



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

***Report for
1994 - 95***



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE
Home Department



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE HOME DEPARTMENT

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland

Report for 1994–5

Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland
by Command of Her Majesty
November 1995

Report 1994-95

of A N Morrison Esq QFSM DTech FIFireE to The Right Honourable Michael Forsyth MP,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Scotland.

Sir

I have the honour to submit my Report on the Fire Services in Scotland for the financial
year ended 31 March 1995.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

A N MORRISON



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SECTION A: GENERAL

The Role of HM Inspectorate of Fire Services

1. 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. Our aim is to promote 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.
2. 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 more 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.
3. 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.
4. Following 2 consecutive years in which full reports were published on each brigade in Scotland, and in accordance with the policy of the Inspectorate, the current series of inspections covering the fiscal year 1994-95 will take the form of intermediate reports which will, among other matters, record the action taken on recommendations previously made and indicate any changes which have occurred since the last inspection was carried out.
5. The duration of the inspection will depend on the size and the nature of the brigade concerned. It is undertaken by HM Chief Inspector, HM Inspector, the Senior Assistant Inspector and the Lay Inspector and consists of:
 - i. visits to fire stations and other brigade premises;
 - ii. discussion with senior officers on various aspects of the brigade's performance;
 - iii. pre-planned fire station drills and exercises; and
 - iv. meeting with representatives of staff associations.

At the conclusion of the inspection HMCIFS will discuss his preliminary findings with the Firemaster.

6. The Inspectorate has adopted the policy that in future annual reports on brigades will alternate between full and intermediate report formats.
7. A leaflet entitled "The Role of HM Inspectorate of Fire Services", which gives further background to the principles and job of the Inspectorate, is available from the Fire Inspectorate.

Introduction to the Annual Report

8. This report covers the work of fire brigades in Scotland in respect of their operational, technical and administrative performance during the financial year 1994-95.
9. During the year, the number of emergency calls attended by Scottish brigades was 113,074. This was 3.3% fewer than in the previous reporting period. In spite of this the number of fire incidents actually increased due, in the main, to an 18.3% increase in the number of Secondary Fires, which are in general outdoor fires affecting grassland, derelict buildings or rubbish skips.
10. The number of outdoor fires can of course be influenced by the climatic conditions throughout the year, but whilst better weather tends to increase their frequency the converse is true for Chimney Fires, which fell during the period to 6,128, the lowest level recorded since 1981.
11. Out of the 19,367 fires affecting property, 13,363 (69.0%) occurred in occupied buildings, of which 9,236 were in dwellings. As in previous years the most common type of house fire involved a pan left unattended on the cooker.
12. The number of fires in dwellings which are caused by wilful fire raising is of growing concern, with 6 out of the 8 Scottish brigades listing this form of ignition among their 4 most frequently occurring causes of fire in people's homes. Although wilful fire raising has been for some time the most common cause of fire in buildings other than dwellings, the reason for the change in relation to domestic premises is unclear at present, and will require some examination by brigades.
13. During 1994-95, 87 people were killed in fire outbreaks to which the brigade was called. This is the lowest level of incidence in Scotland for 30 years. Eighty-one of the fire victims died in house fires where the most common cause of the fatal incidents was carelessness in the use of smokers' materials.
14. Out of the 72 dwellings in which fires resulted in one or more deaths, 45 (62.5%) had been fitted with a smoke alarm, but only 17 alarms were considered to have been in working order at the time of the outbreak.
15. False alarm calls accounted for 41.3% of the total number of emergency calls attended by brigades during the year. Out of these 46,743 incidents (10.3% fewer than in 1993) the majority were due to Good Intent. The number of Malicious calls fell to 11,527, 41.0% below last year's figure and a welcome reduction in this type of incident, which may be due to the comprehensive community education programmes carried out by the 8 brigades in Scotland.
16. During the calendar year 1994, direct financial loss due to fire damage in the UK was estimated as being £606 million, 6.2% less than in 1993. This was the third successive year in which a reduction in the fire loss figures has been experienced.
17. In this connection it is interesting to note that the Audit Commission's report on the Fire Service in England and Wales has encouraged brigades to place greater emphasis on

fire safety and prevention. However, since it is unlikely that all outbreaks of fire can be eliminated, it is considered that the principles of early detection - through the fitting of automatic fire detection systems and the transmission of the warning directly to brigades - as well as an early attack on the fire can further reduce the direct and consequential losses it causes. The improvements and new developments in the electronics field in recent years have made available reliable systems for the protection of properties. We must encourage their use.

18. Although the total number of retained firefighters in post is considered to be satisfactory, it is becoming increasingly difficult, as workforces become ever more mobile to exploit employment opportunities, to attract personnel to the retained fire service who can provide operational cover during the working day. As a consequence, brigades pursue active recruitment campaigns in all sectors of the community, with particular emphasis placed upon getting the message across to females and members of ethnic minority groups, where enrolment has been low in the past despite the best efforts of recruiting officers.

19. An initiative within the Strathclyde Region involving the formation of a Major Fire Response Group, comprising the Police, the Fire Brigade, Local Authorities and the Insurance Industry has been adopted in order to take a more pro-active approach to fires which are caused by wilful fire raising and which are suspected to be the subject of fraudulent insurance claims. It is hoped that the liaison and co-operation between each of the participating organisations will assist in the investigations, lead to successful conclusions, and perhaps deter those who may become involved in this form of crime.

20. A report of the Audit Commission entitled "In Line of Fire" was published in February 1995. It presents in-depth examination of the work of fire brigades in England and Wales and concludes, amongst other things, that fire authorities should be given statutory responsibility to promote fire safety, that conditions of service should be reviewed with the aim of focusing them on core areas and that the framework of risk categories and attendance standards should be modified to allow better targeting of scarce resources. Although primarily concerned with the Fire Service in England and Wales, much of its commentary and its recommendations merit equal consideration by Scottish brigades and The Scottish Office.

21. As a result of suggestions made by the Construction Industry Deregulation Task Force, an examination of the operation and effectiveness of the current fire safety legislation was undertaken in 1994 by an interdepartmental scrutiny team. The study was to identify any areas of overlap, duplication or lack of clarity between the responsibilities of enforcement bodies and to recommend ways of dealing with them. The practicability of bringing all policy responsibility for fire safety together in a single department was also to be considered. A consultation process, arising from the scrutiny team's proposals, raised over 460 responses and an interdepartmental action group was set up to consider the comments received and the development of proposals. The work of the action group continued into the first half of 1995.

22. A Sub-Committee of the Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council (SCFBAC) was convened to consider the standardisation of any operational response and the conditions of service matters relating to firefighting and rescue at sea. It became apparent at an early stage in their deliberations that the legal considerations governing such a response were of fundamental importance to this area of work. On completion, the report was submitted to, and accepted by, the SCFBAC in February 1995. However it was clear that, as the Fire Service operates on a national basis, the recommendations of the report could not be pursued in Scotland alone. The implications of the Sub-Committee report are therefore being discussed by the Home Departments.

23. A part-time Lay Inspector of Fire Services has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland. This appointment stems from an undertaking given in the Citizen's Charter that inspectorates covering lay areas of public service would be opened up by the appointment of lay members to work with the professional inspectors and it will serve to add an important new perspective to the inspection of fire brigades. The lay inspector will participate in a full cycle of inspections of all 8 brigades and will also, throughout the financial year 1995-96, be involved in the inspection of the Scottish Fire Service Training School (SFSTS) at Gullane.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 1994-95

Local Government Reform in Scotland

24. Reference was made in the annual report for 1993 to the introduction of the Local Government etc (Scotland) Bill in December of that year, and to the extensive consultation which had preceded the introduction of the Bill. On the completion of its passage through Parliament, the Bill was enacted in November 1994 as the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994.

25. Under the Act, the 9 Regional and 53 District Councils in Scotland are to be replaced, on 1 April 1996, by 29 unitary authorities, each of which will be the fire authority for its area as will the 3 Islands Councils, which are to remain in place. Section 36 of the Act makes provision for the existing 8 Scottish fire brigades to continue in existence, and for the Secretary of State to make administration schemes to constitute joint boards.

26. Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade and Fife Fire and Rescue Service will be administered by the new Councils for those areas. The other 6 fire brigades will be administered by joint boards of which the constituent Councils will be as follows:

<i>Central</i>	<i>Grampian</i>	<i>Highland and Islands</i>
Clackmannanshire	Aberdeen City	Highland
Falkirk	Aberdeenshire	Orkney Islands
Stirling	Moray	Shetland Islands
		Western Isles
<i>Lothian and Borders</i>	<i>Strathclyde</i>	<i>Tayside</i>
City of Edinburgh	Argyll and Bute	Angus
East Lothian	East Ayrshire	Dundee City
Midlothian	North Ayrshire	Perthshire and Kinross
West Lothian	South Ayrshire	
Scottish Borders	Dumbarton and Clydebank	
	East Dunbartonshire	
	City of Glasgow	
	Inverclyde	
	North Lanarkshire	
	South Lanarkshire	
	East Renfrewshire	
	Renfrewshire	

27. The administration schemes, which will provide for the constitution, membership, duties and powers of the new joint boards, will be made during 1995 following consultation with the new fire authorities.

28. The map indicates the new unitary authorities as well as the existing Regional Councils.

Audit Commission Report - In Line of Fire

29. A report of the Audit Commission published in February 1995 entitled "In Line of Fire", presents an in-depth examination of the work of fire brigades in England and Wales, their organisation and their management.

30. Although auditors appointed by the Audit Commission had reviewed the majority of brigades in England and Wales in 1985, with their findings being reported in an occasional paper in 1986, it was considered that in view of the time gap that had elapsed and the level of expenditure involved, it was appropriate to revisit the Service for a further examination of the issues identified in the 1986 paper as well as to focus on some of the more general management issues.

31. The study, which was undertaken by a team of management consultants from Ernst and Young, was started in October 1993 and involved in-depth fieldwork in 7 brigades, with shorter visits to 8 other brigades, to look at specific features such as the management structure, fleet management, control rooms and the impact of local government reorganisation. In addition, a national questionnaire, completed by all brigades, was used to complement the extensive range of information which the study team had compiled from data submitted annually by brigades to the Home Office.

32. The report indicates that although the Fire Service can be proud of its reputation for protecting life and property, and its performance within the context of current standards is very good, at a wider level there is cause for concern. For example:

- the overall cost of fire to the economy is around £5 billion a year;
- the number of fires and fire casualties have been rising over the past 10 years, and in this respect, the national performance in limiting the consequences of fire compares poorly with the success achieved in the USA, in reducing the number of fires and fire deaths.

33. It is suggested that, although the Service responds vigorously to the challenges it faces, a more effective response is constrained by a number of features within the current framework of operation, in that:

- insufficient emphasis is placed on fire prevention;
- the risk categorisation of geographic areas does not take account of demographic factors, or the extent to which the risk can change with the time of day or year, nor does it allow for the extent to which fire safety precautions are incorporated in buildings;
- the response standards are based on historical precedent rather than recent research;
- the national conditions of service can limit the ability of brigades to respond flexibly and rapidly to the changing demands on them.

34. The report also recognises the increasing financial pressures on brigades, highlighting in particular the pension scheme, where it indicates that the difference between employee contributions and pension payments is paid by fire authorities and is estimated to absorb 25 per cent of Fire Service expenditure by the year 2007. Reference is also made to the fact that 3 out of 4 English counties currently fund their brigades above their Standard Spending

Assessment (SSA) level (the equivalent of Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) in Scotland), a feature which, it is suggested, may not continue.

35. The report concludes that the way forward for the Service is to shift the emphasis from cure to prevention, to update its framework and to increase local discretion. The specific proposals are that:

- fire authorities should be given statutory responsibility to promote fire safety, to educate the public about fire, its causes, its dangers and ways to combat it;
- the framework of risk categories and attendance standards should be modified to allow better targeting of scarce resources. A number of specific anomalies in the existing framework should be reviewed. Greater local flexibility should be introduced, though this should be subject to external inspection. Research should be undertaken so that a future framework of risk assessment and standards of response can be based on empirical evidence;
- the conditions of service should be reviewed with the aim of focusing them on core areas, leaving brigades to deal with minor issues locally. Other aspects which should be considered are simplifying the rank structure and introducing more flexibility into shift systems; and
- the funding mechanism for brigades should be changed to remove the inequities from the existing SSA formula (which is different from the GAE formula). Existing perverse incentives which discourage brigades from promoting fire safety should also be removed.

36. In addition, it is suggested that at local level a number of efficiency improvements could be achieved and could release an estimated £67m. These include the more effective management of absences, maximising the use of duty time within the existing shift system and reducing the very high level of early retirements which exacerbates the pension problems. The suggested improvements also include increasing the efficiency of the support services by extending the use of non-uniformed staff, increasing financial delegation and building on the existing foundation of inter-brigade co-operation.

37. The very full and comprehensive report is worthy of substantial examination and will no doubt be the subject of many debates and future development. Although primarily concerned with the Fire Service in England and Wales, much of its commentary and its recommendations are for equal consideration by Scottish brigades.

Review of the Fire Precautions Act 1971

38. In my report for 1993 I referred to the review of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 which the Government had initiated and which was to be carried out in 2 Phases. The first Phase was completed during 1993 and the Home Office report entitled "A Review of the Fire Precautions Act 1971" was published in December of that year. Although The Scottish Office and Scottish interests were consulted as part of the review, the report was not presented as a joint document.

39. Among the 14 conclusions in the report, reference is made to the authors' impression that although the certification process of the 1971 Act has been successful in its primary objective, in that fire deaths in premises controlled by the legislation have been kept at a comparatively low level, the Act does not provide the most suitable legislative means of ensuring fire safety in the 1990s and beyond.

40. The report contains 21 recommendations from which the following have been selected to show the extent of the examination carried out:

- i. New general fire safety legislation, concerned with human life safety, should be introduced which seeks to protect people in situations where they are not in a position to secure their own safety. The legislation should provide for a more flexible system which commands public confidence and keeps compliance burdens to a minimum while maintaining fire deaths at, or reducing them, from their present level. It would also provide the opportunity for consolidating fire legislation relating to occupied premises.
- ii. If a system with a greater degree of self-compliance were to be adopted, a form of certification should be retained for high risk premises.
- iii. Fire authorities should be given discretion to make a charge for advice in certain circumstances, but should remain under a general duty to provide free goodwill advice under Section 1(1)(f) of the Fire Services Act 1947.
- iv. The responsibility for mitigating fire risk should in the first instance rest with the risk creator who may be the owner/occupier of the premises or if he or she is not in a position to take remedial action, the duty should fall upon the person with executive control of the premises.

41. As mentioned above, the report was only part of the overall review of the Fire Precautions Act 1971. The second phase, which had been due to start at the beginning of 1994, in the event formed part of a wider interdepartmental scrutiny of fire safety legislation and its enforcement.

Report of the Interdepartmental Scrutiny

42. As a result of work which had been carried out by the Construction Industry Deregulation Task Force, operating under the auspices of the Department of Trade and Industry, which highlighted among other matters the concerns of businesses about the overlapping nature and duplication of fire safety legislation, it was determined that an examination should be carried out not only of the range of fire safety legislation but also the manner of its enforcement.

43. The examination was carried out by an interdepartmental scrutiny team comprising members of the Department of the Environment (DOE), the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Home Office, who commenced work at the beginning of 1994 with a 90 day deadline in which to report.

44. The team's terms of reference were:

"Taking account of the review of the operation and effectiveness of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 recently undertaken by the Home Office, to review the operation and effectiveness of all legislation for which the Home Office, DOE and HSE have policy responsibility in relation to fire safety; to review the organisational arrangements of all relevant bodies and agencies, including local authorities responsible for enforcing this legislation and to make recommendations. The study should identify any areas of overlap, duplication or lack of clarity between the responsibilities of enforcement bodies and should recommend ways of dealing with them. It should also address the practicability of bringing all policy responsibility for fire safety together in a single department."

45. The report of the Interdepartmental Scrutiny Team on fire safety legislation was published in June 1994 as a consultation document. It contains 61 conclusions and recommendations. In view of the limited timescale available to the Scrutiny Team the report indicates that it was not possible to examine in detail the implications of the conclusions and recommendations for Scotland where the building control legislation differs from that applying in England and Wales.

46. The authors of the report also indicated that during the review they were guided by 3 fundamental principles - that the recommendations should:

- i. reduce compliance burdens, without adding to administrative burdens, while recognising that there may be transitional costs;
- ii. involve no weakening in the level of safety provided by the regulatory system and if possible enhance it; and
- iii. work, wherever possible, with the grain of recent developments building on or reinforcing existing arrangements.

47. Well over 460 responses were received from the consultation exercise and from a wide range of consultees. The comments were also wide ranging. They focused on the more controversial proposals, and many expressed concern at the lack of detail in the recommendations, while there was broad support for the main thrust of the report.

48. In order to take matters forward an Interdepartmental Action Group has been formed to oversee the examination of the recommendations by officials, taking account of the responses from consultees, and to develop more detailed proposals for consideration by Ministers. It is likely that the work of the Action Group will continue into the first half of 1995.

Firefighting and Rescue at Sea

49. At a special meeting of the SCFBAC on 23 March 1994, it was agreed that I should convene a sub-committee, reflecting the membership of the Council, to consider the standardisation of operational response and conditions of service matters relating to firefighting and rescue at sea.

50. Although it was originally thought that the legal considerations governing such a response would be incidental to the discussion of conditions of service issues, it became apparent at an early stage that they were in fact of fundamental importance in relation to every aspect of firefighting and rescue at sea.

51. Best advice available to the Sub-Committee in seeking legal opinion indicated that the current position in respect of response to an incident at sea was that it may be:

- i. within the scope of the fire authorities duties under Section 1(1)(a) of the 1947 Act when occurring within "arms of land", ie bays, estuaries, firths and sea lochs, etc;
- ii. within the scope of their discretionary powers under Section 3(1)(d) of that Act when within the 12 mile limit; and
- iii. that any employment of the brigade beyond the 12 mile limit would be ultra vires in the present circumstances.

52. With that in mind, the Sub-Committee determined to recommend to the SCFBAC

that, while recognising that fire authorities should be capable of meeting the response requirement at present for those coastal waters deemed to fall within the scope of their duties, to avoid confusion over primary responsibility in future, the area of a fire brigade under Section 1(1)(a) of the 1947 Act should not extend beyond the low water mark. To further clarify any brigade response, and to remove the anomaly of the 12 mile limit, it was also recommended that the Act be amended to permit the power under Section 3(1)(d) to be exercised extra-territorially.

53. Whilst appreciating that such changes to primary legislation could take some considerable time, and considering that no disadvantage should attach to either fire authorities or individual firefighters, as a consequence of attendance at an incident either inside or outwith the 12 mile limit, the Sub-Committee recommended that an indemnity for fire authorities, in respect of any ultra vires expenditure incurred by them in responding to incidents beyond the 12 mile limit, be pursued with the appropriate Government Department. The principal object of such an indemnity would be to ensure that a firefighter attending such an incident could, in all respects, be treated by the employing authority as though subject to normal terms and conditions of employment.

54. It was clear that, as the Fire Service operates on a national basis, any change in legislation could not be pursued for Scotland alone. The implications of the Sub-Committee's report are therefore being discussed by the Home Departments.

