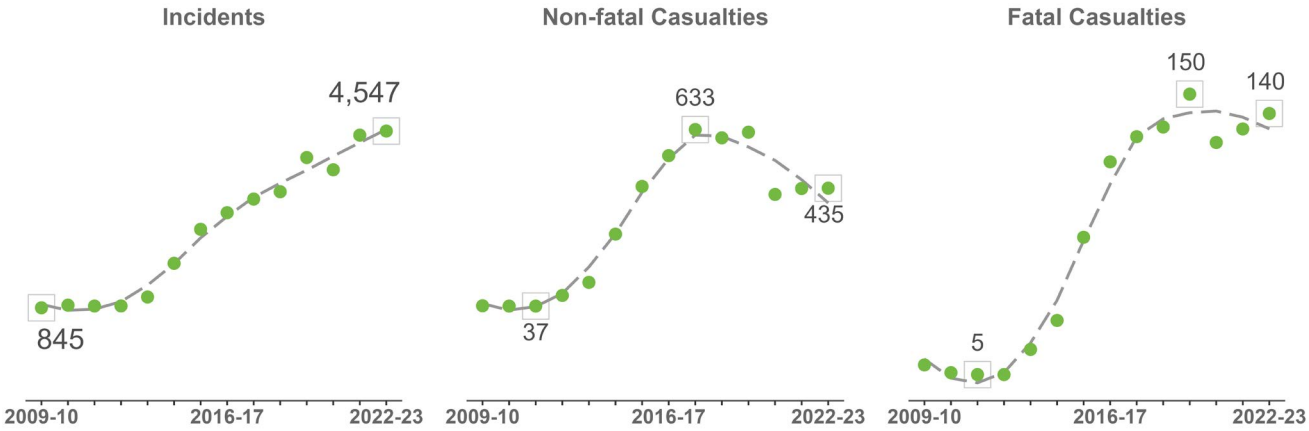


Figure 36: Trends in Effecting Entry/Exit. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

Assist Other Agencies

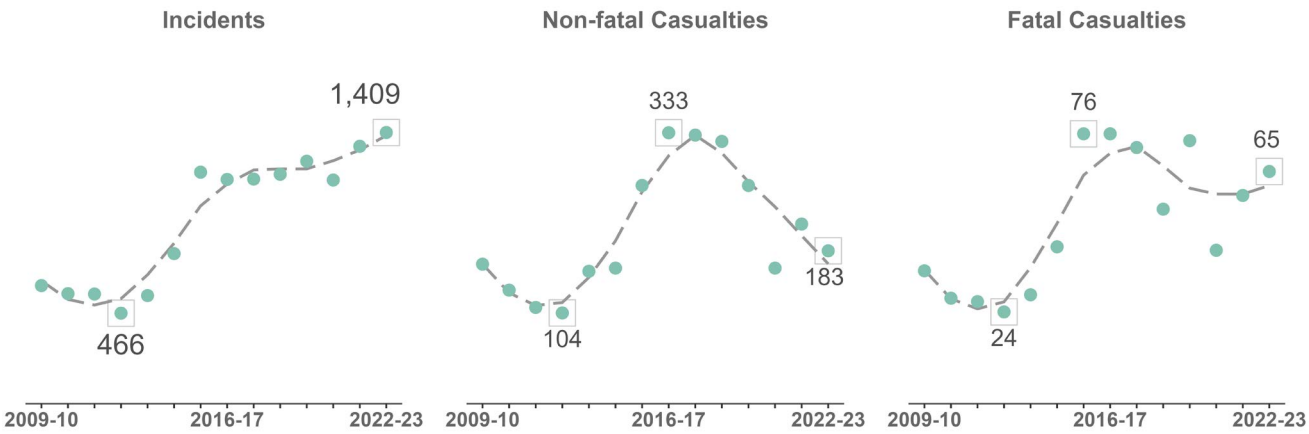
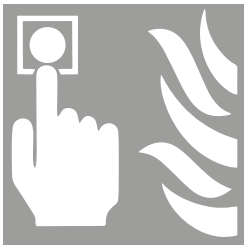


Figure 37: Trends in Assist Other Agencies. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

6. False alarms



In 2022-23, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 55,924 false alarm incidents, up from 52,654 incidents last year (6.2% increase). Of those attended this year, 55,076 were fire false alarms (up from 51,741 last year), and 848 were categorised as other false alarms (down from 913 last year).

