



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

Fire Safety and Organisational Statistics

2020-21

An Official Statistics
publication for Scotland

31 August 2021

Working together for a safer Scotland

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This publication and associated statistics are now 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 2020-21

1. Main Points

Fire Stations and Capabilities

- **357** fire stations across Scotland, comprised of:
 - **74** Wholetime fire stations
 - **240** Retained Duty System fire stations
 - **43** Volunteer fire stations
- **471** crews, comprised of:
 - **116** Wholetime crews
 - **1** Day crew
 - **311** Retained crews
 - **43** Volunteer crews

Vehicles

- **1,631** vehicles in the fleet, including:
 - **805** appliances, of which **61** are for training and **94** are held in reserve
 - **335** officer reponse vehicles

Workforce

- **7,831** staff were employed by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service at the end of the 2020-21
- **3,584** staff are wholetime operational. This is down **52 (1.4%)** on last year
- **5,775** staff are scheduled to crew appliances, **73.7%** of all staff
- **32.3%** of staff are over **50** and **64.2%** are over **40**

Attacks on Fire and Rescue Personnel

- **69** attacks in 2020-21, up from **56** last year
- **1** attack resulting in injuries, down from **2** last year

Home Fire Safety Visits

- **20,175** Home Fire Safety Visits conducted
- **12,574** smoke alarms installed
- **54.1%** of home visits were to owner occupied properties
- **54.9%** of which had alarms installed
- Over the last **5** years, **9.5%** of all Scottish households were visited

Non-domestic Fire Safety

- **3,292** audits were completed, down from **7,261** last year
- **40.8%** of audits were in care homes
- **24.6%** of audits were in houses of multiple occupation

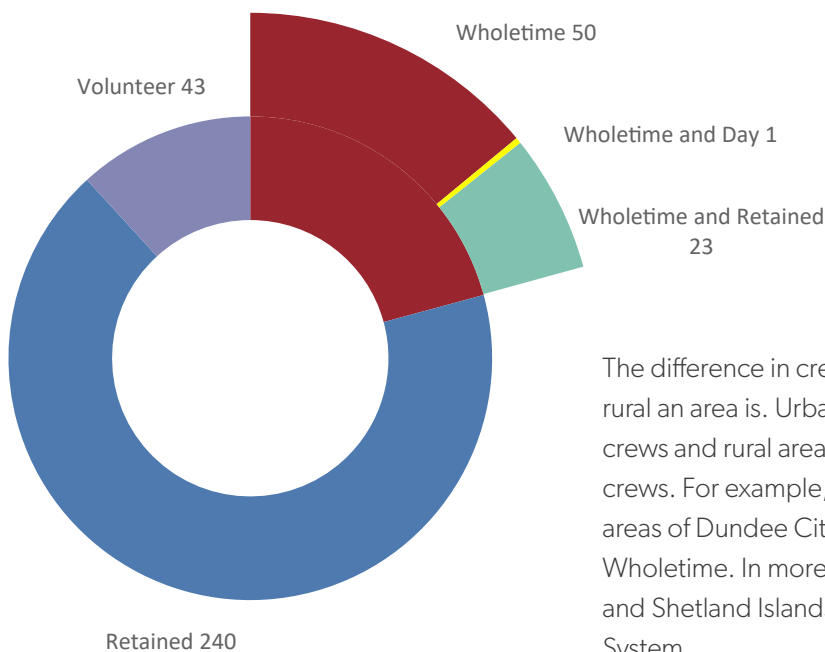


2. Fire Stations and Capabilities

There are 357 fire stations across Scotland. There are three types of uniformed staff that crew these stations: Wholetime (24-hour staffing), Retained (on-call staffing) and Volunteer. In recent years, there has been no changes to station crewing models. There are 74 Wholetime stations, 240 Retained Duty System stations and 43 Volunteer stations.

There are five station primary crewing models in use in Scotland: Wholetime, Wholetime and Day, Wholetime and Retained, Retained, and Volunteer. Two of these models include additional Retained staff to supplement the 24-hour Wholetime crew at the station. The 'Wholetime and Day' station has a 24-hour Wholetime crew and a second crew with Wholetime staff during the day and Retained staff during the night. Of the 74 Wholetime stations, 50 are Wholetime only, 23 are Wholetime and Retained Duty System and 1 is a Wholetime and Day Station.

In total, there are 116 Wholetime crews, 311 Retained¹ crews and 43 Volunteer crews in Scotland across the 357 stations.



The difference in crewing depends on how urban or rural an area is. Urban areas have more Wholetime crews and rural areas have more Retained Duty System crews. For example, in the urban local authority areas of Dundee City and Glasgow City, all crews are Wholetime. In more rural areas such as Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands all crews are Retained Duty System.

Figure 1: Fire stations by crewing model

¹ The actual number available varies depending on staffing levels.

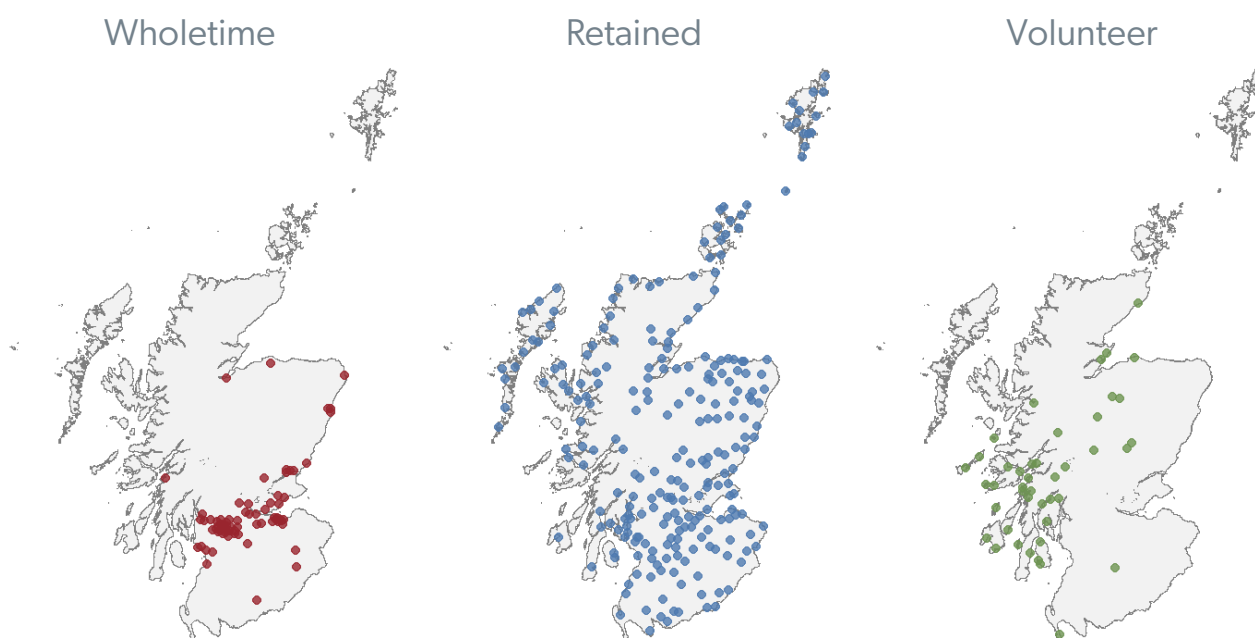


Figure 2: Map of fire stations by primary crewing

The capabilities of stations expand beyond firefighting. To see more information on operational response, please refer to the '[Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics](#).' There have been no changes in the capabilities of stations in the last year.

346 fire stations have water pumping capabilities used in firefighting. 80 stations have tactical firefighting capabilities, such as equipment and training for wildfires or marine firefighting. 102 fire stations have specialist capabilities such as for flood response or rope rescue. Further details can be found in the Tables and Charts Workbook.

There are three regional control centres in the North, East and West Service Delivery Areas. These determine the most appropriate response for operational incidents. It is likely that incidents will be attended by crews from the closest station.

However, as all fire stations form part of the operational network, crews frequently attend incidents in other local authority areas.

3. Vehicles

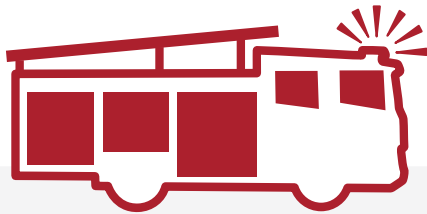
At the end of the financial year 2020-21, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) fleet comprised of 1,631 vehicles, which is slightly higher than the previous year (1,567).

650

OPERATIONAL APPLIANCES

445

Pumping appliances



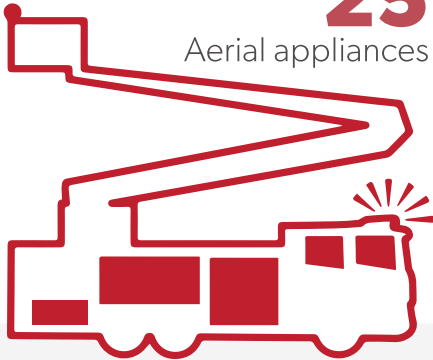
38

Resilience appliances



25

Aerial appliances



142

Other appliances



The number of appliances ready for operational use is higher than the total response capability as some stations have additional appliances. Please see section 2 for details of operational capabilities.

There were 61 appliances used for training purposes and 94 held in reserve.

This brings the total number of appliances to 805, down from 812 last year.

4. Workforce

Staff Headcount

On 31st March 2021, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) had a total headcount of 7,831 staff, which is 98 fewer than the total for last year.

Wholetime Operational staff make up the largest staff group. There were 3,584 of this staff type, which is down 52 (1.4%) from last year. Of whom:

- **2,903** were Operational Crews, down **63 (2.1%)** from last year
- **273** were Incident Command Officers, up **3 (1.1%)** from last year
- **349** were on Office Duties², down **2 (0.6%)** from last year
- **59** were Trainees, up **10 (20.4%)** from last year

Retained Duty staff make up the next largest group with 2,872 staff. These uniformed staff provide on-call cover. This is a reduction of 65 (2.2%) from last year.

Together with the Wholetime Operational crews, there are 5,775 staff scheduled to crew operational appliances. This is 73.7% of total SFRS staff.

The role of Retained Full-time staff was introduced in 2018-19. Staff in this post work in areas with a cluster of Retained Duty System stations and supplement the local on-call cover, as well as conduct local community engagement. This year, there are 54 Retained Full-time staff, which is an increase from 36 last year.

Volunteer firefighters attend operational incidents without the requirement to be on-call. There were 303 volunteers this year, which is down 12 (3.8%) from last year.

Control room staff answer emergency calls and manage communications and the logistics of attending emergencies. There has been a reduction of 6 (3.2%) control room staff from last year, bringing the number to 182 staff.

Support staff are not uniformed and work in functions across the organisation. There were 836 support staff which is an increase of 19 (2.3%) from last year.

² Wholetime staff on Office Duties includes those working in functions across SFRS and are not necessarily office based e.g. community safety engagement staff and fire investigation staff.