Health and Safety

55. Fire Service Circular 4/1995 (replacing FSC 12/1978 and FSC 9/1982) - Health and Safety in the Fire Service: The Role of the Health and Safety Executive and Arrangements for Liaison with the Home Departments, has been promulgated to brigades. The purpose of this Circular is to update and clarify information in current Fire Service Circulars which deal, in general terms, with the application of health and safety legislation to the Fire Service, and with the role of the HSE. This Circular has been agreed with the HSE and is being circulated to HSE Inspectors who may have dealings with brigades in relation to their enforcement duties under the legislation.

56. More generally the most significant recent developments in health and safety have been the adoption of the European '6 pack' directives. Regulations to implement these in the UK came into force on 1 January 1993. These new regulations make more explicit requirements which are already implied by the general sections of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 contain a number of detailed requirements in relation to the organisation and arrangements for managing health and safety at work. Fundamental to these and other modern health and safety legislation is the requirement for risk assessment.

57. The principles of risk assessment in the Fire Services apply equally to operational training and other environments, although the preventive and protective measures judged necessary may vary according to a number of factors. The process of risk assessment needs to be developed within the Fire Service so that it is appropriate to the nature of the work and also, importantly, is practical.

58. The importance of training within the Fire Service will be re-emphasised by the risk assessment process and HSE welcomes the comprehensive analysis of training needs in the fire service which the Training Strategy Group (TSG) report (see paragraph 9 of Section G) provides. Many of the recommendations of the TSG report go a long way towards identifying what needs to be achieved to satisfy requirements for training, as well as more general duties in relation to the management of health and safety. The TSG report provides

a co-ordinated national approach to Fire Service training. It is, however, for each fire authority to ensure that it is discharging its duties under health and safety legislation.

59. National accident statistics continue to show a high incidence rate compared with other industries and approximately a third of all reportable injuries covered by Reporting of Injuries and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1985 (RIDDOR), occur during training. Brigades could usefully identify in more detail accident parameters which will enable accident statistics to become more useful in monitoring health and safety performance.

60. In the past year a HSE Inspector has been seconded to the Fire Service College (FSC) and has been involved in the review and revision of health and safety input into core and progression courses. The secondee was also closely involved in the development of the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) Certificate in Health and Safety as relating to the Fire Service and was the course Director for the first course. Two Scottish brigades were consultees to the course development work and had representatives at the first course.

Fire Service Inspectorate

61. During the reporting period a number of changes in personnel have taken place within the Fire Inspectorate. In May 1994, Mr Graham Goodall was appointed as an Assistant Inspector of Fire Services, with the primary responsibility for the inspection of Crown premises in the east of Scotland. Before joining the Inspectorate Mr Goodall served with the Merseyside Fire Brigade.

62. Later, in October 1994, Mr David Dick was appointed as a part-time Lay Inspector. Mr Dick's responsibilities are in the main to examine the manner in which the public are served by fire brigades and to represent any views and concerns which may be raised.

63. Prior to his retirement, Mr Dick spent 33 years in the field of education, his career developing from being a lecturer at the Dundee College of Technology, to becoming the Principal of the Stevenson College of Further Education. In addition, Mr Dick was Chairman of the Fire Services Examinations Board (Scotland) for 18 years.

64. More recently the second post of Assistant Inspector of Fire Services was filled by the appointment of Mr Charles Stewart, whose responsibilities include the inspection of Crown premises in the west of Scotland. Mr Stewart joined the Inspectorate after having served with the Strathclyde Fire Brigade. He is based at our Glasgow office.

65. The Fire Service Inspectorate establishment is as follows:

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

Firemasters and Fire Authorities

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

Central Fire Brigade	– Firemaster I S T Adam QFSM GIFireE
Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade	– Acting Firemaster A Gallagher GIFireE
Fife Fire and Rescue Service	– Firemaster J White QFSM BA MIFireE

Grampian Fire Brigade	– Firemaster A J Lobban MIFireE
Highland and Islands Fire Brigade	– Firemaster R Gordon QFSM GIFireE
Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade	– Firemaster C Cranston GIFireE
Strathclyde Fire Brigade	– Firemaster J Jameson FIMgt
Tayside Fire Brigade	– Firemaster D S Marr FIFireE.

67. Since my last report 3 changes have taken place at chief officer level in Scottish fire brigades with the retiral of Mr Peter Scott, previously of the Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade, Mr Barry Stiff of the Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade and Mr Donald Grant of the Highland and Islands Fire Brigade. Mr Grant has since been appointed as Commandant of the SFSTS.

68. I wish to record my thanks to Firemasters and their principal officers for the co-operation and assistance given to the members of the Fire Inspectorate, not only during the annual inspection but also in the many discussions and contacts made during the year.

Honours and Awards

69. The following officers have received awards in The Queen's Honours Lists since January 1994:

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

H W Robbie, previously Deputy Firemaster, Strathclyde Fire Brigade, now Senior Assistant Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland.

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

J S Dickson, Assistant Divisional Officer, Tayside Fire Brigade.

J A Cairns, Leading Firefighter, Strathclyde Fire Brigade.

H Keddie, previously Station Officer, Grampian Fire Brigade, now Deputy Commandant, Scottish Fire Service Training School.

M MacLennan, Retained Sub-Officer, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

R N Smith, Retained Sub-Officer, Tayside Fire Brigade.

J Cleland, Assistant Divisional Officer, Strathclyde Fire Brigade.

C F McManus, lately Commandant, Scottish Fire Service Training School.

Queen's Fire Service Medal

D Marr, Firemaster, Tayside Fire Brigade.

R Gordon, Firemaster, Highland and Islands Fire Brigade.

Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

This Medal was awarded to 565 members of the Scottish Fire Service.

70. The following officers were awarded The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct:

G W Cockburn, Retained Station Officer, Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade.

A M Cairnie, Retained Firefighter, Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade.

71. My sincere congratulations are offered to all those whose contribution to the work of the fire service or whose bravery was so justly recognised.



SECTION B: PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Establishments and Strengths

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

Wholetime Personnel (Operational)

2. The total establishment of wholetime operational members of Scottish fire brigades at 31 March 1995 was 4,521, an increase of 28 above the figure for the previous year with the main area of addition occurring in the Strathclyde Fire Brigade (24). The actual strength of Scottish brigades, as opposed to the authorised establishment, was 4,452, making a difference between establishment and number actually in post of 69. Bearing in mind, however, that brigades normally have personnel ready to join the first recruit training course in the following year, the apparent level of undermanning is not a cause for concern. All brigades have, over a period of years, been staffed at or near their wholetime establishment figures and the overall pattern for both establishment and strength figures has remained broadly constant over the years.

3. No problems were experienced by brigades in attracting suitable personnel to fill vacancies that arose during the year but, as has been the case in the recent past, the number of applications from females and members of ethnic minority groups to join the fire service in Scotland was again disappointingly low, in view of the efforts made by brigades to attract such applicants. Out of a total of 3,930 applications processed by brigades in 1994-95, only 192 (4.9%) were from females or members of ethnic minority groups. Highland and Islands and Lothian and Borders Fire Brigades did not hold a recruitment campaign during the year.

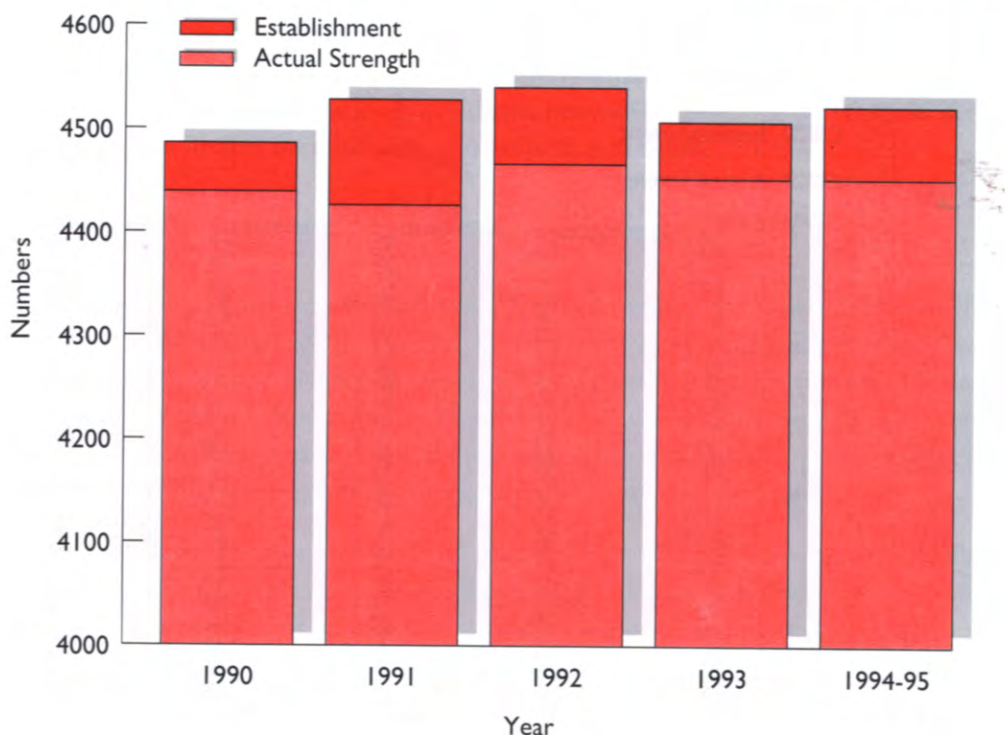
4. The number of female firefighters serving in brigades rose to 17, while the number of members of an ethnic minority group serving in the operational section of brigades is recorded as being 4.

5. Graph No. 1 shows the authorised wholetime establishment and the actual strength of the Scottish Fire Service at 31 December for each of the past 4 years and as at 31 March for 1994-95.

6. During the year 130 wholetime operational personnel left the service for various reasons. This figure was 70 less than in the previous year. In contrast 123 firefighters joined the service in 1994-95, 55 fewer than in 1993. Since the figures relating to discharges and recruitment fluctuate from year to year, the apparent difference in the 1994-95 levels do not give cause for concern. Details of the gains and losses of personnel in each brigade are shown in Appendix 3.

7. During 1994-95 there were 65 retirements from the Scottish Fire Service on medical grounds. This figure is again a further reduction on the previous lowest recorded in 1993 and continues the encouraging trend in the improvement in the health of brigade personnel. The number of personnel who were able to retire on ordinary pension during the year was 48.

Graph 1 - Wholetime establishment and actual strength 1990 to 1994-95



Retained and Volunteer Personnel

8. The figures relating to the establishment and the actual strength in the retained sector of brigades for the past 4 calendar years and for the financial year 1994-95 are shown in Graph No. 2.

9. Graph No. 2 indicates that the establishment of retained personnel has not varied greatly in recent years. In 1994-95 the establishment was 2,557, an increase of 4 on the 1993 level, although the actual number of firefighters in post was 2,434, 31 more than in the previous year.

10. During the year approximately 1,100 applications were received from persons seeking to join the Fire Service on a part-time basis; from this total 164 firefighters were subsequently recruited into the retained service. As stated in previous reports, while the total number of personnel in post is satisfactory, it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit retained personnel who can provide operational cover during the working day, as more and more people are required to move outwith their communities for employment purposes.

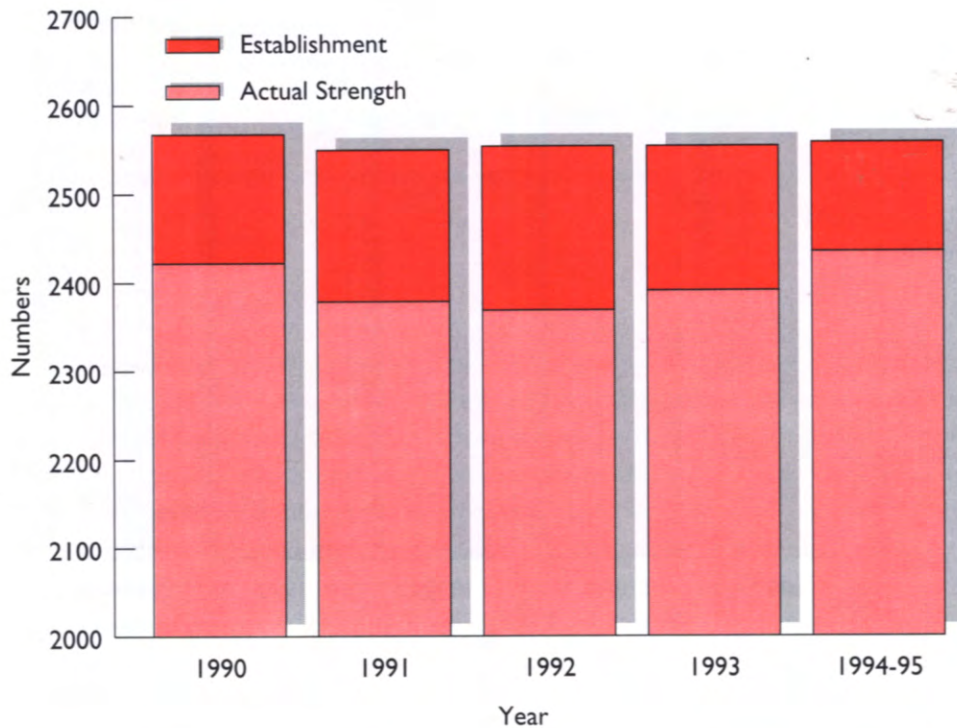
11. The number of female firefighters within the retained service of Scottish brigades is 30, a 20.0% increase over last year's total.

12. Details of the volunteer establishment and actual strength as at 31 December for each of the last 4 calendar years and for the financial year 1994-95 are shown in Graph No. 3.

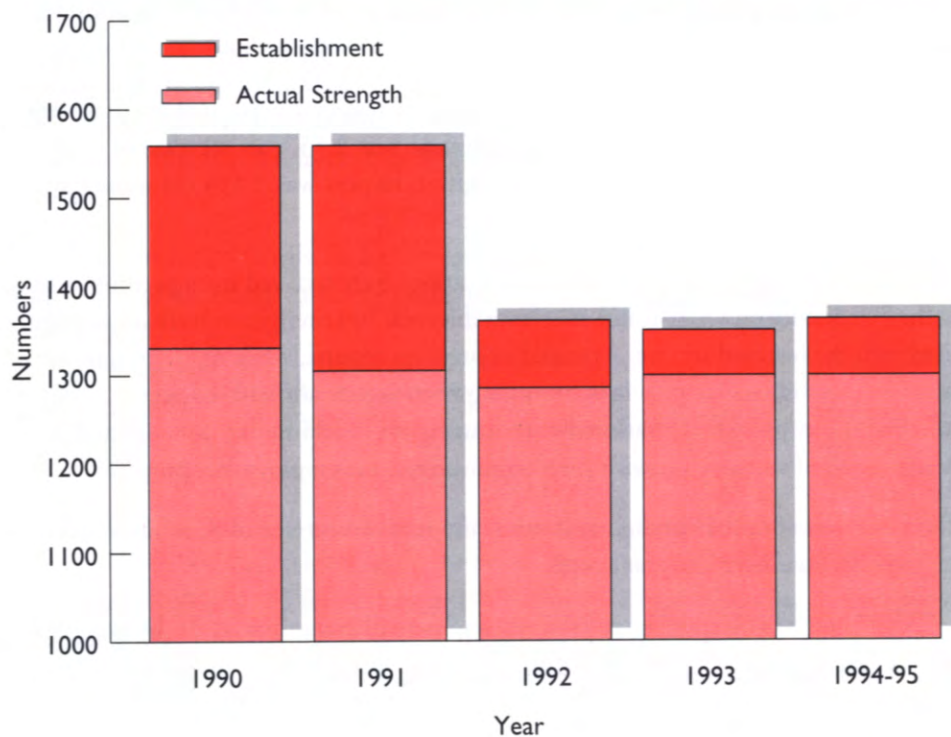
13. With the opening of a new volunteer station at Minganish in the Highland and Islands Region in 1994-95, the total establishment of volunteer firefighters rose by 12 to 1,363. Overall, however, the actual number of volunteers in post throughout Scotland fell by 5 to 1,299.

14. At the end of the reporting period there were 39 female volunteer firefighters serving in brigades, 4 more than the previous year.

Graph 2 - Retained establishment and actual strength 1990 to 1994-95



Graph 3 - Volunteer establishment and actual strength 1990 to 1994-95



Control Room Staff

15. In 1993 the number of Control Room staff in post was 211, 4 above the authorised establishment. However, at the end of the current reporting period the number of personnel employed was in line with the establishment level of 207. There are 176 females and 31 male staff at present.

Absence from Duty

16. The proportion of the total number of working days lost in Scottish brigades due to sickness affecting wholetime personnel was 4.77%, the lowest since 1987. While there can be wide differences in the levels of sickness between brigades, the Scottish average has shown gradual decline over the last 5 years as indicated below.

<i>Year</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1994-95</i>
<i>%</i>	5.67	5.65	5.36	5.06	4.77

17. Brigades continue to monitor sickness levels and analyse the data in relation to both individuals and the brigade as a whole. Again as mentioned in the report for 1993, the Inspectorate continued to monitor the matter and also seek information from brigades on the number of serious injuries to operational personnel. The term "serious injury" has been taken to be an injury which resulted in the person being hospitalised for a period of at least 2 weeks, or which caused an absence from duty for more than one month.

18. The returns indicate that in 1994-95, 70 wholetime and 23 retained operational personnel received serious injuries. The comparable figures for 1993 were 49 and 20 respectively. These serious injuries were sustained in the following circumstances:

	<i>Wholetime</i>	<i>Retained</i>
at fire incidents	28	18
at special service incidents	—	—
during training periods	20	1
during other duties	22	4

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

20. The percentage of the total number of working days lost to sickness affecting Control Room staff was 7.86% and 1.79% higher than the 1993 figure. Control Room staff absences are normally covered by the adjustment of shift sizes or by the employment of temporary staff on short-term contracts. The training of temporary staff remains of great importance in view of the complexities of the modern computer based command and control mobilising systems.

Discipline

21. During the year, 13 persons were charged with a total of 16 offences under the Fire Services (Discipline) (Scotland) Regulations 1985. The corresponding figures for last year were 23 and 29 respectively.

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

requirement to resign as an alternative to dismissal	- 1;
reduced in rank	- 1;
stoppage of pay	- 5;
reprimands	- 5; and
caution	- 1.

Pension Scheme for Firefighters

23. The Working Group set up by the Joint Pensions Committee (JPC) to review the medical appeal procedures reported to the JPC in October 1994. The JPC accepted the Working Group's recommendations about guidance notes and more informative letters. On the more substantive change recommended by the majority of the Working Group, namely the replacement of single referees by medical appeal boards, the JPC agreed that the Working Group should remain in existence to further consider the financial implications.

Equal Opportunities Joint Committee

24. The Committee has now been in operation for more than 2 years. In that time a key area of the Committee's work has continued to be the promotion and consideration of a range of research projects. The following are examples of these aspects of the work:

- i. Results from a major study of the image of the Fire Service raised many important issues which were discussed by the Committee. In the light both of the report's findings and of a Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association (CACFOA) paper on initiatives to support women firefighters, together with the Committee's discussion thereon, the Home Office subsequently prepared a draft circular of guidance to fire authorities on best practice. This was considered by the Committee at its meeting in March 1995 and it is planned to issue the circular this autumn.
- ii. Following an examination commissioned by the Home Office of the statutory height limits for entry into the Fire Service, the Committee has given careful attention to the best way ahead.
- iii. As regards the upper age limit for retirement, a proposal for a literature review on the relationship between age, strength and fitness was supported by both this Committee and the Joint Working Party on Medical and Physical Standards and the resultant review is scheduled for completion soon.

