



***Her Majesty's  
Chief Inspector  
of Fire Services  
for Scotland***

***Report for  
1997 - 98***



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE  
Home Department



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE HOME DEPARTMENT

# Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland

Report for 1997 - 98

Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland  
by Command of Her Majesty  
November 1998

ISBN 0 10 140862 5



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## INTRODUCTION

Annual Report of A N Morrison Esq CBE QFSM DTech FIFireE

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland for the year 1997-98

To: The Right Honourable Donald Dewar 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 1997-98. This is the fifth 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. Brigade Inspection 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. Inspections are undertaken of all 8 Scottish brigades each year. The Inspectorate carries out a full 'primary' inspection of 4 of the brigades, with the remaining 4 undergoing an 'intermediate' inspection. The 'intermediate' inspection checks that action has been taken on recommendations from previous inspections and looks at any changes which have occurred since the previous 'primary' 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 Service 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; and
Lay Inspector (part-time)	1.

9. The staff in post are:



**HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services**

Andrew Neil Morrison CBE 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: 12 October 1994

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



**HM Inspector of Fire Services**

Allan Smith Whitton QFSM GIFireE

Appointed: 29 April 1996

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



**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



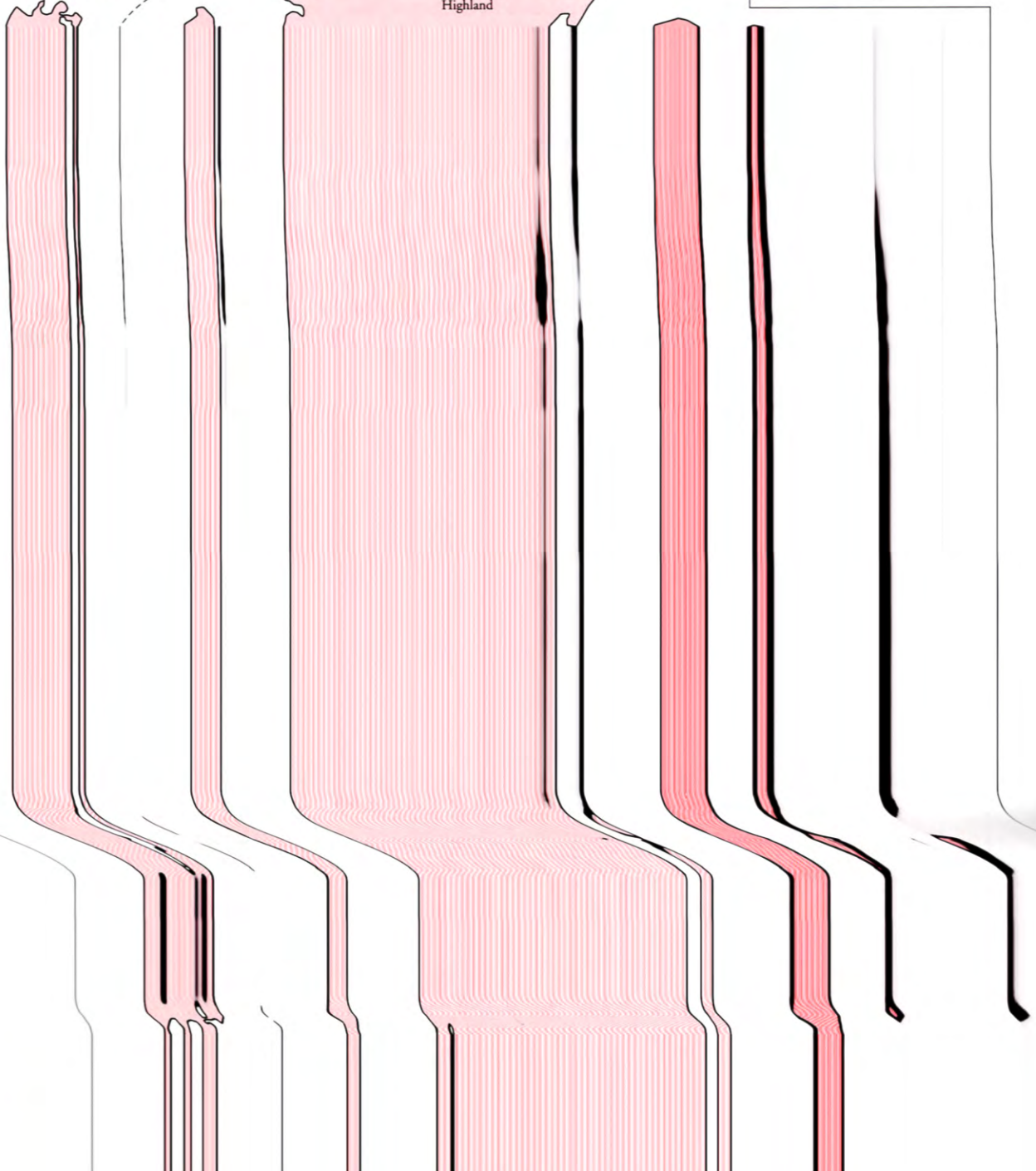
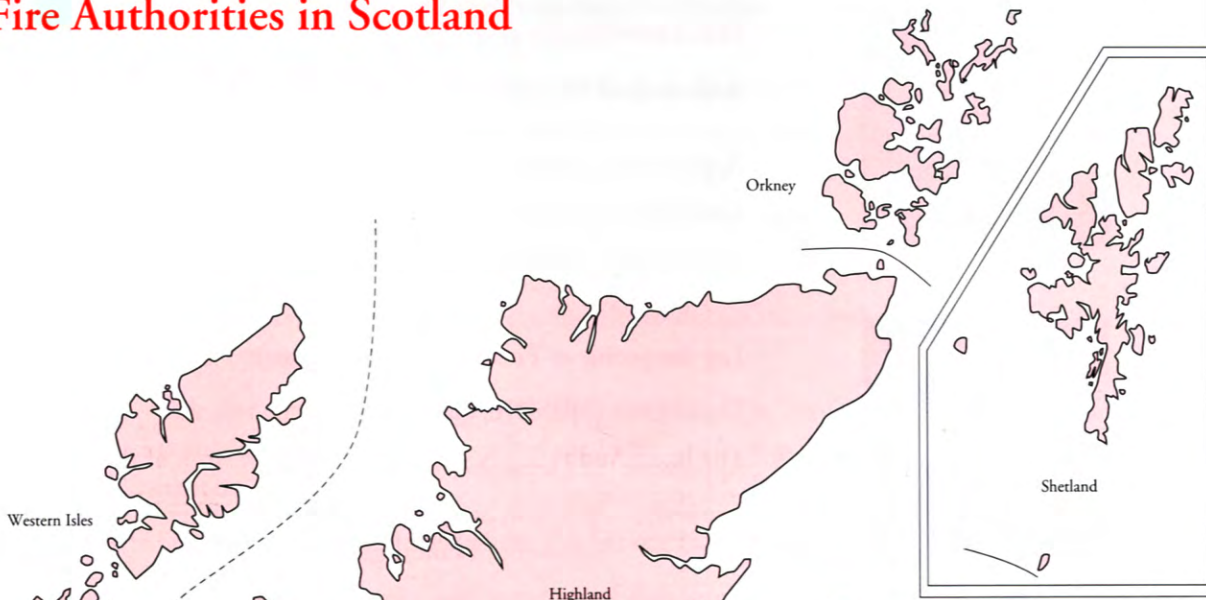
**Assistant Inspector of Fire Services (Crown Inspection)**

Duncan Carrick

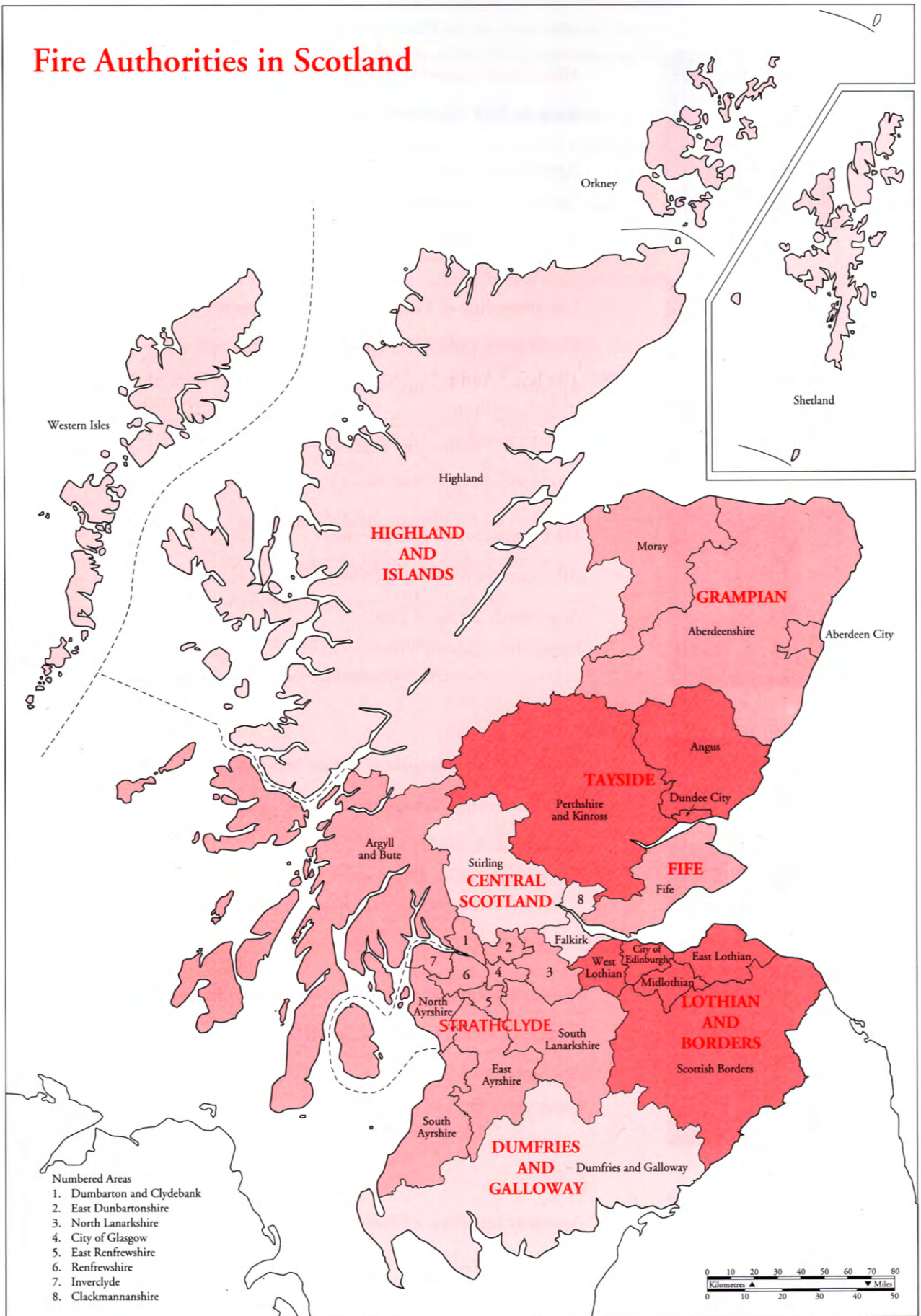
Appointed: 28 April 1997

Formerly: Divisional Officer II  
Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade, 1991 -1994

# Fire Authorities in Scotland



# Fire Authorities in Scotland



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## **Introductory Remarks**

10. Throughout the year under review I am pleased to report that the great deal of hard work, undertaken by all concerned, has ensured a smooth, efficient and, as far as possible, seamless transition of functions to the fire boards and authorities recently formed as a result of the local government reorganisation which took effect as from 1 April 1996. In the initial 2 years of their administration, members elected to the newly formed fire boards and authorities, suitably advised in professional and operational matters by Firemasters and their officers, have risen to the challenges presented and, although the learning curve for all participants has been significant during this period, it has already become quite clear that the high degree of co-operation and preparation, undertaken in the transitional stages, has returned a positive dividend in the progress made by each authority. The adjacent map indicates the new unitary authorities as well as the areas covered by the 8 brigades.

11. There is no doubt in my mind, however, that we have not seen the last of change in the Fire Service as we know it. The latest Audit Commission report and the work of the Joint Committee formed to research its recommendations will certainly have that effect in the near future. Also proving to be a catalyst for much change are the many requirements of health and safety legislation, which has given rise to an extensive workload inextricably linked to the Training Strategy Report and training for competence issues. Significant change in fire safety legislation is a further major factor in the equation and I could mention a few more, but perhaps the most likely single element of research to spark structural change will be the ongoing comprehensive spending review. The main areas that such a review would impinge upon would be those of common purchasing agreements, joint command and control systems - possibly in tandem with other emergency services - and following the economy of scale principle further, through the joining together of some fire brigades to form larger but fewer units. In the latter 2 cases it is probable that efficiency savings would accrue but at the cost of jobs in management, control and some non-uniformed staffed areas. Whilst I entirely agree that efficiency should be pursued at all levels I am of the view that a relocation of existing resources, rather than a reduction, would serve to produce a better and more cost effective end result. In recent years very positive steps have been taken to reduce the levels of malicious calls to brigades and in the number of fire fatalities registered. Community education projects embarked upon by most brigades play a large part in this equation. Quite clearly, a population more aware of the dangers fires presented to them would play their part in achieving an ever reducing cost of fire in terms of life and property loss. To that end I would encourage the significant building of community education departments in brigades through the retraining and relocation of personnel resources becoming available as a result of any comprehensive spending review. We indeed live in changing times and I look forward to the ultimate bringing together of all the facets we are currently researching and the end result to be revealed.

12. Another major factor which will affect the Fire Service north of the border is the Government's proposals for devolution. It is the intention that legislative competence in respect of the Fire Service and general fire safety will be devolved to a Scottish Parliament. Under the Scotland Bill, which is at present before the House of Lords, references in existing legislation to "the Secretary of State" will be read for Scotland as references to Scottish Ministers. When the first Scottish Parliament for 300 years convenes in the year 2000 there will, therefore, be no need for direct amendment of the Fire Services Act 1947 to ensure that Ministers answerable to that Parliament are responsible for Fire Service matters in Scotland.

13. Although the Scottish Parliament and Executive will have unfettered power to amend existing fire legislation or legislate afresh to change the statutory framework, I can see little evident reason why they should wish to make any radical changes, or alter the cross-border co-operation that has worked to such good effect in the past. The joint committee structure servicing both Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils north and south of the border provides a policy developing mechanism at national level which would be difficult to better. With conditions of service dealt with at a similar United Kingdom level and training centred upon the Fire Service College, much research would be required to justify any changes which might be proposed in such a well proven system.



14. It is encouraging to record that the number of fire fatalities registered in Scotland during 1997-98 fell from 102 in the previous year to 87, a figure to equal the lowest recorded statistic in this regard for over 30 years. Although any incidence of fire death is to be deplored, a positive aspect to be considered is one where, due to the concentrated programme conducted by all Firemasters to encourage the installation and maintenance of smoke alarms, and the increasing involvement of all brigades in community education fire safety programmes, the statistics relating to fire deaths remain significantly below the average of 115 registered over the past decade. As I have indicated in the previous paragraph, the answer to reducing this mean statistic still further lies in the formation of many more community education teams throughout Scottish fire brigades in order that the fire safety message can be promoted in a greater number of schools, sheltered housing complexes, community centres and other places located in areas where risk is identified. In this way we hope to create a cascade system of best practice information to all sectors of the community.

15. During the period under review the Inspectorate published reports on each of the 8 fire brigades in Scotland. In the case of all inspections carried out, the full range of management functions, personnel contacts, operational and fire safety workloads were commented upon in tandem with the financial controls exercised in providing this service to the public. A compilation of the statistics relating to the individual brigade performances in 1997-98 provided national figures on which the following profile is based:

- ◆ the total number of emergency calls attended by brigades in 1997-98 was 108,417 a decrease of 5.0% on the previous year. This is the lowest recorded since 1990 and approximately 5,000 below the average for the early to mid 1990s;
- ◆ the total number of Fires was 19,019 a decrease of 2.6% on 1996-97;
- ◆ the total number of Chimney Fires was 4,278 a decrease of 20.0% on 1996-97. This was the lowest figure for 23 years;
- ◆ the total number of Secondary Fires was 27,170 a decrease of 13.8% on the previous year. Fires of this type, being mainly outdoor, can be affected by the weather conditions and consequently fluctuate in frequency from year to year;
- ◆ the total number of Malicious false alarm calls was 8,059 a decrease of 10.5% on 1996-97 and the fifth consecutive year in which Scotland has experienced a reduction in this type of call;
- ◆ the total number of Faulty Apparatus false alarm calls was 25,068 an increase of 5.1% on 1996-97. This figure represents 48.4% of all false alarm calls and is explained by the increase in fire protection and fire warning systems;
- ◆ the total number of Good Intent false alarm calls was 15,500 a decrease of 3.3% on 1996-97;
- ◆ the total number of Special Services was 9,323 an increase of 6.2% on 1996-97 and continues the average increase of such calls since 1991, excluding the 1995-96 peak figure; and
- ◆ the total number of fire safety inspections carried out in 1997-98 was 58,307 a 22.9% decrease on 1996-97.



16. Problems continue to be encountered in recruiting personnel, capable of giving fire cover in their local area over the full 24-hour period, to the retained and volunteer sectors of the Fire Service. More mobile workforces result in many more people being employed in areas remote from their home base and the ability to respond to fires, particularly in the day-time hours, is compromised as a result. To address this issue a working group of the CFBACs structure commissioned a report to provide the basis of a good practice guide on the recruitment and retention of retained and volunteer firefighters. Members of the study team, after visiting a number of brigades in Scotland, England and Wales, set out a series of recommendations within the body of their report and it is my intention that the Fire Inspectorate will use those criteria as a benchmark for measuring effective performance during future inspection rounds.

17. Other difficulties confronting this sector of the Service, particularly those volunteers in the more remote areas, have become more acute as a result of the health and safety issues referred to previously and, in addition, the training for competence measures in prospect as a result of deliberations following the report of the Training Strategy Group, published in August 1994, under the auspices of the Joint Training Committee. The Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association (CACFOA) District No. 7 (Scotland) has produced a document entitled "Volunteers: A Case for Change" which was tabled at a recent meeting of the Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council. Whilst the recommendations contained in the report were generally found to be acceptable and desirable, their implementation would be extremely difficult and costly. In parallel with this study, the report of the Joint Committee on the Audit Commission Report reviewing the Standards of Fire Cover provided by the Service is about to be evaluated. A part of that report will take into account a survey of the response and effectiveness of the volunteer sector, which is almost exclusively based in the north-west of, and islands surrounding, the Scottish mainland. As that survey may also have a bearing on the future structure and disposition of retained and volunteer units it would not be advisable to embark upon a system of change until all the elements of both reports are known and studied in their entirety. Only in that way will the best possible solution be achieved.

18. 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 retirements 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 has been prepared.



19. 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 inspection 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.





## **SECTION A: GENERAL**

### **Developments in 1997-98**

#### **Fire Safety Legislation**

1. The Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 (SI. 1997 No 1840) were laid before Parliament on 29 July 1997 and came into force on 1 December 1997. The Regulations give effect in Great Britain to the fire safety requirements of 2 European Council Directives adopted in 1989 by the Council of Ministers and provide for minimum fire safety standards in the workplace. They also cover the arrangements for enforcement of the Regulations, which rests with the fire authorities, other than for Crown premises, which are regulated by the Scottish Fire Inspectorate.
2. The Regulations impose requirements for risk-based fire precautions in the workplace directly on employers. It should be noted that this legislation calls for a major departure from the prescriptive approach inherent in the procedure for obtaining a fire certificate under the Fire Precautions Act 1971 (the 1971 Act). Instead of issuing a set of requirements and a time limit in which to complete the necessary fire precautions work the role of the fire authorities is to enforce the Regulations. Fire safety officers will review the employer's risk assessment for the workplace and thereafter make a judgement on whether the employer is actually complying with the requirements of the Regulations.
3. The Regulations make provision to ensure the safety of employees in case of fire. They cover most workplaces, with few exceptions, and are not limited in their scope as they apply not only to workplaces in buildings but also to workplaces in tents and other moveable structures, and places of work in the open air. The Regulations are set out in such a way that those premises that are currently designated and require a fire certificate are exempted. It should be noted that this exception applies only to fire certificates issued under the 1971 Act. Other major exceptions are premises such as sports grounds, sub-surface railway stations, construction sites, docks, etc. A full list of exceptions can be found in both the Regulations and the accompanying guidance booklet. The implications of these Regulations and current reaction to their present format by the European Council of Ministers is contained in some detail in Section D, paragraphs 8 to 10 of this Report.

#### **Fire Safety Legislation for the Future**

4. Ensuring effective arrangements for fire safety is part of the Government's responsibility for the protection and security of its citizens and as such they intend to reduce the number of deaths and injuries from fire and also build on recent work aimed at bringing fire safety legislation up-to-date. As part of that programme it is also intended to take on board the recommendation highlighted in the Audit Commission Report "In the Line of Fire" that prevention is better than cure. This was designed to meet the challenges of the future and was endorsed by Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council (SCFBAC). In addition, the recommendations of the Community Fire Safety Task Force (not encompassing Scotland) are being examined in some detail to determine the way forward in educating the general public on fire safety matters.

5. In the United Kingdom a form of fire safety provision can be found in over 60 pieces of legislation (approximately 54 in Scotland) and can be difficult for the lay person to interpret. Therefore as a first step in a radical overhaul of the existing fire safety legislation, a consultation paper entitled "Fire Safety Legislation for the Future" was issued jointly by the Home Departments in late November 1997. It can be said that many of the proposals in the Consultation Paper reflect the proposed Fire Brigades' Union's (FBU) "Fire Safety Bill" and also many of the recommendations of the Interdepartmental Review of Fire Safety Legislation and Enforcement. It is reasonable to point out that there are important differences between the fire safety regime in England and Wales and that in Scotland, particularly in the interface between general fire safety legislation and the building control regime.

### **Firefighting and Rescue at Sea**

6. With effect from 17 July 1997, section 4 of the Merchant Shipping and Maritime Security Act 1997 inserted into section 3(1) of the Fire Services Act 1947 (the 1947 Act) a new paragraph (dd) which now makes it clear that the discretionary power of the fire authorities to employ the fire brigade outside their area may be exercised within or beyond UK territorial waters. Previous doubts about the lawfulness of brigades responding to calls emanating from beyond the 12 mile limit have accordingly been removed.

7. Little doubt exists, however, that certain sea waters - bays, estuaries, etc - could be considered to be within a fire authority's area and, therefore, that the authority's duties under Section 1(1) of the 1947 Act do, in respect of such waters, extend offshore.

8. As a consequence of the reorganisation of local government, which took effect in April 1996, newly formed fire boards and authorities found it necessary to revise cross-border reinforcement and transfer of function schemes, under the terms of sections 2 and 12 of the 1947 Act respectively. Whilst many of these agreements are in the final draft form at present, all make reference to land borders in prospective schemes but few address the issues of reinforcement or transfer of functions in cases where sea waters form part of any boundary. Where a fire board or authority consider the latter issue to be applicable the draft agreement referring to the areas in question should be amended to cover these issues.

### **Comprehensive Spending Review**

9. Shortly after the General Election, the new Government announced that it would be carrying out a Comprehensive Spending Review in order to inform decisions on spending programmes as from 1999-2000 (up until then the spending totals set by the previous Government were to be observed) and also on appropriate policies for the services and programmes concerned. While all Government Departments were to participate in one way or another, the approaches to the task varied to some degree between Departments. First draft reports for Ministers' consideration were to be made available by around the end of February 1998.

10. Within The Scottish Office a Fire Service Comprehensive Spending Review was carried out by the Fire Service and Emergency Planning Division from December 1997 to the end of February 1998, when a draft report was put to Ministers. The report took account of views and suggestions conveyed to the Division by a range of Fire Service interests, following a written invitation to comment issued in January 1998.

11. As at the end of March 1998, Ministers were continuing to consider the issues and the Division was revising and updating its report. Should Ministers in due course wish to pursue the possibility of any significant changes to the Fire Service, and especially any needing legislation, it is expected that further and wider consultations will take place.

## Health and Safety

12. A Report on the Cost of Accidents in the Fire Service, which was commissioned by the FBU, was considered by the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils (CFBACs). The report contained a number of issues of interest to the Fire Service and was circulated to fire authorities under cover of Fire Service Circular No 5/1997.

13. On 28 January 1998 the Confined Spaces Regulations 1997 came into force. The Regulations and Approved Code of Practice have been published as a combined document, which provides practical guidance regarding interpretation and implementation. The operational work of the Fire Service will fall within the requirements of the Regulations, therefore it is imperative that a risk assessment is carried out before committing personnel to any incident to which the Regulations apply. There are 3 areas, which will require assessment by fire brigades. These are:

- ◆ the normal station working environment;
- ◆ training areas, such as tunnels, search and rescue facilities particularly those involving smoke and fire training buildings; and
- ◆ the operational environment.

