



SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Her Majesty's Chief  
Inspector of Fire Services  
for Scotland  
*Report for 1981*

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland  
by Command of Her Majesty  
October 1982*

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Report 1981  
of P. Watters, Esq., Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE.

To the Right Honourable George Younger, M.P., 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 year ended 31st December 1981.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

P. WATTERS, Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE.

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## SECTION A

### *General*

#### **Introduction**

1. (a) Establishment levels and working shift systems in brigades showed no significant changes during the year and working timetables, routines and training programmes were further consolidated. There were no major industrial disputes and all brigades enjoyed a harmonious year of working relations and improved morale.

- (b) The "Review of Fire Policy" Report, which was published at the end of 1980 by the Home Departments elicited comment from a variety of fire service and associated bodies.

Emanating from the discussions which have ensued:—

A Joint Committee was set up under the auspices of the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils comprising members from Home Office, Scottish Home and Health Department, local authority associations and representative bodies in the fire service. The remit of the Committee is to review the Standards of Fire Cover in the light of the changes which have taken place since the current Standards were set (1958) in relation to the number of fire appliances and relevant manpower levels required to deal with a variety of risk categories and the requirement of special emergency calls and other services.

The Committee has agreed that a special statistical exercise should be held involving a selected number of fire brigades and it is hoped this will produce valuable information to enable the Committee to reach meaningful conclusions. In Scotland two brigades are participating in the exercise, Tayside and Lothian and Borders Fire Brigades. The exercise will be carried out over 6 months in 1982.

- (c) As the year drew to a close it was again evident that Firemasters were facing another difficult exercise in preparing forecast budgets which, while taking account of the need for financial restraint, would nevertheless ensure that the brigades were able to maintain an acceptable level of efficiency in serving the community.
- (d) In recording my appreciation of the assistance given to myself and staff by Firemasters, Fire Authorities and related bodies during the year I would also wish to express my appreciation and support for those same groups who have worked so sincerely to maintain an operationally sound fire service in Scotland. It would be remiss of me to pay tribute to the employers and leaders of our fire brigades without acknowledging the personnel who have provided excellent service during the year.

My appreciation extends also to the personnel of the retained and volunteer service and to their employers whose co-operation in releasing part-time personnel to attend fires and other incidents is highly commendable and of great importance in ensuring the protection of the community.

- (e) The statistical tables appended to this report show an increase in the number of calls to fires and other incidents over the year. The most notable upward trends are in the number of fatalities, increased from last year's total of 138 to 145 for 1981, and in the number of malicious false alarm calls, increased from 5,746 to 7,157 for 1981.

Whilst the over 60 age group once more makes up the bulk of the fatality figures it should be noted that 24 persons between the ages of 21 to 40 also lost their lives as a direct result of fire. Where fire can account for that number of deaths of people in the prime age group it becomes even more necessary to protect those who are no longer able to fend for themselves or are too young to do so.

### **The Inspectorate**

2. The complement of the Inspectorate is unchanged from last year being:
- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| HM Chief Inspector   | (1)   |
| HM Inspector         | (1)   |
| Assistant Inspectors | (4) — 2 of whom carry out the inspection of Crown properties. |

Members of the Inspectorate serve and support a variety of committees, Home Office convened and otherwise, where the expertise and advice pertinent to Scotland requires consideration. In addition they are available at all times to give advice and assistance to Firemasters and Fire Authorities when a need arises.

### **Inpections**

3. Inspections during the year were carried out in all the Scottish brigades by means of a phased programme of visits and I am pleased to report that the overall results of such inspections have again proved the operational efficiency of the fire service in Scotland. The main point of involvement in brigades is with the Firemasters and Heads of Departments and the outcome of discussions provides the members of the Inspectorate with a very detailed knowledge of the workings of each individual brigade as well as providing those self-same officers with the availability to seek advice and assistance from the Inspectorate staff. A liaison has developed over the years which has proved invaluable to the Inspectorate, the brigades and to the Scottish Home and Health Department.

