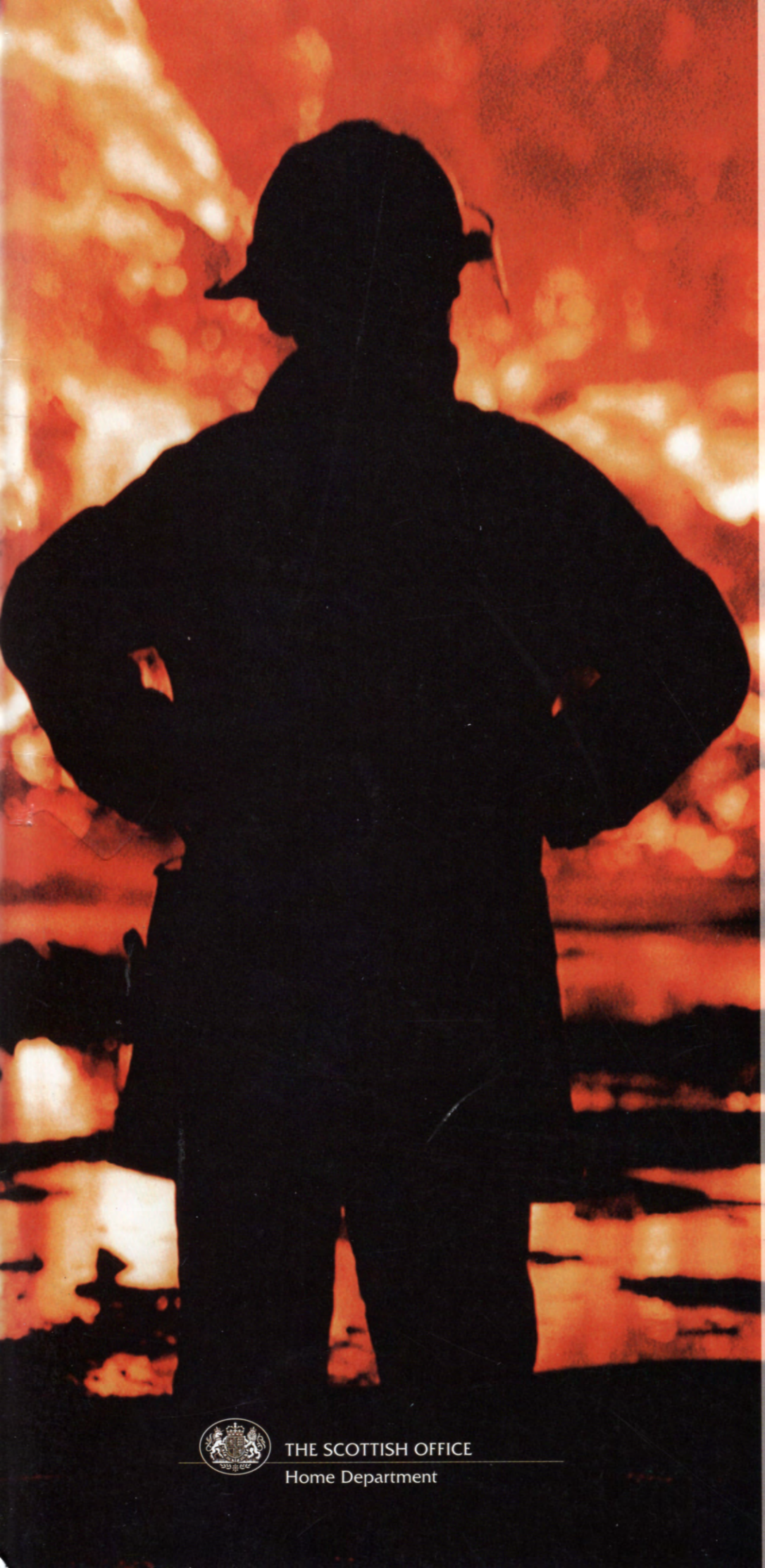

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland

Report for 1995 - 96

THE SCOTTISH OFFICE
Home Department

THE SCOTTISH OFFICE HOME DEPARTMENT

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland

Report for 1995 - 96

Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland
by Command of Her Majesty
November 1996

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INTRODUCTION

Annual Report of A N Morrison Esq QFSM DTech FIFireE

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland for the year 1995-96

To: The Right Honourable Michael Forsyth MP,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Scotland.

Sir

1. I have the honour to present my Annual Report upon the 8 fire brigades in Scotland for the financial year 1995-96. This is the third such report I have had the pleasure of submitting since taking office as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services and, as was the case with prior publications, this document provides an objective review of service delivery to the public by the fire brigades in Scotland.

2. HM Inspectorate of Fire Services is charged with examining and improving the efficiency, effectiveness and standards of the Fire Service in Scotland, and the ways in which it provides a service to the public. The aim of our team is to promote a high quality of service and value for money objectives which take full account of public expectations, in accordance with the principles set out in the Citizen's Charter, and inspire public confidence.

3. Reports are submitted to the Secretary of State for Scotland. In line with our commitment to openness all reports are published. They aim to:

i. inform the public about the performance of their fire service;
ii. draw brigade achievements and good practice to notice;
iii. identify publicly the scope for improvement;
iv. help accelerate improved value for money in the fire service; and
v. promote greater public awareness of the Inspectorate's role and function.

4. Information gathering begins each year with the receipt from brigades of statistics covering many aspects of their performance, operations and administrative matters. This includes staffing, recruitment, training, equal opportunities, buildings, vehicles and fire safety and the arrangements in place for dealing with complaints from the public.

5. Following a year in which intermediate reports were published on each brigade in Scotland, and in accordance with the policy of the Inspectorate, the current series of inspections covering the fiscal year 1995-96 will take the form of 4 "primary" and 4 "intermediate" reports which will, among other matters, record the action taken on recommendations previously made and indicate any changes which have occurred since the last inspection was carried out.

6. The duration of an inspection will depend on the size and the nature of the brigade concerned and whether it is a "primary" or an "intermediate" inspection. Inspections are normally undertaken by myself along with the HM Inspector, the Senior Assistant Inspector and the Lay Inspector, and consist of:

i. visits to fire stations and other brigade premises;

ii. discussions with senior officers on various aspects of the brigade's performance;

iii. pre-planned fire station drills and exercises; and

iv. meetings with representatives of staff associations.

At the conclusion of an inspection, I undertake to discuss the team's preliminary findings with the Firemaster.

7. A leaflet entitled "The Role of HM Inspectorate of Fire Services", which gives further background to the principles and job of the Inspectorate, is available from the Fire Inspectorate.

8. The current establishment of the Fire Service Inspectorate is as follows:

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services	1
Her Majesty's Inspector of Fire Services	1
Senior Assistant Inspector of Fire Services	1
Assistant Inspector of Fire Services	2
Lay Inspector (part-time)	1

9. The staff in post are:

HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services

Andrew Neil Morrison QFSM DTech FIFireE

Appointed: 5 January 1994

Formerly: Firemaster,
Grampian Fire Brigade, 1985 -1993

Lay Inspector of Fire Services (Part time)

David Dick OBE DIC CEng FIEE

Appointed: October 1994

Formerly: Principal, Stevenson College of Further Education, Edinburgh 1969 - 1987

Senior Assistant Inspector of Fire Services

Allan Smith Whitton QFSM GIFireE

Appointed: April 1996

Formerly: Deputy Firemaster,
Central Scotland Fire Brigade, 1984 - 1996

Acting Senior Assistant Inspector of Fire Services

Charles George Newcombe Stewart

Appointed: 6 March 1995

Formerly: Senior Divisional Officer,
Strathclyde Fire Brigade, 1992 - 1995

Assistant Inspector of Fire Services (Crown Inspection)

Graham Donald Goodall BSc MIFireE

Appointed: 9 May 1994

Formerly: Station Officer,
Merseyside Fire Brigade, 1987 - 1994

10. While not coming within the timescale of the period under review it is worthy of note that 2 changes took place within the Fire Inspectorate in April, 1996 when both Mr Hunter, HM Inspector of Fire Services, and Mr Robbie, Senior Assistant Inspector of Fire Services, retired. Mr Hunter had been in post for 4 years and Mr Robbie for 2 years. Mr Hunter and Mr Robbie were well known within the Fire Service for their enthusiasm and particular interest in fire safety and training matters respectively. My thanks are due to both Mr Hunter and Mr Robbie for their contribution to the work of the Inspectorate.

11. Mr Hunter's duties are being temporarily carried out by Mr Charles Stewart, formerly a Senior Divisional Officer with Strathclyde Fire Brigade, and Mr Robbie's post has been filled by Mr Allan Whitton, formerly Deputy Firemaster of the Central Region Fire Brigade.

Introductory Remarks

12. My Report for 1995-96 illustrates, quite clearly, that the pace of change and preparation for the future continues to present exciting challenges for the Fire Service. New local government unitary structures, restrictions on expenditure and European Community directives, which have far reaching effects upon a wide range of operational functions, all combine to place greater pressures upon those responsible for the administration of brigades throughout Scotland. However, I am confident that the members of the newly formed joint fire boards and councils, suitably advised in professional and operational matters by Firemasters and their officers, will rise to the challenges presented. Throughout the year under review, a great deal of work was undertaken by all concerned to ensure a smooth, efficient and, as far as possible, seamless transition of functions to the new fire authorities. During my current round of inspections, it has appeared to me that the members of the new fire boards and the 2 unitary fire authorities made best use of the time available to them in the period of some 6 months prior to those bodies assuming full responsibility, on 1 April 1996, for the administration of the Fire Service. Already it is becoming clear, from the forward direction taken and progress made by each authority, that the positive steps taken during that preparation period are showing some dividend, but it must be equally registered that current financial constraints are proving an inhibiting factor in a number of operational areas requiring future development and this is an issue which must be addressed in the short term.

13. For the first time my Report reflects lay involvement in the work of the Inspectorate. Mr David Dick OBE CEng FIEE was appointed as a part-time Lay Inspector of Fire Services in October, 1994 and, in his first full year in post, has contributed significantly to reports made on all brigades during the inspection cycle of 1995-96. The lay perspective he brought to the Inspectorate was both objective and stimulating and his background and experience in educational matters have proved particularly valuable. Mr Dick researches the levels of complaint and commendation registered by members of the public in respect of each brigade and, with an expertise born of his considerable academic background, he also reviews the work undertaken by individual brigades in community education and the media relationships developing as a result. Education within the Fire Service is of equal interest to Mr Dick and this, along with his comment on the Scottish Fire Service Training School (SFSTS) at Gullane, forms part of his views contained within the body of this report.

14. Although we have experienced a very slight rise in the number of fire fatalities registered in Scotland during 1995-96, from 87 in the previous year to the 92 recorded in this Report, it is nevertheless encouraging to note the quite considerably decreasing general trend over the past decade, a reduction of 53.8% on the number of 171 listed for 1985. There is no doubt in my mind that the lower number of fire fatalities follows mainly as a result of the concentrated programme, conducted by all Firemasters, to encourage the installation and

maintenance of smoke alarms throughout that period. However a further contributory factor in this equation lies in the more recent thrust towards a more pro-active community education programme developing in most brigades. A greater public awareness of the dangers of fire is pursued through visits to schools and other community based groups by teams of fire officers and educationalists and, although the technology enabling the tracing of telephone calls serves to reduce the level of malicious fire calls to some degree, a measure of the community education units' contribution to this success can be seen through statistics recorded over the most recent 5 year period where the number of 18,481 such calls recorded for 1991 has fallen by 52.1% to the 9,637 registered for the period covered by this Report. It is my belief that these teams should be fully developed in all brigades jointly with educational authorities in order that the benefits to be gained from reduced levels of malicious fire calls in terms of making best use of existing resources can be maximised.

15. During my inspection of brigades I am convinced that all Firemasters, and their staff, are doing all within their power to encourage the recruitment of females and members of ethnic minority groups to the Fire Service. However, the fact remains that these groupings are very much under-represented in the work force and until the public perception of what is widely considered to be a white male dominated organisation is changed through publicity and education, any meaningful and positive change in this statistic will be difficult to achieve. In the meantime, and in an effort to change this perspective, Firemasters continue to advertise posts in such a way as to make clear their intention to recruit from the entire spectrum of human resource and to target females or members of ethnic groups through open nights at fire stations or visits to club premises in the community. Whilst it is recognised that current numbers, although small, are increasing, it is to be hoped that the Firemasters' endeavours in this direction will begin to show more positive results as the public perspective of this discipline starts to change.

16. Within the retained sector of the Fire Service any form of recruitment is proving to be difficult in some areas. More mobile workforces result in many more people being employed in areas remote from their home and the ability to respond to fires, particularly in the day time hours, is compromised as a result. As is the case with the recruitment of females and those from ethnic minority groups, Firemasters continue to explore every avenue in order to attract suitable applicants, preferably those able to give fire cover throughout the full 24 hour period, to the Fire Service. However, this problem is wide ranging throughout the United Kingdom and may well be exacerbated through the implementation of a job-seeker's allowance which would limit the earnings of an otherwise unemployed person in the retained service. To address the problem, the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association (CACFOA) recently published a document entitled "Retaining the Retained" which is to form the basis for a working group of the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils for England and Wales and for Scotland under the chairmanship of Mr B Collins, HMCIFS for England and Wales. The Inspectorate in Scotland will be represented on this group and it is to be hoped that a positive way forward will be identified as a result of its deliberations.

17. At the other end of the career span, early retirement through ill-health poses an entirely different set of problems. Quite apart from the difficulties being experienced in seeking to recruit suitable personnel as replacements, the costs of training and equipping recruits are high. This, coupled with the reduction in the skills base, due to the loss of experienced personnel, necessitates an increased training commitment serving to add further pressure to an already constrained budget in many cases. An additional financial drain arising from ill-health retirals in the wholetime service lies in the early payment of commutation sums and pensions. Quite clearly a declining contribution level through the early retiral of a number of personnel and the resultant increase in pension payments combine to exacerbate

the already significant deficit between income and expenditure in every brigade's pension scheme. I am aware that a consultation document relating to a review of the Fire Brigade Pension Scheme is in preparation.

Photograph courtesy of DC Thomson & Co Ltd.

18. During the period under review the Inspectorate published reports on each of the 8 fire brigades in Scotland and a further report was compiled concerning the work of the SFSTS. In the case of inspections carried out in brigades, the full range of managerial functions, personnel contacts, operational and fire safety workloads were surveyed and commented upon in tandem with the financial controls exacted in providing this service to the public. A compilation of the statistics relating to individual brigade performances in 1995-96 provided national figures on which the following profile is based:

- the total number of emergency calls attended by brigades in 1995-96 was 130,863 an increase of 15.7% on the previous year and the highest number ever recorded;
- the total number of Fires was 20,610 an increase of 6.4% over 1994-95;
- the total number of Secondary Fires was 40,217 an increase of 23.2% on the previous year. Predictions or year-by-year comparisons of the incidence of such fires are difficult because they occur out of doors and the number of outbreaks in any year is affected by weather conditions in that year;
- the total number of Chimney Fires was 6,206 an increase of 1.3% on 1994-95. Despite this slight increase the trend over the past few years has been a downward one;
- the total number of Good Intent false alarm calls was 26,092 an increase of 1.9% on 1994-95. It could be concluded that the general public are now more aware and are responsive to emergency situations;
- the total number of Faulty Apparatus false alarm calls was 15,603 an increase of 62.1% on 1994-95. This may be explained by the possible increased installation of fire warning equipment;
- the total number of Malicious false alarm calls was 9,637 a decrease of 16.4% on 1994-95. This continues the encouraging downward trend in such calls and is due in the most part to brigades educating the public along with improvements in telephone technology;
- the total number of Special Services was 12,498 an increase of 52.6% on 1994-95. This substantial increase was due mainly to the severe flooding experienced throughout Scotland in the early part of 1996;
- the total number of fire safety inspections carried out in 1995-96 was 74,583 a 1.1% increase on 1994-95.

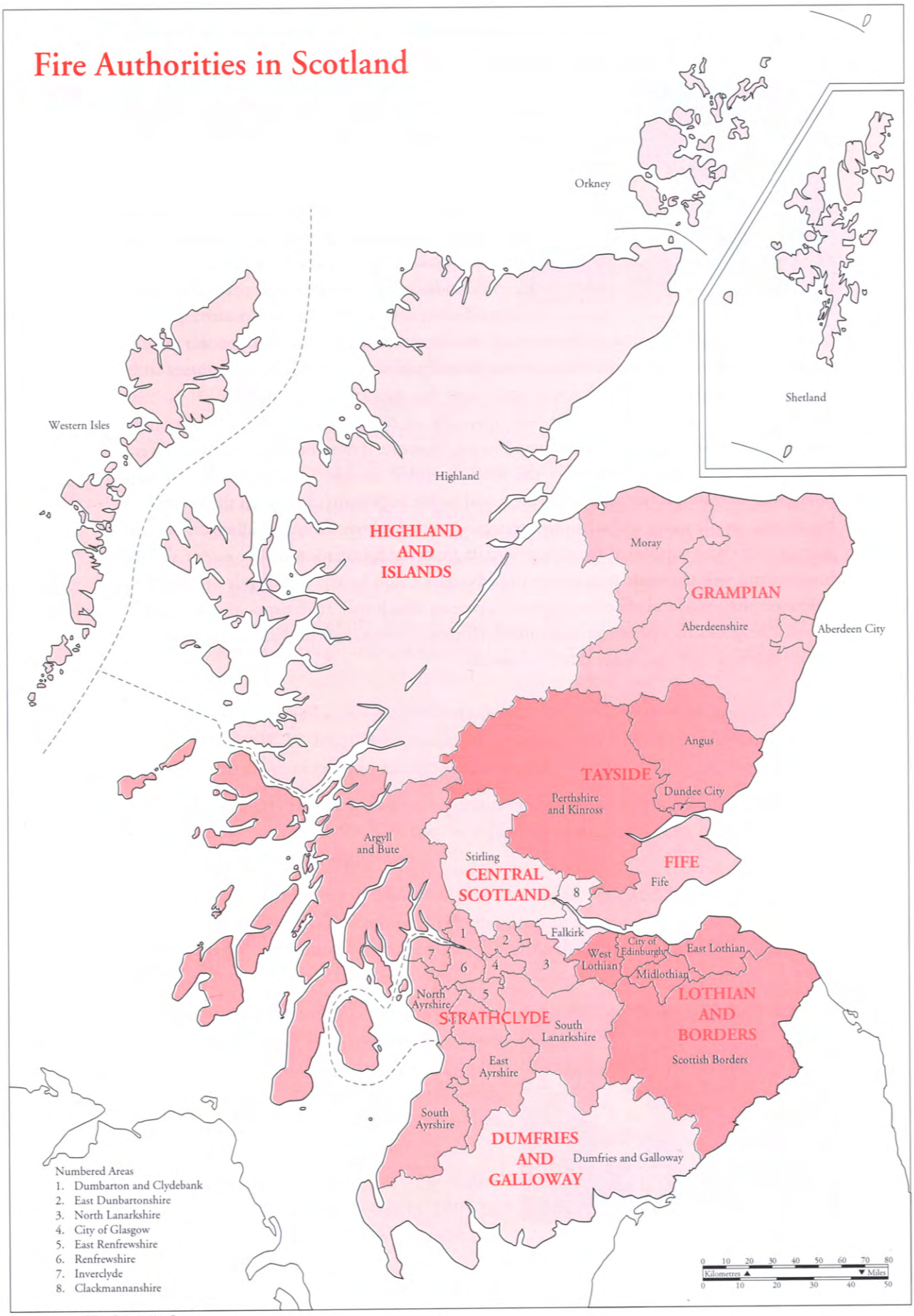
Photograph courtesy of DC Thomson & Co Ltd.

19. My Report contains, for the first time, a series of indicators which were initially agreed to be used by all Scottish brigades in 1993-94. For the purposes of clarity these indicators are divided into 2 parts, the first concentrating on operational data and the second giving

details of certain fire indicators. Whilst I am able at this stage to publish figures relating to each part for the last 3 fiscal years, I am aware that a more prolonged period of statistical evidence is required before any meaningful trends or developments can be identified However, it is encouraging to report that a national system commenced these 3 years ago and that the objectively based information gathered as a result will increasingly provide an early indication of any developing trend and so, should any corrective action be required, enable it to be timeously implemented.

20. Finally I would draw attention to the positive way in which fire brigades in Scotland are responding to the demands placed upon them. The pursuit of high quality management and service delivery is leading to a continuous cycle of improvement, a process which is enhanced through the Firemasters' willingness to liaise with their counterparts in an effort to identify best practice, so embracing cost effectiveness in all aspects of positive progress made. I am certain that the publication of HM Inspectorate's reports has been a positive feature in such developments through the identification of recommended courses to be adopted to secure greater efficiency and value for money in any brigade. It is most encouraging to record that, in the vast majority of cases, Firemasters have responded positively to the Inspectorate's recommendations. However it must be recognised that several instances of non-compliance with the recommended course arose primarily through financial constraint. If brigades are to meet and tackle important changes in the immediate future and, in planning and adapting strategies, to meet those various challenges, a sound management base supported by an appropriate financial foundation will be essential. HM Inspectorate will continue to support the advances made by the Fire Service through an objective, analytical and effective inspection process which will, at all times, pursue a policy to assist brigades to operate at maximised efficiency levels and provide the public with service delivery that optimises value for money.

Fire Authorities in Scotland



SECTION A: GENERAL

Developments in 1995-96

Local Government Reorganisation in Scotland

1. As outlined in my Report for 1994-95, Administration Scheme Orders were made in October 1995 in order to constitute the new joint fire boards which - on 1 April 1996 - became the authorities responsible for the administration of 6 of the 8 Scottish fire brigades. This was made necessary by the establishment of 29 new unitary authorities in mainland Scotland in place of the former 9 regional and 53 district councils. Whereas there were previously only 2 joint fire boards - Highland and Islands and Lothian and Borders - there are now only 2 areas - Dumfries and Galloway and Fife - where the new unitary authority directly administers the fire brigade. The joint boards administering the Highland and Islands and Lothian and Borders Fire Brigades were reconstituted, and new joint boards were constituted to administer the Central Scotland, Grampian, Strathclyde and Tayside Fire Brigades, with members in each case appointed by the unitary authorities which replaced the former regional councils.