14. During the previous year's round of inspections it was apparent that most brigades were moving forward in a positive manner in meeting the majority of the requirements of the regulations imposed by the European Council Framework and Workplace Directives of 1989 in relation to health and safety. However, it was also evident that the process of risk assessment was being carried out in a piecemeal fashion and a much more co-ordinated approach was required to meet the provisions of the regulations. This was reinforced by the intervention of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) who, following the inspection of a number of brigades, found it necessary to issue improvement notices to these brigades detailing measures considered necessary to achieve a satisfactory level in relation to health and safety. For these reasons I decided to hold a Health and Safety Seminar at the Scottish Fire Service Training School (SFSTS) at Gullane on 25 September 1997 to examine the best way forward for the Fire Service in Scotland to meet the requirements of the health and safety legislation. The seminar was well attended by Principal Officers from all Scottish



brigades along with elected members from their fire boards and other interested parties. The Seminar concentrated on the need for a co-ordinated approach to be taken with regard to health and safety matters, particularly in relation to the production of generic risk assessments. Following the Seminar, and a further discussion with Firemasters, it was agreed that the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association (CACFOA) No 7 District's Health and Safety Sub-Committee, under the Chairmanship of Assistant Firemaster A J Early, would take the lead in producing appropriate generic risk assessments to meet the needs of the Fire Service. The Health and Safety Policy Committee of CACFOA, the Home Office and the Northern Ireland Office have subsequently endorsed this

initiative. The CACFOA No 7 District's Health and Safety Sub-Committee is being supported by resources from the Home Departments, the FBU, the HSE and the Crown, Fire and Police National Interest Group (CFP-NIG).

15. The response to this initiative has been very encouraging with sterling work having been carried out by the Scottish brigades in producing draft risk assessments and close liaison has also been maintained with other brigades in England and Wales and the Northern Ireland Fire Brigade.

16. Four documents are being prepared for publication which are scheduled for launch in the autumn of 1998:

◆ **Dynamic Management of Risk at Operational Incidents**

This is an A4 pamphlet which will be issued to all operational personnel. It includes an overview of the principles of dynamic risk assessment and safe person concept along with a personal issue flow chart card.

◆ **Volume I – A Guide to Senior Fire Service Officers**

This A4 guidebook is aimed at principal officers and provides a composite overview of relevant statutory provisions and associated HSE guidance and sets out the practical steps necessary to maintain an effective health and safety management system.

◆ **Volume II – A Guide to Fire Service Managers**

This is a more substantial publication and is aimed at all service managers and practitioners and gives detailed guidance on the law, training, accident management and health issues.

◆ **Volume III – A Guide to Risk Assessment**

Aimed at managers and practitioners, this publication will contain some 40 generic risk assessments and will provide practical guidance on how the assessments should be used by brigades.

17. Dear Firemaster Letter 4/1998 informed brigades of the new arrangements which have been introduced for dealing with health and safety issues. These arrangements are designed to provide a forum for the discussion of significant Fire Service specific health and safety matters and, subsequently, for the development of advice to brigades.

## **Firemasters and Fire Authorities**

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

Central Scotland	Firemaster I S T Adam OBE QFSM GIFireE;
Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade	Firemaster A Russell QFSM MIFireE;
Fife Fire and Rescue Service	Firemaster N Campion MIFireE;
Grampian Fire Brigade	Acting Firemaster J Williams BSc MIFireE;
Highland and Islands Fire Brigade	Firemaster R Gordon QFSM AIFireE;
Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade	Firemaster C Cranston QFSM GIFireE;
Strathclyde Fire Brigade	Firemaster J Jameson QFSM AIFireE CIMgt; and
Tayside Fire Brigade	Firemaster D Marr QFSM FIFireE.

19. Since my last Report one change has taken place at chief officer level in Scottish fire brigades with the retirement of Mr Alexander Lobban, previously of the Grampian Fire Brigade. It is understood that an advert is about to be placed seeking candidates for the position of Firemaster there and until that time the Deputy Firemaster, Mr J Williams, is carrying out this role in an acting capacity.

20. I wish to record my thanks to Firemasters and their staff for the co-operation and assistance given to members of the Fire Inspectorate during their visit and for the valuable contributions to the many discussions held throughout the year.

### **Honours and Awards**

21. I am delighted to report upon my own inclusion in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for 1998. The award of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) is indeed a signal honour in which I will always take a great deal of pride.

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

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

R W Bertram, Assistant Divisional Officer, Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade

A I MacLean, Retained Sub-Officer, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

E A Kotlewski, Retained Sub-Officer, Fife Fire and Rescue Service

#### **Queen's Fire Service Medal (QFSM)**

A Russell, Firemaster, Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade

D A Clark, Deputy Firemaster, Fife Fire and Rescue Service

G A R Dunn, lately Deputy Firemaster, Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade

D MacInnes, lately Deputy Firemaster, Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade

J Tait, lately Sub-Officer, Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade

### **The Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal**

23. This medal was awarded to 261 members of the Scottish Fire Service.

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

25. An award of the George Medal (Posthumous) to Roderick McKenzie Nicolson, Firefighter, Tayside Fire Brigade was made in recognition of his services in rescuing 2 men from a chemical silo.







## 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.

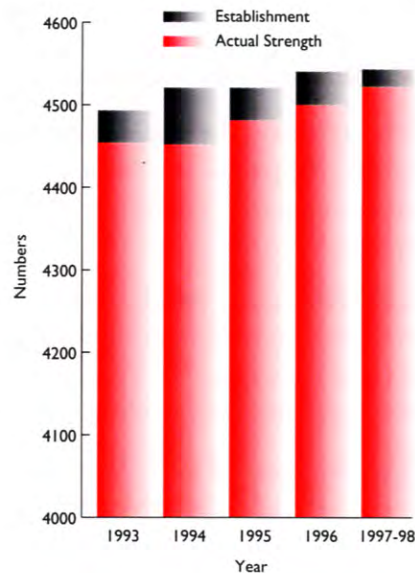
### Wholetime Personnel (Operational)

2. The total establishment of wholetime operational personnel members of Scottish fire brigades at 31 March 1998 was 4,544, an increase of 3 on the previous year. The actual strength of Scottish fire brigades, as opposed to the authorised establishment, was 4,522, giving a shortfall between the establishment and the actual number employed of 22. However, given that brigades normally have personnel ready to join the first recruit training course in the following year, this understaffing is not a cause for concern. All brigades have, for a number of years, been staffed at or near their wholetime establishment figure and the overall pattern for both establishment and strength figures continues to remain broadly constant over the years.

3. As in previous years brigades experienced no problems in attracting suitable personnel to fill vacancies that arose during the year. However, as in the past the number of applications from females and members of ethnic minority groups to join the Fire Service in Scotland continues to be disappointingly low, in spite of the continued efforts of brigades to attract such applicants. Out of a total of 4,312 applications processed by brigades in 1997-98 only 174 (4.0%) were from females or ethnic minority groups. Despite this low response the number of female firefighters serving in brigades again rose to 33, while the number of members of an ethnic minority serving in the operational section of brigades also rose to 3. Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade's recruitment cycle did not start until 6 February 1998 and no statistics were available at the time of writing this Report. Dumfries and Galloway, and Tayside Fire Brigades did not hold a recruitment campaign during the year.

4. Graph 1 shows the wholetime establishment and the actual strength of the Scottish Fire Service for the calendar year 1993 and for the fiscal years 1994-95 to 1997-98.

5. During the year 130 wholetime operational personnel left the Fire Service for various reasons. In contrast 127 firefighters joined the Fire Service in 1997-98, 5 fewer than in 1996-97. Details of the gains and losses of personnel in each brigade are shown in Appendix 3.



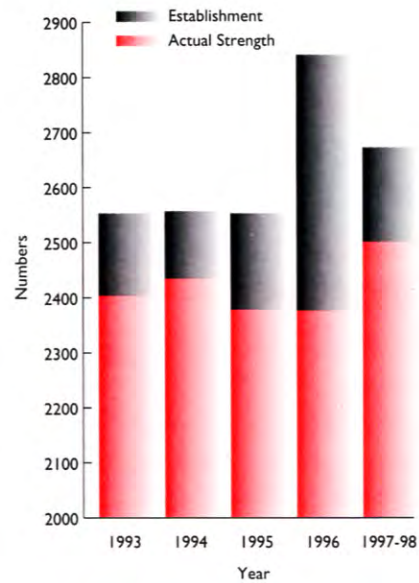
Graph 1 - Wholetime Establishment and Actual Strength 1993 to 1997-98

6. During 1997-98 there were 22 retrials from the Fire Service on medical grounds. This figure was 41 less than the previous year. This decrease in medical retrials is encouraging and may be explained by the good work done by the Occupational Health Scheme employed by each brigade. The number of personnel who retired on ordinary pension during the year was 44.

### Retained Personnel

7. The figures relating to the establishment and the actual strength in the retained sector of brigades at 31 December 1993 and 31 March for 1994-95 to 1997-98 are shown in Graph 2.

8. As can be seen from Graph 2 the retained establishment has decreased by 168 in 1997-98 when compared to those figures registered for the previous year. The establishment figure recorded at that time included a programme of change by Highland and Islands Fire Brigade. As the changes proposed have not yet been agreed or implemented in full, the current figures recorded in this Report serve to rationalise the situation. The actual number of firefighters in post throughout Scotland in 1997-98 was 2,500, an increase of 124 when compared to the previous year.



*Graph 2 - Retained Establishment and Actual Strength 1993 to 1997-98*

9. During the year 541 applications were received to join the Fire Service on a part-time basis; from this total 183 persons were subsequently recruited into the retained service as firefighters. While the number of personnel in post is satisfactory, serious problems continue to be experienced in recruiting personnel who can provide operational cover during the working day.

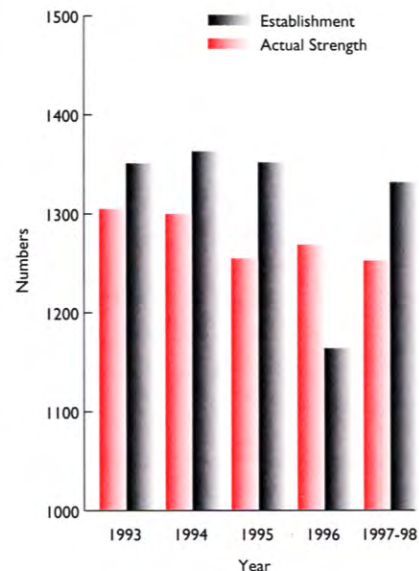
10. The number of female firefighters in the retained service of Scottish brigades is 61, a 24.5% increase over last year's total.

### Volunteer Personnel

11. Details of the volunteer establishment and actual strength for the calendar year 1993 and the financial years 1994-95 to 1997-98 are shown in Graph 3.

12. The total establishment of volunteer firefighters was 1,332 in 1997-98, an increase of 14.4% on 1996-97. The actual number of volunteers in post in Scotland fell by 16 to 1,252.

13. At the end of 1997-98 there were 58 female volunteer firefighters serving in brigades, 3 more than in the previous year.



*Graph 3 - Volunteer Establishment and Actual Strength 1993 to 1997-98*

## Control Room Staff

14. In 1997-98 the number of Control Room staff in post was 217, 7 more than the authorised establishment for Scottish brigades, of whom there are 185 females and 32 males.

## Absence from Duty

15. The proportion of the total number of working days lost in Scottish brigades due to sickness affecting wholetime personnel was 7.14%, as indicated below.

Year	1993	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Percentage	5.06	4.77	6.01	6.68	7.14

16. The 1997-98 statistical returns show that 50 wholetime, 14 retained and no volunteer operational personnel received serious injuries. The comparable figures for 1996-97 were 46, 8 and none respectively. These serious injuries were sustained in the following circumstances:

	Wholetime	Retained	Volunteer
at fire incidents	11	7	0
at special service incidents	1	0	0
during training periods	17	2	0
during other duties	21	5	0

17. The percentage of the total number of working days lost to sickness affecting Control Room staff in 1997-98 was 7.4%, a 2.2% decrease on the figure for 1996-97.

## Discipline

18. During 1997-98, 20 persons were charged with a total of 21 offences under the Fire Services ( Discipline ) ( Scotland ) Regulations 1985. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 17 and 29 respectively.

19. The punishments awarded in respect of the offences were:

dismissal	1;
resigned	3;
reduced in rank	1;
stoppage of pay	2;
reprimand	1;
caution	2;
fined	6; and
no case to answer	5.

## **Pension Scheme for Firefighters**

20. The Joint Pensions Committee (JPC) was kept aware of developments regarding the introduction of regional boards of medical referees to decide appeals from firefighters about 'medical retirement' issues. The change in the system from single referees took effect in November 1997; one of the new boards will be located in Edinburgh, to consider appeals from Scottish firefighters.

21. Various other matters were brought to the attention of, and considered by, the JPC during 1997-98. These included the progress of legislation enabling firefighters who had been mis-sold personal pensions to be reinstated into the firefighters' pension scheme, and of legislation about the treatment of pension on divorce. Administrative matters on which the JPC was updated included fire authorities' arrangements for the resolution of internal disputes, and for the disclosure to interested parties of relevant information about the firefighters' pension scheme. The JPC was also kept informed of developments regarding the review of Fire Service pensions.

## **Equal Opportunities Joint Committee**

22. In October 1997 the CFBACs' Equal Opportunities Joint Committee (EOJC) discussed the proposals agreed by the Council for a new joint committee structure and how it might affect the future of equality of opportunity within the Fire Service. The EOJC set up a working group to agree and lay down a list of tasks on issues affecting equal opportunities and where possible set a time limit for their completion. This group which would be task-based will report its progress back to the Joint Strategic Committee on Personnel and consist of one representative each from the FBU, CACFOA, the employers' organisations and the Home Departments; chair and secretariat to be provided by the Home Office.

23. Following a formal approach to the Home Office by Opportunity 2000, a business-led initiative aimed at increasing women's employment in the private and public sectors, an agreement to endorse a future women's firefighters' conference was given in principle. It was suggested that involvement of the employers and the representative bodies was desirable given the amount of work carried out by them in this field to date. The working group agreed that they should seek further information from Opportunity 2000 about the aims and objectives of the conference and how these were to be achieved before they would formally endorse the project.

24. In addressing recruitment in the Fire Service the working group agreed that brigades ought to be more representative of the communities they serve but recognised that there were a number of contributory factors affecting this ideal. Concern has been expressed about the level of under-represented groups and of the fact that the Service was generally unable to attract candidates from a wider diversity of backgrounds. The working group recommended that issues affecting Service-wide recruitment policy and procedures and, for example, the training received by brigade recruitment officers and trainers, should come under review.

25. Table A shows the increase of female firefighters within the Fire Service in Scotland over the past year, in wholetime, retained and volunteer sectors of brigades. It should be noted that not all of the brigades in Scotland have volunteer firefighters on their staff.

**Table A - Breakdown of Gender and Ethnic Origin of Brigade Personnel in Scotland in 1997-98**

	Wholetime		Retained		Volunteer		Total	
<b>White</b>								
Male	4,468	(4,475)	2,440	(2,326)	1,187	(1,213)	<b>8,095</b>	<b>(8,014)</b>
Female	33	(24)	51	(49)	57	(54)	<b>141</b>	<b>(127)</b>
<b>Black</b>								
Male	2	(1)	-	(-)	-	(-)	<b>2</b>	<b>(1)</b>
Female	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
<b>Asian</b>								
Male	-	(-)	-	(1)	-	(-)	-	<b>(1)</b>
Female	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(1)	-	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Others</b>								
Male	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	<b>(-)</b>
Female	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	<b>(-)</b>
<b>Total</b>								
Male	<b>4,470</b>	<b>(4,476)</b>	<b>2,440</b>	<b>(2,327)</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>(1,213)</b>	<b>8,097</b>	<b>(8,016)</b>
Female	<b>33</b>	<b>(24)</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>(49)</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>(55)</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>(128)</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>								
	<b>4,503</b>	<b>(4,500)</b>	<b>2,491</b>	<b>(2,376)</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>(1,268)</b>	<b>8,238</b>	<b>(8,144)</b>

The figures in brackets relate to the year 1996-97.

26. The fourth report of the EOJC was approved by both CFBACs. It was issued in Scotland under cover of Fire Service Circular No 10/1997 dated 11 November 1997. The report covered the issues which the EOJC had discussed and the developments which took place during the period 1 January 1996 to 31 March 1997. The report included detailed statistical information in which the composition of fire brigades in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland on 31 March 1996, recruitment and the reasons for leaving the Fire Service were analysed by gender and ethnic origin. Information was also provided about the number of registered disabled staff employed by brigades.





## SECTION C: OPERATIONS

### ***Fires and Other Emergencies***

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. Fires are sub-divided into 3 main categories: Fires which affect property; Secondary Fires which are, in the main, outdoor fires; and Chimney Fires which, as the title suggests, are confined to a chimney or flue pipe.

3. Special Service incidents 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 also sub-divided into 3 categories: 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 1997-98 the total number of emergency incidents attended by Scottish brigades was 108,417, which represents a 5.0% decrease when compared to the previous year.

6. Graph 4 shows that the 1997-98 total is the lowest recorded since 1991 and approximately 5,000 emergency incidents below the average for the 1990s.

7. Of the total emergency incidents, 50,467 (46.6%) were outbreaks of Fire, 9,323 (8.6%) were Special Service incidents and 48,627 (44.8%) were False Alarm calls.

8. Appendix 4 gives details of these 3 categories within each Scottish brigade and indicates the number of incidents in which the circumstances required the attendance of one or more fire crews.

9. Appendix 5 gives information on the larger fires, that is those requiring the attendance of 6 or more pumping appliances and crews.

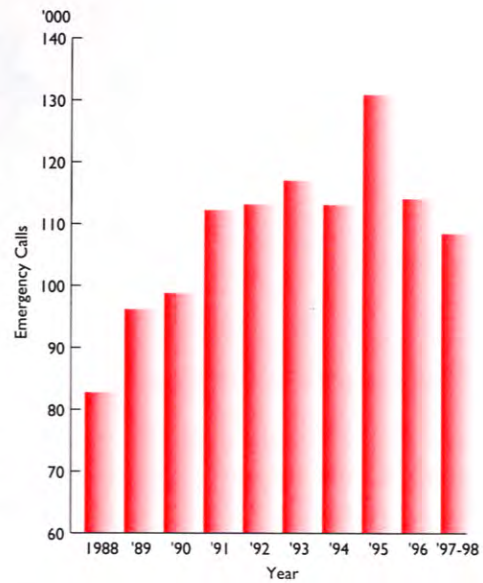
10. The nature and trends in the various types of emergency call received by brigades over the past 10 years is shown in Graph 5.

11. As can be seen from Graph 5, Fires, other than Chimney Fires, have decreased for a second successive year from the record high figure in 1995-96. Chimney Fires also continued to reduce and now stand at the lowest figure recorded since 1975.

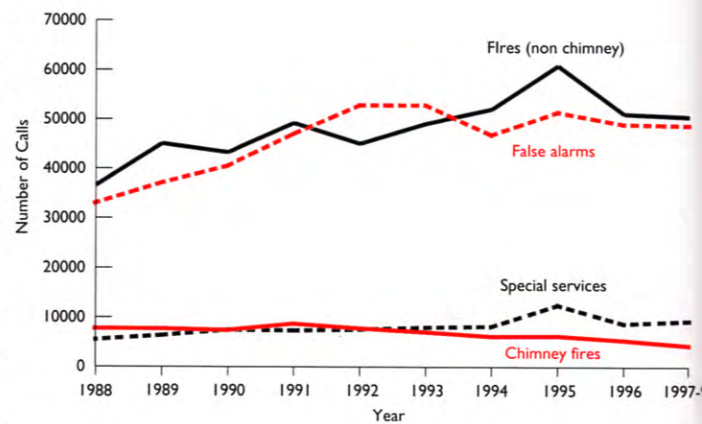
12. The number of Special Service incidents, that is emergency incidents not involving an outbreak of fire, increased by 6.2% continuing the gradual increase in such incidents over the past 10 years.

13. False alarm calls to Scottish brigades accounted for 44.8% of the total emergency incidents in 1997-98. Of the 3 types of these calls, Apparatus continues to increase which, as has been stated in the past, is not surprising as both the brigades and the Fire Inspectorate continue to encourage the use of fire detection and fire warning systems. Good Intent calls have again decreased by 3.3% from last year's figure and are at 15,500, the lowest figure since 1989.

14. In 1997-98, the number of Malicious false alarm calls continued to decline for the fifth year in succession to 8,059. Over the past 10 years this translates into a 37.7% decrease and a 64.2% decrease from the record high figure reached in 1992. It is again pleasing to note this criminal activity continues to decline thereby freeing brigades' resources to respond to actual incidents. Credit for this decline goes to each brigade for their continued efforts



Graph 4 - Total Emergency Incidents Attended by Scottish Brigades 1988 to 1997-98

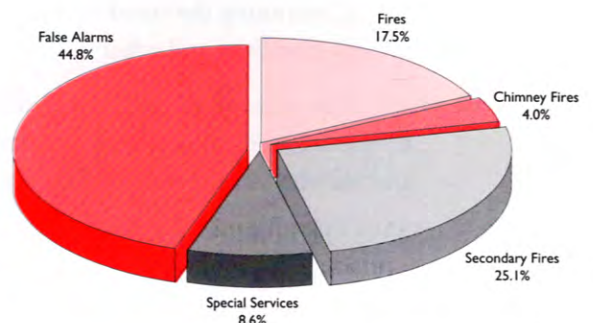


Graph 5 - Breakdown of Calls 1988 to 1997-98



with their community education programmes as well as the continued introduction of new technology into the telephone network which enables a quicker and more accurate trace to be made of these illegal calls.

15. As has been mentioned, the operational activity of brigades in 1997-98 was 5.0% down on 1996-97, representing 5,649 fewer emergency incidents for the Service to deal with. Graph 6 shows the broad categories of the 108,417 incidents of that year and the percentage of each in relation to this overall total.



*Graph 6 - Types of Call in 1997-98*

16. While there has been a slight increase in the proportion of Fires, that is fires affecting property, within the overall number of emergency incidents, the actual number of these Fires decreased to 19,019, 2.6% fewer than in the previous year. Only Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade experienced an increase in this type of fire from 416 incidents in 1996-97 to 425 in 1997-98. The percentage of decreases ranged from 1.0% to 4.7%.



17. Out of the total number of Fires affecting property, 13,147 (69.1%) occurred within occupied buildings of which 9,180 were dwellings. The most common causes of Fire were as follows:

**In dwellings**

- ◆ pan left unattended on cooker - contents ignited;
- ◆ wilful fire raising;
- ◆ carelessness with smokers' materials (cigarettes/matches); and
- ◆ faulty electrical appliance or the misuse of electrical apparatus.

**In buildings other than dwellings**

- ◆ wilful fire raising;
- ◆ faults in electrical wiring;
- ◆ carelessness with smokers' materials; and
- ◆ electrical apparatus.

18. Continuing the trend of recent years wilful fire raising is a prominent cause of Fires in both dwellings and other buildings and remains a source for concern.
19. The other main causes of Fires in the home also continue to be predominantly down to human negligence, such as chip pans left unattended, the incorrect disposal of cigarettes and matches, or the lack of servicing of electrical appliances.
20. The number of Secondary Fires attended by brigades during 1997-98 was 27,170 - a decrease of 13.8% from the previous year. No brigade experienced an increase in these Fires during the year. Fires of this type, being mainly outdoor fires, can be affected by the weather conditions and consequently fluctuate in frequency from year to year.
21. Chimney Fires totalled 4,278 during 1997-98, a 20.0% decrease from the previous year. All brigades experienced a reduction in such Fires. As previously mentioned the number of Chimney Fires is at its lowest for 23 years. Highland and Islands Fire Brigade continues to have the highest incidence of these Fires with 1,352 or 31.6% of the Scottish total.

### False Alarm Calls

22. During 1997-98 the total number of False Alarm calls was 48,627, a reduction of 0.5% on last year's total. As previously stated these calls accounted for 44.8% 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	15,500	(16,027);
Apparatus	25,068	(23,859); and
Malicious	8,059	(9,005).

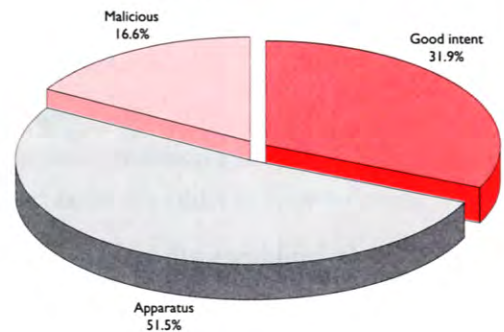
*The figures in brackets refer to the totals for 1996-97.*

23. It will be noted that 51.5% of these incidents were within the Apparatus category which is explained, as previously mentioned, by the increase in fire protection and fire warning systems. Only Central Scotland Fire Brigade did not experience an increase in this category.

