



SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Her Majesty's Chief
Inspector of Fire Services
for Scotland
Report for 1980

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland
by Command of Her Majesty
October 1981*

EDINBURGH
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
£3.10 net

Cmd 8375



SCOTTISH ROYAL FIRE BRIGADES AUTHORITY

Her Majesty's Chief
Inspector of Fire Services
for Scotland
Report for 1980

Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland
in pursuance of the Fire Services Act 1975
October 1981

HER MAJESTY'S CHIEF
INSPECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES

ISBN 0 10 183750 X

010183750X

Report 1980
of P. Watters, Eq., Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE.

To the Right Honourable George Younger, M.P., Her Majesty's Secretary
of State for Scotland.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit my report on the Fire Services in Scotland
for the year ended 31st December 1980.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

P. WATTERS, Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE.

Contents

Paragraphs

SECTION A. GENERAL

Introduction	1- 6
The Inspectorate	7- 8
Inspections	9-10
Fire Authorities and Firemasters	11-16
Honours and Awards	17
Liaison with England and Wales Inspectorate	18
Legislation	19-27

SECTION B. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Establishment and Strength	28
Whole-time Personnel	29-30
Wastage	31
Retained and Volunteer Personnel	32-34
Control Room (Non-operational) Staff	35
Discipline	36
Health	37

SECTION C. OPERATIONAL

Fires and Other Emergencies	38-40
Fatalities	41-42
Rescues	43
Road Accidents	44
Fire Damage	45-46

SECTION D. SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Transport	47
Equipment	48-50
Uniform and Personal Equipment	51-52
Water Supplies	53-55
Premises	56-57
Communications	58-62

SECTION E. FIRE PREVENTION

Summary	63
Education and Publicity	64-65
Inspection and Certification of Premises	66-67
Use of Operational Firemen on Fire Prevention Duties	68
Joint Fire Prevention Committee	69-70
Fire Precautions in European Hotels	71
Consumer Protection Legislation	72
Health and Safety Executive	73
Building Regulations	74
Fire Vandalism	75
Voluntary Activities	76

SECTION F. TRAINING

Paragraphs

Scottish Fire Service Training School	77-79
Fire Service National Colleges	80-81
Seconded Staff at Training Centres	82
Local Training	83
Home Office Unit for Educational Methods	84
Fire Services Examinations Board (Scotland)	85-88

SECTION G. MISCELLANEOUS

Fire Brigade Sports and Athletics Association	89-95
Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council	96-97
Research	98-99

Pages

TABLES

1 —Establishments and Strengths	22
2 —Changes in Whole-time Strengths	24
3 —Summary of Fires	25
4 —Fatalities	26
4(a)—Comparative Fatalities 1979/80	27
5 —Fire Prevention—Certification of Registered Premises (Fire Precautions Act 1971)	28

SECTION A

General

Introduction

1. Brigades settled down satisfactorily to the revised working routine brought about by the reduction in their normal working hours to 42 per week. Adjustments were made to brigade training routines and other programmes in order to maintain a full working output within the shorter number of duty hours available.

2. During the latter part of the year it appeared likely that considerable disruption to normal working would occur due to a pay dispute but at no time was the fire or emergency aspect of the brigades' functions affected.

3. Following an intensive review of national fire policy undertaken over some 3 years by the Home Department and other Government Departments concerned, a Green Paper entitled Future Fire Policy was published in June as a consultative document. The review identified a wide range of factors and considerations affecting the validity of current fire policy in its widest sense, and by the end of the year comments and views, some of which revealed the need for more detailed study on the matters contained in the review, had been received from many fire service, local authority and other representative bodies.

4. Continuing restraints on fire service finance, as part of the general constraints which were placed on local authorities, meant firemasters, once more, were required to adjust the priorities and costs of various projects and services. Although no visible evidence is apparent it must be acknowledged that constant reduction of fire service finances will ultimately result in a lowering of standards, either in manpower or equipment. Firemasters however do take cognisance of the economic state of the country as a whole whilst at the same time seeking to improve the standards and efficiency of their respective brigades within the local authority budget. The fact that the service remains operationally sound and efficient is a credit to their efforts in this field.

5. The highlight of the statistical aspect of this report is the reduction of 37 in the number of fatalities attributed to fire incidents. The 138 total, compared to last year's 175, is very heartening indeed. A breakdown of the total is given in Table 4 where it will show, unfortunately, that once again the younger and elder age groups of our society provide the majority of the fatalities.

6. I would wish to record my appreciation of the assistance given me by Firemasters, Fire Authorities and associated bodies throughout the year. I would also record my thanks for the courtesy shown to myself and staff during our visits.

The Inspectorate

7. The complement of the Inspectorate remained as per last year i.e.:
- HM Inspector Grade I (1)
 - HM Inspector Grade II (1)
 - Assistant Inspectors (4)—2 of whom are involved in the inspection and certification of Crown properties.
8. Several new committees and working parties were set up during the year under the aegis of the Home Office Fire Department and members of the Inspectorate staff were represented on those groups relevant to their functions. These new commitments were balanced by the termination and reporting by other working parties on completion of their remit. In many discussion areas there are aspects of fire service practices and procedures which have a particular Scottish slant and it is felt necessary to ensure that representation at Committee level is maintained from the Scottish Inspectorate.

Inspections

9. All brigades in Scotland were visited during the year by members of the Inspectorate for the purpose of gathering information as to the manner in which fire authorities are carrying out their legal duties and I am pleased to say that the overall standards of efficiency are satisfactory. During each visit large scale exercises were held and discussion took place with Firemasters and their senior staff during which relevant points were covered and advice rendered as to how improvements could be made.

10. These inspection visits provide a useful forum for the exchange of views and ideas with the officers primarily responsible for the running of the brigades. Systems and methods found worthy of mention are noted, discussed and put forward to other brigades for consideration should those brigades wish to adopt such ideas for their own betterment. Such innovative ideas highlight the Inspectorate's role as an advisory service as well as assisting in achieving a degree of standardisation of systems and methods.