2. The map indicates the new unitary authorities as well as the areas covered by the 8 brigades.

3. Apart from this very significant change in the administrative superstructure of the Scottish Fire Service, the reorganisation of local government, brought about by the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994, has not necessitated any other change in the structure or areas of the 8 brigades. Even the names of the brigades remain unaltered, except for the Central Region Fire Brigade which has been renamed the Central Scotland Fire Brigade.

4. The significance of the change in the administrative arrangements was brought very much to the fore in February 1996, when the new joint boards undertook their first major function of setting revenue budgets for the financial year 1996-97. This had to be undertaken against a background of demonstrated need by the Fire Service for additional funding for first-aid training, increased training for retained firefighters and other improvements which are considered necessary. It is disappointing to note that some brigades are being constrained financially to an extent which will further delay the implementation of such improvements.

Audit Commission Report - In Line of Fire

5. My report for 1994-95 described in some detail the Audit Commission's report on the Fire Service in England and Wales, and noted that it would have implications also for the Fire Service in Scotland. The recommendations made by the Audit Commission are now being considered by a Joint Committee of the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils. I am a member of that Joint Committee, and I look forward to dealing in a future Report with the outcome of its deliberations.

Fire Safety Legislation

6. The recommendations of the Interdepartmental Review team, published in June 1994, were discussed in my Report for 1994-95 where it was concluded that, while there was no evidence of widespread problems with the present system, overlaps and duplication in fire safety legislation could cause problems to business and simplification was desirable. I am pleased to report that an announcement has now been made (in May 1996) by the Home Office on the Government's response to the Review Team, setting out proposals for improvement of the operation and effectiveness of all fire safety legislation throughout Great Britain. Although these proposals will affect Scotland in the same way as they affect England and Wales there is one exception. That involves the separate and distinct Scottish building control system, which is seen to be working well in practice in Scotland, and does not in Ministers' view require further simplification or clarification. Therefore it will not be subject to change. Otherwise the salient points of the proposals are:

- fire safety enforcement will rest principally with fire authorities;
- powers under the Deregulation and Contracting Act will be used to improve further the fairness, transparency and consistency of the way in which fire safety legislation is supervised and enforced;
- fire authorities will be given wider scope to exempt premises which do not constitute a high risk from the need to have a fire certificate;
- there will be consultation later in 1996 on targeting fire certification more accurately at high risk premises;
- provisions in Local Acts and bylaws which overlap with fire safety provisions in national legislation will be repealed (mainly relevant to England and Wales as there are no Local Acts and few bylaws applying in Scotland containing fire safety provisions);
- there will be consultation later in 1996 on a proposed review of fire standards and codes of practice, aimed at ensuring they are consistent and simpler for businesses to understand;

7. Fire safety legislation has developed in a piecemeal fashion over many years with some 50 pieces of primary legislation carrying fire safety provisions. The principal legislation is the Fire Precautions Act 1971 and although it has been long recognised as being generally successful in its application, it is now somewhat out of step with UK health and safety legislation and with the EC Framework and Workplace Directives

8. In conjunction with the announcement of these new fire safety proposals, draft regulations to implement the fire safety aspects of the EC Directives have been published for comment, based as closely as possible on the wording of the Directives so as to avoid over-implementation. The proposed Workplace (Fire Precautions) Regulations are needed to implement the general fire safety requirements of these Directives, making employers responsible for carrying out their own assessments of the likelihood of fire and its consequences for those in the workplace and taking appropriate measures to reduce or eliminate such risks. The proposed regulations replace an earlier draft, mentioned in my previous Report, largely due to concerns about the perceived burden which would be placed on business, had they been implemented, and the inclusion of requirements that went beyond the basic Directives.

9. The proposed regulations apply to an employer who employs one or more workers (defined in the Framework Directive as excluding domestic servants) in a workplace for which he has responsibility, unless that workplace is among those listed in the regulations

as being excepted because they are already covered by other fire safety legislation or are otherwise excluded by the Workplace Directive. The notion of employers having responsibility for a workplace is a concept used in the Workplace Directive and is to be interpreted in accordance with that Directive.

10. Exemptions from these regulations are proposed for premises holding fire certificates issued under the Fire Precautions Act 1971 and to a number of other workplaces where legislation providing for equivalent or higher standards already applies. It is of note that those workplaces which were issued with a means of escape certificate under the Factories Act 1961 or the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 are not included in the exceptions.

Firefighting and Rescue at Sea

11. My Report for 1994-95 detailed the outcome of the discussions held to consider the standardisation of the operational response, conditions of service and other matters relating to firefighting and rescue at sea. A particular difficulty, to which attention was drawn in that Report, was that the discretionary power of a fire authority to employ the fire brigade outside its area is considered not to extend beyond territorial limits, as established at the 12 mile limit. Although it was thought that there would be no early opportunity for a change in the relevant primary legislation - section 3(1)(d) of the Fire Services Act 1947 - it is encouraging to note that there is a good prospect of this change being made in the context of forthcoming merchant shipping legislation.

12. This change will open the way for brigades to respond to calls for assistance from HM Coastguard in respect of incidents occurring anywhere within the UK maritime search and rescue region, without uncertainty as to the employment status of firefighters taking part.

Health and Safety

13. Information was circulated to Firemasters by letter in 1995 relating to The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1995 and Approved Code of Practice "Managing Construction for Health and Safety" issued by the Health and Safety Commission. This letter advised Firemasters that the regulations introduced a new statutory framework governing health and safety in both the design and construction phases of construction projects.

14. Further guidance has also been issued in the early part of 1996 which advises on the selection and use of chemical protective clothing and also provides details of British Standard EN469 which specifies the general clothing design, minimum performance requirements and test methods for firefighters' protective clothing for use in general firefighting operations.

15. Brigades generally are making satisfactory progress in meeting the requirements of managing health and safety at work. In addition, brigades are making preparations to carry out risk assessments of industrial and commercial premises throughout their areas which constitute a significant risk and are evaluating methods for the collation and dissemination of information on these to operational personnel. To assist in this matter a document "Guidance on the Application of Risk Assessment in the Fire Service" has been prepared which will provide assistance to brigades in developing a framework to achieve a consistent and cohesive approach to assessment of risks. Additionally, 2 courses were held during the year at the SFSTS, for the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) Certificate. These were attended by 40 students, from brigades throughout Scotland.

16. As a natural progression from the guidance contained in the Fire Service Drill Book, a document "The Principles of Operational Training" has been prepared by the Realistic Training Working Group on behalf of the Joint Training Committee of the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils. This document produced by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) develops aspects of the case study of the Fire Service "Training for Hazardous Occupations" as well as taking account of other relevant health and safety provisions. It acts as a framework for operational training that can be utilised by brigades to develop training policy, operational training plans, and to organise a specific operational training event.

Firemasters and Fire Authorities

17. At the end of the reporting period the following Firemasters were in post:

Central Region Fire Brigade	Firemaster I S T Adam QFSM GIFireE
Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade	Firemaster A Russell MIFireE
Fife Fire and Rescue Service	Firemaster N H Campion MIFireE
Grampian Fire Brigade	Firemaster A J Lobban MIFireE
Highland and Islands Fire Brigade	Firemaster R Gordon QFSM GIFireE
Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade	Firemaster C Cranston GIFireE
Strathclyde Fire Brigade	Firemaster J Jameson QFSM AIFireE FIMgt
Tayside Fire Brigade	Firemaster D Marr QFSM FIFireE

18. Two changes have taken place at Firemaster level within the reporting period - Mr A Russell was appointed as the Firemaster of the Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade. Mr Russell was previously Deputy Chief Officer in the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, a post which he had held since 1991.

19. Mr J White, lately Firemaster of the Fife Fire and Rescue Service, retired in March, 1996. Mr White led the Fife Service since his appointment in 1988. He represented Scottish brigades on a number of technical committees including the Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council. I offer Mr White my sincere best wishes for his retirement.

20. Mr White's post in the Fife Fire and Rescue Service has been filled by Mr N H Campion who was previously Assistant Chief Fire Officer of Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

21. Within the past year there has been much to discuss and resolve in a wide range of issues affecting the Fire Service. I would therefore wish to record my thanks to Firemasters and their staff for the co-operation and assistance given to members of the Fire Inspectorate during that time.

Honours and Awards

22. The following officers have received awards in The Queen's Honours Lists in the year under review.

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE)

J B Stiff, lately Firemaster, Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE)

M O'Mahoney, Sub Officer, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

J A Fraser, Retained Sub Officer, Highland and Islands Fire Brigade

Queen's Fire Service Medal (QFSM)

J Jameson, Firemaster, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

M Scott, lately Assistant Firemaster, Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade

A S Whitton, Deputy Firemaster, Central Region Fire Brigade

Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

This medal was awarded to 374 members of Scottish fire brigades.

23. I offer my sincere congratulations to all those whose work within the Scottish Fire Service has been so justly recognised.

Obituaries

Firefighter Roderick Nicholson

24. It is with deep regret that I report the death of Firefighter Roderick Nicholson of Tayside Fire Brigade who died during an incident at industrial premises in Perth. Firefighter Nicholson together with other crew members were rendering assistance to 2 workmen who had become trapped in a large silo containing powdered sodium carbonate. Although the rescue attempt was successful, the Firefighter got into difficulties from which he could not immediately be extricated.

25. Firefighter Nicholson is survived by his wife Yvonne and 9 year old daughter Amy and I extend my deepest sympathy to them and the family.

Mr Peter Scott

26. It is also with much regret that I record the death of Mr Peter Scott, former Firemaster of the Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade. Mr Scott joined the South Eastern Fire Brigade, which preceded the present Brigade, in 1963 and remained within that organisation for the rest of his service. He rose through the ranks, serving in various references until 1988 when he was appointed Firemaster. In 1994 he was forced to retire from the Service due to ill health. I extend my condolences to his wife and the family.

SECTION B: PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Establishments and Strengths

1. The establishments and actual strengths of Scottish fire brigades are given at Appendix 2 of this Report.

Wholetime Personnel (Operational)

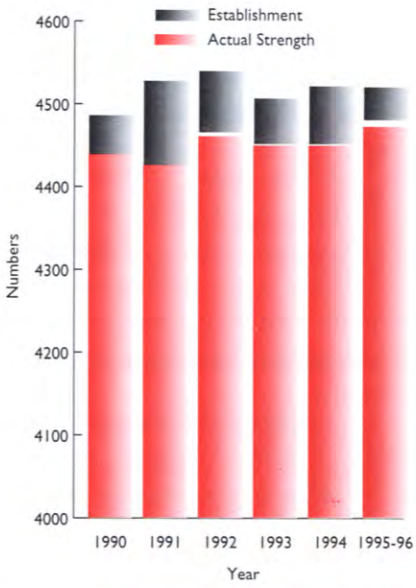
2. The total establishment of wholetime operational members of Scottish fire brigades at 31 March 1996 was 4,521, the same as the previous year. The actual strength of Scottish brigades, as opposed to the authorised establishment, was 4,481, making a difference between establishment and number actually in post of 40. Bearing in mind, however, that brigades normally have personnel ready to join the first recruit training course in the following year, the apparent level of undermanning is not a cause for concern. All brigades have, over a period of years, been staffed at or near their wholetime establishment figures and the overall pattern for both establishment and strength figures has remained broadly constant over the years.

3. No problems were experienced by brigades in attracting suitable personnel to fill vacancies that arose during the year but, as has been the case in the recent past, the number of applications from females and members of ethnic minority groups to join the Fire Service in Scotland was again disappointingly low, in view of the efforts made by brigades to attract such applicants. Out of a total of 16,251 applications processed by brigades in 1995-96, only 745 (4.6%) were from females or members of ethnic minority groups. Central Region, Grampian and Tayside Fire Brigades did not hold a recruitment campaign during the year.

4. The number of female firefighters serving in brigades rose to 18, while the number of members of an ethnic minority group serving in the operational section of brigades is recorded as being one.

5. Graph 1 shows the authorised wholetime establishment and the actual strength of the Scottish Fire Service at 31 December for the years 1991 to 1993 and as at 31 March for 1994-95 and 1995-96.

6. During the year 137 wholetime operational personnel left the Fire Service for various reasons. This figure was 7 more than in the previous year. In contrast 156 firefighters joined the Fire Service in 1995-96, 33 more than in 1994-95. Details of the gains and losses of personnel in each brigade are shown in Appendix 3.



Graph 1 - Wholetime Establishment and Actual Strength 1991 to 1995-96

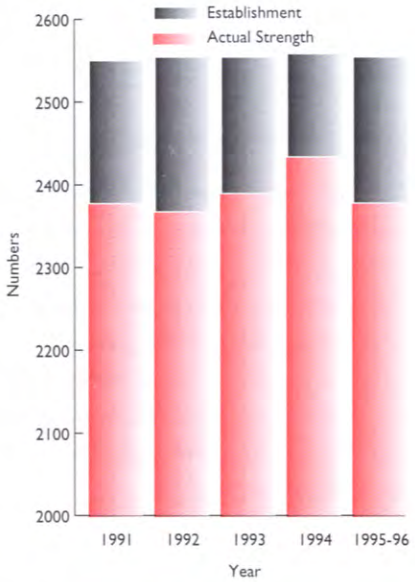
7. During 1995-96 there were 72 retirals from the Fire Service on medical grounds. While this was only 5 more than the lowest recorded figure in 1994-95, it is still a cause for concern as it constitutes an ever increasing burden on brigades' budgetary balances through increased pension payments with the loss of experienced personnel and the consequent increase in training costs. The number of personnel who were able to retire on ordinary pension during the year was 34.

Retained and Volunteer Personnel

8. The figures relating to the establishment and the actual strength in the retained sector of brigades for the calendar years 1991 to 1993 and for the financial years 1994-95 and 1995-96 are shown in Graph 2.

9. Graph 2 indicates that the establishment of retained personnel has not varied greatly in recent years. In 1995-96 the establishment was 2,553, a decrease of 4 on the 1994-95 level. The actual number of firefighters in post was 2,378, 56 less than in the previous year.

10. During the year 1,037 applications were received from persons seeking to join the Fire Service on a part-time basis; from this total 146 firefighters were subsequently recruited into the retained service. As stated in previous Reports, while the total number of personnel in post is satisfactory, it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit retained personnel who can provide operational cover during the working day, as more and more people are required to move outwith their communities for employment purposes.



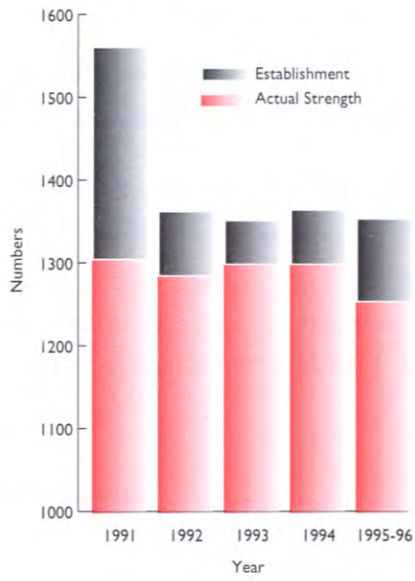
Graph 2 - Retained Establishment and Actual Strength 1991 to 1995-96

11. The number of female firefighters within the retained service of Scottish brigades is 39, a 30.0% increase over last year's total.

12. Details of the volunteer establishment and actual strength as at 31 December for the years 1991 to 1993 and for the financial years 1994-95 and 1995-96 are shown in Graph 3.

13. The total establishment of volunteer firefighters fell by 11 in 1995-96 to 1,352 due mainly to a policy change by Strathclyde Fire Brigade in the staffing of some of its volunteer units. The actual number of volunteers in post throughout Scotland fell by 45 to 1,254.

14. At the end of the reporting period there were 45 female volunteer firefighters serving in brigades, 6 more than the previous year.



Graph 3 - Volunteer Establishment and Actual Strength 1991 to 1995-96

Control Room Staff

15. In 1995-96 the number of Control Room staff in post was 207, the same as the authorised establishment for Scottish brigades, of whom there are at present 172 females and 35 males.

Absence from Duty

16. The proportion of the total number of working days lost in Scottish brigades due to sickness affecting wholetime personnel was 6.01%, in sharp contrast to the gradual decline experienced in recent years as indicated below.

Year	1992	1993	1994-95	1995-96
Percentage	5.36	5.06	4.77	6.01

17. This increase is a cause for concern, especially when the comparison between short term sickness and long term sickness, ie an absence from duty that exceeds 28 calendar days, is made and shows the percentage split as 2.93% and 3.09% respectively. This comparison would suggest the increasing dangers firefighters face in their day-to-day duties and, while every precaution is taken during emergency incidents, it would appear that more and more firefighters are suffering longer term injuries. Although this increase in 1995-96 may only be a one off, the Inspectorate will continue to monitor this matter.

18. The returns indicate that in 1995-96, 70 wholetime, 5 retained and one volunteer operational personnel received serious injuries. The comparable figures for the previous year were 70, 23 and none respectively. These serious injuries were sustained in the following circumstances:

	Wholetime	Retained	Volunteer
at fire incidents	36	3	1
at special service incidents	1	-	-
during training periods	15	2	-
during other duties	18	-	-

19. Accidents and injuries continue to be a major concern and a great deal of effort is still required to counteract this problem. As mentioned in past Reports, 7 out of the 8 brigades in Scotland have an Occupational Health Scheme in operation; sickness monitoring has also been introduced and the majority of operational personnel take part in structured fitness training routines. It is hoped that this, together with a closer examination of the circumstances in which accidents occur and the application of safety techniques, will reduce the incidence of both injury and illness.

20. The percentage of the total number of working days lost to sickness affecting Control Room staff was 9.6% and 1.7% higher than the 1994-95 figure. This increase is mainly due to 5 long term absences in Central Region Fire Brigade. Control Room staff absences are normally covered by an adjustment in shift sizes or by the employment of temporary staff on short-term contracts. The training of temporary staff remains of great importance in view of the complexities of the modern computer based command and control mobilising systems.

Discipline

21. During the year, 16 persons were charged with a total of 22 offences under the Fire Services (Discipline) (Scotland) Regulations 1985. The corresponding figures for last year were 13 and 16 respectively.

22. The punishments awarded in respect of the charges were:

dismissal	3;	
stoppage of pay	3;	
reprimands	4;	and
caution	6.	

Pension Scheme for Firefighters

23. At its May, 1995 meeting the Joint Pensions Committee (JPC) considered the final report of the Working Group which had been set up to review the pension scheme's medical appeal procedures. The majority of the JPC agreed to accept the recommendation that the present arrangements, whereby medical appeals are decided by single referees, should be replaced by a system of regional Appeal Boards each comprising 3 medical consultants. On the Scottish aspects of a new appeal system, the relatively low number of cases per year north of the border had to be borne in mind. The Working Group therefore recommended that, until such time as a dedicated Appeal Board could be established in Scotland, one of the proposed English Boards could meet periodically in Glasgow or Edinburgh. This was accepted by the JPC, but with the suggestion that - in order to avoid increased delays in settling cases - a Scottish appellant should have the opportunity of attending an earlier Appeal Board in England.

24. A review group set up in 1994 to carry out a full review of the Fire Service Pension Scheme was engaged in this work throughout 1995-96. The group, the members of which were drawn from the Home Departments and HM Treasury, with assistance from the Government Actuary's Department, sought views from the local authority associations and Fire Service representative organisations. Early indications were that a report would be published as the basis for consultation during the summer of 1996, but it is now understood that further work is to be undertaken and that it may be some time before the review is completed.

Equal Opportunities Joint Committee

25. Over the past year, the programme of work for the Equal Opportunities Joint Committee (EOJC) has been directed primarily towards consideration of the findings of research projects commissioned by the Home Office which relate to equality of opportunity in the Fire Service. Two separate research projects have examined the height requirements and age limits for recruitment to the Fire Service. These considerations are continuing and, in due course, recommendations will go forward from the EOJC to the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils.

26. The EOJC gave firm support to the development and continuation of the Women Firefighters' National Conference, recognising the importance of this inaugural event not only for women firefighters but for the Fire Service as a whole. Within the EOJC, the Home Departments are to explore with the employers' organisations the issues concerning the promotion, co-ordination and funding of future conferences for women firefighters.

27. Table A shows the increases in the number of female firefighters within the Fire Service since 1994-95, in the wholetime, retained and volunteer sections of brigades. It should be noted that not all of the Scottish brigades have volunteer members.

Table A - Breakdown of Gender and Ethnic Origin of Brigade Personnel in Scotland in 1995-96

	Wholetime		Retained		Volunteer		Total	
White								
Male	4462	(4442)	2339	(2406)	1209	(1260)	8010	(8108)
Female	18	(17)	39	(30)	45	(39)	102	(86)
Black								
Male	1	(2)	-	(-)	-	(*)	1	(2)
Female	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(*)	-	(-)
Asian								
Male	-	(1)	-	(-)	-	(*)	-	(1)
Female	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(*)	-	(-)
Others								
Male	-	(1)	-	(-)	-	(*)	-	(1)
Female	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(*)	-	(-)
Total								
Male	4463	(4446)	2339	(2406)	1209	(1260)	8011	(8112)
Female	18	(17)	39	(30)	45	(39)	102	(86)
Overall Total								
	4,481	**(4463)**	**2378**	**(2436)**	**1254**	**(1299)**	**8113**	**(8198)**

Figures in brackets are for 1994-95

(*) *This information was not available for the volunteer section of brigades in 1994-95*

28. While the number of female firefighters or members of an ethnic minority remains small when compared with the total workforce, all brigades have sought to increase the number of recruitment applications from these presently under-represented sections of our society.

SECTION C: OPERATIONS

Fires and Other Emergency Incidents

1. For statistical purposes, the emergency calls to which brigades mobilise appliances and crews, are divided into 3 broad categories:

Fires;

Special Service incidents; and

False alarms.

2. Outbreaks of fire are divided into 3 main categories: Fires which affect property; Secondary Fires which are, in the main, outdoor fires; and Chimney Fires which are the outbreaks that are confined to a chimney or flue-pipe.

