



SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Her Majesty's
Inspector of Fire Services
for Scotland
Report for 1977

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland
by Command of Her Majesty
October 1978*

EDINBURGH
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
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Report 1977

of JOHN JACKSON, Esq., O.B.E., F.I.FireE.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE BRUCE MILLAN, M.P.

Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Scotland

SIR,

1. I have the honour to submit my report on the Fire Services in Scotland for the year ended 31st December, 1977. This introduction highlights the main features of the past year and the Chapters and Tables which follow provide more detailed information.

2. During the year the 8 fire brigades were inspected by me and my staff. I am pleased to report that, despite the picture presented by the public news media during the latter weeks of the year, the personnel maintained a high standard of morale and dedication to the service. The practical ability and skill, together with the degree of technical efficiency, required of the present-day fireman are factors which are all too readily taken for granted. It is, however, questionable if they are fully appreciated or recognised.

3. In my last report I referred to the consolidation of matters involving the Fire Service and the reorganised local authorities. It is gratifying to be able to report that the problems are almost entirely resolved. The past year has enabled the fire authorities to further their understanding of the Fire Service and its needs, whilst senior officers of brigades have likewise developed a fuller appreciation of the factors and problems facing local government administrators. A strong desire to work in harmony and the determination to co-operate have laid the foundations for a successful future.

4. The year 1977 will remain marked indelibly in the history of the Fire Service in the United Kingdom. In November, the first ever national strike involving members of the Fire Service began and continued into the following year. Faced with the responsibility of protecting life and property, fire authorities throughout the country had to request assistance from Her Majesty's Government. Emergency appliances, manned by members of the armed forces, were brought into service and deployed throughout the various fire areas. Despite their necessarily brief training, the forces' personnel provided a most effective emergency service and I gladly record my tribute and congratulations to all concerned for their efforts.

5. As would be expected, the Fire Service received considerable publicity during the period of the dispute, much of it unhelpful and misleading, and failing to make clear the dedication and professionalism of the service as a whole. The scars of industrial action do not disappear overnight; understanding, good leadership and discipline on the part of fire officers and the leaders of the representative organisations working in co-operation are essential for the restoration of confidence and harmony.

6. I am glad to be able to report a further reduction in the number of deaths due to fire. The total for the year was 106, 21 fewer than in 1976. Since the tragic death toll in 1973, when 158 persons lost their lives, the Scottish figures have decreased year by year. The efforts of the Fire Service, combined with those of the public, have thus not only halted the upward trend but have led to a steadily diminishing death toll for four successive years.
7. Of the 106 fatalities due to fire, or the effects of fire, 78 died prior to the arrival of the fire brigade. I have commented before on the rapidity with which fire can kill; even mature and active people have little time to escape from a fire in the home. Immaturity in children, and lack of mobility in the aged, place them at greater risk. Could I make a plea this year to the community in general and ask everyone concerned: "Please safeguard your children when they are young and let the elderly enjoy their later years, through constant vigilance against fire."
8. Fire calls (excluding chimney fires) showed a slight decrease from the previous year, being 37,950 as against 38,336. Chimney fires, however, rose by 504 to a total of 5,279. It is disappointing that, despite the general changeover from coal fires to other forms of domestic heating, fire brigades still attend on average 15 chimney fires every day. Members of the public have often been heard to comment, "it's only a chimney", which indicates that they regard these incidents as trivial and unimportant. Such assumptions are wrong and dangerous; the chimney fire has been the cause of many serious fires, and loss of life.
9. Special service calls decreased from 4,492 in 1976 to 4,295 in 1977 and attendances at road accidents also declined from 1,517 to 1,188. Of the road accidents attended, 130 incidents involved loss of life and 464 incidents involved casualties. (Figures for the previous year were 157 and 636 respectively.)
10. False alarm calls increased over the previous year, the totals being 12,342, as against 12,200, for false alarms with good intent, and 7,668, as against 6,794, for malicious calls. The increase in the number of false alarms with good intent gives no cause for concern since it indicates a growing fire consciousness on the part of the public and I wholeheartedly welcome the community spirit which prompts people to act when they consider other people, or their property, to be in danger. As to malicious false alarms, disruption of a life-saving emergency service cannot be tolerated and I sincerely hope that the recent increase in penalties will prove a deterrent to would-be offenders.
11. Hopes of a reduction in the year's financial loss received a severe setback when, in the first week of January, an incident involving a fire and an explosion led to losses of approximately £4 million. Fire losses during the last 2 months of the year were also well above average, due partly to the industrial dispute.
12. Fires in the home, although more frequent than fires in industrial and commercial concerns, do not add greatly to the monetary loss figures. It is the large concerns which have the major fires and which consequently account for the major proportion of the fire losses.
13. Despite the expertise and advice given by fire brigades and the availability of sophisticated alarm and extinguishing equipment, industry still suffers from fires which, financially and economically, have very serious consequences

indeed. Small fires which are undetected and uncontrolled can result in the complete destruction of plant and premises, quite apart from loss of employment by the workforce concerned.

14. I mentioned last year that good safety standards in industry are the responsibility of management and the workforce. Events often show, however, that somewhere along the line the declared intentions are sometimes not implemented. The people most aware of the hazards of fire are those who have experienced the disastrous consequences; the fire brigade is rarely called twice to premises under the same occupancy. My advice to business in general is: "Establish and maintain good safety control procedures over your establishment and workforce."

15. Fire prevention officers visited a total of 52,612 premises last year and discussions were held with architects and various other building interests on 11,796 submitted plans. A breakdown on the types of premises visited is contained in Table 4.