### **Fire Authorities and Firemasters**

4. At the end of the year the following Firemasters headed the respective brigades:—

Central Region Fire Brigade	Firemaster H. Moran, GRAD.I.FireE.
Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade	Firemaster R. F. Holland-Thomas, Q.F.S.M., GRAD.I.FireE.
Fife Fire Brigade	Firemaster F. Ballantyne, M.I.FireE.
Grampian Fire Brigade	Firemaster D. R. Close, O.B.E., F.I.FireE.
Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade	Firemaster W. M. G. Kerr, F.I.FireE.
Northern Fire Brigade	Firemaster W. Shand, Q.F.S.M., GRAD.I.FireE.
Strathclyde Fire Brigade	Firemaster R. J. Knowlton, Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE.
Tayside Fire Brigade	Firemaster D. Nicoll, M.B.E., F.I.FireE.

5. It is with regret that I learned during the year of the death of Mr W. Borland, the Chief Salvage Officer of the Glasgow Salvage Corps. During his reign of office with the Salvage Corps Mr Borland did much to foster the good relations between the fire service and the Corps and his death is a great loss to the fire service as well as to the Salvage Corps.

Towards the latter part of the year it was announced that Mr William Harper, Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE., Deputy Firemaster of Strathclyde Fire Brigade, had been appointed as successor to Chief Salvage Officer W. Borland with effect from 1st January 1982. I wish Mr Harper every success in his new career.

#### **Honours and Awards**

6. The following received recognition in the Queen's Honours Lists:—

Order of the British Empire (Civil Division)

Officer (O.B.E.)

Douglas R. Close, F.I.FireE., Firemaster, Grampian Fire Brigade.

British Empire Medal (Civil Division)

John Jamieson, Leading Fireman, Strathclyde Fire Brigade.

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

William Shand, GRAD.I.FireE., Firemaster, Northern Fire Brigade.

The Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was awarded to 146 members of Scottish Fire Brigades.

#### **Liaison with Home Office Fire Inspectorate**

7. In addition to attending meetings of the Home Office Fire Inspectorate, my staff and I take full opportunity to hold discussions with our opposite numbers during attendances at committees, working parties and study group sessions. During the year Miss Henman, HMI for Mobilising, visited some of the Scottish brigades to see developments in control rooms.

In any aspect of fire service work the major involvement is on a national scale. Consequently, both Inspectorate units must give the same advice and assistance to brigades and for this reason all staff must be kept informed of developments and trends both in the operational field and in the administrative and fire prevention areas. When differences are necessary because of specifically Scottish systems or procedures, it is important to ensure that our colleagues are

aware of the reasons for variation; in this way discussion of a wide range of topics is stimulated.

Legislation affecting Health and Safety and the practices and procedures followed by fire brigades in dealing with emergencies are under constant review and we maintain a very close liaison with the Scottish Director of the Health and Safety Executive in order that problems, when identified, are given immediate joint attention.

**Legislation**

8. No new or amending orders relating to the Fire Service Pension Scheme were made during the year.



## SECTION B

### *Personnel and Administration*

#### **Establishments**

9. The establishments and actual strengths of brigades are shown in detail in Table 1.

#### **Whole-time Personnel**

10. (a) A total of 93 entrants were recruited into the service as operational firemen during the year. This figure is 63 lower than the previous year and is an indication of the stabilising situation in brigades throughout the country. Firemasters had no difficulty in acquiring the necessary number of recruits and most brigades now have a waiting list for new entrants.
- (b) At the end of the year the total whole-time establishment for the Fire Service in Scotland was 4,365 and the actual number in post was 4,288. The service was therefore 77 personnel short of the approved establishment.
- (c) *Wastage*  
A total of 107 operational personnel left the service during the year due to a variety of reasons. Last year this figure was 135. In 1981 the wastage figure was 14 more than the intake total.