3. Special Service incident is the term used to cover the wide range of emergency occurrences to which brigades are called, but which do not involve an outbreak of fire. They include road traffic accidents, rail crashes, chemical spillages, flooded property, persons trapped in lifts or other situations where there is a risk to life.

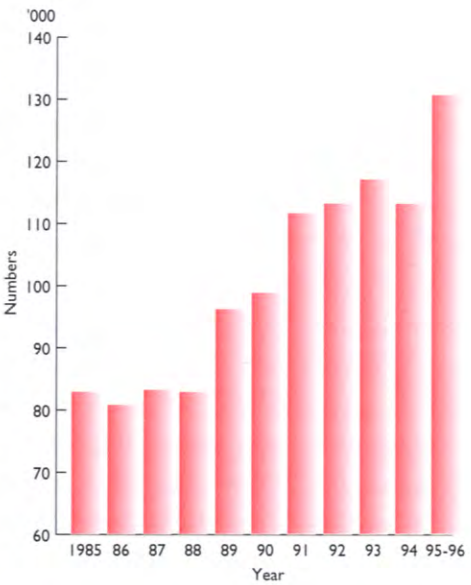
4. False Alarms are divided into 3 types - Good Intent, where the caller genuinely thinks that a fire emergency exists; Apparatus, where the call to the brigade is mainly the result of a fault in a fire detection or warning system; and Malicious, where the call to the brigade is made by a person who knows that there is no outbreak of fire.

Total Emergency Incidents

5. During 1995-96 Scottish fire brigades attended a total of 130,863 emergency calls, 15.7% more than in the previous year and the highest level of incidence recorded for the country.

6. Of that total 67,033 (51.2%) were outbreaks of Fire, 12,498 (9.6%) were Special Service incidents and 51,332 (39.2%) were False Alarm calls.

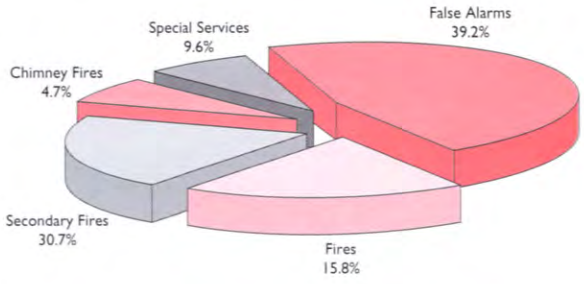
7. Graph 4 shows clearly that 1995-96 produced a new peak in the operational activity of brigades with 17,789 more emergency attendances more than in 1994-95, thereby incurring the consequent increase in running costs covering such matters as retained firefighters' fees, transport running costs and equipment maintenance.



Graph 4 - Total Emergency Incidents Attended by Scottish Brigades 1986 to 1995-96

8. The rising trend in the number of emergency calls which is apparent from the late 1980s is quite pronounced on the Graph.

9. The nature and trends in the various types of emergency call received by brigades over the 10 year period is shown in Graph 5.



Graph 5 - Breakdown of Calls 1986 to 1995-96

10. The rising trend in the number of fires , other than Chimney Fires, which occurred within the decade is clear, in spite of the annual fluctuations. On the other hand, the number of Chimney Fires shows a slightly downward trend over the past 10 years. This latter feature is perhaps one of the few fire related matters which as well as being affected by the weather pattern, has also been affected by fashion. That is the initial move away from the open coal fire to other forms of space heating in dwellings and, more recently, the return in some new dwellings to the open style coal burning fireplace.

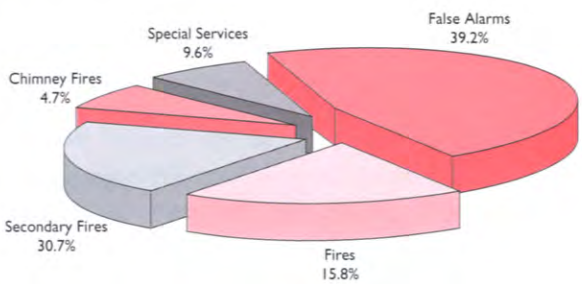
11. The number of Special Service incidents, that is emergency incidents not involving an outbreak of fire, has been rising gradually since the mid 1980s to an all time high in 1995-96, due mainly to the severe flooding experienced throughout Scotland at the beginning of 1996.

12. There is also a rising trend in the number of False Alarm calls. Of the 3 types of these calls, those which are classified as being Good Intent have shown the steepest increase within the 10 year period, by doubling their incidence. False Alarm calls which are due to Apparatus have also doubled since 1986 but they have a much lower annual level of frequency. Perhaps it is to be expected that as we encourage the use of fire detection and fire warning systems, the potential for False Alarm calls which are due to the Apparatus will also increase.

13. A completely different situation exists with regard to the trend in the frequency of Malicious false alarm calls. Prior to 1992 the number of Malicious calls had doubled in 6 years to the peak of 22,485 in 1992. From then the frequency of these calls has plummeted to below 10,000 within 3 years. This has been achieved by the efforts of fire brigades through their community education programmes and with the introduction of modern technology into the telephone system which allows a more accurate and speedy method of tracing calls and therefore those who are guilty of this stupid and illegal action.

14. As mentioned above, the operational activity of brigades in 1995-96 was 15.7% higher than in the previous year, representing 17,789 more emergency incidents for the Service to deal with. Graph 6 shows the broad categories of the 130,863 incidents of that year and the percentage of each in relation to the overall total.

15. Although within the overall total number of emergency incidents there was a slight reduction in the proportion of Fires, that is fires affecting property, the actual number of these Fires increased to 20,610, 6.4% more than in the previous year. All but one brigade experienced an increase in this type of fire, the percentage increases ranging from 3.8% to 17.0%.



Graph 6 - Types of Call in 1995-96

16. Out of the total number of Fires affecting property, 12,900 (62.5%) occurred within occupied buildings of which 8,471 were dwellings. The most common causes of Fires are as follows:

In dwellings

(i) pan left unattended on cooker - contents ignited;

(ii) carelessness with smokers' materials (cigarettes - matches);

(iii) faulty electrical apparatus or the misuse of electrical apparatus;

(iv) wilful fire raising.

In buildings other than dwellings

(i) wilful fire raising;

(ii) faults in electrical wiring;

(iii) electrical apparatus;

(iv) carelessness with smokers' materials.

17. It is again with concern that I record that in 6 out of the 8 Scottish brigades, wilful fire raising is listed among the 4 major causes of fire in dwellings. This criminal act not only causes damage to the property but clearly presents a hazard to persons within the property.

18. The remainder of the major causes of fire in dwellings appear to be due to human failure through carelessness or complacency. Examples include failing to take reasonable precautions with chip pans, cigarette ends or matches, or the lack of servicing of electrical apparatus.

19. Given that the average household size is 2.5 persons during 1995-96 the 8,471 fires in dwellings are likely to have placed at least 21,180 people at risk through the lack of common-sense precautions.

20. In buildings other than dwellings wilful fire raising continues to be the major cause of fire in most brigades. Although information on this matter is not forwarded to the Inspectorate, it is appropriate for each brigade to examine its own circumstances and consider the manner in which a reduction in these often costly fires can be encouraged through its fire safety promotions and in co-operation with other appropriate organisations.

21. The number of Secondary Fires attended by brigades during the year was 40,217 a 23.2% increase on the total for 1994-95. Although the Grampian and Tayside Fire Brigades had small reductions in their levels of incidence, the remaining brigades had substantial increases in the number of these Fires, ranging from 17.1% to 80.1%. Fires of this type, being in the main outdoor fires, can be affected by the weather conditions, which in the summer of 1995 produced high temperatures and long dry spells which seem to encourage fires in grass and woodland areas. These outbreaks can be very labour intensive and of lengthy duration, committing a large number of fire crews and appliances for one or more days and requiring complex manning adjustments, particularly in areas covered by retained or volunteer crews, in order to provide fire cover for other potential incidents.

22. Chimney Fires totalled 6,206 during 1995-96, 1.3% more than last year. Four brigades experienced increases while the remaining 4 had reductions. Overall the pattern in the incidence of Chimney Fires of a 10 year period shows a downward trend as mentioned above. It is again interesting to note that the Highland and Islands Fire Brigade had the highest incidence of these Fires, with 1,872 (30.1%) of the Scottish total (6,206) and 571 more than the brigade with the highest population in Scotland.

False Alarm Calls

23. During 1995-96 the total number of False Alarm calls was 51,332 a 9.8% increase on the total for the previous year. These calls accounted for almost 40% of the total number of emergency attendances made by brigades in Scotland. The number of calls in relation to each of the 3 categories of False Alarm was as follows:

Good Intent	26,092	(25,593)
Apparatus	15,603	(9,623)
Malicious	9,637	(11,527)
Total	**51,332**	**(46,743)**

The figures in brackets refer to the totals for 1994-95.

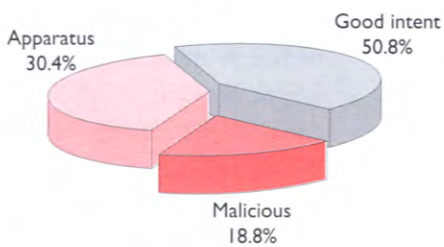
24. It will be noted that just over half of these incidents were within the Good Intent category, which shows a 1.9% increase on the level for the previous year. With the exception of one brigade, increases ranging from 1.8% to 27.9% were recorded for each area. The Tayside Fire Brigade recorded a decrease of 53.5% from their total for the previous year.

25. Within the Apparatus category, the total for 1995-96 was 62.14% more than in 1994-95. Increases were recorded by each brigade with the highest rates of increase being returned by the Lothian and Borders, and the Tayside Fire Brigades with levels of 105.2% and 255.2% respectively. Obviously these Brigades will be examining their data for a possible explanation of such substantial increases.

26. The number of Malicious false alarm calls in 1995-96 totalled 9,637 a decrease of 1,890 from 1994-95. This is the third year in which Scotland has experienced a reduction in the number of these calls, a feature which is to be welcomed because of their wastefulness in the use of brigade resources, their cost, and the possible danger to people in diverting appliances and crews from genuine emergency incidents.

27. As previously mentioned it is considered that these reductions have been achieved through the campaigning efforts of the brigades and others, and I compliment those concerned in these activities.

28. Table B shows the number of Malicious false alarm calls within each brigade over the past 5 years, while Graph 7 indicates the percentage of each false alarm category in the overall total.



Graph 7 - False alarm calls in 1995 - 96

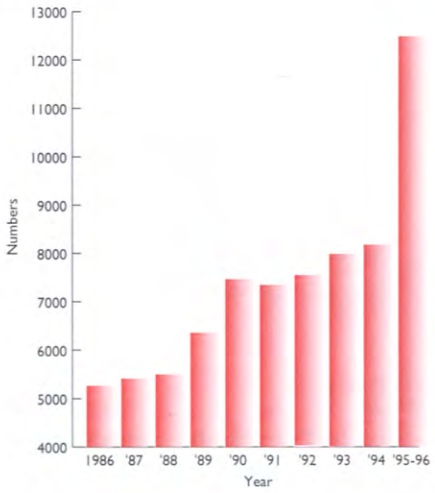
Table B - Malicious False Alarm Calls 1991 to 1995-96

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995-96
Central	595	567	694	475	431
Dumfries & Galloway	283	255	280	235	146
Fife	997	1,108	976	848	771
Grampian	613	616	628	544	415
Highlands & Islands	395	347	334	387	309
Lothian & Borders	3,206	2,107	1,916	1,356	1,188
Strathclyde	11,370	16,349	13,970	6,926	5,681
Tayside	1,022	1,136	730	756	696
Total	**18,481**	**22,485**	**19,528**	**11,527**	**9,637**

Special Service Calls

29. The total number of Special Service calls attended by brigades in the year under review was 12,498, an increase of 4,309 (52.6%) over 1994-95. This total is indeed the highest level of incidence recorded for these emergencies in Scotland.

30. Graph 8 shows clearly the substantial increase in the number of these calls in 1995-96 as well as the rising trend within the past 10 years, but particularly the higher level of incidence since 1989.

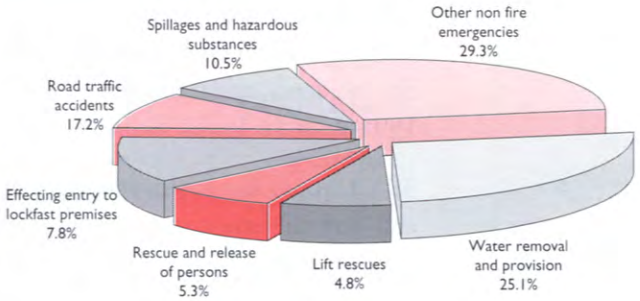


Graph 8 - Special Service Calls 1986 to 1995-96

31. The most common types of Special Service call attended by brigades in the year under review were:

◆ pumping water from flooded areas	3,132	(25.1%)
◆ road traffic accidents	2,150	(17.2%)
◆ standing-by, or assisting at spillages	1,314	(10.5%)
◆ effecting entry to lockfast premises	979	(7.8%)
◆ the rescue or release of people	665	(5.3%)

32 . Graph 9 shows the activities listed under the Special Service heading, together with the proportion that each represented in relation to the total number of incidents attended.



Graph 9 - Special Service Calls in 1995-96

Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs)

33. During 1995-96 brigades in Scotland attended 2,150 road traffic accidents which did not involve an outbreak of fire. This total is 4 more than in the previous year. Out of the 2,150 incidents, 644 (30%) involved the removal of persons trapped in the wreckage. On these occasions the skills of the fire crews are fully tested, in protecting the vehicle or vehicles from further damage, ensuring that fuel is not ignited by electrical or mechanical sparks resulting from the accident and, at the same time, dealing with the persons trapped and other injured people.

34. On 1,244 other occasions the RTAs did not involve the extrication of persons from the vehicles but required the containment of the damage and the protection of those removing the wreckage, often in the presence of a fuel leakage.

35. Table C shows the number of RTAs attended by brigades over the past 5 years together with the number of deaths due to fires in vehicles over the same period.

Table C - Number of Road Traffic Accidents Attended and Resultant Fire Deaths 1991 to 1995-96

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995-96
Number of road traffic accidents attended (no fire)	2,141	2,184	2,061	2,146	2,150
Number of deaths due to fires in road vehicles	10	12	8	4	4

Rescues

36. In 1995-96 the number of people who were rescued by fire brigades from emergency incidents totalled 2,022 a decrease of 106 from that in the previous year. Table D shows the number of persons rescued by brigades from emergency incidents in the last 5 years.

Table D - Number of Persons Rescued from Emergency Incidents 1991 to 1995-96

Incident	1991	1992	1993	1994-95	1995-96
Fires	654	559	634	555	472
Other emergency situations without fire	987	706	838	978	805
Road traffic accidents	817	692	776	595	745
Totals	**2,458**	**1,957**	**2,248**	**2,128**	**2,022**

37. The number of rescues carried out by brigades fluctuates substantially from year to year, particularly with regard to RTAs and non-fire emergencies. In the case of rescues from fire incidents, the trend since 1990 has generally been downward, indeed the figure for 1995-96 is the lowest recorded in the past 10 years.

38. I would like at this stage to pay tribute to each of the emergency services who at fire and non-fire emergencies co-operate in an integrated manner to protect both life and property and stabilise an often difficult and complicated set of circumstances creating the emergency.

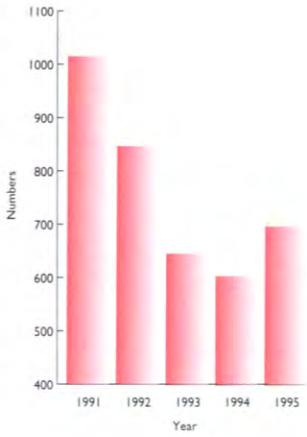
39. Further detailed information on the operational activities of each Scottish brigade is given in tabulated form at Appendices 4 and 5 of this Report.

Fire Damage in the United Kingdom

40. The Association of British Insurers has estimated that in 1995 the direct financial loss due to fire damage in the UK was £700m. This total is 15.5% higher than in the previous year and has halted the downward trend in the fire loss figures which had been apparent since 1991.

41. The commercial sector again bore the highest proportion of the fire losses in 1995, with claims totalling £492m - 16% more than in 1994. Claims in respect of domestic property totalled £208m during the year, approximately 9% above the 1994 level. The proportion of the total fire losses borne by the 2 respective sectors remained around the average: 71% for commercial claims and 29% for claims relating to domestic premises.

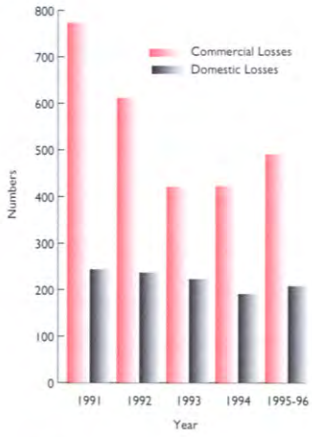
42. Graph 10 shows the total fire losses for the 5 year period 1991-95 and highlights the falling trend in the first 4 years of the period, while Graph 11 shows the totals and trends in the commercial and domestic sectors.



Graph 10 - Fire Damage in the United Kingdom 1991 to1995

43. News media stories during the year showed a number of fire incidents in commercial buildings with large individual floor areas through which fire spread to destroy the contents of the buildings and subsequently the buildings themselves. Later commentators expressed concern about the large undivided floor spaces and the potential risk to the occupiers of such buildings as well as to firefighters called to deal with these outbreaks.

44. There is no question that the application of the principles of early fire detection and an early attack on a fire will limit its development and spread, restrict the damage done and the costs incurred. The risk to people is also reduced.



Graph 11 - Commercial and Domestic Sectors Annual Monetary Losses to Fire Damage 1991 to 1995

45. In previous Reports I have emphasised the need to use our modern technology to detect and attack fire not only in new buildings but also in existing properties. In recent years we have encouraged the installation of smoke alarms in domestic premises to give an early warning to the occupants of an outbreak of fire, thereby giving a little more time to escape before the atmosphere in the house can no longer support life. The principle of detecting fire in its early stages of development is the same for industrial and commercial premises in order to bring about an early attack on the fire by ensuring that the detector system is linked into a mechanism which will automatically call the fire brigade once the system has been actuated.

46. Sprinkler systems both detect and attack an outbreak of fire and they can also be fitted with a device which will call the fire brigade automatically in the event of fire. Although they may not be suitable for all types of property, due to size, use, contents and cost, the protection afforded by such a system during the lifespan of the building requires serious consideration, especially with the increasing number of fires in buildings, the incidence of wilful fire raising and the need to safeguard our assets and jobs.

47. Although the technology may be new in some respects, the principles of protecting our commercial premises are not and I make no apology for again encouraging their adoption.

Research Protocol for Fire Investigation

48. A decision to examine the extension of fire investigation by a more scientific approach to the investigation of building fires, resulted in the formation of a national Fire Investigation Working Group, representing a cross section of Fire Service interests and chaired by the Fire Safety Division of the Home Office.

49. The objective of research into real fires and the collation of data from these outbreaks would be to inform the policy and practical firefighting of the future, as there is a real belief

in Fire Service circles that the investigation of fires should extend beyond that of establishing a cause of fire. At its early meetings the Group agreed a series of objectives which would form the basis of the project. These are:

i. to analyse information from fires which could assist in the reduction of fires, casualties and fire losses through objectives ii. to viii;

ii. to inform the design of future buildings, by providing data showing the effects of real fire situations;

iii. to learn how human behaviour may contribute to a fire and to understand behaviour during a fire;

iv. to learn how the contents of buildings/structure affect the development and spread of fire;

v. to improve the understanding of the development and spread of fire to the benefit of operational firefighters;

vi. to provide a method of assessing the effectiveness of the facilities needed to maintain a life supporting environment and reasonable means of escape;

vii. to provide information to assist in the development and review of fire risk assessments, equivalency in trade-offs and statutory controls; and

viii. to provide information to assist in the development and review of fire cover categorisations in respect of standards of fire cover.

50. The method of gathering the detailed information is of obvious importance and it was considered that a national pro-forma should be established for the collection of data from the scene of real fires. It was also proposed that this questionnaire should undergo a series of trials before being introduced nation-wide.

51. This part of the project has 3 stages - the first, which is underway at present, is to trial a pilot questionnaire using Fire Investigation Teams, volunteered from 3 brigades - London Fire and Civil Defence Authority, West Midlands and Tyne and Wear. This will be followed by a review of the questionnaire and the accompanying database.

52. The second stage will consist of a trial of the questionnaire by operational personnel from a larger number of volunteer brigades. As at the end of the first stage, the questionnaire and database will be reviewed in the light of the experience gained and any suggestions made, before the final stage which will be the introduction of the scheme nationally and the production of fire investigation information on a national database.

53. As well as the pilot testing of the questionnaire, much detailed work has still to be carried out on the manner in which the system will operate, and how the information will be used.

54. The Working Group continues to meet on a regular basis.

Performance Indicators for Scottish Fire Brigades

55. As indicated in last year's Report, the Scottish Fire Indicators Implementation Working Group (SFIIWG) considered the collated performance indicators returns for the financial year 1994-95 at a meeting in May 1995. Its report was then submitted to the Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council for its meeting in June 1995 and covered not only the 1994-95 exercise but also possible changes for 1995-96 and 1996-97.

56. The SFIIWG met again in September 1995 when it was reported to members that the information collected for both 1993-94 and 1994-95 was to be published as an appendix in the appropriate brigade inspection report for 1994-95. Consideration was given to further changes in the indicators scheme in the light of changes in England and Wales but it was agreed there was no need for such changes in Scotland.

57. Again as indicated in last year's Report, the 4 performance indicators for 1994-95 required by the 1993 Direction of the Commission for Local Authority Accounts in Scotland are understood to have been published locally at the end of December 1995. A collated report by the Commission itself is currently awaited.