16. The Scottish Fire Service Training School at Gullane successfully trained 246 recruits, as compared with 169 in 1976. An additional 31 students attended for other specialised courses. During the year, the first phase of the new development at the School was completed, namely the transport workshops/garage and appliance rooms, which are now operational. The remainder of the development, comprising additional study bedrooms, together with improved lecture, dining and recreation facilities is scheduled to commence in 1978.

17. Mr. H. Carr, M.B.E., M.I.FireE., was appointed Commandant at the Training School in succession to the late Mr. J. Hartil. Mr. Carr held the post of Deputy Commandant at the Fire Service Staff College.

18. The redevelopment of towns, the extension of risk areas created by development of housing areas and industrial estates demand the constant scrutiny of fire cover standards. As a consequence, 6 of the 8 brigades contemplate the upgrading of certain stations within their territory. In most cases this will entail the replacement of a retained unit with one manned by whole-time personnel. In Grampian, the authority is considering the provision of a new station on the south side of Aberdeen, where extensive development is taking place. In Strathclyde, a similar situation exists at Irvine South, while in Glasgow a complete review of station replacement and location is in hand to ensure that the fire provisions are appropriate for the road work and building development proposed for the city.

19. With the ever-growing complexities encountered in modern industry, the health and safety of firemen has become an increasing responsibility. Advice has been given to fire authorities on the standards of protective clothing and decontamination procedures required when firemen attend incidents involving hazardous chemical substances. A revised procedure for the operational use of breathing apparatus has also been issued. Fire authorities, aware of the dangers and of the need for maximum safety, have already responded by implementing the recommendations wherever appropriate.

20. In any review of the main events during the year affecting the welfare and efficiency of the Scottish Fire Service, the chronicle would not be complete without some mention of the departure of Sir James Macfarlane from this field

of activity. Sir James had served as Chairman of the Examinations Board for almost 25 years. He was a member of the Departmental Committee on the Fire Service under Sir Ronald Holroyd, on which his views and experience proved to be of great value to Scottish Fire Service interests. The Department and the service as a whole are greatly indebted to him for all his past services.

21. The fire authorities have had a difficult year. In their endeavour to maintain an efficient service, without breaching their financial constraints, their assessments and judgments have proved invaluable to the Firemasters, who are most appreciative of the assistance and understanding which they have received. I would personally wish to thank them for all the help so readily given and also for the courtesy extended to me.

22. I would also take this opportunity to express my thanks to the members of the Police Service and to the many voluntary organisations who have so willingly rendered invaluable assistance to the Fire Service.

23. Finally, I would record my personal tribute to the members of the brigades whole-time, retained, volunteer officers and men and control room staffs, whose continued loyalty and dedication to the service are an accepted pattern of life for which many members of the community will be forever grateful.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN JACKSON

H.M. Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland.

August, 1978.

CHAPTER I

Operational

Fires and Other Occurrences

1.1 The number of fire calls (excluding chimney fires) dropped by 386 from 38,336 in 1976 to 37,950 in 1977. The milder and slightly wetter summer was no doubt partly responsible for the decline, by reducing the number of grass and other outdoor fires.

1.2 Chimney fires increased by 504 over the previous year's total to 5,279. Having regard to the amount of old property demolished, the consequential reduction in the number of open coal fires and the further decrease resulting from the changeover to modern heating systems, the increase in the number of chimney fires is contrary to expectation. Unless chimneys are properly cleaned twice a year, there is a grave danger, particularly in older property, that burning soot may find its way into the roof space and ignite the roof timbers. Such fires can then develop, endangering not only the entire property but the lives of the residents. The fact that chimney sweeping services are now more difficult to obtain does not relieve occupiers of their responsibility to have the chimneys properly swept.

1.3 Special service calls decreased from 4,492 in 1976 to 4,295 in 1977 and attendances at road accidents likewise showed a reduction of 329 to a total of 1,188. Of the total number of road accidents attended, 130 incidents involved loss of life, as against 157 last year, and casualties occurred at 464 incidents as against 636 the previous year. On only 22 occasions were vehicles involved in fire.

1.4 The number of false alarm calls to brigades increased, both in the "with good intent" and in the "malicious" categories. The former rose from 12,200 to 12,342, an increase of 142, and the latter from 6,784 to 7,668, an increase of 874. Calls for assistance by people who genuinely think an emergency has arisen are fully understood and appreciated by brigades. I am seriously concerned, however, at the number of malicious calls which are deliberate acts and result in lifesaving appliances and manpower being directed to fictitious incidents, thereby depriving the community of the manpower and life-saving appliances essential for the handling of a real emergency. It would appear that those who indulge in this form of irresponsibility are either unable or unwilling to appreciate the serious consequences which could result from their actions. It is to be hoped that, when dealing with offenders, the courts will use their full powers to exact the maximum penalty in appropriate cases. The maximum fine has been increased from £50 to £500.

1.5 The most encouraging statistic of the year is provided in the fatalities section where the number of deaths due to fire, or the effects of fire, dropped from 127 in 1976 to 106 in 1977. This is the lowest figure recorded since 1971 (88). Since the unprecedented peak of 158 in 1973, the death toll in Scotland has been gradually reduced in successive years. There is no doubt that the prompt

attendance by brigades and the efficient efforts of the firemen have played a large part in achieving this degree of success. I would however commend the many members of the public who by their unselfish action were responsible for saving lives by rescuing people from burning or smoke-logged premises before the arrival of the brigade. Without the help of such people the figures for loss of life would have been much higher. There is a tendency to regard some fire deaths as unavoidable. That is a dangerous attitude and it cannot be too strongly emphasized that it is the responsibility of every member of the community to avoid endangering his or her own life, or the lives of others by, careless or thoughtless acts.