#### **Retained and Volunteer Personnel**

11. The part-time retained and volunteer establishments and strengths are as follows:—

	<i>Establishment</i>		<i>Actual Strength</i>	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
Retained	2,636	2,636	2,382	2,423
Volunteer	1,438	1,438	1,297	1,258

Whilst the actual strength figure for the retained service is 213 below the establishment total, the number shows an increase of 41 over last year's strength.

12. The number and categories of fire stations remains as per last year's totals: Wholetime 75; Retained 175; Volunteer 133.

#### **Control Room (Non-Operational) Staff**

13. At the end of the year all brigades' control rooms were fully staffed.

#### **Discipline**

14. Twenty-six cases of breach of discipline, under the Fire Service (Discipline) (Scotland) Regulations 1953, were heard during the year and 25 punishments were awarded. The figures for 1980 were 18 cases and 13 punishments.

**Health**

15. The total number of working days lost due to sickness averaged 5.12% for the Scottish brigades.

It is with deep regret that I record the death on duty of one fireman from Northern Fire Brigade who suffered fatal injuries at a fire.

## SECTION C

### *Operational*

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

16. Apart from a decrease in the number of chimney fires during 1981 all other categories of fire and emergency calls show an increase in totals with the number of fires up by 966 from the previous year to 33,964. False alarm calls increased by 2,566 and emergency special service calls increased by 819 to give 1981 totals of 22,141 and 4,811 respectively. (Table 3 provides detailed figures.)

The perennial problem of malicious false alarm calls, 5,746 in 1980 and 7,157 in 1981, continues to be a thorn in the flesh of fire brigades in Scotland. It is a form of vandalism which seems incapable of a solution with all appeals to conscience apparently falling on deaf ears and failing to produce results.

#### **Fatalities**

17. Just as one swallow does not make a summer so a reduction of fire fatalities in one year does not set a trend. The total number of deaths attributable to fire, or from injuries received at a fire, increased from 138 in 1980 to 145 in 1981 (See Tables 4 and 5). It is noted that 6 deaths resulted as a consequence of fires in caravans and a further 7 deaths occurred due to fires following road accidents. In both instances it is apparent that where a fire occurs in a restricted area the chance of escape from such areas is severely curtailed. It is accepted that fires in vehicles, which have been involved in accidents, occur when the occupants are probably quite shaken, or even unconscious, and immediate reactions will be too slow to cope with escape from a fire which in all probability is fuelled by a flammable liquid.

With caravans, though restricted in space, it is possible to maintain a clear route to safety and it is imperative to ensure that doors and windows can be easily opened in the event of an emergency. Because of the very nature of the confinement of a caravan it is likewise necessary to keep to a high standard of housekeeping with flammables reduced to a minimum and extra precautions taken with gas, or liquid, heating and lighting appliances.

#### **Rescues**

18. Fire brigade personnel were responsible for rescuing 385 persons from fires during the year and 461 persons were rescued from situations other than fires. Special items of equipment are carried on all fire service specialist emergency vehicles for rescue purposes but a large number of rescues are successful due to the improvised use of standard items of equipment combined with the versatility of the attending personnel.

### **Road Accidents**

19. (a) Fire brigades were called to 1,089 road accidents during the year, this figure being an increase of 218 above the previous year's total. Assistance was given towards rescuing 376 occupants of vehicles at the accidents attended.
- (b) Each brigade in the country has taken the opportunity to send one or more officers to the Fire Service College where they have been able to take part in a carefully programmed Road Traffic Accident Instructor's course. On their return to normal duties the knowledge and skills gained on such courses are passed on to the operational members through local courses and during practical drill sessions at fire stations and at suitable localities within the fire station areas. Simulated exercises are occasionally held during the annual inspection visits of HM Inspectorate staff.
- (c) The spectacle of the multiple accident situation on motorways is not common in Scotland but a close liaison is maintained with the police in each fire brigade area to ensure a smooth working relationship between forces when attending road accidents. Those brigades whose areas are traversed by motorways have pre-planned for a variety of incidents and contact between the emergency services provides for an exchange of information and pre-planning arrangements which one hopes will enable an actual incident to receive prompt, and carefully thought out, attention from the services involved.