58. Performance Indicators for 1995-96 and the previous 2 years are shown at Appendix 7 of this Report. The Appendix contains statistical data provided by the Brigade in relation to a number of set criteria which have been agreed for use by all Scottish brigades and which provide some indication of the Brigade's performance. The information is divided into 2 main Parts - Operational Data (OD) and Scottish Fire Indicators (SFI), with each Part sub-divided into 5 specific headings. Although the information allows a year to year comparison, it is more appropriate to use longer periods for the examination and analyses of trends. In view of the fact that at present not all of the Scottish brigades are capable of providing all of the statistical data comparisons with a Scottish average are not always possible. The information given here is only part of a wide range of detailed statistical and other data used by the Brigade and the Inspectorate to monitor performance.

SECTION D: FIRE SAFETY

Background

1. Whilst recognising that the primary function of the fire service is to respond to emergency fire calls, the recent report of the Audit Commission on fire brigades in England and Wales highlighted the need to place greater emphasis on the prevention of fire and the promotion of fire safety measures.

2. The report suggested that there was an ineffective national response to the challenge of fire as shown by the fact that the total number of fires is not decreasing; serious fires are increasing; fire deaths remain high and injuries due to fire are increasing.

3. At present the statutory responsibilities of fire authorities for fire prevention or fire safety matters are contained firstly within the Fire Services Act 1947. Under the terms of this Act it is the duty of the fire authority to make efficient arrangements for giving, when requested, goodwill advice in respect of buildings and other property, on fire prevention, restricting the spread of fire and means of escape in case of fire. This duty is delegated by the fire authorities to the fire brigades whose officers have the training and practical experience of fire to enable them to deal with the wide range of fire safety issues likely to be raised.

4. Although the 1947 Act is now almost 50 years old and much in need of review or replacement, the concept of providing advice to the public and other persons or organisations on avoiding the horror and cost of fire is more likely to be developed rather than be reduced.

5. A second responsibility placed on fire authorities is the enforcement of the provisions of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 which applies mainly to industrial and commercial premises. For the larger types of these occupancies, the statutory control mechanism is by way of the fire certificate, issued by the fire authorities, through their fire brigades, to set an acceptable standard of precautions within premises, and where appropriate, to apply conditions with regard to the use of the building, from a fire safety viewpoint.

6. The uses of premises for which a fire certificate is required are factories, offices, shops and railway premises in which the aggregate number of persons at work exceeds the figures stated in the statutory instrument and also, in the case of factories, where explosive or highly flammable material is stored or used in or under the premises. Hotels and boarding houses in which there is sleeping accommodation for guests or staff to the extent stated in the statutory designation order are also required to have a fire certificate.

7. In the smaller types of these industrial and commercial premises which are not covered by the numerical or specific thresholds of the certification procedures the legislative provisions relating to fire precautions are applied but to a lesser extent. In each case, nationally published guidance documents are available to assist employers to meet their statutory obligations regarding fire safety.

8. As outlined in last year's Report the manner in which fire safety legislation is currently applied is under review and due to the forthcoming implementation of 2 EC Directives, it is likely to be extended to cover a wider range of work places where persons are employed. A public consultation on the manner in which the provisions of the Directives will be applied is to take place around mid 1996.

9. The Fire Precautions Act 1971 is the only statutory instrument relating to the fire safety for which the fire authorities and fire brigades have direct enforcement responsibilities. Nevertheless the wide ranging nature of the duty under the Fire Service Act 1947 - to give advice on fire prevention matters when requested - ensures that fire brigades have substantial workloads in addition to being statutory enforcement agencies.

10. The advice of the brigades' fire safety officers is sought from 3 main sources:

i. local authorities, who call on brigades to advise them on, for example, appropriate fire precautions in premises for which applications for licences have been submitted to them under a wide range of legislation including:

The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982;

The Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976;

The Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975;

The Housing (Scotland) Acts;

The Gaming Act 1968;

The Theatres Act 1968;

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960;

The Cinematograph (Safety) (Scotland) Regulations;

ii. architects and building designers on fire precautions for new properties, or on alterations to existing premises; and

iii. other organisations, public or private, or members of the general public.

11. In recent years all Scottish brigades have increased their work in community care projects, although there is no statutory obligation on them to do so. Particular attention is given to schools and school children, especially in those areas where local fire statistics show that the risk is greatest, as well as to elderly people and families.

12. The Scottish Office also participates in this work by the provision of publicity material - leaflets and posters to brigades - together with the running of TV campaigns (and follow-up research) to highlight special fire safety themes.

13. It is interesting to note that the Audit Commission Report referred to above, recommended that in order to redress the imbalance in fire authorities' responsibility - that is between firefighting and fire safety - fire authorities should be given a statutory duty to "educate the public on fire safety matters". This, as well as the other recommendations in the Report, are under consideration.

Fire Safety Inspections of Premises

14. During 1995-96 the total number of fire safety inspections carried out by specialist staff and operational personnel in brigades was 74,583. This figure comprises work done under the heading of statutory enforcement inspections and also that covered by the term "goodwill work", as explained in the introduction to this Section.

15. In addition, 11,239 plans of new buildings or alterations to existing premises were examined and reports prepared on their proposed fire precautions.

Certifiable Premises

16. The position at the end of the reporting period, with regard to the certification of premises falling within the scope of Section 5 of the Fire Precautions Act 1971, is shown in Table E below.

Table E - Certification of Premises under Section 5 of the Fire Precautions Act 1971

	Total Certifiable Premises	Total Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued in Current Year	Total Reinspections of Certificated Premises in Current Year
Hotels/Boarding Houses	4,714	4,622 (98.0%)	99	4,200
Factories	4,446	4,059 (91.3%)	113	1,917
Offices	10,317	9,358 (90.7%)	480	4,130
Shops	5,879	5,257 (89.4%)	251	2,014
Railway Premises	9	7 (77.8%)	-	-
Totals	**25,365**	**23,303 (91.9%)**	**943**	**12,261**

17. The total number of certifiable premises within Scotland fell from the previous year's total by 458. Annual fluctuations do occur for a number of reasons, including the fact that while some premises may close, others open up. In addition, other premises may, due to a change in their operations, find that they are outwith the certification criteria or be granted an exemption by the enforcing authority under Section 5A of the Fire Precautions Act 1971.

18. The proportion of the overall total number of certifiable premises which have been issued with a fire certificate now stands at 91.9%, slightly higher than last year.

19. Table E shows that the total number of fire certificates issued during 1995-96 was 943, 73 less than in 1994-95. This reduction has no particular significance since the number of documents issued can depend on the work involvement for brigades in each set of premises according to the size and nature of the occupancy and, in the case of existing premises, the amount of upgrading work which has to be carried out before the fire authority will issue a certificate The fire safety legislation empowers the enforcing authority to allocate a time period within which the necessary upgrading work should be carried out, while a failure to do so may lead to an offence being committed by the occupier or owner of the premises.

20. The number of premises for which a fire certificate is still outstanding is 2,062, that is 357 fewer than at the end of the previous reporting period. The nature of these occupancies is:

Hotel and Boarding Houses	92
Factories	387
Offices	959
Shops	622
Railway Premises	2
	2,062

21. Out of the total number of premises without a fire certificate 867 (42%) have already been inspected by brigade officers and are in the process of upgrading the standard of their fire precautions to a level which will allow the issue of the appropriate document.

22. Because of the nature of the risk within hotels and boarding houses, brigades tend to give priority to these "sleeping risks" within their inspection programmes, hence the smaller number of uncertificated premises of this type shown on the Table.

23. The statistical returns from brigades indicate that, as to be expected, Strathclyde Fire Brigade has the highest number of certifiable premises in Scotland. It also has the highest number of premises without a fire certificate as well as those occupancies which have still to be inspected under the 1971 Act.

24. Table E also shows the total number of certificated premises which have been reinspected during the year to ensure that the standard of fire safety in the premises is being maintained at least to the minimum level recorded in the fire certificate.

25. The frequency of these inspections is dependent on the nature of the risk and thereafter an assessment is made by the individual brigades, as recommended by the Fire Inspectorate. In general, high risk premises are visited annually, medium risk occupancies every 3 years and low risk premises once every 5 years.

26. During 1995-96 the following proportions of certificated premises were inspected by Scottish brigades:

Hotels and Boarding Houses	92.8%;
Factories	48.5%;
Offices	46.5%;
Shops	40.2%.

27. Although, with the exception of hotel and boarding house premises, the overall target frequency of inspections appears to have been met, not all brigades achieved their own targets for each occupancy type.

28. Often as a result of that programme, changes within the premises are noted which require amendments being made to the fire certificate. During the year, 1,645 fire certificates for existing premises required to be amended and reissued, that is 557 more than in the previous year.

29. Prior to the implementation of the Fire Precautions Act 1971, the fire certification of premises was dealt with under separate legislation which did not cover the full range of the current fire precautions. These "old" certificates, although being deemed to satisfy the present statutory requirements, are gradually being replaced within the more up to date documentation of the 1971 Act. At present there are 372 "old" certificates, 123 less than the total for 1994-95.

30. In order to allow fire authorities to concentrate their resources on the higher risk premises, the fire safety legislation was amended to allow the enforcing agencies power, in certain cases, to grant exemption from the requirement to have a fire certificate. The Inspectorate has therefore encouraged fire brigades to assess these certifiable premises, in order to determine whether or not the risk to persons in the premises justifies the procedure being applied.

31. So far 351 sets of premises have been granted this form of exemption, but it is considered that the scope for the application of this power by brigades is much greater.

Non-Certifiable Premises

32. The owners or occupiers of premises, which although being within the scope of the 1971 Act are not subject to the certification procedures of the legislation, are required to make provision for means of escape and a means of fighting fire in their premises. Again, guidance documents are published nationally to assist those responsible to meet their statutory duties. It is estimated that, at the end of the reporting period there are 56,848 premises in Scotland which are subject to this section of the legislation. During 1995-96 a total of 11,021 of these were routinely re-inspected by brigades.

Other Inspections

33. As mentioned above, the duty on fire authorities to give advice on fire precautions when requested to do so results in a substantial number of inspections being carried out each year for local authorities, architects, businesses and members of the general public.

34. During 1995-96 a total of 26,058 inspections of premises were carried out on a "goodwill", non-statutory basis and in a wide range of premises within the residential and non-residential classifications.

35. Of the overall total, there were 7,944 inspections in residential premises, with residential care premises, houses in multiple occupation and old people's homes being the types most frequently visited. In the non-residential category there were 18,114 inspections. Premises licensed to sell liquor, places of public entertainment, together with industrial and commercial premises, schools and theatres were the occupancy types for which inspections were most requested.

36. During 1995-96 brigades in Scotland examined 11,239 sets of plans, 41% more than in the previous year, and prepared reports on the fire precautions proposed for the premises. Although the majority of the drawings were associated with premises likely to fall within the scope of the Fire Precautions Act 1971, around one third of the total were in respect of premises that would be outwith the statutory enforcement powers of the brigades.

Offences, Prosecutions and Prohibitions

37. During the year, 3 prosecutions under the terms of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 were actioned by brigades. Two of the cases were in respect of hotel premises, while the third related to a shop. The extremely small number of cases appears to contradict the suggestion expressed occasionally that brigades are heavy handed in their statutory enforcement duties.

38. Under the terms of Section 10 of the 1971 Act, fire authorities are empowered to issue a notice, prohibiting or restricting the use of a building or part of a building, where in the opinion of the authority the use of the premises presents a serious risk to persons in the event of fire. In 1995-96 a total of 26 prohibition notices were issued by brigades in order to deal with conditions which were considered to present an unacceptable degree of danger to people within the premises. The premises covered by these notices were:

Hotel or boarding house	12;	
Shops	9;	
Factory	1;	
Office	1;	
House in multiple occupation	1;	
Theatre	1;	and
Creche	1.	

Fire Safety Campaigns

39. In addition to the fire safety inspection and reporting work mentioned above, brigades are involved in fire safety education programmes within their communities, targeting the areas and people shown by the statistical evidence of fire to be most at risk.

40. During 1995-96, brigades gave 5,203 talks on fire safety subjects to both adults and children. In addition, 105 quizzes were held to give added competition and enjoyment when promulgating the safety themes. It is estimated that over 142,500 people were contacted directly through these talks and quizzes, hopefully to increase their awareness of the dangers of fire.

41. Further details are given in the sub-section entitled Education and Publicity.

Fire Fatalities

42. During 1995-96, 92 people died in fires to which brigades were called. This total is 5 more than in the previous year but still maintains the falling trend of the last 5 years. Two of the brigades experienced levels of incidence the same as the previous year, while 4 had reductions in the number of fire deaths. Two, the Grampian and Strathclyde Fire Brigades, had increases of 6 and 16 respectively above the 1994-95 levels.

43. Table F shows the number of deaths due to fire which each of the Scottish brigades attended over the past 10 years. The substantial and welcome reductions in the past 2 years can be clearly seen and give an annual average over the 10 year period of 129.3 compared with 144.9 from 1984-93. It is hoped that the campaigning efforts which have been made by brigades, together with the installation and maintenance of smoke alarms in dwellings, are now beginning to show their benefits.

Table F - Number of Fire Deaths in Each Brigade Area 1986 to 1995-96

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994-5	1995-6
Central	9	17	11	4	4	9	8	2	4	2
Dumfries and Galloway	2	4	7	1	8	3	3	6	8	1
Fife	9	12	11	6	5	7	11	14	9	4
Grampian	11	12	12	12	11	11	13	11	4	10
Highland and Islands	9	5	10	9	6	12	10	6	7	4
Lothian and Borders	29	21	26	19	22	18	13	20	8	8
Strathclyde	87	83	69	56	72	72	53	52	42	58
Tayside	9	4	4	6	4	7	8	16	5	5
Totals	**165**	**168**	**150**	**113**	**133**	**139**	**119**	**127**	**87**	**92**

44. Appendix 6 gives details of the fire fatalities in each brigade in terms of the age group, the location of the fire and the month of the year in which the incident occurred.

45. As in previous years most of the deaths occurred in fires in dwellings where 80 people were killed, ie 86.9% of the total deaths. Three of these incidents resulted in multiple deaths and a total of 6 lives lost.

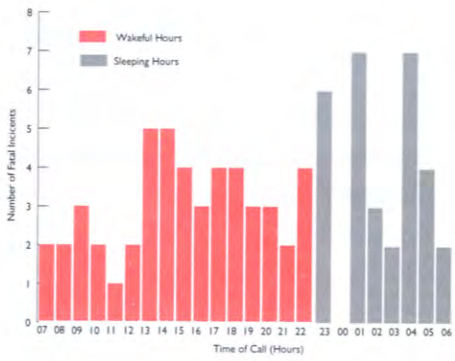
46. The remaining 12 fire incidents, other than those in dwellings in which people died, occurred in - 6 road traffic accidents, a hospital, a fishing vessel and 2 mobile industrial accommodation units. In addition, there were 2 suicides using flammable liquids.

Fatalities Due to Fires in Dwellings

47. During the year under review there were 77 outbreaks of fire in dwellings which resulted in one or more fatalities. This was 5 or more than in the previous year. The months of the year in which most of the fires occurred were March (16), January (15), December (12) and November (10). The pattern is similar to previous years where the winter months have tended to produce a higher incidence of fatal fires.

48. In 1995-96 the pattern of the previous years was not followed with regard to the days of the week in which most fires occurred. The tendency of the past showed that the weekends, that is Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, were the periods within which most fire deaths occurred. Nevertheless the last 2 years have deviated from that pattern. During 1995-96 Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays experienced the highest incidence of fatal fires in dwellings. The reason for this change is not apparent at present.

49. Graph 12 relates the number of fatal fire incidents in dwellings, to the time at which the call was made to the fire brigade. Since people are more vulnerable to the effects of an outbreak of fire when they are asleep, it is to be expected that there would be a higher level of incidence during the "sleeping hours", which have been taken to be between 2300 hours and 0700 hours. This assumption, however, is not always correct.



Graph 12 - Number of Fatal Incidents Relating to Time of Call in 1995-96

50. An examination of the statistical data which relates the age groups of the victims to the times of call to a fire brigade, shows that in the majority of cases the highest proportion of the deaths in each age group occur during the wakeful hours.

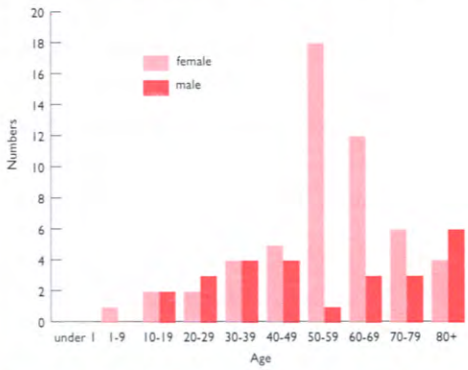
51. Obviously our vigilance against an outbreak of fire cannot be limited to certain periods of the day, but must be on a 24 hour basis.

52. It has often been said that those most at risk from an outbreak of fire are the very young and the elderly. This is correct when the comparison is being made in relation to the level of incidence against the number of people in the age group. However, in purely numerical terms, during 1995-96 the number of persons in each age group who were killed by fire in the home was as follows:

under 1 year	Nil;
1-9 years	1;
10-19 years	4;
20-29 years	5;
30-39 years	8;
40-49 years	9;
50-59 years	19;
60-69 years	15;
70-79 years	9;
80+ years	10;
Total	**80.**

53. Clearly our elder citizens must be vigilant against outbreaks of fire and receive our assistance in maintaining that vigilance. Those in the middle age groups would also appear to be at risk and therefore the fire safety campaigns at local and national level may need to extend their coverage.

54. During the year, of the 80 persons who died in fires in their homes, 54 were male and 26 were female. The prominence of male fire victims is clearly seen in Graph 13 and particularly in the 50s, 60s and 70s age groups.



Graph 13 - Total Number of Fire Deaths in Dwellings by Age , Group and Sex in 1995-96

Areas in which Fatal Fires Started

55. The number of fatal fires in dwellings was mentioned in paragraph 47. Investigations by brigades indicated that these fires started in the following locations:

	No. of Incidents	No. of Fatalities
Living Rooms	35 (45.4%)	36
Bedrooms	20 (25.9%)	21
Kitchens	16 (20.7%)	17
Bedsit Areas	5 (6.5%)	5
Attic Room	1 (1.3%)	1
	77	**80**

56. These statistics again indicate that fires which originate in living rooms present the greatest threat to life in dwellings, due, no doubt, to the amount and the nature of the contents present in these rooms, which provide fuel for an outbreak of fire and also its rapid development.

57. It is of interest to note that over 70% of the fatal fires which started in living rooms had times of call to the fire brigade within the "wakeful hours". In these circumstances the question must be posed - why were the occupants of the house unable to leave the building before the fire rendered the atmosphere untenable? Once the fire was discovered did they know what to do? Were they capable of reacting to the hazard which was developing or

were there factors such as illness, frailty or other impediments which affected their recognition of the danger and their response to it? Brigade investigations should examine these factors to ensure that their fire safety promotions are properly directed.

58. A knowledge of the areas in dwellings where most of the life threatening fires start, is also of importance when determining the number and locations for smoke alarms, in order that the earliest possible warning can be given of an outbreak of fire.

Causes of Fatal Fires in Dwellings

59. The most common causes of the fatal fires in dwellings during the year were:

	Number of Incidents	Percentage of Total Incidents
Carelessness in the use of smokers' materials	41	53.2%
Overheating of pan left unattended on cooker	10	12.9%
Victim's clothing ignited in contact with a heating appliance	7	9.1%
Faulty heating appliances or the misuse of heating appliances	6	7.8%
Faulty electric blankets	4	5.2%

60. As in previous years, the careless use of smokers' materials - cigarettes, matches, etc - is the most common cause of the fires which result in a death. All age groups are involved and even non-smokers can be affected by the careless actions of others. Fatalities in the 50s and 60s age groups were particularly linked to fires having this type of origin.

61. Leaving pans unattended on a stove to overheat and become ignited is a cause of fatal fires which has been increasing gradually in recent years. During 1995-96, 11 people were killed in fires of this type and in age groups which ranged mainly from the early teens to the 60 year olds. In 5 of the incidents, the time of call to the fire brigade was in the early hours of the morning.

62. One of the most horrifying fire incidents is that where the victim's clothing has been set alight. During the year there were 7 incidents where the person's clothing became ignited by contact with either an electric heater, the gas flame of a cooker, or by an open coal fire. The elderly were particularly vulnerable to this type of incident.

63. Heating appliances, whether space heaters or electric blankets, were associated with fires which caused the deaths of 10 people in 1995-96. As well as ensuring that these appliances are properly used and serviced, it is important to make sure that space heaters are sited in positions where the heat radiated from them will not ignite any nearby material - such as furniture, clothing, papers, etc.

64. The statistical returns from brigades indicate that although around 72% of the dwellings in which a fatal fire had occurred had been fitted with a smoke alarm, less than one third were considered to have been in working order at the time of the fire. Fire brigades have the ongoing problem of trying to persuade people that smoke alarms need to be properly maintained and tested and that a discharged battery in a smoke alarm can lead to a fire death.

65. In addition to the 80 fatalities which occurred in dwelling fires during the year, there were 1,350 non-fatal casualties caused by these outbreaks. The term non-fatal casualty is,

in general terms, a person who is affected by the smoke or heat and is considered to require treatment other than that which can be provided at the location.

66. Whether these people survived because of their actions at the time of the fire, or by good luck, it is clear that the education of the public in fire safety matters is far from being complete. We must therefore ensure that people have a knowledge of 2 basic factors, how to avoid an outbreak of fire, and what to do if a fire occurs or a warning of fire is given.

Domestic Smoke Alarms

67. Research carried out in each fire brigade area in Scotland and covering almost 6,500 people suggested that around 87% of the population had at least one smoke alarm installed in their homes.

68. Approximately 58% of those interviewed had purchased the alarms themselves while 40% had had them fitted by the local council or by another organisation. Only 1% of the total found that the house already had a smoke alarm when they moved in. Out of the 847 persons who did not have a smoke alarm, approximately one-third said that they had not got round to purchasing a unit, while 15% said that they did not consider them necessary.

69. Most of those interviewed were aware of the national advertising on TV and of the encouragement given to install and maintain domestic smoke alarms.

70. In spite of the high level of awareness of the need to test and maintain smoke alarms, fire officers attending fatal fire incidents often find discharged batteries in the devices have not been replaced, or that the batteries have been removed completely, thereby nullifying the protection to life afforded by the early warning of a fire outbreak which smoke alarms can give.