Staff Headcount

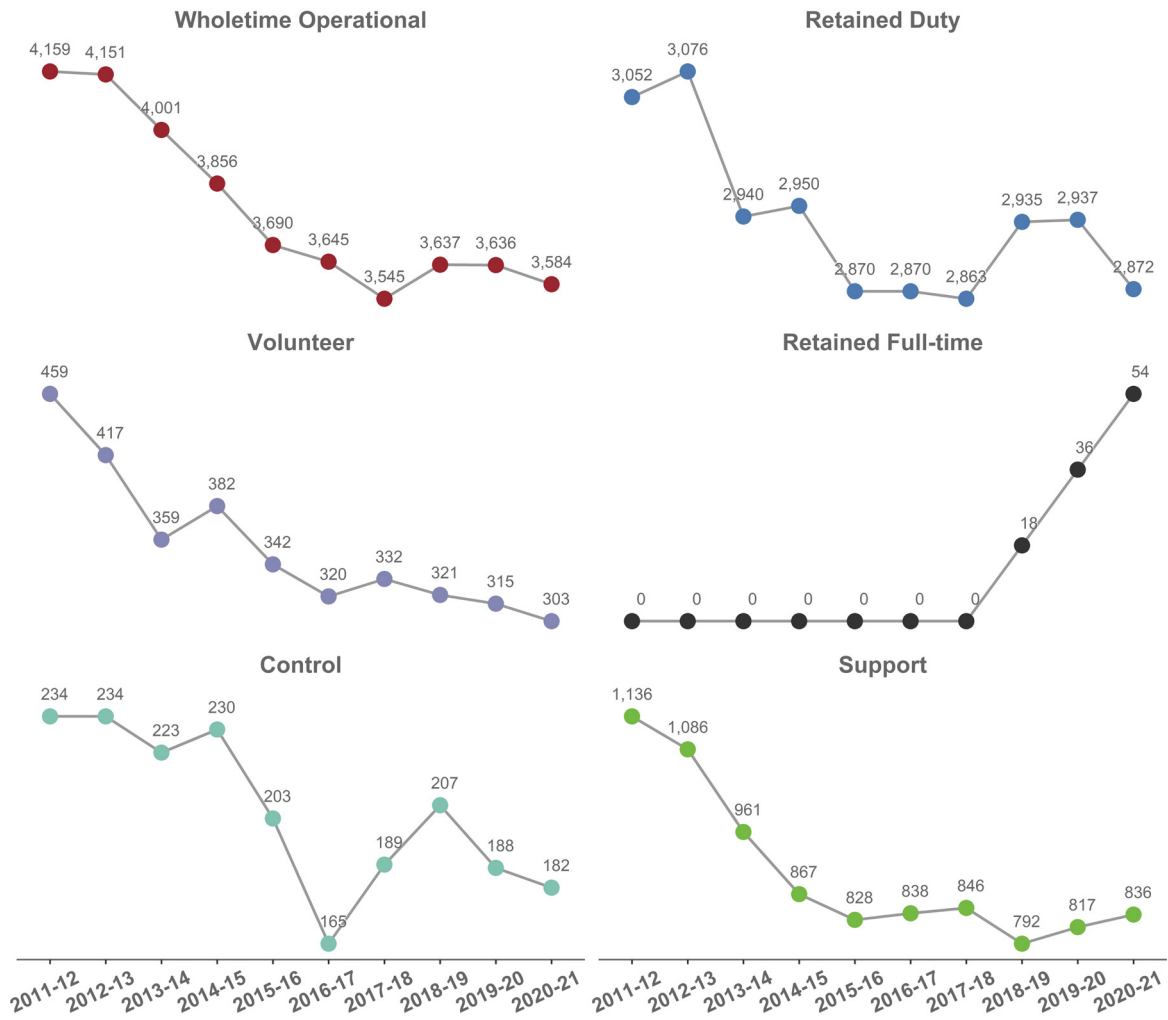


Figure 3: Headcount by staff type

Staff Full-Time Equivalent

As not all staff work the typical hours of their staff group i.e. people working part time in a role, this set of statistics adjusts for the numbers of contracted hours to give a fair comparison of change over time. Volunteer staff are not contracted to work a specific number of hours and so, they are not included in these Full Time Equivalent (FTE) statistics.

There has been an increase in Support staff over 2020-21 as an FTE figure up by 23 (3.0%) to 787.

Control room staff has decreased from 184 in 2019-20 to 176 this year. This is a decrease of 8 (4.3%), similar to the change in headcount.

Retained Duty System FTE has increased to 54, up from 36 last year.

Wholetime Operational staff has decreased to 3,581, down 53 (1.5%) from last year's figure of 3,634. This is very similar to what is seen in the headcount figures.

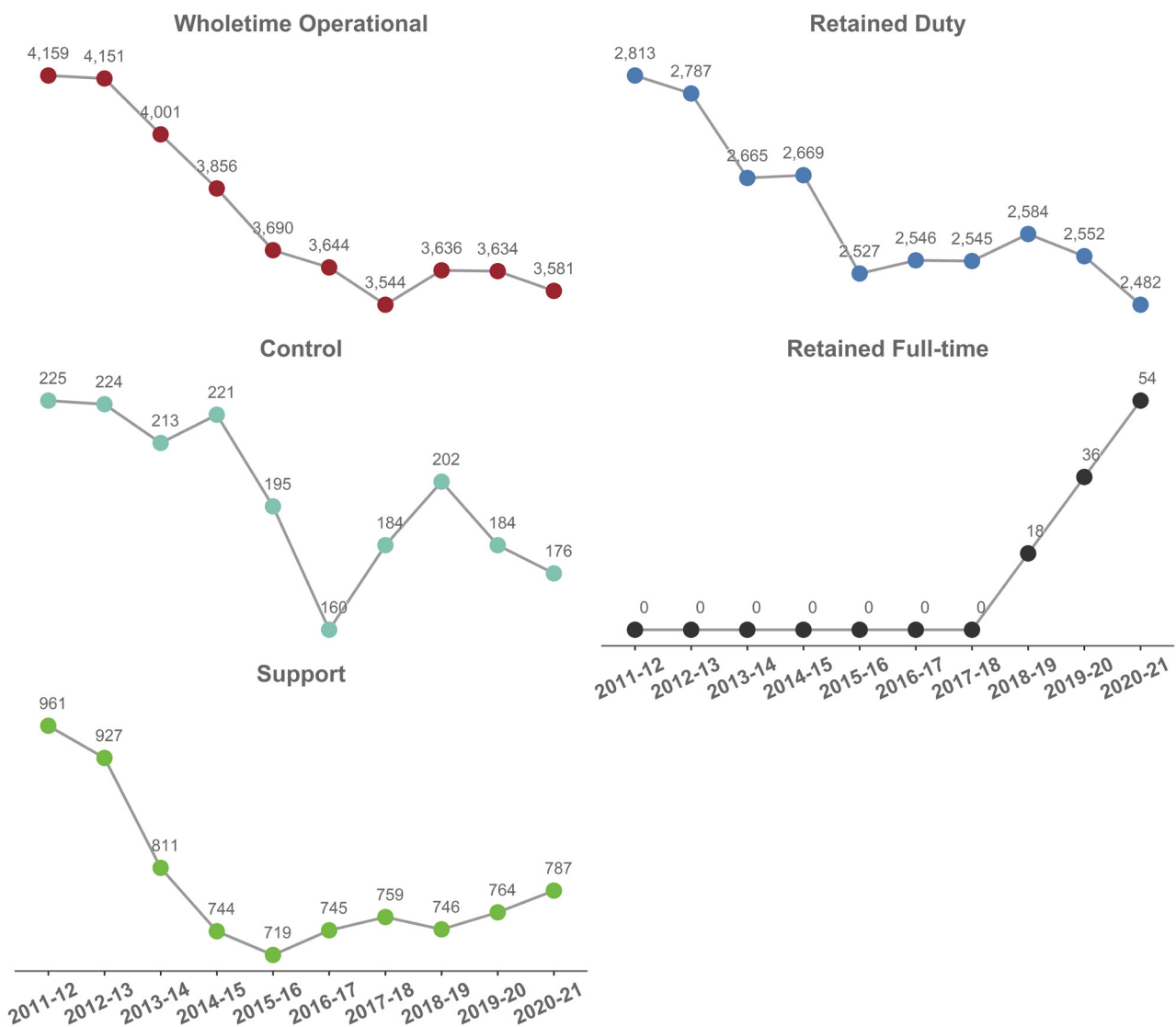


Figure 4: Full-time equivalent by staff type

Wholetime Staff Roles

The number of Wholetime firefighters has decreased by 52 to 3,584 over 2020-21.

Operational Crews decreased by 63, with 58 fewer staff in a Firefighter role, 1 fewer Crew Commander, and 4 fewer Watch Commanders.

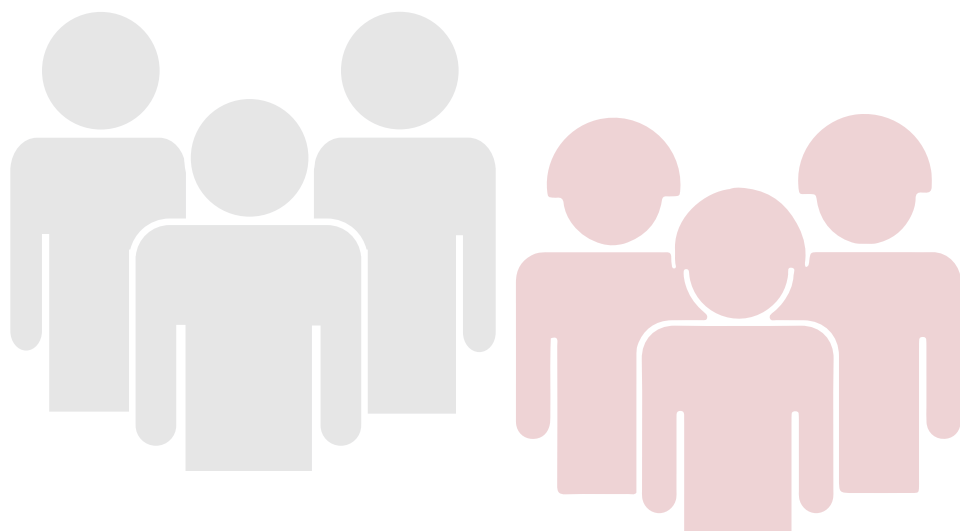
The number of Incident Command Officers increased by 3 from last year, with 1 fewer Brigade Commander, 4 more Area Commanders, 1 more Group Commander and 1 fewer Station Commander.

Office Duty staff decreased by 2, with 2 fewer in a Firefighter role, and the same number of Crew Commanders and Watch Commanders.

There were 59 Trainees, an increase of 10 from last year.

Type	Brigade Commander	Area Commander	Group Commander	Station Commander	Watch Commander	Crew Commander	Firefighter
Incident Command Officers	5	35	81	152			
Operational Crews					372	596	1935
Office Duties					232	91	26
Trainees							59
Total	5	35	81	152	604	687	2020

Figure 5: Wholetime staff by role and duty system, 2020-21



Gender

Overall, around 86% of the staff are male. This gender balance does not vary much between years and is very similar to last year's figure.