Fire Authorities and Firemasters

11. At the end of the year the following were the Firemasters in the various brigades:

Central Region Fire Brigade	Firemaster H. Moran, GRAD. I.FireE.
Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade	Firemaster R. F. Holland-Thomas, Q.F.S.M., GRAD. I.FireE.
Fife Fire Brigade	Firemaster F. Ballantyne, M.I.FireE.
Grampian Fire Brigade	Firemaster D. R. Close, O.B.E., F.I.FireE.
Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade	Firemaster W. M. G. Kerr, F.I.FireE.
Northern Fire Brigade	Firemaster W. Shand, GRAD. I.FireE.
Strathclyde Fire Brigade	Firemaster R. J. Kowlton, Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE.
Tayside Fire Brigade	Firemaster D. Nicoll, M.B.E., F.I.FireE.

12. During the year Firemaster J. Anderson, C.B.E., Q.F.S.M., F.I.Fire.E., retired from the Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade and I would like to pay tribute to the sterling service rendered by Mr Anderson to the Scottish Fire Service in particular and the UK Fire Service in general.

13. Mr W. M. G. Kerr, F.I.Fire.E., was appointed by Lothian and Borders Fire Board to succeed Mr Anderson.

14. Mr A. Jones, O.B.E., Q.F.S.M., F.I.Fire.E., retired as Firemaster of Tayside at the end of 1980 and was succeeded by Mr D. Nicoll, M.B.E., F.I.Fire.E.

15. Mr A. Jones took up the appointment of Commandant of the Scottish Fire Service Training School following his retiral as Firemaster and in thanking him for his past excellent assistance I wish him well in his new post and look forward to continuing friendly collaboration.

16. Mr H. Carr, Commandant at the Scottish Fire Service Training School, Gullane, transferred to a senior instructional and administrative post at the Fire Service Technical College, Moreton-in-Marsh, and all who know him will have no doubt he will fill his new appointment with distinction.

Honours and Awards

17. The following received recognition in the Queen's Honours Lists:—

Order of the British Empire (Civil Division)

Member (M.B.E.)

James Forbes, Senior Divisional Officer, Strathclyde Fire Brigade.

David Nicoll, F.I.Fire.E., Deputy Firemaster, Tayside Fire Brigade

British Empire Medal (Civil Division)

Grace M. M. Jeffrey, Senior Fire Control Operator, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

Joseph A. Stead, Sub-Officer, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

Queen's Fire Service Medal (Q.F.S.M.)

William Harper, M.I.Fire.E., Deputy Firemaster, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

The Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was awarded to 112 members of Scottish Fire Brigades.

Liaison with England and Wales Inspectorate

18. Liaison with the Inspectorate in England and Wales is maintained to our mutual benefit. Although the initiative in many of the matters for discussion is generally taken by our colleagues in the Home Office we play a significant part in all national fire service work, in particular to ensure that the special problems or conditions in Scotland are given proper consideration. The personal relationship between Inspectorate staff in Scotland and in England and Wales is excellent and there is no problem in maintaining a happy and worthwhile liaison.

Legislation

19. The Firemen's Pension Scheme (Amendment) Order 1980 which came into operation on 1st April 1980 amends the Firemen's Pension Scheme 1973.

20. Part I of the Schedule to this Order, which takes effect from 1st April 1972, clarifies certain provisions in the 1973 Scheme whereby all uprated service prior to April 1972 or transferred service into the Scheme after that date under Article 48, 49, 51 or 52 reckons towards the widow's accrued pension. It also makes it clear that a widow's accrued pension is calculated on her husband's gross deferred pension.

21. Part II of the Schedule confirms that from 7th April 1977 a fireman who is suspended from duty because he is accused of an offence against discipline or of a criminal offence will receive pay during the period of suspension.

22. Part III of the Schedule, which takes effect from 6th April 1978, provides that the earnings limit on repayment of contributions is pensionable pay of £5,000 in any tax year falling within the appropriate period of service.

23. Part IV of the Schedule, which takes effect from 1st April 1980, amends provisions in the 1973 Scheme concerned with flat rate national insurance modifications. The amendments take account of increases in flat rate benefits and the modification in firemen's pensions which have resulted in a reduction of 5p per week and end this reduction of pension contributions (with the exception of 1p per week in respect of non-duplication of industrial injury benefit). This amendment also adapts the provisions about the modification of pensions so that they do not apply to service to which the new contribution rate applies.

24. Part V of the Schedule, which takes effect from 6th April 1980, abolishes the earnings limit on repayment of contributions referred to in Part III of the Schedule.

25. Article 5 extends the time limit for claiming an award under Article 16D of the 1973 Scheme to allow advantage to be taken of the change in the earnings limit made by Part III of the Schedule to this Order.

26. The Firemen's Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1980 modifies Article 55 of the Firemen's Pension Scheme 1973 in its application for firemen serving in 1978 and 1979 in order to effect credit of full notional pension in relation to the staged pay increases implemented in 1978 and 1979. Retrospective effect is authorised by sections 12 and 16 of the Superannuation Act 1972.

27. The Firemen's Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 1980 amends the Firemen's Pension Scheme Orders of 1973, 1971, 1966, 1964,

1956, 1952 and 1948. The Orders of 1971, 1966, 1964, 1956, 1952 and 1948 have ceased to have effect except in the case of an award or payment to or in respect of, or relating to, a person who ceased to be a member of a fire brigade before the respective dates of 1st April 1972, 15th February 1971, 26th August 1966, 1st August 1964, 10th July 1956 and 16th May 1952. The main amendments made by this Order ensure that awards made under those Orders which are at present of specified amounts will increase automatically in line with increases in pensions under the 1975 Act and will so avoid the need for frequent amending Orders.

SECTION B

Personnel and Administration

Establishment and Strength

28. The establishments and strengths of brigades are shown in Table 1.

Whole-time Personnel

29. A total of 163 entrants were recruited into the service for operational duties. This figure is greatly reduced compared to the totals for 1978 and 1979, which were 653 and 428 respectively, but were of course exceptional due to the reduction to a 42 hour week and the consequential need for increased establishments.

30. At the end of the year the total operational establishment for the Scottish Fire Service was 4,359 but the actual number in post was 4,300 which meant that at the end of the year the total strength of the Scottish brigades was 59 under the authorised establishment.

Wastage

31. The recruitment figure of 163 was offset by a loss of 135 operational personnel during the year. This compares very favourably with the loss of 193 operational personnel in 1979. Changes in strength are shown in Table 2.