1.6 Of the 106 persons who died as a result of fire, 78 succumbed before the arrival of the fire brigade. I cannot emphasize too strongly that fire kills quickly. The first minutes of involvement in fire may be the last, therefore prompt withdrawal or evacuation is most important if lives are to be saved.

1.7 At fire incidents, 305 persons were successfully rescued by brigade personnel and a further 590 persons were rescued from incidents other than fire.

Estimated Fire Losses

1.8 The estimated fire losses for Great Britain were £261.7 million, an increase of £50 million over the previous year. Scotland's share of the losses was estimated at £39.1 million, as compared with £27.2 million in 1976. The £12 million increase in Scottish losses is most disheartening, particularly when viewed against the increase of £0.8 million for the previous year. Approximately 20 per cent of the year's total loss, or 66 per cent of the year's loss increase, was attributable to the following four incidents.

Warehouse Complex, Strathclyde	£4,000,000
Storage Depot, Strathclyde	950,000
Dyestuffs Manufacturer, Strathclyde	2,000,000
Chemical Complex, Lothian and Borders	1,250,000
Total	£8,200,000

A total of 37,950 fires, £39 million fire loss and 106 fatalities is an appalling record for Scotland. Whilst it is true that large industrial fires contribute most to the fire loss, it is also true that large fires have small beginnings. If we are to improve the record it is essential that effective action is taken, firstly to prevent the outbreak, and secondly to detect and extinguish the fire in its early stages. To achieve this it is essential for everyone to be fire safety conscious. Whilst inflation may be used to explain an increase in fire losses, it does not justify the burning of the nation's resources, the price of which has eventually to be paid by all of us.

1.9 One aspect which has not been mentioned in previous reports, but which is now causing concern, is that of wilful fire raising. The number of fires of doubtful origin, and where wilful fire raising was suspected, was in excess of 400. Throughout the country several convictions were obtained and in quite a few it was established that the accused had been responsible for more than one outbreak. The losses associated with this type of fire have been estimated to be in excess of £2.5 million. The explanations for the accused persons' actions vary from

“boredom” to “revenge”. In view of the financial losses involved and the possible danger to life, further research into this type of incident will be undertaken in the forthcoming year.

Fire Prevention

1.10 The number of premises visited for fire prevention purposes was 52,612. This total shows a reduction of 9,920 when compared with the previous year. Discussions with architects on plans for premises, new or altered, totalled 11,796, 91 less than in 1976. In addition to the above inspection work, the brigades also convened film shows, drills and lectures on fire prevention topics on 1,729 occasions. Though the workload return for the year is down by comparison with the previous year, the results are satisfactory having regard to the fact that the industrial dispute interrupted the normal working procedures of fire prevention departments for approximately two months.

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

Factories	141
Offices and shops etc	238
Hotels and boarding houses	565

In addition to issuing new certificates, fire authorities found it necessary to revise existing certificates in respect of 106 factories, 96 offices and shops and 131 hotels and boarding houses.

1.12 Improvement in the progress on the inspection and certification of hotels and boarding houses which come within the designation order made under the Fire Precautions Act 1971 was noted, and at the end of the year, of the 4,802 registered certifiable premises in the country, 3,106 (64.5 per cent) had been issued with fire certificates. Of the remainder, 1,062 premises had been inspected and issued with notices of requirements, and 684 of these inspections were carried out during the current year.

1.13 The number of personnel in brigades employed primarily on fire prevention dropped to 179, a decrease of 5 over the previous year. There was, however, an expansion in the volume and type of work undertaken by operational personnel, mainly attributable to their increased experience and knowledge.

1.14 The need to increase public awareness of the nature of fire risks in everyday life continued to be an important feature of fire prevention work and, in addition to the local activities of brigades, was the subject of a number of projects sponsored by the Department and the Scottish Information Office. These were mounted under the guidance of the special Fire Precautions Publicity Steering Committee on which brigades are represented and included an autumn campaign of fire prevention advice by means of television, radio, press advertisements, the issue of a leaflet on the safe use of bottled gas heaters, and a trial period of recorded fire precaution messages of advice on certain public service vehicles.

1.15 The Scottish Fire Liaison Panel which, as part of the U.K. fire liaison network, aims at encouraging and strengthening the voluntary fire prevention efforts of industrial, commercial and insurance interests, had a number of meetings during the year. In the autumn a special Scottish conference was held

in Dunblane as part of other activities associated with National Fire Safety Week.

Mutual Assistance

1.16 Under Sections 2 and 12 of the Fire Services Act 1947, provision is made for mutual assistance between brigades. During 1977, assistance with first attendance appliances was given to other brigades on 335 occasions and reinforcements only were supplied on 8 occasions.

Appliances and Equipment

1.17 A total of 35 vehicles, including first line appliances, were purchased during the year by fire brigades. The fleet of operational appliances decreased from 564 to 540. Due to financial restraints imposed upon local authorities generally, the fire brigades naturally had restrictions imposed on their budgets and to effect the required savings some brigades limited their vehicle replacement schedules. Such restrictions inevitably throw greater strain on the brigade transport department and it is to the credit of staff of those departments that the fire appliances and equipment continue to function well.

Water Supplies

1.18 The number of fire authority hydrants increased last year and now totals 124,381, a rise of 1,288 over the 1976 figure. Approximately 10 per cent of the total were non-standard hydrants. Local discussions of the problems caused by the exceptionally dry weather in the summer of 1976 gave rise to a proposal that the Home Departments should convene a special Working Party to review the experiences of the fire service during that period. The Working Party's report had not been completed at the end of the year.