The majority of the workforce for Wholetime Operational, Retained, Retained Full-time and Volunteer are male (93.9%, 93.1%, 79.6% and 82.8% respectively).

For control staff, 83.0% are female. The gender balance for support staff is overall more even, with 55.1% of staff female.

In the last five years, the number of female Wholetime Operational staff increased by 31.1% with 52 more female staff. The number of male Wholetime Operational staff decreased by 4.5% with 158 fewer male staff.

The number of female Retained Duty staff increased by 34 (20.9%), while the number of male staff decreased by 32 (1.2%).

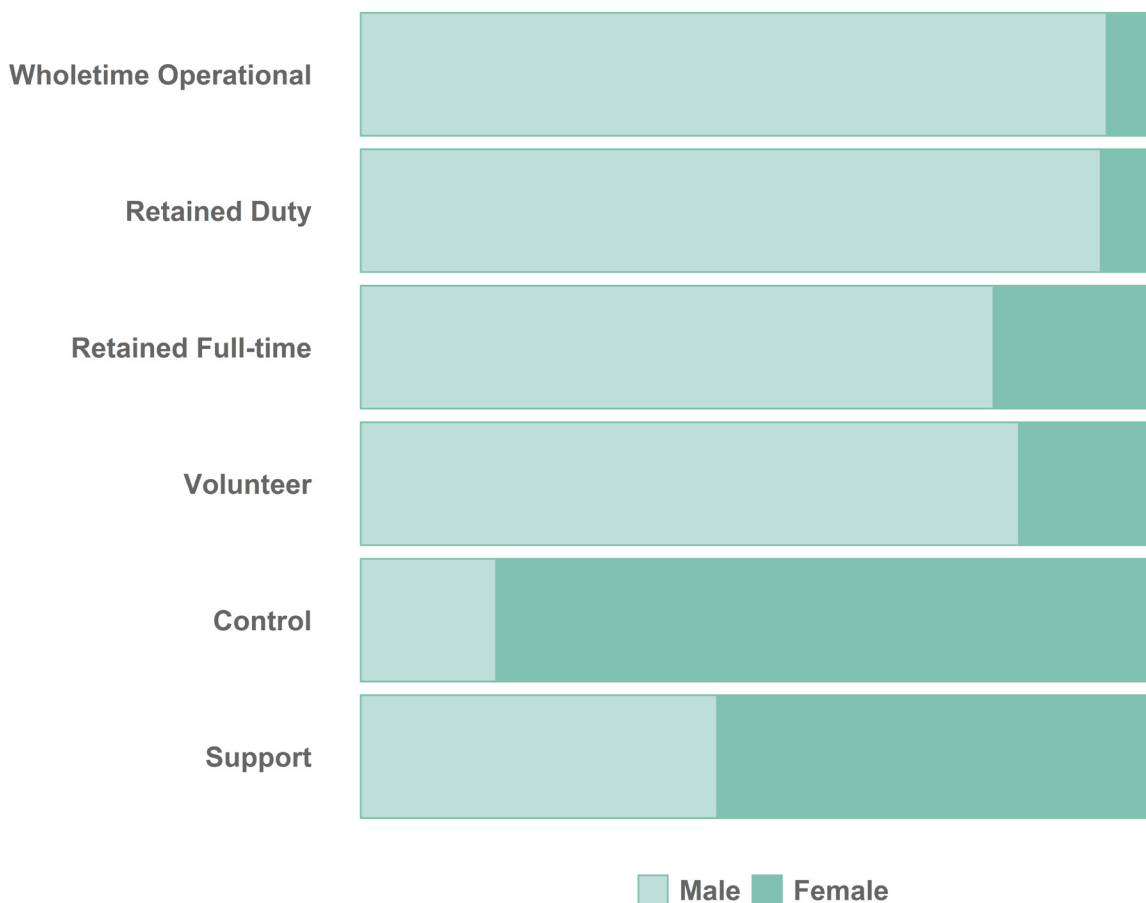
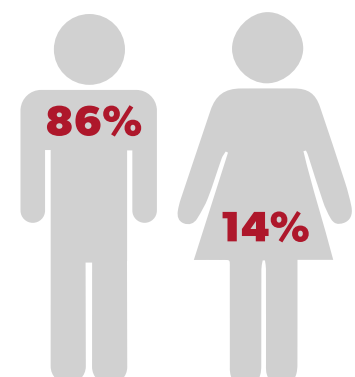


Figure 6: Gender balance by staff type, 2020-21



Staff Headcount by Age

Staff older than 50 make up 32.3% of the workforce. This is up from 31.3% last year. This proportion has increased every year since this series began seven years ago. Staff older than 40 make up 64.2% of the workforce.

936 Wholetime Operational staff are in their 50s (26.2%), an increase of 8 from last year.

1,430 Wholetime Operational staff are in their 40s (39.9%), a decrease of 46 from last year.

The retirement age for SFRS staff varies according to personal circumstance and the conditions of individual pension schemes which are different across staff types and areas of the country.



Figure 7: Age bracket by staff type, 2020-21

Years of Service

Wholetime Operational staff with a service length of 10-19 years make up the largest category (40.7%). Those who have a service length of 20-29 years make up 32.3% of staff.

Retained Duty staff that have been in service for under 5 years make up 27.5% of staff, with a further 18.5% having a service length of 5-9 years.

The Retained Full-time staff group was created three years ago. However, the majority of staff have served for longer than this. 42.6% have a service length of 10-19 years. 20.4% have served for 20-29 years.

Volunteer and Control staff with a service length under 5 years make up the largest category (25.7% and 24.2% respectively).



Figure 8: Service Length by staff type, 2020-21

Leavers

In 2020-21, 456 staff left the SFRS, a turnover of 5.8% (down from 6.4% last year).

193 of Wholetime Operational staff left the SFRS. This is a turnover of 5.3%, down from 5.5% last year.

189 of Retained staff left the SFRS. This is a turnover of 3.2%, down from 7.4% last year.

For Wholetime Operational staff, the largest category for leaving was retirement due to age, with 175 staff leaving for this reason (90.1%). For Retained staff, resignation was the most common category, with 130 leaving for this reason (68.8%).

In total, retirement accounted for 55.5% of leavers: 93.3% of Wholetime Operational staff, 26.5% of Retained staff, 60.0% of Control staff, 31.8% of Support staff and 15.0% of Volunteer staff.

5. Attacks on Fire and Rescue Personnel

In 2020-21, there were 69 attacks on SFRS staff up from 56 last year. Verbal abuse was the highest type of attack this year, increasing from 10 last year to 30. In previous years, objects thrown at SFRS staff was consistently the highest category of attack, this has decreased considerably from 34 attacks last year to 10 this year. Physical attacks have increased from 10 last year to 19 this year. These statistics vary considerably each year, and so, describing trends can only be achieved over the long term.



The majority of attacks and injuries have been associated with operational incidents, with 90.6% of attacks being associated with operational incidents over the last 5 years. Physical attacks were the main cause of injuries within this time frame, with 64.7% of injuries being caused by physical attacks. All other injuries have been caused by objects thrown at personnel. Over the same period, 18.3% of physical attacks resulted in an injury and 3.4% of objects thrown resulted in injury.

Some local authority areas have a much higher occurrence of attacks than others. Over the last 5 years, 27.6% of attacks have occurred in Glasgow City, 7.5% in North Lanarkshire, 7.2% in City of Edinburgh, 7.2% in Dundee City and 5.6% in Fife.

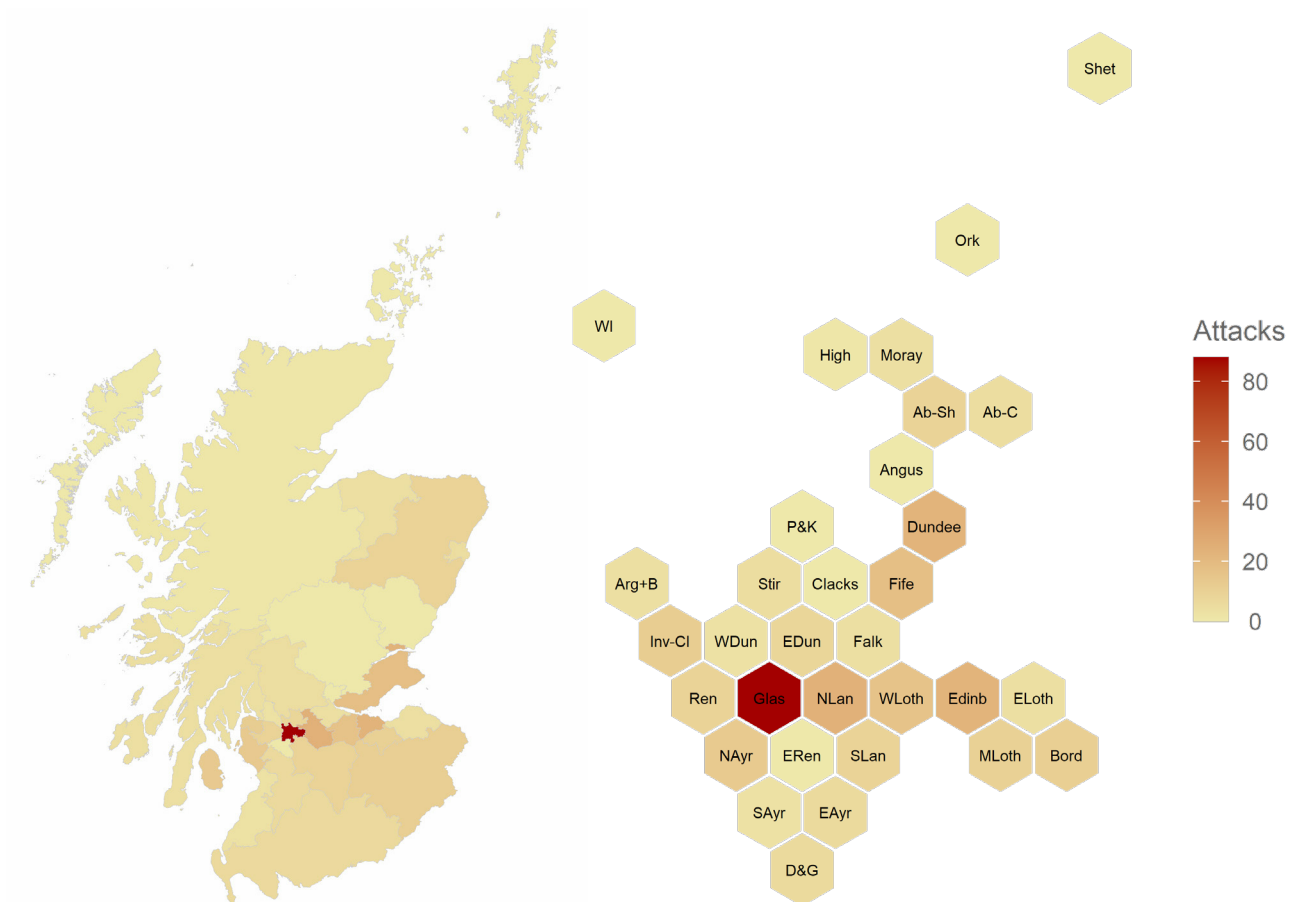


Figure 9: Attacks on SFRS staff 2016-17 to 2020-21, choropleth and area normalised cartogram