71. The interviewees were also asked if they had ever experienced an outbreak of fire in their homes. Of the 6,500 interviewed 815 said yes, but only 60% indicated that the fire brigade had been called to the outbreak. The reasons given for not calling the brigade ranged from the outbreak being of a minor nature to the fire being extinguished without assistance.

72. Unfortunately a very small number of people did not call the brigade since they mistakenly thought that a charge would be made for the service.

Education and Publicity

73. During the year under review The Scottish Office Home Department continued its television campaign with a new 40 second commercial entitled "Fire Action Plan" which was backed up by leaflets. The aim of the campaign was to make householders aware of the need to have an escape plan. One million copies of the leaflet were distributed through main post offices and by the fire brigades. Later research showed that the message had been communicated effectively and the need for an action plan understood by the target audience. The campaign was also used for the Scottish launch of the Fire Safety Week in 1995.

74. In addition, an advertising campaign to heighten awareness of the dangers of fire during the festive season was mounted. A 10 second commercial featuring a Christmas tree in flames was screened for a 4 week period beginning on 18 December, 1995. In March, 1996, press advertising in 2 of the popular Sunday tabloids was undertaken using the existing press advertisement "Dead Battery" to promote the maintenance of smoke alarms.

75. The Department continued during 1995-96 to support the fire safety efforts of Scottish fire brigades in their local campaigns by the provision of an additional half a million fire safety leaflets and posters.

76. Throughout the year all Scottish brigades promoted a wide range of fire safety themes of which the following are examples:

Central Region Fire Brigade arranged the release of various safety promotions through the local media and distributed over 90,000 leaflets to dwellings in selected areas.

Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade arranged a training programme for home carers which concentrated on the identification of hazards in the home. In addition, the Brigade continued with its schools education programme and linked with Scottish Power in the promotion of fire safety in the use of electricity.

Fife Fire and Rescue Service, with the aid of sponsorship, issued a leaflet which linked the excessive consumption of alcohol with the incidence of fire. The leaflet was distributed by licensing boards to licensed premises and to public buildings. A booklet on fire safety for the elderly has also been produced.

Grampian Fire Brigade. The Grampian Safe Team organised an event for schoolchildren which ran for 2 weeks and which incorporated a series of practical exercises for the children. The event promoted the recognition of hazardous situations and how to react to them. Over the 2 week period 55 primary schools were involved and 5,500 children participated in the event.

Highland and Islands Fire Brigade held a number of open days at fire stations which were complemented by the use of the Brigade's mobile display unit. Fire safety quizzes were also organised for a number of the schools within the area.

Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade promoted fire safety at the festive season by the distribution of fire safety leaflets and the inspection of major stores and shopping complexes. The local media were used extensively to promote safety with fireworks over the Guy Fawkes period. The Brigade also continued with its comprehensive safety training for schools and its community development programmes.

Strathclyde Fire Brigade participated with a number of other organisations in the presentation of safety themes depicted through practical scenarios in which schoolchildren took part. Previously known as a Crucial Crew event, the system is now called Experimental Learning. The Brigade also used bus advertising in the promotion of fire safety messages. Large posters were attached to the rear panels of 20 buses on specially selected routes for a period of 2 months. A Firewatch Initiative was organised in partnership with the Safe Strathclyde Resource Centre and British Telecom which was to reinforce the Brigade's fire safety messages over a 12 month period. The campaign was to cover - hoax calls, malicious fires and general fire safety. During the year a local radio campaign involved the broadcasting of a number of taped hoax calls which the Brigade had received. The public were asked if they could identify the caller's voice. As well as apprehending the guilty persons the promotion also aimed to deter potential pranksters.

Tayside Fire Brigade. During the national Fire Safety week the Brigade provided daily safety messages for use in local radio stations and articles for the local press. In addition, competitions for children were held throughout the Region. The Brigade also participates in a "firesetters initiative" which aims to assist children who have been involved in fire raising activities.

77. The above examples are just a few of the many activities in which brigades were involved during the year. I compliment their efforts which it is hoped will increase the public's awareness of the dangers of fire and reduce the annual loss of life and damage to property which remains unnecessarily high in our country.

Joint Fire Safety Committee

78. The Committee met on 2 occasions during the period under review and dealt with a wide range of subjects including:

i. A draft code of practice from the British Standards Institution for the application of fire safety engineering principles to fire safety in buildings. The new system of applying fire safety assessments is being developed since it is considered that the vast majority of fire safety measures currently used in buildings were derived from the experience of serious fires in the past. Although this method of approach has produced a high level of safety, it limits the use of modern techniques in engineering and architecture and restricts the use of new materials.

   The draft code of practice is still under review but a number of worked examples to accompany the document have been prepared to demonstrate its application.

ii. The use of sprinklers in large compartment single storey buildings such as supermarkets, factories and warehouses. Concern about the safety of firefighters as well as members of the public in such large undivided buildings in the event of a fire, together with the pollution effects and the potentially large financial losses, caused fire officers, building control representatives and the insurance industry in England and Wales to enter into discussion with the Department of the Environment. They recommended that the guidance on how to comply with the Building Regulations in England and Wales should be amended to ensure that a sprinkler system was installed in new buildings of the types mentioned above where the area exceeded 4,000 m2.

   This led to work being carried out on the subject by the Fire Research Station, in conjunction with the Fire Advisory Panel and the Building Regulations Advisory Panel. Although the Fire Research Station accepted the deputation's proposals in some respects, it indicated that more time was needed to acquire better information, whilst making some general conclusions on:

   a. sprinklers in new retail single storey buildings;

   b. the guidance on measures to restrict fire spread through voids;

   c. the use of automatic ventilation without sprinklers;

   d. the minimum ceiling height in new retail single storey buildings.

   Further research on the subject has been commissioned by the Home Office.

   In Scotland, the Technical Standards associated with our Building Regulations generally make provision for a restriction in the size of a compartment in a single storey building and, where appropriate, for the provision of a sprinkler system where an increase in the prescribed limits of the floor area is proposed.

iii. A proposed new standard for portable fire extinguishers. The present British Standard BS 5423 recommends that the bodies of portable fire extinguishers containing water should be red and that other fire extinguishers should be predominately red with a second colour to indicate the extinguishing medium. Colour coding of the entire extinguisher is also permitted.

   Current practice by United Kingdom manufacturers varies, but most colour code the whole extinguisher.

As from January 1997 a new European Standard will apply which requires that the bodies of all portable fire extinguishers are coloured red, but also allows a zone of colour of up to 5% of the body in order to identify the extinguishing agent.

The Committee noted with some concern the proposed changes which may lead to confusion and the loss of consistency in the identification of portable extinguishers and the increased potential for incorrect use.

Fire Safety in the Workplace

79. Previous reports have referred to the implementation of 2 EC Directives in respect of fire safety in the workplace, by the introduction of new regulations for workplaces, most of which are currently outwith statutory control. Draft regulations together with associated guidance have been issued for public consultation on 2 separate occasions. However, the progress of such legislation has been influenced by a number of factors including the publication of 2 reports - one by the Deregulation Task Force and a second by an interdepartmental Scrutiny Team which examined fire safety legislation and its enforcement. Coupled with the proposals and recommendations of these reports is the Government's determination to avoid unnecessary burdens being placed on businesses.

80. The interrelated nature of all of these factors has resulted in a very close scrutiny of the recommendations and subsequent proposals on the manner in which to proceed and also in an apparent and consequent delay in progress towards implementation. Ministers are still giving consideration to the manner in which the measures should be taken forward.

Guidance on Fire Safety for Tyre Sites

81. Concern regarding the pollution caused to the environment as well as the difficulties experienced by firefighters in tackling fires in tyre dumps has resulted in the production of new guidance entitled 'Fire Safety for Tyre Sites'.

82. The guidance was produced by a Working Party comprising the Department of the Environment, the Health and Safety Executive, the National Rivers Authority and the tyre trade, in consultation with a wide range of organisations as well as Fire Service interests. It contains, among other matters, information relating to the spacing of tyre stacks, in order to avoid fire spread from one to the other, and it is therefore aimed primarily at site operators although it is also of value to local authorities, fire authorities and river authorities.

83. The new guide replaces Fire Prevention Note No 3/54 'Fire Precautions for the Storage of Rubber on Open Sites'.

Building Standards Advisory Committee

84. The Building Standards Advisory Committee (BSAC) is appointed under Section 12 of the Building (Scotland) Act 1959, with its main task being to advise the Secretary of State on the continuing development of the Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations. In recent years much of the Committee's work has been its involvement in the complete review of the Regulations which were first introduced in 1964. Substantial changes have taken place since that time, both in the format of the Regulations and in the content of the Technical Standards which support the Regulations, to reflect the progress made in the use of modern materials, innovative planning of buildings and the research on various aspects of building construction and design.

85. The Fire Service has a particular interest in Parts D and E of the Technical Standards since they refer to "Structural Fire Precautions" and "Means of Escape, Facilities for Firefighting and Means of Warning of Fire in Dwellings". During 1993 changes in the technical content of these and other parts of the Technical Standards were issued in Amendment No. 1 (The Building Standards (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1993). Among the changes introduced was a requirement relating to the installation of automatic fire detection in dwellings, a feature which was welcomed by the fire service. A further amendment (Amendment No. 2: The Building Standards (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1994) extended the requirements for facilities for disabled people by requiring access to many upper floors of buildings other than dwellings. This Amendment also included a requirement for suitable means of escape for disabled people in the event of fire. Proposals associated with a comprehensive review of Parts D and E were considered by the Committee which led to the issue of a consultation document in June 1993. A sub-committee of BSAC considered the proposed major amendments and concluded its work in March 1995. BSAC approved the recommendations and a revision of Parts D and E taking account of about 2,000 other comments was completed by the end of 1995: Parts D and E have been rewritten and will be submitted for final approvals by the summer of 1996.

SECTION E: TRAINING

Scottish Fire Service Training School

1. The main function of the SFSTS continues to be the training of recruit firefighters for Scottish fire brigades: this is met by the provision of 3 x 16-week training courses for entrants to the Fire Service. School resources are also used to provide additional more specialised courses to meet the needs of Scottish brigades and other organisations, such as the Prison Service and Health Service Fire Safety Officers.

2. During 1995-96 the number of students participating in the various courses at the School were:

Wholetime Recruits	112	(146)
Retained Recruits	26	(26)
Retained Personnel other than recruits	102	(141)
Wholetime Leading Firefighters	28	(35)
Specialist Legislation	25	(27)
Breathing Apparatus Instructors	63	(24)
Hospital Fire Prevention etc	20	(82)
Prison Officer Fire Prevention etc	18	(46)
Breathing Apparatus/Fire Prevention Recourses	0	(2)
Road Traffic Accident Instructors (wholetime)	41	(0)
Road Traffic Accident Instructors	11	(12)
NEBOSH*	40	(0)
Fire Safety*	24	(0)
Total	**510**	**(541)**

(The 1994-95 figures are shown in brackets)
* *outreach courses from the Fire Service College.*

3. Further information about the School is available in the Commandant's Annual Report, copies of which may be obtained from the Director of Administration, Scottish Fire Service Training School, Gullane, East Lothian, EH31 2HG.

4. During the year, an examination has taken place of a range of equipment which might replace the present 'fire house' facilities at the Training School. The traditional method by which recruit firefighters are allowed to experience real fire conditions is to burn within a compartment, wooden pallets or similar material which have been soaked in kerosene. Although this produces the fire characteristics of flame, smoke and high temperatures, the lack of control and the inflexibility of the arrangements, severely restricts the real fire scenarios which can be created. It is also impracticable to apply extinguishing techniques within the building, since the fire conditions could not be recreated for other students without substantial preparation.

5. Having a modern, custom-built 'fire house' using propane gas allows, through its computerised control system, the creation of different fire scenarios, which can be repeated readily and controlled and monitored to reduce the potential risk of injury to students. It is also more "friendly" from an environmental viewpoint, since there would no longer be a release of smoke to the atmosphere.

6. The realism which the technologically enhanced equipment can give, allows students to gain live firefighting experience, in an extended range of scenarios. The students' experience is therefore widened and their knowledge of and their confidence in the various firefighting techniques can be confirmed. Accordingly the School hopes to obtain such a facility in the near future. I consider that a safe and controllable fire training facility situated within the School and available for the use of members of all Scottish brigades would represent an extremely valuable asset and would urge that the necessary funding to enable installation be identified at the earliest possible time.

Fire Service College

7. Early in 1995-96, it appeared that attendance by members of Scottish brigades on courses at the Fire Service College might decline sharply because of budgetary restrictions. Although course fees are paid centrally by The Scottish Office Home Department, the distant location of the College results in high travel and subsistence costs in respect of those attending courses held there. It was, however, agreed that the Department would meet the cost of travel and subsistence in addition to course fees.

8. This arrangement, which is to continue in 1996-97, enabled Scottish brigades to take up 1,469 training weeks over the year. Although this was a reduction from the 1,625 training weeks taken up in 1994-95, it represented a satisfactory level of training. It is anticipated that the shortfall will be made good in 1996-97.

9. During 1995-96 the 2 most attended courses at the College were those for Watch Commanders and Junior Officer Advancement, while the Fire Investigation course replaced the Specialist Fire Prevention course in third place.

10. Despite Government commitments to maintain the College as a centre of excellence, the Fire Service as a whole remains concerned about the effect on the College of the declining demand for training by local authority fire brigades in England and Wales. It is to be hoped that answers will be found to the difficulties faced by the College in sustaining its national and international role as a provider of high quality training in fire related subjects.

Brigade Training

11. In view of the sometimes complex and wide ranging incidents which brigades are called upon to attend, the training programmes for brigade personnel are constantly under review to ensure that both the technical and practical skills of staff are maintained at the highest level of proficiency. The programmes have as their basis core skills such as training in practical pump operation, the use of ladders, breathing apparatus wearing, rescue techniques, fire safety, resuscitation apparatus, first aid etc. Superimposed on these activities are the specialist training requirements to meet the risks that may be encountered within the brigade's area.

12. During the year all brigades have revised their systems of personal training records to ensure that they conform to the recommendations promulgated in 'Dear Firemaster' Letter 5/1992. The records are designed to provide a comprehensive, accurate and up to date

record of an individual's level of competency and also, over a period of time, to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the brigade training programme itself.

13. The Fire Service Training Manual was issued during the year under the cover of 'Dear Firemaster' Letter 1/1995 and replaces the Fire Service Drill Book (1985). A loose-leaf format has been introduced to make alterations easier and quicker, by the issue of new pages or sections when amendments are required. This will avoid the delays associated with the preparation and publication of new editions. The Manual now encompasses more than just a prescription for the basic elements of fire service 'drill'. It has been designed to include the components essential for a training framework which deals with foundation training, progressive development and the maintenance of competence. The Training Manual, together with the Manuals of Firemanship, provide the foundation necessary for members of the Service to learn or teach, the essential core of technical knowledge and practical skills. The knowledge must be reinforced and techniques regularly practised to develop the skill and expertise necessary for firefighters to demonstrate and maintain their professional competence. Standard Tests which were previously part of the 'Drill Book' are not contained within the new Training Manual, nevertheless these have been revised and published in Technical Bulletin 1/1994 'Periodic Inspection and Testing of Fire Service Equipment'.

14. In view of the ever increasing training requirements placed upon brigades, the National Joint Council for Local Authorities' Fire Brigades recommended to brigades in October 1987 that the weekly attendance of retained personnel should be extended from 2 to 3 hours. As yet, not all Scottish brigades have implemented this recommendation due to difficulties of obtaining the necessary funding. It has been estimated that the total annual finance required to institute the extra training hour in all brigades would be £429,091.

15. The Realistic Training Sub-Committee which was formed by the Joint Training Committee, has completed its report on the 'Principles of Operational Training' which, in effect, is a natural progression of the guidance contained in the drill section of the 'Fire Service Training Manual'. The document develops aspects of the case study of the fire service booklet, 'Training for Hazardous Occupations' and takes account of the Approved Code of Practice covering the 'Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992, the Health and Safety series booklet, 'Successful Health and Safety Management', and other relevant guidance.

16. The activities which firefighters are required to perform and the environments in which they operate can be hazardous. Unless firefighters have experienced the physical and mental pressures associated with these situations and have learned to understand and control them, there is a risk that they may jeopardise their own safety and the safety of others. Whilst physical safeguards and design controls can provide a degree of protection, a significant factor in ensuring the health and safety of firefighters lies in the adoption of safe systems of work performed by trained, skilled and experienced personnel who are able to recognise hazards, assess the potential risks, exercise controls and take the precautions necessary to ensure a safe operation. To operate effectively and safely as a team, firefighters need to have confidence in their own ability and that of their officers and colleagues. The new document is intended to provide brigades with a framework for operational training, developing and maintaining the technical knowledge and practical skills firefighters are required to demonstrate.

Fire Services Examinations Board

17. To obtain qualifications for promotion to a higher rank, firefighters, leading firefighters and sub-officers are required to be successful in examinations set by the Fire Services

Examinations Board. Annual examinations for promotion to the ranks of leading firefighter and sub-officer have both written and practical elements, while the examination for promotion to the rank of station officer consists of written papers only.

18. In Scotland, three local boards administer both the written and practical examinations on behalf of the Examinations Board. Graph 14 provides details of success rate of the Scottish candidates over the past 4 years.

Graph 14 - Fire Services Examinations Board Percentage of Successful Scottish Candidates 1992 to 1995

Institution of Fire Engineers

19. During 1995-96 a total of 38 candidates of the Scottish Branch sat the Institution's examinations which were held at the 4 centres of Glasgow, Dundee, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. Of this total 19 candidates were successful in the various gradings of the examinations, as shown below:

Preliminary Certificate	- 3;
Graduate Examination	- 2;
Membership	- 6;
Individual Member Paper	- 8.

Section F: Supplies and Services

Transport

1. As at 31 March 1996 there were 488 first line pumping appliances and 85 specialist vehicles, such as turntable ladders, hydraulic platforms, emergency tenders or road rescue units, based at fire stations throughout Scotland. In addition, brigades have a wide range of ancillary vehicles - vans, lorries, personnel carriers, etc - which are necessary to provide a service to the public.

2. Vehicle replacement programmes, which are essential to ensure the maximum efficiency and cost effectiveness of the fleet, range from 10 to 15 years for pumping appliances. However, at present these targets are not being met on all occasions due to financial restrictions. This puts added pressure on each of the brigade's vehicle workshop to maintain those older appliances in a satisfactory state of readiness.

Premises

3. As I have mentioned in previous years the shortage of finance continues to mean that only essential building and repair work are achievable. Firemasters have again expressed their concern that the continued deterioration in premises will inevitably result in a higher financial cost in the long term.

4. In Central Region Fire Brigade the vehicle workshops at Headquarters were extended to form ancillary garaging, a flammable store and laundry facilities. Window replacement was carried out at Alloa Fire Station and the tarmacadam was renewed at Slamannan and Tillicoultry retained stations.

5. The New Galloway retained fire station in Dumfries and Galloway was completed in February 1996 and work was also completed on the upgrading of Langholm retained fire station in June 1996. New windows were installed in Dumfries Fire Station.

6. In Fife work was completed on the refurbishment of Headquarters with the installation of the new foyer and renovation to the ground floor corridor. A 'fire house' has also been completed and provides excellent facilities to enable realistic fire training to be carried out.

7. Work has recommenced on the King's Crescent Fire Station, following liquidation of the original contractor. This project is now scheduled for completion in March 1997. Grampian Fire Brigade also completed the double glazing of its Headquarters buildings and carried out some conversion work to the radio workshop.

8. A number of Volunteer fire garages have been replaced in Highland and Islands Brigade along with the refurbishment of Inverness Fire Station and the extension and refurbishment of Aviemore Fire Station.

9. In the Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade extension work has been carried out at the East and West Linton retained fire stations and training towers have been installed at

Whitburn and Coldstream retained stations at an estimated cost of £24,000 and £20,000 respectively.

10. During 1995-96 Strathclyde Fire Brigade completed its new station which will replace Maryhill Fire Station in Glasgow. The project cost approximately £2,250,000. In addition, new volunteer stations were built at Carradale, Craighouse, Arinagour and the Bridge of Orchy, providing much improved accommodation for the crews and the equipment held there. The building costs varied from £113,000 to £165,000 according to the particular features of each site.

11. Other renovation work carried out during the year included - internal modifications to the Glasgow vehicle workshops; the renewal of the roof at West Command Headquarters; and extensions to the BA compressor rooms at Tobermory and Bowmore retained stations.

12. In March, 1996 the Tayside Fire Brigade started work on the replacement of Forfar Retained Fire Station at an estimated cost of £1,079,000. In addition, the Headquarters building in Dundee had its office accommodation upgraded and hot fire training facilities were constructed at the Divisional Headquarters in Perth.

Vehicle Workshops

13. Each of the Scottish brigades' vehicle workshops, have premises which are modern, well equipped and suitably located to give ready access for fire appliances requiring repair or routine servicing. The workshops' staff also maintain the brigades ancillary vehicles such as vans, cars and general purpose lorries.

14. All of the workshops are equipped with computerised fleet management systems which give ready access to such matters as maintenance schedules, the cost of repairs and servicing, as well as the stock levels held in the workshop store.

15. An examination of the number of fire appliances held by each brigade shows little change from the previous year, although there has been a slight reduction in the number of vehicles held as reserve appliances. This latter feature may reflect the higher quality specification of the appliances being purchased by brigades, as well as the quality of the servicing being carried out by the workshops' staff.

16. In the majority of cases, the system of work operated in brigade workshops is such as to allow for any necessary repairs to appliances, to be carried out outwith normal working hours, by the adoption of an 'on-call' staff duty rota.

Equipment

17. An investigation commissioned by the Home Office into the use of advanced technological alternatives to breathing apparatus guidelines, which are used at incidents where breathing apparatus crews are operating, was completed in the early part of the year. It was, however, unable to find a suitable alternative system which would give an equivalent or higher performance. These alternative systems will continue to be monitored, but in the interim period work to improve the equipment currently in use, together with the associated procedures is progressing. A number of UK Brigades, including the Strathclyde Fire Brigade, are in the process of evaluating a number of proposals and a final report is expected in mid 1996.

