



SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Her Majesty's  
Inspector of Fire Services  
for Scotland  
*Report for 1975*

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland  
by Command of Her Majesty  
September 1976*

EDINBURGH  
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
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## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
REPORT . . . . .	5
 CHAPTER I OPERATIONAL	
Fire prevention . . . . .	10
Mutual assistance . . . . .	11
Appliances and equipment . . . . .	11
Water supplies . . . . .	11
Research . . . . .	11
Communications . . . . .	12
 CHAPTER II ADMINISTRATION	
Honours and Awards . . . . .	13
Reorganisation . . . . .	13
Promotions . . . . .	13
Uniformed personnel: Operational . . . . .	14
Non-uniformed staff . . . . .	14
Premises . . . . .	14
Discipline . . . . .	15
Health . . . . .	15
 CHAPTER III TRAINING	
Scottish Fire Service Training School . . . . .	16
Fire Service Colleges . . . . .	16
Fire Services (Scotland) Central Examinations Board . . . . .	16
Programmed Learning . . . . .	17
Fire Service Sports and Athletics Association . . . . .	17
 CHAPTER IV GENERAL	
Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council . . . . .	19
Legislation . . . . .	19
 TABLES	
1 Establishment and Strength 1975 . . . . .	22
2 Changes in whole-time strength 1975 . . . . .	24
3 Summary of Fires and Special Services 1975 . . . . .	25
4 Fire Prevention Inspection 1975 . . . . .	26
5 Statement of Revenue Expenditure and Income 1975. . . . .	28
6 Statement of Capital Expenditure 1975 . . . . .	29



## Report 1975

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

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE BRUCE MILLAN, M.P.

*Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Scotland.*

SIR,

1. I have the honour to submit my report on the Fire Services in Scotland for the year ended 31st December, 1975. The introduction highlights the main features and events of the year. Greater detail is given in the Chapters and Tables which follow.

2. Following the reorganisation of local government which took effect on 16th May, 1975, fire services became the responsibility of the Regional and Islands Area Councils. Orders were made by you, with the consent of the Councils involved, creating administration schemes for 2 brigades covering more than one fire area—the Highland Region and the Islands Areas of Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles being brought together under the Northern Fire Board and the Lothian and Borders Regions being brought together under the Lothian and Borders Fire Board. The effect of this was to create 8 fire brigades in place of the 11 which were in existence prior to reorganisation.

3. With the exception of the Fife Fire Brigade, all brigades underwent changes in their territorial areas. These changes, together with the creation of new and larger fire authorities in place of the earlier Joint Committees, created problems, including those of transfer of personnel and adjustment to new administrative procedures. Not all of these have yet been resolved in the short time since reorganisation but, given co-operation and extra effort, I have no doubt that the new arrangements will speedily settle down.

4. The 8 new brigades have been inspected by me and my staff and I am pleased to report that, despite the difficulties, a satisfactory standard of efficiency was found to have been maintained.

5. I am pleased to report that there has been a reduction in the number of deaths due to fire this year. From a peak of 158 in 1973, the number of fatalities dropped to 145 in 1974, falling further to 143 in 1975. This is not, however, a matter about which we can be complacent. The toll is still unacceptably high and the efforts of Government, fire authorities and the public must continue to be directed towards further reduction.

6. In my report for 1974, I drew attention to the fact that fire (and its associated hazards) can cause death very quickly indeed and I called on members of the public to waste no time in contacting the fire service as soon as a fire is discovered. It is disappointing that, although total numbers of deaths have diminished, 123 persons died in 1975 before the arrival of the fire brigade, compared with 83 in the previous year. This high figure reinforces the advice I gave last year and I repeat my call for all concerned to seek the aid of the fire

service without hesitation in order that the professionalism and expertise of this emergency force can be brought into operation with minimum delay.

7. Carelessness is still the main cause of fires in the home and industry. Much effort has been devoted by the Department, and the fire brigades, to conducting publicity campaigns but much of the advice seems to fall on deaf ears. While it is arguable that each individual has the right to lead his own life in his own way, no one has the right to place the lives of others at risk. I therefore make this plea to all members of the community, whether at home or at work—"Protect your neighbour from fire; take care that your mistakes will not result in the deaths of others."

8. Monetary fire losses for Scotland rose during 1975 by £4.7 million to a total of £26.4 million. Much of this could be attributed to inflation but it is still much too high. The figures compare with losses for Great Britain of £212.7 million in 1975 and £237 million in 1974. These figures take no account of consequential losses and the total penalty for allowing such fires to occur must be vastly greater when one takes into account the losses of profit and production suffered while industrial and commercial assets are out of action until restoration can be carried out.

9. The total number of fire calls received by brigades during the year was 27,296 compared with 33,483 in the previous year. This figure does not include chimney fires which amounted to 4,059 in 1975 compared with 4,983 in the previous year. The number of false alarm calls also showed a decrease—13,402 as compared with 15,797 in 1974.

10. This welcome trend towards reduction conceals the worrying fact that the number of malicious calls was nearly 5,000. A person who deliberately diverts a fire appliance, and its crew, to a fictitious incident creates a real danger. Those in genuine risk from fire are liable to lose vital minutes in awaiting the arrival of a re-directed appliance. One might charitably assume that those passing false calls are not wholly aware of the harm which they are likely to cause. Nevertheless, action of this kind should not be tolerated in a civilised society and one wonders whether the deterrents are strong enough or whether sufficient use is being made of the existing deterrent when convicted offenders are being dealt with in the courts.