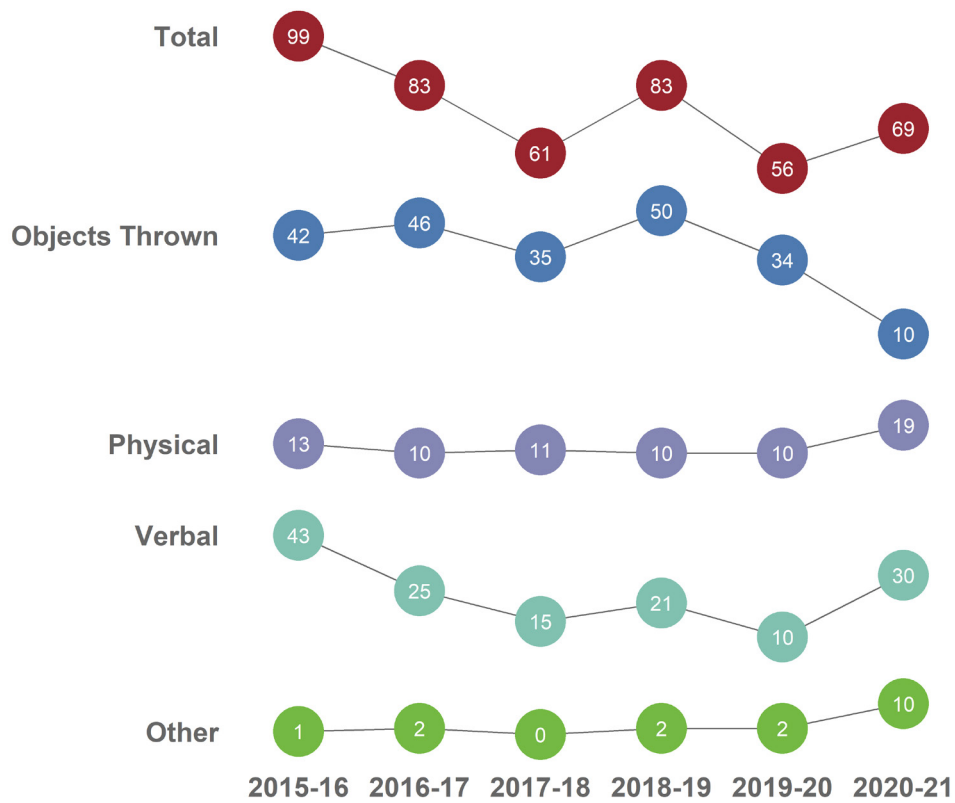


Figure 10: Incidents of attacks on SFRS Personnel by type of attack

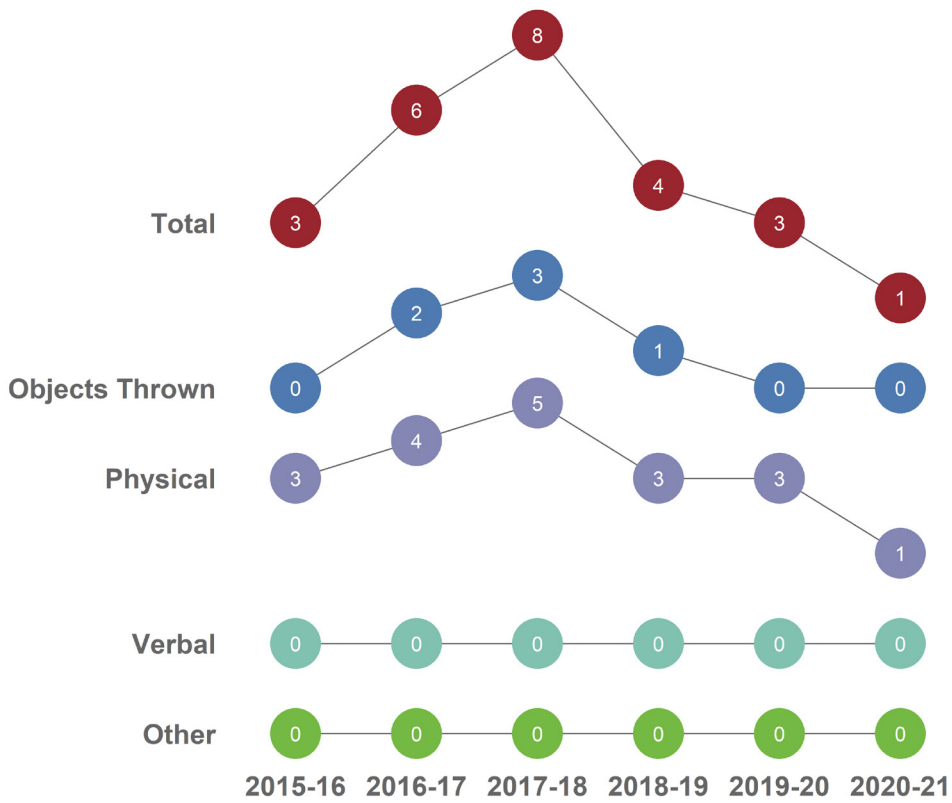


Figure 11: Incidents of attacks with injuries by type of attack

6. Home Fire Safety Visits

Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS) carried out significantly fewer Home Fire Safety Visits than usual in 2020-21 as a result of policy changes during the Covid-19 pandemic. Previously, Home Fire Safety Visits were available for all households in Scotland. This year they were prioritised on the basis of fire risk to households and proportionate to national restrictions. Additional steps were taken to mitigate the risk of the virus spread by asking households pre-visit questions and ensuring the use of Personal Protective Equipment by crews. Many aspects of these statistics will be impacted by the policy changes in 2020-21, this is likely to also impact next year's statistics.

This year, the SFRS conducted 20,175 Home Fire Safety Visits, which is a 71% reduction from the previous year (down from 69,237).

These took place across 19,532 different households, with 12,862 of those being visited for the first visit in at least three years (63.8% of visits).

Over the last five years, the SFRS has visited 236,071 different households, which is 9.5% of Scottish households. Smoke alarms have been fitted by Fire and Rescue personnel in 4% of Scottish homes in the last five years (100,293 different households).

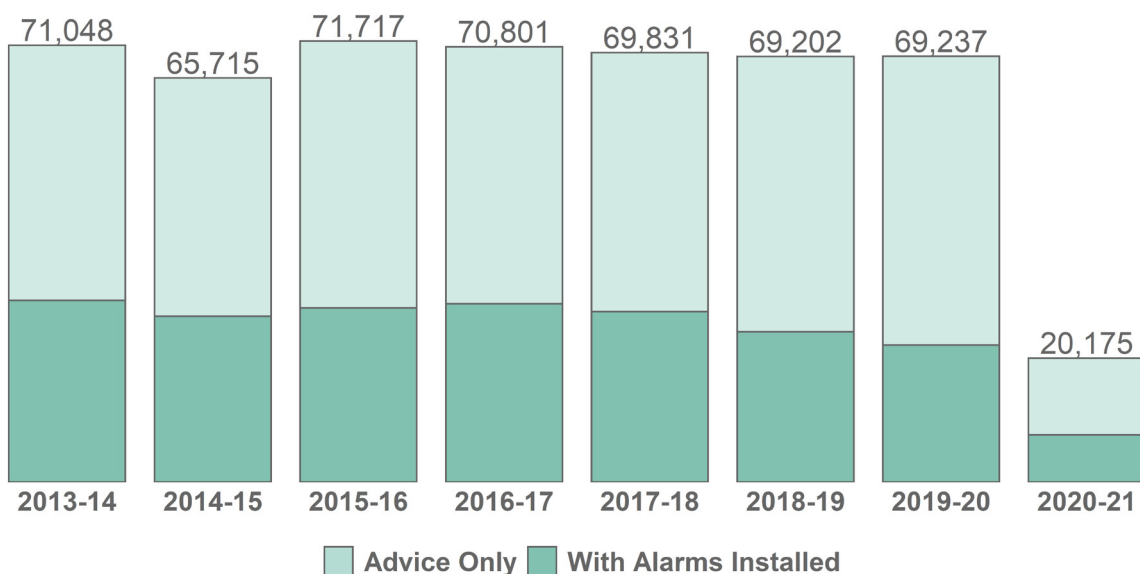


Figure 12: Home Fire Safety Visits by outcome

Alarms Installed

There was a reduction of 22,036 alarms installed from last year to this year, with 34,610 installed in 2019-20 and 12,574 installed this year. However, this large reduction in the number of installations is caused by the reduction in the number of Home Fire Safety Visits carried out due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The prioritisation of households on the basis of risk is clear, with 38% of home visits involving the installation of alarms, up from 32% last year. The total number of smoke alarms installed has reduced by 72.8% in the last five years and 65.4% in the last year.

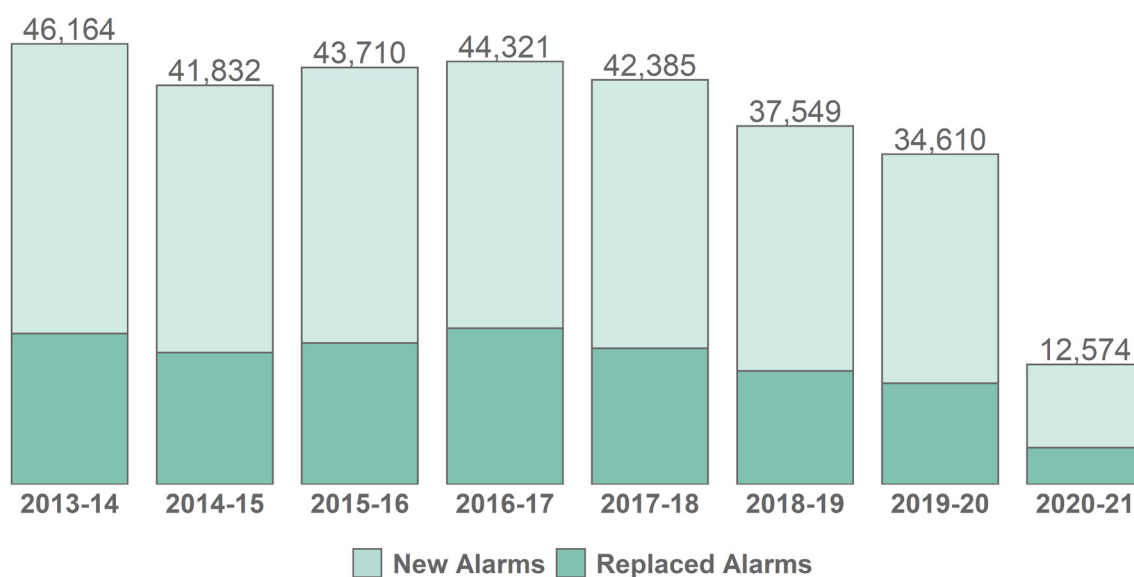


Figure 13: Alarms installed during Home Fire Safety Visits

In 2020-21, 69.4% of alarms installed were new, with the remainder of installations being replacement alarms. This is the same proportion as was reported last year. There has been a 63.7% reduction in the number of new alarms installed in the last year and a 63.6% reduction in the number of replacement alarms in the last year.