25. Following Committee consideration in 1993 of the possibility of an equal opportunities questionnaire, the Home Office drew up such a checklist for use by members of HM Inspectorate during brigade inspections.

26. The Committee also considered statistical information on the number of women and of ethnic minority group members employed in the Fire Services in England, Wales and Scotland as wholtime and retained firefighters, control room and administrative staff. The figures showed that there remains a considerable way to go if Fire Services are to reflect in their membership the communities which they serve. The Committee is also now giving attention to the position regarding registered disabled persons.

27. Finally, the Committee noted the success of the inaugural national women firefighters' seminar held in November 1994 and is exploring ways of organising future events of this kind.

28. Statistical returns covering 1994-95 indicate that the operational sections of Scottish brigades have the following overall composition in terms of the gender and ethnic origin of personnel.

29. Table A also shows the increases in the number of female firefighters within the Service since the previous year, in the wholetime, retained and volunteer sections of brigades. It should be noted that not all of the Scottish Brigades have volunteer members.

30. Although the number of firefighters who are female or members of an ethnic minority group is small when compared with the total workforce, all brigades have sought to increase the number of recruitment applications from these under-represented sections of our society.

TABLE A—Breakdown of Gender and Ethnic Origin of Brigade Personnel in Scotland in 1994-95

	WHITE		BLACK		ASIAN		OTHERS		TOTAL		OVERALL TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Wholetime	4,442 (4,438)	17 (7)	2 (2)	NIL (-)	1 (2)	NIL (-)	1 (-)	NIL (-)	4,446 (4,442)	17 (7)	4,463 (4,449)	
Retained	2,406 (2,378)	30 (25)	NIL (-)	NIL (-)	NIL (-)	NIL (-)	NIL (-)	NIL (-)	2,406 (2,378)	30 (25)	2,436 (2,403)	
Volunteer	1,260 (1,269)	39 (35)	*	*	*	*	*	*	1,260 (1,269)	39 (35)	1,299 (1,304)	
TOTAL	8,108 (8,085)	86 (67)	2 (2)	NIL (-)	1 (2)	NIL (-)	1 (-)	NIL (-)	8,112 (8,089)	86 (67)	8,198 (8,156)	

The figures in brackets relate to the position at 31 December 1993.

* This information is not available for the volunteer section of brigades.

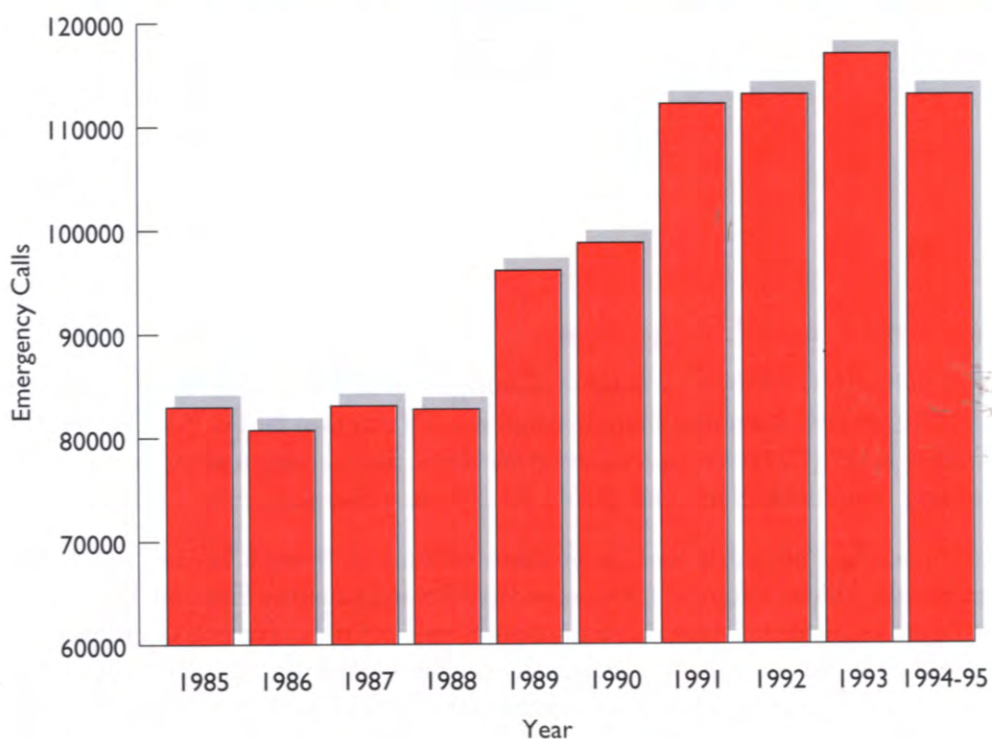


SECTION C: OPERATIONS

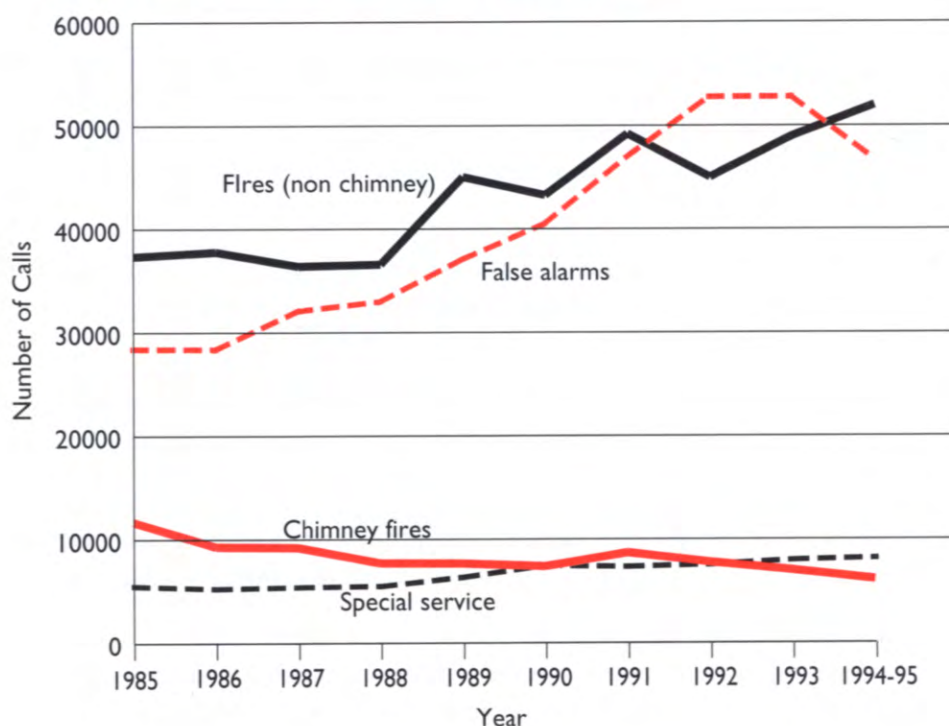
Fires and Other Emergencies

1. During 1994-95 the total number of emergency calls attended by Scottish brigades was 113,074, 3.3% fewer than in the previous year. Of that total 58,142 (51.4%) were fire incidents, 8,187 (7.2%) were special service incidents, that is emergencies other than those involving an outbreak of fire, and 46,743 (41.3%) were false alarm calls.
2. Appendix 4 gives details of the incidents within each Scottish brigade, sub-divides fires into the 3 broad categories Fires, Secondary Fires and Chimney Fires and indicates the number of incidents in which the circumstances required the attendance of one or more fire crews. The Appendix also gives information on the nature of the false alarm calls - Good Intent, Apparatus and Malicious - as well as the number of Special Service incidents attended by brigades.
3. Appendix 5 gives information on the larger fires, that is those requiring the attendance of 6 or more pumping appliances and crews.
4. During the year brigades attended 58,142 outbreaks of fire, 2.3% more than in 1993 and a new peak in the frequency of these incidents. This was due to an 18.3% increase in the number of Secondary Fires - which are mainly outdoor fires - and of which there were 32,647. Chimney Fires and other Fires fell below the levels of the previous year by 21.8% and 9.4% respectively.
5. Graph No 4 shows the total number of emergency calls attended by fire brigades in Scotland during the past 10 years. Although the number of incidents in 1994-95 fell from the peak in 1993, the overall rising trend of the period is maintained.
6. The pattern and trends of the various categories of emergency incident attended over a 10 year period is indicated in Graph No 5 which shows the rising trend in the total number of fires, other than Chimney Fires.
7. The number of Chimney Fires attended by brigades shows a gradually reducing trend over the decade affected no doubt by the transfer to forms of domestic heating other than the burning of solid fuel.
8. The steeply rising trend in the number of false alarm calls is clearly shown on the graph but there was a substantial drop in the incidence during 1994-95.
9. Special Service calls to brigades have been increasing gradually in the past 10 years affected obviously by the increase in calls to road traffic accidents which is the most frequently occurring type of special service incident. The trend also acknowledges the public's awareness of the wide range of skills held by the brigades' operational crews and their capability in dealing with emergencies other than those which solely involve an outbreak of fire.

Graph 4 - Total emergency incidents attended by Scottish Brigades 1995 to 1994-95



Graph 5 - Breakdown of calls 1985 to 1994-95



10. The various types of incident to which fire appliances were mobilised during the year, together with the proportion of the overall total are shown in Graph No 6. Out of 113,074 incidents attended 17.1% were Fires; this was a reduction from the previous year when the proportion was 18.2%. Secondary Fires increased during the year and also increased their proportion of the overall total by 5.3%. The number of Chimney Fires fell during the year reducing their percentage in the overall total from 6.7% to 5.4%. Special

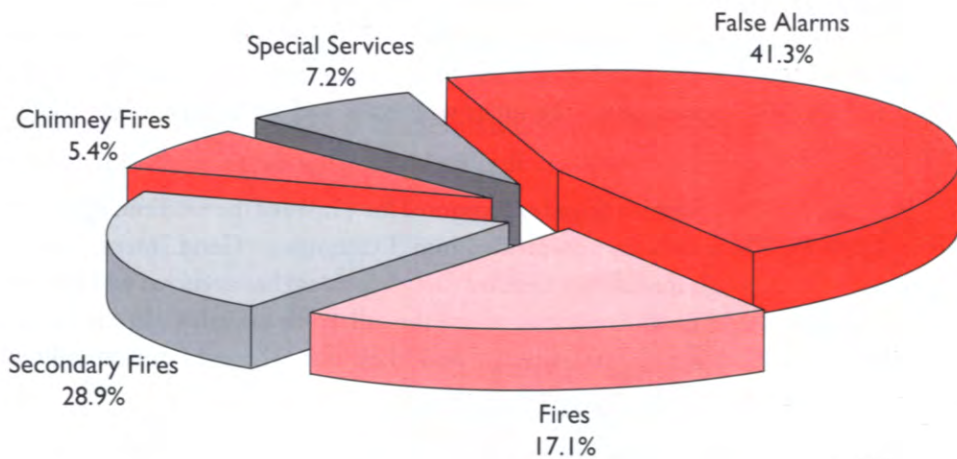
Services - which are emergency incidents, such as road and rail crashes and do not necessarily involve an outbreak of fire - increased in total during 1994-95 as did their proportion within the total number of emergency calls.

11. It will be noted that the highest proportion of the various types of emergency call attended by brigades is still the False Alarm category which fell to 41.3%, marginally below the level of the previous reporting period.

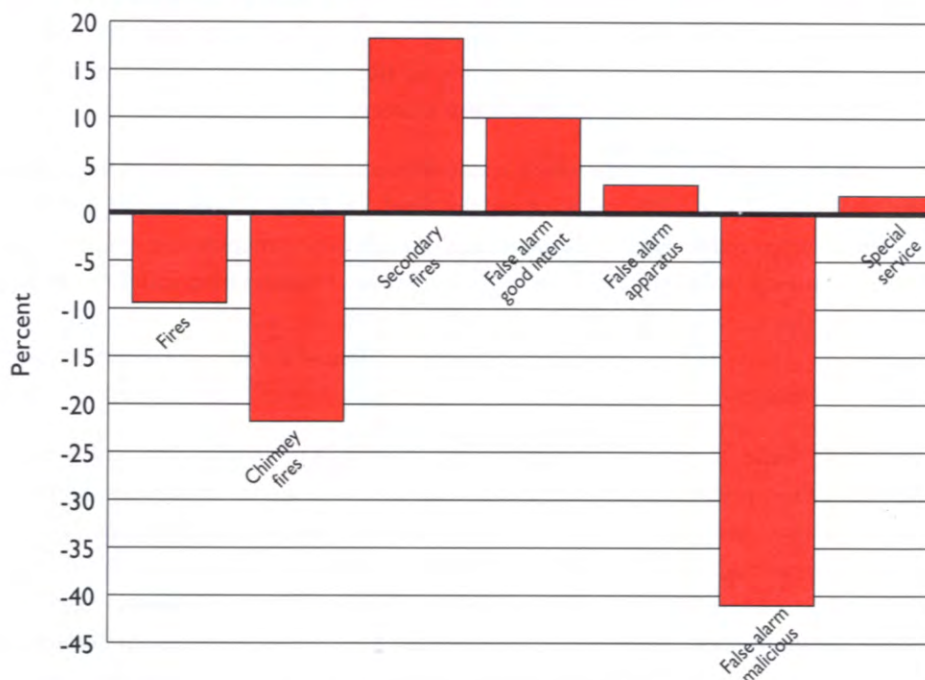
12. The percentage differences between the present and previous reporting periods, in terms of the various types of emergency call are indicated in Graph No 7.

13. Within the Fires category there was a 9.4% reduction from the level of the previous reporting period. Out of the 19,367 such incidents 13,363, that is 69.0% , occurred in occupied buildings, the majority of which were dwellings. As in previous years the most

Graph 6 - Types of call in 1994-95



Graph 7 - Percentage of increase/decrease in categories of call between 1993 and 1994-95



common type of fire in a dwelling is the pan of fat left unattended to overheat on the cooker. Nevertheless there is growing concern that the incidence of wilful fire raising in domestic premises is increasing and in some brigades it is among the top 4 causes of fire in these properties. For buildings other than dwellings wilful fire raising is the most common cause of fire.

14. During the year the number of Chimney Fires fell from the previous total by 21.8%, to 6,128 outbreaks. All brigades experienced reductions from the 1993 levels and the overall trend in such outbreaks in Scotland is a downward one, although fluctuations can occur each year, affected no doubt by weather changes.

15. Highland and Islands Fire Brigade still has a high incidence of fires of this type and indeed when compared on a population basis, has almost 5 times the Scottish average for such outbreaks.

16. During the year under review, there were 32,647 fires classified as Secondary Fires. As previously indicated these are outbreaks which occur out of doors and their incidence can therefore be affected by weather conditions. The total in 1994-95 was 18.3% more than in 1993 and was indeed the highest level recorded in Scotland. Although all brigades experienced increases in the number of these fires the rate of increase was greatest in the Grampian and Fife Regions where the totals were 65% and 50% respectively above the levels for 1993.

17. False alarm calls to Scottish brigades accounted for 41.3% of the total emergency turn-outs in 1994-95. These calls are sub-divided into 3 categories - Good Intent, where the caller genuinely, although mistakenly, believes that an incident has occurred which requires the attendance of the brigade; Apparatus, where the call to the brigade is, in the main, the result of a fault in a fire warning installation; and Malicious, where the person calling the brigade knows that there is no emergency incident.

18. In the 1994-95 period the total number of false alarm calls attended by Scottish brigades was 46,743, 10.3% fewer than in the previous year, in spite of increases in 2 of the 3 false alarm categories.

19. The number of calls classified as being Good Intent increased overall by 10%, to 25,593 the highest level recorded in Scotland. These calls accounted for 54.8% of all false alarm turn-outs and in view of the steeply rising trend in the past 5 years, it would be appropriate for brigades to examine the details of the incidents to determine whether measures can be taken to assist the public in this matter.

20. The number of false alarm calls which resulted from, in the main, a fault in fire warning systems totalled 9,623, a 3.0% increase on the level for 1993. Three of the 8 Scottish brigades experienced reductions in the incidence of such occurrences whilst the remainder had increases ranging from 1.8% to 34.8%. As in the past, brigades have sought to identify the owners of the installations most frequently affected, in order to encourage a close examination by experts and the rectification where possible of the features which cause the false calls to be made.

21. In 1994-95, the number of Malicious false alarm calls received by Scottish brigades fell from the 1993 total to 11,527, a drop of 41.0%. This is the second successive year in which a substantial reduction in this criminal activity has been experienced and it is considered that this has been achieved due to the efforts of each brigade in pursuing offenders and in bringing to attention, particularly of school children, the consequences of making such calls - on the brigade, the local community and on them as individuals. All brigades are complimented for the manner in which this problem has been tackled, and the assistance

of the telephone companies in tracing calls as well as the police and education authorities is much appreciated.

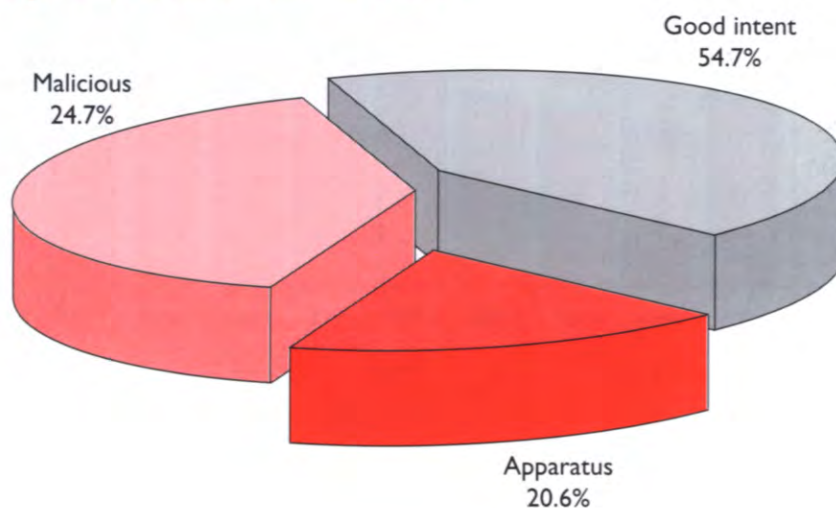
22. During the year 6 out of the 8 Scottish brigades achieved reductions in the number of Malicious calls ranging from 50.4% in Strathclyde to 13.0% in Fife. Malicious calls have decreased by approximately 50% compared to the total in 1992.

Table B - Malicious False Alarm Calls 1989-1993

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994-95
Central	623	595	567	694	475
Dumfries and Galloway	255	283	255	280	235
Fife	707	997	1,108	976	848
Grampian	530	613	616	628	544
Highland and Islands	259	395	347	334	387
Lothian and Borders	3,724	3,206	2,107	1,916	1,356
Strathclyde	8,179	11,370	16,349	13,970	6,926
Tayside	964	1,022	1,136	730	756
Totals	15,241	18,481	22,485	19,528	11,527

23. Details of the total number of Malicious calls in each brigade over the past 5 years are given in Table B above, while Graph No 8 indicates the proportion of each false alarm category in the overall total.