There were 44,228 fire false alarms due to apparatus in 2022-23, up from 40,513 the year before (9.2% increase). This accounts for 80.3% of all fire false alarms attended in 2022-23, and 44.4% of all incidents attended (up from 42.3% last year).

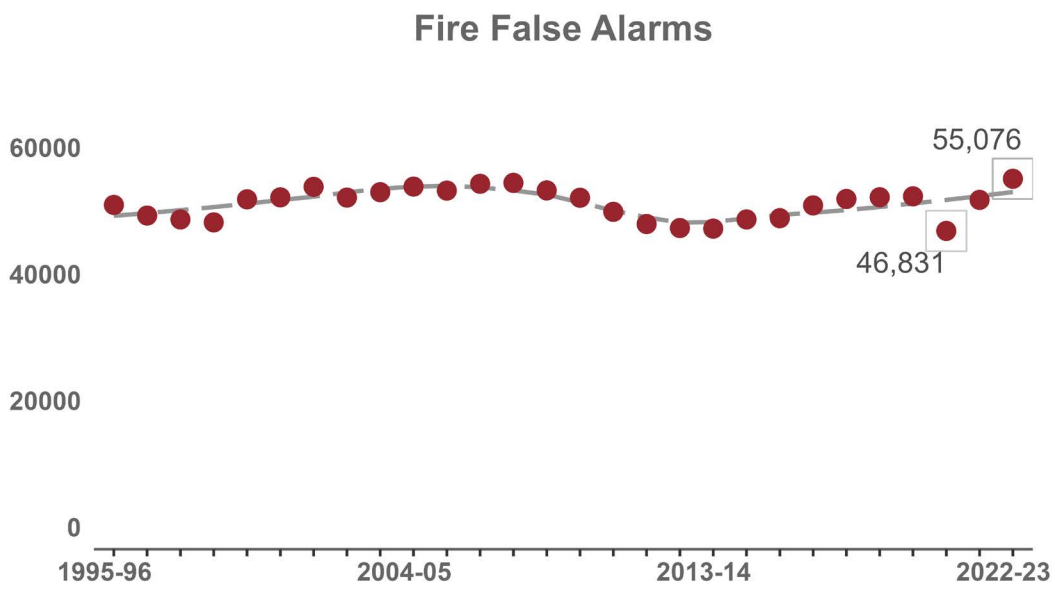


Figure 38: Long-term trend in fire false alarms. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent value is also the maximum value.

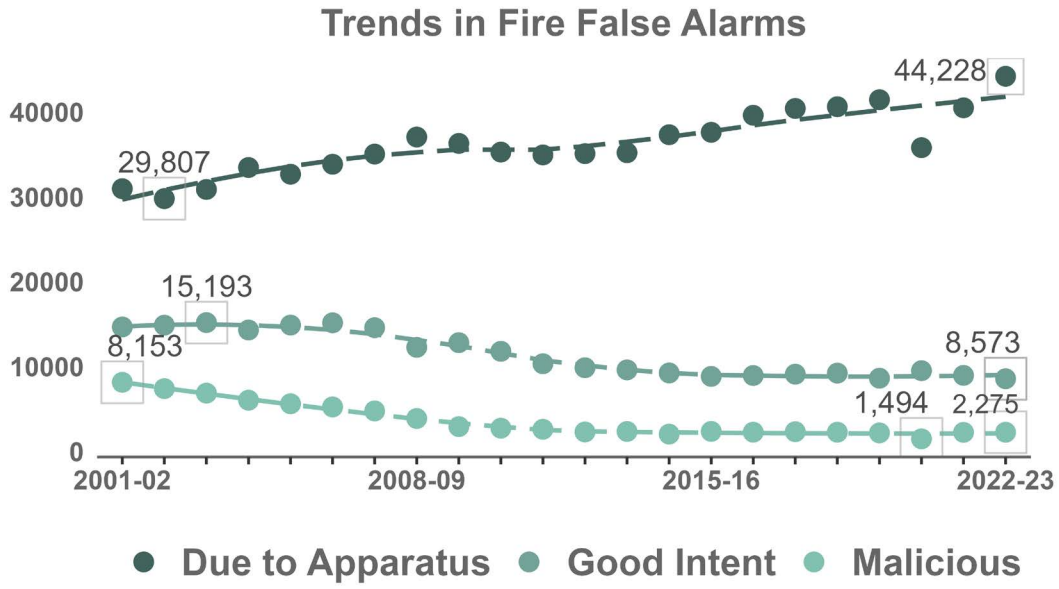


Figure 39: Trends in cause of fire false alarms. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