### **Fire Damage**

20. Figures obtained from the British Insurance Association indicate that the total cost of fire damage in the United Kingdom in 1981 was estimated at £356.6 million, which is a 24% decrease on the 1980 figure of £469.3 million.

## SECTION D

### *Supplies and Services*

#### **Transport**

21. Brigades aim at achieving a maximum useful life for their vehicles. This is geared to a replacement programme the cost of which can be substantial especially if the programme is allowed to slip due to financial constraints. There is an ongoing need to maintain replacement programmes. Obsolete vehicles present problems with maintenance and spare parts availability and also give rise to substantial demands on brigade workshop staff which tax both their time and ingenuity. The present total of first line appliances available in Scotland is 577 of which approximately 13% are over 15 years old.

#### **Equipment**

22. (a) The brigades are well equipped to meet the multifarious tasks they are called upon to perform. The complex nature of incidents attended necessitates a variety of items of equipment being carried on fire appliances with specialist vehicles being equipped with the more sophisticated range of tools and devices. There is an ongoing need in the service generally not only to keep abreast of modern facilities on the market but also to replace and renew existing items. Monies allocated for the purchase of additional appliances must also include a sum for the provision of equipment for such vehicles. It is a credit, not only to Firemasters, but to Fire Authorities, that throughout the year they have seen fit to make financial provision to retain the fire service fleet at its present standard.
- (b) The Study Group which reported on the standard of protection for firemen involved in incidents where toxic substances are present has been reconvened, in order to review the current advice on personnel protection, in the light of developments in the chemical field. All brigades in the country are liable to be required to provide emergency attendance to an incident involving chemicals either at a static location or, as is more likely, when they are being transported. It is for this reason that brigades are equipped with chemical protection suits to a standard which will enable personnel to tackle a range of chemicals involved in fire or spillage. As mentioned last year, the setting up of a decontamination unit (a personnel cleansing facility) has been given a degree of priority in brigades and the guidelines issued from the Department are being adhered to.
- (c) As new equipment appears on the market the relevant evaluating committee at Home Office arrange for trials to be carried out at brigade level and the Scottish involvement in such exercises is being maintained.

## **Uniform and Personal Equipment**

23. The following developments in uniform and personal equipment have taken place during the year:—

(a) *Firemen's Lined Rubber Safety Boots*

The third phase of the revision of the specification has been completed. The results of field trials on the two boots selected showed little difference in performance. However, certain points were highlighted which will need to be taken into consideration when a draft specification is being prepared. The type of sock most suitable for use with the boot will be studied and reported upon.

(b) *Firemen's Over-trouser Material*

Discussions are taking place with the Woollen Industry Research Association (WIRA) about the criteria to be used in drawing up a revised specification for over-trousers. Materials currently in use are being tested and consideration is also being given to the suitability of new materials.

(c) *Helmets*

The Motor Industry Research Association (MIRA) has still not completed the contract for research and tests on the impact protection of firemen's helmets. Consideration is now being given to employing another research organisation to take over the work.

(d) *Neckerchiefs*

Tests on the cotton rib interlock material, finished with Proban to provide flame resistance, have been completed. A draft specification has been prepared and passed to WIRA for comment.

(e) *Firemen's Protective Gloves*

The Swedish Sten Fire Glove, having undergone field trials in two brigades, has received a favourable report. A similar type of glove produced by Bristol Uniform Ltd. is about to undergo trials and a report on both types will be produced.

## **Water Supplies**

24. During the year the number of local authority hydrants in situ was increased by 1,657 to a total of 126,746. As each brigade endeavours to maintain a twice-yearly cleaning and inspection programme of hydrants it can be appreciated that this task accounts for quite a proportion of the workload in congested areas. Certain hydrant locations require more regular inspection where it is known that the hydrant pits will become clogged with dirt or mud thereby rendering them unsuitable for immediate use in an emergency.