11. Despite a temporary setback caused by industrial action, progress continues to be made in the field of fire prevention both by way of implementing the statutory duties of the fire brigade and by giving advice to industry, commerce and the general public. It is the Government's declared intention to transfer certain fire safety functions from the Health and Safety Executive to fire authorities at the beginning of 1977 and the authorities are already considering the effects of the decision on the workloads of brigades.

12. The Department, and the brigades, have continued to be active in the field of fire prevention publicity. After a fire in a small guest house resulting in the death of 6 persons, a fire precautions advice leaflet was circulated to all such premises in Scotland. Thanks are due to the Scottish Tourist Board and the fire brigades for their co-operation in this exercise. During the year, a new fire prevention campaign was launched with the younger citizens in mind. A broadsheet called "Blazebuster" was published by the Scottish Information Office for distribution to school children and a special badge was produced to give to

those children who had demonstrated an interest in fire prevention. A reception, attended by Mr. Harry Ewing, M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, was held in Edinburgh when children from several parts of Scotland were presented with these badges. A second issue of the broadsheet was being considered at the end of the year by the Fire Precautions Publicity Steering Committee on which are represented the fire authorities as well as the Department and the Scottish Information Office.

13. Following the bulge in recruitment which resulted from the introduction of the 48-hour week for firemen, the number of whole-time personnel recruited in 1975 was 497 men and 49 women compared with 771 men and 37 women in the previous year. During the year, 249 men and 43 women left the service compared with 216 men and 16 women in the previous year. Fire brigades were beginning to experience difficulty in recruiting personnel of the right calibre in certain areas. The situation is, however, far from critical. Towards the end of the year, several brigades had ceased recruiting altogether because of the restrictions on local authority manpower and expenditure made necessary by the economic state of the country. The full effects of this will not be felt until 1976.

14. The Scottish Fire Service Training School at Gullane continued to cope ably with the training of recruits. Although the number of recruits attending the School was down by 53 on the record figure of 572 achieved in 1974, this was still well above the number to which the School has been accustomed and is equipped to deal with. The success of this exercise was due entirely to the hard work of the staff of the School assisted by the training officers of the fire brigades and I should like to express my appreciation of their efforts during the year. Plans for improving and extending the facilities of the School were well advanced by the end of the year and I look forward to the provision of facilities which will be adequate (though not elaborate) for the tasks which that establishment is asked to carry out.

15. Part-time firemen continue to provide fire cover in many parts of the country. Although recruitment into this section of the service is becoming more difficult, I am pleased to report that the numbers of both retained, and volunteer, personnel increased in 1975 to 2,234 and 1,050 respectively.

16. In the field of communications, existing services continued to be improved and extended. Three brigades have now incorporated the radio-pocket-alerter system into their call-out systems and one other brigade is in process of introducing this relatively modern technique. As well as improving the efficiency of the call-out arrangements, the disturbance to members of the public by the operation of sirens will be greatly reduced.

17. In my report for 1974, I drew attention to the impact which North Sea oil developments were having on the fire service in the north and north-eastern parts of the country. The fire brigades are being consulted by developers and local authority planners and I feel sure that adequate precautions against fire will be incorporated in all new developments. Most of these new projects are to be sited in places where fire cover is provided by retained firemen and considerable attention was being devoted by fire authorities during the year to the new arrangements which might have to be introduced. Development on the necessary scale will have to take account of the current financial stringency but there is, nevertheless, an imperative need to see that the public are protected

from new risks, whether by the fire authorities, the developers, or a combination of both. In the meantime, the fire brigades continued to co-operate fully in training the staff working in these new fields, both off-shore and on-shore. This side of the fire brigades' activities will have to be progressively extended as the new facilities come into operation.

18. This has been a very difficult year for the fire brigades since the upheaval necessarily caused by reorganisation of local government was followed by a period of industrial action which restricted operations and made it more difficult to adapt quickly to the new administrative pattern. Despite the strains created by these events, the operational efficiency of the service was not impaired.

19. I should like to pay tribute once more to all members of the fire brigades in Scotland, whether whole-time, retained or volunteer, for the manner in which they carried out their duties in the past year. Without their efforts, and those of the elected members and officials of the fire authorities, it would not have been possible to present a satisfactory report on the activities of the brigades in such a difficult period.

20. The Fire Service seeks neither reward nor acclaim from the public for performing its duties. It does, however, appreciate any assistance from the public towards reducing the loss of life and property. I hope that the figures in next year's report will demonstrate that such assistance has been given.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,  
JOHN JACKSON

*H.M. Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland.*

July, 1976.



# CHAPTER I

## *Operational*

1.1 Following last year's reduction in the number of fire calls, the first since 1961, the total decreased again from 33,483 (excluding calls to chimney fires) to 27,296 in 1975, a reduction of 6,187. Chimney fires dropped from 4,983 in 1974 to 4,059. The number of false alarms with good intent dropped from 10,106 last year to 8,410. Malicious alarm calls accounted for 4,992 attendances. Although this figure is 699 less than 1974, it is still much too high and such calls divert fire service personnel and fire appliances from urgent cases.

1.2 Special service calls decreased by 1,492 to a total of 3,436 in 1975. Loss of life occurred at 105 incidents, 4 down on the previous year. There were 525 incidents where persons suffered injuries compared with 526 in 1974. The number of occasions where fire occurred as a result of a road accident was relatively small being 25 in both 1975 and the preceding year.

1.3 The death toll due to fire dropped to 143 during 1975. This is the second year running showing a reduction even though a small one from the 1974 total of 145. A total of 123 persons died or received injuries resulting in death before the arrival of the fire brigade. This figure is about 50 per cent higher than 1974. Because of the rate of combustion of modern products, and the toxicity of the by-products of combustion, speed of attendance by the fire brigade is more than ever essential in order to save life. The first action upon discovery of fire should be to call the fire brigade in order that vital seconds can be saved.