Graph 8 - False alarm calls in 1994-95



Special Service Calls

24. The term Special Service relates to an emergency incident to which the brigade is called, but which does not necessarily involve an outbreak of fire. They may involve a wide range of situations from road, rail or aircraft crashes, and dealing with incidents involving chemicals to rendering assistance to groups of people or individuals under the general category of humanitarian service.

25. In the 1994-95 period Scottish brigades attended 8,189 Special Service incidents, 2.0% more than in the previous year and a figure which maintained the rising trend in the frequency of such incidents that has been apparent over the past 9 years.

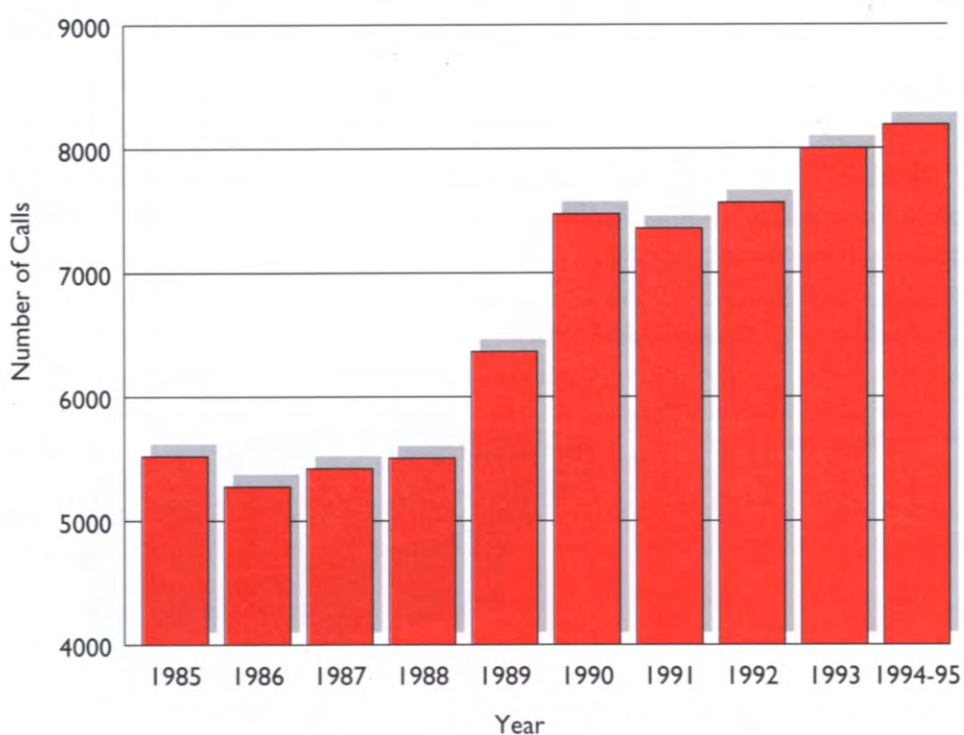
26. Graph No 9 shows the incidence of these calls since 1985. In 1994-95 they accounted for 7.2% of the total incidents attended by brigades in Scotland.

27. Within the reporting period, the most common types of Special Service calls attended by brigades were:

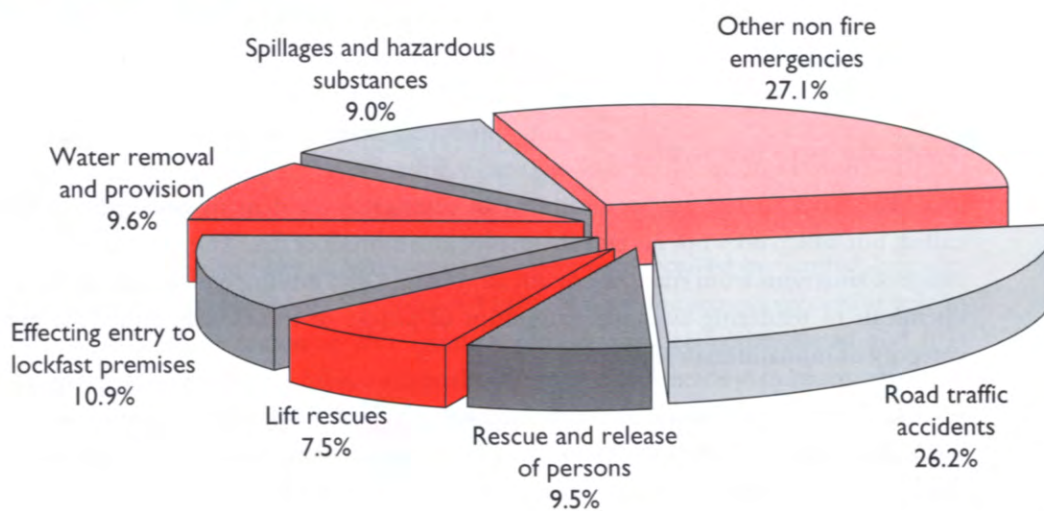
road traffic accidents	2,146;
effecting entry to lockfast premises	897;
the rescue and release of people	783; and
dealing with flooded areas	734.

28. Graph 10 shows a proportional breakdown of the broad Special Service categories.

Graph 9 - Special service calls 1985 to 1994-95



Graph 10 - Special service calls in 1994-95



Road Traffic Accidents

29. The total number of road traffic accidents attended in 1994-95 was 85 more than in the previous year, although still below the peak of 1992. Out of the 2,146 incidents, 682 ie 31.8% required the extrication of people from the wreckage, while in 1,170 (54.5%) of the occasions, the occupants of the vehicles were either able to remove themselves or had been assisted by persons at the scene before the arrival of the brigade.

30. During the year 4 people died in fires which resulted from road traffic accidents, a 50.0% reduction from the total for 1993. Table C below shows the number of road traffic accidents attended by brigades in the past 5 years which did not involve an outbreak of fire, as well as the number of persons who died in fires affecting road vehicles.

TABLE C - Number of Road Traffic Accidents Attended and Resultant Fire Deaths 1990 - 1994-95

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994-95
Number of road traffic accidents attended (no fire)	2,170	2,141	2,184	2,061	2,146
Number of deaths due to fires in road vehicles	8	10	12	8	4

Rescues

31. The total number of persons who required to be rescued from emergency incidents by fire brigade personnel in 1994-95 was 2,128, 120 fewer than in the previous year. This figure includes both fire and non-fire emergencies and is at a level below the average for the past 5 years. Table D below shows the number of persons rescued by brigades from emergency incidents since 1990.

TABLE D - Number of Persons Rescued from Emergency Incidents 1990 - 1994-95

Incident	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994-95
Fires	766	654	559	634	555
Other Emergency situations without fire	526	987	706	838	978
Road traffic accidents	886	817	692	776	595
TOTAL	2,178	2,458	1,957	2,248	2,128

32. The co-operation of the emergency services involved in dealing with the many incidents which occur each year, is of vital importance in the safeguarding of life and the containment of the incidents. I therefore compliment each of the services involved in the multi-disciplined approach to these incidents where the expertise of each organisation - Police, Ambulance and Fire - contributes to the best outcome that could be achieved in circumstances which are often difficult and stressful.

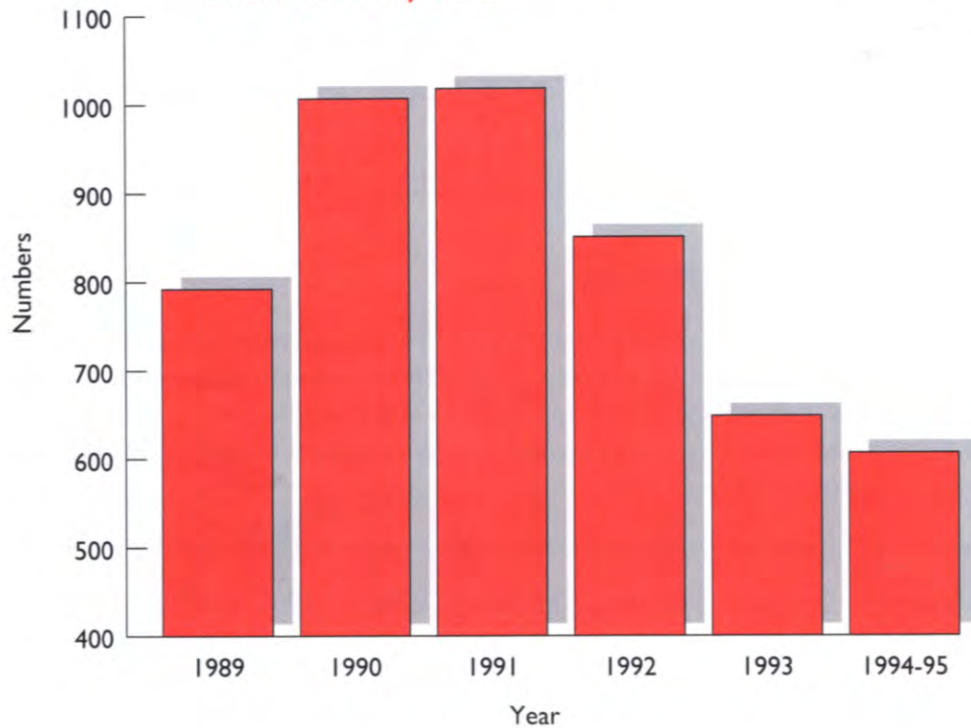
Fire Damage in the United Kingdom

33. During 1994, the direct financial loss due to fire damage in the United Kingdom is estimated by the Association of British Insurers to be £606m. This figure is 6.2% less than the total for the previous year and it is the third year in which a reduction in the fire loss estimates has been experienced.

34. As in previous years, the highest proportion of the fire loss total is borne by the commercial sector, which in 1994, had losses of £415m, 68.5% of the overall loss. In addition, business interruption claims in 1994 amounted to £191m, a rise of 84% over 1993. Losses in respect of domestic premises totalled £191m in 1994, a figure which was 14.7% less than in 1993.

35. An examination of the statistics covering the last 5 years shows that, with the exception of 1994, the proportion of the total losses experienced by the commercial sector has been falling while those within the domestic sector have gradually increased. This situation must, of course, be seen in the context of the reducing trend in the overall cost of fire damage, as shown in Graph 11.

**Graph 11 - Fire damage in the United Kingdom 1989 -1994
annual monetary losses**



36. It is of interest to note that the recently published report on the Fire Service by the Audit Commission recommended that brigades should place greater emphasis on the promulgation of fire safety measures and the prevention of fire. The report recognised that the speed at which a fire is detected and the time within which the outbreak can be attacked are key elements in limiting fire damage and its cost in terms of lives lost and property destroyed. Although the report's recommendations were aimed primarily at the brigades, in order to achieve a greater degree of efficiency and cost benefit effectiveness, the responsibility for the implementation of fire safety initiatives extends well beyond the Fire Service. Indeed, since the establishment of fire prevention departments within brigades, the specialist officers have always encouraged businesses to adopt the principles of early detection and early attack for fire outbreaks.

37. As indicated in last year's report, improvements and developments in the electronics field have made available sophisticated and reliable systems for the automatic detection of fire and the transmission of the warning to the fire brigades. In addition, active fire defence equipment such as sprinkler installations for both commercial and domestic premises are available in order to protect both life and property.

38. The recommendation of the Audit Commission to change the emphasis to prevention rather than cure is a message which must extend beyond the Fire Service - to industry and commerce as well as to the local authority and domestic sectors.

Major Fire Response Group

39. In view of the increasing number of fires which are started deliberately a new initiative has been developed within the Strathclyde Region with the formation of a Major Fire Response Group (MFRG). The MFRG was formed as a result of the experience gained from the investigation of a major fire in 1991 which had been caused by wilful fire raising and which had highlighted the advantages to be gained from the close co-operation of the range of disciplines likely to be involved in such an investigation.

40. The MFRG, which is led by Strathclyde Police, comprises representatives of the Strathclyde Police Forensic Science Laboratory, Strathclyde Fire Brigade, the Insurance Industry, Loss Adjusters and Local Authorities. The main aim of the MFRG is to take a more pro-active approach to fires which are caused by wilful fire raising and which may be the subject of fraudulent insurance claims.

41. Although still in the early stages of its development it is hoped that by getting the 'right people' on to an investigation at the earliest possible time, the MFRG's activities will improve investigative techniques, lead to the cases being successfully concluded and perhaps deter those who may become involved in this form of crime.

Research Protocol for the Investigation of Fires

42. A perceived need to extend the investigation of fires beyond the current emphasis on cause, has led to the formation of a new working group to take matters forward. The group comprises representatives from brigades, CACFOA, the Institution of Fire Engineers, the Fire Research and Development Group (FRDG), as well as the Home Departments. It is considered, for example, that the Fire Service should look at the "whole fire", ie its development, its spread and growth profile as well as the reaction of people under fire circumstances.

43. In the longer term the information should be beneficial in a number of ways, including the assessment of the structural protection, building materials used and other fire safety matters contained in Building Regulations, and assist in the consideration of fire engineered solutions adopted by building designers.

Performance Indicators for Scottish Fire Brigades

44. It was noted in last year's report that brigades in Scotland had been requested to forward a return on performance indicators covering the financial year 1993-94. Returns were duly received, collated by The Scottish Office, and then considered by the Scottish Fire Indicators Implementation Working Group (SFIIWG). The SFIIWG in turn submitted its report to the SCFBAC for its meeting on 9 June 1994, pointing out that the data received did not form a complete set and that some brigades would be unable to submit full returns for a while yet. The SFIIWG's report covered the following 3 distinct matters:

- i. a report on the 1993-94 indicators exercise, covering 12 operational indicators;
- ii. proposed clarification and/or expansion of certain of the guidance notes for the indicators, with a view to more fully consistent figures being achieved in 1994-95; and

- iii. following a report to the SFIIWG from the Fire Safety Returns Working Group, proposed extension of the scheme in 1994-95 to include 4 fire safety indicators.

45. Following the SCFBAC consideration, and subsequent discussions with Firemasters, the SFIIWG and an SFIIWG Task Force, it was agreed that for 1994-95 onwards the performance indicators scheme would consist of 3 types of item - Background Data, Operational Data and Scottish Fire Indicators - since some of the items labelled "Indicators" in 1993-94 were not really performance indicators at all, but rather operational facts. It was decided not to extend the scheme for 1994-95 as regards either operational indicators or fire safety indicators.

46. Detailed worksheets for reporting the Background Data, 5 sets of Operational Data and 5 Scottish Fire Indicators were prepared and returns for 1994-95 were formally requested from Firemasters in December 1994.

47. As of the end of March 1995, performance indicators for the financial year 1994-95 were beginning to be drawn together by brigades. The SFIIWG planned to consider the collated returns at a meeting in May 1995. I hope to include material from the indicators exercises in the Inspectorate's 1994-95 inspection report for each brigade.

48. Meanwhile the 4 performance indicators for 1994-95 required by the 1993 Direction of the Commission for Local Authority Accounts in Scotland are scheduled to be published by the end of December 1995. They call for information which is different from that sought by The Scottish Office.



SECTION D: FIRE SAFETY

Background

1. The statutory duties of fire authorities in respect of fire safety matters are contained within 2 separate statutes - the Fire Precautions Act 1971 (the 1971 Act) and the Fire Services Act 1947 (the 1947 Act). In the case of the 1947 Act, it is a duty of the fire authority to make efficient arrangements for giving, when requested, advice in respect of buildings and other property on fire prevention, restricting the spread of fires and means of escape in case of fire. This responsibility, in common with the statutory enforcement duties contained within the 1971 Act is delegated by the fire authority to the fire brigade whose officers have the technical background together with the practical experience most suited to deal with such matters.
2. It is obvious, because of the breadth of the responsibility, that the range of the subjects and the premises on which advice is sought will be equally wide ranging and may include:
 - i. Advising local authorities on appropriate fire precautions for premises to be licensed by them, for example under the following statutory instruments:
 - a. The Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976;
 - b. The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982;
 - c. The Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975;
 - d. The Gaming Act 1968;
 - e. The Theatres Act 1968;
 - f. The Housing (Scotland) Acts;
 - g. The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960; and
 - h. The Cinematograph (Safety) (Scotland) Regulations 1985.
 - ii. Advising architects and building designers on the fire safety precautions required for new developments or extensions to existing properties.
 - iii. Giving advice to organisations or individuals on fire safety matters.
3. In addition to the formal giving of advice, and although it is not a statutory obligation, all brigades take part in the promulgation of fire safety themes not only in schools but also generally within local communities. Particular attention is given to those areas where there is a higher incidence of fire and to the occupancy types where the risk appears to be greatest. Brigades are assisted in this work by The Scottish Office Home and Health Department through the provision of a range of fire safety leaflets and posters. It is essential that this work should continue and where possible increase, in order to reduce the loss of life, fire injuries and damage to property caused by fire.
4. Under the terms of the 1971 Act fire authorities have the responsibility for enforcing the provisions of the legislation in premises other than Crown premises. In general, these

provisions relate to the uses of premises which are the subject of a designation order and for which a fire certificate, issued by the fire authority is required. The responsibility for applying for and obtaining a fire certificate rests with the occupier of the premises or in certain cases the owner or owners of the property.

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

6. The 1971 Act also makes provision for fire authorities to set aside, or grant exemption from, the requirement to have a fire certificate but only in certain prescribed circumstances and not in hotels and boarding houses.

7. Fire precautions in factories, offices, shops and railway premises which are outwith the scope of the certification criteria of the legislation are also subject to statutory requirements within the 1971 Act, although to a lesser extent. In order to assist occupiers to meet their statutory duties in certifiable or non-certifiable premises falling within the scope of the 1971 Act guidance documents are available which set out the procedures to be adopted and indicate fire precautions standards which are likely to satisfy the provisions of the legislation.

8. As mentioned in Section A of this report a review of fire precautions legislation and enforcement has taken place and further consideration is being given to the manner in which the law can make provision for the safety of persons at work in case of fire.

Fire Safety Inspections of Premises

9. During the reporting period a revised system giving statistical details of work carried out in respect of fire safety matters was introduced, in order to provide more comprehensive details for the management of fire safety departments and also for the purposes of the Fire Inspectorate. The changes are however being introduced on a phased basis to allow brigades to adjust their systems for the collation of the information.

Certifiable Premises

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

	Total Certifiable Premises	Total Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued in Current Year	Total Re-inspections of Certificated Premises in Current Year
Factories	4,760	4,240 (89.1%)	138	2,015
Offices	10,533	9,356 (88.8%)	490	3,529
Shops	5,735	5,173 (90.2%)	301	2,426
Railway Premises	7	7 (100%)	-	7
Hotels and Boarding Houses	4,788	4,628 (96.7%)	87	4,378
Totals	<u>25,823</u>	<u>23,404 (90.6%)</u>	<u>1,016</u>	<u>12,355</u>

Certification of Premises

10. Table E above shows the total number of premises in each of the occupancy types for which a fire certificate is required under the terms of Section 5 of the 1971 Act. The overall total of certifiable premises has increased marginally from the previous reporting period as additional applications for certificates have been submitted to brigades. The increases affected each type of occupancy.

11. The number of fire certificates issued by brigades in 1994-95 also increased slightly to 1,016 ie 5.6% above the total for the previous reporting period. At the end of the current period the number of certifiable premises without fire certificates was:

Factories	520
Offices	1,177
Shops	562
Railway Premises	—
Hotels and Boarding Houses	160
Total	<u>2,419</u>

The total shown here is higher than in the previous 12 months, due to the number of new applications for certificates received by brigades. Although the figure would appear to be high, it has to be noted that 63% of these uncertificated premises have been inspected by brigade personnel and that the work which is necessary to upgrade the standard of the fire precautions in the premises for certification purposes is currently in hand.