24. Within the Good Intent category, the total was 3.3% down on the previous year. Three of the 8 brigades experienced an increase in this category.

25. The number of Malicious false alarm calls in 1997-98 fell by 946 from 9,005 to 8,059. This is the fifth consecutive year Scotland has experienced a reduction in the number of such calls and continues a most welcome feature as these calls waste brigades' valuable time and resources which could be more properly used in the attendance at genuine emergency incidents.

26. 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 alarm category in the overall total.



Graph 7 - False Alarm Calls in 1997-98

**Table B - Malicious False Alarm Calls 1993 to 1997-98**

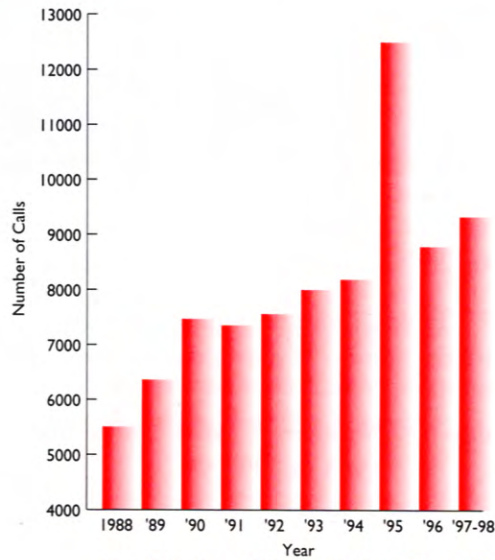
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997-98
Central Scotland	694	475	431	409	436
Dumfries and Galloway	280	235	146	134	85
Fife	976	848	771	710	656
Grampian	628	544	415	486	443
Highland and Islands	334	387	309	280	264
Lothian and Borders	1,916	1,356	1,188	1,362	1,194
Strathclyde	13,970	6,926	5,681	4,998	4,426
Tayside	730	756	696	626	555
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,528</b>	<b>11,527</b>	<b>9,637</b>	<b>9,005</b>	<b>8,059</b>

**Special Service Calls**

27. The total number of Special Service calls attended by brigades in 1997-98 was 9,323, an increase of 542 (6.2%) over the previous year, and continues the average increase of such calls since 1991, excluding the 1995-96 peak figure.

28. Graph 8 shows the higher incidence of Special Service calls in the 1990s quite clearly.

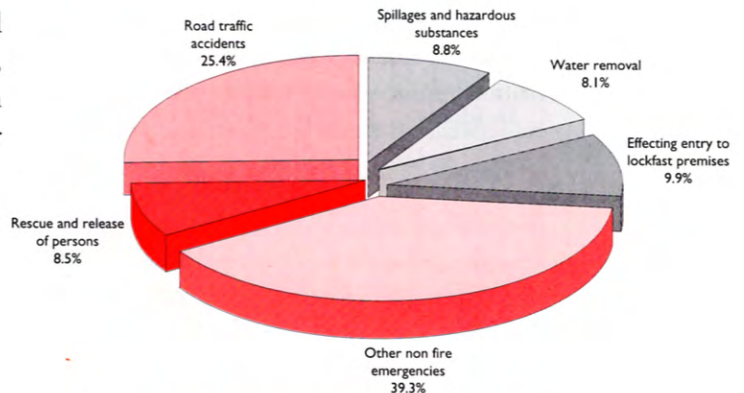
29. The most common types of Special Service call attended by brigades in 1997-98 were:



*Graph 8 - Special Service Calls 1988 to 1997-98*

- ◆ road traffic accidents 2,369 (25.4%);
- ◆ effecting entry to lockfast premises 924 (9.9%);
- ◆ standing by, or assisting at spillages 824 (8.8%);
- ◆ the rescue or release of people 790 (8.5%); and
- ◆ pumping water from flooded areas 757 (8.1%).

30. 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 1997-98*

## Road Traffic Accidents

31. During 1997-98 brigades in Scotland attended 2,369 road traffic accidents which did not involve an outbreak of fire. This was 47 more than in the previous year. Out of the 2,369 incidents, 814 (34.4%) 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 does not ignite and, at the same time, dealing with the persons trapped and other injured people.



32. On 1,291 other occasions the RTAs did not involve the extrication of persons from vehicles but required the containment of the damage and the protection of those removing the wreckage, often in the presence of a fuel leakage. There were 264 occasions when fire crews' services were not in the event required.

33. 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 1993 to 1997-98**

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997-98
Number of road traffic accidents attended (no fire)	2,061	2,146	2,150	2,322	2,369
Number of deaths due to fires in road vehicles	8	4	4	2	7

## Rescues

34. In 1997-98 the number of people who were rescued by fire brigades from emergency incidents totalled 2,539, an increase of 492 from the previous year. Table D shows the number of persons rescued by brigades from emergency incidents in the past 5 years.

**Table D - Number of Persons Rescued from Emergency Incidents 1993 to 1997-98**

Incident	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997-98
Fires	634	555	472	585	1,231
Other emergency situations without fire	838	978	805	745	579
Road traffic accidents	776	595	745	717	729
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>2,539</b>



35. At this stage in the Report I would like to pay tribute to each of the emergency services for their co-operation in dealing with the many incidents that occurred throughout 1997-98. Such co-operation is extremely important in safeguarding the lives of those unfortunately involved and in the containment of incidents and is greatly appreciated.

36. As previously mentioned detailed information on the operational activities of each Scottish brigade is given in tabulated form at Appendices 4 and 5 of this Report.

### **Health and Safety**

37. Accident statistics for the Fire Service in the UK as a whole continue to remain high. The incidence rate of all injuries to all firefighters reported to the HSE in 1996-97 was 4,035.5 per 100,000 employees. This rate has fallen from the previous year and fortunately includes no fatal accidents to firefighters. However, the rate remains comparable with the construction industry. Further analysis of the statistics clearly shows that the greatest number of accidents occur during operational incidents, with a significant number also taking place during operational training.

38. With these figures in mind the HSE has contributed to a range of Fire Service health and safety initiatives and activities, as well as carrying out its formal inspection role. Both the CFP-NIG and local operations inspectors provided input into health and safety seminars for Firemasters and senior fire officers organised and run by the Fire Service Inspectorate at the SFSTS in September 1997. The CFP-NIG and a local Principal Health and Safety Inspector have also contributed and will continue to contribute to the joint Scottish Office/CACFOA District No. 7 initiative on developing risk assessment guidance and generic risk assessments for the UK Fire Service.

39. Also during 1997-98, the new Confined Spaces Regulations 1997 came into force in late January 1998. The Scottish Office as a consultee in the regulatory development process as were CACFOA and brigades. The HSE was a consultee in the preparation of 'Dear Firemaster' Letter 11/1997 regarding guidance on safe entry into agricultural and industrial silos and similar confined spaces.

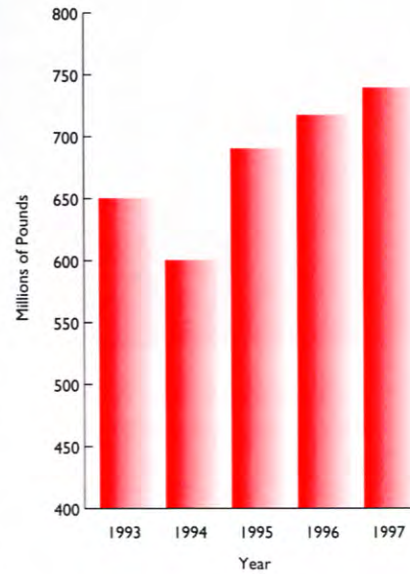
40. Operationally several brigade health and safety inspections and investigations were carried out in Scotland during the year and 2 improvement notices were served on 2 brigades concerning a lack of suitable and sufficient risk assessments for certain works. Following check visits and effective liaison work with the Fire Service Inspectorate both notices were deemed as complied with and were withdrawn. In addition, follow up work by the HSE with a Scottish brigade which had been successfully prosecuted following the death of a firefighter in a silo incident in 1996 found that good progress had been made in response to the findings of the judicial inquiry.

### Fire Damage in the United Kingdom

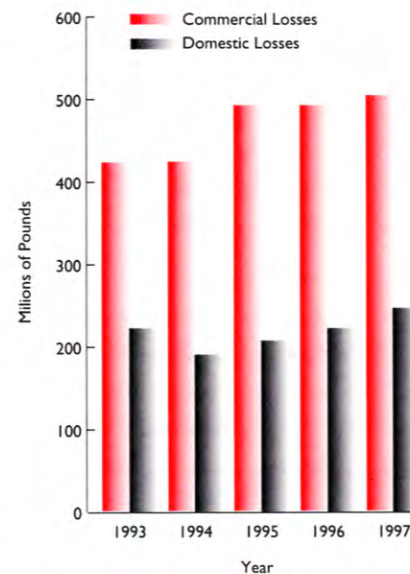
41. It is interesting to note that the Association of British Insurers, whose members are responsible for 96% of the business of UK insurance companies, record that the annual cost of fire claims has risen this year by 3.1% to £739 million. This overall increase has been brought about by the combination of annual increases in both domestic (11%) and commercial (2%) claims.

42. Generally the trend over the last 4 years has shown a relatively steady increase. However, there has been a much steeper increase in the number of business interruption claims following fire damage (up by 27% to £75 million, which is in line with rises in commercial fire claims overall). Proportionally business claims, totalling some £504 million, represented 65% of the fire losses in the UK, with domestic claims of £247.5 million accounting for the remaining 35% of the losses.

43. The Home Office Research and Statistics Directorate issued a Statistical Bulletin at the end of January 1997 with Summary Fire Statistics for the UK in 1996. Although brigades attended 1,023,000 fires or false alarms, this figure represented an overall decrease of 8% which was largely, if not wholly, attributable to the decrease in the number of outdoor fires. Unfortunately there was a rise in the number of people who died as a result of fire in 1996, including 3 firefighters, with the majority of fatalities (approximately 75%) continuing to occur in the home. In 1996 there were 590 fatalities in the UK compared with 553 from the previous year. There was also a 6% increase in the number of non-fatal casualties to a total of 18,200 which may be attributable to the increase in the number of precautionary hospital checks being undertaken.



Graph 10 - Fire Damage in the United Kingdom 1993 to 1997 Annual Monetary Losses



Graph 11 - Commercial and Domestic Sectors Annual Monetary Losses to Fire Damage 1993 to 1997

44. Dwelling fires increased by 6% to a new peak of 68,000 accounting for 60% of all building fires. Accidental fires in dwellings increased by 1,800 to 53,500 mainly due to chip/fat pan fires which showed an increase of 11% to 11,300. Statistics show that smoke alarms continue to be effective, although there is a worrying trend of some 30% increase in cases where a smoke alarm failed to operate - mainly due to missing batteries. Vehicle fires increased for the second year running to 72,800 which is an unwelcome return to the figures experienced at the beginning of the decade. This increase can be attributed to the rise in the number of malicious vehicle fires. There were 490,400 false alarm calls which represented an overall decrease of 3% and is the first fall recorded since 1981 in the UK.

### **Performance Indicators for Scottish Fire Brigades**

45. In February 1998 all brigades were issued with a complete set of performance indicator scheme data for the years 1993-94 to 1996-97 inclusive. There was also consideration (in correspondence) by the Scottish Fire Indicators Implementation Working Group (SFIIWG) of a proposal originally from Central Scotland Fire Brigade for minor adjustments to the recording of attendances for SFI/1 as from 1998-99. At the time of writing, the response from the SFIIWG on this latter point is not complete.

46. While the SFIIWG has not met in 1997-98, there may be need for it to do so in the coming year, in order to take account of developments on the fire safety front and also in connection with implementation of the Best Value approach in the Scottish Fire Service.

47. Appendix 7 of this Report shows Operational Data and the Scottish Fire Indicators for the years 1993-94 to 1997-98.

48. In addition, the Accounts Commission published in the Spring of 1997 performance information for 1995-96. While the indicators used by the Commission differ from those under The Scottish Office Home Department's (SOHD) performance scheme it is gratifying to have confirmation of the overall general trends shown in the information gathered.

49. As from 1997-98, the information for the Accounts Commission's Indicator 1 should be compatible with that for the Department's SFI/1.







## SECTION D: FIRE SAFETY

### **Background**

1. Under the Fire Services Act 1947 the Secretary of State for Scotland has a general responsibility for the efficiency of fire brigades and is assisted by the Fire Service Branch of the Fire and Emergency Planning Division and by the Fire Service Inspectorate who advise on operational matters and the enforcement of fire safety legislation.

2. The introduction of unitary authorities which re-adjusted the administrative structure of the Scottish Fire Service in 1996 has not altered the statutory role of the fire authorities and their duties under the 2 main statutes affecting fire, namely:

- ◆ The Fire Services Act 1947 (the 1947 Act); and
- ◆ The Fire Precautions Act 1971 (the 1971 Act).

3. In addition to the primary role of safeguarding life, the fire authorities utilise the brigades to carry out 4 other main functions on their behalf under the 1947 Act:

- ◆ firefighting;
- ◆ minimising damage caused by fire and firefighting operations;
- ◆ enforcing legislation on fire precautions in existing buildings, much of which is concerned with premises covered by the 1971 Act; and
- ◆ giving of free goodwill advice to the general public on such matters as fire safety advice, the restriction of the spread of fire and the means of escape in case of fire.

4. The 1971 Act established the present-day rules for fire certification and removed most of the former anomalies relating to the powers of various statutory bodies. The 2 main points of the 1971 Act are that:

- ◆ compulsory certification by the fire authority is only required for premises put to uses which have been designated by the Secretary of State as requiring a fire certificate; and
- ◆ designated premises must be put to one of the uses listed in the Act, which are:
  - for the provision of treatment or care;
  - as sleeping accommodation;
  - for entertainment, recreation or instruction (used by clubs and associations);
  - for teaching, training or research;
  - for any purpose involving access to premises by members of the public, whether on payment or not; and
  - as a place of work.

5. The 2 Designating Orders made so far are:
- ◆ the Fire Precautions (Hotels and Boarding Houses) Order 1972; and
  - ◆ the Fire Precautions (Factories, Offices, Shops and Railway Premises) Order 1989.
6. It should be noted that fire authorities are responsible for enforcing the provisions of the 1971 Act in premises other than Crown premises which continue to be the responsibility of the Fire Service Inspectorate. The 1971 Act also makes provision for the fire authorities to set aside, or grant exemption from, the requirement to have a fire certificate but only in prescribed circumstances and not in hotels and boarding houses.
7. The uses for which a fire certificate is required are hotels and boarding houses in which there is sleeping accommodation for staff or guests and factories, offices, shops and railway premises in which the number of persons in each case exceeds the figure stated in the statutory instrument. A fire certificate is also required for factories having explosive or highly flammable material stored in or under the premises.

### **Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997**

8. These Regulations came into force on 1 December 1997 and apply to all workplaces, where one or more persons are employed, with certain exceptions noted in Regulation 3(5). Excepted workplaces include premises for which a fire certificate is in force or for which an application for a fire certificate is pending under the 1971 Act and other premises where there is a similar or like control of fire precaution measures. The Regulations make requirements for firefighting, fire detection and alarms, emergency routes and exits, the provision of which should be based on a risk assessment carried out under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992.
9. It should be noted that the list of exceptions does not include those workplaces on premises which are exempt from the requirement for a fire certificate by virtue of the grant of an exemption by a fire authority under section 5A of the 1971 Act (powers for fire authority to grant exemption in particular cases). Nor does it extend to include those workplaces premises which were issued with means of escape certificates issued under the Factories Act 1961 or the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.
10. The Regulations are printed as a Statutory Instrument, 1997 No 1840, entitled "Fire Precautions Health and Safety – The Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997" and are available through the Stationery Office Ltd at £3.20. A handout or "flyer" called "Fire Safety at Work" is in existence in addition to a more comprehensive guidance booklet containing information for employers about the Regulations. This booklet has been published jointly by the Home Departments, priced £3.50 - ISBN 0 11 341169 3.

### **Future Fire Safety Legislation**

11. Ensuring effective arrangements for fire safety is part of the Government's responsibility for the protection and security of its citizens and it is aiming to build on the common-sense arguments that prevention is infinitely better than cure. This theme is already encapsulated in the above mentioned Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 by means of a self compliance approach based on risk assessment which is a radical overhaul of existing fire safety law. This approach reflects that of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and of European Community health and safety legislation and will allow the enforcing authority to target their resources on those premises that present the highest risk.

12. The Government embarked on a consultation round with a document on “Fire Safety Legislation for the Future” that invited written comment by the end of February 1998. The document covered broad concepts on proposed fire safety changes as a first step towards further detailed proposals and costs once the responses to the consultation round have been analysed.

13. A new general duty of fire safety care on employers and the occupiers and owners of all premises (except single private dwellings) is proposed by the Government to provide and maintain adequate fire precautions. Superimposed on the general duty would be a system of fire authority validation of fire precautions in high-risk premises based on a risk assessment carried out by the employer, owner or occupier. Another statutory duty of educating the community in fire safety is being considered to take account of the fact that most deaths and injuries from fire happen in people’s homes. The new legislation should simplify the existing law, repealing and consolidating legislation where appropriate and also respecting the obligations of the European Community and the need to minimise the risk to firefighters.

14. The consultation document discusses amongst other things the shortcomings of the present arrangements, previous reviews and elements that are thought central to the new regime. The role of the fire authorities and the enforcement of general fire precautions legislation, along with the duty of promoting fire safety education, are among the major issues for brigades to examine for the future. It is interesting to ponder the far-reaching effects of these proposals, especially with regard to the way in which existing legislation containing fire related sections may be altered, consolidated or repealed. This would include licensing and registration schemes for houses in multiple occupation, the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976 and many other pieces of legislation, including the Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations.

15. It should be noted that there are important differences between the fire safety regime in Scotland and that in England and Wales, particularly in the interface between general fire safety legislation and the building control regime where there is no statutory obligation for the building control authority to consult the fire authority on fire safety arrangements. It was therefore felt necessary to highlight these differences by including a special chapter on Scotland as part of the consultation document.

### **Fire Safety Inspection of Premises**

16. During 1997-98 fire safety officers and suitably trained operational officers carried out a total of 58,307 fire safety inspections. This total includes work carried out under the 1971 Act (35,880) and also those inspections falling within that known as “goodwill” work (22,427), as explained at point 4 of paragraph 3 in this Section.

17. Brigade officers also examined 7,542 plans of new or existing buildings requiring alteration and made comment on matters relating to the structural fire precautions and to the means of escape from fire and facilities for firefighting.

### **Certifiable Premises**

18. Table E shows the total number of premises in each of the occupancy groups for which a fire certificate is required under the terms of Section 5 of the 1971 Act. This year the total number of premises has increased by 413 to a total of 25,961 thereby continuing last year’s increase and exceeding the previous highest total recorded in 1994-95.

**Table E - Certification of Premises under Section 5 of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 in 1997-98**

	Total Certifiable Premises	Total Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued in Current Year	Total Re-inspections of Certificated Premises in Current Year
Factories	4,235	3,201 (75.5%)	109	1,662
Offices	10,811	8,361 (77.3%)	326	3,930
Shops	6,081	89 (1.4%)	169	4,482
Railway Premises	7	5 (71.4%)	0	4
Hotels/Boarding Houses	4,827	4,045 (83.7%)	127	3,855
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25,961</b>	<b>15,701 (60.4%)</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>12,568</b>

19. There are several reasons for this total to alter besides fluctuations in the economy, as brigades receive new applications and also where premises close down their operation. In addition, businesses are often found to be out-with the scope of the certification criteria or may have been granted an exemption by the brigade.

20. The total number of fire certificates issued by brigades and in force was 23,683 an increase from that recorded last year and currently stands at 91.4% of all certifiable premises. This is due in part to the number of applications being submitted to brigades within the reporting period and other variable factors such as the exemption procedure mentioned previously. One other reason is that once an initial inspection is carried out by an inspecting officer, more often than not the premises require to carry out some upgrading work to meet fire certification standards, resulting in a time limit being placed and thereby extending the certificate's date of issue.

21. Throughout Scotland there remain a total of 2,278 fire certificates outstanding, 111 premises fewer than in the previous reporting period. The nature of the various occupancies is as follows:

Hotels and Boarding Houses	207
Factories	486
Offices	1,013
Shops	571
Railway Premises	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,278</b>

22. During 1997-98, out of the total number of premises without a fire certificate, brigades have inspected 1,507 (64.7%) of these premises in preparation for the issue of a certificate. The occupiers and owners of the premises are therefore carrying out the necessary upgrading work to meet the requisite level for fire certification purposes. Fire brigades have a policy, on receipt of an application for a fire certificate, of assessing the potential life and fire risk from the information provided. The work is then prioritised with those premises presenting a high life risk, such as hotels and other sleeping accommodation along with other high fire risk premises, being inspected first.

23. The total number of certificated premises that have been re-inspected in 1997-98 is shown in Table E. These inspections are a routine method used by the brigades to ensure that the standard of fire precautions laid down for the premises is being maintained. Should the inspecting officers not be satisfied with any matter affecting the fire precautions, they have the power to issue a notice under Section 8 of the 1971 Act to restore the building to the minimum standard required by the fire certificate. As in the case of the initial application, brigades risk assess the individual buildings and thereafter carry out a programme of re-inspection based on high risk premises being visited annually, medium risk every 3 years and low risk premises once every 5 years.

24. An indication of this programme can be assessed from the following percentages of premises having received such an inspection throughout Scotland in 1997-98:

Hotels and Boarding Houses	95.2%;
Factories	40.5%;
Offices	28.9%; and
Shops	40.3%.

As a direct result of these re-inspections by fire safety staff and operational personnel, a total of 1,773 fire certificates in force were amended and re-issued to take account of change in the premises. This is an increase from last year of 18 certificates.

25. In Scotland there are currently 333 "old" fire certificates that have been carried over from The Factories Act 1961 and The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963. These certificates are "deemed to satisfy" the present day fire-certificate as conditions within the occupancies have not materially altered since they were issued. As time progresses this type of certificate should reduce but the Scottish total has been revised upwards to this new total as a result of extensive brigade file proving exercises in 1997-98.

26. In Scotland there are 535 premises that have been issued with an exemption notice, an increase from last year's total of 167 premises. The Fire Inspectorate has again been encouraging fire brigades, within the reporting period, not only to continue assessing premises for exemption at the application stage, but also to revisit their existing premises that fall within the exemption criteria. The use of this power would release an additional resource that could be directed at higher risk premises.

### **Non-Certifiable Premises**

27. Premises that do not require a fire certificate within the designated uses still require to be furnished with basic fire precautions such as the provision of means of escape and means for firefighting. This was provided for under Section 9A of the 1971 Act (non-certificated premises) until 1st December 1997 when the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 came into force.

28. At present brigades have recorded 53,008 such premises falling within this category in Scotland, 6,454 of which were routinely visited in 1997-98 which resulted in some 1,600 premises attracting the new provisions contained within the 1997 Regulations. Although this year's premises total has increased by 170, the inspection ratio of this category has reduced by some 30% in 1996-97 and by a further 16% during 1997-98. This undoubtedly reflects the effect of the risk assessment programmes being carried out by brigades and the expected reduction of routine inspections in this category.

## Other Inspections

29. The duty placed on brigades by Section 1(1)(f) of the 1947 Act to provide advice on request had the effect of generating enquiries from commerce and industry, local authorities, architects and members of the public. The total number of “goodwill” or non -statutory inspections carried out in residential and non-residential property in Scotland was 22,427, representing a decrease of 8,654 (27.8%). Again this reduction is thought to be a reflection of risk assessment procedures.

30. From this total there were 15,438 inspections in the non-residential category. Premises operating under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976, schools and colleges, places of public entertainment and gaming outlets made up the bulk of the visits carried out. Of the 6,989 inspections in residential property, hospitals, homes, residential care premises and houses in multiple occupation were most frequently visited.

31. One other source of work, particularly for fire safety officers, is the inspection of plans of new or buildings subject to a warrant for alteration and the preparation of reports on the provision of suitable fire precautions. During 1997-98, 2,583 sets of plans were examined. That is a substantial reduction of 5,940 (69.6%) from the previous year.

## Offences and Prosecutions

32. In Scotland there were some 11,000 routine inspections of certificated premises during the reporting period that resulted in only 5 court prosecutions and subsequent conviction for contravening the existing fire certificate issued to the relevant premises. This small percentage of prosecutions (0.04%) compared to the routine inspection programme serves to show both the responsible attitude of the owners and occupiers of certificated premises and the very low number of cases brought to court by the fire brigades in Scotland. This should contradict the suggestion that fire authorities are heavy handed in the use of their statutory enforcement powers. Of the 5 prosecutions under the terms of the 1971 Act actioned by brigades, 2 were hotels, 2 were related to shops and one was a factory.

33. 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 in certain situations. The crux of the decision to use these powers is based on the authorities’ opinion that the use of the premises presents a serious risk to persons in the event of fire. In 1997-98 a total of 6 prohibition notices were issued by brigades in order to deal with conditions that were considered to present an unacceptable degree of danger to people within the premises. The premises covered by these notices were:

Shops	3;
Hotel or Boarding House	2; and
House in multiple occupation	1.