Retained and Volunteer Personnel

32. The part-time retained and volunteer establishments and strengths are as follows:—

	<i>Establishment</i>		<i>Actual Strength</i>	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
Retained	2,636	2,636	2,351	2,382
Volunteer	1,392	1,483	1,177	1,292

33. The retained section shows a shortfall in actual strength in relation to establishment but the actual strength figure increased by 31 during 1980.

34. One retained unit was replaced by a whole-time station and 3 new volunteer units were formed during the year.

Control Room (Non-operational) Staff

35. In all brigades control staff was up to full strength.

Discipline

36. Eighteen cases of breach of discipline, under the Fire Service (Discipline) (Scotland) Regulations 1953, were heard during the year and 13 punishments were awarded.

Health

37. The total number of working days lost due to sickness in brigades averaged 5.13%. No fatalities or serious injuries to personnel were reported.

SECTION C

Operational

Fires and Other Emergencies

38. Owing to industrial disputes during the year, which affected the administrative reporting procedures in brigades, the number of incidents in total (see Table 3) includes estimates for those periods subject to the disputes. Nevertheless it is evident that a downward trend can be shown in the majority of fire authority areas.

39. Fire calls were reduced by 850 to a total of 32,998, chimney fire totals were down from 6,070 to 5,643 (a reduction of 427) and false alarms showed a lower figure of 19,575 compared to last year's 21,752. The most heartening aspect of the latter area was the reduction in malicious false alarm calls from 6,829 in 1979 to 5,746 in 1980, down by 1,083.

40. It would not be wise to assume that the 999 vandals are beginning to realise the error of their ways, it may perhaps be more pertinent to attribute the reduction to the effectiveness of brigade campaigns at local levels and perhaps to better parental control. The fact remains however that brigade resources were misdirected on 5,746 occasions during the year, an average of 15 per day, and for that reason I would expect the courts to deal with convicted offenders in a manner suitable to the crime.

Fatalities

41. Deaths directly due to fire in 1980 were 138 which is a considerable improvement over the 1979 total of 175 and gives cause for guarded optimism for the future. Whilst it can be said that any reduction in fire fatalities is creditable, one cannot but express concern at the fact that as many as 138 persons died in fires, or from injuries sustained in fires, during 1980 (see Table 4). The prime function of the fire service is in preventing loss of life from fire and it is a cause of concern, and disappointment among firemen when fatalities occur. It can only be stressed again that carelessness and neglect are among the prime causes of fire.

42. Anyone who has suffered a family or property loss through fire normally shows a greater respect for that danger than those who have yet to accept the menace into their own homes. The public must be on guard at all times and I make no apology for emphasising that the young and the old are most in need of protection, in many cases from the results of their own actions but no less from the careless action of others. Eleven children under the age of 5 years and 60 persons aged 60 years and over are included in the total number of fatalities. Both groups are in need of protection, and are generally dependant upon others for their safety. It is vital that they should not be let down.

Rescues

43. Fire brigade personnel were responsible for rescuing 432 persons from fire situations during the year and 426 persons were rescued from incidents other than fire. As the expertise of the fire brigade as an emergency service increases so, it seems, does the number of calls for assistance. The number rescued from fire incidents was 100 more than in 1979.

Road Accidents

44. A total of 871 road accidents were attended by brigades during the year. This is a reduction of 496 from last year's total.

Fire Damage

45. From figures obtained from the British Insurance Association indications are that the U.K. fire damage total for 1980 was £469.3 million, which is an increase of 32% over last year's total of £355.3 million. Scotland's contribution to the U.K. total amounted to £40.2 million compared to £26.7 million for 1979. Although this is an increase over the 1979 total it compares not unfavourably with the total of £40 million in 1978.

46. At all times it is necessary to guard against fire and its aftermath but in a time of high unemployment it is particularly important to protect the number of workplaces. Premises destroyed by fire inevitably cause more unemployment and I would appeal to commercial and industrial workforces to do their utmost to maintain their jobs by exercising maximum vigilance in order to prevent fire. The employers are, in the main, doing their best by following the recommendations of the fire prevention officers of their local brigade, but it requires action by all members of a workforce to identify and remove possible causes of fire. Fires in commercial premises not only cause loss of employment due to damage to the premises but valuable orders prepared for export may be damaged beyond repair, plans and documents may be destroyed and imported raw materials may be unfit for further use. Therefore everyone, at every level in the workforce, should be conscious at all times of the danger to life and to property that fire causes.

SECTION D

Supplies and Services

Transport

47. All brigades have a vehicle replacement policy aimed at achieving the maximum life for each vehicle. The task of maintaining such a programme is not an easy one especially during the present financial limitations. It is important however that vehicle replacement should not fall so far behind the practical life span of operational service that the vehicles become obsolescent and spare parts become difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. In such cases great reliance is placed upon brigade engineers and workshop staffs to keep vehicles in a serviceable condition and in this respect their efforts to date should not go unmentioned. The present total of first line appliances available in Scotland is 560 of which approximately 15% are over 15 years old.

Equipment

48. A variety of equipment suitable for fire service use is tested and evaluated by brigades prior to approval by the Design and Development Committee of the Advisory Councils. Scottish brigades play their part in the evaluation trials. Out of a total of 1,353 breathing apparatus sets in use by Scottish brigades, 840 sets were of the positive pressure type. The introduction of this type of breathing apparatus in which a positive pressure maintained within the face mask prevents ingress of toxic vapours and fumes etc., was recommended to fire brigades by the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils and it is heartening to note that fire authorities have seen fit to allocate the necessary finance to brigades in order that they may provide this safety feature. Those brigades which are not yet fully converted to positive pressure sets are working to a planned conversion programme which includes, in many areas, an intention to provide a minimum 3-4 BA sets on each fire appliance.

49. Authorities, through their respective Firemasters, are fully aware of the dangers facing firemen when dealing with the multiplicity of chemicals, toxic gases and other atmospheric contaminants and the fireman's personal protection is high on the list of priorities.

50. Following further advice by the Department on incidents involving chemicals and like hazards, brigades are in process of setting up decontamination units in which personnel attending such incidents will not only be cleansed of contaminants but will also be subjected to an on-the-spot monitoring system followed, if necessary, by medical inspection and treatment at selected hospitals.