The move towards complete standardisation throughout Scotland progresses slowly but methodically as brigades renew the non-standard units in co-operation with area water authorities priorities.

## **Premises**

25. In general the standard of premises throughout brigades, headquarters buildings, fire stations and ancillary units, is satisfactory. Those premises which

are below standard are known to fire authorities and Firemasters alike and it is only the shortage of funds that prevents improvements from being made.

It is worthy of comment that those brigades which are in a position to decide upon their own maintenance programmes, in relation to building repair and decoration etc., generally show a good appearance at all locations whereas the standard of maintenance is less than satisfactory where control of the programme is not in the hands of the Firemaster.

The very fact that fire stations are occupied everyday, or every week in the case of part-time stations, reduces any need for a special inspection of properties in order to draw up a forward maintenance programme. Defects and repairs are reported immediately to the brigade department dealing with such references and action instigated as required. A special annual programme is necessary for major overhauls and adaptations and in this respect degrees of priority are determined and implemented as per an agreed programme.

## **Communications**

### **26. (a) *World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC)***

Following the decision of the World Administrative Radio Conference that United Kingdom emergency services would be required to vacate the 98-102 MHz band by 1989, new frequency allocations were agreed for these services. At a meeting of Firemasters, Chief Constables and Scottish Home and Health Department representatives, it was decided to set up a Co-ordinating Committee which would plan and monitor the change-over in a systematic manner.

The Committee, which is chaired by the Director of Telecommunications of the Scottish Office, includes representatives from the Police and Fire Officers Associations along with Scottish Home and Health Department representatives.

With a major change-over to mobile radio systems in prospect over the next few years, it was understandable that brigades made few changes to their existing radio systems during the year.

### **(b) *Computer Technology***

The trend towards the use of computer technology in Brigade Control Rooms continued as new systems were installed and others entered the planning phase. Such activities included:—

- (i) A new computer based information retrieval system at the Fife Fire Brigade Headquarters.
- (ii) The completion of the final phase of a Multitone radio callout system for retained firemen in Grampian.
- (iii) Preparatory study work in Tayside for the use of computers within the brigade.
- (iv) Strathclyde Fire Brigade completed the installation of a new mobilising system within 'D' Division and began the planning of a similar system for 'E' Division.

(c) *Pocket Radio Alerters*

The Directorate of Telecommunications has developed a new model of alerter and submitted it to the Joint Committee on Fire Brigade Communications for comment.

It was agreed by the Committee that the alerter should be intrinsically safe using disposable batteries and be capable of providing an ear-piece socket if required. The Directorate of Telecommunications has been informed of the Committee's decisions and will proceed accordingly.

The Director of Telecommunications of the Scottish Office and his staff continued to provide valuable technical advice and assistance to brigades during the year.



## SECTION E

### *Fire Prevention*

#### **Summary**

27. The number of premises visited for fire prevention purposes was 69,628, a total of 10,412 more than in 1980. In addition to the workload imposed by visits to premises, fire prevention staff advised on 9,694 submitted plans.

#### **Education and Publicity**

28. A new fire prevention publicity film, on the need for care with heating appliances in the home, was made and shown on commercial television during November. In December a Press Notice was issued by the Scottish Office stressing the need for vigilance to prevent unnecessary fire deaths during the winter period and particularly over the festive season.

A revised edition of the booklet "Danger from Fire" was issued to brigades. The first four units of a fire prevention teaching pack for secondary schools entitled "11—16+ Project Fire", which was prepared at the instance of the Information Sub-Committee of the Joint Fire Prevention Committee, were published during the year and made available for purchase by schools throughout the United Kingdom. A new fire prevention poster urging the need for fire prevention in the home was prepared at the instance of the Fire Precautions Publicity Committee.