## Recorded Crime in Scotland

34. The number of cases of fire raising recorded by the police in Scotland during 1997 fell by 16% and represents a total number of 2,800 cases, some 535 (19.2%) of which were cleared up by the Police. The crime of fire raising is notoriously difficult to proceed with and this is reflected in the actual number of cases recorded by the Scottish Criminal Justice Statistics Unit of persons appearing in court charged with this offence. The latest figure available for the number of persons proceeded against for fire raising in Scotland (excluding controlled burning) was 170. Of these cases 141 were

proved and the person charged with the offence. Although there were no recorded cases last year, 3 separate cases of "muirburn" were brought against individuals this year with all 3 cases being found proven in court.

35. The crime of making a malicious false alarm call to a fire brigade (or indeed any emergency service) is most dangerous and reprehensible as it might prevent the service attending a real emergency occurring around the same time. This year's level of malicious calls is such that it still gives cause for concern within Scottish brigades. In the reporting period the number of such calls received in Scotland was 8,059. Throughout the country 31 people (0.3%) had cases brought against them for making malicious calls to a fire brigade in 1996 from a total of 9,005 calls, with 29 of these having the charge proved against them.

### **Fire Safety Campaigns**

36. Fire safety education programmes are an essential part of brigade work that run concurrently with the fire safety inspection duties previously mentioned. These programmes are directed at the most vulnerable and also the most impressionable people in the local communities such as school children.

37. During the reporting period, brigades held 10,083 events attended by an estimated 1.8 million people which included 13,060 talks on a broad spectrum of fire safety to both adults and children. Brigades also held 448 quizzes to spread the fire safety message and it is estimated that 582,440 people were present at these talks and quizzes where it is hoped that they appreciated and took on board the very necessary theme of fire safety.

### **Fire Fatalities**

38. During 1997-98, 87 people were killed in fires attended by Scottish fire brigades. This is a decrease of 15 from last year's total and halts the previous upturn in fire deaths experienced in the last few years. Four brigades had decreases in the number of fire deaths, 3 experienced increases and one remained static.

39. Table F shows the number of deaths due to fire within each of the Scottish brigades over the last 10 years. When the fluctuating totals for the last 10 years are considered it can be clearly seen that there has been a general decline since the peak of 150 deaths in 1988 with an annual average of 115 being revealed since that time. Despite last year's upturn of 102 recorded fire deaths there is still an overall reduction from the previous 10 year average of 123 and as the fatality total has again fallen in 1997-98 there can now be seen a clear reduction of fire deaths in the last decade.

**Table F - Number of Fire Deaths in Each Brigade Area 1987 to 1996-97**

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997-98
Central Scotland	11	4	4	9	8	2	4	2	7	2
Dumfries and Galloway	7	1	8	3	3	6	8	1	2	2
Fife	11	6	5	7	11	14	9	4	9	1
Grampian	12	12	11	11	13	11	4	10	3	11
Highland and Islands	10	9	6	12	10	6	7	4	8	13
Lothian and Borders	26	19	22	18	13	20	8	8	7	11
Strathclyde	69	56	73	72	53	52	42	58	58	43
Tayside	4	6	4	7	8	16	5	5	8	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>87</b>

40. 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.

41. The location of most fatal fires has followed the same pattern as in previous years with 74 people being killed in domestic fires (including houses, flats and residential caravans) in 1997-98. This figure represents 85.1% of the total deaths from fire in Scotland, which is similar to last year's figure of 86.3%. Five of these incidents resulted in multiple deaths with a total of 15 lives being lost.

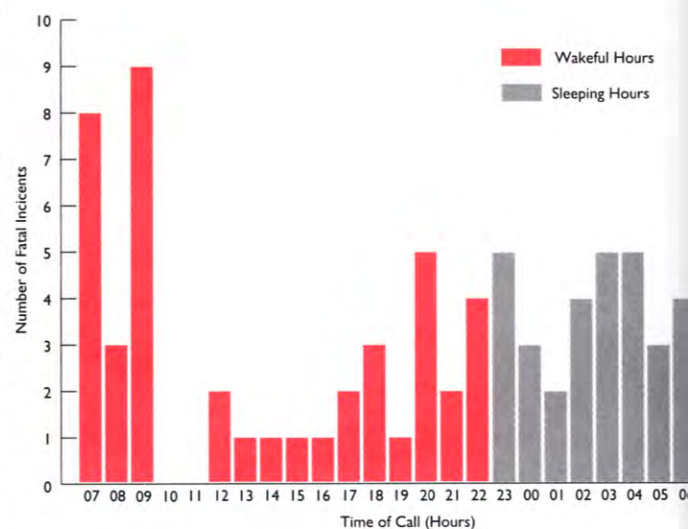
42. The 10 fires outwith dwellings involved the deaths of 13 people. Seven fatalities occurred in vehicle fires and 4 in industrial premises. It should be noted that 2 deaths within the latter category arose from the unlawful use of disused premises by young persons. The 2 remaining cases occurred within garden sheds and were caused by persons igniting their own clothing which they had doused in flammable liquids. The misuse of flammable liquids was also the cause of 5 of the incidents involving vehicles with the other 2 vehicle related deaths arising from fires after road traffic accidents.

### **Fatalities Due to Fires in Dwellings**

43. During the year under review there were 64 outbreaks of fire in all types of dwellings (including residential caravans) that resulted in one or more fatalities. This was 20 less than the previous year. The months of the year in which most of the fires occurred were October, January and June (7 in each month), June and July (6 in each month). Although it can be seen that 2 of the summer months produced high death rates, the traditionally held view of the winter months producing more fatalities overall was repeated with October to March producing 42 deaths, 56.8% of the total.

44. With regard to the days of the week in which most fires occurred Monday produced 16 deaths closely followed by Sunday and Friday with 15 and 12 fatalities respectively. The remaining days of the week averaged out at almost 8, which is considerably lower than the corresponding average of 12 for last year. It is interesting to note that brigade records show that Saturday, traditionally held as a peak day for fatalities, resulted in only 8 fatal incidents over the year.

45. Graph 12 relates to the number of fatal fires that occurred in 1997-98 and the time that the first call was made to the fire brigade. Taking the "sleeping hours" of 2300 hours to 0700 hours as the 'norm', it is perhaps surprising to record that although 31 people lost their lives in dwellings during these hours it was during the daytime or "wakeful hours" that the other 43 lives were lost. In previous years 0500 hours was recorded as the most vulnerable hour of the day for fatal fires and it is perhaps easier to understand that an outbreak of fire could develop undetected by the occupants of a house when people are sleeping. However, records show that in 1997-98, 27% of the fatalities occurred between 0700 hours and 1000 hours with the most vulnerable hour of the day being recorded between 0900 hours and 1000 hours.



*Graph 12 - Number of Fatal Incidents Related to the Time of Call in 1997-98*



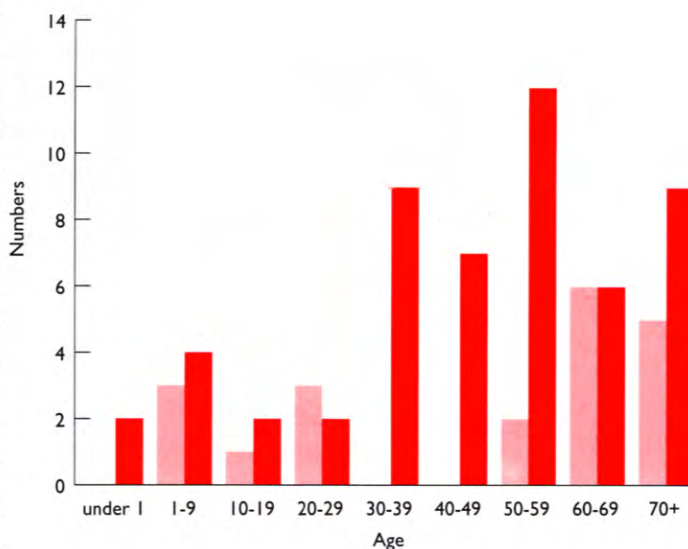
46. From the foregoing information it can be readily seen that fire is no respecter of time and that 20 people lost their lives in a 3 hour slot in the morning during what is considered to be “wakeful hours”. This should serve to remind everyone that constant fire safety awareness is essential for all age groups of the population no matter what the time of day.

47. In numerical terms it can be seen from the following total in each age group that the groups most at risk were from the age 30 to 69 years. These groups accounted for almost 56.8% of the fatalities, with the 50 to 59 year age group proving to be the most costly in human terms and accounting for 14 lives. During 1997-98 the number of persons in each age group who were killed by fire in the home was as follows:

under one year	2
1-9 years	8
10-19 years	3
20-29 years	5
30-39 years	9
40-49 years	7
50-59 years	14
60-69 years	12
70-79 years	6
80+ years	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>

48. From these figures it is clear that the young as well as the elderly are indeed still among the vulnerable fire fatality groups and should continue to receive as much physical assistance, information and encouragement as possible to maintain their safety in the event of fire. Unfortunately recent statistics have shown that the middle age groups are now also more at risk from the outbreak of fire and are by far the groups most at risk from fire in the home.

49. Of the 74 people who died in fires in their homes, 54 were male and 20 were female. The prominence of male victims of fire is readily appreciated as shown in Graph 13 and particularly in the 30 to 59 years’ age groups where 28 males died in comparison with 2 females. Scottish statistical records show that more men (54) than women (20) died in domestic fires within the reporting period reflecting in 10.6 per million of population (pmp) and 3.9 pmp respectively. Fifty five percent (55%) of females were over 60 years of age and only 28% of male fatalities fell into this age group. As in last year’s Report it is clear that the emphasis of fire safety education at both local and national level should take cognisance of this trend and adjust fire safety education programmes to take these vulnerable groups into account.



*Graph 13 - Total Fire Deaths in Dwellings by Age Group and Sex in 1997-98*

### Areas in which Fatal Fires Started

50. As a result of the fatal fires mentioned previously brigades carried out detailed fire investigations that resulted in the following locations being recorded as the seat of the fire in each case:

	No. of Incidents	No. of Fatalities
Livingroom	25	27
Bedroom	22	29
Kitchen	11	11
Hall	4	4
Utility Room	1	2
Stairwell	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>74</b>

51. Once more annual statistical evidence from all Scottish brigades showed that fires originating in living rooms pose a greater threat to life than any other area in the home. There are many reasons why this particular room should be so dangerous, amongst which is the obvious fact that the living room is used more than any other room in the house. Additionally, there is the presence of potential ignition sources and finally there is normally sufficient fuel in the form of flammable furniture and fittings for a fire to develop rapidly once ignition has taken place.

### Causes of Fatal Fires in Dwellings

52. Given these facts the main question must be why? Why are people who are in their own home and in very familiar surroundings unable to escape from a fire in their own living room or bedroom? Were they in full possession of their faculties and capable of reacting to the very rapidly developing situation around them and became disorientated, or were there other reasons why they could not react in an expected manner?

53. Investigations carried out by brigades have shown quite clearly that in many cases the people who have succumbed to fire have had their normal perception or reactive responses impaired in some way. The misuse of alcohol, prescribed and non-prescribed drugs are constantly to the forefront of attributable reasons why people cannot escape from their own home in the event of fire. Of the fatalities that occurred in the home 58.1% had times of call to the fire brigade within "wakeful hours" which is an increase of 3.4% over the figure recorded last year.

54. Again it is regrettable to record that there is a repeat of past years' experiences in why occupants were unable to leave their home before fire conditions rendered the atmosphere untenable. Investigations show that smoking materials, often associated with flammable polyurethane furniture and the misuse of alcohol and or drugs along with some form of physical disability, were the individual or combined factors in 77% of cases where people lost their life in the home.

55. The most common causes of fatal fires in dwellings during the reporting period were:

	Number of Incidents	Percentage of Total Incidents
Carelessness in the use of smokers' materials	30	40.5%;
Unattended overheating pan left on cooker	6	8.0%;
Faults in electrical appliances	5	6.7%; and
Radiated heat	5	6.7%.

56. Despite previous reporting and strenuous efforts of Scottish brigades to warn the public of the dangers of the careless use of smokers' materials - cigarettes, matches, etc. - this category remains the most common cause of fires that results in one or more deaths and injuries. Investigations have shown that all age groups are involved from a child playing with matches or a lighter to an adult falling asleep whilst smoking.

57. The main sources of ignition for dwelling fires with either fatal or non-fatal casualties in the UK are similar to the Scottish statistics in that smokers' materials and the involvement of cooking appliances account for the majority of cases. The fire safety education units now operating in most brigades are well aware of the commonality of cause of fire fatalities throughout Scotland and use that information to further educate the public particularly in the areas of the misuse of smokers' materials and cooking appliances.



58. UK fire statistics show marked differences between the constituent countries in that Scotland records 9,199 (48%) of all primary fires as dwelling fires, compared with 35% in Northern Ireland and 33% in England and Wales. Primary fires include all fires attended by fire brigades in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures and any fires involving casualties and rescues.

59. The national comparisons can be extended to other statistical evidence such as the livingroom followed by the bedroom as being the most common rooms of origin for fatal fires. The source of fatal fires again is remarkably similar with smoking materials being the single largest source of fire with 40.5% (37% in the UK) and the materials ignited including paper, clothing, bedding material and upholstery.

60. Cookers were the second most common source of ignition with the main cause of fatalities stemming from cooking being left unattended. In Scotland the number of people who die as a result of leaving pans unattended has been steadily rising over many years and it is very heartening to report a decrease of 66.6% in 1997-98 of this type of incident, which is only one of the dangers ever present within the kitchen. Only one elderly person died as a result of their clothing being ignited from a cooking source, which again is a welcome decrease from that of former years.

61. Radiated heat, faulty heating or electrical appliances were associated with fires that caused the deaths of 11 people in this reporting period, a decrease of one from last year. Therefore it is timely to remind the general population of the requirement to properly service these appliances in addition to ensuring the correct siting and guarding of heaters in fixed positions where they cannot be knocked over or where heat radiated from them will not ignite any nearby combustible material.

62. Associated with the 74 fatalities that occurred in 64 dwelling fires this year, there were 1,664 non-fatal casualties caused by all outbreaks of fire. The term 'non-fatal casualty' is used to describe a person who is affected by the smoke or heat from a fire and requires treatment elsewhere other than the first-aid treatment provided by brigade personnel at the incident. Often it is the experience of brigades that there is a very fine line between the people who survive an outbreak of fire and those who succumb to its effects some time later.

63. In addition to recording the foregoing information, it is worthy of note that Scottish brigades rescued 500 people from fires in 1997-98 and recorded another 276 non-fatal casualties in property other than dwellings. Not only were these people put at risk from the outbreak of fire but it is obvious that the firefighting crews involved in these rescues were also put at risk in so doing. Therefore it is again clear from these statistics that the Scottish people should be ever aware of the dangers of fire and of our poor record in comparison with the remainder of the UK in relation to fire fatalities. There are 2 principles to be adopted in being safe from fire: learn how to avoid the outbreak of fire; and practise what to do if a fire occurs or a warning of fire is given.

### **Smoke Alarms**

64. From the most recent information it is estimated that over 80% of Scottish households are protected by some form of smoke alarm, that is at least one device within their home. What is less well known is the number of alarms that are properly sited and are regularly serviced to ensure their reliability in the event of a fire.

65. Investigation of the 64 fatal fires that occurred within this reporting period by officers of Scotland's brigades shows that in only 30 of these incidents (46.8%) were smoke alarms fitted of which only 11 operated effectively. It is unfortunately true that 9 alarms had no chance of operating as they had been disabled by the removal of the battery power source. A further 6 were so severely damaged by fire that it was impossible to ascertain their operational state and neighbours were unaware of their actuation during the fire. The remaining 4 alarms were deemed to be unserviceable by the investigating officers.

66. Once again I would encourage individual members of the public who have not installed a smoke alarm system to do so. I would also urge that in considering the initial installation or upgrading of an existing battery operated smoke alarm system to appreciate the advantages and merits of installing a mains electricity operated system. Records have again shown this year that the maintenance of smoke alarms is of vital importance. Smoke alarms are considered to be a passive form of fire safety with the cost of such an installation being

ultimately measured or balanced by the saving of human life and injury and the minimising of damage to property.

## Education and Publicity

67. Throughout the year all Scottish brigades promoted and supported a very wide range of fire safety initiatives of which the following are examples:

**Central Scotland Fire Brigade** has recognised the special needs of deaf members in the community and in conjunction with other agencies purchased and fitted 37 special smoke alarms in addition to 35 standard units. The Brigade's fire safety youth programme has continued for 3,391 first year pupils in the area and has served as a positive vehicle for shaping young people's attitude towards general fire awareness.

The Brigade, along with Grangemouth Rotary Club, ran a fire safety quiz hosted by Bowhouse Primary School, which was keenly fought with Moray Middle School being the eventual winners. A package of sponsored initiatives was secured by the Brigade from many sources and they gratefully received material such as assignment sheets, an outdoor banner along with videos, car stickers, pocket folders, smoke alarms, fire safety kits and uniquely 2 mail safe letter boxes. This fine effort resulted in the donation of many thousands of articles related to fire safety which have been used to good effect.

Once again the Brigade participated in several activities during the National Fire Safety Week in Scotland which included static displays and the use of local radio and the press for a variety of reasons among which were fire safety quizzes and daily safety messages. In addition, a survey of domestic fires involving chip pans and false alarm calls was carried out along with the launch of a fire safety programme for third year pupils throughout the Brigade area.

It is worthy of note that the local newspapers also carried articles on Child Safety Week, the launch of the Brigade's own icon-firefighter Hugh, the display and storage of disposable lighters, the National Fire Safety Week and firework safety.



**Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade** again hosted the Scottish final of the CACFOA Fire Safety Youth Quiz which was won by Buckhaven High School, Fife. The Brigade is also fully committed to a schools fire safety education programme and the training of Social Service Homecarers. An effective method of demonstrating the dangers of chip pan fires to the public was used by the Brigade in conducting controlled chip pan fires in town centre shopping areas.

The fire safety message was carried to the public in a variety of ways in that both fire appliances and the Brigade's exhibition unit with crews attended a number of gala and open days in the area. The fire safety theme was extended to the support of the local Fire Protection Association and also to "operation safety" in partnership with other organisations.

The Brigade participated fully in the National Fire Safety Week by holding events throughout their area, including the distribution of fire safety posters and leaflets in public buildings. The Brigade also provided some libraries with wooden reading benches for the younger readers in the shape of a "fire engine".

**Fife Fire and Rescue Service** has targeted their community fire safety unit effort at the primary 6 age group and first year pupils in addition to providing assistance to 20 schools participating in the "People who help us" project.

The Service provides material for the news media within Fife highlighting a variety of topical fire related themes obtained from monthly brigade statistics but in particular stressing the need to develop and rehearse a fire plan along with the requirement of servicing and maintaining smoke alarms.

Fire Safety Week is supported fully in addition to competitions promoted in the local press and other venues, including fetes, galas and open days. In conjunction with Fife Constabulary, 11 "Child Safety" days similar in content to other multi-hazard events held elsewhere in the country were supported and deemed to be a success by the participants.

**Grampian Fire Brigade** has been involved in a number of high profile events such as their interest in promoting the fire safety message to primary, secondary and special schools resulting in some 8,814 Grampian children being involved. A total of 4,000 "Red Alert" fire safety work books produced for children at upper stage level in primary schools have also been distributed. The "Grampian Safe Team" was involved in a 2 week programme of making children aware of every-day hazards such as fire, gas and electricity which was supported by 3 fire safety education officers from the Brigade when no less than 1,400 pupils from 42 primary schools attended.



Fire safety talks continue to be popular with 1,800 people from 79 organisations receiving an input based on local fire related statistical evidence. The Brigade also participated in a stage play called the "Lost Postie" run in conjunction with the Royal Mail, Police Accident Prevention Unit and the British Red Cross. The Brigade's involvement was in providing a hazard house where 590 children found potential fire hazards and were shown how to escape from a smoke filled room.



The Fire Safety Department promoted a fire safety youth quiz to organisations throughout the area and saw 5 district councils forward a team to the Brigade final. The winners were Faithlie District Guides who went on to represent Grampian in the Scottish Final where they came fifth. Two major campaigns were promoted on firework safety and the dangers from fire when cooking and being under the influence of alcohol. Local radio and a poster distributed to all licensed premises helped to back up the latter campaign message.

In 1997-98 the Brigade began to involve local fire stations into their immediate community as “fire safety centres”. Two stations, Dyce and Peterhead, were selected as pilot stations for this project and tasked with 4 key objectives - an analysis of smoke detector installation in their areas, a statistical analysis of callouts to provide targets for local campaigns, a reduction in unwanted hoax and alarm calls resulting from defective equipment or careless practice, and liaison with other community groups to deliver the fire safety message.

Three main sponsors have provided assistance in community fire safety initiatives which allowed for the purchase and fitting of 120 ten year battery smoke alarms in homes of the elderly and the funding of the radio campaign on the relationship of alcohol abuse and fire along with part funding of a chip pan fire demonstrator.

**Highland and Islands Fire Brigade** participated in the “Safe Highlander” week by providing information on fire safety in the home in addition to becoming involved in all district councils during fire safety week in Scotland when the message was backed up by the use of publicity leaflets. The Brigade was also active at all fire station open days throughout the area where the mobile display unit was used to advantage in the demonstration of automatic fire detection and alarm systems. The main theme at these open days and the many exhibitions that the Brigade attended was the making of a fire action plan in the event of fire particularly in the home.

**Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade** promulgates its fire safety message to the community through its 2 functional areas of Primary Legislation and the Community Fire Safety Group.

*Primary Legislation* - This function involved the Brigade in a programme of inspecting major stores and shopping complexes prior to and during the Christmas period. The programme was further enhanced as a result of Edinburgh City’s “Hogmanay” celebrations which required further inspections of premises, together with advice to Licensing Authorities and members of the public.

The Fire Safety Department initiated a "Sleep Safely" campaign that involved the production and promulgation of a safety poster and leaflets to numerous outlets in the Capital. This initiative commenced prior to the opening of the Edinburgh Festival and continued throughout the year.

As a result of the introduction of devolved local authorities, the Department was involved in bringing the fire safety message to the 5 district councils that make up Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade area during the Fire Safety Week by means of a "Fire Safety Roadshow".

*Fire Safety Education* - Under the new title of the Community Safety Group, the Fire Safety Department has continued to promote fire safety to the wider community throughout 1997-98. Based on the success of its Schools Education Programme, the Group has expanded from 83 schools to 305, reaching over 22,000 pupils. The Brigade's efforts in the fire education programme are rewarded by the welcome that they receive on returning to the schools each year. The Group continues to monitor the progress of the fire education programme and continually reviews the content and success of this important work, such as the production of 5,000 fire safety calendars containing fire safety messages chosen from a schools poster campaign.

Although the main core activity of the Group's work is the schools' fire education programme, the community as a whole are served by fire safety talks, demonstrations at fetes and gala days in addition to local and national press campaigns during fire safety weeks. The Group has also continued to respond to requests from parents whose children have developed a tendency for fire play or fire-setting. During the reporting period the Brigade dealt with 29 such referrals, bringing the total to 150 since the "one-to-one" programme began with only 3 cases of recidivism being recorded. The programme of "one-to-one" can accommodate the occasional assistance of other agencies to assist in behaviour pattern-setting.

One other area where the Fire Safety Department is involved with other agencies is the "Crucial Crew" event for primary 7 children. Five of these events were run with a total of 3,697 children participating. It is interesting to note that the Brigade monitor fire statistics on a postcode sector basis and is encouraged by a downward trend in primary school fires of 2.2% and of 7.3% in secondary school fires.

The Group is aware that it is a continually changing challenge to deliver fire safety advice to the community it serves. It also strives to develop innovative methods such as the production of a new series of fire safety literature in conjunction with the SOHD and the introduction of a beer mat campaign over the festive season on the subject of "Don't Drink and Fry". The Group is involved with the Scottish forum for Community Fire Safety Education and has participated in the development of a community education programme for recruits at the SFSTS. This enables firefighters to understand the importance of this area in their profession and how it will develop into a station based operational role in the future.

**Strathclyde Fire Brigade** has continued to increase the profile of Community Fire Safety (CFS) in 1997-98 through the dedicated CFS Unit. The Unit is responsible for providing the basis for CFS policy, planning and development and monitoring of campaigns, initiatives and training. The Unit works closely with the 4 Commands assisting in local campaigns, exhibitions and experiential learning projects. The personnel within the Unit are also responsible for the collation and distribution of statistical information for use by Brigade personnel. The Brigade has actively promoted fire safety in the community for many years and as a result a number of well-tried and trusted campaigns and initiatives covering the entire community



continue to exist. During the reporting period the Unit has been involved in a number of new projects among which are the following:

*Sprinklers:* In association with Wormold (Ansul) UK Ltd. and Scottish Homes, the Brigade carried out a full scale domestic sprinkler demonstration within tenement property in Faifley, Clydebank. The sprinklers were of the fast response type and the flat was set up with polyurethane furniture consistent with the fire load found in a typical dwelling. At the completion of the demonstration it was noted that the fire caused only minimum fire and smoke damage and negligible water damage from the sprinkler system. The test illustrated that as part of a package of home fire safety measures a domestic sprinkler system can play an integral part in saving lives and reducing the damage caused by fire. The Brigade has now produced a video film entitled "Domestic Sprinklers-The Way Ahead". The sprinkler initiative has grown steadily and working in conjunction with the 2 agencies previously mentioned plans are well advanced to install domestic sprinklers into a block of houses forming part of a new housing development in the Forgewood area of Motherwell. This project adds a new dimension of human and property protection to the design of dwellings in Scotland.