Uniform and Personal Equipment

51. The following developments in uniform and personal equipment have taken place during the year:—

(a) *Firemen's Lined Rubber Safety Boots*

The second phase of the revision of the specification was completed and 7 different styles of boot were listed. The test showed that the BTR design and the Uniroyal were preferred to the remaining 5 styles. The third phase of the revision of the specification which includes field testing by operational firemen is now in progress.

(b) *Firemen's Over-trouser Material*

The Woollen Industry Research Association (WIRA) who act as consultants, have proposed a project to establish a suitable standard of test for over-trouser material within the provision of BS5438. The test may take up to 6 months but it is hoped that, as a result, a more realistic specification could be drafted. As an interim measure brigades have been advised that over-trousers should be made of material capable of meeting requirements based on test (2) of BS5438.

(c) *Helmets*

Research and tests on the protection of firemen's helmets from impact are being conducted by the Motor Industry Research Association (MIRA). The tests involve conducting comparative tests on erect dummies to quantify the effects of impact from glancing blows and direct impact.

(d) *Neckerchiefs*

The 100% Nomex knitted jersey fabric type has been tested by firemen. A similar test is now being conducted on a cotton rib-interlock material with a Proban finish.

52. In addition to the developments outlined above the Committee responsible for uniform and personal equipment agreed:—

- (a) That the Department should ascertain whether there exists a better alternative to the firemen's PVC protective glove.
- (b) That the issue of anti-static type fire boot was not warranted in the fire brigade.
- (c) After considering the proposal of the Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council, that brigades involved in the testing of uniform and personal equipment should be named and that a paper on the subject should be circulated for discussion.
- (d) That no action should be taken on the suggestion by the Public Sector Standardisation Team (PSST) that size rolls should be included in the undress uniform specification until the British Standards Institution had reached a decision and until the Committee next decided to revise the specification. Strong concern was expressed by members that certain brigades were not adhering to the specifications which the Advisory Council had approved, and they deplored the adoption of unapproved modifications, made on the basis of personal preference.

Water Supplies

53. Water for firefighting is the principal weapon in the armoury of the firefighter and over the years there has been a steady increase in the provision of new water mains and water hydrants strategically located to permit firemen to have ready access to a pressure supply of water.

54. In the late 1940s a British Standard pattern of hydrant was introduced with a standard type of outlet and it is a source of regret that today, over 30 years later, not all hydrants conform to the standard pattern and the standard outlet. Only one brigade in Scotland has achieved complete standardisation.

55. In 1979 a total of 1,546 new hydrants were installed, which included 683 non-standard replacements. A further 11,050 non-standard type remain and a special effort is needed by fire authorities to achieve full standardisation. In all, there were a total of 125,089 local authority fire hydrants in Scotland at the end of the year.

Premises

56. Fire brigades' premises comprise fire stations, headquarters, divisional headquarters, workshops, stores depots, training chambers each with ancillary facilities. In general, the premises are satisfactory but there are a few locations where they are far from satisfactory and the present financial climate is preventing necessary progress being made. In those older parts of our major cities where professional fire brigades were introduced during the last century there is a need to re-site and replace very old premises which, today, are not suitable for the needs of a modern fire service.

57. Despite the age and inadequacy of some old buildings in a few brigades, the maintenance and standard of cleanliness is good. The overall standard of maintenance and cleanliness in all buildings is generally satisfactory.

Communications

58. Arising from decisions at the World Administrative Radio Conference in 1979, the U.K. Emergency Services require to vacate the 98-102 MHz Band by 1989. For this reason planning for proposed major changes and new schemes was curtailed and brigades adopted minor amendments to their main communications systems. However, some progress was made in the developed of new computer and micro-processor assisted mobilising systems. Due to the high cost of maintenance covered by annual contracts some brigades decided to set up and staff a brigade radio workshop or a combined regional workshop as a solution to this problem which is technically more efficient and more cost effective.

59. Brigades, in general, recognise the value of communications for speedy and efficient mobilising and fast retrieval of essential information and are gradually progressing, within their limited financial resources, to install modern equipment in control rooms allied to vehicle location boards.

60. Pocket alerters, which give a signal only and which are light and compact, are in general use throughout Scotland and have dispensed with the need to disturb the peace of the neighbourhood by sounding roof-mounted war-time sirens. Retained men find the alerters very efficient, reliable and a considerable assistance to them in responding to an emergency. Fireground communications are very important to the Officer in Charge of an incident by enabling him to keep in voice contact with crews spread throughout and around a building on fire and it was pleasing to note that brigades have continued to increase the supply and use of pocket sets for fireground purposes. Pocket sets, which give a voice transmission, permit crews to talk to each other without interfering with the main brigade frequency and, in addition to their use in a fire situation, can be used by crews to carry out pre-inspection of high risk premises without interfering with the capability to give an instant response to a fire call.

61. Communication for breathing apparatus, an essential tool of the fireman's trade, is still not satisfactory and this is a matter requiring considerable research.

62. Brigades in Scotland operate their radio schemes with private suppliers but depend very largely on the expertise and advice supplied by the Directorate of Telecommunications of the Scottish Office and during the year much valuable assistance was provided by the Directorate staff.

SECTION E

Fire Prevention

Summary

63. The number of premises visited for fire prevention purposes was 59,216, a total of 687 fewer than the previous years' figures. In addition, copies of 10,100 plans were submitted to fire brigade officers for comment or discussion.

Education and Publicity

64. Continuing financial restraints made it necessary to ensure that general fire prevention and fire safety information for the public was planned on a selective basis. A limited fire prevention publicity campaign was however promoted through the commercial television and radio media during October, when there is normally a transition to winter heating arrangements, and over the Christmas/New Year period, when there are particular dangers arising from childrens' parties and similar activities.

65. At the request of the Department's Fire Precautions Publicity Steering Committee, a special leaflet on the marking and functional use of fire doors was prepared for distribution by brigades for the information of managements and occupiers of premises where there is a need for such doors. Because of public concern about the special fire dangers associated with certain high rise flats, a leaflet on fire safety in these buildings was prepared by the Information Sub-Committee of the Joint Fire Prevention Committee. Copies of the leaflet were provided for brigades in Scotland for appropriate distribution in their areas.

Inspection and Certification of Premises

66. The number of fire certificates issued under the Fire Precautions Act 1971 during the year was as follows:

Factories	332 (340)
Offices and Shops etc.	748 (657)
Hotels and Boarding Houses	495 (361)

The 1979 figures are shown in brackets.