18. Two Scottish brigades have now replaced all of their breathing apparatus cylinders with new lightweight carbon composite equipment. The remaining brigades, whilst

recognising the advantages of the new cylinders, are either introducing them on a phased basis, or are still evaluating their use.

19. As indicated in last year's Report, all first line fire appliances have been equipped with modern hydraulic rescue apparatus for use in the extrication of persons trapped in various emergency situations. This provision is now being extended to all pumping appliances within brigades and, in addition, a number of appliances in specially selected locations are being equipped with air bag jacking units and hydraulic rams, thereby increasing the rescue capabilities of crews attending emergency incidents.

20. The respective programmes for the upgrading of the equipment and facilities at the volunteer firefighter units in the Strathclyde and Highland and Islands Fire Brigades, continued during the year. These programmes carry with them the necessity for intensive training schemes to be established to ensure that personnel have the technical knowledge and the practical skills to allow full use to be made of the new facilities being provided.

21. Strathclyde Fire Brigade has completed its evaluation of the use of helicopters for operational incidents within the Brigade area. The trials indicated that in many instances the logistical problems presented by certain island risks could be alleviated by the use of such aircraft. In addition, their use allowed the aerial reconnaissance of incidents which could assist in their command and control aspects as well as in the deployment of resources and in the extrication of personnel from hazardous situations. The rapid transportation of crews and equipment, and the evacuation of casualties were also major advantages provided by the use of helicopters. A more comprehensive evaluation will be carried out in 1996-97 at a cost of £70,000 for a 2 month period of dedicated helicopter use and the Firemaster is researching into the possibility of gaining capital funding for this purpose.

Telecommunications

22. The Scottish Office Directorate of Telecommunications has continued throughout the past year in its support of the communications activities of the Scottish fire brigades.

23. As well as being the regulatory body for brigade radio spectrum allocations, the Directorate has encouraged the evolution of brigade mobilisation and communications systems and defined open standards to simplify procurement and improve value for money. Standard specifications have been produced in conjunction with the Home Office for use by all UK brigades and these have also been adopted by the Irish Fire Service as part of their major system replacement programme.

24. The recommended Strategy and Business Case for the design and procurement of Public Safety Radio Communications Systems has been published by the Home Office and the Directorate is participating fully within the overall project to establish a long-term strategic option for the replacement of the current Fire Service analogue systems with new digital technology.

SECTION G: MISCELLANEOUS

Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council

1. Meetings of the Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council were held on 29 June and 14 December 1995, and 13 February 1996. All of these meetings were chaired by Mr J Hamill, Secretary of The Scottish Office Home Department.

2. The meeting on 13 February 1996 was a special meeting convened at the request of the Fire Brigades Union to discuss their concerns about the expenditure levels being set for fire brigades in 1996-97 by the local authorities, and the measures being proposed to meet financial constraints. At its 2 ordinary meetings, the Council considered the annual reports from each of the Joint Committees of the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils, as well as a range of issues concerning the operation of fire brigades.

Joint Committee on Fire Brigade Operations

3. The development of a radio distress signalling and telemetry system for use by the Fire Service is progressing slowly. The manufacturers involved in the development of the system have provided the Home Office with a draft development plan which indicated that production units would not be available until June 1996, that is outwith the period of the 1995-96 financial year previously estimated. The Home Office was disappointed by the slippage in the proposed timetable and intended to write to the manufacturers, inviting them to consider accelerating the revised programme.

4. Guidance has been issued in 'Dear Firemaster' Letter 8/1995 regarding the potential risks of Fire Service personnel being exposed to Hepatitis B and HIV (the AIDS virus), particularly when they are involved in the treatment of victims of fire or road accidents. This guidance consolidates and replaces that previously issued. It aims to promote:

a. safe operational practices and procedures for situations which may pose a risk of infection from Hepatitis B, HIV and other blood borne infections;

b. greater awareness amongst fire service personnel and civilians about Hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS thus reducing unnecessary fear; and

c. the sensitive and informed treatment of people who have Hepatitis B and/or HIV/AIDS infections.

5. The Fire Experimental Unit of the Home Office has conducted research into the effectiveness of the various methods used by, and available to, fire brigades for decontaminating chemical protective clothing worn by firefighters at a chemical incident. The project was confined to primary decontamination - that is the procedures necessary to extricate safely the firefighter from protective clothing at the scene of the incident. No work was undertaken on secondary decontamination which is the means necessary to make protective clothing safe for re-use. The research has shown that it is not possible to be certain

that all traces of a chemical have been removed from a chemical protection suit. Nevertheless, some methods appear to be better than others in reducing the amount of chemical remaining on the garment. Some brigades may find that the best methods described in the subsequent report offer significant improvements on their present procedures. Whichever method is adopted will have to take into account any requirement to contain the water used in the decontamination process. Brigades should also consider what action should be taken before a used suit can be considered fit for re-use. This is likely to depend on the chemical encountered, and the history of the suit. Guidance on this matter has been promulgated in 'Dear Firemaster' Letter 6/1995 Item C.

6. 'Dear Firemaster' Letter 5/1995 gives information regarding a report from the Home Office Fire Research and Development Group who were asked to develop a suitable training exercise which would facilitate the use of the Radsim SS1 meter in order to measure ultrasonic waves simulating a radiation source.

7. A supplement to the Manual of Firemanship entitled 'The Behaviour of Fire' was issued during the year. The publication extends the information on combustion and firefighting tactics contained in Books I and II. It discusses the development of a fire in a compartment and the likely burning characteristics and combustion phenomena associated with it as a consequence of the compartment being vented either by the effects of the fire, or due to firefighters gaining entry. The terms 'backdraught' and 'flashover' are explained, as well as the signs and symptoms of their impending manifestation. The firefighting tactics most likely to avert or reduce the potential danger facing firefighters are also described.

8. Fire Service Circular 4/1995 'The Role of the Health and Safety Executive and Arrangements for Liaison with the Home Departments' has been issued to brigades. The purpose of the Circular is to clarify information in current Fire Service circulars which deal, in general terms, with the subject. The contents of this Circular has been agreed with the HSE and is also being circulated to their inspectors who may have dealings with brigades in relation to their enforcement duties under safety legislation.

9. A Home Office Fire Cover Model has been developed to assist fire officers with the task of planning fire cover for their area. It provides them with a method of determining the consequences of varying the fire cover within a study area of the brigade. The model is a computer programme which runs on a personal computer, and which by providing information on the disposition of fire appliances and the pattern of incidents, provides information on the predicted attendance times of the fire appliances.

10. Over the past 12 months the model has been developed further by the Fire Research and Development Group to include a Geographical Information System. The new package now allows brigades to analyse fire cover within an area, using on-screen digital maps to provide geographical information on the location of roads, stations and incidents. Information on this subject was promulgated to brigades in 'Dear Firemaster' Letter 2/1995 Item G.

11. Other matters which were considered by the Committee during the year were:

i. the effect of traffic calming on Fire and Ambulance Services;

ii. a review of Technical Bulletin 1/1989 - Breathing Apparatus;

iii. the investigation into a high technology alternative to breathing apparatus guidelines;

iv. the physiological effects on firefighters wearing breathing apparatus;

v. the exemption of fire brigades from the Noise at Work Regulations;

vi. an investigation into the use of radios in conjunction with breathing apparatus in flammable atmospheres.

Joint Training Committee

12. In the course of an active year, the Joint Training Committee (JTC) has continued to review a number of developments relating to Fire Service training, including ongoing changes at the Fire Service College and uncertainties about the future arrangements for the administration and financing of the College.

13. The Implementation Working Group on Training Strategy met on 4 occasions during the year and has produced an interim report for the JTC.

14. The Working Group has given consideration to the format of an action plan for dealing with the recommendations contained within the Training Strategy Report and anticipates producing a draft for consideration by the JTC later in the year. It suggested that the recommendations be placed into groups of 8-10 related recommendations, and that each group should be broken down into 'Points of Principle'; 'Critical Supporting Actions'; 'Non-Critical Supporting Actions'; and 'Independent Issues'. The recommendations in relation to each of the groupings would then be considered in that order.

15. At a recent meeting of the JTC, the Home Office undertook to prepare a paper detailing various options for the introduction of a National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) scheme into local authority fire brigades, and giving details of the likely cost of each of the proposals.

16. The Emergency Fire Services Lead Body has developed a suite of 10 draft qualifications at NVQ levels 2-5, covering the range of functions performed by a local authority fire brigade, including control room and fire safety duties. An organisation known as the Fire Services Awarding Body has been designated to award the Fire Service qualifications which were the subject of an extensive pilot study between June and December 1994. A report which includes the findings of the pilot study is being prepared by the Lead Body but, as yet has not been completed. The report will indicate the funding implications for fire brigades as well as an action plan for introducing and encouraging the uptake of NVQs.

17. The new recruit selection tests to replace the current ability range testing system have been submitted for consideration by the JTC. The tests are intended for wholetime firefighter recruits only and should be the first formal test in the selection procedure, before the medical and practical aptitude tests and interview.

18. The Chief Executive of the Fire Service College reported to the JTC the College's concern about the reduction in the uptake of student training weeks this year, as compared with previous years, although this had recently been offset as more places had been filled by Scottish brigades. The JTC expressed their strong concern that brigades may not be meeting their statutory requirements under the Fire Services Act 1947.

19. Firemasters were reminded through 'Dear Firemaster' Letter 2/1995 Item A that the JTC had issued guidance in 1990 on the use of breathing apparatus in confined spaces. The purpose of the item was to emphasise once more the need to ensure that personnel are familiar with the technique and procedures for the removal of breathing apparatus to allow the wearer, while still breathing from the set, to negotiate a restricted opening or confined space.

20. The Sub-Committee on Realistic Training completed its work and produced draft guidance, the aim of which was to ensure that brigades are encouraged to offer the right balance between preparing firefighters for the conditions they may encounter on the fireground, and ensuring their safety during the training itself.

21. The Working Group on the Wholetime Recruit Training Syllabus which was established a number of years ago by the JTC has as yet not completed its report. When

finalised, the document will be designed to recommend to training establishments an up-to-date training syllabus for wholetime recruit training in the Fire Service, the management of recruit training centres and the effective use of existing resources, as a preliminary to the consideration, through the usual consultative machinery, of the most effective use of these resources in the next few years.

Joint Committee on Appliances, Equipment and Uniform

22. At the Joint Committee meeting in March 1995 it was reported that the CACFOA document on 'Appliance Conspicuity' had been discussed with the Department of Transport. A further meeting with the Department of Transport and the Home Office was held in order to clarify:

i. the use of markings other than amber retro-reflective material on the sides of the vehicles;

ii. the use of alternate flashing headlights; and

iii. the use of rear facing red flashing lights.

23. The Department of Transport subsequently informed the Home Office that they were to carry out a research project to look into the proposals. Once prepared, a draft of the proposed project will be sent to CACFOA and the Home Office for comment. However, if the conspicuity proposals were to be agreed, a formal consultation process would be required, since some amendments to the Vehicle Lighting Regulations would be necessary.

24. The Working Group to revise British Standard 3367 (Fire Service Lines) was re-convened in September 1995. It had been difficult in the past to get the trade involved, but it was hoped that, with manufacturers now being represented on the Working Group, there would be greater progress. The Working Group has agreed the need to consult more widely with manufacturers and brigades to establish what new materials they would like to have been able to use but had been prevented from doing so by the restrictions in the current standard. Once this information has been received, a decision would be made on whether a revision or an amendment to the standard would be appropriate.

25. In November 1992 Ministers announced that the maintenance and repair of fire service vehicles should remain, for the present, exempt from compulsory competitive tendering. However, in order to encourage wider competition all brigades, with the exception of those whose maintenance staff also have firefighting duties, would be required to market test their vehicle and equipment maintenance over the next 3 years. Following consultation with CACFOA and the local authorities, the Home Departments asked brigades to carry out a market testing feasibility study. This study has been completed and it has been proposed that, in England and Wales, a few brigades who have reported 3 or more applicants available as being suitable potential tenderers should complete a tendering exercise within 18 months of 1 April 1996. This proposal is currently being discussed with the local authority associations and CACFOA. In the light of the returns from Scottish brigades, and in view of the imminence of Local Government reorganisation, Ministers decided that any further activity in Scotland on this matter should be deferred until 1997, at the earliest.

26. A draft European Standard for firefighters' protective clothing has recently been agreed by the Comite Europeen de Normalisation and will be implemented in the UK as British Standard EN469. Nevertheless there are certain areas which still require clarification and an early review of the Standard has been agreed by the appropriate CEN Committee. All firefighter's protective clothing meeting the requirements of the current A26 Specification

will satisfy the requirements of the European Standard. The only feature within the A26 Specification which is not covered in the European Standard relates to the colour requirements. The Joint Committee have, therefore, approved the issuing by the Home Departments, of supplementary guidance on British Standard EN469 specifying colour requirements and the appropriate test method for colour fastness.

27. Guidance on the inspection and testing of fire brigade equipment, previously contained in the Fire Service Drill Book 1985, has been updated by the Joint Committee and was issued as Home Office Technical Bulletin 1/1994.

28. It has been agreed at a meeting of the Joint Committee that a research project by the Fire Research and Development Group should be carried out to determine the extent to which fire service chemical protective clothing suffered significant deterioration before being removed from operational use.

29. The research projects to examine the degree of protection afforded by different types of firefighting clothing, as well as the problems and benefits associated with the wearing of anti-flash hoods and balaclavas are both drawing to a close and the Joint Committee will shortly be discussing the conclusions of these projects.

Joint Committee on Fire Brigade Communications

30. The Recommended Strategy and Business Case for the Design and Procurement of Public Safety Radio Communications was published in October 1995. The Business Case proposes a digital trunked radio system for the police and fire services and possibly other public safety users. It is recommended the system be outsourced in accordance with the principles of the Private Finance Initiative. The recommended system would be designed to utilise equipment produced to the European TETRA standard operating in the 300mhz to 400mhz bandwidth.

31. The next step in the development of the Public Safety Radio Communications Project (PSRCP) is the 'Project Definition Phase', where a number of contacts will be awarded for potential outsourcers to develop system designs. It has been proposed that these studies will address solely the requirement for the police services in Scotland, England and Wales and a PSRCP liaison group be established to keep potential sharers abreast of developments. This will enable the Fire Service to be informed of the progress of the project whilst enabling other work to be commissioned in other areas in order to decide, when the outcome of the project definition studies is known, whether or not to share in the final PSRCP system with the Police and possibly others.

32. The research and development programme continues with further work being carried out on an Automatic Vehicle Location System (AVLS) study. The objective of the study is to assess the operational, technological and cost benefit issues related to the introduction of AVLS including integration with Fire Brigade Mobilising and Communications Systems.

33. Two generic Codes of Practice (CoP) have been issued to the service. A Generic CoP for Mobile Radio 999 Emergency Access which describes the arrangements to be applied between the mobile telephone companies (or their call handling agents) and the Emergency Authorities (EAs) and a Generic CoP for Fixed Network 999 Emergency Access which describes the arrangements intended to be applied between the Fixed Network Operators (BT and Mercury) and the EAs, both for forwarding 999 calls from customers.

Joint Committee on Fire Research

34. The Fire Research Programme comprises 4 research areas - fire prevention and protection, fire service equipment, support to fire service operations and general support for scientific activities. The Committee met in June and November during 1995-96 and considered various fire related projects, as detailed in the Home Office Strategic Plan for Fire Research.

35. During the year the Committee considered reports from the FRDG. A brief summary of their work and conclusions reached is given below.

i. Domestic First Aid Firefighting - The research showed that concern about fire in the home is relatively high amongst the general public, despite its low incidence, when compared with the total number of households. Most fires were extinguished using a damp cloth or water, and few people used a fire extinguisher or a fire blanket. This feature may suggest that using items which are readily to hand was more an instinctive reaction than using specific firefighting equipment. In any case, the level of provision of such firefighting equipment in the home is unlikely to have been high.

   Six out of ten people reported that since having experienced a domestic fire, they had become more aware of the dangers of fire and had changed their home or their lifestyle accordingly.

ii. Standards of Storage of Fire Hazardous Materials - In order to provide a scientific basis for advice on the use and storage of explosive and highly flammable material, research was commissioned to investigate the burning behaviour and the rate of heat release of these materials. Included in the research was a survey of warehouse fires which had taken place over a 10 year period and involved stored solid material. This survey showed that wilful fire raising was identified as the most frequently occurring source of these fires, with packaging being the material most often involved. The research has supported much of the earlier work done by the HSE and has enabled revised lists to be produced of 'high hazard' and 'normal hazard' solids.

36. There are 47 fire related projects being undertaken at present, of which the following give an indication of the range and content of the research:

i. **Age Limits for Entry to the Fire Service** - the objective of this study is to ascertain, by means of a literative review, the relationship between age and aerobic capacity/stamina, an aerobic capacity, strength and general fitness in order to confirm whether there is any justification for the current upper age limit of 30 years.

ii. **Firefighter Mortality Study** - a second follow up - the objective of this study is:
   a. to confirm the original findings of the mortality study; and
   b. to determine whether the incidence of contracting cancer, amongst firefighters, is different to that expected for the general public.

iii. **Effectiveness and Safety of Fire Hoods** - this study is designed to:
   a. identify the types of protective hoods worn by firefighters and the circumstances in which they are used; and
   b. investigate the inherent dangers to firefighters when wearing balaclava type fire hoods.

iv. **Health of Control Staff** - the study is designed to identify all the causal factors, both environmental and organisational, contributing both to the perceived stress and to the 'higher than expected levels of absenteeism' highlighted in a recent report by the Robens Institute.

v. **Review of Fire Brigade Pensions** - to provide an analysis of information returned by the fire brigades for use by the Fire Services Division.

vi. **Manual of Firemanship on Foam** - to update the sections relating to foam in Book 3 of the Manual of Firemanship, in order to reflect the findings of research carried out by the FRDG and current practice in the fire service.

vii. **Electronic Data Communications with Brigades** - the objective is to:

a. establish a viable means of electronic data exchange between brigades; and

b. to assess its performance and usefulness.

37. The fire research budget was scheduled to fall in 1994-95 by some 15%. In the event it was reduced by a further £300,000 in the course of the year in order to divert these funds to provide support for the Public Safety Radio Communications Project, which might, subject to further developments within the project, form the basis of fire service communications in the future. As a result of the latest Public Expenditure Survey (PES) round, the fire research budget will now certainly be cut by some £300,000 in the financial year 1996-97, and remain at the reduced level for the foreseeable future. It is not possible at this stage to say how these cuts will be accommodated within the overall programme, which will obviously be strongly curtailed, particularly as it has become common in recent years for additional 'in year' cuts to be applied to the fire research budget.

Other Joint Committees

38. For comments on the activities of the Joint Pensions Committee and the Joint Committee on Equal Opportunities, see paragraph 23 and paragraphs 25 to 28 of Section B respectively and of the Joint Fire Safety Committee see paragraph 78 of Section D.

Civil Defence and Emergency Planning

39. Funding support continued to each brigade for a Brigade Emergency Planning Officer who is responsible to his Firemaster for the preparation and updating of the Brigade's Civil Defence and other Emergency Plans.

40. In September and October The Scottish Office Home Department sponsored a fifth series of general emergency courses for local authorities, emergency services and various other public and voluntary organisations. Four brigade personnel participated in these as speakers/tutors with another 10 brigade members participating as students. This again proved to be successful as the tutors were able to make a significant input into the courses on the work of their service in all hazard emergency planning/response. It is hoped that fire brigade input will continue alongside that of the police and local authority emergency planning staff in future courses. The Scottish Office also held 5 one-day seminars on various subjects, eg military air crash, hazardous materials and rest centre management, with 71 brigade personnel attending.

41. Fire brigade personnel also participated in many local exercises in Scotland held under the auspices of local authorities. The emergency planning officers were also involved in over 100 exercises for the 8 brigades.

Fire Information National Data Service (FINDS)

42. FINDS provides the fire brigades of the UK with a sophisticated on-line database and electronic mail facility. It is provided and operated by CACFOA (Research) Ltd. The system has been operational since 1988 and membership includes all UK fire brigades, the Fire Inspectorate, the Fire Service College and 24 other fire related organisations include the Association of County Councils, Association of Metropolitan Authorities, Fire Service National Benevolent Fund and the Institution of Fire Engineers.

43. The system is used extensively by brigades and is recognised throughout the Fire Service as the primary means of collecting information about common activities. Access to the system has improved significantly during the year following the conclusion of an agreement between CACFOA and Racal Network Services for the provision of a national lease line network for FINDS.

Fire Service National Benevolent Fund

44. As mentioned in last year's Report HRH Princess Alexandra officially opened Jubilee House, the Fund's new therapy centre at Penrith, on 19 April 1995 and the centre admitted its first clients on 2 July of that year.

45. Regrettably, there still remained some major defects in both the leisure pool and the hydrotherapy pool which will not be completed till mid 1996, and which is likely to prevent the Centre from achieving its full capacity of 40 clients. Despite this delay the Centre managed to treat 346 clients to 31 March, 1996. They are admitted for a 2 week course of rehabilitation and therapy tailored to meet their needs. The Centre's sole aim is to improve on individuals' quality of life. All treatment is free and already impressive results have been achieved assisting many to return to active duty.

46. Contributions to the Fund from Scottish brigades amounted to £177,730, a decrease of £2,739 (1.5%) from the previous year; expenditure also decreased by £1,767 (2.4%) to £71,134.

47. The Fund has a total of 1,534 beneficiaries throughout the UK in its registers who received the following grants in 1995:

i.	Widows and Widowers	- 766	-	£414,446;	
ii.	Orphans	- 226	-	£82,295;	
iii.	Young Disabled	- 305	-	£128,266;	
iv.	Less Able	- 170	-	£91,598;	
v.	Residential Care Homes	- 21	-	£24,780;	and
vi.	Education Grants	- 46	-	£32,238.	

48. During the year more than 100 members of Scottish brigades and their families attended the convalescence centres at Littlehampton and Harcombe.

49. Considerable progress has been made in the development and leasing of the Fund's sheltered housing, with all the units at Littlehampton now being occupied.