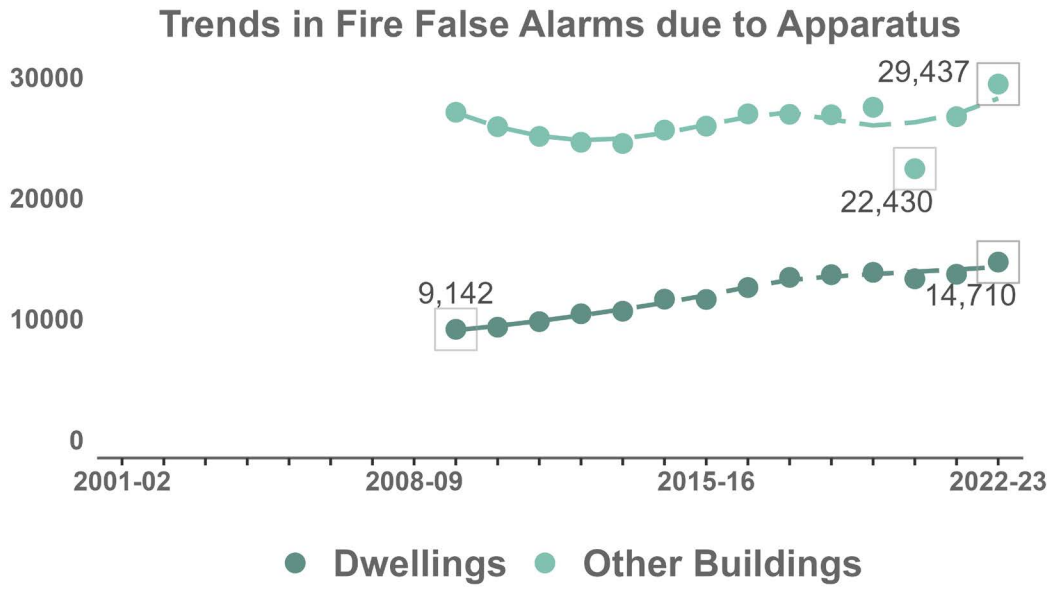


Figure 40: Trends in the location of fire false alarms due to apparatus. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

The main cause of increasing false alarms is due to apparatus false alarms in dwellings and other buildings. In the last decade, false alarms due to apparatus in dwellings has increased from 10,430 in 2012-13 to 14,710 in 2022-23 (41.0% increase). In other buildings, this has increased from 24,619 to 29,437 (19.6% increase). From last year, false alarms due to apparatus in dwellings has increased by 7.4% and in other buildings has increased by 10.1%.

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. In 2022-23, SFRS attended 31,383 UFAS incidents, which is the highest recorded since this series began. This is an increase of 2,672 (9.3% increase) since last year.