67. In addition to the issue of new fire certificates, authorities issued revised certificates to 236 factories, 387 offices and shops, and 371 hotels and boarding houses.

Use of Operational Firemen on Fire Prevention Duties

68. There is a continuing commitment for brigades to make use of operational firemen on fire prevention duties and most brigades are gradually extending the scope of this work to include routine inspections of certificated premises and the certification of smaller premises by station personnel.

Joint Fire Prevention Committee

69. Under the aegis of this Committee, work continued on the preparation of 2 draft fire prevention guides, one on hospitals and a similar one for residential care establishments. In addition, a start was made with the drafting of a guide which would provide suitable advice on means of escape and other fire safety matters appropriate to houses in multiple occupation and hostel-type accommodation.

70. The work of the Planning/Legislation Sub-Committee continued to cover a very wide field of interests. Their special reports on the multiple fatality fires which occurred in 1979 in a nursing home at Sutton Coldfield and at the Woolworth's store in Manchester were made available to brigades. In the light of practical experience with the administration of the Fire Precautions Act 1971, the Sub-Committee have also been considering the relative effectiveness of the present fire certification provisions of the Act and the feasibility of other possible methods of control.

Fire Precautions in European Hotels

71. As reported last year the European Commission was preparing a preliminary draft proposal for a Directive on fire precautions in existing hotels. There were no meetings during the year of the Commission's Working Group, which had produced the draft, and an answer given in the European Parliament on 30th October indicated that the Commission did not intend to continue this work in this field or to send a proposal for a Directive to the Council of Ministers.

Consumer Protection Legislation

72. As a step towards the reduction of fire dangers associated with modern upholstered furniture, the Upholstered Furniture (Safety) Regulations 1980 were made by the Department of Trade and Consumer Affairs. Under these Regulations, all upholstered seating furniture offered for sale in the United Kingdom on or after 1st October 1980 requires to carry a warning label unless it satisfies tests for resistance to ignition by smouldering cigarettes.

Health and Safety Executive

73. Liaison between the Health and Safety Executive and the Inspectorate continued. This involved a number of meetings and contributions to the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Substances.

Building Regulations

74. Fire Brigades and the Inspectorate continue to be represented on the Scottish Building Standards Advisory Committee. As reported last year, major revision of Parts D and E of the Building Standards (Scotland) (Consolidation) Regulations 1971 was taking place. This work is now nearing completion and the revised regulations are expected to be in force during 1982.

Fire Vandalism

75. Following the publication of the special report of the Home Office Working Party on Fires Caused by Vandalism, a seminar which was held in April at the Fire Service Training College was attended by representatives of a number of Scottish interests, including members of the fire service and the police Inspectorate. The report was circulated to fire authorities and Chief Constables for information and possible action on a number of its proposals.

Voluntary Activities

76. With the more widespread use of liquified petroleum gas in recent years, both in industry and domestically, there is a continuing need for users to be better informed about its properties and possible dangers. To help meet this need a special conference on the subject was held by the Fire Protection Association in Glasgow on 4th November. This was attended by representatives of industry, the insurance companies, and the fire service.

SECTION F

Training

Scottish Fire Service Training School

77. The Training School at Gullane, which is administered and run by the Scottish Office, concentrated its courses on recruit training. Each recruit was given 13 weeks basic training and a total of 165 recruits were trained during the year.

78. In addition to the training given to fire brigade personnel a special industrial course was organised for 10 members of the Scottish Health Boards.

79. Considerable building alterations are continuing at Gullane but the full development of the School has been curtailed due to current financial constraints. It is hoped in future years to provide a variety of suitable courses for members of fire brigades and those industries where fire safety is an important consideration.

Fire Service National Colleges

80. All brigades continue to make use of the courses arranged at the Fire Service Staff College and the Fire Service Technical College. Both institutions cater for residential courses on a progressive training system for all officer ranks in the service.

81. The Fire Service Staff College at Dorking will be closed some time in 1981 as a result of the staffing reductions in the Home Office Fire Department and the training aspects will be transferred to the Technical College at Moreton-in-Marsh. I am quite sure however that the higher command courses will continue to benefit from the same expert level of instruction despite the change of venue.

Seconded Staff at Training Centres

82. Tribute must be paid to fire authorities for their co-operation and willingness to release experienced uniformed staff to carry out the instructional duties at Gullane and at the national colleges. Staff are seconded for agreed periods, subject to extensions in approved cases, and this system is mutually beneficial to the training schools and to the brigades which release their staff. In paying tribute to fire authorities it must not be forgotten that without the self-sacrifice and devotion to duty displayed by seconded staff the difficulty in running an efficient centre would be intensified.

Local Training

83. Brigades continue to provide a variety of local courses for their own personnel as an ongoing training need.

Home Office Unit for Educational Methods

84. It was intimated by the Home Office that this Unit at Moreton-in-Marsh, which had hitherto prepared programmed learning material for the fire service and other public services, was to be discontinued. Arrangements were made however for the distribution of existing stocks of material produced by the Unit to be undertaken by the Home Office itself.

Fire Services Examinations Board (Scotland)

85. The 1980 written promotion examinations took place at various centres during the months of January, February and March. The results were as follows (1979 figures in brackets):

<i>Examination</i>	<i>Number of Candidates</i>	<i>Passes</i>
Station Officer	205 (168)	49 (54)
Sub-Officer	328 (381)	153 (150)
Leading Fireman	1,004 (688)	336 (176)

86. Concern was expressed by the Examinations Board at the continuing high level of absenteeism from the examinations—overall this was of the order of 23%.

87. Prize certificates were presented to the leading candidates in the written examinations at an informal ceremony held in Kirkcaldy on 19th June by courtesy of Fife Regional Council. The following were the prize-winners:

Station Officer Examination:

Sub-Officer Vincent Simson, Strathclyde

Sub-Officer Examination:

Fireman Alan Scott, Lothian and Borders

Leading Fireman Examination:

Fireman Gavin Dunlop, Lothian and Borders

88. The practical examinations for Leading Fireman and Sub-Officer candidates were conducted by the fire authorities and the Board respectively during April and May with the following results (1979 figures in brackets):

<i>Examination</i>	<i>Number of Candidates</i>	<i>Passes</i>
Leading Fireman	340 (190)	247 (128)
Sub-Officer	197 (171)	110 (128)

SECTION G

Miscellaneous

Fire Brigade Sports and Athletics Association

89. The Scottish District of the Fire Brigade Sports and Athletics Association comprises the eight fire brigades, Glasgow Salvage Corps and the Scottish Fire Service Training School. Representatives from all the aforementioned enjoyed a successful sporting year. A year which marked the 10th Anniversary of the Scottish District, which occasion was celebrated by a function in Northern Fire Brigade Headquarters.