Research

1.19 During the year a varied programme of research on subjects relating to the fire service and fire safety was sponsored by the Joint Committee on Fire Research. Work on the projects concerned was carried out by the Scientific Advisory Branch of the Home Office, the Fire Research Station, and appropriate outside consultants. In June the Committee approved the distribution to fire authorities of a report on the proposed new fire data collection system.

Following a special conference arranged by Paisley College of Technology earlier in the year there was considerable interest in a proposal by the Materials and Components Development and Testing Association (MACDATA) unit of the College to establish a new fire centre. The organizers are confident that, given the support of Scottish industry, the existing facilities can be developed and expanded to provide a teaching/testing centre. Products would be tested for their fire properties and fire-related subjects would be researched.

Communications

1.20 All the brigades have actively pursued a policy of consolidating the communications systems which were introduced to meet the immediate requirements of the regional brigades created in 1975.

1.21 In the Central region the headquarters control room has been completely re-equipped in preparation for the centralization of its mobilising function, which until recently has been handled by three separate stations.

1.22 In the Northern Brigade a new control room with up-to-date equipment was brought into operation, thereby providing the control room staff with suitably spacious accommodation and modern equipment. The second phase of the new radio scheme was also completed and now provides reliable radio communication between the Headquarters at Inverness and the most northerly part of the fire area.

1.23 In the Strathclyde region where a complex system based on five separate controls operates, new equipment has been ordered and plans are well advanced for the ultimate integration of the fire controls into two units one of which will be located at Glasgow and the other at Johnstone, Renfrewshire.

1.24 All brigades, in an endeavour to improve the turnout times of appliances and to minimise time factors for the dispatch of information, have up-dated their information retrieval systems. Similarly, the use of pocket radio alerters, a system which replaces the siren and call bell to alert retained firemen, has been extended as far as financial restraints permit.

1.25 On a more general matter, the recently formed Fire Services (Scotland) Communications Committee has met regularly during the year, when communications officers within brigades discussed with representatives of the Scottish Home and Health Department matters of telecommunications policy. The topics covered remote turnout, mobilising of fire crews, command and control communications (helicopter to ground) and the discussions have proved invaluable in resolving on a central basis the problems associated with telecommunications requirements for the fire services in Scotland.

1.26 The Directorate of Telecommunications staff continue to be closely involved in the planning stages of all brigade schemes and full use was made of the expertise available by the brigades.

Premises

1.27 At the end of 1977 the building programme had reached the following stage:

<i>Fire Stations</i>	<i>Whole Time</i>	<i>Retained</i>
Built since 1948	53	146
Under construction		7
Premises adapted	12	18
Purchased and adapted properties	1	16
Drill Towers built	55	84
Under construction		2

1.28 The total number of fire stations in Scotland at the end of 1977 was 374.

<i>Whole Time</i>	<i>Retained</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>
73	177	124

The fire authorities owned 582 houses and one is under construction.

CHAPTER II

Administration

Honours and Awards

2.1 The following received recognition in the Queen's Honours Lists:

Order of the British Empire (Civil Division)
Member (M.B.E.)

William H. H. Kelly, Assistant Firemaster, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

British Empire Medal (B.E.M.)

Sub-Officer (retained) James Forrest, Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade

Sub-Officer (retained) Andrew B. Ferguson, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

Senior Fire Control Operator, Agnes Tracey, Fife Fire Brigade

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

Richard J. Knowlton, Firemaster, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

The Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was awarded to 161 members of Scottish fire brigades.

The Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal was received by 39 members of Scottish fire brigades, and by Senior Instructor John A. McInnes, Scottish Fire Service Training School.

Promotions

2.2 The following promotions were made during the year:

1 to Firemaster
2 to Assistant Firemaster
3 to Senior Divisional Officer
4 to Divisional Officer Grade I
7 to Divisional Officer Grade II
6 to Divisional Officer Grade III
18 to Assistant Divisional Officer
42 to Station Officer
57 to Sub-Officer
154 to Leading Fireman

In the Grampian Fire Brigade, Mr. D. R. Close was appointed Firemaster following the retirement of Mr. J. Donnachie. I would wish to acknowledge the work done by Mr. Donnachie for and on behalf of the fire service in Scotland. Mr. H. Carr was appointed Commandant of the Scottish Fire Service Training School, Gullane, on 1st April, 1977.

Uniformed Personnel: Operational and Control Room

2.3 The recruitment of 327 new entrants to the service showed an increase of 136 on the previous year's total of 191. With 12 members from other brigades, the total intake of 339 was insufficient to compensate for losses. The number of personnel lost to the service by retirement, resignation, discharge on medical grounds, and transferring to brigades outwith Scotland, totalled 359, an increase of 38 over the preceding year's total. The actual strength of the brigades dropped from 3,863 in 1976 to 3,844 in 1977. There was a marked increase in the number of personnel who terminated their brigade service to take up employment with oil-related companies where their fire experience could be utilised. Whilst such re-location of our expertise must be of benefit to industry generally, it does place considerable strain on the brigades which have to replace the losses.

2.4 The part-time retained and volunteer totals, together with those of the preceding year, are tabulated hereunder and show a slight increase in both classifications.

	<i>Establishment</i>		<i>Actual</i>	
	<i>1976</i>	<i>1977</i>	<i>1976</i>	<i>1977</i>
Retained	2,607	2,615	2,243	2,288
Volunteer	1,293	1,329	1,088	1,119

2.5 In last year's report, I referred to the difficulty of recruiting retained members in certain areas. The position has not eased and in some instances has become more acute. Some brigades have on occasions required to duplicate a turnout in order to guarantee adequate first-attendance cover.