1.4 Estimated fire losses for Great Britain (excluding Northern Ireland) were reduced by 10.1 per cent, being £213 million compared with £237 million in 1974. This includes Scottish losses of £26.4 million; £4.7 million greater than in the previous year. It is not possible to suggest a direct, or simple, explanation for the fluctuations which occur in fire loss figures. Inflation undoubtedly explains some of the increase. Despite the reduction in fire calls, described in paragraph 1.1, there has been a greater number of fires involving high losses. Despite the measures taken by industry and commerce to prevent the spread of fire within their premises, fires seem to go on costing more. Conscientious management, and their fire safety officers, who have throughout the years devised schemes for the protection of workers from fire, will no doubt welcome the advent of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act, 1974 which makes safety at work a joint responsibility of management and workers. Those companies which had earlier set up safety committees covering fire dangers, as well as other risks, are to be commended on their foresight.

1.5 The following table lists some of the major fires (£100,000 and over) occurring in Scotland during 1975:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Building</i>	<i>Estimated Loss</i> £000's
Central	Warehouse	150
Dumfries & Galloway	Engineers Workshops	900
Fife	Departmental Store	1,040

<i>Area</i>	<i>Building</i>	<i>Estimated Loss</i> £000's
Fife	School	600
Fife	Aluminium Works	250
Fife	Recreation Hall	210
Fife	Church	100
Grampian	Hotel	118
Lothian & Borders	Wool Mill	1,100
Lothian & Borders	Spirit Merchants	287
Lothian & Borders	Pet Food Manufacturer	137
Lothian & Borders	School	100
Strathclyde	Packaging Warehouse	910
Strathclyde	Whisky Bond	855
Strathclyde	Castle	602
Strathclyde	School	550
Strathclyde	Timber Yard	511
Strathclyde	Furniture Warehouse	455
Strathclyde	Racing Stadium	415
Strathclyde	School	310
Strathclyde	Unoccupied Building	250
Strathclyde	Distillery	197
Strathclyde	Shoe Warehouse	180
Strathclyde	Hall	153
Strathclyde	Warehouse	148
Strathclyde	Electrical Manufacturer	140
Strathclyde	Hosiery Manufacturer	130
Strathclyde	Engineering Works	125
Strathclyde	Country Mansion	120
Strathclyde	House	120
Strathclyde	Furniture Warehouse	107
Strathclyde	Refrigeration Engineers	100
Strathclyde	Departmental Store	100
Strathclyde	School	100
Tayside	Farm	148
Tayside	Engineering Works	120
Tayside	Furniture Manufacturer	101
Total		£11,939,000

### **Fire Prevention**

1.6 A total of 42,937 premises was inspected by fire brigades on one or more occasions. Discussions on submitted plans accounted for a further 9,519 meetings with architects, owners and occupiers, etc.

1.7 Inspections of places to which the Factories Act 1961 applies resulted in 198 new certificates being issued under Section 40 and 155 certificates being revised; during the same period 857 premises were inspected under Section 148(1)(b) on behalf of the Factory Inspectorate.

1.8 Under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, a total of 4,497 inspections were carried out under Section 28 of the Act. Under Section 29,

508 fire certificates were issued, 261 premises were issued with a revised certificate. In addition 410 premises were inspected but at the end of the year had not yet been certified.

1.9 Of the 5,671 hotels and boarding houses which have applied for a certificate under the Fire Precautions Act, 1971, a total of 3,227 (57 per cent) of these premises had been inspected for certification purposes. Of these, 1,696 had received certificates.

1.10 The number of officers in fire prevention posts at the end of 1975 was 164 as compared with 151 in 1974.

### **Mutual Assistance**

1.11 Under Section 2 of the Fire Services Act, 1947, provision was made for mutual assistance between brigades and during 1975 assistance with first attendance appliance(s) was given to other brigades on 1,032 occasions and reinforcements only were supplied on 8 occasions.

### **Appliances and Equipment**

1.12 During the year a total of 64 vehicles including 29 first line fire appliances were purchased by brigades in Scotland. The total fleet amounted to 555. The transport departments of the fire brigades also serviced and maintained portable pumping units, lighting equipment, generators and a wide range of mechanical equipment. The skills and versatility of the transport and engineering staff ensured that the service was in a state of constant readiness for turning out in an emergency. The financial restraints on local authority expenditure are likely to make the efforts of these important members of brigades even more vital in the coming years.

### **Water Supplies**

1.13 The total number of fire authority hydrants at the end of 1975 was 122,289, an increase of 536 over the previous total. Approximately 11 per cent of that number were non-standard and have been included in brigade conversion schemes. In certain areas, water restrictions were in force during the year and brigades in those areas had to observe those restrictions during training sessions. Consequently, some brigades prohibited the use of mains water for training purposes and ponds, rivers, etc. were utilised. The restrictions did not, of course, apply to the use of water for fire fighting purposes.

### **Research**

1.14 The Joint Committee on Fire Research continued to sponsor research programmes on various aspects of fire service work through the Scientific Advisory Branch of the Home Office, the Fire Research Station and outside consultants. Progress reports were circulated at intervals and a number of Scottish fire brigades took part in tests of equipment, new systems of data collection and generally helped in the work. The Joint Committee recently approved the distribution to fire authorities of a report on a specially commissioned study on the recharging of breathing apparatus cylinders.