#### **Inspection and Certification of Premises**

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

Factories	314 (332)
Offices and Shops etc.	1,038 (748)
Hotels and Boarding Houses	197 (495)

The 1980 figures are shown in brackets.

In addition to the issue of new fire certificates, authorities issued revised certificates to 196 factories, 378 offices and shops and 380 hotels and boarding house premises.

#### **Serious Casualty Fires**

30. A fire resulting in one fatality and 8 seriously injured persons occurred at the Nurses Hostel, Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy, on 13 November. This will be the subject of an enquiry under the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Enquiry (Scotland) Act 1976 early in 1982.

#### **Joint Fire Prevention Committee**

31. Work on the preparation of draft fire prevention guides on hospitals and residential care establishments continued along with work on a guide on means of escape and other safety matters relating to houses in multiple occupation.

During the year the Planning/Legislation Sub-Committee spent considerable time on a review of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 and by the end of the year substantial progress had been made. Following a Parliamentary Question regarding fire safety in enclosed shopping centres the Committee was asked to consider whether additional measures, including measures for requiring the installation of automatic sprinkler systems or other fire protection equipment, were needed to ensure a satisfactory standard of fire safety in enclosed shopping centres. In response to this, the Sub-Committee decided that Firemasters should be requested to complete a questionnaire on existing enclosed shopping centres with the purpose of evaluating the existing standards. The completed questionnaires were due to be returned to the Scottish Home and Health Department at the end of the year.

#### **National Approvals Authority for Fire Protection Equipment**

32. Discussions took place during the year between representatives of Government Departments, manufacturers of fire protection equipment and insurance and consumer interests about the possibility of establishing a National Approvals Authority for Fire Protection Equipment. There was broad agreement on the desirability of establishing an approvals scheme and discussions are proceeding on a possible framework.

#### **Health and Safety Executive**

33. Meetings between the Health and Safety Executive and the Inspectorate took place on various aspects of fire safety. The Inspectorate also continued to contribute to the work of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Substances.

#### **Building Regulations**

34. As mentioned in last year's report, the review of the Building Standards (Scotland) (Consolidation) Regulations 1971 was taking place. This work has now been completed and the Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations 1981 were laid before Parliament on 16 December.

## SECTION F

### *Training*

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

35. (a) Building development at the School is nearing completion and the improvements in accommodation and teaching facilities are being put to good use by providing additional courses for personnel from Scottish brigades and from industry. The following courses were provided towards the latter part of the year with the attendance figures shown in brackets: Retained Firemen (87); Leading Firemen (20); Breathing Apparatus Instructors (18); Hospital Fire Services Personnel (30); Industrial Fire-fighters (25).
- (b) The basic introductory course for wholtime recruits to the service, which was extended by three weeks to cater for an added fire prevention and breathing apparatus training content, continued to be run and 90 personnel successfully completed this course. Decontamination procedures are also a new element in recruit training.
- (c) Plans are in hand to hold a seminar for senior fire prevention staff from the Scottish brigades following publication of the Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations 1981 which contain a variety of amendments pertinent to the fire service. Consideration is also being given to holding short courses on Scottish Legislation for the benefit of practising fire prevention officers.
- (d) It is intended, in concert with a commercial firm, to hold a two day course on ladder maintenance at the School which will be attended by brigade transport engineers and mechanics with instructors provided by the manufacturers' agents.
- (e) It was decided to name the 2 main buildings at the School in memory of individuals who contributed significantly to the development of the fire service in Scotland. The extension, which houses the study-bedrooms, refectory and lecture-theatre, has been named Braidwood House and the existing building, which had been re-furbished, has been named Henderson House.
- (f) A certain amount of building work has still to be done on the fire burning ground and the Breathing Apparatus training block.

#### **Fire Service College**

36. (a) The year 1981 saw the transfer of the Fire Service Staff College, based at Dorking, to the Fire Service Technical College, based at Moreton-in-Marsh. The Technical College, renamed the Fire Service College, will cater for the full range of fire service courses from junior officer to the senior levels of higher management training.