90. In the football arena the Scottish Fire Services team played matches against an English brigades side, the Royal Navy and the Scottish Police. The results were a draw and two wins respectively.

91. Lothian and Borders hosted the British Fire Brigades Track and Field Championships at Meadowbank Stadium in Edinburgh and the International Road Race was once again featured by Strathclyde.

92. On the golf scene a Tayside team were runners-up in the Sheriff Cup, a British Fire Service Team Championship, and Fife provided the individual winner of the National Match Play Event.

93. A Lothian and Borders seven-a-side rugby team represented Scotland in an Annual event of this nature and successfully carried off the Trophy.

94. Scottish brigades also participated at national level in swimming, volleyball, table tennis and in the super sportsman competition which has become an annual event on the sporting calendar.

95. All the aforementioned interests could not survive were it not for the hard work and dedication of the respective Sports Representatives in each brigade. Their efforts, and the assistance of their respective Firemasters, are greatly appreciated by all sections of the Fire Services Sports and Athletics Association.

Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council

96. The Advisory Council held two meetings during the year. On the first occasion the Chair was taken by Mr A. L. Rennie, Secretary of the Scottish Home and Health Department; at the second meeting Mr Malcolm Rifkind, M.P., Scottish Office Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment was in the Chair.

97. The Council considered reports from the Joint Standing Committees on Pensions, Training, Communications, Fire Brigade Operations, Fire

Research, Fire Prevention, Uniform and Personal Equipment and Design and Development of Appliances and Equipment. The Council also considered and approved the paper on Ability Range Tests for Whole-time Recruits to the Fire Service, the Report of the Working Party on The Role of the Helicopter in the Fire Service, and the Reports from the Study Groups to Review Fire Service Procedures for Incidents on Motorways, on the Protection of Firemen from Toxic Hazards and the Review of Signals for Evacuation. The Council also approved the Nomex firefighting tunic, undress uniform pullover, tabard for Incident Control Officers and rank markings for operational uniforms. In addition the Council considered developments on matters arising from the Green Paper on Future Fire Policy.

Research

98. Through the Scientific Advisory Branch of the Home Office and a number of outside agencies, work continued during the year on the various fire-related research projects in the approved programme of the Joint Committee on Fire Research. This included certain projects concerned with research into health hazards to firemen and, following the Woolworths store fire in Manchester, special research into the dangers associated with the display and storage of polyurethane foam-filled furniture.

99. Reports on research projects on the use of bulk foam stocks, the provision of information on hazardous substances, and ability-range tests for whole-time recruits to the fire service were circulated to fire authorities during the year.

TABLE 1

WHOLETIME	CENTRAL			DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY			FIFE			GRAMPIAN		
	Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength	
		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female
Wholetime Operational												
Firemaster	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Assistant Firemaster	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	—
Senior Divisional Officer	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Divisional Officer Grade I	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Divisional Officer Grade II	2	2	—	1	1	—	3	3	—	4	5	—
Divisional Officer Grade III	2	3	—	4	3	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Assistant Divisional Officer	5	5	—	5	5	—	11	11	—	10	10	—
Station Officer	15	15	—	10	10	—	28	28	—	17	17	—
Sub-Officer	23	17	—	7	7	—	27	28	—	22	18	—
Leading Fireman	28	24	—	8	8	—	74	66	—	38	44	—
Fireman	140	147	—	52	52	—	224	223	—	145	141	—
Totals	218	216	—	88	87	—	371	364	—	241	240	—
WHOLETIME CONTROL ROOM												
P.F.C. Officer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
G.F.C. Officer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F.C. Officer	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
S.F.C. Operator	1	1	—	1	—	1	4	—	4	4	1	3
L.F.C. Operator	4	3	1	4	—	4	4	—	4	4	—	4
F.C. Operator	8	2	6	6	1	5	8	—	8	6	—	6
Totals	13	6	7	11	1	10	17	—	17	15	1	14
PART-TIME RETAINED												
Station Officer	4	—	—	3	3	—	2	2	—	11	11	—
Sub-Officer	16	16	—	16	16	—	10	10	—	33	35	—
Leading Fireman	20	20	—	20	20	—	16	17	—	45	51	—
Firemen	160	127	—	157	148	—	132	92	—	361	318	—
Totals	200	163	—	196	187	—	160	121	—	450	415	—
PART-TIME VOLUNTEER												
Assistant Divisional Officer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-Officer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Leading Fireman	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Fireman	21	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41	8	5
Totals	24	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	11	5
GRAND TOTALS												
WHOLETIME OPERATIONAL	218	216	—	88	87	—	371	364	—	241	240	—
WHOLETIME CONTROL ROOM	13	6	7	11	1	10	17	—	17	15	1	14
PART-TIME RETAINED	200	163	—	196	187	—	160	121	—	450	415	—
PART-TIME VOLUNTEERS	24	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	11	5
Grand Totals	455	406	7	295	275	10	548	485	17	750	667	19