## **Communications**

1.15 The planning and provision of the improved communications required by the reorganisation of brigades continued throughout the year. The staff of the Directorate of Telecommunications have been closely involved at all stages. The relatively long period needed for the design, manufacture and installation of equipment resulted in certain temporary measures having to be taken but no serious operational difficulty arose.

1.16 The Central Fire Brigade ordered radio call-out equipment to cater for the additional fire stations transferred from the Perth & Kinross Brigade whose HQ at Perth came within the Tayside Region. The new Dumfries and Galloway Brigade (formerly part of the South Western area) completed plans for the provision of a separate radio-communications scheme based on the new HQ at Dumfries. In the case of the Strathclyde Brigade, preparations were put in hand for the major task of consolidating the communications arrangements of 5 previously independent brigades into a single unit. This large-scale project will take some time to complete but the receipt of emergency calls and turn-out arrangements have already been catered for.

1.17 Both Fife and Grampian Brigades have improved their radio schemes and the installation of radio call-out equipment at retained stations in Fife was nearing completion at the end of the year. The centralisation of the mobilising arrangements in the Lothian and Borders Brigade was completed; the whole-time units being covered by the VFA system and the retained units by radio call-out.

1.18 The Northern Fire Brigade completed plans for a radio scheme linking all the retained stations to the HQ Control at Inverness. This programme will take 3 years to complete and includes the provision of a new Control Room at Inverness. Tayside Brigade have ordered equipment to integrate the units formerly in the Perth and Kinross Brigade with the existing Tayside scheme controlled from Dundee.

1.19 The computer-linked mobile facsimile system introduced by the former Glasgow Fire Service (now included in the Strathclyde Brigade) met with technical difficulties but these appear to have been rectified and further tests were to be conducted.

## CHAPTER II

### *Administration*

#### **Honours and Awards**

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

Order of the British Empire (Civil Division)

Commander (C.B.E.)

G. P. J. Cooper, Ex-Firemaster, Glasgow Fire Brigade

Member (M.B.E.)

Station Officer (Retained) J. Macleod, Northern Area Fire Brigade

British Empire Medal (B.E.M.)

Sub-Officer (Retained) J. M. Matthews, Central Area Fire Brigade

Queen's Fire Service Medal

A. Masson, O.B.E., Ex-Firemaster, Perth and Kinross Fire Brigade.

The Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was awarded to 98 members of Scottish Fire Brigades.

#### **Reorganisation**

2.2 On 16th May, 1975, the 11 fire brigades in Scotland were consolidated into 8 new brigades. The Areas covered by the new brigades and the Firemasters who were appointed by the new fire authorities are shown below:

Central Region Fire Brigade	Firemaster P. S. Morrison, M.B.E.
Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade	Firemaster R. F. Holland-Thomas
Fife Fire Brigade	Firemaster F. Partington
Grampian Fire Brigade	Firemaster J. C. Donnachie, Q.F.S.M.
Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade	Firemaster J. Anderson
Northern Fire Brigade	Firemaster E. W. Macintyre, Q.F.S.M.
Strathclyde Fire Brigade	Firemaster R. J. Knowlton
Tayside Fire Brigade	Firemaster A. Jones, Q.F.S.M.

#### **Promotions**

2.3 The following number of promotions within brigades were also made during the year:

- 4 Senior Divisional Officers
- 7 Divisional Officers (Grade I)
- 11 Divisional Officers (Grade II)
- 25 Divisional Officers (Grade III)
- 62 Assistant Divisional Officers
- 97 Station Officers
- 105 Sub-Officers
- 143 Leading Firemen.

In addition the following promotions in respect of the uniformed female staff took place:

- 1 Fire Control Officer
- 2 Senior Fire Control Operators
- 4 Leading Fire Control Operators.

### **Uniformed Personnel: Operational**

2.4 The total whole-time male establishment of fire brigades in Scotland as at 31st December, 1975, was 3,964, an increase of 69 over the 1974 figure (see Table 1 for details). All of the establishment schemes prepared by fire authorities were approved during the year by the Secretary of State except for those of Strathclyde Fire Brigade and Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade on which discussion was still going on when the year ended. The actual strength at the end of the year was 3,821, an increase of 302 over the 1974 figure. The number of recruits entering the service was 497 compared with 771 in 1974. Altogether 249 men were lost to the service by retirement, discharge on medical grounds and resignation.

2.5 Forty-nine women were recruited into the service in 1975 compared with 37 in the previous year. The number leaving the service was 43 compared with 32 in 1974. A report accepted by the Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council on the rank structure of control room staff resulted in the introduction of a revised rank structure for members irrespective of the sex of those employed on such duties. A total of 195 uniformed personnel were employed on Control and Watchroom duties at the end of the year. This is the last report which will refer separately to male and female personnel and amendments to the Fire Services (Appointments and Promotion) (Scotland) Regulations 1968 were being considered at the end of the year to give effect to the requirements of the Sex Discrimination Act 1974.

2.6 The part-time retained and volunteer totals are listed below showing comparison with the 1974 figures (31st December in each case):

	<i>Establishment</i>		<i>Actual</i>	
	<i>1974</i>	<i>1975</i>	<i>1974</i>	<i>1975</i>
Retained	2,596	2,672	2,149	2,234
Volunteer	1,256	1,279	1,001	1,050

2.7 Certain areas continued to find difficulty in recruiting sufficient retained firemen. This was particularly true of those parts where industrial development brought about by North Sea oil activities was taking place. Although greater demands were placed on retained men at those stations which were slightly under strength, fire cover continued to be satisfactorily maintained.