Competitions

50. To test firefighters' knowledge and skills of fire technology and first aid, CACFOA organises annual competitions on these topics. Teams from throughout the UK may enter at local level, with the winners of the qualifying rounds progressing to District or National finals.

51. During 1995 a decision was taken to change the format of the Fire Service Technical Quiz. The main changes involving a reduction in the team size and the introduction of a specialist round in which each team is asked questions on a previously allocated fire brigade subject. The objective of the new format is to attract more competitors to participate in future years. As in previous years the Quiz alternates between the wholetime and the retained service; the latter part of 1995 and early 1996 will be contested by wholetime personnel.

52. The local finals resulted in 4 teams competing in the District Final which took place in February 1996. The winners go on to the UK northern semi-final which is to be held in Burkinshaw, near Leeds.

53. The First Aid Competition differs from the National Fire Service Technical Quiz in that it is open to wholetime, retained and control personnel.

54. Strathclyde Fire Brigade, who were the representatives from the Scottish District, entered 2 teams who competed in the final which took place at the FSC on 2 June 1995. The winning team on this occasion was a team from Staffordshire Fire Brigade.

55. During 1995 many youth organisations throughout Scotland competed in the National Fire Safety Youth Quiz.

56. This year the Scottish final was held in Aberdeen with teams from Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway, Tayside, Fife and Grampian contesting a very evenly fought affair. The winners were the 1st Methlick Scouts who represented the Grampian area and they went on to represent the Scottish District in the UK northern semi-final where they again triumphed. In the final, which took place at the Fire Service College, they finished a creditable second to King Edward VI, Honsworth Girls School representing the West Midlands.

Fire Service Sports and Athletics Association

57. The year commenced with the Association holding its Annual General Meeting at the SFSTS. As mentioned in my Report for 1994-95 the Chairperson, Mr D Grant, had intimated his intention to retire and he was succeeded by Mr J McCall. The Vice-Chairperson, Mr J Reilly, has also stepped down and his position has been taken by Mr D Farries. Having recorded the Association's appreciation for Mr Grant's contribution in last year's Report I would now wish to pay tribute to the work which Mr Reilly has carried out on behalf of the Association.

58. The year 1995-96 proved to be another busy year for the wide range of sports in which the members of the Association participated. Scottish brigades were represented throughout the UK and Europe in such activities as angling, athletics, bowling, football, rugby, sailing, swimming and volleyball, to name but a few, and with a great deal of success.

Section H: Report of The Lay Inspector of Fire Services

Introduction

1. The year 1994-95 was the first in which the Lay Inspector took part in the 8 brigade inspections. He concentrated upon the working procedures of the brigades which directly affect the public. In addition, he was concerned about the present and future education and training of personnel within brigades.

Public Relations

2. Five areas of possible public concern were concentrated on. These are listed below.

i. **Complaints and Commendations** - The Lay Inspector expected to see meticulous records of complaints received from members of the public and to examine, in each case, the details of the complaint, the action taken and whether or not the complainant was satisfied. Most brigades keep a 'Complaints Log' and without exception brigades received many more commendations and letters of thanks than complaints; the ratio is about 10:1. An examination of the records showed that the vast majority of complainants received satisfaction and in a small minority of cases investigations resulted in a change in brigade procedures, to ensure that such complaints would not recur. All complaints were thoroughly and efficiently investigated and what was even more pleasing, was the willingness and openness of brigades, not only in dealing with complaints but in learning from them. In some cases complainants received a personal visit from a senior officer in order to explain in detail the brigade's actions.

ii. **Community Education** - The first concern of brigades in the area of Community Education is in the reduction of deaths due to fire. It is generally considered by brigades that this is best dealt with through the dissemination of information relating to fire precautions in the home with particular emphasis on the use of smoke alarms. In most brigades this information is transmitted through home helps, with talks and demonstrations by fire officers who are very concerned about the obvious neglect of many householders in the installation and maintenance of smoke alarms. Incredibly, there are too many households without a smoke alarm and others in which the battery is removed from the device and used for some less important purpose. Many brigades have now allocated officers whose duties include the formation of the Community Education Unit, which are equipped with mobile classrooms for visits to schools. Undoubtedly, such Units perform a valuable educational function, helping to reduce the number of malicious fire-raisers and in making children and their parents more aware of fire safety in the home. Those brigades which have not yet developed such a Unit are encouraged to do so. Initiatives in some brigades include the 'Crucial Crew' scheme and in others, the 'Young Fire-setters' education programme. The former is a multi-agency development in which several thousand primary school children have taken

part in practical exercises involving fire safety, reaction to danger, crime prevention, the role of emergency services and good citizenship. The latter education programme deals with the problem of persistent fire-raising by disturbed youngsters who have been referred to a brigade by social workers, doctors and parents. Its success, for the children concerned, their families and for the community, is remarkable and commendable.

iii. **Media relationships** - All brigades are conscious of the need for close and effective relationships with the media. Most have arrangements to supply their local newspapers with photographs and press statements, particularly with reference to the need for fire safety in the home, stressing the need for smoke alarms. This is one aspect which requires pro-active as well as reactive action. Brigades must aim to 'blitz' the public more regularly through all media channels, even at the expense of repeating the message. Effective use of the media is made in publicising the need for the supervision of bonfires prior to 'Guy Fawkes' nights. Generally brigades are reasonably good at publicising their attainments but they err on the side of self-effacement - it is important to inform the public of acts of bravery. Books of press cuttings should be kept up-to-date in all brigades.

iv. **Citizen's Charter** - Only one brigade has applied for a 'Charter Mark' and most brigades regard the acquisition of a Charter Mark as being desirable rather than essential. The Lay Inspector also detected some reticence to apply because of the additional expense thought to be involved. It should be noted by brigades that in applying for a Charter Mark they recognise that their services to the public may be capable of improvement and that there may be much to be learned by opening themselves to this type of inspection. Ideally, brigades should not incur additional expenditure in their applications. Nevertheless some preparation is required but the award of a Charter Mark should reflect the fact that good and efficient service to the public is the norm rather than require a special effort for an award. The Lay Inspector hopes that where a brigade fails to gain a Charter Mark in its first application this would give a clear indication of some deficiency which when put right would then open the way for the award. He recommends that every brigade should make application for a Charter Mark during 1996-97. There is more to be learned and more credit to be gained by a brigade which tries and fails rather than not trying at all.

v. **Customer relations** - Again only one brigade carried out 2 'Quality Surveys' to elicit the answer to the general question "are we doing our job well?" Such surveys cover questions relating to the help, courtesy and reassurance, care, efficiency and speed of response to fire calls. Results were most helpful to the brigade in determining some of its strengths and weaknesses. The 'Quality Survey' is commended to all brigades and would give credit towards the attainment of a Charter Mark.

Brigade Education and Training

3. The Lay Inspector commented at length on the generally poor results obtained in the Statutory Examinations. He considered that these results unfortunately are simply a reflection of the lack of seriousness which candidates attach to their preparation. Those who have recently completed a course at the SFSTS frequently achieve the greatest success. Older candidates who have lost the study habit are disadvantaged by their lack of study skills. In order to partially remedy this wasteful situation he has recommended that applications for the examinations should be accepted only from those who display evidence of study and tutorial work.

4. With perhaps 2 exceptions brigades are generally ambivalent towards the introduction of Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs), a proposed system of formal skills qualifications, which is perceived to be an expensive duplication of an already thorough training system. Costing exercises in several brigades would appear to make the transition impracticable in the present financial climate. Many senior officers and firefighters question the need for change, but there is a perception of the benefits to be gained in the acquisition of SVQs in future provided that SVQs form at least an equivalent to and an acceptable replacement of the existing system.

5. There is generally a positive attitude towards higher education and the acquisition of diplomas and degrees and brigades give encouragement to those who wish to improve their qualifications. However, the position is variable and no specific aims have been identified insofar as any particular qualification is deemed to be relevant to the work of the brigade. It is recommended that research be undertaken by the Fire Service College to study the qualifications which have proved most useful to brigades and thus identify the route(s) which may be followed by officers who wish to pursue higher education.

6. On-the-job training is a daily routine in every brigade and to a lay member of the public this, at first sight, appears to be boringly repetitive. However, one of the objectives of brigade training is the maintenance of a high standard of performance in a wide range of firefighting tasks. Just as an athlete has to keep fit and to keep running to maintain his/her performance, the same is true of firefighters. In this respect the Lay Inspector has only one recommendation which is that training officers should try to use the lecture periods to assist applicants in their aspirations towards success in the Statutory Examinations by insisting that firefighters keep well-written notes and take part in tutorials where discussions can be encouraged. These notes could be used as evidence of study towards candidature for the Statutory Examinations.

Scottish Fire Service Training School

7. This is a highly professional and efficient organisation. Provision is made for recruit training and a series of more advanced courses for officers and retained firefighters. Classroom equipment is up-to-date as are the classrooms themselves. In view of the improvements and refurbishments which have been carried out or are planned for the future, it is likely that the School will be in even greater demand.

APPENDICES

Brigade	Area		Population June 1994 (estimates)		Uniformed Personnel (1995-96 Establishments)				Fire Stations and Volunteer Units			Operational Fleet			
	km²	% of Scotland	'000	%	Wholetime	Control	Retained	Volunteer	Wholetime	Retained	Volunteer	Pumping Appliances	Aerial Appliances	Rescue/ Emergency Tenders	Other Special Appliances
Central Scotland	2,652	3.4	273	5.3	240	17	170	24	4	11	3	31	1	-	5
Dumfries & Galloway	6,396	8.2	148	2.9	96	15	193	20	1	15	2	23	2	-	3
Fife	1,307	1.7	352	6.9	382	21	112	-	6	8	-	25	2	1	3
Grampian	8,678	11.2	533	10.4	336	22	466	32	*6	32	2	61	3	3	9
Highland & Islands	30,759	39.6	279	5.4	107	17	394	986	1	27	98	94	1	1	2
Lothian & Borders	6,430	8.3	864	16.8	742	30	295	-	13	22	-	53	5	3	2
Strathclyde	13,850	17.9	2,288	44.6	2,209	67	647	254	38	44	31	157	12	8	5
Tayside	7,501	9.7	395	7.7	409	18	276	36	6	15	4	44	3	6	6
SCOTLAND	77,593	100	5,132	100	4,521	207	2,553	1,352	*75	176	141	488	29	22	35

* *includes 2 'day-manned' stations*

Appendix 2
Establishment and Strength of Fire Brigades as at 31 March 1996

	Central			Dumfries & Galloway			Fife			Grampian			Highland & Islands			Lothian & Borders			Strathclyde			Tayside			Scottish Total		
	Estab-lishment	Actual Strength		Estab-lishment	Actual Strength		Estab-lishment	Actual Strength		Estab-lishment	Actual Strength		Estab-lishment	Actual Strength		Estab-lishment	Actual Strength		Estab-lishment	Actual Strength		Estab-lishment	Actual Strength		Estab-lishment	Actual Strength	
		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female
WHOLETIME OPERATIONAL																											
Firemaster	1	1		1	1		1			1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1		5	7	
Assistant Firemaster	1			1			1	1		2	2		1	1		2	2		6	6		1	1		15	13	
Senior Divisional Officer																4	4		9	8					13	12	
Divisional Officer I	1	1		1	1		1	1		3	3		1	1					6	6		5	5		18	18	
Divisional Officer II	4	4		2	2		4	4					4	4		12	12		6	7		1			33	33	
Divisional Officer III				2	2		2	1		6	3		3	3					14	13		8	7		35	29	
Assistant Divisional Officer	9	9		8	8		9	8		15	15		12	12		20	20		47	45		13	11		133	128	
Station Officer	17	17		9	9		37	37		36	33		11	10		54	42		192	187		37	34		393	369	
Sub-Officer	27	28		8	8		29	29		23	28		7	6		73	68		221	210		36	36		424	413	
Leading Firefighter	32	32		12	12		64	64		62	54		11	10		99	86		229	229		44	48		553	535	
Firefighter	148	146	3	52	49	3	234	230	1	188	193		56	56		477	495	5	1,478	1,489	4	263	248	2	2,896	2,906	18
Total	**240**	**238**	**3**	**96**	**92**	**3**	**382**	**375**	**1**	**336**	**332**		**107**	**104**		**742**	**730**	**5**	**2,209**	**2,201**	**4**	**409**	**391**	**2**	**4,521**	**4,463**	**18**
CONTROL ROOM STAFF																											
PFC Officer																			1	1					1	1	
GFC Officer	1	1														1	1		1		1				3	2	1
FC Officer				1		1	1	1		1		1	1		1	5		5	5	2	3	1		1	15	3	12
SFC Operator	4	1	3	1		1	4		4	5		5	4		4	4		4	8	1	5	4	1	3	34	3	29
LFC Operator	4	1	3	4		4	4		4	4		4	4		4	4		4	8	2	5	4	2	2	36	5	30
FC Operator	8	2	6	9	1	8	12	4	8	12	1	11	8		7	16	3	13	44	9	38	9	1	9	118	21	100
Total	**17**	**5**	**12**	**15**	**1**	**14**	**21**	**5**	**16**	**22**	**1**	**21**	**17**		**16**	**30**	**4**	**26**	**67**	**15**	**52**	**18**	**4**	**15**	**207**	**35**	**172**
RETAINED																											
Station Officer							2	2		11	10		13	13		4	4		8	7		7	7		45	43	
Sub-Officer	12	12		16	16		8	8		35	33		28	28		25	26		53	50		19	18		196	191	
Leading Firefighter	19	17	1	20	20		10	10		81	77	1	56	56		32	32		76	57	1	29	34		323	303	3
Firefighter	139	119	6	157	148	4	92	80	2	339	296	4	297	285	3	234	226	5	510	468	9	221	180	3	1,989	1,802	36
Total	**170**	**148**	**7**	**193**	**184**	**4**	**112**	**100**	**2**	**466**	**416**	**5**	**394**	**382**	**3**	**295**	**288**	**5**	**647**	**582**	**10**	**276**	**239**	**3**	**2,553**	**2,339**	**39**
VOLUNTEER																											
Assistant Divisional Officer													6	5											6	5	
Station Officer																											
Sub-Officer										2	3		98	93	2										100	96	2
Leading Firefighter	3	2		2	2					4	4		98	91	2				21	15		4	4		132	118	2
Firefighter	21	8		18	14	1				26	15	7	784	697	24				233	213	8	32	43	1	1,114	990	41
Total	**24**	**10**		**20**	**16**	**1**				**32**	**22**	**7**	**986**	**886**	**28**				**254**	**228**	**8**	**36**	**47**	**1**	**1,352**	**1,209**	**45**
Wholetime	240	238	3	96	92	3	382	375	1	336	332		107	104		742	730	5	2,209	2,201	4	409	391	2	4,521	4,463	18
Control Room Staff	17	5	12	15	1	14	21	5	16	22	1	21	17		16	30	4	26	67	15	52	18	4	15	207	35	172
Retained	170	148	7	193	184	4	112	100	2	466	416	5	394	382	3	295	288	5	647	582	10	276	239	3	2,553	2,339	39
Volunteer	24	10		20	16	1				32	22	7	986	886	28				254	228	8	36	47	1	1,352	1,209	45
GRAND TOTAL	451	401	22	324	293	22	515	480	19	856	771	33	1,504	1,372	47	1,067	1,022	36	3,177	3,026	74	739	681	21	8,633	8046	274

Changes in Wholetime Strength as at 31 March 1996

	Operational Personnel																		Control Room Personnel													
	Central		Dumfries & Galloway		Fife		Grampian		Highland & Islands		Lothian & Borders		Strathclyde		Tayside		TOTALS		Central		Dumfries & Galloway		Fife		Grampian		Highland & Islands		Lothian & Borders		Strathclyde		Tayside		TOTALS	
GAINS	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
(i) By recruitment	7		3		12		6		4		20		83	1			135	1					1								4		4	6
(ii) By transfer from other brigades	3				1		2		2		3		8		1		20						1								1		1	
Total Gains	10		3		13		8		6		23		91	1	1		155	1					1								5		5	6
LOSSES																																		
(i) By death:-																																		
Attributable to service															1		1																	
Not attributable to service									1				3		1		5																	
(ii) By discharge	1												1				2																	
(iii) By resignation					6		2		1		3		1				13										1	1			2		1	3
(iv) Retired on Pension	1				3		1				9		10		12		36														2			2
Failed Medical	1		1		5		7		2		6		30				52				1		1				1		2				1	5
Due to Injury On-duty											3		10				13																	
Due to Injury Off-duty																																		
(v) Transfer to other brigades	3		2		3						2		5				15						1								1			2
Total Losses	6		3		17		10		4		23		60		14		137				1		1		1						1		2	12

Appendix 4

Summary of Fires and Special Service Incidents which have occurred in 1995-96

Fire Brigade	Total Fires	Classification of fires by number of pumps used for firefighting purposes:						Chimney Fires	Secondary Fires	False Alarms			Special Services	TOTALS
		(a) 1 pump	(b) 2 pumps	(c) 3/5 pumps	(d) 6/10 pumps	(e) 11/15 pumps	(f) Over 15			Good Intent	Apparatus Faulty	Malicious		
Central	807	712	79	12	4	-	-	210	1,463	1,386	959	431	672	5,928
Dumfries & Galloway	456	250	175	29	1	1	-	462	464	583	230	146	384	2,725
Fife	1,077*	396	549	124	5	-	-	386	2,179	1,732	728	771	710	7,583
Grampian	1,560	1,375	99	76	9	1	-	866	1,730	2,262	961	415	1,805	9,599
Highland & Islands	831	733	90	8	-	-	-	1,872	1,212	1,330	354	309	446	6,354
Lothian & Borders	3,730	1,369	1,626	723	12	-	-	691	6,113	5,299	2,791	1,188	1,555	21,367
Strathclyde	10,512	3,596	5,677	1,223	16	-	-	1,301	23,895	12,570	7,228	5,681	5,796	66,983
Tayside	1,637	513	956	167	1	-	-	418	3,161	930	2,352	696	1,130	10,324
TOTALS	20,610	8,944	9,251	2,362	48	2	-	6,206	40,217	26,092	15,603	9,637	12,498	130,863

**3 incidents attended by officers only*

Major Fires 1995-96

REQUIRING AN ATTENDANCE OF 6 OR MORE PUMPING APPLIANCES

DATE	ADDRESS	TYPE	BRIGADE
1995			
April			
1	Exacta Circuits, Galashiels	Factory	Lothian & Borders
22	Cairn Court, Nerston East Kilbride	Storage Buildings	Strathclyde
26	Glengyre Farm, Leswalt Stranraer	Heathland	Dumfries & Galloway
May			
1	Fauldhouse Moor	Forest	Lothian & Borders
1	Main Street, Longriggend	Forest	Strathclyde
4	East Benhar Road, Harthill	Forest	Strathclyde
13	Rosevale Bar, Dumbarton Road Glasgow	Shops	Strathclyde
20	10 Union Terrace, Aberdeen	Hotel	Grampian
29	North Haugh, St Andrews	University	Fife
26	Forest of Birse, Finzean	Heather	Grampian
28	27 Station Road, Dollar	House	Central
30	Houston Industrial Estate Livingston	Factory	Lothian & Borders
July			
4	Fannyside Road, Harthill	Forest	Strathclyde
7	17-29 Harbour Street, Hopeman	Shop/Cafe	Grampian
16	Hydro Hotel, Dunblane	Hotel	Central
21	Old Priory, Near Springfield Cupar	Priory	Fife
26	Old Grey Park, Near Mossmorran Cowdenbeath	Peat	Fife
August			
7	Caldwell House, Uplawmoor	Flat	Strathclyde
7	Victoria Road, Barrhead	Factory	Strathclyde
8	Longriggend	Forest	Strathclyde
11	Carphin Forest, Dailly	Forest	Strathclyde
11	Langholm	Heathland	Dumfries & Galloway
11	Faside Terrace, Wallyford	Fields	Lothian & Borders
17	Moy House, Forres	Mansion House	Grampian
20	West Windy Goul Farm, Tranent	Fields	Lothian & Borders
26	Mecca Playhouse, Nethergate Dundee	Bingo Hall	Tayside

September

6	March Street Mills, Peebles	Factory	Lothian & Borders
19	42 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh	Shop	Lothian & Borders
22	Colebarn Farm, Fogwatt	Machinery	Grampian
28	56 Belford Road, Edinburgh	Warehouse	Lothian & Borders

October

1	Lochend House, Port of Menteith	House	Central
4	Clifford Court, Nithsdale Road Glasgow	Flat	Strathclyde
10	Poor Clare Convent, Lasswade Road, Edinburgh	Disused Building	Lothian & Borders
20	Craigievar Street, Glasgow	School	Strathclyde
22	14 Little Belmont Street, Aberdeen	School	Grampian

November

5	40 Belmont Street, Aberdeen	Disused Building	Grampian
26	18 Niddry Street, Edinburgh	Tenement	Lothian & Borders

December

5	Annan Street, Glasgow	School	Strathclyde
6	Ardivot Farm, Lossiemouth	Building	Grampian
7	27 Greenside Place, Edinburgh	Public House	Lothian & Borders
13	Holehouse Road, Kilmarnock	College	Strathclyde
27	Morlich Way, Dalgety Bay	School	Fife

1996

February

1	Jarvey Street, Bathgate	Night Club	Lothian & Borders
2	Den Road, Kirkcaldy	Factory	Fife
5	North Auchenweet Farm, Mauchline	House	Strathclyde
18	Dunnotor Avenue, Stonehaven	Hotel	Grampian

March

13	Victoria Road, Barrhead	Storage Buildings	Strathclyde
20	Easter Greenyards Farm Bannockburn, Stirling	Building	Central
26	Barnhill Plantation, Rankinston	Forest	Strathclyde