STRENGTH OF BRIGADES

31st December, 1980

LOTHIAN AND BORDERS			NORTHERN			STRATHCLYDE			TAYSIDE			GRAND TOTAL		
Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength	
	Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female
1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	8	8	—
2	2	—	1	1	—	5	5	—	1	—	—	13	12	—
3	4	—	—	—	—	7	8	—	—	1	—	11	14	—
2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	5	4	—	12	11	—
6	6	—	4	4	—	2	2	—	1	1	—	34	36	—
7	7	—	1	1	—	13	14	—	8	7	—	47	48	—
13	14	—	9	9	—	24	25	—	14	14	—	100	102	—
31	34	—	9	8	—	33	34	—	37	33	—	325	318	—
68	70	—	7	5	—	178	173	—	36	37	—	423	409	—
94	96	—	13	13	—	233	227	—	44	45	—	571	559	—
429	421	—	48	49	—	272	263	—	263	241	—	2,815	2,783	—
656	657	—	93	91	—	1,514	1,509	—	410	384	—	4,359	4,300	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	1
1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2
4	—	1	—	—	—	5	—	6	—	—	—	8	—	9
4	2	2	1	—	1	15	2	11	4	—	4	34	6	26
4	4	—	1	—	1	20	1	18	4	—	4	45	8	36
12	3	9	9	—	9	78	11	68	10	4	6	137	21	117
22	9	13	11	—	11	120	15	105	18	4	14	227	36	191
5	4	—	13	13	—	8	7	—	7	7	—	53	47	—
25	25	—	27	26	—	59	57	—	18	19	—	204	204	—
30	30	—	54	54	—	69	69	—	35	38	—	289	299	—
215	196	—	284	257	—	543	500	—	238	194	—	2,090	1,832	—
275	255	—	378	350	—	679	633	—	298	258	—	2,636	2,382	—
—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
—	—	—	90	90	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	91	92	—
—	—	—	98	83	—	2	2	—	4	1	—	109	88	—
—	—	—	928	816	—	219	228	—	28	38	—	1,237	1,111	5
—	—	—	1,117	990	—	221	230	—	32	40	—	1,438	1,292	5
656	657	—	93	91	—	2,282	2,261	—	410	384	—	4,359	4,300	—
22	9	13	11	—	11	120	15	105	18	4	14	227	36	191
275	255	—	378	350	—	679	633	—	298	258	—	2,636	2,382	—
—	—	—	1,117	990	—	221	230	—	32	40	—	1,438	1,292	5
953	921	13	1,599	1,431	11	3,302	3,139	105	758	686	14	8,660	8,010	196

**CHANGES IN WHOLE-TIME OPERATIONAL STRENGTH DURING YEAR
ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1980**

TABLE 2

BRIGADE	LOSSES										GAINS				
	By Death		By Resignation								Recruit	Transfer	Total		
	Service	Non-Service	1 to 2 years	2 to 10 years	10+	Discharge	Retire-ment	Medical	Transfer	Total					
Central	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	9	—	9
Dumfries and Galloway ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	2
Fife	—	—	6	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	12
Grampian	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	3	12
Lothian and Borders ...	—	1	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	3	2	16
Northern	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	4
Strathclyde	—	1	20	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	15	20	6	104	105
Tayside	—	—	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	3	3
Totals	—	4	38	21	3	—	—	—	—	—	26	31	12	156	163

SUMMARY OF FIRES AND SPECIAL SERVICES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1980

TABLE 3

BRIGADE	Fires requiring the attendance of							Total Fires	Chimney Fires	False Alarms			Total Fire Calls	Special Services	Total Calls
										Malicious	With good intent	Total			
	1 Pump	2 Pumps	3-4 Pumps	5 Pumps	6-8 Pumps	9-10 Pumps	11-20 Pumps								
Central	855	688	25	—	2	—	—	1,570	247	399	714	1,113	2,930	34	2,964
Dumfries and Galloway ...	402	111	10	—	—	—	—	523	230	107	272	379	1,132	219	1,351
Fife	1,859	33	5	1	—	—	—	1,898	436	518	872	1,390	3,724	224	3,948
Grampian	1,991	97	52	5	2	—	—	2,147	838	281	705	986	3,971	480	4,451
Lothian and Borders ...	5,658	351	78	7	2	—	—	6,096	716	884	1,946	2,830	9,642	547	10,189
Northern	752	40	7	1	—	—	—	800	989	154	280	434	2,223	218	2,441
Strathclyde	16,165	692	67	3	2	1	1	16,931	1,790	3,132	8,325	11,457	30,178	1,870	32,048
Tayside	2,983	43	6	1	—	—	—	3,033	397	271	715	986	4,416	400	4,816
Total	30,665	2,055	250	18	8	1	1	32,998	5,643	5,746	13,829	19,575	58,216	3,992	62,208

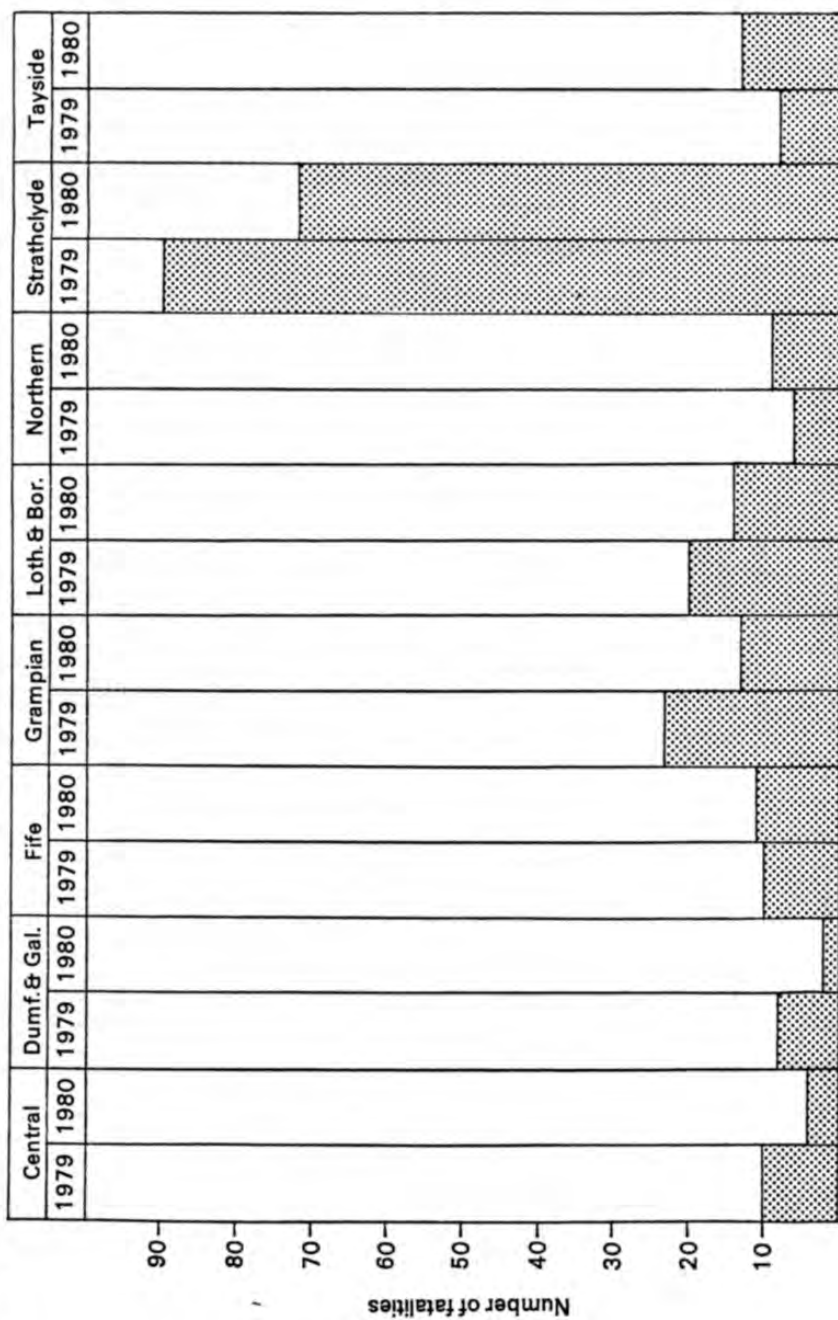
FATALITIES (Listing Age Groups and Locations)