### **Non-Uniformed Staff**

2.8 The number of non-uniformed staff employed by fire authorities at the end of 1975 was 519 (445) comprising 218 men (181) and 301 women (264). The 1974 figures are in brackets.

### **Premises**

2.9 By the end of 1975, the building programme had reached the following stage:

<i>Fire Stations</i>	<i>Wholetime</i>	<i>Retained</i>
Built since 1948	49	132
Under construction	5	4
Major adaptations to existing premises	13	22
Properties purchased and adapted	1	12
<i>Drill towers</i>		
Built	52	72
Under construction	3	3

The total number of fire stations in Scotland at the end of 1975 was:

Whole-time 75; Retained 176; Volunteer 119.

The number of houses owned by fire authorities at the end of 1975 was 616. No houses were being constructed by fire authorities.

### **Discipline**

2.10 The number of charges brought under the Fire Services (Discipline) (Scotland) Regulations 1953 was again less than in the preceding year, being 17 as against 18 in 1974. The punishments awarded were as follows:

Stoppage of pay	6
Reprimand	1

The remaining 10 cases were dismissed.

### **Health**

2.11 Absences from duty due to sickness were lower than in the previous year for male staff but slightly higher for female staff. In the present year this amounted to 3.86 per cent of the total available working days in the case of males and 4.8 per cent in the case of females. The percentage for last year was 4.4 per cent for both sexes.

2.12 It is reported with regret that during the year a Station Officer in Tayside Fire Brigade died in hospital shortly after collapsing at a fire. The cause of death was given as a heart attack.

## CHAPTER III

### *Training*

#### **Scottish Fire Service Training School**

3.1 During 1975, the Scottish Fire Service Training School provided only recruit training courses for whole-time personnel. The number of recruits attending these courses was 519 as compared with 572 in the previous year. The standard courses lasted 12 weeks but there was an arrangement whereby some recruits received the first 6 weeks training with their own brigades followed by 6 weeks at the School. Close liaison between senior staff at the Training School and brigade training instructors ensured standardisation of the Syllabus and uniformity of the method of instruction.

3.2 During the year discussion continued about the extension and modernisation of the School. No building had commenced at the end of the year but plans were well advanced for a start on the first phase during 1976.

#### **Fire Service Colleges**

3.3 A total of 340 students from Scottish fire brigades attended a variety of courses at the Fire Service Staff and Technical Colleges during the year. In addition, 7 students attended courses at other establishments.

3.4 The courses conducted at the Colleges have been reorganised so as to cater for progressive training from basic to an advanced level. In time, all junior and senior officers will undergo this "modular" training on a standardised basis. In the meantime, the structure of the courses permits existing experienced officers to enter the new training system at appropriate levels.

#### **Fire Services (Scotland) Central Examinations Board**

3.5 During the month of February 1975, the statutory educational and technical written examinations arranged by the Examinations Board were held at centres at Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness. The results are shown hereunder (1974 figures in brackets):

	<i>Presentations</i>	<i>Passes</i>
Station Officer Examination	146 (151)	22 (37)
Sub-Officer Examination	135 (131)	27 (45)
Leading Fireman Examination:		
Educational	547 (323)	59 (83)
Technical	373 (271)	72 (28)

3.6 The presentation of prizes to candidates who gained the highest marks in the technical examinations took place in Edinburgh on 19th June, 1975, and hospitality was provided by the Lothian and Borders Fire Board. Prizes were awarded as follows:

Station Officer Examination:

Leading Fireman R. Macintyre, Strathclyde Fire Brigade (formerly of Glasgow Fire Brigade).



#### Sub-Officer Examination:

Leading Fireman J. D. Taylor, Northern Fire Brigade.

#### Leading Fireman Examination:

Fireman W. Findlay, Strathclyde Fire Brigade (formerly of South Western Fire Brigade).

3.7 The statutory practical examinations for Sub-Officer and Leading Fireman candidates were conducted by the Board and the fire authorities respectively and the results are listed hereunder (1974 figures in brackets):

	<i>Number of Candidates</i>	<i>Passes</i>
Sub-Officer	69 (73)	53 (38)
Leading Fireman	80 (49)	52 (39)

3.8 At their meeting in June 1975, the Board expressed concern at the generally low standard of results in the promotion examinations in recent years and decided to set up a Working Party to consider this problem in relation to the needs of the Fire Service in Scotland. This Working Party consisted of representatives of the Secretary of State, officials of Scottish local authorities, the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association, the National Association of Fire Officers, the Fire Brigades Union and the Institution of Fire Engineers, with Her Majesty's Inspector as Chairman. It held its first meeting in October 1975.

3.9 The special Working Party which was set up in 1974 by the Joint Training Committee of the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils to review the statutory promotion examinations in England and Wales continued its discussions. Through their observers on the Working Party, the Department and the Examinations Board received regular reports on its progress.

#### **Programmed Learning**

3.10 The Home Office Unit for Educational Methods produced a new programme on Breathing Apparatus Control Procedure. This, and the metrication programme, proved to be very popular with members of the fire service. Most brigades have now compiled a good library of programmes on many subjects and extensive use was made of these as training aids.

#### **Fire Service Sports and Athletics Association**

3.11 The main athletic event of the year promoted by the Association was the International Road Race held in Glasgow in April, 1975. Teams representing Scotland, England, France, West Germany, Holland and Eire competed. The team event was won by England while Eire obtained the individual trophy. The Glasgow (now Strathclyde) athletics committee are to be specially commended for their efficient organisation of this event.

3.12 A team representing Strathclyde won the West Yorkshire 5 mile road race in June against fierce opposition from several highly-fancied English entries.