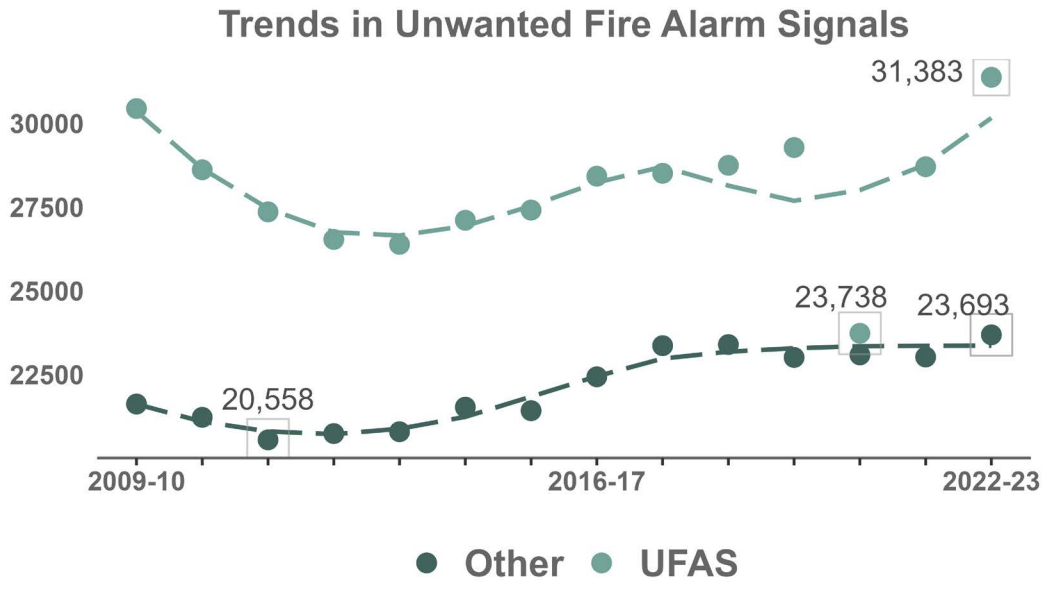


Figure 41: Trends in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) and Other fire alarm signals in Scotland. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. There are instances where the most recent value is also the maximum value.

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 Glasgow City having a rate of 908.5 UFAS incidents per 100,000 population, Dundee City having a rate of 901.7 and Stirling having a rate of 831.3. In contrast, Orkney Islands have a rate of 248.4 and Shetland Islands have a rate of 296.4. There are exceptions to this, with Argyll and Bute having a rate of 816.5 and Na h-Eileanan Siar having a rate of 641.9. Please note population figures for Scotland 2021-22 were used in 2022-23 as there was not a more recent publication available. Please see Statistical News document for further details.