Non-Uniformed Staff

2.6 The number of non-uniformed personnel employed by fire authorities increased in 1977 by one. The total now stands at 529 and is 47 under the authorised establishment.

Health

2.7 The statistics collected by brigades indicate that the health position in the service remains fairly constant. The total number of working days lost due to all causes by whole-time personnel was 6.1 per cent, 0.1 per cent above last year's figure. Of the days lost, 16.5 per cent were attributable to the service. No deaths due to service duty were reported; two members did, however, sustain serious injury at fires which necessitated lengthy absence from duty.

Discipline

2.8 There were 7 charges brought under the Fire Service (Discipline) (Scotland) Regulations 1953. The punishments awarded were:

By being required to resign as alternative to dismissal	2
By reduction in rank	1
By stoppage of pay	2
By caution	1

CHAPTER III

Training

Scottish Fire Service Training School

3.1 There was an increase in the number of recruits attending the school, although brigade strengths remained frozen at the September 1975 level. A total of 261 recruits completed their training during the year, compared with 169 in 1976. Ninety students attended other courses at the school. Training ceased on 14th November because of industrial action in the fire service and the school remained closed until the end of the year.

3.2 In addition to training fire service personnel, the school provided courses for certain industrial and commercial organisations, including the British Airports Authority, South of Scotland Electricity Board and Area Health Boards.

3.3 The first phase of the building programme of the school (simulated fire station and garage/workshop block) which started in the summer of 1976 was completed in December 1977.

3.4 Planning continued for the subsequent phases, and it is hoped that building will commence in the summer of 1978.

Fire Service Colleges

3.5 The Fire Service Staff College, Dorking, and the Fire Service Technical College, Moreton-in-Marsh, continued to provide nationally approved training courses for fire service officers. A total of 290 students from Scottish brigades attended one or other of the Colleges. Additionally, 12 students from brigades attended specialised courses provided at non-fire service establishments. The new progressive training system, introduced at the Staff and Technical Colleges in 1974, is proving beneficial to the fire service and is much appreciated by the students.

Brigade Courses

3.6 Most brigades provided facilities for the training of works and industrial firemen on selected fire stations. The Lothian and Borders and Tayside Brigades were heavily involved in providing fire training for merchant marine and oil industry personnel respectively. During 1977 a total of 1,331 persons with interests in the shipping field received a course of instruction in Lothian and Borders, and Tayside provided courses for 766 persons on the Basic Course and for 88 on Team Courses. The latter courses were run in conjunction with the Petroleum Industry Training Board, with which frequent discussions were held. Grampian Fire Brigade ran various courses, including Breathing Apparatus, Fire Fighting, Fire Extinguisher Maintenance and Operation and First Aid to the Injured. A total of 205 persons from outside organizations attended.

Fire Services Examinations Board (Scotland)

3.7 The prescribed written examinations for promotion to the ranks of leading fireman, sub-officer, and station officer were held during January, February and March. Compared with 1976 there was again a considerable increase in the number of candidates presented and certain brigades had difficulties in maintaining normal fire cover, particularly when the examinations for leading firemen were being held.

3.8 The results of the 1977 examinations were as shown hereunder (1976 figures in brackets).

	<i>Presentations</i>	<i>Passes</i>
Station Officer Examination	161 (176)	64 (24)
Sub Officer Examination	268 (159)	84 (29)
Leading Fireman:		
Educational	518 (684)	210 (257)
Technical	659 (441)	270 (182)

3.9 The presentation of prize certificates to the candidates gaining the highest marks in the respective written examinations took place in Dumfries on 21st June, when hospitality was provided by Dumfries and Galloway Fire Authority. Prize certificates were awarded as follows:

Station Officer Examination:

 Leading Fireman Alistair J. Langlands, Tayside Fire Brigade

Sub-Officer Examination:

 Leading Fireman Alastair W. Keating, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

Leading Fireman Examination:

 Fireman Thomas Gallacher, Fife Fire Brigade

3.10 The statutory practical examinations for sub-officer and leading fireman candidates were conducted by the Board and the fire authorities respectively. The results are shown hereunder (1976 figures in brackets).

	<i>Number of Candidates</i>	<i>Passes</i>
Sub-Officer	86 (42)	80 (32)
Leading Fireman	281 (185)	245 (156)

3.11 The special working party which was set up by the Board in 1975 to review the statutory examinations system reported in May. In their report, which also took account of proposed changes in the fire service examination structure in England and Wales, the working party did not consider it necessary to recommend any radical changes in the existing structure and procedures. They did however make a number of recommendations affecting the subject matter and requirements for the various examinations and these were subsequently approved by the Board and by the Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council. A revised Syllabus incorporating the proposed changes was issued during the summer and, subject to the necessary amendment of the Fire Services (Appointments and Promotion) (Scotland) Regulations, it is proposed to introduce the new pattern of examinations with effect from 1979.

3.12 Supplementing the Board's detailed Syllabus on the examination requirements, the Department issued a Digest of Legislation Affecting the Fire Service which, it is hoped, will be helpful to candidates.

Programmed Learning

3.13 The Home Office Unit for Educational Methods continued throughout the year to supply brigades with a variety of instructional packages. The packages covered a wide field and included both fire service and educational subjects. All brigades in Scotland utilised the services of the Unit and in most brigades it is mandatory that new entrants study specially selected subject material.