3.13 A Scottish football select played 2 internationals during the year winning the match against West Germany but losing to England. A team from Tayside was chosen to represent Scotland in the 1976 British Cup, having won the Fire Services Scottish League Cup.

3.14 In the rugby field, Scottish triumphs were recorded against England and Wales. The National seven-a-side trophy was captured by a Lothian and Borders select.

3.15 Thanks are due to brigade and national organisers of these, and other, sporting events. They have created the impetus and maintained the interest of all personnel in the field of sport.

## CHAPTER IV

### *General*

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

4.1 The Advisory Council met twice during the year; on both occasions the Chair was taken by Mr. Harry Ewing, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Devolution and Home Affairs at the Scottish Office.

4.2 At the first meeting since local government reorganisation, the Council noted the smooth transition from the former brigades to the new brigades and specially noted that there was a separate brigade for the Dumfries and Galloway Region, which was operating with some short-term assistance from Strathclyde. The Council congratulated the Commandant and staff of the Scottish Fire Service Training School and the training staffs of brigades who had maintained high standards in training more than double the normal number of recruits from March 1974 to April 1975, bringing the total whole-time numbers effectively up to strength at the start of the new regional brigades.

4.3 The Council were specially concerned about the manpower implications for the fire service of the Rate Support Grant settlement for 1976-77 and agreed that the statement made by Mr. Ewing at the meeting in December be circulated to fire authorities for their guidance on the decisions which would have to be taken by each authority in determining its own policy for the fire service within the prescribed restraints.

4.4 The Council received and considered reports from the Joint Standing Committees on Pensions, Training, Design and Development, Uniform and Personal Equipment, Fire Prevention, Fire Research, Fire Brigade Operations, Fire Brigade Communications and the Report of the Working Party on Incidents in Pressurised Atmospheres.

4.5 The Council noted the setting up of an Inquiry into the Feasibility of a 40-hour week in the fire service; the disbandment of the Joint Working Party on the Better Use of Firemen was noted.

#### **Legislation**

4.6 The Safety of Sports Grounds Act, 1975, was brought into force on 1st September. The main provisions are concerned with the issue by local authorities of safety certificates to the larger sports stadia which may be designated under the Act. The advice of fire authorities on particular matters is likely to be required for the drawing up of the certificates. No designating orders had been made by the end of the year.

4.7 The Police and Fire Pensions (Transfer of Liabilities) (Scotland) Order, 1975, provided for the transfer to the new local authorities of the liabilities in respect of the payment of police, special constabulary, police cadet and fire service pensions. In particular, the Order took account of the replacement on 16th May, 1975 by new authorities of the police and fire authorities which existed immediately before that date. It also safeguarded, as respects the age of

compulsory retirement, certain senior officers of fire brigades who suffered reduction in rank attributable to their transfer on that date.

4.8 The Firemen's Pension Scheme (Amendment) Order, 1975, which came into operation on 1st December, 1975, amended the Firemen's Pension Scheme 1973, and, insofar as they continued to have effect, the Schemes of 1971, 1966, 1964, 1956, 1952 and 1948. Under these Schemes, the amounts of certain awards were determined by reference to flat-rates which did not qualify for increases under the Pensions (Increase) Act, 1971. This Order provided for an increase in these flat-rates; it also provided for an increase from £500 to £1,500 in the sum due on account of an award under the 1973 Scheme. This is the amount which, on death, may be paid without obtaining confirmation to beneficiaries to an estate.

Year	Month	Day	Time	Location	Remarks
1911	Aug	1	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	2	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	3	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	4	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	5	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	6	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	7	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	8	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	9	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	10	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	11	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	12	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	13	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	14	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	15	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	16	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	17	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	18	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	19	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	20	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	21	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	22	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	23	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	24	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	25	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	26	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	27	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	28	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	29	8:00	...	...
1911	Aug	30	8:00	...	...

...

ESTABLISHMENTS AND STRENGTH OF FIRE BRIGADES  
as at 31st December, 1975

TABLE 1

		BRIGADE												Totals					
		Central		Dumfries & Galloway		Fife		Grampian		Lothian & Borders		Northern		Strathclyde		Tayside		Totals	
		Establishment	Actual Strength	Establishment	Actual Strength	Establishment	Actual Strength	Establishment	Actual Strength	Establishment	Actual Strength	Establishment	Actual Strength	Establishment	Actual Strength	Establishment	Actual Strength	Establishment	Actual Strength
<b>Whole-time—Elsewhere than at Fire Stations</b>																			
<b>MEN</b>																			
Firemasters ...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Assistant Firemasters	...	2*	2*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Divisional Officers (Grade I/SDO)	...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Divisional Officers (Grade II)	...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31
Divisional Officers (Grade III)	...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
Assistant Divisional Officers	...	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	7	7	10	10	20	20	19	19	18	57
Station Officers ...	...	4	4	3	3	11	11	8	8	16	16	3	3	47	47	29	29	14	114
Sub-Officers ...	...	6	5	2	2	1	1	2	2	21	20	3	2	47	47	29	29	14	163
Leading Firemen	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	5	4	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	7
Firemen	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	4	4	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	8
Fire Control Officers	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
S.F.C. Operators	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
L.F.C. Operators	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Fire Control Operators	...	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37
Totals ...	...	31	26	16	16	28	27	32	26	77	70	28	25	305	166	50	49	567	405
<b>At Fire Stations</b>																			
Divisional Officers (Grade I)	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Divisional Officers (Grade II)	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Divisional Officers (Grade III)	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assistant Divisional Officers	...	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	2	11	11	3	3	14	14	4	4	36	36
Station Officers ...	...	5	4	3	3	12	12	7	7	12	12	1	1	97	92	12	12	149	143
Sub-Officers ...	...	9	8	3	3	18	18	10	10	42	42	3	3	179	153	21	22	289	253
Leading Firemen	...	18	17	6	6	54	46	14	13	81	78	9	10	241	162	36	36	456	363
Firemen	...	120	110	48	49	201	211	137	118	366	365	42	40	1307	1480	246	240	2467	2613
S.F.C. Operators	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
L.F.C. Operators	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fire Control Operators	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	...	153	140	61	59	289	290	170	150	512	508	55	54	1838	1901	319	314	3397	3416
<b>Grand Totals Men</b>	...	184	166	77	75	317	317	202	176	589	578	83	79	2143	2067	369	363	3964	3821