*Fireworks:* With the introduction of the Fireworks (Safety) Regulations in 1997 the Brigade launched a massive advertising and publicity campaign in conjunction with the Minister for Consumer Affairs Nigel Griffiths MP. and the City of Glasgow Environmental Services. A multi-agency programme saw Brigade advisors along with Strathclyde Police, the DTI. and the Gladiator "Cobra" talking to children on fireworks safety in targeted secondary schools in the Glasgow area and a winning entry for a fireworks poster resulting in a 1,000 reproductions being circulated to schools and public buildings. It is interesting to note that early indications are that fireworks injuries have reduced significantly this year.

*Modern Homes Exhibition 1997:* Both CFS personnel and Command Fire Safety Officers (FSO) occupied a unit at this exhibition in Glasgow where members of the public were able to receive general fire safety advice including the installation of domestic sprinklers. The level of service was greatly enhanced by the use of an interactive fire safety computer programme which awarded participants a series of points in relation to the answers given to a range of fire safety questions.

*Festive/Winter Fire Safety:* The Brigade embarked on an ambitious festive/winter programme by issuing 10,000 fire safety pension book wallets specially designed by CFS staff. These wallets were distributed at selected post offices in addition to 20,000 fire safety flyers which were handed out by operational crews and FSOs to members of the public at shopping centres just prior to Xmas. Such was the interest in the post office project that their Chief Executive assisted in the day's activities at Springburn Post Office in Glasgow.

*Unwanted Fire Signals:* Working closely with the Brigade Operations Department the CFS Unit are currently involved in planning major initiatives to combat and reduce the number of malicious calls and unwanted fire signals originating from fire warning systems.

*Fire Safety Week Scotland:* This highly publicised event was launched in George Square, Glasgow with the entire area being taken over for exhibitions, operational and fire safety demonstrations and stands where fire safety advice was freely given to the general public on demand.

**Tayside Fire Brigade** continued with its fine programme of training youths who were aspiring to successfully complete their individual level of fire safety awareness for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This resulted in 69 Bronze, 4 Silver and 7 Gold Award passes being attained. In addition the Brigade ran a basic youth course on fire safety matters with 21 teenagers also being successful in their endeavours. One other project that the Brigade continues to be involved in is that of work experience. This year placements were found for 4 youngsters in the Fire Safety Department.

The "Safe Taysiders" scheme involved the Brigade in providing a fire safety section in the multi-agency "Crucial Crew" project which has been running in Tayside for a number of years with positive effect. Brigade figures show that 2,300 schoolchildren in the area benefited from this experience. The Brigade used the local press to good effect in communicating with members of the public and place monthly articles written by fire safety officers in 2 local newspapers. Similarly fire safety articles were placed in 9 other local newspapers as well as 2 local radio stations who were taken up on their offer to interview fire safety personnel to deliver their safety message. It is interesting to note that the local press was also used to deliver 100 fire safety posters designed locally in Tayside.

Several youngsters within the Brigade area have in conjunction with the Social Work Department received counselling on fire setting as part of a rehabilitation programme designed to stop any further cases of wilful fire raising in Tayside. The Brigade fully participated in the Fire Safety Week and put on displays in Dundee, Perth and Arbroath, along with targeted leaflet drops in selected housing areas. Additionally, 81 fire safety talks and a children's competition, which attracted 2,400 entries, were carried out at that time. In a final attempt to deliver the fire safety theme the Brigade was successful in persuading local employers to allow a fire safety message to be added to employees wage slips.

68. The main thrust of this work is to increase the public awareness of the awful consequences in terms of human suffering and the subsequent personal and financial loss that inevitably follows the outbreak of fire which unfortunately remains with us in Scotland. From the foregoing compilation of fire safety community education that is currently being delivered throughout the country it can be seen that the dedication, effort, time and cost of those involved in the provision of this free service and advice to the public is to be applauded, particularly in the light of the fact that brigades do not receive any separate funding for this vital function.

69. During the year under review the SOHD continued to support the Scottish Fire Service in its efforts to educate the public about fire safety measures in an attempt to reduce the number of fires which in turn mean less fatalities and casualties.

70. A Scottish Office fire safety television campaign, costing £30,000, was run from 18 to 31 December 1997 using the 'Burning Christmas Tree' commercial to highlight the need to be aware of the danger from fire over the festive period. This was followed by The Scottish Office's new fire safety campaign 'Reminder' during the month of February 1998. The objective of the new campaign was to remind the public of the fire safety messages of the past 10 years, during which The Scottish Office and the Scottish fire brigades had sought to convey the importance of first installing domestic smoke alarms; secondly maintaining them; and thirdly of having an action plan to escape should the alarm be activated. The campaign, fronted by 'Crime Watch UK' presenter Nick Ross, consisted of a new television commercial backed up by a series of advertisements in the main Scottish daily, evening and Sunday newspapers. Some 800,000 'Fire Action Plan' leaflets with advice

on how to prepare an escape plan were also distributed through major retail outlets and by the fire brigades in Scotland. The campaign, which cost £250,000, was launched by Henry McLeish MP, the Home Affairs Minister.

71. The Department continued to support the fire safety efforts of Scottish fire brigades in their local campaigns by the provision of fire safety leaflets and posters. The Department also liaised closely with all brigades, via the CACFOA (Scotland) Fire Safety (Technical) Committee, in delivering its fire safety campaigns in 1997-98. As part of this liaison, the Department undertook a review of the fire safety literature which it issued to brigades. The outcome of this review is an agreement to a new series of fire safety leaflets, the first of which is at an advanced stage of preparation.

### **Joint Committee on the Audit Commission Report (JCACR)**

72. As noted in my Report for 1996-97, the JCACR employed a consultancy group, Entec UK Ltd, to carry out a major risk assessment study with a view to developing a new approach to standards of fire cover and also commissioned another group to research response options.

73. The JCACR met 3 times during the course of 1997-98 and received periodic reports as to progress on the 2 studies. It also approved a trial in parts of the areas of 4 brigades - including Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade - of the 'tool kits' for risk assessment which had been developed by Entec.

74. The final outcome of the JCACR's work was a draft report, sent in March 1998 by the Committee Chair to all members of the CFBACs. The overall conclusions of the JCACR were stated to be that:

- ◆ the principle of risk assessment as the way forward for planning fire cover has been established as sound and practicable;
- ◆ it is more flexible than the current approach and explicitly addresses the risk to life;
- ◆ fire safety measures should be formally included in the assessment of fire cover requirements;
- ◆ further trials of the approach should be set in hand immediately; and
- ◆ those brigades participating in the trials would be ready to implement the modernised system, assuming that the trials were successful, in the year 2000.

75. The draft report is to be discussed at the May CFBAC and June 1998 SCFBAC meetings. The JCACR thought debate would be particularly useful on:

- ◆ the implication that a flexible resource can mean reduced attendance on occasions but increased levels at others. This, said the Committee Chair, is a logical consequence of moving from a standardised, prescriptive approach to a more flexible system;
- ◆ the working assumption that the new approach should enable currently available resources to be better targeted to protect life. (It is therefore not seen by the JCACR as a cost driver in itself although some efficiencies have been identified); and
- ◆ whether the new approach, when validated, should be introduced in some brigades alongside the current national standards during a transitional phase or whether a switch to the new approach should be authorised nationally when the Fire Service is ready.

## **Joint Fire Safety Committee**

76. The Committee met in July and October of 1997 at which, during the latter meeting, it was announced that the future committee structure was to alter and embrace 3 new strategic committees with fire safety coming under the remit of the Joint Committee on Safety and Standards (JCSS).

77. At this final meeting of the Joint Fire Safety Committee a wide range of subject matter was discussed, including the proposal to run seminars for Firemasters and Principal Fire Safety Officers on the forthcoming Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations and the methodology for recording the work generated under the Regulations. Discussion also centred on the proposal to increase the scope for exemption of premises from the need to have a fire certificate to enable them to target their resources more accurately.

78. A summary of the Fire Research and Development Group report No 76 of the Fire Research Station's (FRS) initial review of the fire safety of large insulated sandwich panels was issued under the cover of a 'Dear Firemaster' Letter 13/1997 in November 1997. The FRS research has also been extended to address the firefighting problems of delamination and collapse of panel sections. Other issues under discussion were the effect of the EC single burning item test on present test standards, the use of PVC building products and the effect on firefighters' health from the combustion products given off during a fire. The draft report on the Community Fire Safety Task Force and a document called "Getting to Grips With Crime: a new framework for local action" were also discussed, with the latter being seen as a useful model for the application of community fire safety for the future.

79. The first meeting of the JCSS is scheduled for April 1998 when the terms of reference and the main areas of work and organisational arrangements will be considered. Additionally, the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997, the future of fire safety legislation and setting of standards for community fire safety in individual brigades have also been scheduled for this meeting.

## **Building Standards Advisory Committee**

80. The Buildings Standards Advisory Committee (BSAC) was established 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. The Committee met throughout the reporting period and discussed various topics surrounding building control in Scotland, including the review of building control procedure and the possible consequences from devolution. The pressures arising from the policy of deregulation and the changes required to comply with EC legislation establishing a single market have in recent years demanded a pace of change which the current system is ill-suited to achieve. Unfortunately the new format of the 1990 Regulations and subsequent amendments, which in part are designed to make updating faster, did not allow for a sufficiently flexible system such as is possible in England and Wales to be adopted. This was because of the constraints of the parent Act, therefore a fundamental review is necessary. At the 100th meeting of BSAC in December 1997, 3 draft objectives were identified for an initial scoping study to take the review forward. At that meeting nominations were requested for a regular standing Sub-Committee on Fire Safety issues, at which the Fire Inspectorate are represented, because of the development of major practical and legislative issues in this field.

81. The Sub-Committee has met on 2 occasions during this reporting period and discussed items impinging on fire safety matters, such as escape windows in the form of a draft building note; a consultation document on fire safety legislation for the future and the NHS Firecode series which set higher standards than the current Technical standards. In addition, the harmonisation of Parts D & E of the Technical Standards with proposals for a revised approved document B for England and Wales was also discussed.

### **National Fire Prevention Youth Quiz**

82. The competition is aimed at young people aged 11-15 years. The objective of the Quiz is to increase young people's knowledge of the risk and dangers of fire in a challenging and entertaining way.

83. In 1997, some 100 teams took part in the Quiz in Scotland with the Scottish Final, which was again held in Dumfries, seeing teams from Dumfries and Galloway, Fife, Grampian, Strathclyde and Tayside competing. The winners were Buckhaven High School who represented Fife. They went on to represent the Scottish District in the National Final at the Fire Service College where they became the eventual winners. This is the second year in succession that a Scottish team has won the National Final.

### **Fire Protection Association (FPA)**

84. During the year, the functions of the FPA were further integrated with the operations of its parent body - the Loss Prevention Council. This was part of a programme of restructuring to maximise resources and provides the FPA with better access to a wider range of specialists and expertise available within the Loss Prevention Council.

85. The FPA maintained its close links with the Fire Service and other expert sources such as research establishments, government departments, the fire trade and professional institutions, which facilitated the provision of its expanding services to raise safety standards and awareness.

86. Involvement in the framing of new and evolving fire safety legislation continued to be a principal concern of the FPA with the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997, the review of the 1947 Act, the Fire Safety Bill and the revision of Approved Documents B of the Building Regulations of special concern. The FPA made recommendations to the Community Fire Safety Task Force and also has commented subsequently on the Task Force Report.

87. The FPA's international working relationships, for example through the Confederation of Fire Protection Association Europe and with the Federation of British Fire Organisations, continued to be of particular importance in its work.

88. The provision of timely information and practical guidance on fire risk assessment and workplace fire safety through booklets and videos was a key feature of the FPA's services during 1997-98.

89. Co-operation through partnership activities especially with the Fire Service has continued and forms part of the FPA's work programme for 1998-99.





## 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 the Health Service. It is interesting to note that the number of students completing courses at the School has risen by approximately 86% over the past 2 years.
2. During 1997-98 the number of students completing the various courses at the School were as follows:

Wholetime Recruits	149	(165)
Retained Recruits	35	(32)
Retained Personnel other than recruits	122	(109)
Wholetime Leading Firefighter	22	(26)
Experienced Firefighters	12	(0)
Specialist Legislation	29	(24)
Breathing Apparatus Instructors	42	(51)
Hospital Fire Prevention etc	33	(23)
Prison Officer Fire Prevention etc	54	(22)
Road Traffic Accident Instructors (wholetime)	105	(68)
Road Traffic Accident Instructors	48	(24)
NEBOSH*	18	(20)
IOSH*	47	(0)
Fire Safety Modules*	97	(72)
Fire Service Health and Safety*	17	(50)
Fire Safety Health Care*	36	(0)
Fire Safety Licensing Modules*	31	(0)
Emergency Medical Technician	38	(0)
Power Station Firefighters	16	(33)
<b>Total</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>(719)</b>

*(The 1996-97 figures are shown in brackets)*

*\* outreach courses from the Fire Service College.*

3. During the year financial provision was made for a Real Fire Training Facility (RFTF) and separate 'Flashover' facility to be built and both of these will be fully operational by May 1998. The RFTF will be one of the most sophisticated facilities in Europe providing realistic, controllable and safe training conditions for firefighters. Incorporated in the building will be 5 computer controlled and monitored burning compartments in which it will be possible to create different fire scenarios to simulate actual fire conditions which are likely to be encountered by firefighters. This custom built 'firehouse' using propane gas allows exercises to be repeated readily and is also more 'friendly' from an environmental viewpoint, since there will not be a release of smoke to the atmosphere. The traditional method by which recruit firefighters were allowed to experience real fire conditions was to burn, within a compartment, wooden pallets which had been soaked in kerosene. This produced the fire characteristics of flame, smoke and high temperatures but the lack of control and the inflexibility of the arrangements severely restricted the real fire scenarios created. It was also impractical to apply extinguishing techniques within the building, since the fire conditions could not be recreated for other students without substantial preparation.

4. The 'Flashover' and 'Backdraught' facility will feature both 'Attack' and 'Observation' scenarios which will allow firefighters to see and experience at first hand the distinguishing features of both of these phenomena.



5. It has long been recognised that training in rescue techniques from confined spaces is necessary and indeed it is provided to an extent but the facilities are at present very limited. Examination of suitable 'confined space' modular units is currently being undertaken by the School and I consider that a safe but realistic facility situated within the School and available for the use of members of all Scottish brigades would represent an extremely valuable asset.

6. At present the classroom accommodation available for the specialised Breathing Apparatus course and that part of the recruit course syllabus dealing with BA, is far from ideal and is very limited. It was converted many years ago from a ladder store and from other rooms within the Garage complex. Accordingly the School needs to have a purpose built Breathing Apparatus Teaching Block situated within the School and I would urge that the necessary funding to enable provision of such a facility be identified at the earliest possible time.

7. 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.



## Fire Service College

8. The Fire Service College (FSC) continued to work closely with the Fire Inspectorate and SOHD to provide programmes of training designed to meet the general and specific needs of the Scottish Fire Service. The delivery of these programmes has been at the FSC and the SFSTS. The range of provision of courses attended in 1997-98 was:

Central Scotland	152
Dumfries and Galloway	69
Fife	174
Grampian	188
Highland and Islands	148
Lothian and Borders	393
Strathclyde	785
Tayside	189
SFSTS	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,128</b>

This figures represented an increase of 5.4% over the training provided in 1996-97.

9. The FSC responded to the demand for health and safety training by providing courses pitched at 3 levels. The FSC was accredited by the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to deliver courses on managing safely. Courses were run at the SFSTS and at the Highland and Islands Fire Brigade.

10. The National Examinations Board Occupational Safety and Health General Certificate Course produced outstanding results with 4 students achieving distinctions.

11. This is the second year during which the FSC delivered training on an outreach basis at the SFSTS. Again this has shown to be an effective and economic method of delivering mainly fire safety and health and safety training courses which do not call for the operational resources which are unique to the FSC. The training delivered was as follows:

- ◆ Fire Safety Officer Course (FSOC) Modules A, B, C and D.  
22 students completed the full series.
- ◆ Licensing Module (LM) - Three one week modules.  
31 students received this specialist training.
- ◆ Health Care Module (HCM) - Two one week modules.  
36 students completed this module.
- ◆ National Examination Board Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety and examination - One course.  
21 students completed this course.
- ◆ Fire Service Health and Safety Course (FSHSC) - One course.  
18 students completed this course.
- ◆ Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) - Two courses.  
46 students completed this course.
- ◆ A further IOSH course was delivered at the Highland and Islands Fire Brigade to 20 students.

12. The FSC maintains a small group of officer instructors seconded from Scottish fire brigades to the Fire Safety Engineering Division. These officers support the specifically Scottish legislative content of fire safety courses. The FSOC Module D, the LM and HMM Modules are specifically based on the Scottish legislative and building control framework and are only delivered in this form in Scotland. The remaining courses also form part of the standard programme at the FSC where officers from all over the UK study together and are able to share knowledge and learn from their combined experiences.

13. The FSC's priority is to provide an up-to-date programme of vocational courses for the Fire Service and to provide a platform for competence based assessment (although not necessarily S/NVQ). The FSC also supports, and will continue to support, routes to academic qualifications for Fire Service personnel. These routes to academic qualifications are of 2 kinds, the vocationally based routes and the traditional academic routes.

14. The vocationally based routes are:

- ◆ Certificate in Higher Education - Fire Safety Technology and Management (FSTM) with the South Bank University, London;
- ◆ Diploma in Higher Education - FSTM with the South Bank University;
- ◆ BSc and BSc(Hons) in FSTM with the South Bank University; and
- ◆ HNC in Fire Safety Studies with the University of Central Lancashire.

15. The traditional academic routes are:

- ◆ BEng in Fire Safety Engineering with the South Bank University (extended to include full-time students from 1998);
- ◆ BEng in Fire Engineering and BSc in Fire Science with Leeds University (with the possibility of post graduate taught courses being developed); and
- ◆ BSc in International Disaster Engineering and Management with Coventry University with the possibility of a Masters Programme.

16. The FSTM Programme with the South Bank University is based on Fire Service College Core Progression and Specialist vocational course with enrolled students working towards qualifications at Certificate, Diploma and BSc/BSc(Hons) levels.

17. The FSC will continue to offer this opportunity to gain 'added value' qualifications and to encourage the transfer of academic credit derived from FSC courses into awards offered by other institutions. The FSC will remain actively involved in systems of Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CATS) and has agreed special arrangements with the Open University.

18. The FSC aims to secure continuation of the Programme with recruitment for the next 2 years or so until a revised Higher Education Strategy for the FSC can be formulated and a new Programme of Higher Education (HE) for the Fire Service can be developed. During this transitional period the following tasks must be undertaken:

- ◆ to review with the Fire Service the need for graduates of all kinds;
- ◆ to complete the development of new vocational courses at the FSC; and
- ◆ to monitor developments within the national provision for HE and plan appropriate responses in the light of those developments.

19. As far as the Fire Service is concerned note must be taken of the Training Strategy Group Report now in the process of implementation and revision. The general operational policy of the Fire Service is also being developed in response to the Joint Committee on the Audit Commission Report "In Line of Fire" and the future needs of the Fire Service are bound to be influenced by those considerations. The FSC will consult widely as it develops its strategy and programme.

20. The development of the new programme for replacing the Junior Officer Advancement Course and the Divisional Command Course (DCC), known as the Command and Management Project, will continue and the new vocational courses will be mapped to the appropriate academic levels. It is anticipated that the highest levels will correspond to degree rather than diploma. Similarly the Brigade Command Course (BCC) Review will be completed and a new course designed and put in place. It is expected that this will match Masters level. Other courses related to FSTM will also be developed but in a more incremental manner and will also be analysed for academic level and content. National developments which are expected to be relevant include:

- ◆ responses to Dearing, especially concepts of progression and intermediate qualifications;
- ◆ determination of national frameworks for credit rating, CATS and links to professional programmes and S/NVQs; and
- ◆ refinement and strengthening of approaches to Work Based Learning including the University of Industry.

21. The staff of the FSC associated with these programmes (and the South Bank University's BEng) are part of the overall team contributing to the vocational courses underlying FSTM.

22. A further development has given another reference point in evaluating the FSC's work. The Management Study, done as part of the DCC and the International Project from the BCC, has been offered as evidence for the City and Guilds Senior Awards through Coventry University. The projects have been independently assessed by staff from the Coventry Business School and awards have been made at Licentiate and Graduate level for DCC, Graduate and Members levels for BCC.

23. The FSC has a growing involvement in academic and applied research in relevant areas of its work. A major research and redevelopment programme is in place for all Command and Management vocational courses up to and including the BCC. Senior command and Management Courses are equivalent to NVQ 4/5 level and up to Masters equivalent. The command element is supported by an academic research programme in collaboration with Professor Rhona Flin, Professor of Psychology at the University of Aberdeen, and one of the FSC's Visiting Fellows.

24. The FSC also promotes Work Based Learning and Assessment and, in particular, encourages the take up of City and Guilds Senior Awards through Coventry University, both by straightforward work based project submissions and by submitting projects derived from FSC vocational courses at Divisional and Brigade Command level.

## Brigade Training

25. Fire Service Circular 1/1998 provided details to brigades regarding the development of a training for competence framework for the Fire Service. The standards of competence proposed are structured as functional units consisting of at least 2 elements which are written as performance outcomes. To implement the competence framework there will require to be a significant change in the fire service culture in relation to training and workplace performance. One of the most important features of the proposed system is the provision of rolemaps which are essential to assessment of performance that determines the achievement and maintenance of competence. Rolemaps have been developed for the generic roles of firefighter, crew and watch commander and others will be developed in due course. Brigades are in the process of preparing implementation strategies to meet the needs of the training for competence framework which must also take into account the results of each brigade's Risk Assessment Programme. In the interests of 'Best Value' I have been encouraging brigades to collaborate with neighbouring or similar brigades in the production of common standards and to minimise duplication of effort in the development of training for competence systems.

26. To meet the needs of the training for competence framework and safety and welfare of their firefighters, brigades will require to reassess the training provision and training facilities provided to ensure their firefighters are receiving adequate training in areas such as real fire, flashover, backdraught, confined spaces and structural collapse of buildings, etc.

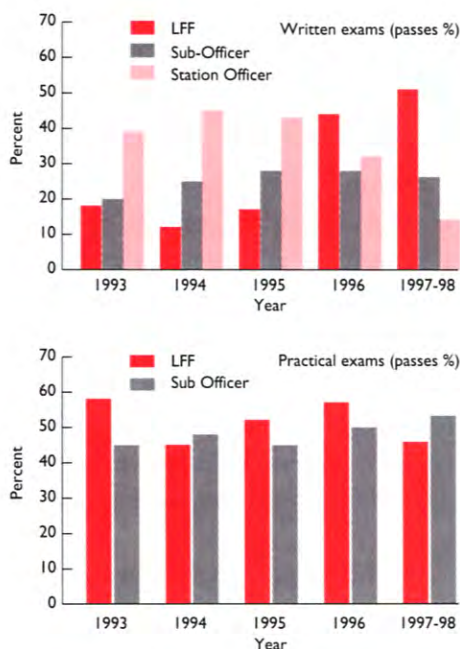
27. The high uptake of progression and specialist courses at the FSC by Scottish brigades has continued with a total of 428 students participating during 1997-98. Similarly there has been an increase to 512 personnel who have attended a wide range of courses at the SFSTS.

28. In addition to the training provided by the FSC and the SFSTS brigades provide considerable training at local level. A number of new subjects which were introduced during the year under review have included operational risk assessment, health and safety awareness training, equal opportunities, inflatable rescue path, hazard recognition, D32 assessor and training in command and control, etc.

## Fire Services Examinations Board

29. 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 (FSEB). 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.

30. In Scotland, 3 local boards administer both the written and practical examinations on behalf of the FSEB. Graph No 14 provides details of the success rate of the Scottish Fire Service over the past 5 years.



Graph 14 - Fire Services Examination Board  
Percentage of Successful Scottish Candidates  
1993 to 1997-98

## **Institution of Fire Engineers**

31. During 1997-98 candidates of the Scottish Branch sat the Institution's examinations which were held at the 4 centres of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow. A total of 21 candidates were successful in the various gradings of the examinations, as shown below:

Preliminary Certificate	3;
Graduate Examination	3;
Membership	5; and
Individual Member Paper	10.