Fire Service Sports and Athletics Association

3.14 Throughout the year the Association continued its policy of promoting sporting events at brigade, Scottish, and Great Britain levels, which virtually covered the whole range of sport and athletics. This year Scotland defeated England 1-0 at association football and 9-0 at rugby. During the year the first national team of volley-ball players was formed and one of the players was successful in being selected for the British team for the annual fixture against Belgium. A new event (Super Sportsman) was introduced during the year and in the first ever competition two members of Lothian and Borders Brigade, K. McCartney and R. Polson, took first and second place in the Scottish finals, and in the British finals were placed third and seventh. The scope of athletics has expanded to such an extent that there are now very few sporting activities which are not catered for in the fire service, particularly at local level. Interests which increase the physical skills and attributes of service personnel must reflect in their health and fitness and should be encouraged wherever possible. Once again I congratulate the brigade, district and the national organisers in their efforts to maintain the interest of the members of the Scottish brigades.

CHAPTER IV

General

Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council

4.1 The Advisory Council met once during the year, when the Chair was taken by Mr. Harry Ewing, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Home Affairs at the Scottish Office.

4.2 The Council received and considered reports from the Joint Standing Committees on pensions, communications, fire prevention, training, fire brigade operations, fire research, design and development of appliances and equipment and uniform and personal equipment. In addition, the Council received and approved the report of the Working Party on Fire Data Requirements and endorsed the recommendations of the Working Party to review the Statutory Promotion Examinations.

4.3 Among other matters discussed by the Council were the interim report of the the Joint Working Party to review the experience of the fire service in the summer of 1976 and the need for the Council to continue to provide the machinery for joint consultation about the health and safety aspects of Fire Service training standards and techniques and operational procedures. The Council endorsed the proposal to proceed with the further stages of development work at the Scottish Fire Service Training School, Gullane.

Legislation

4.4 The provisions of certain new public general legislation which took effect during the year were of some interest to the fire service. In repealing the relative Acts of 1895 and 1906, the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Act 1976 made provision for the holding of public inquiries, without the need for a jury, in respect of fatal accidents and other circumstances. It is also of interest that, under the Criminal Law Act 1977 (Commencement Number 1) Order 1977, which took effect on 8th September, 1977, the maximum fine for offences under Section 31(1) of the Fire Services Act 1947 (false fire alarms) was increased from £50 to £500.

4.5 The Contracted-Out Employment (Fire Services) Regulations 1977, which came into operation on 1st October, 1977, enable the Home Secretary to elect that members of the fire service employed in Great Britain and subject to the Firemen's Pension Scheme in force under Section 26 of the Fire Services Act 1974 (other than persons entitled to injury benefit only under that Scheme) be contracted out of that part of the state pension scheme, established by the Social Security Pensions Act 1975, which provides pensions based on earnings between a lower and upper earnings limit. The regulations provide for the Home Secretary to act as employer, instead of individual fire authorities, for the purpose of an election to contract out and certain related purposes.

4.6 The Contracted-Out Employment (Fire Services) (Amendment) Regulations 1977, which came into operation on 1st December, 1977, amended the

Contracted-Out Employment (Fire Services) Regulations 1977 by extending them to persons employed outside Great Britain.

4.7 The Firemen's Pension Scheme (Amendment) Order 1977, which came into operation on 1st December, 1977, amended the Firemen's Pension Scheme 1973 and, in so far as they continued to have effect, the Schemes of 1971, 1966, 1964, 1956, 1952 and 1948. Under these Schemes the amounts of certain awards are determined by reference to flat-rates which do not qualify for increase under the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971. This Order provided for an increase in these flat-rates.

ESTABLISHMENTS AND STRENGTH

as at

TABLE I

	BRIGADE											
	CENTRAL			DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY			FIFE			GRAMPIAN		
	Estab.	Actual Strength		Estab.	Actual Strength		Estab.	Actual Strength		Estab.	Actual Strength	
		Total	Men		Women	Total		Men	Women		Total	Men
Operational Personnel												
Elsewhere than at Fire Stations												
Firemasters	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Assistant Firemasters	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Senior Divisional Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Divisional Officers (Grade I)	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	—
Divisional Officers (Grade II)	2	2	—	1	1	—	3	3	—	4	3	—
Divisional Officers (Grade III)	2	2	—	4	3	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Assistant Divisional Officers	4	4	—	3	3	—	8	8	—	8	8	—
Station Officers	7	7	—	5	5	—	10	10	—	7	6	—
Sub-Officers	6	4	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	7	3	—
Leading Firemen	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	—
Firemen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Totals	24	22	—	16	15	—	30	28	—	32	28	—
At Fire Stations												
Divisional Officers (Grade I)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Divisional Officers (Grade II)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Divisional Officers (Grade III)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assistant Divisional Officers	1	1	—	1	1	—	3	3	—	2	2	—
Station Officers	5	5	—	3	3	—	12	12	—	7	7	—
Sub-Officers	9	9	—	3	3	—	19	18	—	10	11	—
Leading Firemen	18	17	—	6	6	—	54	52	—	26	26	—
Firemen	114	100	—	48	46	—	201	186	—	125	112	—
Totals	147	132	—	61	59	—	289	271	—	170	158	—
Grand Totals	171	154	—	77	74	—	319	299	—	202	186	—
Control Room/Watchroom Personnel												
At Headquarters/Divisional Headquarters												
P.F.C. Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
G.F.C. Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F.C. Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S.F.C. Operators	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	4	1	3
L.F.C. Operators	4	3	1	4	—	4	4	—	4	4	—	2
F.C. Operators	8	3	5	5	—	5	8	—	8	6	—	8
Totals	13	7	6	10	—	10	13	—	13	15	1	14
At Fire Stations												
G.F.C. Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F.C. Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S.F.C. Operators	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
L.F.C. Operators	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F.C. Operators	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Totals	13	7	6	10	—	10	13	—	13	15	1	14
Retained Personnel												
Station Officers	4	1	—	3	3	—	2	2	—	1	1	—
Sub-Officers	16	15	—	16	16	—	9	10	—	44	44	—
Leading Firemen	20	21	—	20	20	—	16	16	—	47	48	—
Firemen	160	130	—	157	133	—	132	91	—	365	298	—
Totals	200	167	—	196	172	—	159	119	—	457	391	—
Volunteer Personnel												
Station Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-Officers	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leading Firemen	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Firemen	18	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	14	—
Totals	24	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	15	—
Grand Totals												
Operational Personnel	171	154	—	77	74	—	319	299	—	202	186	—
Control/Watchroom Personnel	13	7	6	10	—	10	13	—	13	15	1	14
Retained Personnel	200	167	—	196	172	—	159	119	—	457	391	—
Volunteer Personnel	24	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	15	—
Brigade Grand Totals	408	346	6	283	246	10	491	418	13	684	593	14