<b>WOMEN:</b>														
<b>Employed at Fire Stations</b>														
G.F.C. Officers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
G.F.C. Officers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fire Control Officers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
S.F.C. Operators ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
I.F.C. Operators ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fire Control Operators ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	5	5	10	10	13	12	15	14	15	14	11	9	10	9
<b>At Fire Stations</b>														
G.F.C. Officers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fire Control Officers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
S.F.C. Operators ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
I.F.C. Operators ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fire Control Operators ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Grand Totals Women</b>														
Station Officers ...	4	2	3	3	2	2	1	1	4	5	11	9	10	9
Sub-Officers ...	16	16	16	16	9	9	44	44	23	25	25	23	25	25
Leading Firemen ...	20	20	20	20	16	16	47	47	30	50	60	30	50	42
Firemen ...	160	129	157	130	132	88	365	297	192	250	250	192	256	214
Totals ...	200	167	196	169	159	115	457	389	249	340	340	249	342	291
<b>Part-time Volunteer</b>														
Station Officers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sub-Officers ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Leading Firemen ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Firemen ...	18	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	24	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Grand Totals</b>														
Whole-time Men ...	184	166	77	75	317	317	202	176	578	589	589	578	83	79
Whole-time Women ...	5	5	10	10	13	12	15	14	9	11	11	9	10	9
Retained Volunteer ...	200	167	196	169	159	115	457	389	249	340	340	249	342	291
Totals ...	413	364	283	254	489	444	684	594	836	940	940	836	1467	1189
Whole-time Men ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whole-time Women ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Retained Volunteer ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

\* = includes 1 S.D.O. Deputy Firemaster.  
† = includes 1 Assistant/Firemaster Deputy.

‡ = includes 3 S.D.O.  
§ = includes 7 S.D.O.

¶ = includes women.





**SUMMARY OF FIRES AND SPECIAL SERVICES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE YEAR  
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1975**

TABLE 3

FIRE AREA	Fires requiring the attendance of										Total Fires	Chimney Fires	False Alarms			Total Fire Calls	Special Services	Total Calls 1975
	1 Pump	2 Pumps	3-4 Pumps	5 Pumps	6-8 Pumps	9-10 Pumps	11-20 Pumps	Malici- ous	With good intent	Total								
Central ...	1,313	14	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,329	184	435	408	843	2,356	93	2,449
Dumfries & Galloway ...	353	83	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	464	128	85	138	223	815	52	867
Fife ...	1,824	32	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,862	452	460	474	934	3,249	242	3,490
Grampian ...	1,743	35	23	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1,804	739	246	490	736	3,279	295	3,574
Lothian & Borders	4,865	320	72	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	5,261	727	804	1,578	2,382	8,373	589	8,959
Northern ...	921	9	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	933	523	167	166	333	1,789	234	2,023
Strathclyde ...	12,431	327	60	7	4	2	3	—	—	—	12,834	782	2,486	4,452	6,938	16,564	1,438	21,992
Tayside ...	2,752	50	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,809	524	309	704	1,013	4,262	493	4,839
Totals ...	26,202	870	201	9	8	3	3	—	—	—	27,296	4,059	4,992	8,410	13,402	44,757	3,436	48,193

**FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTION WORK UNDERTAKEN BY FIRE BRIGADES  
DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1975**

TABLE 4

		FIRE AREA										Totals
		Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fire	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside			
(a) Industrial or Business premises or Undertakings subjected to:	Survey	19	—	411	388	511	—	656	677			
	Specific	142	—	229	1,134	1,768	235	4,974	2,283			
	Routine	374	—	149	528	1,147	92	443	3,060			
	Follow-up	64	—	191	452	1,567	513	2,302	1,110			
(b) Industrial or Business premises or Undertakings (Inspected on a good-will basis)	Survey	3	6	44	—	—	20	186	—			
	Specific	199	57	200	—	444	196	1,265	—			
	Routine	1	—	—	—	—	—	20	—			
	Follow-up	6	—	7	—	—	—	81	—			
(c) Local Authority premises or Undertakings other than schools, hospitals and homes	Survey	2	21	31	16	102	—	147	14			
	Specific	20	8	35	20	87	24	1,088	28			
	Routine	1	1	2	—	16	—	793	6			
	Follow-up	1	1	6	—	—	—	17	3			
(d) Schools	Survey	10	1	4	10	17	16	73	42			
	Specific	35	5	32	122	93	27	249	96			
	Routine	11	1	9	—	2	—	505	41			
	Follow-up	10	1	2	3	8	7	20	9			
(e) Hospitals and Homes	Survey	6	4	22	12	48	15	66	26			
	Specific	51	4	30	134	112	36	179	214			
	Routine	3	1	54	11	—	—	17	31			
	Follow-up	3	1	2	5	—	4	15	28			
(f) Cinemas, theatres and other places of public entertainment or assembly	Survey	19	5	10	18	36	5	40	9			
	Specific	56	5	46	74	580	37	210	75			
	Routine	9	4	219	16	290	—	327	27			
	Follow-up	—	—	54	1	20	8	14	8			
(g) Miscellaneous premises	Survey	15	8	16	76	2,599	9	134	40			
	Specific	81	12	95	1,137	1,288	71	782	530			
	Routine	—	—	10	—	22	—	215	277			
	Follow-up	1	—	1	2	18	—	21	14			
(h) Plans inspected	Specific	161	222	526	1,693	1,117	696	3,315	1,789			
	Totals	1,303	368	2,437	5,852	11,894	2,011	14,839	10,437			