While the number of alarms installed has consistently reduced over the past 5 years, the large reduction seen in 2020-21 can be attributed to the policy changes introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Residents

There were 32,928 people recorded as living in the households visited by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in 2020-21. In previous years, the rate of visits has been consistently higher for households with people aged under 5 years old and people aged over 60 years old.

However, this year, due to policy changes during the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a higher proportion of visits to households with people over 60 years old. In total, 1.2% of over 60s in Scotland received a Home Fire Safety Visit in 2020-21, down from 3.7% last year. The Scotland average decreased from 2.3% of households to 0.6%.

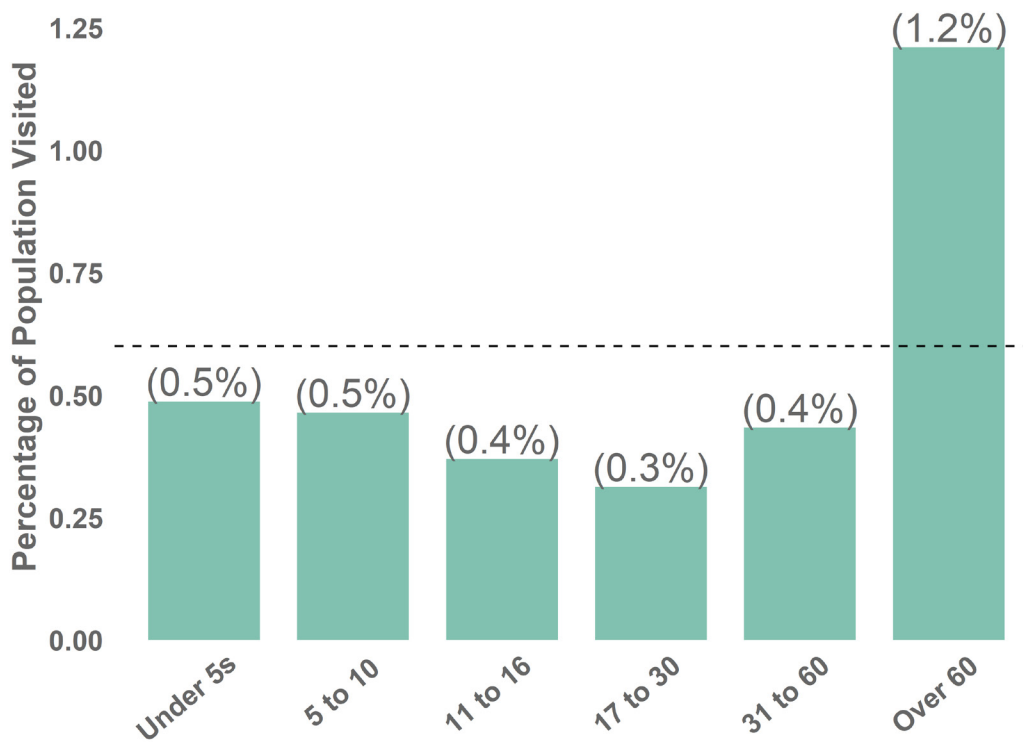


Figure 14: Percentage of population visited in Home Fire Safety Visits by age bracket, the Scotland average is 0.6%

Deprivation

Similar to previous years, there is a higher rate of Home Fire Safety Visits in the most deprived areas in Scotland. In the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland, there were 5,620 home visits compared to the 2,565 visits in the least deprived areas. Figure 15 highlights this difference between rates of Home Fire Safety Visits in the 20% most deprived areas and the 20% least deprived areas in Scotland.

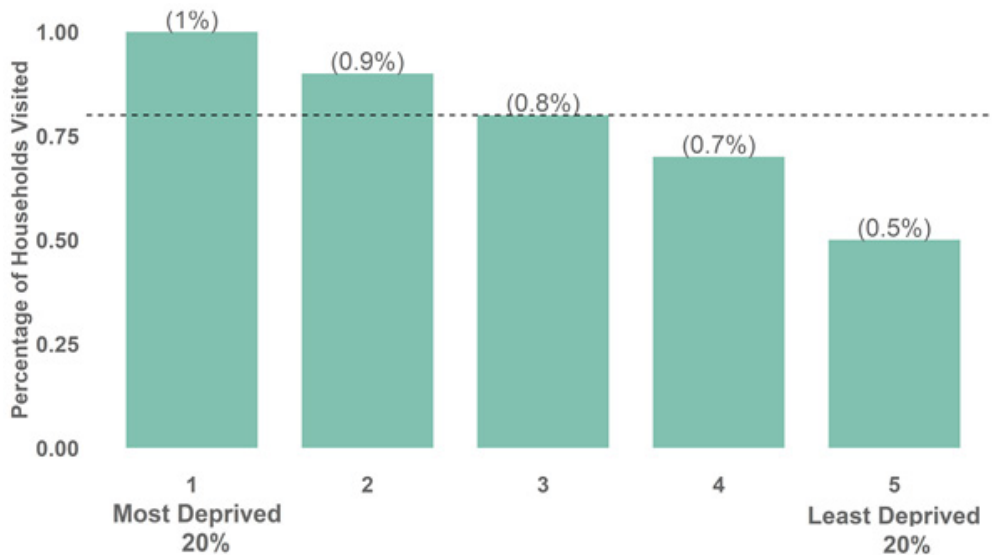


Figure 15: Percentage of households visited, by Scottish Index of Deprivation quintiles. The Scotland average is 0.8%

Most Home Fire Safety Visits in higher deprivation areas have a focus on providing fire safety advice and have a lower rate of alarm installations, as shown in Figure 16.

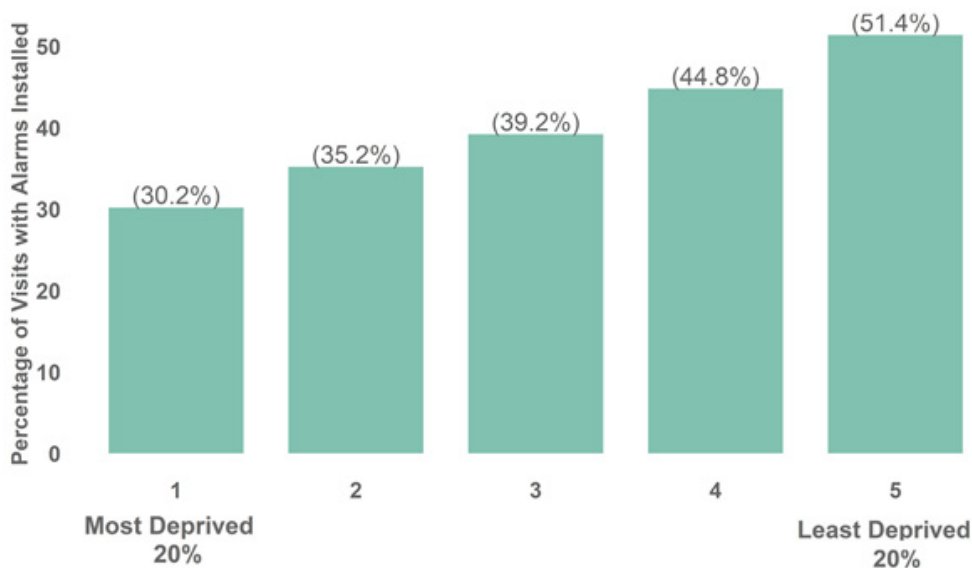


Figure 16: Percentage visited with alarms installed, by Scottish Index of Deprivation quintiles

There is a more balanced outlook when looking at the overall rate of alarms installed (see Figure 17). This is because the higher rates of Home Fire Safety Visits are balanced by the lower rates of alarms installed.

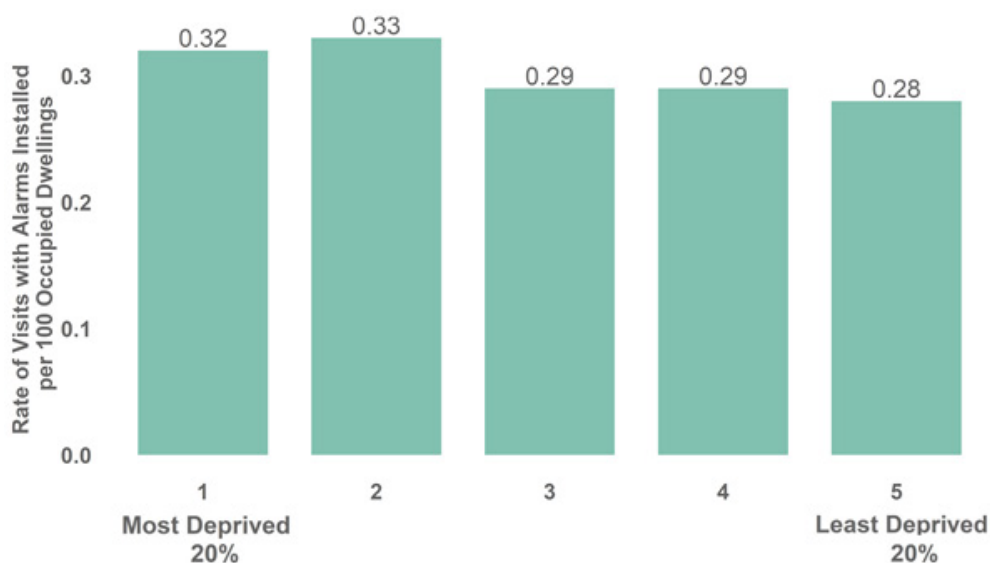


Figure 17: Rate of alarms installed per 100 Occupied Dwellings, by Scottish Index of Deprivation quintiles

In 2020-21, 54.1% of Home Fire Safety Visits took place in owner occupied properties. Of these visits, 54.9% involved an alarm installation up from 49.1% last year. This figure has little variation across different areas of deprivation. There is a much higher rate of Home Fire Safety Visits with alarms installed in this type of property, compared to others such as private rented or local authority housing. The percentage of visits with alarms installed is higher in every area when compared with 2019-20 figures.