OF FIRE BRIGADES
31st December, 1977

LOTHIAN AND BORDERS			BRIGADE												
			NORTHERN			STRATHCLYDE			TAYSIDE			TOTALS			
Estab.	Actual Strength		Estab.	Actual Strength		Estab.	Actual Strength		Estab.	Actual Strength		Estab.	Actual Strength		Actual Men and Women
Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	8	8	—	8
2	2	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	1	1	—	10	10	—	10
3	3	—	—	—	—	7	6	—	—	—	—	11	10	—	10
2	2	—	1	1	—	2	2	—	4	4	—	13	13	—	13
5	5	—	4	4	—	12	12	—	1	1	—	32	31	—	31
2	2	—	1	1	—	17	16	—	6	5	—	34	31	—	31
—	—	—	10	8	—	20	21	—	8	11	—	61	63	—	63
16	12	—	7	6	—	54	54	—	19	18	—	125	118	—	118
21	23	—	3	2	—	41	40	—	8	9	—	90	85	—	85
5	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	5	—	5
4	4	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	7	7	—	7
61	56	—	28	24	—	161	158	—	48	50	—	400	381	—	381
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	5
12	11	—	—	—	—	14	14	—	4	4	—	37	36	—	36
12	14	—	1	1	—	93	92	—	12	10	—	145	144	—	144
42	48	—	3	3	—	177	176	—	21	20	—	284	288	—	288
81	85	—	9	9	—	226	221	—	39	40	—	459	456	—	456
364	333	—	42	38	—	1,288	1,280	—	243	229	—	2,425	2,324	—	2,324
517	497	—	55	51	—	1,798	1,783	—	319	303	—	3,356	3,254	—	3,254
578	553	—	83	75	—	1,959	1,941	—	367	353	—	3,756	3,635	—	3,635
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
1	—	1	—	—	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	2
1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	7	—	7	7
4	2	2	1	—	1	15	2	13	1	—	1	28	6	22	28
5	2	1	1	—	1	20	—	18	2	—	2	44	5	33	38
7	3	5	8	—	8	78	22	48	16	3	13	136	31	100	131
18	7	10	10	—	10	120	25	85	19	3	16	218	43	164	207
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	2
4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	2
22	9	10	10	—	10	120	25	85	19	3	16	222	45	164	209
5	4	—	12	12	—	9	9	—	7	7	—	43	39	—	39
25	25	—	25	25	—	59	54	—	18	18	—	212	207	—	207
30	30	—	50	43	—	68	64	—	34	35	—	285	277	—	277
215	190	—	263	242	—	545	487	—	238	194	—	2,075	1,765	—	1,765
275	249	—	350	322	—	681	614	—	297	254	—	2,615	2,288	—	2,288
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
—	—	—	89	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	93	1	—	1
—	—	—	89	78	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	95	81	—	81
—	—	—	878	773	—	206	201	—	30	30	—	1,141	1,036	—	1,036
—	—	—	1,056	852	—	206	201	—	33	33	—	1,329	1,119	—	1,119
578	553	—	83	75	—	1,959	1,941	—	367	353	—	3,756	3,635	—	3,635
22	9	10	10	—	10	120	25	85	19	3	16	222	45	164	209
275	249	—	350	322	—	681	614	—	297	254	—	2,615	2,288	—	2,288
—	—	—	1,056	852	—	206	201	—	33	33	—	1,329	1,119	—	1,119
875	811	10	1,499	1,249	10	2,966	2,781	85	716	643	16	7,922	7,087	164	7,251

**CHANGES IN WHOLE-TIME STRENGTH DURING YEAR
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1977**

TABLE 2

BRIGADE	LOSSES										GAINS											
	By DEATH		By RESIGNATION				By Dis-charge		By Retirement on Pension or Medical Grounds		By Retirement on Gratuity		By Transfer to Other Brigades			By Re-ruitment		By Transfer from Other Brigades		Totals		
	Attri- butable to Service	Men	Women	During First and Second Years' Service		After 2nd Year but under 10 Years' Service		With 10 or more Years' Service	Men	Women	Men	Women	In Scotland		Else-where	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
				Men	Women	Men	Women															
Central ...	—	—	—	8	2	13	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	6	—	—	19	6
Dumfries & Galloway	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	7	4
Fife ...	—	—	—	6	1	11	2	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	3	—	—	27	3
Grampian ...	—	—	—	2	1	7	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	3	—	—	15	3
Lothian & Borders	—	—	—	9	—	17	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	1	—	—	43	1
Northern ...	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	—	—	6	3
Strathclyde ...	—	—	—	22	9	60	5	9	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	163	19	—	—	173	20
Tayside ...	—	—	—	1	—	10	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	1	—	—	23	1
Totals ...	—	—	—	51	16	121	16	25	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	339	40	—	—	358	41