Factories Act, 1961		8	3	9	60	56	4	37	21	198
(a) Number of new Means of Escape Certificates issued:		6	3	4	26	53	18	28	17	155
(b) Number of Means of Escape Certificates revised:										
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963										
(a) Number of new Fire Certificates issued:		24	6	10	63	219	19	103	64	508
(b) Number of Fire Certificates revised:		4	2	—	83	132	1	18	21	261
(c) Number of Section 28 Premises Inspected and Means of Escape now satisfactory:		270	53	277	770	1,238	42	240	88	2,978
Fire Precautions Act, 1971										
(a) Number of Fire Certificates issued:		46	42	21	123	170	79	194	172	847
(b) Number of Fire Certificates revised:		—	2	—	—	3	—	—	6	11

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

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

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

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

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

**FIRE SERVICES**  
**Statement of Expenditure and Income for the Local Financial Year Ended May, 1975**  
**REVENUE EXPENDITURE**

TABLE 5

Fire Brigade Authority	Staff	Fire	Property	Clothing	Water	Communi-	Transport	Admini-	Revenue	Loan	Total	Income	Net
	Item 060 -Items 052 and 053	Service Pensions and Gratuities Items 052 and 053	Running Costs Item 120	and Personal Equip- ment Item 142	Supplies Item 147	cations Items 144 and 156	Running Costs Item 216	strative and other Expenses Items 148, 162, 240 and 335	Contrib- utions to Capital Item 360	Charges on Capital Item 380	Gross Expendi- ture Item 440	Item 470	Expendi- ture Item 482
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Angus	889,457	84,866	63,407	15,001	851	6,768	15,933	55,467	17,678	111,919	1,261,347	92,813	1,168,534
Central	1,200,102	95,874	84,991	29,096	1,580	1,469	32,224	55,426	149,170	—	1,649,932	82,974	1,566,958
Fife	971,668	40,250	61,592	19,888	3,370	19,498	18,277	18,213	125,337	—	1,278,093	67,248	1,210,845
Glasgow	2,975,904	372,133	259,766	46,552	7,571	4,223	71,491	262,822	43,127	110,378	4,153,967	206,706	3,947,261
Lanarkshire	1,313,124	91,183	95,388	32,858	1,006	1,900	67,083	83,647	126,264	—	1,812,453	121,378	1,691,075
North-Eastern	802,509	80,234	109,596	11,749	1,950	11,350	27,075	42,774	112,721	105,987	1,305,945	52,310	1,253,635
Northern	364,155	38,975	24,180	9,491	759	4,362	14,894	26,013	6,411	72,057	561,297	28,053	533,244
Perth and Kinross	431,331	35,853	25,214	7,144	—	12,857	13,674	16,718	26,304	58,219	627,314	26,639	600,675
South-Eastern	1,852,193	142,763	108,613	44,720	9,070	6,659	36,699	55,330	259,950	—	2,515,997	162,737	2,353,260
South-Western	1,023,368	68,917	70,385	20,414	3,349	20,945	37,379	40,752	—	99,098	1,384,607	67,770	1,316,837
Western	1,102,776	91,687	113,114	16,686	4,149	395	35,145	81,404	44,987	119,656	1,609,999	90,162	1,519,837
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,926,587</b>	<b>1,142,735</b>	<b>1,016,246</b>	<b>253,599</b>	<b>33,655</b>	<b>90,426</b>	<b>369,874</b>	<b>738,566</b>	<b>911,949</b>	<b>677,314</b>	<b>18,160,951</b>	<b>998,790</b>	<b>17,162,161</b>

These figures have been supplied by fire authorities to the Department and are subject to audit by the Auditor.

TABLE 6

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

	Fire Brigade Authority	Stations	Houses	Transport	Communications	Water Supply	Others	Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Angus ...	...	9,607	—	39,120	—	5,387	—	54,114
Central ...	...	104,442	—	12,368	14,280	18,080	—	149,170
Fife ...	...	36,239	—	69,316	20,547	4,677	3,939	134,718
Glasgow ...	...	26,697	—	43,127	—	—	—	69,824
Lanarkshire ...	...	116,280	—	1,700	851	16,233	—	135,064
North-Eastern ...	...	25,218	—	56,947	29,238	25,609	—	137,012
Northern ...	...	16,908	—	27,406	17,050	15,111	—	76,475
Perth and Kinross ...	...	23,680	—	16,303	—	10,001	—	49,984
South-Eastern ...	...	136,458	—	95,253	12,666	10,167	5,406	259,950
South-Western ...	...	1,858	—	62,895	125	11,151	—	76,029
Western ...	...	39,969	—	55,942	70,825	—	122	166,858
	Totals ...	537,356	—	480,377	165,582	116,416	9,467	1,309,198

The figures of Capital Expenditure include Revenue Contributions to Capital shown in the table of Revenue Expenditure.





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