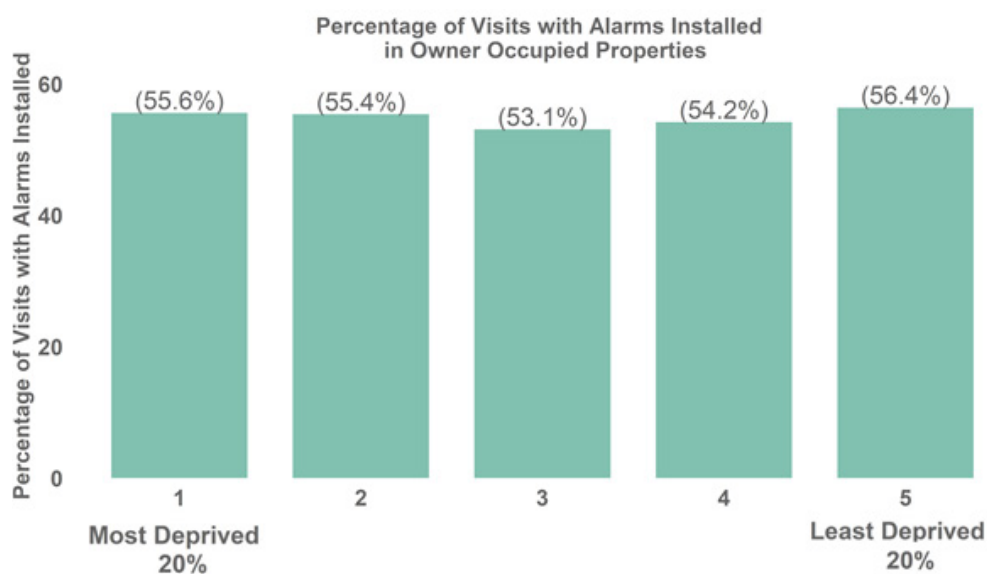


Figure 18: Percentage of visits with alarms installed in owner occupied properties, by Scottish Index of Deprivation quintiles

There has been a consistent reduction in the proportion of visits with alarms installed for each deprivation group up until 2019-20. However, this year there has been a significant proportional increase for all deprivation groups due to the prioritisation of the most at risk households during the Covid-19 pandemic (see figure 19).

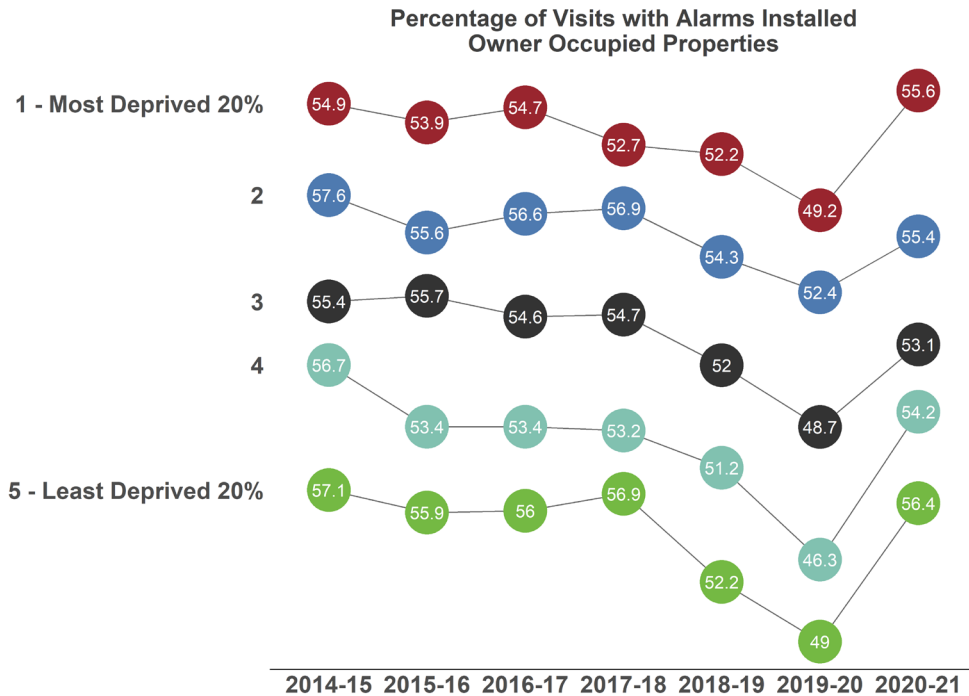


Figure 19: Percentage of visits with alarms installed in owner occupied properties, by Scottish Index of Deprivation quintiles

Urban-Rural

There is variation in the rates of households visited each year, with visits to Other Urban Areas, Accessible Small Towns and Remote Small Towns above average.

The percentage of households visited in Accessible Rural, Large Urban Areas and Remote Rural are below average.

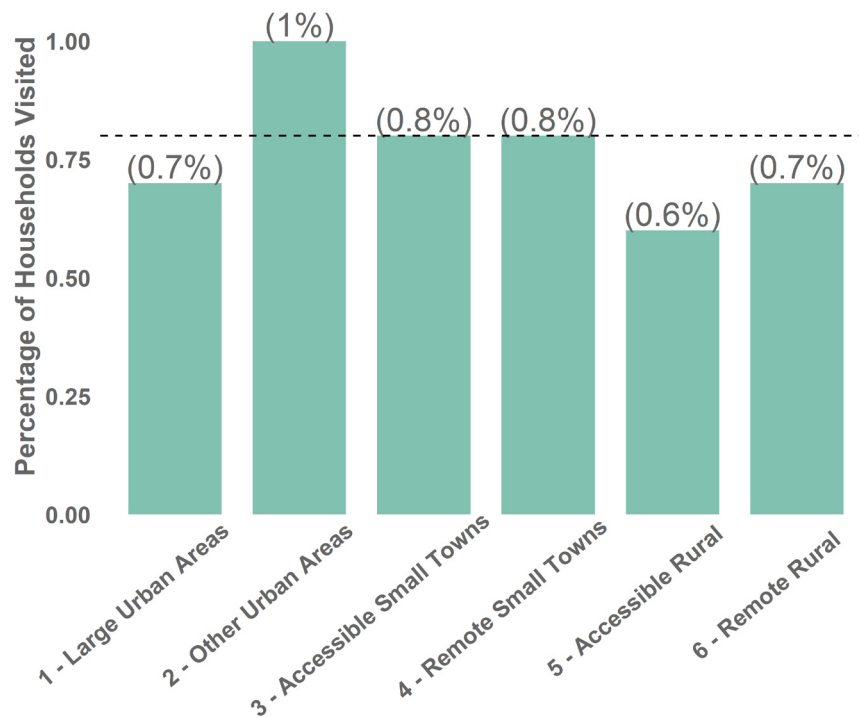


Figure 20: Percentage of households visited by urban-rural classification. The Scotland average is 0.8%

Geography

Similar to the previous year, Glasgow City Local Authority has had the most Home Fire Safety Visits in 2020-21, with 2,094 visits. Na h-Eileanan Siar has had the least with 57 visits. Shetland Islands and West Dunbartonshire had the highest percentage of households visited, at 1.3%. During these visits, 12.1% of households visited in Shetland Islands had alarms installed, compared to 38.3% in West Dunbartonshire. The area with the largest proportion of alarms installed was Inverclyde, 59.4%.

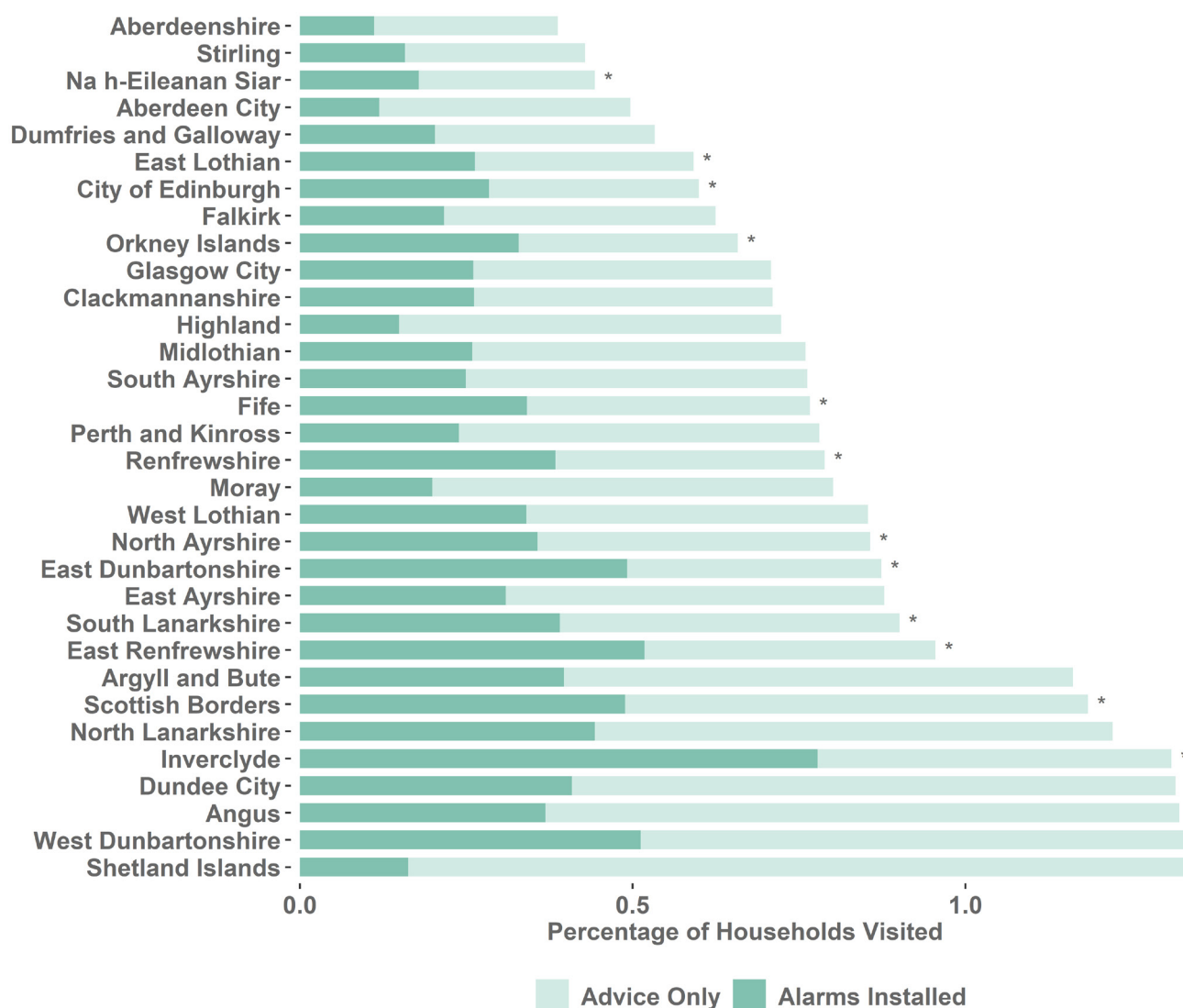


Figure 21: Percentage of households visited in Home Fire Safety Visits by local authority area. Local authorities with an asterisk (*) have a higher than 40% alarm installation rate in Home Fire Safety Visits.