TABLE 4

	Age Groups									Location Dwellings							Location Other Buildings				Open	Misc.					
	Total Fatalities									Total							Total						Total				
																								Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
Fatalities by Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total														
BRIGADE	Up to 5 years	6 to 10 years	11 to 20 years	21 to 40 years	41 to 60 years	Over 60 years																					
Central	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Dumfries and Galloway	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Fife	1	1	1	2	3	5	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Grampian	1	1	1	2	6	4	13	4	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Lothian and Borders	1	1	1	3	4	7	14	10	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Northern	3	1	1	1	2	2	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Strathclyde	6	3	5	7	20	31	72	56	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Tayside	1	1	1	2	2	8	13	6	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Totals	11	5	6	18	38	60	138	79	24	1	1	22	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Fatalities by Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total														
Central	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1														
Dumfries and Galloway	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1														
Fife	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1														
Grampian	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1														
Lothian and Borders	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1														
Northern	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1														
Strathclyde	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1														
Tayside	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1														
Totals	11	20	17	11	15	14	6	6	4	4	11	19	138														

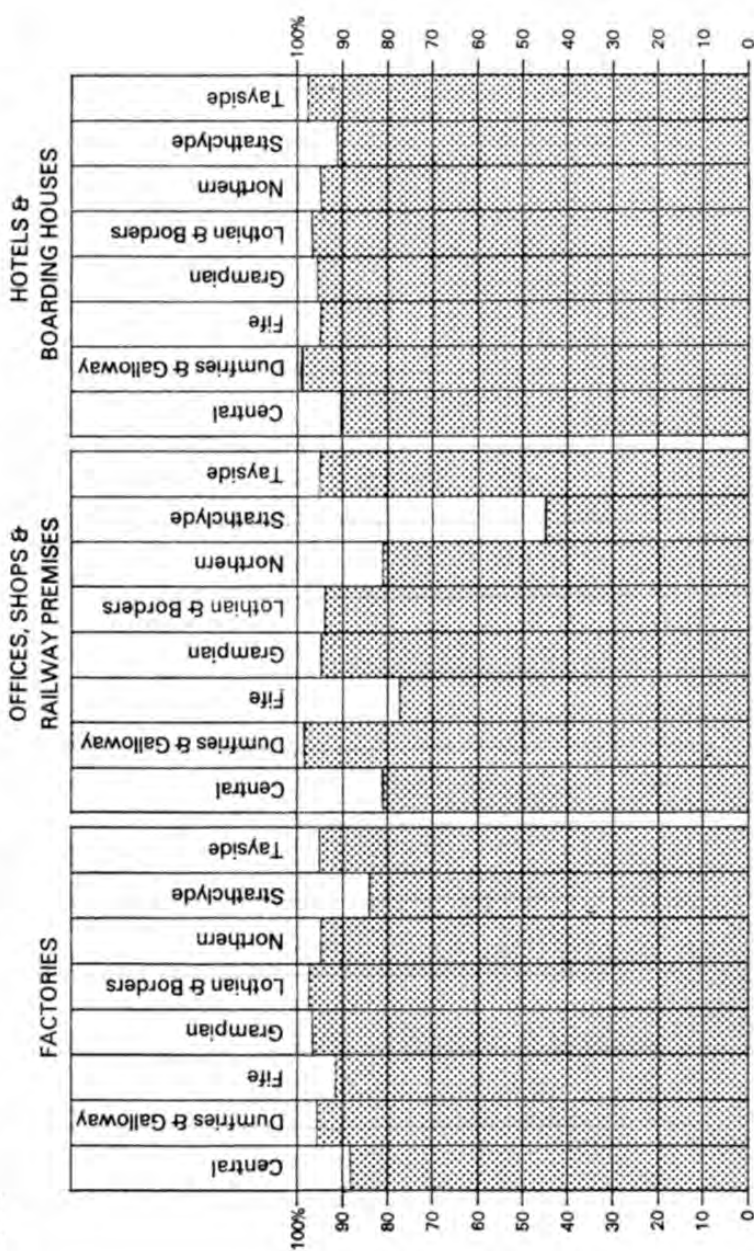
COMPARATIVE FATALITIES BY BRIGADE 1979-80

TABLE 4(r)



FIRE PREVENTION—CERTIFICATION OF REGISTERED PREMISES (FIRE PRECAUTIONS ACT 1971)

TABLE 5



Total No. of Registered Premises in Scotland: Factories 6,651; Offices, Shops, Railway Premises 16,886; Hotels etc. 4,512. The level indicates the percentage of registered premises issued with a Fire Certificate in relation to the number of registered premises in the brigade area requiring a fire certificate.

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

Government Bookshops

13A Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AR

49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6HB

41 The Hayes, Cardiff CF1 1JW

Brazennose Street, Manchester M60 8AS

Southey House, Wine Street, Bristol BS1 2BQ

258 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HE

80 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JY

*Government publications are also available
through booksellers*

ISBN 0 10 183750 X