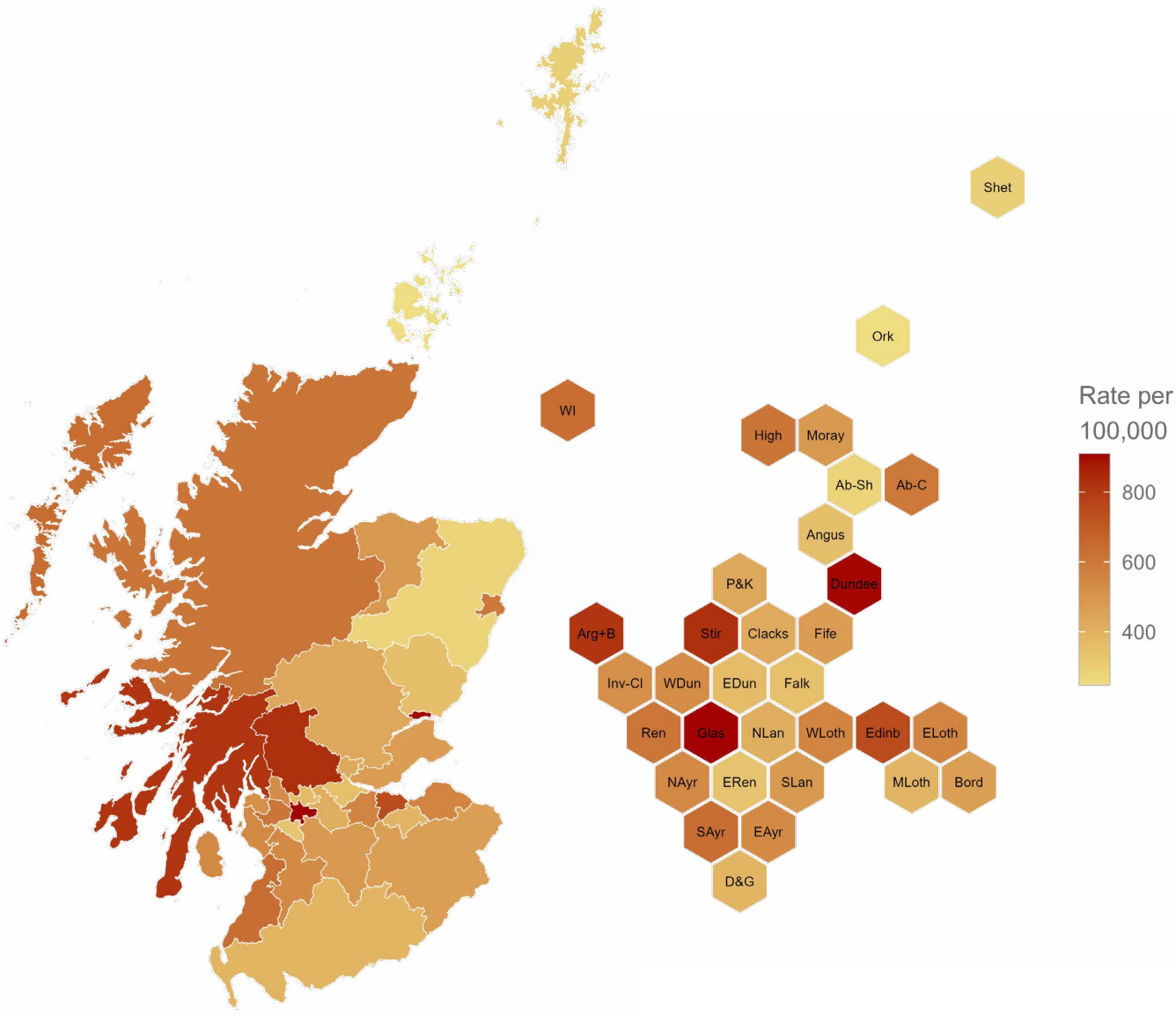


Figure 42: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) per 100,000 population, choropleth and area normalised cartogram 2022-23.

Great Britain Comparisons

There is a notable higher rate of fire false alarms in Scotland compared to England and Wales. All nations have seen a long-term decrease in the trends of fire false alarms. However, in Scotland, this trend seems to be increasing, with there being a consistent increase in fire false alarms per million population in the last two years.

In 2021-22, Scotland had over double the rate of fire false alarms per million population when compared with England, and just under double the rate when compared to Wales. Comparable figures for England and Wales were not available for 2022-23 at the time of this publication.

Please note population figures for Scotland 2021-22 were used in 2022-23 as there was not a more recent publication available. Please see Statistical News document for further details.

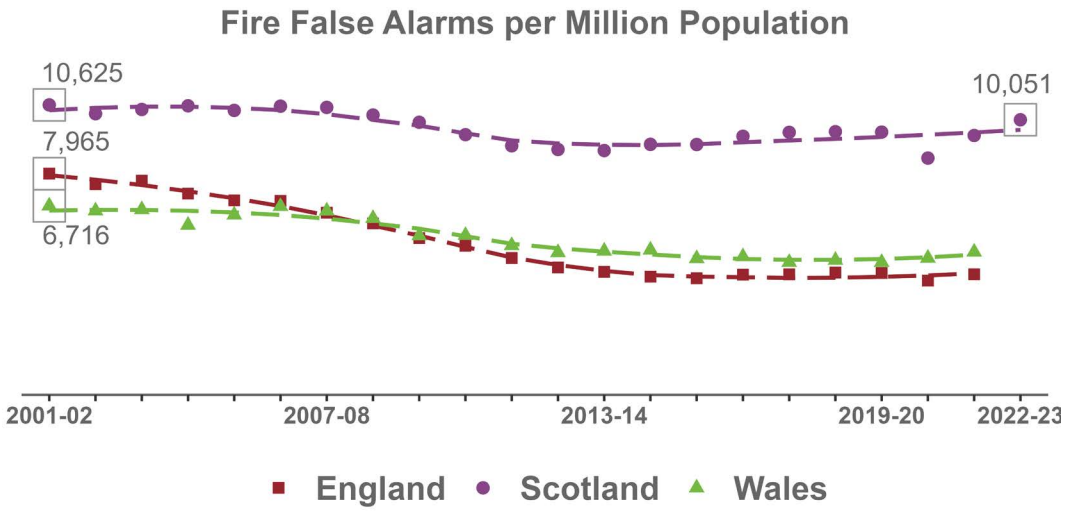


Figure 43: Trends in the fire false alarms by nation. Values displayed in boxes on chart represent the maximum, minimum and most recent values. In this case, the most recent values are also the minimum values.

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 signals in a substantially different way from England or Wales. This meant that, in general, England and Wales attended to fewer of these signals.