## **SECTION F: SUPPLIES AND SERVICES**

### **Transport**

1. The repair and maintenance of vehicles in Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade is carried out by Dumfries and Galloway Council's Commercial Services Group (CSG) who operate 5 Workshops throughout the area. The remainder of the Brigades have their own well-equipped Workshops with facilities for carrying out all maintenance and repairs to vehicles. The Workshops also provide for a number of different skills such as ladder maintenance, fabrication work to enable fitting out of fire appliances, hydraulic rescue equipment repairs and testing, and auto electrical repairs etc. Specialist companies are utilised for the servicing of aerial appliances and for carrying out major body repairs. All Workshops have stores attached where stock is kept to a minimum with the main items being consumables necessary for normal routine servicing. A number of Brigades now operate an "impress" system with major suppliers which has the advantage that an efficient stock of spares for normal use is maintained without the probability of the Brigade being left with redundant stock and also reduces the actual stock of spares held by the Brigade. The Brigades also have well equipped mobile workshop vehicles, which allows minor repairs and safety checks to be carried out in the more remote areas. Workshop staff also provide a 24-hour emergency call-out service for the repair of defective operational appliances and equipment.

2. The majority of brigades carry out a safety inspection of operational vehicles every 12 weeks and a major service every 12 months. This frequency is increased for fire appliances operating from fire stations with a high response rate where the servicing intervals are determined by mileage and usage. Generally servicing schedules are being maintained however, with the ever-increasing requirement for workshop personnel to maintain operational equipment a number of brigades are requiring to review staffing levels to ensure that the quality of work and timescales can be maintained at a satisfactory level.

3. The design of fire appliances is going through a period of change with greater emphasis being placed on crew safety and compliance with the Manual Handling Regulations 1992. Fire appliances are now generally provided with an all-steel crew safety cabin, automatic transmission with in-built transmission retarder, anti-lock brake system with traction control and snow chains being provided. Beam gantries are now also being provided to accommodate ladders. These gantries allow easy removal of the ladders carried without the necessity for firefighters to ascend the vehicle. Lockers are also being reconfigured to allow easier removal of equipment and increasingly adjustable shelving is being provided to allow increased versatility with storage of different types and styles of equipment.

4. There are currently a total of 447 pumping appliances in use and 124 special appliances comprising aerial appliances, foam tenders, water carriers, rescue vehicles, command and control units and special support units etc. There are also a total of 366 ancillary vehicles utilised by brigades comprising cars, vans and personnel carriers etc. Due to budgetary restrictions brigades have been unable to meet their replacement policy and currently there

are 40 pumping appliances and 13 special appliances outwith their target replacement dates. During the year under review, brigades commissioned a total of 31 pumping appliances.

5. Grampian Fire Brigade has taken delivery of 2 Water Carriers, which are constructed on 17-ton chassis and are provided with 9,000 litre tanks. Two Prime Movers have also been purchased which consist of 17-ton Tractor Units fitted with Multi-Lift mechanisms. One of the units is also fitted with a Hydraulic Crane. A total of 4 Demountable Pods were also purchased, 3 of which have been fitted out as Damage Control Units and one as a Forestry Unit.

6. Value for money initiatives by converting and refurbishing of existing vehicles have been carried out by a number of brigades. In Strathclyde a 1984 Hydraulic Platform has been completely refurbished and fitted to a new 6x4 chassis. A modern communications system and remote control monitor has also been provided. In Tayside a 1989 Water Tender Ladder has been converted for use as a Foam Salvage Tender. The Chassis has been fitted with a stainless steel tank which, has been divided into a section containing 1,500 litres of foam and a section containing 450 litres of water. The pump has been fitted with a round-the-pump proportioner and pressure control valve. In Central a 1987 chassis previously utilised for the water bowser has been converted for use as a specialist support unit. The chassis has been fitted with an integral box-van plus a hydraulic tail-lift. Internally a series of framed moveable containers have been provided to accommodate foam plus foam making equipment along with salvage, rescue and decontamination equipment. A 1984 chassis has also been converted and provided with a beaver-tail platform. This vehicle can be utilised to transport spare foam stock, ladder pick-up, distribution, delivery and removal of accident damaged cars etc.

7. There has been continuing development in the provision of appropriate vehicles for the volunteer units. In Strathclyde a light pumping appliance has been constructed on a four-wheel drive chassis fitted with an integral crew cabin. The vehicle is designed to carry a crew of 5 complete with breathing apparatus and is fitted with a 1,000 litre water tank and fixed pump. Ample storage space is available for tools and equipment. In addition to the construction of 3 light pumping appliances based on 3.5 ton chassis Highland and Islands have designed and constructed a midi fire appliance on a 6.2 ton chassis. This chassis size was chosen to allow a greater degree of flexibility and an increase in equipment provision. The vehicle is provided with 7 lockers fitted out to carry a complete range of operational equipment and carries a self-contained main pump that can be easily removed for use in a portable mode.

## **Premises**

8. This is the fifth consecutive year that there has been an overall decrease in finance available to Brigades for property maintenance and minor works. The majority of Brigades have a substantial programme of essential repairs, renovations and improvements required for their properties, which has been estimated at approximately £3 million per annum. In 1997/98 only approximately £1.7 million was allocated for this purpose. This continued reduction is having a significant effect on the general fabric of premises; which will inevitably lead to major refurbishment or replacement and which will ultimately require to be financed from the current over-stretched capital programme.

9. There are continued pressures on Brigades to improve facilities to meet health and safety standards, to provide additional facilities to meet current and future training needs, to replace many of the older retained fire stations and to carry out major refurbishment or replacement of the older wholtime fire stations. There is also the ongoing requirement to provide volunteer units in Strathclyde and Highland and Islands Fire Brigades. To enable



all of these necessary facilities to be provided will require the existing capital programme to be increased beyond its present level.

10. In Central Scotland Fire Brigade planning is at an advanced stage for the replacement Falkirk Fire Station with ground having been purchased and building works due to commence during 1998-99.

11. In Dumfries and Galloway refurbishment was carried out at Dumfries Fire Station at a cost of £305,000. This consisted of electrical rewiring, the provision of gas central heating, a female toilet and shower facilities, the provision of laundry room, the total refurbishment of the kitchen and redecoration.

12. The new Aberdeen Central Fire Station has now been completed at a cost of £3,444,000. The main building comprises a 4 bay appliance area with ancillary accommodation and a training building is also provided within the complex. Adjacent to the fire station is a 3-storey office block that is to be utilised by the Fire Safety Department.

13. In Highlands and Islands the replacement retained fire station at Kinlochleven has been completed at a cost of £643,000. The premises consist of a double appliance bay, lecture room, toilets and showers, office accommodation, storage facilities and drill yard with training tower.

14. In Strathclyde an extension was carried out at Ayr fire station at a cost of £119,000 to accommodate an all-terrain vehicle plus trailer units. A total of £330,000 was utilised to carry out drill yard resurfacing, drill tower repairs, window replacement, boiler plant replacement and roof repairs etc at stations throughout the brigade area.

15. In Tayside the replacement Forfar Fire Station has now been completed at a total cost of £1,079,000. The building consists of a 3 bay appliance hall with ancillary accommodation and a training yard which includes a drill tower, wash bay and water tank. Work has commenced on the provision of volunteer units at Kirkmichael and Kinloch Rannoch.

16. Further progress has been made in the provision of appropriate facilities for Volunteer Firefighters with units being provided at:

<b>Highland and Islands</b>	Acharacle	on Ardnamurchan Peninsula
	Raasay	on the Island of Raasay
	Shapinsay	one of the Orkney Islands
<b>Strathclyde</b>	Craignure	on the Island of Mull
	Corriecravie	on the Island of Arran

## **Equipment**

17. Further progress has been made with the introduction of lightweight carbon composite breathing apparatus cylinders with a further 2 brigades having completed their replacement programme. The remaining brigades are evaluating replacement breathing apparatus sets the provision of which will be determined by appropriate finance being available.

18. Brigades continue to upgrade their hydraulic rescue equipment, which is utilised for dealing with road accidents and other emergencies. This equipment has been enhanced by the provision of lightweight power packs and 2-stage hydraulic rams etc. Other associated equipment necessary for rescue purposes such as composite stabilising and packing blocks, cat saws, polycarbonate shields, collapsible traffic cones and stretchers etc have also been provided.

19. Brigades require to replace and provide each year, a wide range of equipment such as ladders, hoses, pumps, breathing apparatus, electrical generators, hydraulic rescue equipment, personal protective equipment and thermal imaging cameras etc. During the year under review brigades also purchased fire boots, fire helmets, distress signal units, retractable personal lines, gloves, fire hoods, limited life gas tight suits, rescue lines and slings, inflatable walkways, firefighting branches, air-shelters, gas detection equipment, dosimeters and re-chargeable hand-lamps. Approximately £2 million per annum is required to purchase this type of equipment, to meet brigades requirements.

20. Research and Development is continually being carried out by brigades and during the year under review equipment such as line rescue clothing, lines and harnesses, resuscitation equipment, vehicle mounted data systems, hot-spotter hand held heat sensors, shear legs, hand held personal navigator and safety glasses have been evaluated.







## SECTION G: MISCELLANEOUS

### **Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council**

1. The 86th and 87th meetings of the SCFBAC were held on 11 July and 20 November 1997. At the 86th meeting, Mr Henry McLeish, MP, Scottish Home Affairs Minister chaired a discussion on Fire Service funding. After this discussion, the Minister departed for another engagement and Mr J Hamill, Secretary of the SOHD took the chair. Mr Hamill also chaired the 87th meeting of the Council. The Council considered the Annual Reports of the Joint Committees of the CFBACs, as well as a range of issues concerning the operation of fire brigades.

### **Safe Person Concept**

2. It is considered essential that firefighters are provided with an adequate understanding of the development of fires in both a well and under-ventilated states so that they can recognise potential backdraught and flashover conditions.

3. Under the auspices of the Safe Person Concept a Fire Behaviour Project Team was formed in April 1996 to examine the requirement for improved guidance on flashover, backdraught and rapid-fire growth and to consider further research on these phenomena. Working in conjunction with the Fire Experimental Unit (FEU) the Team has been involved in the production of 3 videos.

i. **Fire Growth and Flashover**

Deals with the principles of combustion, fire growth and flashover and describes the situations in which a flashover might occur.

ii. **Backdraught**

Explains and demonstrates the types of backdraught which can occur. It also includes live footage of backdraught generated in full size simulators and under laboratory conditions along with explanatory graphs and comments from firefighters.

iii. **Tactical Ventilation of Fires**

Explains and demonstrates the principles of tactical ventilation. It illustrates some of the techniques, which can be used safely and includes explanatory graphics and comments from firefighters.

4. All of these videos are designed to be viewed in conjunction with Fire Service Manual, Volume 2, Fire Service Operations, Compartment Fires and Tactical Ventilation.

5. The Project Team is also in the process of preparing a guidance note to brigades on fire training which will advise them on the different types of Real-Fire Training Systems that are available and will provide guidance on how to use these systems safely.

## **Joint Committee on Fire Brigade Operations**

6. Item J of 'Dear Firemaster Letter' 8/1997 provided supplementary guidance to brigades on incidents involving lifts. The guidance was drawn up in consultation with major lift manufacturers and was provided to enable brigades to review their procedures for dealing with such incidents. This additional guidance will be included in the revised series of manuals which are currently being developed.

7. The first of the envisaged phased guidance and information on the management of physiological stress has been issued to brigades under cover of 'Dear Firemaster' Letter 8/1997. The guidance reflects the current knowledge based on the findings of recent relevant research and also confirms that further research will be required regarding the physiological strain placed on firefighters during training and operations and the reviewing of relevant literature. In addition to advice on physiological stress, assessment of risk, fitness standards and lifestyle, breathing apparatus and physiological strain, cooling methods and protective clothing, etc, it was also recommended that fire hoods should be worn for general firefighter operations where facial exposure to heat is assessed as a risk.

8. As stated in my previous Report revised guidance on the procedures for Breathing Apparatus Command and Control has been produced which replaces Technical Bulletin 1/1989. The new procedures have been introduced to ensure that firefighters at all levels operate competently and safely and include the introduction of a risk assessment approach, more explicit management command and control procedures, and the introduction of rapid deployment procedures for use in exceptional circumstances only. Information on this subject was promulgated to brigades in 'Dear Firemaster' Letter 10/1997.

9. Item F of 'Dear Firemaster' Letter 1/1998 advised Firemasters of revised and consolidated guidance which has been produced on the operational procedures to adopt at incidents involving agricultural and industrial silos. The guidance sets out, as far as is reasonably practicable, a generic safe system of work for silo incidents that has been based on an effective risk assessment and the application of practical precautions which provides clarification of the roles and responsibilities of individual officers. In particular, the guidance takes into account:

- ◆ the full implications of a report into a fatal accident involving a firefighter at an industrial silo in 1995;
- ◆ the requirements of revised HSE legislation on confined spaces; and
- ◆ the advice contained within a new British Standard (7885; 1997), "Code of Practice for Safe Entry into Silos" (giving recommendations for normal working arrangements in silos and extending this to deal also with emergency incidents).

10. Following the publication of Hazchem List (No 9) which contains details of the Emergency Action Codes for dealing with Incidents Involving Dangerous Substances Conveyed in Bulk by Road or Rail, further advice and clarification of a number of areas has been provided in 'Dear Firemaster' Letter 12/1997.

11. The Electricity Association, following consultation with the Fire Service and the Fire Service Inspectorate has produced a leaflet entitled "Watch It", which provides guidance for emergency services carrying out a rescue in the vicinity of overhead lines, substations and other electrical equipment.

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

- ◆ fire brigade operations at sea;
- ◆ modifications to breathing apparatus guideline equipment;
- ◆ fire service telemetry;
- ◆ health and safety management information;
- ◆ review of risk assessment guidance;
- ◆ guidance on the use of light insulating sandwich panels;
- ◆ security of premises following fires; and
- ◆ safe work in confined spaces.

### **Joint Training Committee**

13. The Publications Section of HM Fire Service Inspectorate at the Home Office is in the process of reviewing the Manuals of Firemanship. It is intended to update all of the manuals as quickly as possible and to present the information in a more meaningful style. The first publication in the new series was published in December 1997 and is entitled "Compartment Fires and Tactical Ventilation". This book is a revised and expanded compilation of the 2 supplements previously issued under "The Behaviour of Fire" title. The second manual in the series entitled "Electricity" was published in January 1998 which was followed by "Physics and Chemistry for Firefighters".

14. Fire Service Circular No 8/1997, "Practical Aptitude Tests For Fire Service Recruits", recommends to brigades a battery of properly constructed and objectively based practical tests for recruits along with advice on recruit selection procedures. It was recognised that in the absence of standardised task specific tests based on a formal analysis of the components of a firefighter's job, judgements on each candidate's performance at the practical stage of the selection process would inevitably be partly subjective. The new tests will allow candidates to familiarise themselves with the nature of Fire Service work at the outset and should usefully contribute to a reduction in the rate of recruit wastage, which occurs during the initial stages of training.

15. The Implementation Working Group continues to meet regularly to process the recommendations of the Training Strategy Group. Its sub-group, the Standards Working Group, has completed its task of developing a Training for Competence Framework for the UK Fire Service. In January 1998 Fire Service Circular No 1/1998 was issued to brigades which provided details on how to develop a competence framework utilising a single set of occupational standards against which the performance of the workforce could be measured. The framework combines the Emergency Fire Services Lead Body (EFSLB) and the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority standards to form a single set of draft national fire service standards of competence, which reflects the roles of personnel within local authority fire brigades. The information and recommendations in this Circular build upon Fire Service Circular No 5/1996, which recommended to brigades the use of standards of competence, training for competence and a structured assessment system. The major strategic development contained in the Circular is the introduction of systems for selection, training and development designed to support a framework of workplace based standards of competence. The recommendations also take into consideration the need for better management of health and safety in the Fire Service and the development of standards based training will assist in meeting the HSE's recommendations in regard to the selection and training components of the systematic management of safety.

16. The Competence Framework consists of 7 parts:
- i. **Part 1 : Executive Summary**  
This sets out the principles and key issues contained in the competence framework and identifies the strategic implications for brigades.
  - ii. **Part 2 : A Guide to the Management of Competence**  
This provides guidance on the structure and organisation for the management of training for competence.
  - iii. **Part 3 : A Guide to the Operation of Training for Competence**  
This provides guidance on the structure, organisation and operation of training for competence.
  - iv. **Part 4 : A Guide for Assessment**  
This sets out best practice for an assessment process for the competence framework.
  - v. **Part 5 : A Guide for a National Recording Methodology**  
This will set out a system for recording and analysing relevant findings of individual's training and development.
  - vi. **Part 6 : Rolemaps**  
These detail the performance outcomes identified for generic roles in the fire service.
  - vii. **Part 7 : Glossary of Terms.**

The Joint Training Committee has endorsed the proposal for a phased introduction of the national training for competence framework within the Fire Service from July 1998.

17. A Qualifications Working Group led by the Institution of Fire Engineers has been established to look at the qualification structure of the Fire Service and to identify what changes may need to be made to suit the future needs of the Service. Within their terms of reference the group were tasked with identifying whether the Service requires a qualifications structure for specific categories of staff, to identify the benefits to the Service of a qualifications structure and to determine the purpose and function of a qualifications structure for the Service. They will also seek to identify an appropriate qualification structure for specific categories of staff and to identify the qualifications that the Service currently formally recognises and to judge their appropriateness to the proposed qualification structure(s), etc.

18. The EFSLB continues to make progress regarding the development of National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQs) for the Service. Two qualifications were accredited for Control Room staff in the summer of 1997 and the EFSLB is currently developing two fire safety qualifications.

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

- ◆ the replacement for the Ability Range Tests;
- ◆ maintaining Breathing Apparatus performance;
- ◆ Operational (Realistic) Training;
- ◆ reports from the FSC; and
- ◆ reports from the FSEB.



## **Joint Committee on Appliances, Equipment and Uniform**

20. The Home Office Fire Research and Development Group (FRDG) has completed its investigation into the possible deterioration of the chemical protective qualities of chemical protective clothing in use. The results were promulgated to brigades under cover of Dear Firemaster Letter 2/1997 and attached Research Report Number 69. The European Standards for chemical protective clothing for firefighters are currently under discussion and once these are published the Joint Committee will review its guidance on selection and use of the chemical protective clothing taking into consideration the results of this research.

21. Dear Firemaster Letter 8/1997, Item C, informed Firemasters of an amendment to the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986. This brought into force new regulations regarding vehicles with overall travelling heights above 3 metres which have been introduced as a measure to prevent what has become known as 'bridge bashing'.

22. Following the publication of the European Standard for firefighters helmets (BS EN 443), the Joint Committee issued advice to brigades (Item D of Dear Firemaster Letter 1/1998) to purchase helmets conforming to the Standard including an additional electrical safety requirement, which had been included in the Standard as an optional requirement.

23. A Home Office commissioned report on the effectiveness and safety of fire hoods was considered by the Joint Committee and it was agreed that fire hoods should be used for general firefighting purposes. The Joint Committee prepared a Home Office Specification for fire hods (A28) which was issued to brigades under cover of Dear Firemaster Letter 1/1998.

24. In light of the draft European Standards for firefighting vehicles, the Joint Committee produced a draft revision of the current Joint Council for Design and Development (JCDD) specifications for fire appliances to supplement the European Standards, when published, and recommended additional agreed requirements for adoption in the UK.

25. Following the publication of a series of European Standards for boots for professional use, including those specifically for firefighting, the Joint Committee prepared a new Home Office specification for firefighters rubber boots (A29).

26. Some concern has been expressed, following the publication of the report of the research on the 'Study of the Degree of Protection Afforded by Firefighters Clothing', that the clothing used in the research might have thermal insulation well above the minimum level specified in the Home Office A26 specification. This could result in increased physiological stress for the wearer. Further testing of material properties on clothing used in the research is being carried out and the results will be analysed in due course.

## **Joint Committee on Fire Brigade Communications**

27. A report of a study commissioned by the Home Office Fire and Emergency Planning Department into the potential of Automatic Vehicle Location Systems (AVLS) in the Fire Service has been published. The report is the outcome of a 3 year project involving contracted consultants and Avon Fire Brigade, managed by HM Fire Service Inspectorate Telecommunications Group. The report concludes that AVLS can offer operational efficiency benefits. However, this is dependent on the availability of a radio data bearer and the accuracy of current mobilising system gazetteer/databases. It is unlikely any of the Scottish fire brigades will, at present, install such a system as there are few areas in Scotland with an available bearer. However, with the rapid development of Service Providers this may be a viable option to brigades in the near future.

28. In 1996, the Home Office commissioned consultants to revise Volume 5 (The Control Centre) of the Home Office Guidance on Fire Brigade Mobilising Systems (Logica). This work has now been completed and guidance has been issued to the Fire Service. It continues the principle previously established that the needs of the users should be regarded as the key element and that the participation of staff in the design process is critical to the success of the control centre and its efficiency.

29. The Home Office Police National Network Team has put in place a framework agreement which is expected will enable permitted users, including fire authorities, to obtain a high quality telephone service at substantially lower prices than are normally available. This Indirect Telephone Service is a national telephone service which is designed to select the lowest possible cost and highest quality route for telephone calls.

30. The FRDG has produced a publication (Year 2000 Compliance Guidance Notes for the Fire Service) to assist brigades in coping with the millennium problems in computers. This was promulgated to brigades under cover of Dear Firemaster Letter 2/1998. In addition, a task group has been set up to ensure that progress towards maintaining operations over the millennium period is continued, to assess operational implications and to offer advice to brigades.

31. The Joint Committee continues to take an interest in developments in how the future radio communications needs of the Fire Service can best be met. One primary option is the service being offered under the Public Safety Radio Communications Project (PRSCP). A contract has been let for design studies for a system and meetings have been held with the consortium to clarify the information required from the Fire Service to enable the company to offer services and tariffs to the Service. Additionally, the Joint Committee has been developing a fully costed implementable alternative to the PSRCP. A consultative exercise has been undertaken with industry in which companies were invited to propose and cost technical solutions for meeting the Fire Service User Requirement. This information will be utilised to identify and cost technologies capable of meeting the Fire Service requirements, not to select suppliers. All of the proposals are being examined with the aim of submitting a recommendation on the future radio strategy for England and Wales during the last quarter of 1998. A separate report by the consultants on an alternative strategy for Scotland will be submitted for consideration by the SCFBAC. Work has also taken place to identify an optimal procurement route for the radio strategy.

### **Joint Committee on Fire Research**

32. The Joint Committee on Fire Research met on 29 May 1997 to clear outstanding business prior to the introduction of the new CFBACs Joint Strategic Committees in 1998. In addition to a presentation by the Fire Research and Development Group which reviewed the progress made in research projects during 1996-97, the Committee discussed the following 5 summary research reports:

- i. Sprinklers for Life Safety in Shops;
- ii. Siting of Domestic Smoke Alarms;
- iii. Causes of Fire Deaths;
- iv. Draft ISO Standard on Fire Safety Engineering - Life Safety; and
- v. Assessment of Domestic Smoke Alarm Tests.

33. The Committee noted the findings and recommendations of the reports and the progress made with the on-going projects in the Home Office Fire Research Programme but initiated no actions in connection with the completed or current work.

34. The Director of Fire and Emergency Planning decided that the Committee need not meet again as there was no outstanding business from the meeting held on 29 May. No further meetings were planned and the Committee was formally disbanded as the new CFBACs structure became operative.

### **Other Joint Committees**

35. For comments on the activities of the Joint Pensions Committee and the Equal Opportunities Joint Committee, see paragraphs 21 and 22, and 23 to 27 of Section B respectively and of the Joint Fire Safety Committee see paragraphs 77 to 80 of Section D.

### **Civil Defence and Emergency Planning**

36. The Scottish Office continued to fund an Brigade Emergency Planning Officer in each brigade who are responsible to their Firemasters for the preparation and updating of the brigade's emergency plans.

37. During 1997-98 SOHD sponsored a seventh series of general emergency planning courses for local authorities and the emergency services, etc. There were 4 such courses with 11 brigade personnel attending as students and one Brigade Emergency Planning Officer acting as a tutor. Brigade personnel also participate in the twice annual Chief Inspectors' course held at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan Castle, Kincardine, with one day of the 4 week course being given over to an exercise on the Inter-Agency Approach to Emergencies in which the fire brigades have an input.

38. Brigade personnel also participate in Emergency Planning exercises held under the auspices of local authorities. The Brigade Emergency Planning Officers also organised various exercises and training events for their own brigades.



### **The Fire Information National Data Service (FINDS)**

39. Since 1988, 2 generations of computer systems have provided fire brigades in the UK with electronic mail and on-line database facilities. Over the past 10 years many other fire related organisations have also become subscribers to the system.

40. The new FINDS III system was introduced to Scottish brigades during the early months of 1998 following extensive trials. This system provides an intranet for the Fire Service incorporating new document management software and easier to use mail facilities. The database now exceeds 17,000 documents.