12. Table E above also shows the total number of certificated premises that were subject to a re-inspection visit, to confirm that the standard of the fire precautions within the premises was being maintained to the level prescribed in the fire certificate.

13. As a result of these inspections, changes were noted which required amendments being made to the fire certificate previously issued. During the period, 1,088 amended certificates were issued by brigades.

14. The frequency with which certificated premises are re-inspected is determined mainly by the brigade's assessment of the risk associated with the use of the premises; priority is therefore given to the occupancies where the risk to persons in the event of an outbreak of fire is judged to be above average.

15. Among the total number of fire certificates granted by brigades, are documents issued under the terms of legislation applying prior to the implementation of the 1971 Act. These documents, whilst being accepted for the purposes of the 1971 Act, do not reflect the range of fire precautions covered by the present legislation. Brigades are therefore encouraged to replace them where possible, with more modern fire certificates. During the 1994-95 period, 123 of the 'old certificates' were replaced by brigades. However, there are at present 495 sets of premises still covered by these documents.

16. Fire authorities are empowered under the terms of Section 5A of the 1971 Act to grant exemption from the requirement to have a fire certificate, to premises which qualify for such a consideration because of the nature of the occupancy, its construction, and where the fire authority is satisfied, having regard to all the circumstances, that there is a relatively low risk to persons in the event of fire. The main objective of the power is to release these low risk premises from the certification procedures and allow fire authorities to concentrate their resources on premises having a higher risk potential.

17. In my previous report I indicated that Scottish brigades were being encouraged by the Inspectorate to develop systems whereby premises, which qualified for exemption, could

be recognised and given due consideration. Although the number of exemptions granted now stands at 256, 83% more than before, it is still considered that many more premises could be the subject of an exemption. Brigades are therefore further encouraged to make use of the exemption powers in appropriate situations.

Non-Certifiable Premises

18. Factories, offices, shops and railway premises which are outwith the scope of the criteria set for the certification of these premises, are still subject to the provisions in the 1971 Act relating to the means of escape and means for fighting fire. The responsibility for complying with these statutory provisions rests with the person or persons who operate the premises, and guidance on how to satisfy the legislative requirements is available in Home Office/The Scottish Home and Health Department publications.

19. At present it is estimated that there are around 58,000 such premises in Scotland of which 8,138 were inspected by brigades during the 1994-95 period.

Other Inspections

20. The duty within the 1947 Act which, in general, requires fire authorities to give advice on fire safety matters results in requests being received by brigades from a wide range of sources - local authorities, architects, industrial and commercial organisations as well as the general public.

21. In 1994-95, in addition to their statutory enforcement duties, brigades in Scotland inspected 23,872 sets of premises to advise on fire precautions. Under the 'Residential' category which includes hospitals, residential care premises, old people's homes and houses in multiple occupations, over 6,000 inspections were carried out. Within the 'Non-Residential' classification which covers premises such as theatres, cinemas, sports grounds and liquor licensed premises, just under 18,000 sets of premises were inspected. In addition, 7,973 plans of new buildings or alterations to existing property were examined and reports prepared on the suitability of the proposed fire precautions.

Offences and Prosecutions

22. During the year under review, 3 separate prosecutions in respect of a contravention of a statutory requirement, were obtained by Scottish brigades. Each related to offences committed in shop premises.

23. Under the terms of Section 10 of the 1971 Act, fire authorities have the power to issue a prohibition notice, prohibiting or restricting the use of a building, or part of a building where, in the opinion of the authority, the use of the premises presents a serious risk to persons in the event of fire. During the year a total of 24 prohibition notices were issued by brigades in respect of the following types of premises.

Houses in multiple occupation	8
Hotels and Boarding Houses	6
Shops	5
Factories	2
Office	1
Public House	1
Youth Hostel	1

Fire Fatalities

24. During the period under review 87 people were killed in fires attended by fire brigades in Scotland. This was a 31.5% reduction from the total for 1993 and the lowest level in this country for 30 years.

25. Although 3 brigades experienced slight increases in the number of fire fatalities, from that in 1993, the remaining 5 brigades had substantial reductions - Fife - 35.7%, Grampian - 63.6%, Lothian and Borders - 60.0%, Strathclyde - 19.2% and Tayside - 68.7%.

26. Table F shows the total number of deaths due to fire outbreaks in each of the Scottish brigade areas over the past 10 years, whilst Appendix 6 gives details of the fatalities in terms of the age group, the location of the fire and the months in which the incidents occurred.

Table F - Number of Fire Deaths by Brigade 1985 - 1994-1995

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994-95
Central	5	9	17	11	4	4	9	8	2	4
Dumfries & Galloway	8	2	4	7	1	8	3	3	6	8
Fife	6	9	12	11	6	5	7	11	14	9
Grampian	18	11	12	12	12	11	11	13	11	4
Highland & Islands	11	9	5	10	9	6	12	10	6	7
Lothian & Borders	23	29	21	26	19	22	18	13	20	8
Strathclyde	89	87	83	69	56	72	72	53	52	42
Tayside	11	9	14	4	6	4	7	8	16	5
Totals	171	165	168	150	113	133	139	119	127	87

27. Most of the victims of fire outbreaks died in dwellings where 81 (93.1%) people were killed in 72 incidents. The remaining fatal fires occurred in road traffic accidents (4), a hotel (one) and a farm workshop (one). Six of the total number of fatal fires in domestic premises resulted in the death of more than one person and indeed 15 people were killed in the multiple fatality incidents.

Fatalities Due to Fires in Dwellings

28. During the 12 month period most of the fatal incidents in dwellings occurred in the months of January (12), March (11) and September (10). This pattern was slightly different from the norm, which previously suggested that most of the fatal incidents occurred during the winter months.

29. The days of the week in which the highest proportion of the fires with fatalities took place were Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, with 14 each; Tuesdays had 12 incidents and Saturdays 11. As in 1993 the weekend period, which previously had a high incidence, did not figure highly: indeed Sundays and Fridays showed the lowest frequencies.

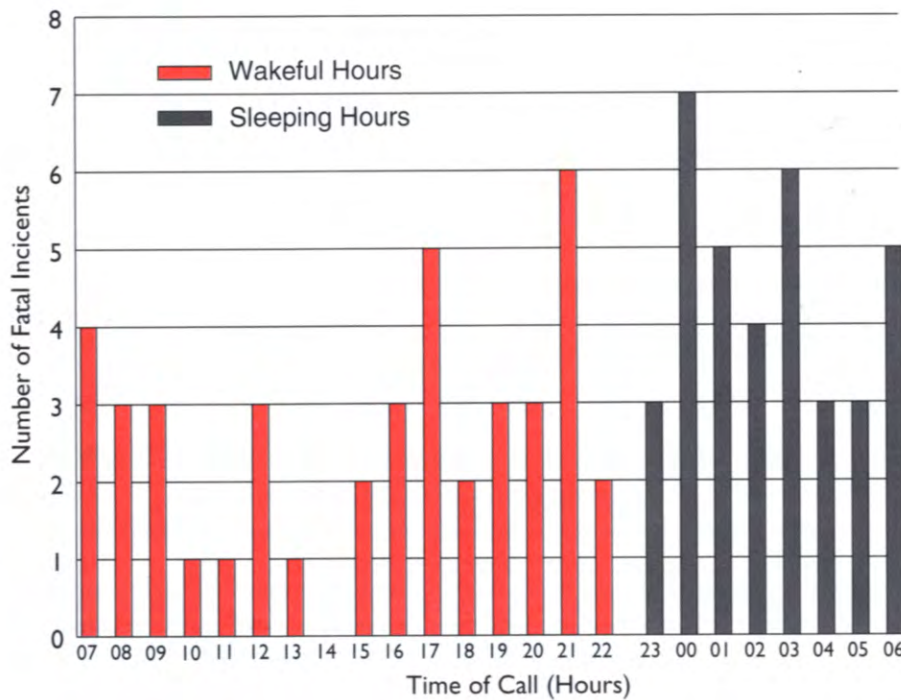
30. Graph 12 shows the incidence of the fatal fires in relation to the time at which the call for fire brigade assistance was received. The pattern is similar to that of the previous reporting period with peaks, during the wakeful hours, in the early morning, late afternoon and around 9 o'clock in the evening. During the sleeping hours the peak is shown at midnight with a gradual reduction as the night progresses towards morning. Out of the total number of fatal fires in dwellings 39 occurred during the wakeful hours and 33 during the sleeping hours. Although, in the main, more lives are lost in fires which have a time of call to the brigade during the sleeping hours, this feature was not true of all age groups. It is noticed for example that in the over 70s age group, 9 people died in fires through the night while 23 such deaths occurred during the wakeful hours. Although it is necessary for us all to

maintain a sense of vigilance against an outbreak of fire at all times, it is particularly true for the more elderly members of our society.

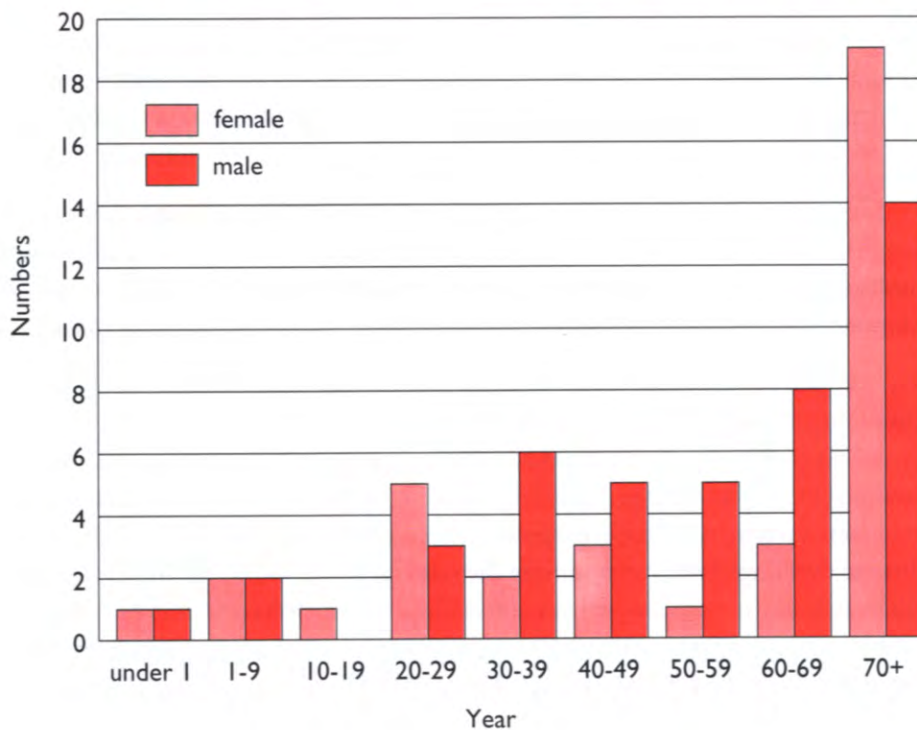
31. Graph 13 shows the number of fire deaths in dwellings by age group and sex during 1994-95.

32. During the reporting period 44 males and 37 females died in fires in dwellings. The graph shows, however, that the predominance of male fatalities is not true of all age groups.

Graph 12 - Number of fatal incidents related to the time of call in 1994-95



Graph 13 - Total fire deaths in dwellings by age group and sex in 1994-95



The over 70s age group, for example, shows a higher loss of female lives, a feature which is a reversal of the situation experienced in 1993.

33. Although as in previous years, the age groups covering the more senior members of the community experienced the greatest loss of life, the 20s, 30s and 40s groups respectively were only marginally lower than the total for the 60s age group.

Areas in Which Fatal Fires Started

34. Out of the 72 fire incidents in dwellings, which led to a loss of life, brigade investigations have indicated that the outbreaks originated in the following locations:

	<i>Number of Incidents</i>	<i>Number of Fatalities</i>
Living Rooms	34 (47.2%)	42
Bedrooms	22 (30.6%)	23
Kitchens	13 (18.1%)	13
Bedsit Areas	2 (2.7%)	2
Hall	1 (1.4%)	1

35. While national statistics indicate that the kitchen is the room, within a dwelling, most frequently affected by an outbreak of fire, the figures given in the table above show clearly that fires which start in living room or lounge areas present the greatest threat to life. It is therefore important that when consideration is being given to the installation of domestic smoke alarms by individuals or local authorities, as well as covering the escape routes within the house, account should be taken of the areas where the hazard to persons may be greatest.

Causes of Fatal Fires in Dwellings

36. The most common causes of the house fires in which people died were:

	<i>Number of Incidents</i>	<i>% of Total Incidents</i>
Carelessness in the use of smokers' materials	39	54.2%
Faulty space heating appliances or the misuse of heating appliances	9	12.5%
Overheating of pans left unattended on a cooker	7	9.7%
Faulty electric blankets or the misuse of electric blankets	6	8.3%

37. Once again the statistical information shows the same features previously noted to be the main causes of the fires which lead to a death. In the year under review the proportion of the total fatal incidents which were due to carelessness with smokers' materials increased, as did the number of fires involving electric blankets. In this latter instance the people who died in the fires were all over the age of 70.

38. As well as promulgating messages encouraging care in the use of cigarettes and matches, the continuing high level of incidence caused by the use or misuse of heating appliances needs to be addressed, not only in terms of the maintenance of the equipment but also in respect of its siting. In many instances the heat from these appliances ignites nearby furniture or indeed the clothing of the victim. Once again the elderly are particularly at risk from these circumstances and are often unable to remove themselves from the fire which has broken out close to them.

39. Out of the 72 fire incidents in dwellings which resulted in one or more fatalities, 45 of the premises, that is 62.5%, had been fitted with smoke alarms. However only 17 were considered to have been in working order at the time of the outbreak. Of the remainder, the batteries had either been removed or had become disconnected; in 4 instances no determination could be made regarding the units due to fire damage.

40. In most cases where the smoke alarms either did not function correctly or were not fitted in the premises, investigating officers considered that had a smoke alarm warning been given to the occupants, the number of fatalities could have been reduced. In some cases, however, due to illness, the victim's clothing being set alight or other circumstances, a response to the fire warning could not be made without early external assistance.

Smoke Alarms

41. As a result of the vigorous campaigning by fire brigades and The Scottish Office Home and Health Department, it is considered that the public's perception of the value of smoke alarms is increasing. It is estimated that at present around 87% of the households in Scotland have been fitted with these devices to give an early warning of an outbreak of fire. Nevertheless, as previously reported, there is ongoing concern that the lack of maintenance of the smoke alarms would reduce the protection afforded to the occupants of dwellings.

42. Since there was little information about the maintenance and overall effectiveness of smoke alarms in dwellings, a research project was initiated by the Home Office, in collaboration with the Greater Manchester Fire Service and the Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in whose area 10,000 smoke alarms had been installed in a cross-section of houses.

43. The findings of the research, carried out over a 3-year period, are contained in a report of the FRDG entitled "Reliability and Effectiveness of Domestic Smoke Alarms". In its conclusions the report indicates that in some cases the smoke alarms were not properly cleaned, a feature which in optical type smoke alarms could result in false alarms due to dust triggering the device. There was also a clear need for the batteries to be replaced annually, as recommended by the manufacturers.

44. In a number of instances a misunderstanding of the smoke alarm's "low battery" warning sound was found to lead the occupier to the assumption that the unit was faulty, and as a result, instead of replacing the failing battery, the occupier disconnected it in order to stop the intermittent "bleeping" which indicated low battery power.

45. An examination of a number of fire incidents in the housing areas under review also confirmed the widespread belief that a single smoke alarm does not fully or adequately cover a dwelling.

46. These matters, together with the additional data obtained, will assist in the preparation of future guidance on the installation, use and maintenance of smoke alarms.

47. At present a British Standard covering fire detection and alarm systems in dwellings is being prepared.

Education and Publicity

48. During 1994-95 The Scottish Office Home and Health Department continued with its television campaign, not only to promote the installation of smoke alarms in dwellings but also to highlight the importance of maintaining these devices. Evidence from brigades

had indicated that a surprisingly high proportion of the houses fitted with smoke alarms had either had the batteries removed, or needed the existing batteries replaced due to the lack of power. By using the 30 second television commercial "Resuscitation" which depicts a house fire from which a child has to be rescued, the maintenance message would be underlined.

49. In addition to the use of television commercials, the Department used full page advertisements in selected newspapers to emphasise the maintenance of smoke alarms and also the hazards associated with fires in chip pans. This latter type of incident is the most frequently occurring fire in dwellings and it had been noted that a number of deaths had resulted from the outbreaks.

50. The Department continued during the year to support the fire safety efforts of Scottish fire brigades by the provision of fire safety leaflets and posters, etc, which were used in local campaigns.

51. The theme of the National Fire Safety Week in 1994 remained that of "Fire Costs"—a heading which, it was agreed, gave flexibility both nationally and locally to cover the wide range of matters which fire safety publicity needs to feature. In Scotland the 1994 campaign was launched by Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, the then Minister of Health and Home Affairs, at The Scottish Office. The launch, which took place at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre at Glasgow, was organised jointly by the Department and Strathclyde Fire Brigade and was sponsored by the General Accident insurance company. I take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the successful launch of the campaign.

52. Following discussion with brigades in Scotland the Department has decided to move forward with the domestic smoke alarm theme, by developing a campaign to advise the public to be prepared by having an escape plan for their homes and families, and by knowing what to do when a smoke alarm is activated by an outbreak of fire. A new television commercial has been produced, which will be complemented by a leaflet entitled "Fire Action Plan". This is the first television commercial to be produced exclusively for Scotland for some time. The new campaign will be launched on 25 September 1995 to coincide with the start of National Fire Safety Week.

53. Recent reports on the Fire Service have suggested that greater emphasis should be placed by brigades on the promotion of fire prevention and fire safety matters. Scottish brigades already initiate and participate in many fire safety projects of which the following are examples of the range of activities organised in 1994-95.

Central Region Fire Brigade arranged a fire safety quiz to be broadcast by a local radio station over a period of 4 months. In addition, a 'Write-in' competition on fire safety themes was organised by a local newspaper. Local sponsorship also paid for large banners with a fire safety message, for use at displays and other public presentations.

Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade continued with its education programme in schools while its exhibition unit was used at a number of gala days and fetes. During the year a number of pre-recorded tapes giving fire safety advice were prepared for use by blind people.

Fife Fire and Rescue Service used its Community Education Smoke Unit to give public demonstrations of the problems involved in having to move in smoke filled atmospheres, as well as highlighting the need to install and maintain smoke alarms in domestic premises. The Service also distributed around 10,000 fire safety leaflets to households using crews involved in hydrant maintenance operations.

Grampian Fire Brigade participated in a festival of theatrical activities which was held to promote health and safety issues. It also took part in the National Fire Safety Week, giving, among other activities, live demonstrations of chip pan fires - how they should be tackled and how they can be avoided.

Highland and Islands Fire Brigade held a number of open days at fire stations throughout the area, inviting members of the public to see their local service, whilst also using the opportunity to promulgate fire safety messages. Mobile display units visited a number of locations to encourage the use of smoke alarms.

Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade participated in a number of 'Crucial Crew' presentations in which various safety scenarios are staged and persons receive training through their practical involvement in dealing with the situations. These presentations have been developed for both schoolchildren and senior citizens.