Rate of Home Fire Safety Visits

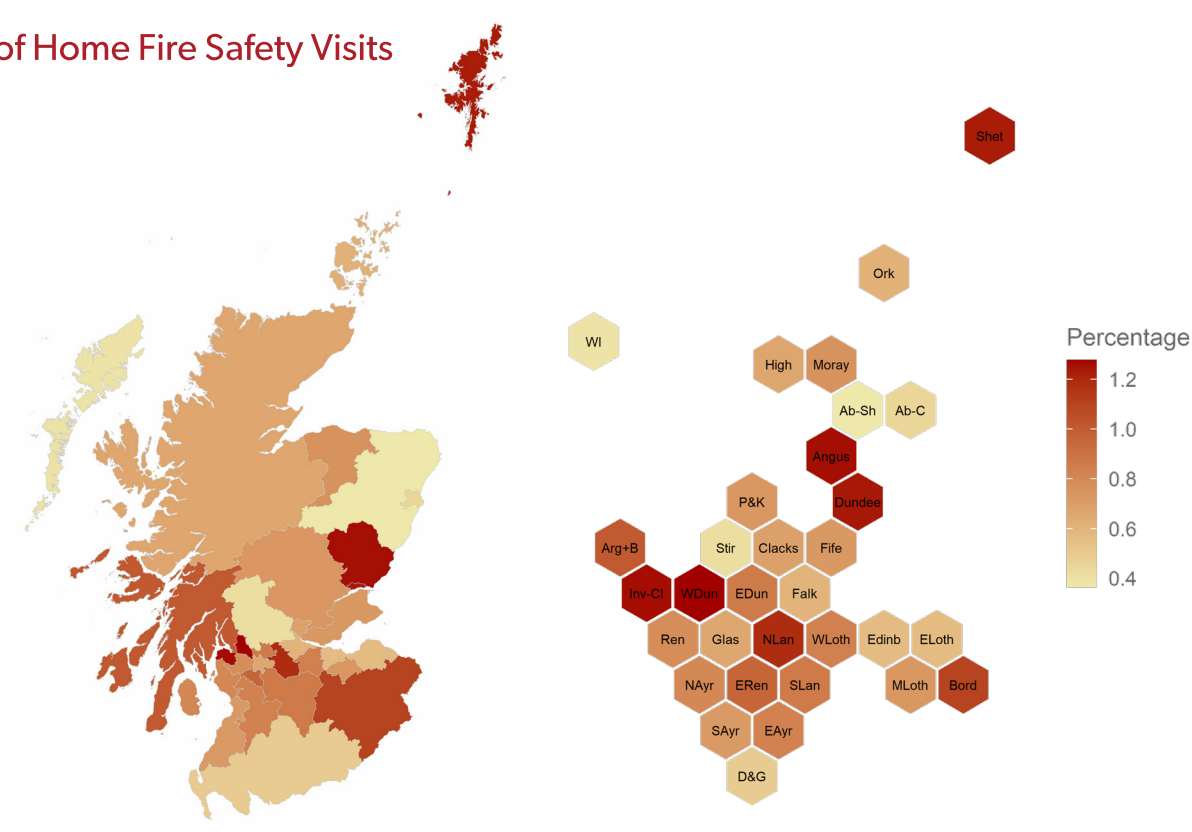


Figure 22: Rate of Home Fire Safety Visits per 100 Occupied Dwellings, choropleth and area normalised cartogram

Rate of Alarms Installed

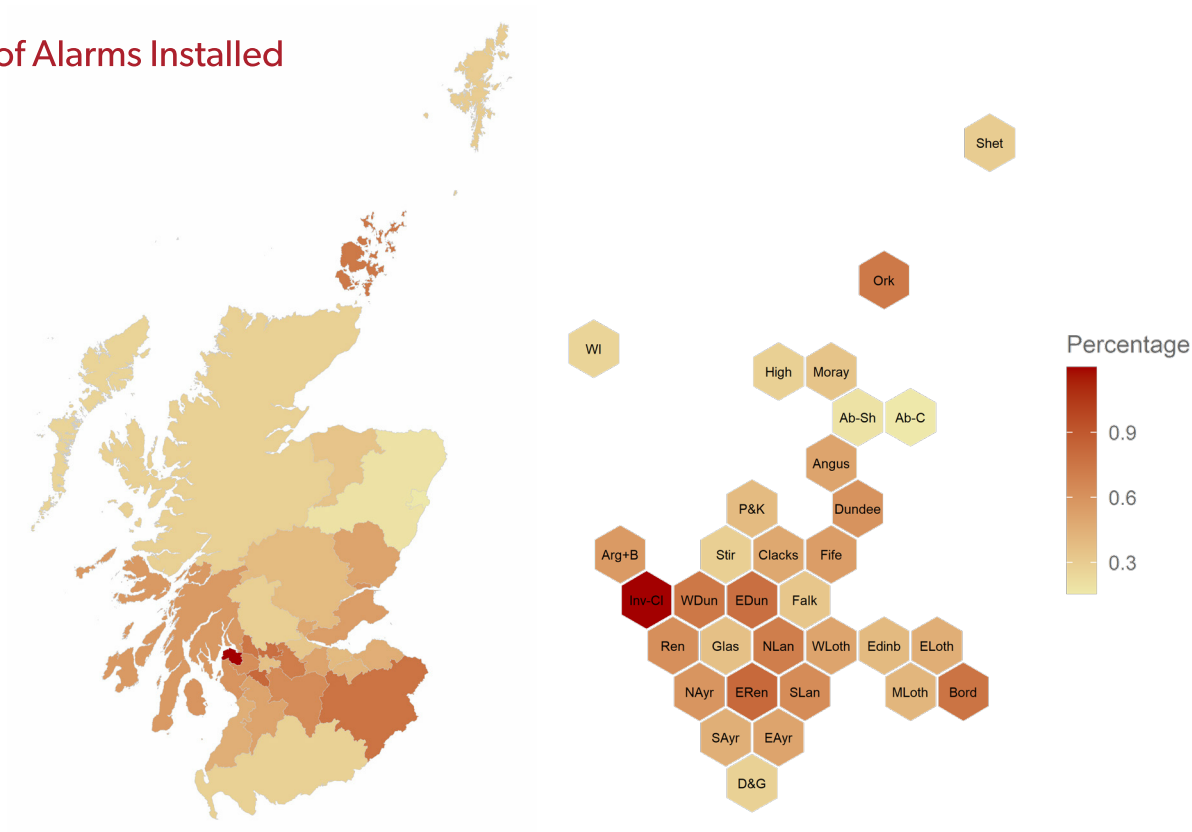


Figure 23: Rate of Home Fire Safety Visits with Alarms Installed per 100 Occupied Dwellings, choropleth and area normalised cartogram

7. Non-domestic Fire Safety

The number of audits completed by enforcement personnel decreased significantly this year due to national lockdown restrictions and subsequent policy changes to safeguard SFRS personnel and the wider public during the Covid-19 pandemic. There were 3,292 audits completed this year, down from 7,261 last year (3,969 fewer).

The first few months of the pandemic saw the largest impact on the number of audits. Remote Audits, comprising of telephone or video calls, were then introduced in the summer of 2020 to enable enforcement activity to continue safely. Of the 3,292 audits, 1,018 were Remote Audits.

The number of site visits has decreased from 918 in 2019-20 to 603 this year, while the number of consultations has risen to 2,502, from 2,460 last year.

Two new types of work were introduced in 2018-19: Fire Engineering Consultations are where a specialist team provides advice for new buildings, and Short Post Fire Audits, which occur where there has been a fire in a premise which has already received a full audit recently. There were 163 Fire Engineering Consultations, which is a decrease from last year's 324. There was a slight decrease in the number of Short Post Fire Audits, with 192 occurring this year, compared to the 202 in 2019-20.

3,292
FIRE SAFETY AUDITS
COMPLETED

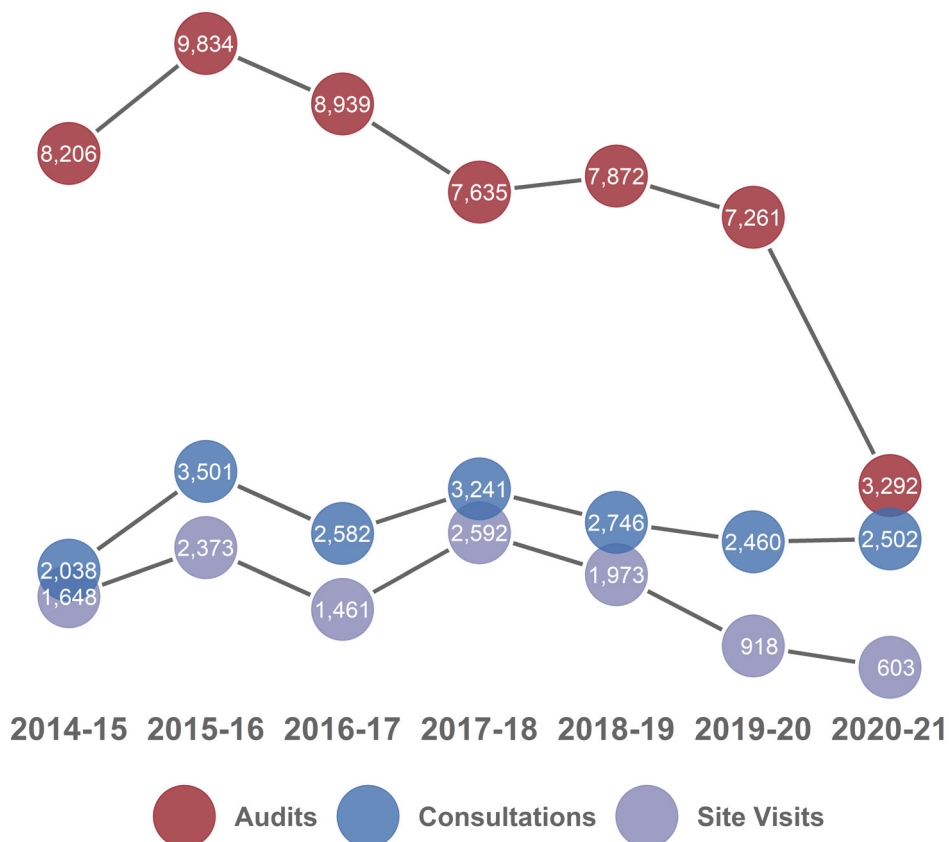


Figure 24: Non-domestic fire safety activity by type. Note that new categories of work initiated in 2019-20 are not shown.

Most audits were carried out in Care Homes this year, with 40.8% being carried out in such premises. Proportionally, this has significantly increased from 20.5% last year, but in total there was a decrease from 1,486 to 1,342 this year.

The next largest category Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) remained a similar proportion from previous years (24.6% of audits), but decreased as a total from 1,951 to 809.

There were 2 Enforcement Notices issued this year. Enforcement Notices are the most severe outcome of audits and they are only issued following a very poor audit rating.

Prohibition Notices involve or follow a visit to a site where the use of the property is conflicting with fire safety rules. These prevent the use of part or all of a property. There was 1 Prohibition Notice issued this year, down from 2 in 2019-20.

Alterations Notices prevent changing the use of a property in a way which is known to be unsafe. 1 such notice was issued this year, this is an increase from 2019-20 when none were issued.

In total, 4 legal notices were issued this year, down from 9 last year.

With significant changes to the profile of audits conducted in 2020-21, it is difficult to draw specific conclusions on the risk profile of any category. However, in recent years we have seen less than 1% of audits resulting in a Very High risk rating and the same occurred this year. Figure 25 shows a more detailed breakdown of audit totals and risk ratings.