## **Competitions**

41. To test firefighters' knowledge of, and skills in, fire technology and first aid, CACFOA organises annual competitions in these topics. Teams from throughout the UK may enter at local level, with the winners of the qualifying round progressing to district or national finals.
42. The National Firefighters' Quiz alternates between the wholetime and the retained service yearly and this year's competition was contested by wholetime personnel.
43. Three teams - Dumfries and Galloway, Grampian and Tayside - competed in the District Final with Dumfries and Galloway being the eventual winners who went on to represent the Scottish District in the UK northern area semi-final held in March 1998 at Leamington Spa.
44. The First Aid Competition differs from the National Firefighters' Quiz in that it is open to wholetime, retained and control personnel.
45. Two teams - Dumfries and Galloway and Strathclyde - represented the Scottish District at the National Final held at the Fire Service College on 6 June 1997. The eventual overall winners were West Midlands.
46. The British National Extrication Competition was held on 9 August 1997 in Sheffield. The Competition requires the rescue of a 'live' casualty from a road traffic accident scenario within a 20 minute time limit. Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade came a creditable third while the winners, Kent Fire Brigade, go on to represent Britain in the World Extrication Competition to be held in Illinois, North America in 1998.

## **Fire Services National Benevolent Fund**

47. As mentioned in last year's Report the Fund showed an overall deficit at the end of 1996. Projections for 1997 forecast a further deficit of £387,000. However, a concerted effort by all members of the Fund succeeded in reversing this trend and, at the end of 1997, the net movement in funds, including a single legacy of nearly a quarter of a million pounds, produced a surplus of £78,529.
48. Financial results for the Scottish Group also showed an increase in income which stood at £233,009 and while expenditure rose to stand at £66,947 the overall credit balance increased by approximately 45%.
49. The Fund's investments at the end of 1997 were valued at £15,840,746, an increase of £1,130,481 over the previous year.
50. The Fund continues to encourage further training for its representatives and the Scottish Group sent 12 members on national courses.
51. During 1997 the Fund decided to launch its own affinity card in association with the MBNA Banking Group and for every card taken out by members the Fund receives £20 from the Group.
52. Following a successful marketing campaign, all but one of the 14 retirement homes at Penrith have been sold or leased and it is also pleasing to note that there is a waiting list for the new sheltered flats at Littlehampton.
53. After many years the Fund has finally managed to purchase the remaining bungalow at Harcombe House thereby allowing it full ownership of the bungalow park. Both Littlehampton and Harcombe continue to provide convalescence facilities during 1997.

However, the main uptake has been during the summer months with very little activity during the rest of the year.

54. Jubilee House at Penrith continues to grow in popularity with personnel from Scottish brigades using its therapy centre on 105 occasions. The use of the various types of therapy contributed to members' rehabilitation process which in turn improved their quality of life.

55. For the future, the Fund has produced a Business Plan and established a Policy Studies Group to conduct a comprehensive review of the Fund's existing policies and to make recommendations for the conduct of its affairs during the 10 year period 1999 to 2008.

### ***Fire Services Sports and Athletics Association***

56. Mr G Williams continued as Chairperson of the Scottish Districts Association during 1997-98 which proved to be another busy and successful year for its growing membership.

57. The Association continued to achieve outstanding results at all levels of competition with such diverse sports ranging from table tennis to long distance keel boat cruises. It is encouraging to see new sports constantly being enjoyed and more importantly new faces participating with great enthusiasm. The more well established sporting sections continued to flourish throughout the year admirably reflecting Scottish fire brigades' attitude to sport.

58. Scotland hosted the 1997 National Game Angling Championships at Loch Leven, Kinross.

59. The Four Nations Golf Championship was held south of the border as was the rugby match between the Great Britain Fire Brigade XV Team and the Great Britain Police XV Team with the latter team narrowly edging home with a last minute conversion.

60. The Athletics Section had another very successful year and October saw the Scotland and England Fire Brigade Football Teams play each other in Glasgow with the Scots finally winning after a barren spell of 10 years.





## **SECTION H: REPORT OF THE LAY INSPECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES**

### ***Introduction***

1. During the annual inspections of the 8 Scottish fire brigades the Lay Inspector visited in excess of 30 fire stations where meetings were held with the firefighter crews and questions from and to the Lay Inspector were a welcome feature. One hundred and twenty-four firefighters were interviewed individually and were questioned about their work as it directly affected members of the public who were victims of both fires and road accidents. They were questioned additionally about their fire safety inspections of hotels, guest houses and private companies where fire certificates are required by law. In addition, interviews were carried out with members of the public themselves during which they were questioned about the quality of service they received from firefighters and fire officers.

2. A total of 84 female firefighters were interviewed in relation to equal opportunities in the Scottish Fire Service as part of a full investigation of this subject. Fire officers in each brigade were questioned about a variety of subjects including community education, relationships with the media, educational opportunities for brigade employees and the brigades' complaints and commendations files and ensuing correspondence.

### ***Customer Relations***

3. Brigades, without exception, are keen to promote good public and customer relations. This is done in a variety of commendable ways in such as their ready response to requests for talks to clubs, youth groups, visits to fire stations and encouragement to local organisations to use fire station facilities for meetings and social events.

### ***Complaints and Commendations***

4. As previously mentioned, the complaints and commendations files were examined in detail and, although a total of 84 complaints were received by brigades, the thoroughness and courtesy with which all complaints were handled served to enhance the good public relations already enjoyed. Each brigade has well defined complaints procedures in which all complaints are thoroughly investigated, keeping the complainant conversant with the progress of the investigation. In the vast majority of cases complainants were satisfied not only with the outcome of the investigation of their complaints, but with the fact that punctilious care and tact was employed throughout the entire process.

5. This year no particular trend in types of complaint could be identified as they ranged from concerns about driving, noise, water supplies, access for fire appliances, possible reduction of fire cover due to financial cuts, discourtesy and authoritarian behaviour.

6. The number of commendations and letters of gratitude exceeded the complaints in a ratio of approximately 7 to one; and these referred, in the main, to rescues from fires and road accidents, gratitude for interesting talks and demonstrations about fire safety, also for visits to fire stations and for participation in open days.

## **Media Relations**

7. Media relations are considered to be important in all brigades as a means of communicating the fire safety message, in a variety of ways, to a wide cross section of the public. The Fire Safety Week is especially well publicised in the press and often features on television. A further peak period of publicity occurs a few days before the advent of Guy Fawkes bonfire night as all brigades are anxious to avoid injuries from bonfires and fireworks.

8. Several brigades have well established audio-visual facilities and supply the national and local press with well written statements, photographs and video film. Strathclyde Fire Brigade is equipped with a modern audio visual aid studio, the staff of which attend major incidents and supply television networks with edited video tapes. In Lothian and Borders a Divisional Officer, assisted by an Assistant Divisional Officer, have as part of their work the functions of 'Media and Public Liaison Officers'. They deal with the press on a day-to-day basis and have set up a regular news service for all weekly newspapers in the Brigade area. Relationships with radio and television companies are excellent; for example a television camera has been loaned to the Brigade by ITV whose camera staff have provided training to officers so that TV coverage of large incidents can be made with professional quality. The video film has the added advantage of use as a training aid.

9. Perusal of the press cuttings books in every brigade revealed an impressive array of articles and photographs totalling over 4,000 items covering fire safety, all types of fires, road traffic accidents, awards to firefighters, budget cuts, rescues from fires and ice bound ponds and many other topics.

10. The annual reports of brigades give readable details and comprehensive statistics of their work and are issued to members of the fire boards and libraries. Fire safety leaflets, 'After the Fire' booklets and newsletters are additional devices for the dissemination of useful material to help the public understand the value of the Fire Service.

## **Community Education**

11. Community education in the fire brigade is mainly concerned about the incidence of fires in the home and therefore aims to reduce the number of deaths and injuries due to fire. In addition, it is geared to urge members of the public to install smoke alarms and to educate young people about the serious effects of making hoax calls whilst, at the same time, making them aware of potential fire hazards in the home. Over 35,000 pupils received talks at their primary and secondary schools in Scotland. The effect of this has been to reduce the incidence of hoax calls and to reduce the incidence of domestic fires.

12. Brigades have decided to concentrate their resources in educating young people, but the elderly and disabled have not been neglected. Primary school pupils, some secondary school pupils, the elderly and disabled people are given talks and demonstrations through travelling 'mobile units' staffed, in some brigades, by a professional primary school teacher and a fire officer. The emphasis and therefore the success of community education is partly dependent on the priority accorded to it and the resources afforded to it.

13. The pace-setter in this field is Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade where many new innovations and considerable research into the benefits of educating the public in fire safety are carried out. Strathclyde Fire Brigade has also given high priority to community education and has appointed an Assistant Divisional Officer who is assisted by 4 civilian staff and 18 community firefighters for its 4 'Commands', each with mobile fire safety demonstration units which have been cleverly and cheaply converted from old fire appliances. Ethnic



communities in Strathclyde have been most effectively covered by the appointment of a lady of ethnic origin who is fluent in both Urdu and Punjabi and her meetings with social and religious groups in their mother tongue have done much to reduce fire hazards at home by increasing fire safety awareness and the ownership of smoke alarms through fire safety talks. The effectiveness of community education in Strathclyde is exemplified in the reduction of hoax calls by approximately 12% during the previous year and the complete absence of child fatalities due to fire.

### **Statutory Examinations**

14. In spite of repeated advice from the Lay Inspector to all brigade training departments it would appear not to be possible to devote even a small proportion of their time, during training lectures, to allow firefighters to answer a few questions in writing rather than orally. The intention of this recommendation is to encourage firefighters to renew and to improve their writing and drawing skills which are an essential ingredient in the passing of the statutory examination results.

15. Pass rates for those who passed all papers at one sitting in 1997 were:

<b>Examination</b>	<b>Scottish Pass Rate</b>	<b>UK Pass Rate</b>
Leading Firefighter	51.0%	43.5%
Sub-Officer	26.3%	28.1%
Station Officer	14.1%	16.7%

16. However, the pass rates based on passes in individual papers give a more encouraging picture:

<b>Examination</b>	<b>Scottish Pass Rate</b>	<b>UK Pass Rate</b>
Leading Firefighter	68.7%	52.8%
Sub-Officer	53.8%	54.9%
Station Officer	37.4%	38.5%

17. The superior pass rates at the first stage (Leading Firefighter) is accounted for by the fact that a high proportion of candidates have recently passed out from the Scottish Fire Service Training School and are well practised in studying and in writing answers to questions during training lectures at the School. At fire station level instructors who are members of fire station crews are quite expert in taking practical drills but they need help in classroom teaching techniques. This generalisation is valid for all brigades. One of the main problems for instructors is the lack of motivation of candidates who mistakenly assume that their experience and excellent practical training will carry them through the examinations.

### **Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs)**

18. Interest in SVQs throughout the professional ranks in the Fire Service is growing and there is also some encouragement given to non-uniformed staff to obtain such qualifications at the appropriate levels. A number of brigades have now attained 'Approved Centre' status with qualified assessors and verifiers to complement steps already taken in improving the training records of individuals. When finances allow it should be possible to introduce SVQs in each brigade for uniformed staff at all levels enabling them, as a consequence, to hold accredited and recognised qualifications for their individual work and responsibilities.

### **Higher Education for Fire Officers**

19. All brigades give encouragement to both uniformed and non-uniformed staff to improve their academic qualifications. The main inhibitor to optimum access of higher education is the funding which has to be found from brigade training budgets, often at their most vulnerable in this current climate of financial stringency. However, it should be noted that many senior officers are now graduates and diplomats and increasingly brigades reap clear benefits from their academic expertise.

### **Charter Mark**

20. Although it is still the case that only one brigade in Scotland has gained a Charter Mark, others have shown a degree of interest but have not as yet applied. This is not due to any perceived inadequacies in their service to the public but to the additional time and expenditure thought to be involved in the application process. Nevertheless the Lay Inspector continues to encourage brigades to apply for the Charter Mark as measure of their devotion to high quality service to the public.

### **Commendable Practices**

21. Co-operation and the exchange of ideas between fire crews and paramedics of the Scottish Ambulance Service during training sessions in fire stations is commendable and to be encouraged. The Lay Inspector witnessed lectures/demonstrations by paramedics during station training sessions; this was clearly very beneficial to both firefighters and paramedics who exchanged valuable information on specialist emergency practices which will ultimately be of enormous benefit to members of the public who may require immediate treatment at fire and road traffic accidents.

22. All brigades do their utmost to publicise and to encourage the installation of smoke alarms but still find many cases of domestic fires where lives could have been saved had a smoke alarm been installed. Many brigades have gained sponsorship to supply and install smoke alarms for the elderly.

### **Conclusion**

23. The Fire Service throughout the whole of Scotland is undoubtedly well trained, safety conscious, and dedicated to the saving of life in all kinds of emergency situations from house fires, major shop and factory fires, road traffic accidents and other special service calls. Particularly impressive was the clear understanding and humanity shown by firefighters to those in distress. This was unequivocally confirmed during every interview with a wide cross-section of the public.





## APPENDICES

## Scottish Fire Brigades 1997-98

Fire Brigade	Area		Population June 1996 (estimated)		Uniformed Personnel (1997-98 Establishments)				Fire Stations and Volunteer Units			Operational Fleet			
	km <sup>2</sup>	% 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	275	5.4	243	17	170	24	4	11	3	27	1	1	5
Dumfries & Galloway	6,396	8.2	148	2.9	99	16	193	20	1	15	2	25	1	-	3
Fife	1,307	1.7	349	6.8	382	22	112	-	6	8	-	26	2	1	5
Grampian	8,702	11.1	531	10.4	336	22	466	32	*6	32	2	61	3	-	18
Highland & Islands	31,348	40.1	282	5.5	132	18	534	906	1	31	95	54	1	1	5
Lothian & Borders	6,430	8.2	859	16.7	746	30	295	-	13	22	-	53	5	3	2
Strathclyde	13,851	17.7	2,288	44.6	2,209	67	661	286	38	44	31	157	12	8	11
Tayside	7,501	9.6	394	7.7	409	18	276	36	6	15	4	44	3	6	9
SCOTLAND	78,187	100	5,126	100	4,556	210	2,707	1,304	*75	178	137	447	28	20	58

\* includes 2 'day-manned' stations





**Summary of Fires and Special Service Incidents  
Which Have Occurred in 1997-98**

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 Scotland	815	611	170	30	4			110	986	1,213	858	436	401	4,819
Dumfries & Galloway	425	247	158	19	1			329	256	497	347	85	216	2,155
Fife	1,099	394	586	117	2			240	1,500	456	1,876	656	712	6,539
Grampian	1,456	1,346	36	68	6			639	1,678	2,124	1,209	443	1,100	8,649
Highland & Islands	704	622	73	9				1,352	537	1,285	350	264	450	4,942
Lothian & Borders	3,491	1,187	1,537	764	3			483	4,271	1,259	6,885	1,194	1,590	19,173
Strathclyde	9,511	3,080	5,230	1,191	10			787	15,552	7,981	10,688	4,426	4,177	53,122
Tayside	1,518	426	886	206				338	2,390	685	2,855	555	677	9,018
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19,019</b>	<b>7,913</b>	<b>8,676</b>	<b>2,404</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,278</b>	<b>27,170</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>25,068</b>	<b>8,059</b>	<b>9,323</b>	<b>108,417</b>

\* Includes a one officer attendance



**Major Fires in 1997-98**

**REQUIRING AN ATTENDANCE OF 6 OR MORE PUMPING APPLIANCES**

<i>DATE</i>	<i>ADDRESS</i>	<i>TYPE</i>	<i>BRIGADE</i>
<b>1997</b>			
<b>April</b>			
1	Bovaglie, Abergeldie Estate, Balmoral	Heath	Grampian
2	Benarty Hill, near Ballingry	Woodland	Fife
6	Kingsgate Hotel, King Street, Stirling	Hotel and Restaurant	Central Scotland
12	Wester Moss, Wilsontown, Forth	Forest and Grassland	Strathclyde
<b>May</b>			
24	Inchinnan Road, Paisley	Resource Centre	Strathclyde
31	12A Scotland Street Lane West, Edinburgh	Dwelling	Lothian and Borders
<b>June</b>			
2	Bonhill, Alexandria	Distillery	Strathclyde
15	Crowpoint Road, Glasgow	Industrial Units	Strathclyde
<b>July</b>			
6	Unit 27, Winchester Avenue, Denny	Storage Buildings	Central Scotland
22	Gardrum Moss, Shieldhill	Peat Harvesters	Central Scotland
26	The Omar Khayyam, 1 Grosvenor Street, Edinburgh	Restaurant	Lothian and Borders
<b>August</b>			
2	Annfield House Hotel, Castle Street, Irvine	Hotel	Strathclyde
17	Granton House	Dwelling House	Dumfries and Galloway
<b>September</b>			
1	Leith Hospital, King Street Edinburgh	Disused Hospital	Lothian and Borders
22	Harbour, Troon	Ship	Strathclyde
<b>October</b>			
3	Walter Alexanders, Glasgow Road, Falkirk	Storage Buildings	Central Scotland
10	MacFish, Watermill Road, Fraserburgh	Warehouse	Grampian

**November**

4	Kwik-Save, Red Road Court, Glasgow	Shop	Strathclyde
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**December**

9	Portland Terrace, Troon	Dwellings	Strathclyde
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**1998****January**

1	Misk Knowes, Stevenston	Dwelling	Strathclyde
16	Lunar Freezing and Storage, East Quay, Peterhead	Factory	Grampian

**February**

25	Auldich Farm, Ballindalloch	Hill	Grampian
28	Poundstretcher, Union Street, Aberdeen	Shop	Grampian

**March**

9	141-143 Union Grove, Aberdeen	Tenement	Grampian
16	Gateside Place, Kilbarchan	Joiner's Workshop and Dwelling	Strathclyde
17	Luscar House, Garnock	Disused Nursing Home	Fife

Fatalities at Fire Incidents Attended by Brigades During 1997-98

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	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 Scotland			1			1	2										2									1					1	2
Dumfries & Galloway			1	1			1				1						2															2
Fife					1		1										1								1							1
Grampian			4	4	2	1	6	2	1			2					11						1	2	1	1	3	1	1			11
Highland & Islands	2	4	1	2	2	2	5	5	1			2					13					1	1			3	4	2	1		13	
Lothian & Borders		2	5	1	2	1	2	2	1		1	2	2	2		1*	11						1	2	1	3		1		2	11	
Strathclyde	6		9	15	8	5	8	23	10				2				43					4	4	4	2	6	2	3	4	3	2	43
Tayside			2	1	1		1	1				1					4						1		2						4	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>87</b>

\* Garden  
# Garden Shed

**Performance Indicators  
Central Scotland Fire Brigade**

**Part 1 - Operational Data**

	1993 - 1994	1994 - 1995	1995 - 1996	1996-97	1997-98
<b>OD1 - Number of emergency calls, other than false alarm calls, by type and as a percentage of the total:</b>					
Fires	831 (36.4%)	756 (31.5%)	807 (25.6%)	815 (34.5%)	815 (35.3%)
Secondary Fires	904 (39.5%)	1,013 (42.3%)	1,463 (46.4%)	1,052 (44.6%)	986 (42.6%)
Chimney Fires	328 (14.3%)	289 (12.0%)	210 (6.6%)	159 (6.7%)	110 (4.8%)
Special Services	223 (9.7%)	335 (13.9%)	672 (21.3%)	332 (14.0%)	401 (17.3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,286</b>	<b>2,393</b>	<b>3,152</b>	<b>2,358</b>	<b>2,312</b>
<b>OD2 - Number of false alarm calls by type and as a percentage of the total:</b>					
Good Intent	920 (40.2%)	1,187 (48.9%)	1,386 (49.9%)	1,165 (47.3%)	1,213 (48.4%)
Apparatus	671 (29.3%)	765 (31.5%)	959 (34.5%)	888 (36.0%)	858 (34.2%)
Malicious	694 (30.3%)	475 (19.5%)	431 (15.5%)	409 (16.8%)	436 (17.4%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,285</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>2,776</b>	<b>2,462</b>	<b>2,507</b>
<b>OD3 - Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:</b>					
Fire Incidents	7.6	6.5	8.3	7.4	7.0
Special Service Incidents	0.8	1.2	2.5	1.2	1.5
All Incidents	8.4	7.7	10.8	8.6	8.5
<b>OD4 - Total number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires:</b>					
Fatalities	1.2	5.3	2.5	8.6	2.5
Non-Fatal Casualties	92.7	112.4	128.9	110.4	77.3
<b>OD5 - Number of Persons Rescued by the Service from (A) Fire and (B) Special Service Incidents per 1,000 Incidents:</b>					
Fire Incidents	27.6	34.4	18.6	33.1	30.7
Special Service Incidents	336.3	271.6	151.8	304.2	279.3
All Incidents	93.0	107.2	79.1	111.6	112.7

**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%	87.7%	92.0%
For Other Fires	85.8%	87.4%	71.8%	69.1%	79.4%

**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%	5.2%	6.1%
To short term sickness	4.1%	5.0%	5.2%	3.3%	2.2%
To long term sickness	3.0%	1.0%	1.6%	2.0%	3.8%
Lost due to service	1.7%	1.7%	1.1%	0.5%	0.4%
Lost - not due to service	5.4%	4.3%	5.8%	4.8%	5.6%
Lost due to light duties	*	*	*	Nil	Nil

\*Central Scotland Fire Brigade did not have a system of 'light duties' for these years, however, a system was introduced during 1995 - 96.