Strathclyde Fire Brigade continued with its ongoing 'Safe Communities' projects in areas where risks from fire are perceived. In addition, seasonal fire safety campaigns covering the holiday periods, the festive season and firework safety were also organised within the Region. The Brigade participated in the education programme for schools highlighting not only fire safety matters but also measures to reduce the number of malicious false alarm calls.

Tayside Fire Brigade mounted a number of local media campaigns and distributed around 4,000 fire safety leaflets to members of the public considered to be particularly at risk from an outbreak of fire. The Brigade also participated in a number of fire safety campaigns under the 'Safe Taysiders' banner, including one in which 1,500 schoolchildren in primary 7 were involved.

54. The above-mentioned activities highlight only a small proportion of the wide range of projects and campaigns which the Scottish brigades participated in during the year. Many of the activities are ongoing in nature and call for a considerable effort from the personnel involved. I therefore commend the brigades for these initiatives which are designed to avoid or mitigate the effects of fire on people's lives and their properties.

Joint Fire Safety Committee

55. The Committee previously known as the Joint Fire Prevention Committee met on 2 occasions during the period under review. This included a special meeting to give consideration to the Report of the Interdepartmental Review of Fire Safety Legislation and Enforcement which is referred to within this report under a separate heading.

56. Among the wide range of subjects covered by the Committee were:

- i. The Implementation of the European Directive on Safety and/or Health Signs in the Workplace. It is proposed that the implementation of the Directive will be by way of regulations issued under the terms of the Health and Safety at Work, etc Act 1974 and will cover general safety signs as well as some relating to fire safety and firefighting features. The signs will, in the main, be presented in pictogram form. The HSE, the Department responsible for taking these matters forward, carried out a consultation exercise on the proposals during the latter part of 1994 and it is expected that regulations, together with a guidance document, will be published in the first half of 1995.
- ii. A Fire Safety Resource Planning and Management Guide. The proposed guide is a replacement for the series of booklets issued in 1974 commonly

known as the "Inbucon Guide" and which was considered to be out of date. The research and development of the new guide was contracted to Electronic Facilities Design Ltd., who visited 9 brigades in England and Wales and sent questionnaires to the remainder, seeking further information. As well as producing the guidance document, it was intended that a computer resource model should be prepared to assist brigades in estimating their workloads and in calculating the resource requirements.

- iii. Although the guide entitled "Home Office Guide to Fire Safety Planning and Management" was published early in 1995, work is still continuing on the proposed computer programme. Since the document uses statistical data which, at present, is only collected by brigades in England and Wales, the detailed application of the guide is unlikely in Scotland, although the principles which it promulgates are of obvious value.

Fire Safety in the Workplace

57. In order to implement 2 EC Directives relating to places of work the Government some time ago drafted regulations under the terms of Section 12 of the 1971 Act. The draft proposals were published for public comment and in the light of the responses obtained, Ministers considered that there was a need for a restriction in the scope of the draft legislation and for its simplification, in order to reduce the potential burdens on premises.

58. During the time when the legislation was being redrafted and new guidance documents being prepared, the review of the 1971 Act and the subsequent Interdepartmental Scrutiny of Fire Safety Legislation and Enforcement intervened; indeed one of the recommendations of the Scrutiny team was that the Home Office should not proceed with the draft regulations relating to places of work and that the EC Directive should be pursued using a separate legislative format. Although the Home Office did proceed to fresh consultations (on behalf of the Home Departments), largely to avoid attracting infraction proceedings from the European Community for failing to implement the Directives, Ministers have not yet decided on the manner in which to progress.

Building Standards Advisory Committee

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

60. Parts D and E of the Technical Standards associated with the Scottish Building Regulations are of special interest to brigade officers, both from an operational and a fire safety viewpoint, since they respectively relate to "Structural Fire Precautions" and "Means of Escape, Facilities for Firefighting and Means of Warning of Fire in Dwellings".

61. As mentioned above the legislative requirements of the Technical Standards are under review and during 1994 a number of changes were brought into operation. These included the publication of Amendment No. 2: The Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations 1994 which extended the provision of facilities for disabled people in buildings, by requiring

access to the upper floors of premises other than dwellings. This amendment also included a requirement for the provision of means of escape suitable for disabled people in the event of fire.

62. During the year the comprehensive review of Parts D and E was completed by officials, and a document outlining new proposals was issued as a part of the normal consultation procedures. A sub-committee of the BSAC considered the proposed amendments and subsequently the main Committee gave approval to the recommendations which will revise these 2 parts of the Technical Standards.

National Fire Prevention Youth Quiz

63. Each year the Fire Protection Association and CACFOA sponsor the National Fire Prevention Youth Quiz which is aimed at young people aged 11-14 years. Teams enter from groups such as schools, girl guides, scouts and youth clubs. The objective is of course to increase young people's knowledge of the risks and dangers of fire, in a challenging and entertaining way. After the issue of study material, in the form of leaflets, the participating teams compete within their local brigade areas. The winners move forward to the Scottish final from which the team to represent Scotland at national level will emerge.

64. In 1994, some 300 teams from 6 of the 8 brigades in Scotland competed in the heats leading to the Scottish final which was hosted by Central Region Fire Brigade, Falkirk. The winning team was from the 1st Stonehouse Girls' Brigade in Strathclyde who represented Scotland at the UK National Northern Semi-Final held at Strathclyde Fire Brigade Headquarters.

65. The overall winner of the Quiz in 1994 was the Maesteg Comprehensive School team from Mid Glamorgan but credit is due to the members of all of the 2,354 teams within the UK who participated in the competition.



SECTION E: TRAINING

Scottish Fire Service Training School

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

2. During 1994-95 the number of students participating in the various courses at the School were:

Wholetime Recruits	146	(163)
Retained Recruits	26	(53)
Retained Personnel other than recruits	141	(98)
Wholetime Leading Firefighter	35	(50)
Specialist Legislation	27	(23)
Breathing Apparatus Instructors	24	(29)
Hospital Fire Prevention etc	82	(42)
Prison Officer Fire Prevention etc	46	(30)
Breathing Apparatus/Fire Prevention Recourses	2	(3)
Road Traffic Accident Instructors	12	(-)
Total	<u>541</u>	<u>(491)</u>

(The 1993 figures are shown in brackets)

3. As mentioned in Section A of this report, Mr D Grant QFSM GFireE was appointed as Commandant of the School in January 1995 following the retiral of Mr C McManus MBE QFSM BA MIFireE in July 1994, who had served as Commandant since January 1988. The Deputy Commandant, Mr G Robertson, also retired in March 1995 on the completion of his secondment, during the final 6 months of which he acted temporarily as Commandant. I would like to record my appreciation for the good work done by Mr C McManus as Commandant and to Mr G Robertson as the Deputy Commandant and to the staff of the School for the way in which they maintained the School's work during the period without a permanent Commandant.

Fire Service College

4. Although financial constraints continued throughout the year, Firemasters were able to achieve, for the second year in succession, an increase in the level of attendance at College courses and seminars from 277 in 1993-94 to 337 in 1994-95, a rise of 21.7% which is a considerable achievement. As was the case in the previous year, the courses for which most student places were sought were those for Watch Commanders, Junior Officer Advancement

and Specialist Fire Prevention. Although these 3 courses represent only 8% of the total range of courses available, 56% of all students attending the College in 1994-95 were trained in these subjects.

5. Following the introduction of the Crew Commander's Course, the Watch Commander's Course will now be reviewed. Work is also well advanced on the routine validation of the Specialist Fire Prevention Course which will take into account any changes in legislation, while in addition confirming that the syllabus meets the needs of brigades. The College will of course also have regard in all its reviews to the work of the Training Strategy Group and its successor the Implementation Working Group and to the desirability of maximising the use of new learning technology.

6. In addition, the College has continued to develop opportunities for its students to attain certificate, degree and other nationally recognised qualifications. It has also continued to enhance its fireground facilities and hopes to secure development funds for the project VIRICS (Virtual Reality Incidents Control Simulator).

7. It is of course realised that, in spite of restructuring and staff rationalisation, the FSC currently faces major difficulties, as the financial restrictions on brigades and other organisations affect the demand for the wide range of courses available there. The quality of the training facilities at the FSC are known internationally and should be supported in the interests of the Fire Service generally.

Brigade Training

8. In view of the sometimes complex and wide ranging emergency incidents which brigades are called upon to attend, the training requirements of brigade personnel are constantly under review to ensure that both the technical and practical skills of firefighters are maintained at a high level of competency. Health and safety measures are incorporated into brigades' training programmes to ensure the well-being of personnel, both in the training and operational environments.

9. During the year all brigades introduced a system of personal training records in accordance with the recommendation promulgated in "Dear Firemaster" Letter 5/1992. These records are designed to provide a comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date record of individual firefighters' level of competency, as well as, over a period of time, identifying both the strengths and the weaknesses of the brigade training programme.

10. Fire Service Circular 5/1994 - First Aid Training and Casualty Handling - outlined to brigades the requirements of the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981. The Circular required brigades to train 25% of their operational personnel to trained first aider level. All brigades have, in accordance with the Circular, submitted their first aid training syllabi to and received approval from the HSE. The training of firefighters in these first aid skills will be on a progressive basis spread over a number of years as and when funding is identified.

11. Emergency Fire Appliance Driver (EFAD) refresher courses are provided for all wholetime firefighter licensed goods vehicle drivers and brigades are being encouraged to extend this training to the retained and volunteer sectors when finance becomes available. Guidance was promulgated in "Dear Firemaster" Letter 4/1994 on the conspicuity of emergency appliances whilst travelling at high speed and on the limitations of the audible warning devices fitted to fire appliances, particularly in relation to drivers of larger vehicles and other road users. This information should be included in the EFAD refresher course syllabus.

12. The training programmes operated by brigades continue to meet the training requirements of personnel. They cover an ever increasing number of technical and practical subjects as further legislation and new technological equipment are introduced into the Fire Service. In addition, the training of outside organisations has continued during the year. A wide range of training courses are provided, such as "hot fire" training, fire safety, breathing apparatus, hazardous materials and chemical emergencies, specialist driver training, marine command and control, and basic firemanship. The provision of these facilities, as well as catering for the training needs of the industrial and commercial fields, generates income for the fire authorities.

13. Guidance has been issued on the procedures to be adopted following terrorist incidents. The principles outlined should provide the framework for local discussions on contingency planning and have been agreed by CACFOA, the Association of Chief Police Officers (Scotland) and its equivalent body in England and Wales, and are set out in a statement entitled "The Operational Management of Major Incidents". The document also indicates the duties and responsibilities of the police, fire and ambulance personnel whilst in attendance at such incidents.

14. Information on emergency evacuation procedures at incidents has been circulated to brigades. The object of the procedures is to create awareness amongst operational personnel of circumstances that are likely to create a need for an emergency evacuation and of the appropriate action in such circumstances.

15. The hazards associated with inflatable impact safety bags (airbags) which are fitted to many modern vehicles for the protection of drivers and, on some vehicles, front passengers in the event of a road accident were described in "Dear Firemaster" Letter 8/1994. Guidance on the information contained within the document will be incorporated into brigade training programmes.

16. The National Joint Council for Local Authorities' Fire Brigades recommended to brigades that the weekly attendance of retained personnel should be extended from 2 to 3 hours in light of the ever increasing training requirements placed upon brigades. Some Scottish brigades have implemented this recommendation while others are unable to do so because of difficulties of funding.

Fire Services Examinations Board

17. To obtain qualifications for consideration for promotion to a higher rank, firefighters are required to be successful in examinations set by the Fire Services Examinations Board (FSEB). The examinations for promotion to the ranks of Leading Firefighter and Sub-Officer have both written and practical elements while the examination for promotion to the rank of Station Officer consists of written papers only.

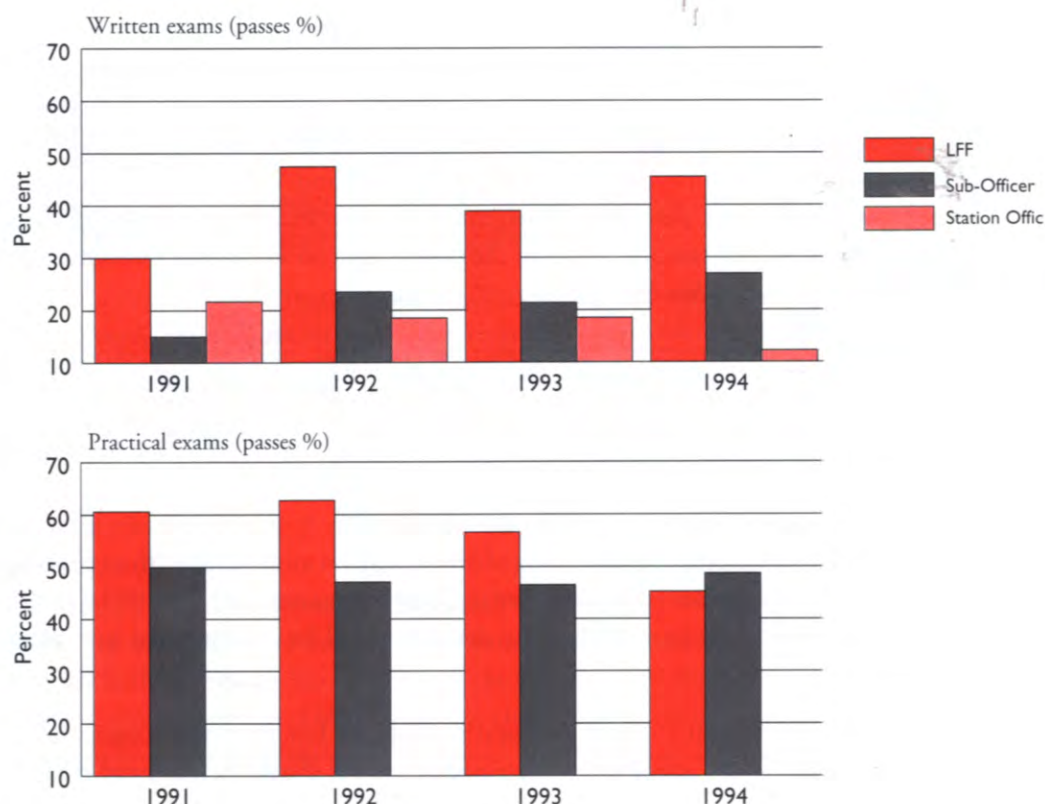
18. In Scotland, 3 local boards administer both the written and practical examinations on behalf of the FSEB. Written examinations for Leading Firefighter, Sub-Officer and Station Officer ranks were held in September 1994, October 1994 and February 1995 respectively. Practical examinations for Leading Firefighter and Sub-Officer took place between April and June 1994. The percentage of successful candidates from Scottish brigades over the past 4 years are shown in Graph 14 below.

Institution of Fire Engineers

19. During the year members of the Scottish Branch of the Institution attended a number of meetings covering such subjects as forest firefighting and the use of helicopters, a talk

on the issues facing the New Zealand Fire Department given by the visiting International President, the function of the Airport Fire Service, fires in historic buildings, an emergency services night and the 75th IFE Annual General Meeting at the FSC.

Graph 14 - Fire service examination board percentage of successful Scottish candidates 1991 to 1994-95



20. A total of 30 members of the Scottish Branch were successful in the various gradings in the 1994-95 examinations as shown below:

Preliminary Certificate	- 7;
Graduate Examination	- 3;
Membership	- 6; and
Individual Member Paper	- 14.

21. During 1994-95, in the higher education field, the first successful HNC (Fire Engineering) students were awarded their certificates from the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, which additionally qualified them for Membership of the Institution. A similar course was started at the Glasgow College of Building and Printing which resulted in a large number of applicants. It is hoped that an Honours degree course in Fire Engineering will be established in Scotland and negotiations with a number of Universities have already taken place.



SECTION F: SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Transport

1. The number of pumping and special appliances in service within brigades shows little change, apart from the decrease in reserve appliances being held, largely due to the improved standards of replacement of front line appliances. In general the 13 brigade vehicle workshops are modern, well equipped and strategically located to facilitate the major and routine servicing of pumping and special appliances. In addition, ancillary vehicles, such as vans, general purpose lorries, personnel carriers, cars, etc, are maintained within these premises. Workshops' personnel, as well as ensuring all maintenance schedules of operational appliances are met, also carry out routine and annual testing of ladders, portable pumps, lighting equipment, electrical generators and hydraulic rescue equipment. However Technical Bulletin 1/1994, which contains recommendations for the periodic testing of a range of fire service operational equipment, may in the future affect the workload placed upon workshops' staff. Each brigade has in place a system of availability which allows workshops' personnel to carry out repairs to vehicles and equipment outwith normal working hours and also to attend operational incidents of a major or protracted nature as required.

2. Vehicle replacement programmes within brigades range from 10-15 years for pumping appliances. At present not all these replacement targets are being met and if they are to be achieved it is essential that the financial allocations to brigades for these programmes must be sustained. Each brigade workshops is equipped with a computerised fleet management information system which is capable of maintaining an accurate and detailed cost analysis of all aspects of the transport section's work. These systems proved invaluable in supplying information for the report on the compulsory competitive tendering approach to fleet and equipment maintenance which brigades were required to submit to their respective authorities.

3. The Joint Committee on Appliances, Equipment and Uniform has recently recommended to brigades the adoption of the principles laid out in the manual produced by a CACFOA sub-committee entitled "Recommended Best Practice for the Maintenance of Fire Service Vehicles". This document advocates a national standard for vehicle maintenance which is sufficiently flexible to accommodate, in an economic, efficient and effective manner, the variety and the varying frequency of their use within brigades in the United Kingdom.

Premises

4. As I reported last year the ongoing financial restrictions on building and development programmes in brigades have resulted in progress being made only on those projects which are considered to have the highest priority. Other upgrading projects have either had to be set aside or phased over a longer period. In these circumstances some Firemasters have

expressed concern that, with limited care and maintenance work being carried out on buildings, the continuing deterioration in premises will result in a long term and higher financial cost.

5. In Central Region Fire Brigade the final phase of the renovation work at the Maddiston Headquarters complex has been progressing, with alterations to the vehicle workshops, washbay and storage accommodation. During the year a substantial refurbishment at Dunblane retained fire station was completed, giving improvements to the main accommodation and ancillary facilities.

6. The much needed replacement for the retained station at New Galloway in Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade has been delayed due to the builders having gone into liquidation. New contractors were sought and it was hoped that the work would restart in May 1995. The Brigade has also been progressing refurbishment work at Newton Stewart retained fire station and at the wholetime station at Dumfries.

7. During the year Fife Fire and Rescue Service completed the construction of a new retained station at Newburgh costing £301,000. The new unit replaces a timber construction which, apart from having structural defects, lacked many of the facilities required in a modern retained station.

8. In Grampian Fire Brigade the new fire station at Peterhead has been completed at a cost of approximately £1.5 million. In addition to the operational facilities at the station, the complex incorporates a new training building which can provide various training scenarios. New lecture rooms have also been provided. A start has been made on the replacement for the King Street fire station in Aberdeen. This project, which is unlikely to be completed before 1996, has an estimated cost of £3.5 million.

9. Highland and Islands Fire Brigade started its renovation of the Inverness wholetime station which has an estimated cost of £293,800. Phase 1 of the project will give a much needed improvement to the ground floor office, lecture room and dormitory accommodation. At Aviemore and Fortrose retained stations a programme of improving the general accommodation is proceeding with, in each case, an estimated cost of over £100,000. During the year new premises were constructed for the volunteer units at Leverburgh, Sanday and Bettyhill.

10. Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade completed the construction of the new wholetime station at Newcraighall, during the year, at an estimated cost of £1.2 million. Various upgradings were also carried out at both wholetime and retained stations and in addition, new drill towers were constructed at Newcastleton, Duns and Penicuik retained stations. Five stations are still without this training facility.

11. Within Strathclyde Fire Brigade area work has been progressing on the new premises to replace the North West wholetime fire station in Glasgow, whilst the alterations at Ardrossan fire station, which provide Headquarters accommodation for the West Command of the Brigade, have now been completed at an estimated cost of £730,000. New accommodation has also been provided for the volunteer units at Lochgoilhead and Port Charlotte.

12. In Tayside the programme of refurbishment at Brigade Headquarters has been continuing. The work includes the formation of a new Standby Control for the Brigade as well as changes to the office accommodation for Headquarters' staff and improvements to the kitchen facilities.

13. The above-mentioned projects indicate only part of the work continuing on the accommodation provided by brigades, in order to meet their statutory responsibilities. Also

incorporated into the work is the research and development of projects to improve safety, such as the installation of vehicle exhaust gas extractors, or to make more efficient use of fuel and power supplies, for energy conservation purposes. In general, during the period of financial restriction, brigades are maintaining suitable standards in the provision and maintenance of their properties, although some concern is expressed about the effects of longer term financial restrictions.

Equipment

14. All first line pumping appliances in brigades have now been equipped with a set of modern hydraulic rescue equipment for the extraction of persons trapped in various situations. Personal protective clothing, such as gloves, goggles, high conspicuity jackets and face shields, are all carried on appliances for the use of firefighters whilst attending emergency incidents.

15. The progressive programme for the upgrading of the volunteer units in Strathclyde and Highland and Islands Fire Brigades is continuing. An increased number of volunteer units have now been allocated fully equipped fire appliances carrying ladders, portable pumps, breathing apparatus, resuscitation equipment and hydraulic rescue gear. Each brigade has in place an extensive training programme for volunteer personnel covering both the technical and practical aspects associated with the above equipment.

16. Because of the potential risk to personnel 2 brigades, namely Lothian and Borders and Strathclyde, have issued written guidance and provided equipment on each pumping appliance for use in the removal and disposal of discarded hypodermic syringes found during routine hydrant and multi-storey dry riser inspections.

17. Grampian Fire Brigade has completed the programme of replacing their breathing apparatus cylinders with the new lightweight carbon composite type cylinder whose specification received the formal approval of the HSE in 1994. Other brigades are either in the process of evaluating the potential of this form of equipment or are introducing it on a phased basis.

18. At present Grampian Fire Brigade is evaluating a newly developed forward command vehicle, the purpose of which is to provide at an emergency incident additional communication facilities and computer based information. The vehicle is equipped with main system as well as hand held portable radios, cellular mobile phone, a fax machine, and a laptop computer which holds information such as telephone numbers, contact names and chemical data. The appliance has 4 wheel drive capability and is therefore suitable for traversing rough terrain.

19. Strathclyde Fire Brigade has designed and built a trolley to be used for the transportation of equipment on railways. Its main features are its lightness, ease of assembly and its capability to be used on mainline railway or underground railway track due to its adjustable axle width.

Telecommunications

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

21. As well as being the regulatory authority for the assignment of fire service radio spectrum, the Directorate has actively supported the on-going development of mobilisation and communications standards in conjunction with the Home Office. To meet the specific

requirements of Scottish brigades an additional standard covering the radio interface to communicate with remote stations has been developed and used to simplify the procurement of new systems.

22. The Directorate is fully participating in the Public Safety Radio Communications Project (PSRCP) with the intention of establishing a long-term strategic option for the replacement of current fire service analogue radio systems with new digital technology.



SECTION G: MISCELLANEOUS

Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council

1. Meetings of the SCFBAC were held on 23 March, 9 June and 27 October 1994 and on 17 February 1995. The first of these meetings was chaired by Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, Minister of State, while the others were chaired by Mr J Hamill, Secretary of The Scottish Office Home and Health Department.
2. The meeting on 23 March was a special meeting, convened at the request of the Fire Brigades Union to discuss a number of matters of concern to them. The meeting of 27 October was also a special meeting, convened to consider the Report of the Interdepartmental Review Team on Fire Safety Legislation and Enforcement. More generally, over the period of this report, the SCFBAC considered the annual reports of each of the Joint Committees of the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils, as well as a range of issues concerning the operation of fire brigades and also the proposals for local government reorganisation.

Joint Committee on Fire Brigade Operations

3. The Working Group set up by the Operations Committee to review and update Fire Service Circular 15/1967 has completed its report on attendances at road traffic accidents. It is now accepted that a rescue/emergency tender may have a longer distance to travel than a pumping appliance and may be delayed or even prevented from reaching the scene of the incident by the build up of traffic. The report therefore recommended that, as part of the predetermined attendance to the scene of a road accident, at least one pumping appliance should be provided with equipment to assist in the release of persons who might be trapped or injured. The provision of equipment which would be additional to that normally carried on pumping appliances was to fall within the following categories:

- a. lifting, spreading and cutting equipment;
- b. personal protection of crew members;
- c. medical equipment;
- d. communications; and
- e. miscellaneous equipment.

The content of the above mentioned Circular has accordingly been superseded by "Dear Firemaster" Letter 16/1994, Item C - Attendance at Road Accidents.

4. The FRDG was commissioned to undertake a project to measure the environmental factors of temperature, air flow, thermal radiation and humidity which have to be withstood by firefighting personnel and their equipment. This work was carried out by the Fire Experimental Unit whose findings were used in developing standards for equipment. Whilst the project was not originally intended to assess the ability of a firefighter to withstand a

wide range of operating conditions likely to be encountered, it was considered appropriate at the same time to record physiological data which would be of use to specialists.

5. A code of practice entitled "Safety at Street Works and Road Works", has been issued by the Secretary of State for Transport under Sections 65 and 124 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. These Sections require anyone carrying out work under the Act to do so in a safe manner as regards the signing, lighting and guarding of the works. This will have implications for the Fire Service when undertaking hydrant testing and inspections, or in some cases minor works by arrangement with water authorities. It was agreed by the Operations Committee that advice on this subject has been promulgated to the fire service in "Dear Firemaster" Letter 10/1994.

6. Over the year frequent discussions took place between the Home Office and the HSE regarding specific exemption from certain requirements of the Noise at Work Regulations 1989 as applied to the Fire Service. The Health and Safety Exempting Officer has, as yet, not given formal approval for the exemption. However, he has indicated that a condition of any exemption is likely to be the implementation of a system of audiometric screening carried out over a 3 year period.

7. The Operations Committee has received a draft report from the consultants who were asked to examine the standard of intrinsically safe radios currently recommended for the Fire Service and used in conjunction with breathing apparatus in flammable atmospheres. The report concludes that the current standard is still appropriate and that the Fire Service should continue to procure exclusively intrinsically safe radios and interfaces for use with breathing apparatus. The final report is to be submitted to the Committee in the near future.

8. Other matters which were considered by the Committee are detailed below:

- i. a specification for a fire service radio distress signalling and telemetry system;
- ii. a review of Technical Bulletin 1/1989 - breathing apparatus;
- iii. the introduction of a national accident statistical reporting document;
- iv. the investigation into a high technology alternative to breathing apparatus guidelines;
- v. the operational use of helicopters by the Fire Service; and
- vi. the harmonisation of hazard information systems and the transport of dangerous goods.

Joint Training Committee

9. The Training Strategy Group, which was established by the Joint Committee in October 1992 to analyse the selection, training and development needs of the Fire Service both in the long and short term, submitted its report in August 1994. It was adopted by the Joint Committee at their November 1994 meeting. Since the report contains 78 separate recommendations, a Working Group has been formed to examine it in detail and produce papers for the Joint Committee recommending how the implementation of the separate sections should be taken forward, and to prepare an action plan with a timescale and cost analysis for the report as a whole.

10. The first edition of the Fire Service Training Manual, which replaces the Fire Service Drill Book (1985), was issued under "Dear Firemaster" Letter 1/1995. This Manual has a loose leaf format to allow the more ready introduction of amendments when required. The

document now includes more than a prescription for the basic elements of fire service “drill” in that it contains the components essential for a training framework and deals with foundation training, progression, development and the maintenance of competence.

11. Guidance on the use of breathing apparatus in confined spaces was approved by the Joint Committee and promulgated in “Dear Firemaster” Letter 2/1995. It is recommended that the techniques for removing breathing apparatus while allowing the wearer to continue breathing from the set in order to move within a confined space should be taught at the FSC and the SFSTS during the breathing apparatus instructors’ course.

12. A supplement to the manual of firemanship entitled “Behaviour of Fire Compartment Fires” has been issued to brigades. The document outlines the basic information firefighters need to know about compartment fires. It summarises, without indepth technical detail, the early stages in the growth of a fire in a compartment, leading to a flashover and possible backdraught, and the effect of ventilation.

13. The FRDG was commissioned to determine whether a suitable radiation simulator was available or could be developed in order to avoid the use of a radio active source during training periods. As a result the Radsim SS1 simulator, based on the most common survey meter in use by brigades, has been developed and uses ultrasonics to represent the radioactive source. Information on this matter was issued to brigades through a “Dear Firemaster” Letter 5/1995, Item B.

Joint Committee on Appliances, Equipment and Uniform

14. The Joint Committee has received the final report from the FRDG who, working in close conjunction with De Baer Corporate Clothing Ltd, have produced new specifications for the design of a uniform for control staff. This information was promulgated to the Fire Service in “Dear Firemaster” Letter 3/1995.

15. The Technical Sub-Committee of the Joint Committee, in conjunction with the FRDG, are at present carrying out research into the degradation of gastight chemical protection suits to identify the extent of any deterioration and the levels of substances remaining following the decontamination process. A report from the Sub-Committee is expected to be presented to the September meeting of the full Committee.

16. A number of Home Office specifications for firefighters uniforms and personal equipment have been in existence for a number of years and have either been superseded or items were no longer on issue. It was therefore, proposed by the Home Office that it should review all the uniforms and personal equipment specifications and submit recommendations to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

Joint Committee on Fire Brigade Communications

17. As stated in my 1993 report, the PSRCP has been set up to take forward the recommendations of the Major Review of Radio Communications in the Police and Fire Services.

18. The primary objective of the PSRCP is to provide a radio communication system for the Police Service, with the Fire Service position being that of a potential user of the system provided the system meets the Fire Service’s user requirements and provided it is cost effective to do so.

19. The Home Office Fire Department has employed consultants to consider alternative options to meet the Fire Service’s radio user requirements and also to assist the Fire Service

Inspectorate in responding to the PSRCP. The recommended solution proposed by the consultants will form the Fire Service Base Case, which will be incorporated into the PSRCP Business Case.

20. The next crucial stage in the development of the PSRCP project is the publication of the Business Case which is expected by late summer 1995. The publication of the Business Case will lead to a phase in which all interested parties will have the opportunity to evaluate in detail the technical and financial issues regarding the project and it will enable potential users to decide whether to continue to support the PSRCP into the procurement stage.

21. Irrespective of the final solution adopted, brigades in Scotland will require to replace their existing radio systems early in the next century, due to age and the obsolescence of the current technology used. This will have substantial resource and financial implications for brigades.

22. A Generic Code of Practice for Mobile Radio 999 Emergency Access has been prepared by the Home Office 999 Liaison Committee. This Code combines previous memorandums of understanding for Cellular Radio and the Personal Communications Network and details the arrangements to be applied between the mobile telephone companies (or their call handling agents) and the Emergency Authorities for forwarding 999 calls made by mobile telephone users.

23. A Framework Agreement Technical Committee was formed in June 1994 by the FRDG to develop solutions to technical problems that have been raised by brigades and suppliers in relation to the specification for Replacement Mobilising and Communications Systems.

24. A consultancy study was also carried out on behalf of The Scottish Office concerning the specification of an air-radio interface which will support the transmission of the relevant data over mobile radio. The results of this study will be taken into account in the next revision of the guidance on mobilising systems.

Joint Committee on Fire Research

25. The Committee met twice during the year, in May and November, and considered various fire related projects, as set out in the Strategic Plan for Fire Research. The work of the FRDG is divided into 4 main categories: fire prevention and protection; firefighting equipment; Fire Service support; and other support.

26. During the year the Committee considered 7 Summary Reports and 2 FRDG Reports - one on the assessment of a compressed air foam system and the other a guide for fire prevention officers. The conclusions of the Summary Reports are as follows:

- i. *Accidents to Firefighters* - Overall, the number of firefighter injuries at fires has increased in proportion to the number of incidents attended over recent years. The study showed that just over half of all the injuries incurred by firefighters occurred whilst attending incidents. Some brigades have also experienced an increase in sports injuries.
- ii. *Fire Appliance Lockers and Stowage Systems* - Although the project focused on locker and stowage systems, it also considered other aspects of appliance design. The report did not come to a definitive conclusion, but rather sought to present brigades with a wide range of options, so that they could identify those most suited to their circumstances.
- iii. *Storage of Rubber Tyres* - The report made recommendations on how tyres should be stored to limit fire spread and fire severity.

- iv. *Appliance Water Tank Capacity* - The study concluded that appliance tank sizes should be determined primarily on the basis of local needs and policies. It was suggested that those brigades wishing to review tank sizes should carry out an analysis of water requirements and provisions at a sample of actual incidents, based broadly along the lines indicated in the report.
- v. *Measurements of the Firefighting Environment* - It was not possible to fully define the firefighting environment as only a limited number of tests were carried out. However, the study provided some useful information which was not previously available.
- vi. *Development of a Fire Service Training Exercise Using a Simulator of a Radioactive Source* - The report contained an account of the development of a training scenario and included instructions for setting up a training exercise. The training scenario makes it possible to provide practical training in the use of survey meters without the need to expose firefighters to the hazards of ionising radiation, although there are inevitably limitations in using this type of simulator to represent a radioactive source.

27. At present there are some 46 fire related studies being undertaken within the Strategic Plan, a few of which are listed below along with a brief explanation of the objective of the project.

- i. *Assessment of Domestic Smoke Alarm Tests* - To assess the advice given to the public on how to test domestic smoke alarms and, if this proves inadequate, to advise on possible alternatives.
- ii. *Breathing Apparatus Guideline Procedures and Alternatives* - To review existing experience in the use of BA guidelines, to identify any problems and to consider alternative operational methods.
- iii. *Venting of Large Scale Fires* - To determine how much is known about the experimental and theoretical basis of venting as a firefighting tactic and to develop safe working procedures, should it appear practicable.
- iv. *Fire Cover Modelling for Brigades* - To produce the FRDG Fire Cover Computer Model in a form readily usable by brigades and to distribute the software to all interested brigades.
- v. *The Science of Fire Suppression and Extinction* - To survey and document the process of fire suppression and extinction and to identify areas for future research.
- vi. *Minimum and Maximum Height Requirements for Fire Service Recruits* - The objective of this study is to identify:
 - a. whether an operational need exists for height limits in the Fire Service;
 - b. whether physical requirements for the fire service currently tested by height might better be tested by some other measurement(s); and
 - c. what alternative measurements and criteria should be introduced.
- vii. *Project Servicing and Background* - To provide the resources to finance background activities at the Fire Experimental Unit.

Other Joint Committees

28. For comments on the activities of the Joint Pensions Committee and the Joint Committee on Equal Opportunities see paragraphs 23 and 24 to 30 of Section B respectively and of the Joint Fire Safety Committee see paragraphs 55 and 56 of Section D.

Civil Defence and Emergency Planning

29. Financial support from The Scottish Office continued to each brigade for a Brigade Emergency Planning Staff Officer who is responsible to his Firemaster for the preparation and updating of the Brigade's Civil Defence and other Emergency Plans.

30. In October/November The Scottish Office Home and Health Department sponsored a fourth series of general emergency courses for participants from local authorities, the emergency services and various other public and voluntary organisations. Eleven brigade personnel participated in these and for the first time brigades and police forces provided tutors for the courses. This proved to be a successful innovation as the tutors were able to make a significant input into the courses on the work of their service in an all hazard emergency planning response. It is hoped that brigade input will continue alongside that of the police and local authority emergency planning staff in future courses. The Scottish Office also held 5 one day seminars on various subjects, eg military air crash, emergency management, and pollution, with 16 brigade personnel attending.

31. Four meetings of a re-constituted Brigade Emergency Planners' Working Group were held during the last year when a variety of topics of interest to all brigades were discussed. To reflect the change in emphasis to an integrated emergency management approach, the group has developed and presented a revised training package on the subject to recruits at the SFSTS.

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

The Fire Information National Data Service (FINDS)

33. The FINDS service is provided by CACFOA with the central computer and staffing based at its headquarters in Tamworth. All UK brigades and both Fire Inspectorates are on the system, as are about 20 other fire related organisations, including the FSC.

34. The system provides electronic mail transfer facilities between the computer systems of each member organisation and includes various database facilities. The freetext database holds the full text of about 8,000 documents, including "Dear Firemaster" Letters and Scottish Office Fire Service Circulars issued since 1982.

35. Recent additions to the system have been the provision of individual electronic mail boxes for all UK fire officers of Assistant Firemaster rank and above and a new emergency fax facility which forwards electronic mail to the control room fax machine of all brigades.

Fire Services National Benevolent Fund

36. In its 51st year the Fund's income exceeded £3 million for only the second time in its history. Total income rose by approximately 12% over 1993 to a figure of £3,073,896 and expenditure reduced by 6.0% to £2,465,714.

37. In Scotland income experienced a 2.7% reduction to £180,469 with expenditure also reducing by 3.9% to a final figure of £72,901.

38. Plans for the construction of a 40-bed Rehabilitation and Therapy Centre and 14 sheltered housing units at Eamont Bridge, Penrith by the end of 1994 was substantially delayed by bad weather and poor site management by the contractor. In spite of a 6 month

delay the Trustees are more than satisfied with the end result and the Centre was opened officially by HRH Princess Alexandra on 19 April 1995.

39. Unfortunately due to a number of unforeseen factors, the marketing programme to sell and rent the sheltered housing units at both Littlehampton and Eamont Bridge has been delayed until Spring 1995.

40. During the year the Fund has provided over £1 million in the form of charitable grants to widows, orphans and a variety of children and adults with problems ranging from temporary incapacity through prolonged sickness to partial and total disability.

41. More than 1200 individuals or families benefited from attendance at the Fund's convalescent facilities in Sussex and Devon.

42. Despite a comparatively slow start the national programme to encourage firefighters to make covenants in favour of the Fund, launched early in 1994, increased in momentum with £100,000 in covenants pledged by the year's end.

43. In 1994 the Fund lost, through retirement, 2 of its stalwarts, Mr T Clubb, who was the Finance Officer for 22 years, and Mr T Spackman, the General Manager for the past 9 years. Mr Spackman was responsible for consolidating the Fund's current position and for organising and supervising the development of facilities enjoyed by the membership. Mr T Spackman was succeeded in the post of General Manager by Captain C W Pile, late Royal Navy.

Competitions

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

45. The Fire Service Technical Quiz has been held on an annual basis for the past 30 years, with entry restricted in alternate years to either Wholetime or Retained teams. The Quiz, which is funded by the Fire Research and Training Trust, is designed to encourage the acquisition of technical knowledge in relation to the work of the operational firefighter.