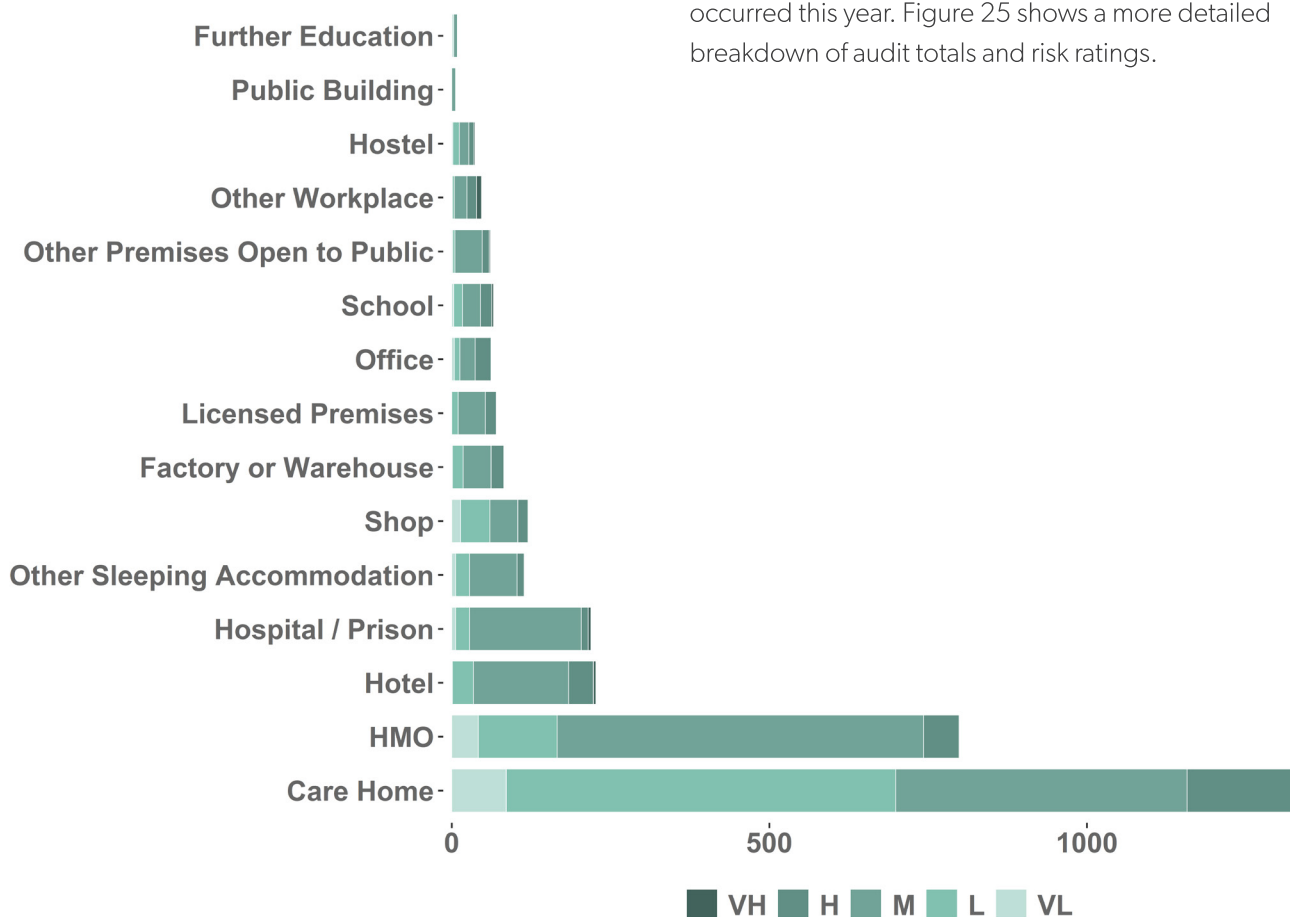
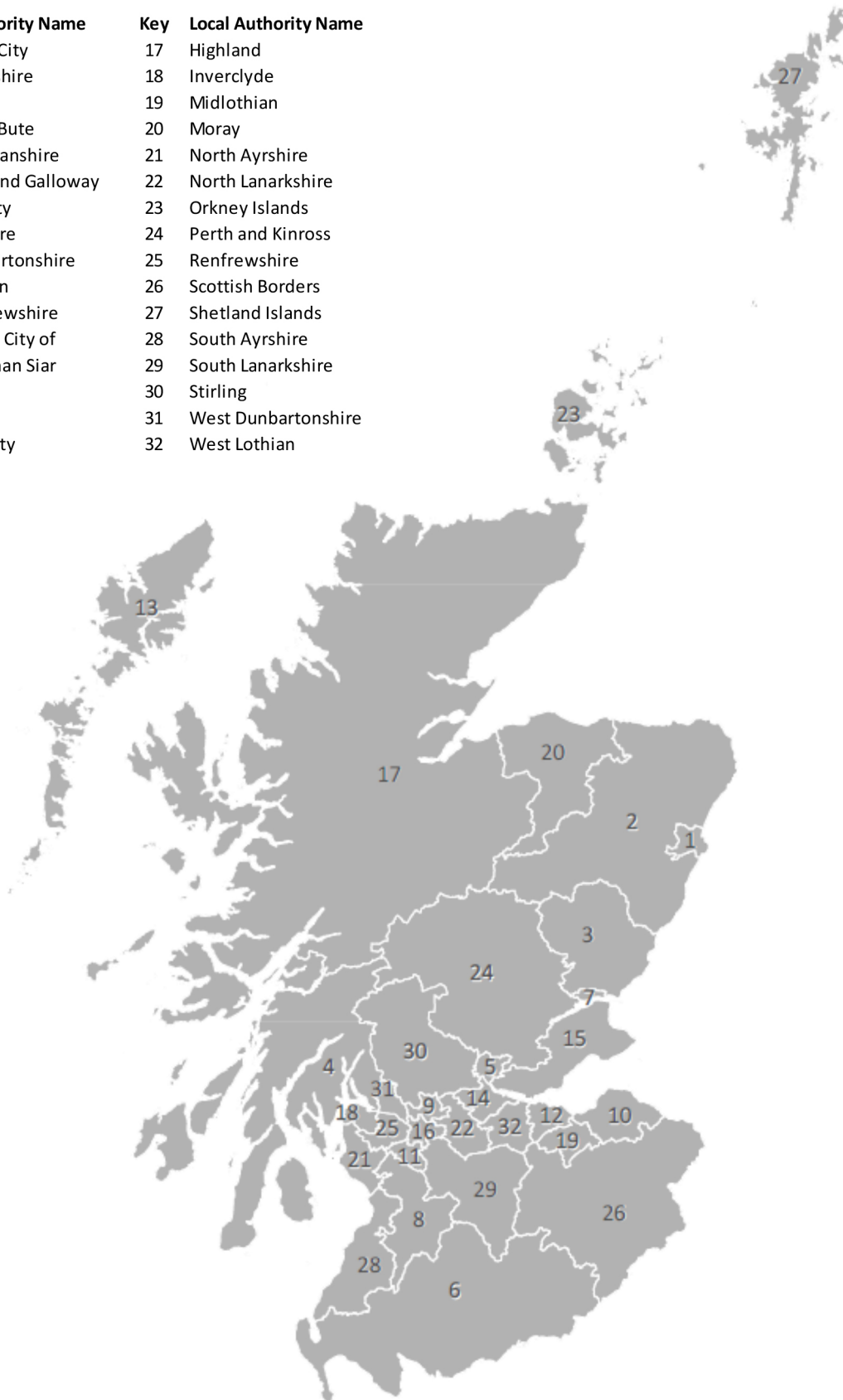


Figure 25: Number of non-domestic premises audited by premises type and risk heuristic rating

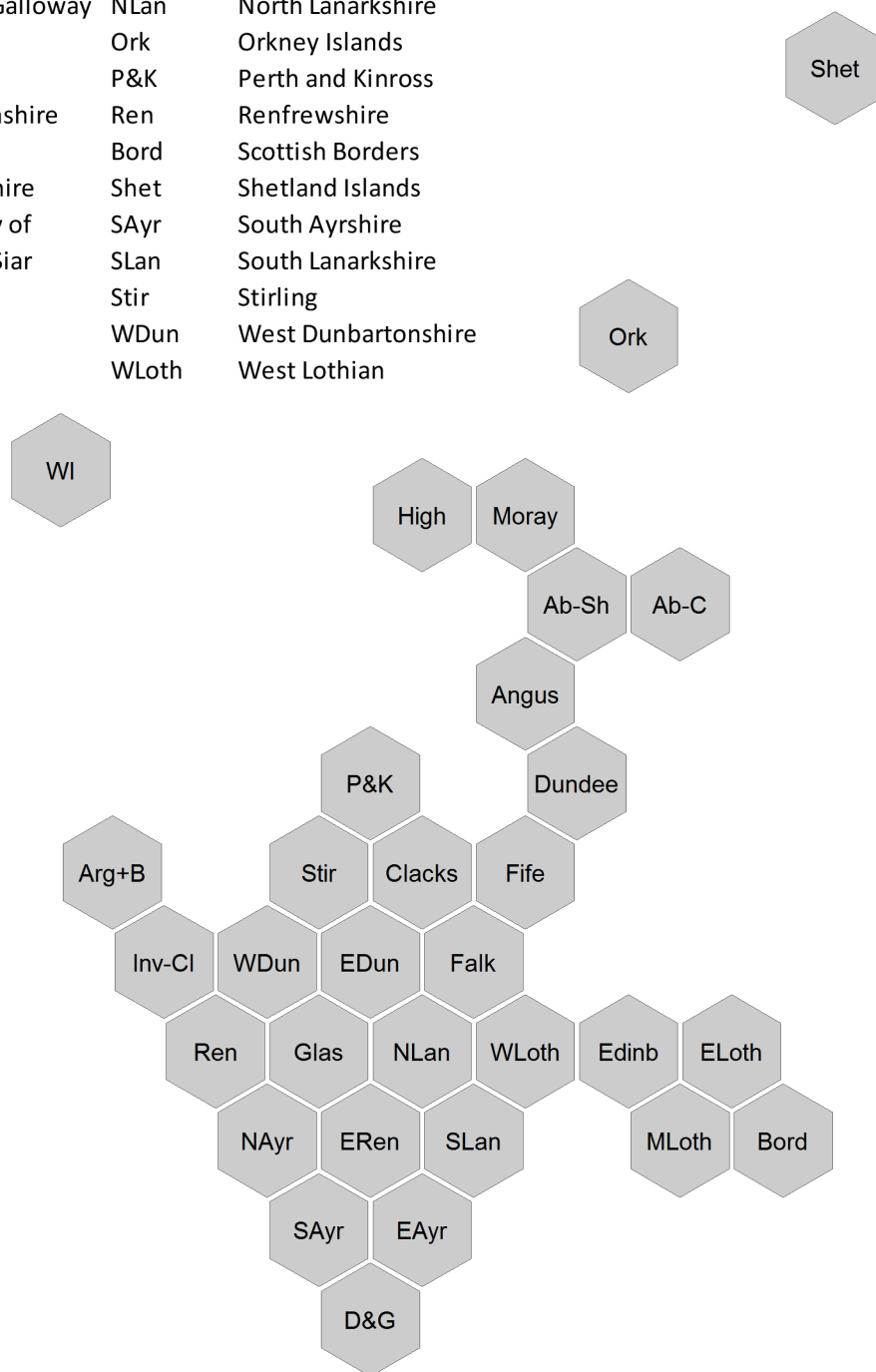
Appendix A

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



Cartogram Local Authority Key

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



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