**SUMMARY OF FIRES AND SPECIAL SERVICES DURING THE YEAR
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1977**

TABLE 3

FIRE AREA	Fires requiring the attendance of										Total Fire Calls	Special Services	Total Calls 1977		
	1 Pump	2 Pumps	3-4 Pumps	5 Pumps	6-8 Pumps	9-10 Pumps	11-20 Pumps	Total Fires	Chimney Fires	False Alarms					
									Malicious	With good intent	Total				
Central ...	1,173	479	7	1	2	—	—	—	—	560	568	1,128	3,142	94	3,236
Dumfries & Galloway ...	339	128	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	138	256	394	1,117	187	1,304
Fife ...	1,748	24	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	449	610	1,059	3,405	220	3,625
Grampian ...	1,714	29	16	1	2	—	—	—	—	257	608	865	654	399	4,053
Lothian & Borders	5,633	305	57	5	5	—	—	—	—	1,260	2,115	3,375	10,665	693	11,358
Northern ...	1,120	20	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	183	220	403	2,366	201	2,567
Strathclyde ...	18,696	479	64	7	9	—	1	—	—	4,502	7,320	822	34,614	2,044	36,658
Tayside ...	2,558	54	8	—	2	—	—	—	—	319	645	964	4,276	457	4,733
Totals ...	32,981	1,518	183	14	20	—	1	—	—	7,668	12,342	20,010	63,239	4,295	67,534

NOTE: The fire calls from 14th November to end of year were not broken down by number of pumps. The total fire calls for this period were added to the relevant Brigade total by breakdown up to and including the 13th November.

**FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTION WORK UNDERTAKEN BY FIRE BRIGADES
DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1977**

TABLE 4

	FIRE AREA										Totals	
	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside				
(a) Industrial or business premises or undertakings inspected under legislative provisions	Survey	293	668	390	306	345	190	2,307	503			5,002
	Specific	273	201	623	1,010	2,470	706	4,438	2,096			11,887
	Routine	191	264	368	173	895	26	894	3,282			6,093
	Follow-up	476	350	441	205	1,486	368	1,673	236			5,235
(b) Industrial or business premises or undertakings (inspected on a goodwill basis)	Survey	33	12	21	—	—	4	986	—			1,056
	Specific	463	179	242	—	411	97	2,133	—			3,525
	Routine	4	17	1	—	—	—	11	—			33
	Follow-up	30	9	3	—	—	16	116	—			174
(c) Local Authority premises or undertakings other than schools, hospitals and homes	Survey	16	5	8	7	78	3	106	70			293
	Specific	47	25	21	28	213	13	939	516			1,802
	Routine	5	7	2	—	24	—	1,159	284			1,481
	Follow-up	7	2	—	—	—	—	22	25			56
(d) Schools	Survey	61	7	18	6	10	12	71	12			197
	Specific	85	39	115	69	155	37	309	481			1,290
	Routine	2	74	49	—	7	—	79	141			353
	Follow-up	11	1	6	—	10	—	19	18			65
(e) Hospitals and homes	Survey	29	11	3	7	33	8	31	23			145
	Specific	27	74	72	40	271	44	369	388			1,285
	Routine	—	94	58	—	11	—	6	53			222
	Follow-up	3	5	8	—	37	—	29	21			103
(f) Cinemas, theatres and other places of public entertainment or assembly	Survey	31	15	36	12	47	12	126	32			311
	Specific	99	24	140	171	380	55	152	120			1,141
	Routine	11	76	250	—	758	—	226	58			1,379
	Follow-up	21	1	12	9	50	—	38	19			150
(g) Miscellaneous premises	Survey	2	34	14	32	108	3	163	12			368
	Specific	52	124	111	514	488	100	7,243	81			8,713
	Routine	—	—	4	—	61	—	55	10			130
	Follow-up	—	—	1	2	60	—	55	3			123
(h) Plans inspected	Specific	798	558	722	1,194	1,091	847	4,712	1,874			11,796
	GRAND TOTAL	3,073	2,876	3,739	3,855	9,499	2,541	28,467	10,358			64,408

Fire Precautions Act, 1971

Factories										
(a) Number of new Fire Certificates issued:	3	20	17	—	19	—	47	35	141	
(b) Number of Fire Certificates revised:	1	28	—	—	25	—	22	33	106	
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises										
(a) Number of new Fire Certificates issued:	4	7	15	—	42	—	111	59	238	
(b) Number of Fire Certificates revised:	—	8	—	—	56	—	5	27	96	
Hotels and Boarding Houses										
(a) Number of new Fire Certificates issued:	34	46	33	84	88	89	191	—	565	
(b) Number of Fire Certificates revised:	1	15	6	2	61	2	20	24	131	

NOTE: For the purpose of this table the terms "Survey", "Specific", "Routine" and "Follow-up" are used as follows:

Survey. A thorough and comprehensive examination of the premises and processes at risk as regards fire prevention arrangements which are in operation or require to be made, covering for instance, fire appliances and equipment, water supplies, means of escape, storage conditions and good housekeeping.

Specific. An examination of the premises and plant for the purposes indicated above but limited to one or more particular aspect of fire prevention.

Routine. An examination made as a rule periodically for the purpose of ascertaining whatever particular precautions which should be in operation are, in fact, being maintained.

Follow-up. An inspection made following a survey or specific inspection to note progress or advise on detail.

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