46. The local finals, district finals and national semi-finals were held during the early part of 1995. Six brigades, Grampian, Lothian and Borders, Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway, Tayside and Fife entered teams for the Scottish District final held in Aberdeen on 4 February 1995, and after a very close competition the team from Cullen Fire Station, Grampian Fire Brigade, emerged as the winners.

47. As dictated by CACFOA, the 1995 Northern Semi-final of the competition was also to be held in Scotland and was again hosted by Grampian Fire Brigade in Aberdeen. Four teams took part representing Tyne and Wear, Nottinghamshire, Cumbria and Grampian. Again, a very close competition was held and Tyne and Wear won only by the narrowest of margins.

48. The First Aid Competition is open to Wholetime, Retained and Fire Control personnel. Due to there being only one Brigade from Scotland entering the competition there was no Scottish district final in 1995. The competing team from Strathclyde Fire Brigade, therefore, entered the competition at national final level to be held at the FSC on 2 June 1995.

Fire Services Sports and Athletics Association

49. During 1994-95 members of brigades throughout Scotland participated in a wide range of sporting activities, both at home and in international competitions, enjoying a significant degree of success in the process.

50. The more popular sports, generally recognised as football, rugby, golf, bowling and angling, enjoyed a great deal of support and continued to attract large numbers of entries for the many fiercely contested competitions conducted throughout the year. Other sporting sections encompass squash, volleyball and curling where, although the numbers participating are smaller at a national level, the enthusiasm generated for each discipline is equally intense.

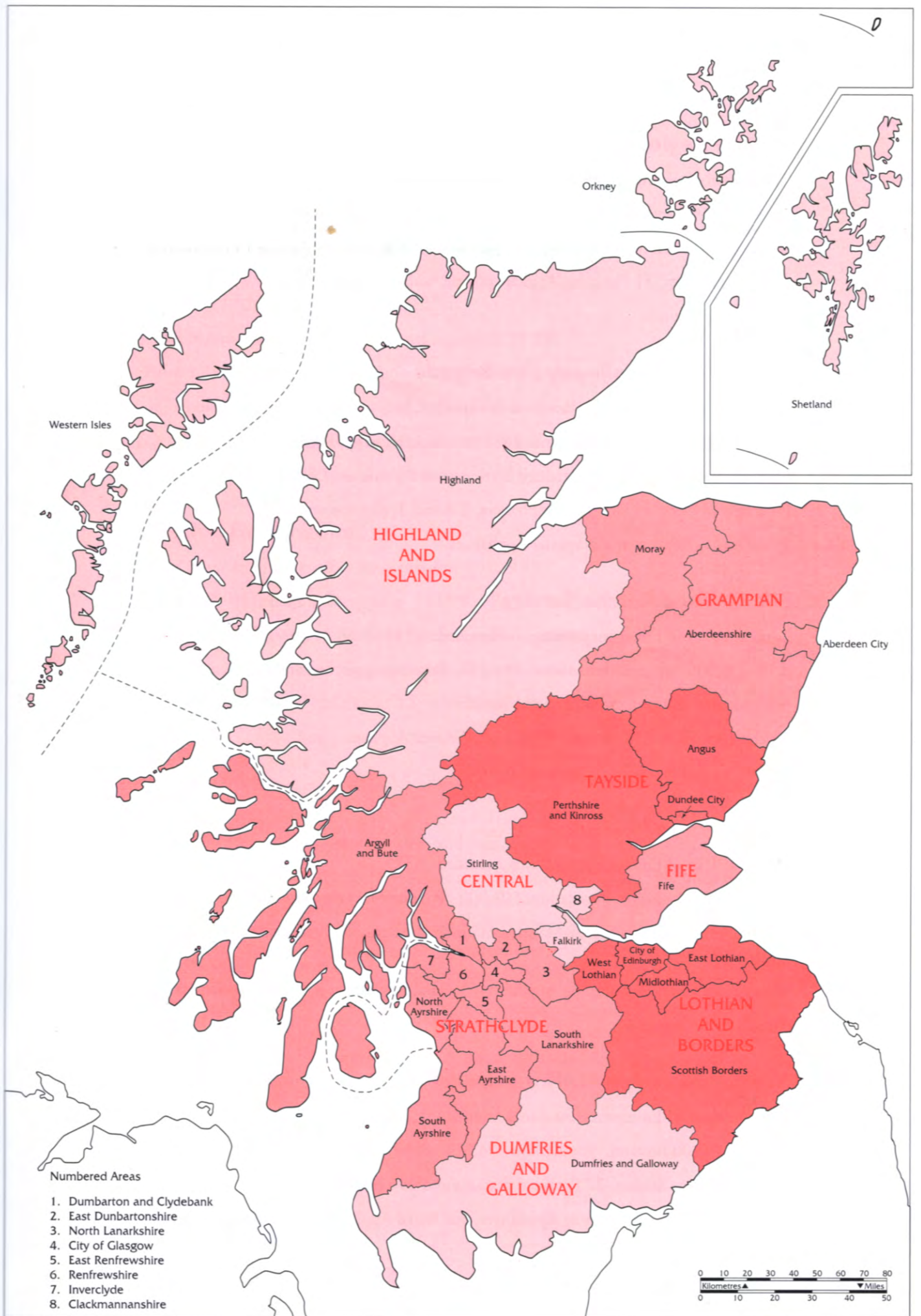
51. Athletics events are growing ever more popular throughout the Fire Service and, once again, those participating acquitted themselves well in all competitions. The degree of success was particularly notable at international level where a Scottish representative turned in a winning performance in every event entered during a competition held in New York.

52. Members of the Fire Service Sports and Athletics Association (FSSAA) competed in a number of events in Europe. At these venues, as in all other areas of participation, the contestants displayed an attitude of sportsmanship and fair play which served to gain them many friends in whichever sporting event they pursued.

53. In Australia, the World Firefighter Games witnessed a tremendous participation from a United Kingdom team, with Scots figuring highly in the medals. Britain achieved 4th place in the overall medal table.

54. A Silver Jubilee dinner was held in 1994 at Washington Hall Chorley, training centre of the Lancashire Fire Brigade, to recognise and celebrate the 25 very successful and satisfying years since the founding of the FSSAA. The dinner was attended by our Patron, HRH The Duke of York.

55. During the reporting year, the Chairperson of the Association, Mr D Grant, intimated his intention to retire as he was to take up post as Commandant of the SFSTS at the beginning of 1995. All members of the Association would wish to record their appreciation to him for the contribution made during his period in office.



Central Region Fire Brigade

Total Number of Emergency Incidents Attended: 4,820

Area: 263,609 hectares. Population: 272,000. Population per hectare: 1.0.

4 Wholtime Stations, 11 Retained Stations and 3 Volunteer Units.

Operational Fleet: 31 Pumping Appliances, one Aerial Appliance and 7 Special Appliances.

Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade

Total Number of Emergency Incidents Attended: 2,362.

Area: 642,500 hectares. Population: 148,000. Population per hectare: 0.2.

One Wholtime Station, 15 Retained Stations and 2 Volunteer Units.

Operational Fleet: 25 Pumping Appliances, 2 Aerial Appliances and 2 Emergency Tenders and 3 Special Appliances.

Fife Fire and Rescue Service

Total Number of Emergency Incidents Attended: 6,552.

Area: 130,006 hectares. Population: 351,200. Population per hectare: 2.7.

6 Wholtime Stations and 8 Retained Stations.

Operational Fleet: 29 Pumping Appliances, 2 Aerial Appliances and 2 Emergency Tenders and 2 Special Appliances.

Grampian Fire Brigade

Total Number of Emergency Incidents Attended: 8,329.

Area: 870,800 hectares. Population: 508,000. Population per hectare: 0.6.

4 Wholtime Stations, 2 Day-Manned Stations, 34 Retained Stations and 2 Volunteer Units.

Operational Fleet: 61 Pumping Appliances, 3 Aerial Appliances 3 Rescue Tenders and 6 Special Appliances.

Highland and Islands Fire Brigade

Total Number of Emergency Incidents Attended: 5,274.

Area: 3,119,000 hectares. Population: 274,624. Population per hectare: 0.1.

One Wholtime Station, 27 Retained Stations and 99 Volunteer Units.

Operational Fleet: 49 Pumping Appliances, one Aerial Appliance, one Emergency Tender and 3 Special Appliances.

Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade

Total Number of Emergency Incidents Attended: 17,861.

Area: 642,531 hectares. Population: 853,000. Population per hectare: 1.3.

13 Wholtime Stations and 22 Retained Stations.

Operational Fleet: 53 Pumping Appliances, 5 Aerial Appliances,

3 Rescue Tenders and 2 Special Appliances.

Strathclyde Fire Brigade

Total Number of Emergency Incidents Attended: 58,451

Area: 1,386,127 hectares. Population: 2,300,000. Population per hectare: 1.7.

38 Wholtime Stations, 44 Retained Stations and 31 Volunteer Units.

Operational Fleet: 157 Pumping Appliances, 11 Aerial Appliances,

9 Rescue Tenders and 9 Special Appliances.

Tayside Fire Brigade

Total Number of Emergency Incidents Attended: 9,425

Area: 750,104 hectares. Population: 393,000. Population per hectare: 0.5.

6 Wholtime Stations, 15 Retained Stations and 4 Volunteer Units.

Operational Fleet: 44 Pumping Appliances, 3 Aerial Appliances,

6 Rescue/Emergency Tenders and 4 Special Appliances.

Footnote:

Pumping Appliance - (including those held in reserve)	General firefighting appliance with water carrying and pumping facilities.
Aerial Appliance -	Turntable ladder or hydraulic platform used for rescue and water tower purposes.
Rescue Tender/ Emergency Tender -	Appliances carrying specialist equipment for support at fires, major incidents and special services.
Special Appliances -	Include foam tenders, salvage tenders, demountable pod systems, command and control units and other specialist appliances.

ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTH OF FIRE BRIGADES AS AT 31 MARCH 1995

	Central			Dumfries & Galloway			Fife			Grampian			Highland & Islands			Lothian & Borders			Strathclyde			Tayside			Scottish Total			
	Estab- lishment	Actual Strength		Estab- lishment	Actual Strength		Estab- lishment	Actual Strength		Estab- lishment	Actual Strength		Estab- lishment	Actual Strength		Estab- lishment	Actual Strength		Estab- lishment	Actual Strength		Estab- lishment	Actual Strength		Estab- lishment	Actual Strength		
		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female	Male
Wholtime Operational																												
Firemasters	1	1																										
Assistant Firemasters	1	1			1	1			2	2																		
Senior Div. Officers																												
Div. Officers I	1	1			1	1			3	3																		
Div. Officers II	4	4			2	2			4	4																		
Div. Officers III					2	2			6	6																		
Asst. Div. Officers	9	7			8	7			15	15																		
Station Officers	17	17			9	9			36	32																		
Sub-Officers	27	24			8	8			23	28																		
Leading Firefighters	32	32			12	12			64	64																		
Firefighters	148	143			52	45			324	231																		
Totals	240	230			96	87			382	379																		
Control Room Staff																												
PHC Officers																												
GFC Officers	1	1																										
FC Officers					1	1			1	1																		
SFC Operators	4	1			3	1			5	5																		
LFC Operators	4	1			3	4			4	4																		
FC Operators	8	2			6	9			12	12																		
Totals	17	5			15	1			22	22																		
Part-time Retained																												
Station Officers																												
Sub-Officers	12	11			16	16			11	10																		
Leading Firefighters	19	17			20	20			66	79																		
Firefighters	139	122			157	150			382	342																		
Totals	170	150			193	186			498	470																		
Part-time Volunteer																												
Asst. Div. Officers																												
Station Officers																												
Sub-Officers	3	2			2	2			4	4																		
Leading Firefighters	21	8			18	15			26	19																		
Firefighters	24	10			20	17			32	26																		
Totals																												
Wholtime	240	230			96	87			382	379																		
Control Room Staff	17	5			15	1			22	22																		
Part-time Retained	170	150			193	186			498	470																		
Part-time Volunteer																												
GRAND TOTALS	451	395			324	291			888	828																		
					</																							

SUMMARY OF FIRES AND SPECIAL SERVICES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN 1994-95

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	756	675	64	9	8			289	1,013	1,187	765	475	335	4,820
Dumfries & Galloway	432	236	169	22	4	1		416	313	535	150	235	281	2,362
Fife	1,032	382	537	110	3			439	1,861	1,354	566	848	452	6,552
Grampian	1,503	1,328	94	78	9			846	1,884	2,025	770	544	757	8,329
Highland & Islands	710	620	81	9				1,710	673	1,143	302	387	349	5,274
Lothian & Borders	3,521	1,319	1,523	677	2			702	4,777	5,007	1,360	1,356	1,138	17,861
Strathclyde	9,731	3,393	5,245	1,070	21	2		1,257	18,850	12,342	5,048	6,926	4,297	58,451
Tayside	1,682	514	994	171	3			469	3,276	2,000	662	756	580	9,425
Totals	19,367	8,467	8,707	2,146	50	3		6,128	32,647	25,593	9,623	11,527	8,189	113,074

MAJOR FIRES 1994-95

REQUIRING AN ATTENDANCE OF 6 OR MORE PUMPING APPLIANCES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Brigade</i>
<i>April</i>			
5	Federal Tait, Inverurie	Factory	Grampian
8	BP Refinery, Bo'ness Road, Grangemouth	Industrial Premises	Central
18	Kilkirron House, Maybole	Mansion House	Strathclyde
<i>May</i>			
9	Newton Stewart Road, Straiton	Grassland	Strathclyde
13	Brogan House, Glentrool, Newton Stewart	Trees	Dumfries and Galloway
14	Dundeugh, Carsphairn, New Galloway	Grassland and Trees	Dumfries and Galloway
14	Pappert, Bonhill	Trees	Strathclyde
14/15	Loch Doon, Near Dalmellington	Trees	Strathclyde
21	Dalrigh, Tyndrum	Unlisted	Central
22	Howierig Wood, Lochgreen, Falkirk	Unlisted	Central
24	Earlshill, Stirling	Grassland	Central
25	Fauldhouse Road, Fauldhouse	Forest	Lothian and Borders
28	Bruces Stone, Glentrool, Newton Stewart	Grassland and Trees	Dumfries and Galloway
28	Thornliebank Industrial Estate, Glasgow	Factory	Strathclyde
29	Shotts Golf Course, Shotts	Grassland	Strathclyde
29	School Road, Tarbert	Trees	Strathclyde
30	Benbuie Hills, Helensburgh	Trees	Strathclyde
30	Glenshamrock Farm, Auchinleck	Forest	Strathclyde
30	Old Shettleston Road, Glasgow	Offices	Strathclyde
31	Fannyside Road, Cumbernauld	Trees	Strathclyde
31	Knock Hill, Aberchirder	Grassland	Grampian

June

13	Starryshow Farm, Shotts	Forest	Strathclyde
13	BP Refinery, Grangemouth	Industrial Premises	Central
21	Slateford Road, Edinburgh	Brewery	Lothian and Borders
22	Hill of Braigie, Dunecht Estates, Garlogie	Forest	Grampian
26	National Bank Lane, Glasgow	Commercial Premises	Strathclyde

July

6	Leslie	Paper Mill	Fife
13	BP Refinery, Grangemouth	Industrial Premises	Central
16	Stranraer Academy, Stranraer	School	Dumfries and Galloway
28	Nithsdale Road, Glasgow	Church	Strathclyde
28	BP Refinery, Grangemouth	Industrial Premises	Central

August

18	Market Street, Aberdeen	Commercial Premises	Grampian
20	Home Farm, Straloch	Farm Building	Grampian
25	BP Refinery, Grangemouth	Industrial Premises	Central
28	Middleton Road, Linwood	Industrial Incinerator	Strathclyde
28	Hamilton Road, Cambuslang	Industrial Premises	Strathclyde

September

3	Cantors Overgate, Dundee	Commercial Premises	Tayside
10	Argus Industrial Building, Glasgow	Industrial Premises	Strathclyde
26	Leverndale Hospital, Glasgow	Hospital Building	Strathclyde

October

5	Leverndale Hospital, Glasgow	Hospital Building	Strathclyde
21	Marketgait West, Dundee	Nightclub	Tayside
27	Kirkpatrick Fleming, Gretna	Farm Building	Dumfries and Galloway

December

16	Cuministown	School	Grampian
16	7 Fraser Place, Aberdeen	Building under demolition	Grampian
25	Merchant Place, Kirkcaldy	Commercial Premises and Vehicles	Fife

January

3	Caldwell House, Uplowmoor	Mansion House	Strathclyde
12	St Catherine's Road, Perth	Industrial Premises	Tayside
17	Rose Street, Aberdeen	Offices	Grampian
26	Milnpark Street, Glasgow	Commercial Premises	Strathclyde

March

25	Aberdour	Hotel	Fife.
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SUMMARY OF LOCAL FINANCIAL RETURNS 1993-94

	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Highland & Islands	Strathclyde	Tayside	Total
EXPENDITURE									£000
Pay	5,459	2,254	7,443	7,331	14,270	2,598	42,913	8,102	90,370
Retaining and other Fees	16	736	392	1,659	1,106	1,340	2,394	899	8,542
Allowances	12		5	63	281	20	934	26	1,341
Pension Payments	642	309	1,234	1,039	2,013	417	7,948	1,362	14,964
Pension Transfer Values Paid	6	17	52	209	6	77	242		609
Pension Commuted Sums	412	196	515	387	995	109	3,307	700	6,621
Superannuation	23	12		29	58	20	21	20	183
National Insurance	441	222	621	678	1,272	293	3,667	689	7,883
Other Employee Costs	256	121	229		12	75	535	6	1,234
Total Employee Costs	7,267	3,867	10,491	11,395	20,013	4,949	61,961	11,804	131,747
Non-Domestic Rates	219	106	232	324	460	187	1,701	315	3,544
Property Costs excl. Rates	270	155	402	643	582	308	2,486	385	5,231
Supplies and Services	300	186	310	708	684	368	1,933	368	4,857
Transport Costs	140	121	384	374	644	318	1,331	172	3,484
Direct Administration	141	62	160	580	259	582	1,047	123	2,954
Paments etc.		1	1	1	36		194	1	234
Other Costs	27						4	193	224
Total Operating Costs	1,097	631	1,489	2,630	2,665	1,763	8,696	1,557	20,528
Vehicles		160		623			92		875
Hydrants								27	27
Other Revenue Contributions to Capital					25		132		157
Total Revenue to Capital		160		623	25		224	27	1,059
Loan Charges	947	417	754	954	1,851	1,532	5,568	1,232	13,255
Support Service Costs	119	117	211	236	316	127	497	378	2,001
Total Gross Expenditure	9,430	5,192	12,945	15,838	24,870	8,371	76,946	14,998	168,590
INCOME									
Total Grants		21	74						95
Total Rents, Fees and Charges			215	1,736	253	63		24	2,291
Sales and Recoveries	42		57	49	12	89		37	286
Pension and Contributions Received	473	209	740	681	1,382	218	4,283	786	8,772
Pension Transfer Values Received	148	106	28	260	119	73	115	79	928
Other Income	153	26	2	245			510	68	1,004
Total Income	816	362	1,116	2,971	1,766	443	4,908	994	13,376
Net Expenditure	8,614	4,830	11,829	12,867	23,104	7,928	72,038	14,004	155,214

Note: Information supplied by the Audit Services Unit of the Finance Division at The Scottish Office



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