Appendix 6
Fatalities at Fire Incidents attended by Brigades during 1995-96

Fire Brigade	Age Groups								Location - Building Type, Etc												Monthly Summary											
	Up to 5 Years	6 to 16 Years	17 to 40 Years	41 to 60 Years	61 to 75 Years	Over 75 Years	TOTAL FATALITIES		House	Flat in Block	Flat in Terrace	Hotel/Boarding House	Hospital/Home/Hostel	Caravan/Mobile Home	Vehicle	Industrial Premises Factory etc.	Commercial Premises Shop etc.	Place of Public Entertainment	Outside Area	Miscellaneous	TOTAL FATALITIES		April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	TOTAL FATALITIES
Central			1	1			2		1	1											2							1				2
Dumfries & Galloway						1	1			1											1									1		1
Fife	1	1	1			1	4		1	2					1						4		2							1	1	4
Grampian			3	4	2	1	10		6	3					1						10			1		1	1			2	1	4	10
Highland & Islands			2	2			4								2				1	1*	4		1			1		1		1			4
Lothian & Borders		1	2	1	2	2	8		3	3	1		1								8			3				1		3		1	8
Strathclyde	1	2	11	24	15	5	58		19	18	15		1		3					2**	58		1	4	2	2	6	1	8	11	7	3	11	58
Tayside			1	1	1	2	5		3		1			1							5		1		2				2				5
TOTALS	2	4	21	33	20	12	92		33	28	17		2	1	7				1	3	92		5	8	4	4	3	7	1	14	15	5	16	92

* Fishing Vessel
** 1. Porta-cabin used as office
2. Porta-cabin used as accommodation

Performance Indicators
Central Scotland Fire Brigade

Part 1 - Operational Data

	1993 - 1994	1994 - 1995	1995 - 1996
OD1 - Number of emergency calls, other than false alarm calls, by type and as a percentage of the total:			
Fires	831 (36.3%)	756 (31.6%)	807 (25.6%)
Secondary Fires	904 (39.5%)	1,013 (42.3%)	1,463 (46.4%)
Chimney Fires	328 (14.3%)	289 (12.1%)	210 (6.7%)
Special Services	223 (9.7%)	335 (14.0%)	672 (21.3%)
Total	**2,286**	**2,393**	**3,152**
OD2 - Number of false alarm calls by type and as a percentage of the total:			
Good Intent	920 (40.2%)	1,187 (48.9%)	1,386 (49.9%)
Apparatus	671 (29.3%)	765 (31.5%)	959 (34.6%)
Malicious	694 (30.4%)	475 (19.6%)	431 (15.5%)
Total	**2,285**	**2,427**	**2,776**
OD3 - Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:			
Fire Incidents	7.6	6.5	8.3
Special Service Incidents	0.8	1.2	2.5
All Incidents	8.4	7.7	10.8
OD4 - Number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires			
Fatalities	1.2	5.3	2.5
Non-Fatal Casualties	92.7	112.4	128.9
OD5 - Number of Persons Rescued by the Service from (A) Fire and (B) Special Service Incidents per 1,000 Incidents			
Fire Incidents	27.6	34.4	18.6
Special Service Incidents	336.3	271.6	151.8
All Incidents	93.0	107.2	79.1

Part 2 - Scottish Fire Indicators

SF1/1 The percentage of fire calls where the speed and number of pumping appliances met set criteria (ie in terms of the standards of fire cover)			
For Property Fires and Fire False Alarms	84.6	85.8	87.3
For Other Fires	85.8	87.4	71.8
SF1/2 The percentage of Shift Rider and Day Crew Rider Shifts Lost due to Sickness and Light Duties			
Lost to all sickness	7.1	6.0	6.8
To short term sickness	4.1	5.0	5.2
To long term sickness	3.0	1.0	1.6
Lost due to service	1.7	1.7	1.1
Lost - not due to service	5.4	4.3	5.8
Lost due to light duties	*	*	*
SF1/3 The percentage of rider wholetime shifts devoted to training activities while riders are off the run			
Centralised Training	0.65	0.67	0.67
Outside Training	1.31	0.79	2.08
SF1/4 The number of wholetime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to be next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank.			
Firefighter	14.6	18.0	19.5
Leading Firefighter	56.7	56.3	68.8
Sub-Officer	36.0	33.3	21.4
SF1/5 The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods			
Average handling time*	1.04	1.00	1.17
% of calls handled in between one and 2 minutes	59.3	61.2	56.1
% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	10.7	8.8	9.4

**Central Scotland Fire Brigade does not have a system of 'light duties'*

**Central Scotland Fire Brigade record the time in minutes not seconds*

Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade

Part 1 - Operational Data

		1993 - 1994	1994 - 1995	1995 - 1996
OD1	Number of emergency calls, other than false alarm calls, by type and as a percentage of the total:			
	Fires	469 (31.5%)	432 (29.9%)	456 (25.8%)
	Secondary Fires	283 (19.0%)	313 (21.7%)	464 (26.3%)
	Chimney Fires	493 (33.1%)	416 (28.8%)	462 (26.2%)
	Special Services	243 (16.3%)	281 (19.5%)	384 (21.7%)
	Total	**1,488**	**1,442**	**1,766**
OD2	Number of false alarm calls by type and as a percentage of the total:			
	Good Intent	549 (53.2%)	535 (58.1%)	583 (60.8%)
	Apparatus	180 (17.4%)	150 (16.3%)	230 (24.0%)
	Malicious	303 (29.3%)	235 (25.5%)	146 (15.2%)
	Total	**1,032**	**920**	**959**
OD3	Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:			
	Fire Incidents	8.4	7.8	9.3
	Special Service Incidents	1.6	1.9	2.6
	All Incidents	10.0	9.7	11.9
OD4	Number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires			
	Fatalities	10.7	18.5	2.2
	Non-Fatal Casualties	83.2	62.5	63.6
OD5	Number of Persons Rescued by the Service from (A) Fire and (B) Special Service Incidents per 1,000 Incidents			
	Fire Incidents	27.7	16.2	8.8
	Special Service Incidents	284.0	177.9	143.2
	All Incidents	115.2	79.9	70.2

Part 2 - Scottish Fire Indicators

SF1/1	The percentage of fire calls where the speed and number of pumping appliances met set criteria (ie in terms of the standards of fire cover)			
	For Property Fires and Fire False Alarms	99.2	99.5	92.0
	For Other Fires	99.8	99.4	97.2
SF1/2	The percentage of Shift Rider and Day Crew Rider Shifts Lost due to Sickness and Light Duties			
	Lost to all sickness	8.7	4.4	4.3
	To short term sickness	3.8	2.1	2.0
	To long term sickness	4.9	2.3	2.3
	Lost due to service	0.1	0.7	0.2
	Lost - not due to service	8.6	3.8	4.1
	Lost due to light duties	1.3	0.1	1.1
SF1/3	The percentage of rider wholetime shifts devoted to training activities while riders are off the run			
	Centralised Training	0.34	0.02	0.07
	Outside Training	0.08	0.04	0.21
SF1/4	The number of wholetime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to be next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank.			
	Firefighter	70.8	62.5	44.2
	Leading Firefighter	91.7	91.7	83.3
	Sub-Officer	87.5	87.5	91.7
SF1/5	The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods			
	Average handling time*	*	62 seconds	65 seconds
	% of calls handled in between one and 2 minutes	*	32.5	18.9
	% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	*	6.9	4.4

* *Figures for Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade were not available for this year*

Fife Fire and Rescue Service

Part 1 - Operational Data

	1993 - 1994	1994 - 1995	1995 - 1996
OD1 Number of emergency calls, other than false alarm calls, by type and as a percentage of the total:			
Fires	1,185 (34.3%)	1,032 (27.3%)	1,077 (24.7%)
Secondary Fires	1,241 (35.9%)	1,861 (49.2%)	2,179 (50.1%)
Chimney Fires	565 (16.4%)	439 (11.6%)	386 (8.9%)
Special Services	462 (13.4%)	452 (11.6%)	710 (16.3%)
Total	**3,453**	**3,784**	**4,352**
OD2 Number of false alarm calls by type and as a percentage of the total:			
Good Intent	1,170 (43.2%)	1,354 (48.9%)	1,732 (53.6%)
Apparatus	559 (20.7%)	566 (20.5%)	728 (22.5%)
Malicious	976 (36.1%)	848 (30.6%)	771 (23.9%)
Total	**2,705**	**2,768**	**3,231**
OD3 Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:			
Fire Incidents	8.1	9.5	10.4
Special Service Incidents	1.1	1.3	2.0
All Incidents	9.2	10.8	12.4
OD4 Number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires			
Fatalities	7.1	8.7	3.7
Non-Fatal Casualties	90.2	124.0	122.6
OD5 Number of Persons Rescued by the Service from (A) Fire and (B) Special Service Incidents per 1,000 Incidents			
Fire Incidents	38.4	25.2	26.0
Special Service Incidents	371.6	238.9	238.0
All Incidents	126.2	90.3	110.2

Part 2 - Scottish Fire Indicators

SF1/1 The percentage of fire calls where the speed and number of pumping appliances met set criteria (ie in terms of the standards of fire cover)			
For Property Fires and Fire False Alarms	94.7	91.5	92.4
For Other Fires	95.5	92.7	89.3
SF1/2 The percentage of Shift Rider and Day Crew Rider Shifts Lost due to Sickness and Light Duties			
Lost to all sickness	10.9	6.9	8.8
To short term sickness	3.5	3.5	3.7
To long term sickness	7.4	3.4	5.1
Lost due to service	1.6	1.2	1.5
Lost - not due to service	9.3	5.7	7.2
Lost due to light duties	*	0.2	0.5

* *Figures not available*

SF1/3 The percentage of rider wholetime shifts devoted to training activities while riders are off the run			
Centralised Training	0.55	1.92	2.62
Outside Training	0.97	1.65	1.70
SF1/4 The number of wholetime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to be next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank.			
Firefighter	27.7	25.9	31.6
Leading Firefighter	42.8	37.5	50.0
Sub-Officer	44.8	34.5	48.3
SF1/5 The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods			
Average handling time	75 seconds	60 seconds	58 seconds
% of calls handled in between one and 2 minutes	39.8	38.7	32.2
% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	10.7	8.3	5.0

Highland and Islands Fire Brigade

Part 1 - Operational Data

	1993 - 1994	1994 - 1995	1995 - 1996
OD1 Number of emergency calls, other than false alarm calls, by type and as a percentage of the total:			
Fires	703 (18.5%)	710 (20.6%)	831 (19.1%)
Secondary Fires	635 (16.7%)	673 (19.5%)	1,212 (27.8%)
Chimney Fires	2,096 (55.4%)	1,710 (49.7%)	1,872 (42.9%)
Special Services	349 (9.2%)	349 (10.1%)	446 (10.2%)
Total	**3,783**	**3,442**	**4,361**
OD2 Number of false alarm calls by type and as a percentage of the total:			
Good Intent	855 (57.0%)	1,143 (62.4%)	1,330 (66.7%)
Apparatus	216 (14.4%)	302 (16.5%)	354 (17.8%)
Malicious	429 (28.6%)	387 (21.1%)	309 (15.5%)
Total	**1,500**	**1,832**	**1,993**
OD3 Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:			
Fire Incidents	12.3	11.1	14.0
Special Service Incidents	1.3	1.3	1.6
All Incidents	13.6	12.4	15.6
OD4 Number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires			
Fatalities	5.7	9.9	4.8
Non-Fatal Casualties	19.9	104.2*	69.8
OD5 Number of Persons Rescued by the Service from (A) Fire and (B) Special Service Incidents per 1,000 Incidents			
Fire Incidents	17.1	47.9	20.5
Special Service Incidents	204.2	123.2	217.5
All Incidents	80.8	72.7	89.3

* *increase due to a change in the Highland and Islands Fire Brigade's criteria for recording casualties*

Part 2 - Scottish Fire Indicators

SF1/1 The percentage of fire calls where the speed and number of pumping appliances met set criteria (ie in terms of the standards of fire cover)			
For Property Fires and Fire False Alarms	*	95.7	91.0
For Other Fires	*	96.7	83.8
SF1/2 The percentage of Shift Rider and Day Crew Rider Shifts Lost due to Sickness and Light Duties			
Lost to all sickness	4.1	5.5	6.2
To short term sickness	2.5	2.1	2.4
To long term sickness	1.6	3.4	3.8
Lost due to service	1.0	1.5	0.8
Lost - not due to service	3.0	4.0	5.4
Lost due to light duties	*	*	nil
SF1/3 The percentage of rider wholetime shifts devoted to training activities while riders are off the run			
Centralised Training	0.97	0.13	nil
Outside Training	0.68	0.63	2.69
SF1/4 The number of wholetime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to be next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank.			
Firefighter	34.6	41.5	39.3
Leading Firefighter	78.5	72.7	80.0
Sub-Officer	85.7	57.1	50.0
SF1/5 The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods			
Average handling time	72 seconds	68 seconds	63 seconds
% of calls handled in between one and 2 minutes	43.0	40.2	38.4
% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	9.5	6.9	5.2

* *Figures for Highland and Islands Fire Brigade were not available for 1993-94*

* *Highland and Islands Fire Brigade did not have a light duties system for these years*

Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade

Part 1 - Operational Data

		1993 - 1994	1994 - 1995	1995 - 1996
OD1	Number of emergency calls, other than false alarm calls, by type and as a percentage of the total:			
	Fires	3,793 (40.3%)	3,521 (34.8%)	3,730 (30.8%)
	Secondary Fires	3,624 (38.6%)	4,777 (47.1%)	6,113 (50.6%)
	Chimney Fires	868 (9.2%)	702 (6.9%)	691 (5.7%)
	Special Services	1,118 (11.9%)	1,138 (11.2%)	1,555 (12.9%)
	Total	**9,403**	**10,138**	**12,089**
OD2	Number of false alarm calls by type and as a percentage of the total:			
	Good Intent	4,567 (59.4%)	5,007 (64.8%)	5,299 (57.1%)
	Apparatus	1,319 (17.2%)	1,360 (17.6%)	2,791 (30.1%)
	Malicious	1,800 (23.4%)	1,356 (17.6%)	1,188 (12.8%)
	Total	**7,686**	**7,723**	**9,278**
OD3	Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:			
	Fire Incidents	9.7	10.5	12.3
	Special Service Incidents	1.3	1.3	1.8
	All Incidents	11.0	11.9	14.1
OD4	Number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires			
	Fatalities	3.7	2.3	1.9
	Non-Fatal Casualties	95.4	88.6	86.3
OD5	Number of Persons Rescued by the Service from (A) Fire and (B) Special Service Incidents per 1,000 Incidents			
	Fire Incidents	39.3	37.5	23.9
	Special Service Incidents	201.2	176.6	155.0
	All Incidents	76.2	71.5	62.4

Part 2 - Scottish Fire Indicators

SF1/1	The percentage of fire calls where the speed and number of pumping appliances met set criteria (ie in terms of the standards of fire cover)			
	For Property Fires and Fire False Alarms	91.3	91.4	91.8
	For Other Fires	90.7	89.9	91.3
SF1/2	The percentage of Shift Rider and Day Crew Rider Shifts Lost due to Sickness and Light Duties			
	Lost to all sickness	5.9	6.0	6.8
	To short term sickness	3.0	2.7	3.6
	To long term sickness	2.8	3.4	3.2
	Lost due to service	0.8	0.6	0.5
	Lost - not due to service	5.1	5.5	6.2
	Lost due to light duties	1.7	0.9	0.5
SF1/3	The percentage of rider wholetime shifts devoted to training activities while riders are off the run			
	Centralised Training	1.07	1.73	0.85
	Outside Training	0.11	0.87	2.85
SF1/4	The number of wholetime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to be next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank.			
	Firefighter	24.3	23.1	24.6
	Leading Firefighter	36.8	30.0	35.6
	Sub-Officer	30.0	30.6	35.3
SF1/5	The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods			
	Average handling time	*	*	*
	% of calls handled in between one and 2 minutes	*	*	*
	% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	*	*	*

• *Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade were unable to provide this information at this time*

Strathclyde Fire Brigade

Part 1 - Operational Data

	1993 - 1994	1994 - 1995	1995 - 1996
OD1 Number of emergency calls, other than false alarm calls, by type and as a percentage of the total:			
Fires	10,242 (31.0%)	9,731 (28.5%)	10,512 (25.3%)
Secondary Fires	17,113 (51.8%)	18,850 (55.2%)	23,895 (57.6%)
Chimney Fires	1,800 (5.5%)	1,267 (3.7%)	1,301 (3.1%)
Special Services	3,854 (18.5%)	4,297 (12.6%)	5,796 (14.0%)
Total	**33,009**	**34,145**	**41,504**
OD2 Number of false alarm calls by type and as a percentage of the total:			
Good Intent	11,632 (38.1%)	12,342 (50.8%)	12,570 (49.3%)
Apparatus	4,956 (16.2%)	5,048 (20.7%)	7,228 (28.4%)
Malicious	13,970 (45.7%)	6,926 (28.5%)	5,681 (22.3%)
Total	**30,558**	**24,316**	**25,479**
OD3 Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:			
Fire Incidents	12.0	13.0	15.6
Special Service Incidents	1.6	1.9	2.5
All Incidents	13.6	14.9	18.2
OD4 Number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires			
Fatalities	4.1	4.3	5.6
Non-Fatal Casualties	75.0	81.7	80.4
OD5 Number of Persons Rescued by the Service from (A) Fire and (B) Special Service Incidents per 1,000 Incidents			
Fire Incidents	22.6	23.0	21.9
Special Service Incidents	91.3	132.9	38.5
All Incidents	40.4	56.7	38.9

Part 2 - Scottish Fire Indicators

SF1/1 The percentage of fire calls where the speed and number of pumping appliances met set criteria (ie in terms of the standards of fire cover)			
For Property Fires and Fire False Alarms	*	*	*
For Other Fires	*	*	*

• *Figures for Strathclyde Fire Brigade were not available at this time*

SF1/2 The percentage of Shift Rider and Day Crew Rider Shifts Lost due to Sickness and Light Duties			
Lost to all sickness	7.9	9.0	8.8
To short term sickness	3.2	3.3	3.6
To long term sickness	4.7	5.8	5.2
Lost due to service	1.2	1.1	0.9
Lost - not due to service	6.8	7.8	7.8
Lost due to light duties	*	*	0.04

• *Strathclyde Fire Brigade did not have a system of 'light duties' for these years*

SF1/3 The percentage of rider wholetime shifts devoted to training activities while riders are off the run			
Centralised Training	1.21	0.85	0.85
Outside Training	0.75	0.55	0.05

SF1/4 The number of wholetime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to be next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank.			
Firefighter	15.0	3.8	6.2
Leading Firefighter	23.3	7.4	9.6
Sub-Officer	18.8	16.3	11.9

SF1/5 The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods			
Average handling time	*	*	*
% of calls handled in between one and 2 minutes	*	*	*
% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	*	*	*

• *Strathclyde Fire Brigade were unable to provide this information at this time*

Tayside Fire Brigade

Part 1 - Operational Data

		1993 - 1994	1994 - 1995	1995 - 1996
OD1	Number of emergency calls, other than false alarm calls, by type and as a percentage of the total:			
	Fires	1,710 (30.6%)	1,682 (28.0%)	1,637 (25.8%)
	Secondary Fires	2,629 (47.1%)	3,276 (54.5%)	3,161 (49.8%)
	Chimney Fires	602 (10.8%)	469 (7.2%)	418 (6.6%)
	Special Services	645 (11.6%)	580 (9.7%)	1,130 (17.8%)
	Total	**5,586**	**6,007**	**6,346**
OD2	Number of false alarm calls by type and as a percentage of the total:			
	Good Intent	1,735 (55.9%)	2,000 (58.5%)	930 (23.4%)
	Apparatus	647 (20.8%)	662 (19.4%)	2,352 (59.1%)
	Malicious	723 (23.3%)	756 (22.1%)	696 (17.5%)
	Total	**3,105**	**3,418**	**3,978**
OD3	Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:			
	Fire Incidents	12.5	13.7	13.2
	Special Service Incidents	1.6	1.5	2.9
	All Incidents	14.9	15.2	16.1
OD4	Number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires			
	Fatalities	10.5	2.4	3.1
	Non-Fatal Casualties	59.1	82.6	69.6
OD5	Number of Persons Rescued by the Service from (A) Fire and (B) Special Service Incidents per 1,000 Incidents			
	Fire Incidents	34.5	26.2	29.9
	Special Service Incidents	221.7	277.6	126.6
	All Incidents	85.5	90.6	69.4

Part 2 - Scottish Fire Indicators

SF1/1	The percentage of fire calls where the speed and number of pumping appliances met set criteria (ie in terms of the standards of fire cover)			
	For Property Fires and Fire False Alarms	94.5	88.6	87.0
	For Other Fires	94.8	85.8	84.2
SF1/2	The percentage of Shift Rider and Day Crew Rider Shifts Lost due to Sickness and Light Duties			
	Lost to all sickness	4.7	4.3	4.2
	To short term sickness	2.3	1.7	2.0
	To long term sickness	2.4	2.6	2.2
	Lost due to service	0.4	0.6	0.4
	Lost - not due to service	4.3	3.7	3.8
	Lost due to light duties	0.1	0.2	0.8
SF1/3	The percentage of rider wholetime shifts devoted to training activities while riders are off the run			
	Centralised Training	0.75	1.02	1.02
	Outside Training	3.02	3.82	3.24
SF1/4	The number of wholetime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to be next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank.			
	Firefighter	41.0	36.6	39.6
	Leading Firefighter	89.1	48.9	66.7
	Sub-Officer	71.0	74.4	72.2
SF1/5	The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods			
	Average handling time	*	*	54 seconds
	% of calls handled in between one and 2 minutes	*	*	27.6
	% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	*	*	5.4

• *Figures for Tayside Fire Brigade were not available for these years*

Appendix 8

Financial Returns 1995-96

Brigade	Revenue £	Income £	Capital £
Central Scotland	9,019,402	782,998	930,000
Dumfries and Galloway	4,715,967	64,356	300,000
Fife	13,019,000	1,001,000	216,000
Grampian	15,091,000	1,134,000	984,892
Highland and Islands	8,950,058	495,410	1,423,006
Lothian and Borders	25,345,072	283,135	1,418,031
Strathclyde	75,570,410	5,101,210	4,450,000
Tayside	15,412,000 *	1,059,000 *	734,000 *
Totals	167,122,909	9,921,109	10,455,929

* *Estimated*

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