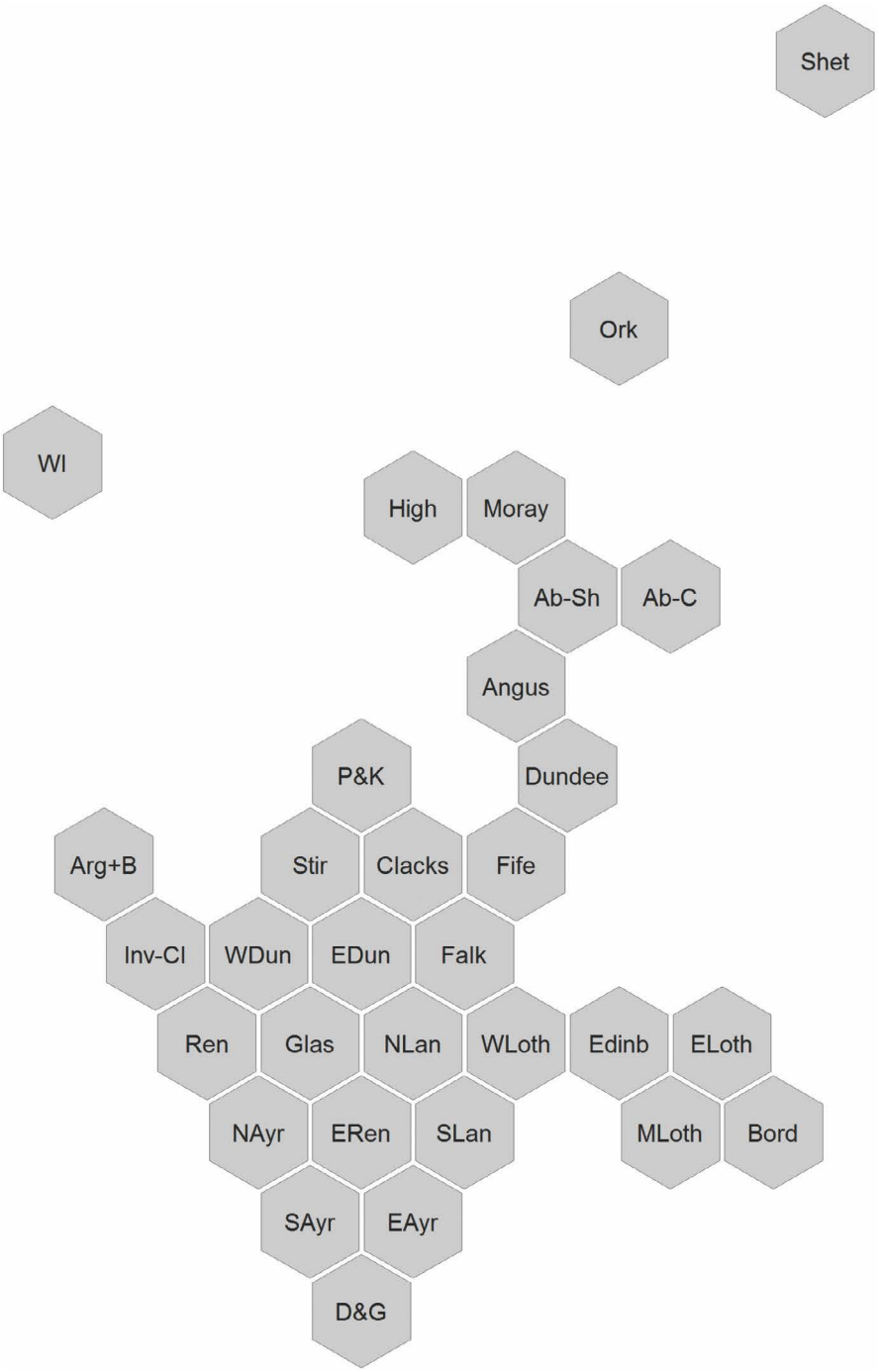
In 2020-21, Scotland attended 19.0% less of these signals than in previous years. This suggests that the main reason for the difference in Scotland compared to England and Wales is due to the difference in the handling of unwanted fire alarm signals.

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



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SFRS Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics 2022-23

Version 1.0 – 31 October 2023