**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%	1.37%	0.68%
Outside Training	1.31%	0.79%	2.08%	1.94%	1.90%

**SF1/4** The number of wholetime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to the next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank:

Firefighter	14.6%	18.0%	19.5%	20.3%	20.6%
Leading Firefighter	56.7%	56.3%	68.8%	76.5%	53.9%
Sub-Officer	36.0%	33.3%	21.4%	25.0%	27.6%

**SF1/5** The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods:

Average handling time*	1.04 mins	1.00 mins	1.17 mins	1.04 mins	1.02 mins
% of calls handled in less than 1 minute	30.0%	30.0%	34.5%	50.0%	82.00%
% of calls handled in between 1 and 2 minutes	59.3%	61.2%	56.1%	44.5%	16.7%
% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	10.7%	8.8%	9.4%	5.5%	1.3%

\*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	1996 - 1997	1997-98
<b>OD1</b> 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%)	416 (30.2%)	425 (34.7%)
Secondary Fires	283 (19.0%)	313 (21.7%)	464 (26.2%)	270 (19.6%)	256 (20.9%)
Chimney Fires	493 (33.1%)	416 (28.8%)	462 (26.1%)	431 (31.3%)	329 (26.8%)
Special Services	243 (16.3%)	281 (19.4%)	384 (21.7%)	257 (18.7%)	216 (17.6%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>1,442</b>	<b>1,766</b>	<b>1,374</b>	<b>1,226</b>
<b>OD2</b> Number of false alarm calls by type and as a percentage of the total:					
Good Intent	549 (53.1%)	535 (58.1%)	583 (60.7%)	572 (63.5%)	497 (53.5%)
Apparatus	180 (17.4%)	150 (16.3%)	230 (23.9%)	194 (21.5%)	347 (37.4%)
Malicious	303 (29.3%)	235 (25.5%)	146 (15.2%)	134 (14.8%)	85 (9.1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>929</b>
<b>OD3</b> Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:					
Fire Incidents	8.4	7.8	9.3	7.6	6.8
Special Service Incidents	1.6	1.9	2.6	1.7	1.5
All Incidents	10.0	9.7	11.9	9.3	8.3
<b>OD4</b> Total number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires:					
Fatalities	10.7	18.5	2.2	4.8	7.1
Non-Fatal Casualties	83.2	62.5	63.6	81.7	84.7
<b>OD5</b> 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	16.8	28.2
Special Service Incidents	284.0	177.9	143.2	381.3	333.3
All Incidents	115.2	79.9	70.2	156.0	131.1

### 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	99.2%	99.5%	92.0%	99.6%	96.5%
For Other Fires	99.8%	99.4%	97.2%	99.0%	96.1%

**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%	4.4%	3.3%	4.4%
To short term sickness	3.8%	2.1%	2.0%	3.0%	2.5%
To long term sickness	4.9%	2.3%	2.3%	0.4%	1.9%
Lost due to service	0.1%	0.7%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%
Lost - not due to service	8.5%	3.8%	4.2%	3.3%	3.1%
Lost due to light duties	1.3%	0.1%	1.1%	Nil	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%	0.09%	3.12%	1.58%
Outside Training	0.18%	0.04%	0.19%	2.24%	0.16%

**SF1/4** The number of wholetime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to the next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank:

Firefighter	70.8%	62.5%	44.2%	36.0%	24.5%
Leading Firefighter	91.7%	91.7%	83.3%	33.3%	46.2%
Sub-Officer	87.5%	87.5%	91.7%	100.0%	66.7%

**SF1/5** The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods:

Average handling time*	* seconds	62 seconds	65 seconds	42 seconds	40 seconds
% of calls handled in less than 1 minute	*	60.6%	76.7%	78.5%	79.0%
% of calls handled in between 1 and 2 minutes	*	32.5%	18.9%	17.4%	18.1%
% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	*	6.9%	4.4%	4.1%	2.9%

\* 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	1996-97	1997-98
<b>OD1</b>	<b>Number of emergency calls, other than false alarm calls, by type and as a percentage of the total:</b>				
Fires	1,185 (34.3%)	1,032 (27.2%)	1,077 (24.7%)	1,110 (29.6%)	1,099 (31.0%)
Secondary Fires	1,241 (35.9%)	1,861 (49.1%)	2,179 (50.0%)	1,762 (47.0%)	1,500 (42.2%)
Chimney Fires	565 (16.3%)	439 (11.6%)	386 (8.8%)	323 (8.6%)	240 (6.8%)
Special Services	462 (13.3%)	452 (11.9%)	710 (16.3%)	553 (14.7%)	712 (20.0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,453</b>	<b>3,784</b>	<b>4,352</b>	<b>3,748</b>	<b>3,551</b>
<b>OD2</b>	<b>Number of false alarm calls by type and as a percentage of the total:</b>				
Good Intent	1,170 (43.2%)	1,354 (48.9%)	1,732 (53.6%)	530 (17.6%)	456 (15.3%)
Apparatus	559 (20.6%)	566 (20.4%)	728 (22.5%)	1,768 (58.7%)	1,876 (62.8%)
Malicious	976 (36.0%)	848 (30.6%)	771 (23.8%)	710 (23.6%)	656 (21.9%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,705</b>	<b>2,768</b>	<b>3,231</b>	<b>3,008</b>	<b>2,988</b>
<b>OD3</b>	<b>Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:</b>				
Fire Incidents	8.1	9.5	10.4	9.1	8.1
Special Service Incidents	1.1	1.3	2.0	1.6	2.0
All Incidents	9.2	10.8	12.4	10.7	10.1
<b>OD4</b>	<b>Total number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires:</b>				
Fatalities	7.1	8.7	3.7	8.1	0.9
Non-Fatal Casualties	90.2	124.0	122.6	141.4	92.8
<b>OD5</b>	<b>Number of Persons Rescued by the Service from (A) Fire and (B) Special Service Incidents per 1,000 Incidents:</b>				
Fire Incidents	38.4	25.2	26.0	55.0	21.8
Special Service Incidents	371.6	238.9	238.0	341.8	226.1
All Incidents	126.2	90.3	110.2	150.3	102.2

### Part 2 - Scottish Fire Indicators

<b>SF1/1</b>	<b>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):</b>				
For Property Fires and Fire False Alarms	94.7%	91.5%	92.4%	91.7%	93.5%
For Other Fires	95.5%	92.7%	89.3%	90.2%	94.7%
<b>SF1/2</b>	<b>The percentage of Shift Rider and Day Crew Rider Shifts Lost due to Sickness and Light Duties:</b>				
Lost to all sickness	10.9%	6.9%	8.8%	10.5%	8.9%
To short term sickness	3.5%	3.5%	3.7%	3.8%	3.5%
To long term sickness	7.4%	3.4%	5.1%	6.7%	5.4%
Lost due to service	1.6%	1.2%	1.5%	1.7%	1.5%
Lost - not due to service	9.3%	5.7%	7.2%	8.8%	7.3%
Lost due to light duties	*	0.2%	0.5%	0.7%	1.0%
<i>* The figure for Fife Fire and Rescue Service was not available for this year</i>					
<b>SF1/3</b>	<b>The percentage of rider wholetime shifts devoted to training activities while riders are off the run:</b>				
Centralised Training	0.55%	1.92%	2.62%	4.68%	3.61%
Outside Training	0.97%	1.65%	1.70%	3.48%	3.59%
<b>SF1/4</b>	<b>The number of wholetime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to the next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank:</b>				
Firefighter	27.7%	25.9%	31.6%	27.8%	24.0%
Leading Firefighter	42.8%	37.5%	50.0%	29.7%	35.4%
Sub-Officer	44.8%	34.5%	48.3%	34.5%	26.7%
<b>SF1/5</b>	<b>The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods:</b>				
Average handling time	75 seconds	60 seconds	58 seconds	55 seconds	52 seconds
% of calls handled in less than 1 minute	49.5%	53.0%	62.8%	64.2%	70.3%
% of calls handled in between 1 and 2 minutes	39.8%	38.7%	32.2%	31.7%	27.0%
% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	10.7%	8.3%	5.0%	4.1%	2.7%

## Grampian Fire Brigade

### Part 1 - Operational Data

	1993 - 1994	1994 - 1995	1995 - 1996	1996-97	1997-98
<b>OD1</b>	<b>Number of emergency calls, other than false alarm calls, by type and as a percentage of the total:</b>				
Fires	1,552 (33.4%)	1,503 (30.1%)	1,560 (26.1%)	1,515 (29.3%)	1,456 (29.9%)
Secondary Fires	1,103 (23.8%)	1,884 (37.8%)	1,730 (29.0%)	1,901 (36.8%)	1,678 (34.4%)
Chimney Fires	1,126 (24.3%)	846 (16.9%)	866 (14.5%)	830 (16.1%)	639 (13.1%)
Special Services	859 (18.5%)	757 (15.2%)	1,805 (30.3%)	913 (17.7%)	1,100 (22.6%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,640</b>	<b>4,990</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>5,159</b>	<b>4,873</b>
<b>OD2</b>	<b>Number of false alarm calls by type and as a percentage of the total:</b>				
Good Intent	1,884 (58.4%)	2,025 (60.6%)	2,262 (62.1%)	2,144 (59.7%)	2,124 (56.3%)
Apparatus	755 (23.4%)	770 (23.1%)	961 (26.4%)	956 (26.7%)	1,209 (32.0%)
Malicious	582 (18.1%)	544 (16.3%)	415 (11.4%)	486 (13.5%)	443 (11.7%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,221</b>	<b>3,339</b>	<b>3,638</b>	<b>3,586</b>	<b>3,776</b>
<b>OD3</b>	<b>Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:</b>				
Fire Incidents	7.5	8.4	7.9	8.0	7.1
Special Service Incidents	1.9	1.5	3.4	1.7	2.1
All Incidents	9.4	9.9	11.3	9.8	9.2
<b>OD4</b>	<b>Total number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires:</b>				
Fatalities	9.0	2.7	7.1	1.9	8.9
Non-Fatal Casualties	134.0	128.4	102.6	139.3	151.1
<b>OD5</b>	<b>Number of Persons Rescued by the Service from (A) Fire and (B) Special Service Incidents per 1,000 Incidents:</b>				
Fire Incidents	43.2	41.3	31.4	35.0	41.9
Special Service Incidents	311.8	453.1	123.1	168.7	264.6
All Incidents	145.8	179.2	80.6	85.3	137.7

### Part 2 - Scottish Fire Indicators

<b>SF1/1</b>	<b>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):</b>				
For Property Fires and					
Fire False Alarms	*	91.9%	97.4%	93.4%	96.6%
For Other Fires	*	92.0%	96.4%	90.5%	97.1%
<b>SF1/2</b>	<b>The percentage of Shift Rider and Day Crew Rider Shifts Lost due to Sickness and Light Duties:</b>				
Lost to all sickness	*	*	2.2%	8.5%	6.3%
To short term sickness	*	*	0.9%	4.0%	3.1%
To long term sickness	*	*	1.2%	4.4%	3.3%
Lost due to service	*	*	0.1%	0.6%	1.0%
Lost - not due to service	*	*	2.1%	7.6%	5.3%
Lost due to light duties	*	*	0.1%	1.1%	0.9%
<b>SF1/3</b>	<b>The percentage of rider wholtime shifts devoted to training activities while riders are off the run:</b>				
Centralised Training	*	*	0.45%	0.40%	1.49%
Outside Training	*	*	4.24%	3.40%	1.65%
<b>SF1/4</b>	<b>The number of wholtime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to the next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank:</b>				
Firefighter	15.0%	15.6%	15.5%	16.5%	6.9%
Leading Firefighter	20.3%	32.6%	27.8%	35.9%	17.0%
Sub-Officer	12.9%	27.8%	17.9%	20.8%	16.7%
<b>SF1/5</b>	<b>The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods:</b>				
Average handling time	47 seconds	38 seconds	47 seconds	51 seconds	49 seconds
% of calls handled in less than 1 minute	76.9%	75.9%	77.2%	73.4%	74.5%
% of calls handled in between 1 and 2 minutes	20.8%	21.4%	20.5%	24.0%	22.8%
% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	2.3%	2.7%	2.3%	2.6%	2.7%

\* Figures for Grampian Fire Brigade were not available for this year

## Highland and Islands Fire Brigade

### Part 1 - Operational Data

	1993 - 1994	1994 - 1995	1995 - 1996	1996-97	1997-98
<b>OD1</b>	<b>Number of emergency calls, other than false alarm calls, by type and as a percentage of the total:</b>				
Fires	703 (18.5%)	710 (20.6%)	831 (19.0%)	713 (20.3%)	704 (23.1%)
Secondary Fires	635 (16.7%)	673 (19.5%)	1,212 (27.7%)	872 (24.8%)	537 (17.7%)
Chimney Fires	2,096 (55.4%)	1,710 (49.6%)	1,872 (42.9%)	1,500 (42.7%)	1,352 (44.4%)
Special Services	349 (9.2%)	349 (10.1%)	446 (10.2%)	426 (12.1%)	450 (14.8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,783</b>	<b>3,442</b>	<b>4,361</b>	<b>3,511</b>	<b>3,043</b>
<b>OD2</b>	<b>Number of false alarm calls by type and as a percentage of the total:</b>				
Good Intent	855 (57.0%)	1,143 (62.3%)	1,330 (66.7%)	1,222 (67.0%)	1,285 (67.7%)
Apparatus	216 (14.4%)	302 (16.5%)	354 (17.7%)	320 (17.5%)	350 (18.4%)
Malicious	429 (28.6%)	387 (21.1%)	309 (15.5%)	280 (15.3%)	264 (13.9%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,832</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>1,822</b>	<b>1,899</b>
<b>OD3</b>	<b>Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:</b>				
Fire Incidents	12.3	11.1	14.0	11.0	9.3
Special Service Incidents	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.6
All Incidents	13.6	12.4	15.6	12.5	10.9
<b>OD4</b>	<b>Total number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires:</b>				
Fatalities	5.7	9.9	4.8	11.2	18.5
Non-Fatal Casualties	19.9	104.2 *	69.8	85.6	88.1
	<i>* increase due to a change in the Highland and Islands Fire Brigade's criteria for recording casualties</i>				
<b>OD5</b>	<b>Number of Persons Rescued by the Service from (A) Fire and (B) Special Service Incidents per 1,000 Incidents:</b>				
Fire Incidents	17.1	47.9	20.5	28.1	35.5
Special Service Incidents	204.2	123.2	217.5	291.1	264.4
All Incidents	80.8	72.7	89.3	126.4	124.8

### Part 2 - Scottish Fire Indicators

<b>SF1/1</b>	<b>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):</b>				
For Property Fires and					
Fire False Alarms	*	95.7%	91.0%	89.2%	85.0%
For Other Fires	*	96.7%	83.8%	79.7%	76.1%
	<i>* Figures for Highland and Islands Fire Brigade were not available for this year</i>				
<b>SF1/2</b>	<b>The percentage of Shift Rider and Day Crew Rider Shifts Lost due to Sickness and Light Duties:</b>				
Lost to all sickness	4.1%	5.5%	6.2%	7.3%	8.8%
To short term sickness	2.5%	2.1%	2.4%	5.0%	1.3%
To long term sickness	1.6%	3.4%	3.9%	2.3%	7.5%
Lost due to service	1.0%	1.5%	0.8%	1.7%	7.8%
Lost - not due to service	3.0%	4.0%	5.4%	5.6%	1.0%
Lost due to light duties	*	*	Nil	0.4%	0.4%
	<i>* Highland and Islands Fire Brigade did not have a system of light duties for these years</i>				
<b>SF1/3</b>	<b>The percentage of rider wholetime shifts devoted to training activities while riders are off the run:</b>				
Centralised Training	0.97%	0.13%	Nil*	2.17%	1.04%
Outside Training	0.68%	0.63%	2.70%	2.17%	3.27%
	<i>* Any centralised training was undertaken by personnel on delayed turnout, as a result no duty shifts were lost</i>				
<b>SF1/4</b>	<b>The number of wholetime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to the next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank:</b>				
Firefighter	34.6%	41.5%	39.3%	29.8%	17.9%
Leading Firefighter	78.5%	72.7%	80.0%	72.7%	52.6%
Sub-Officer	85.7%	57.1%	50.0%	57.1%	28.6%
<b>SF1/5</b>	<b>The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods:</b>				
Average handling time	72 seconds	68 seconds	63 seconds	55 seconds	67 seconds
% of calls handled in less than 1 minute	47.5%	52.9%	56.4%	57.8%	53.8%
% of calls handled in between 1 and 2 minutes	43.0%	40.2%	38.4%	35.9%	39.1%
% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	9.5%	6.9%	5.2%	6.3%	7.1%



## Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade

### Part 1 - Operational Data

	1993 - 1994	1994 - 1995	1995 - 1996	1996-97	1997-98
<b>OD1</b>	<b>Number of emergency calls, other than false alarm calls, by type and as a percentage of the total:</b>				
Fires	3,793 (40.3%)	3,521 (34.7%)	3,730 (30.8%)	3,578 (33.7%)	3,491 (35.5%)
Secondary Fires	3,624 (38.5%)	4,777 (47.1%)	6,113 (50.5%)	4,947 (46.6%)	4,271 (43.4%)
Chimney Fires	868 (9.2%)	702 (6.9%)	691 (5.7%)	586 (5.5%)	483 (4.9%)
Special Services	1,118 (11.8%)	1,138 (11.2%)	1,555 (12.8%)	1,488 (14.0%)	1,590 (16.2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,403</b>	<b>10,138</b>	<b>12,089</b>	<b>10,599</b>	<b>9,835</b>
<b>OD2</b>	<b>Number of false alarm calls by type and as a percentage of the total:</b>				
Good Intent	4,567 (59.4%)	5,007 (64.8%)	5,299 (57.1%)	1,397 (15.1%)	1,259 (13.5%)
Apparatus	1,319 (17.1%)	1,360 (17.6%)	2,791 (30.0%)	6,481 (70.1%)	6,885 (73.7%)
Malicious	1,800 (23.4%)	1,356 (17.5%)	1,188 (12.8%)	1,362 (14.7%)	1,194 (12.8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,686</b>	<b>7,723</b>	<b>9,278</b>	<b>9,240</b>	<b>9,338</b>
<b>OD3</b>	<b>Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:</b>				
Fire Incidents	9.7	10.5	12.3	10.6	9.6
Special Service Incidents	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.7	1.9
All Incidents	11.0	11.8	14.1	12.3	11.5
<b>OD4</b>	<b>Total number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires:</b>				
Fatalities	3.7	2.3	1.9	2.0	3.2
Non-Fatal Casualties	95.4	88.6	86.3	105.4	103.1
<b>OD5</b>	<b>Number of Persons Rescued by the Service from (A) Fire and (B) Special Service Incidents per 1,000 Incidents:</b>				
Fire Incidents	39.3	37.5	23.9	41.1	46.1
Special Service Incidents	201.2	176.6	155.0	184.1	186.2
All Incidents	76.2	71.5	62.4	83.1	89.9

### Part 2 - Scottish Fire Indicators

<b>SF1/1</b>	<b>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):</b>				
For Property Fires and					
Fire False Alarms	91.3%	91.4%	91.8%	93.5%	95.3%
For Other Fires	90.7%	89.9%	91.3%	91.3%	92.7%
<b>SF1/2</b>	<b>The percentage of Shift Rider and Day Crew Rider Shifts Lost due to Sickness and Light Duties:</b>				
Lost to all sickness	5.9%	6.0%	6.8%	6.3%	6.2%
To short term sickness	3.0%	2.7%	3.6%	3.1%	2.9%
To long term sickness	2.8%	3.4%	3.2%	3.2%	3.3%
Lost due to service	0.8%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	0.4%
Lost - not due to service	5.1%	5.5%	6.2%	5.7%	5.8%
Lost due to light duties	1.7%	0.9%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%
<b>SF1/3</b>	<b>The percentage of rider wholetime shifts devoted to training activities while riders are off the run:</b>				
Centralised Training	1.07%	1.73%	0.85%	1.59%	1.96%
Outside Training	0.11%	0.87%	2.85%	1.85%	2.29%
<b>SF1/4</b>	<b>The number of wholetime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to the next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank:</b>				
Firefighter	24.3%	23.1%	24.7%	20.8%	24.8%
Leading Firefighter	36.8%	30.0%	35.6%	28.1%	23.2%
Sub-Officer	30.0%	30.6%	35.3%	23.3%	23.0%
<b>SF1/5</b>	<b>The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods:</b>				
Average handling time	* seconds	* seconds	* seconds	* seconds	* seconds
% of calls handled in less than 1 minute	*	*	*	*	*
% of calls handled in between 1 and 2 minutes	*	*	*	*	*
% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	*	*	*	*	*

• Figures for Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade are not available

## Strathclyde Fire Brigade

### Part 1 - Operational Data

	1993 - 1994	1994 - 1995	1995 - 1996	1996-97	1997-98
<b>OD1</b>	<b>Number of emergency calls, other than false alarm calls, by type and as a percentage of the total:</b>				
Fires	10,242 (31.0%)	9,731 (28.4%)	10,512 (25.3%)	9,787 (29.7%)	9,511 (31.7%)
Secondary Fires	17,113 (51.8%)	18,850 (55.2%)	23,895 (57.5%)	17,869 (54.2%)	15,552 (51.8%)
Chimney Fires	1,800 (5.4%)	1,267 (3.7%)	1,301 (3.1%)	1,121 (3.4%)	787 (2.6%)
Special Services	3,854 (11.6%)	4,297 (12.5%)	5,796 (13.9%)	4,149 (12.6%)	4,177 (13.9%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,009</b>	<b>34,145</b>	<b>41,504</b>	<b>32,926</b>	<b>30,027</b>
<b>OD2</b>	<b>Number of false alarm calls by type and as a percentage of the total:</b>				
Good Intent	11,632 (38.0%)	12,342 (50.7%)	12,570 (49.3%)	8,353 (35.1%)	7,981 (34.5%)
Apparatus	4,956 (16.2%)	5,048 (20.7%)	7,227 (28.3%)	10,440 (43.8%)	10,688 (46.3%)
Malicious	13,970 (45.7%)	6,926 (28.4%)	5,681 (22.2%)	4,998 (21.0%)	4,426 (19.2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,558</b>	<b>24,316</b>	<b>25,478</b>	<b>23,791</b>	<b>23,095</b>
<b>OD3</b>	<b>Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:</b>				
Fire Incidents	12.0	13.0	15.6	12.6	11.0
Special Service Incidents	1.6	1.9	2.5	1.8	1.8
All Incidents	13.6	14.9	18.1	14.4	12.8
<b>OD4</b>	<b>Total number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires:</b>				
Fatalities	4.1	4.3	5.6	5.9	4.5
Non-Fatal Casualties	75.0	81.7	80.4	86.1	105.0
<b>OD5</b>	<b>Number of Persons Rescued by the Service from (A) Fire and (B) Special Service Incidents per 1,000 Incidents:</b>				
Fire Incidents	22.6	23.0	21.9	22.5	14.5
Special Service Incidents	91.3	132.9	38.5	39.3	77.8
All Incidents	40.4	56.7	38.9	43.4	33.8

### 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 are not available*

**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%	8.6%	10.6%
To short term sickness	3.2%	3.3%	3.6%	3.8%	4.3%
To long term sickness	4.7%	5.8%	5.3%	4.8%	6.4%
Lost due to service	1.2%	1.1%	0.9%	0.8%	1.1%
Lost - not due to service	6.8%	7.8%	7.8%	7.9%	9.5%
Lost due to light duties	*	*	0.04%	0.1%	0.1%

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

**SF1/3** The percentage of rider wholtime shifts devoted to training activities while riders are off the run:

Centralised Training	1.21%	0.85%	0.85%	2.25%	2.45%
Outside Training	0.75%	0.55%	0.05%	1.99%	2.21%

**SF1/4** The number of wholtime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to the next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank:

Firefighter	15.0%	3.8%	6.1%	6.3%	15.8%
Leading Firefighter	23.3%	7.4%	9.6%	13.0%	15.8%
Sub-Officer	18.8%	16.3%	11.9%	25.6%	14.0%

**SF1/5** The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods:

Average handling time	* seconds	* seconds	* seconds	* seconds	* seconds
% of calls handled in less than 1 minute	*	*	*	*	*
% of calls handled in between 1 and 2 minutes	*	*	*	*	*
% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	*	*	*	*	*

• *Figures for Strathclyde Fire Brigade are not available*

## Tayside Fire Brigade

### Part 1 - Operational Data

	1993 - 1994	1994 - 1995	1995 - 1996	1996-97	1997-98
<b>OD1</b> 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 (25.7%)	1,593 (28.9%)	1,518 (30.8%)
Secondary Fires	2,629 (47.0%)	3,276 (54.5%)	3,161 (49.8%)	2,846 (51.7%)	2,390 (48.5%)
Chimney Fires	602 (10.7%)	469 (7.8%)	418 (6.5%)	398 (7.2%)	338 (6.9%)
Special Services	645 (11.5%)	580 (9.6%)	1,130 (17.8%)	663 (12.0%)	677 (13.8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,586</b>	<b>6,007</b>	<b>6,346</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>4,923</b>
<b>OD2</b> 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 (23.3%)	644 (15.7%)	685 (16.7%)
Apparatus	647 (20.8%)	662 (19.3%)	2,352 (59.1%)	2,812 (68.8%)	2,855 (69.7%)
Malicious	723 (23.3%)	756 (22.1%)	696 (17.4%)	626 (15.3%)	555 (13.6%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,105</b>	<b>3,418</b>	<b>3,978</b>	<b>4,082</b>	<b>4,095</b>
<b>OD3</b> Total number of (A) fire incidents and (B) special service incidents per 1,000 population:					
Fire Incidents	12.5	13.7	13.2	12.3	10.8
Special Service Incidents	1.6	1.5	2.9	1.7	1.7
All Incidents	14.1	15.2	16.1	14.0	12.5
<b>OD4</b> Total number of brigade recorded (A) Fatalities and (B) Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 FDR1 fires:					
Fatalities	10.5	2.4	3.1	5.0	2.6
Non-Fatal Casualties	59.1	82.6	68.6	98.6	77.1
<b>OD5</b> 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	31.4	44.1
Special Service Incidents	221.7	277.6	126.6	206.6	211.2
All Incidents	85.5	90.6	69.4	82.9	95.7

### 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%	88.5%	84.6%	85.6%	95.3%
For Other Fires	94.8%	85.8%	83.2%	82.6%	93.0%

**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%	3.7%	5.9%
To short term sickness	2.3%	1.7%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%
To long term sickness	2.4%	2.6%	2.2%	1.7%	3.7%
Lost due to service	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%	1.0%
Lost - not due to service	4.3%	3.7%	3.8%	3.3%	4.9%
Lost due to light duties	0.1%	0.2%	0.8%	0.1%	0.3%

**SF1/3** The percentage of rider wholtime shifts devoted to training activities while riders are off the run:

Centralised Training	0.75%	1.02%	0.45%	0.52%	0.42%
Outside Training	3.02%	3.82%	3.25%	1.81%	1.91%

**SF1/4** The number of wholtime uniformed personnel qualified for promotion to the next higher rank, as a percentage of actual Service strength for the rank:

Firefighter	41.0%	36.6%	39.6%	40.5%	39.8%
Leading Firefighter	89.1%	48.9%	66.7%	65.2%	94.6%
Sub-Officer	71.0%	74.4%	72.2%	70.3%	46.8%

**SF1/5** The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods:

Average handling time	* seconds	* seconds	54 seconds	56 seconds	56 seconds
% of calls handled in less than 1 minute	*	*	67.0%	65.7%	65.6%
% of calls handled in between 1 and 2 minutes	*	*	27.6%	31.7%	31.4%
% of calls handled in 2 minutes or more	*	*	5.4%	2.6%	3.0%

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

**Financial Returns 1997-98**

<b>Brigade</b>	<b>Revenue £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Capital £</b>
Central Scotland	10,034,000	773,256	1,132,842
Dumfries and Galloway	5,814,000	37,393	865,000
Fife	13,241,000	1,235,000	841,000
Grampian	16,285,000	1,592,000	1,442,000
Highland and Islands	7,879,273	70,262	1,764,699
Lothian and Borders	27,529,510	424,500	2,417,000
Strathclyde	81,472,760	5,912,000	6,025,000
Tayside	16,143,000	1,154,000	1,160,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>178,398,543</b>	<b>11,198,411</b>	<b>15,647,541</b>



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