- (b) Despite the increase in course availability at the Scottish Fire Service Training School it will still be necessary for Scottish brigades to send personnel to the College as the courses are national in character and content and form part of a progressive system from junior officer to senior officer.

Brigades continue to make full use of the facilities available at the national college and, despite increasing costs in travel and subsistence allowances, all brigades participate in the concentrated courses provided for the benefit of the officers of the service.

### **Local Training**

37. Brigades continue to provide local training geared to the requirements of the personnel at the fire station. These courses are organised in addition to the ongoing training programme which is carried out on a daily basis and encompasses all aspects of fire service operational work.

### **Home Office Unit for Educational Methods**

38. Following the disbandment of the unit it was arranged to have stocks of relevant material available for distribution to brigades from the Home Office. It would appear that this system is working to the satisfaction of those brigades who support the programmed learning training package system of study.

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

39. The 1981 written promotion examinations took place at various centres during the months of January, February and March. The results were as follows (1980 figures in brackets):

<i>Examination</i>	<i>No. of Candidates</i>	<i>Passes</i>
Station Officer	240 (205)	43 (49)
Sub Officer	367 (328)	90 (153)
Leading Fireman	707 (1,004)	189 (336)

A prize certificate was awarded to Fireman Ian Wyse, Central Region Fire Brigade, who gained the highest marks in the Leading Fireman examination.

The practical examinations for Leading Fireman and Sub Officer candidates were conducted by the fire authorities and the Board respectively during April and May with the following results (1980 figures in brackets):

<i>Examination</i>	<i>No. of Candidates</i>	<i>Passes</i>
Sub Officer	151 (197)	92 (110)
Leading Fireman	281 (340)	197 (247)

## SECTION G

### *Miscellaneous*

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

40. The Scottish District of the above Association continues to attract a great deal of interest from brigades and the various sporting activities organised throughout the year were well supported.

41. In the football arena the Scottish brigades international team lost their match against an English select. The Scottish League and Scottish Cup were won by Northern Area and a team from Tayside won the British Cup.

42. Our rugby team played two internationals during the year, losing to England but winning against the Ireland select. The match against a side representing the Welsh brigades was unfortunately cancelled due to inclement weather conditions.

43. Lothian and Borders lifted the team trophy in the Sheriff Cup; the British Fire Brigade Golf Championships, and the Scottish Championships, were hosted by Fife Fire Brigade with teams from Strathclyde, Fife and Lothian and Borders featuring in the Prize list.

44. Scotland were runners up in the Volley Ball Home Internationals and Strathclyde won the Scottish District team event. Four brigades entered teams for the latter competition.

45. Lothian and Borders hosted the Scottish National Swimming Championships at Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh, and special tributes were accorded to Graham Meeks of Northern Area and to Anne Harvey of Tayside, the sole female competitor.

46. The Committees involved in the organisation of the above, and other sporting events, once more deserve a vote of thanks for their tireless efforts to foster goodwill through sport.

47. It is noteworthy that Firemaster W. Shand, Northern Area, has been appointed Chairman of the Fire Service Sports and Athletics Association at national level as a consequence of which he has intimated his intention to resign from his present office as Chairman of the Scottish Districts Committee. I would wish Mr Shand success in his new appointment.

48. I would also pay tribute to those persons involved in the organisation of events at local, district and national level for their hard work and interest and I would wish to record my appreciation for the assistance given by Firemasters to those organisers.

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

49. The Advisory Council held meetings on 26 June and 11 December. The Chair was taken at the former meeting by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, M.P., Scottish Office Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment, and at the latter by Mr A. L. Rennie, C.B., Secretary of the Scottish Home and Health Department.

50. The Council considered reports from the Joint Standing Committees on Design and Development, Fire Brigade Communications, Fire Prevention, Fire Research, Operations, Pensions, Training and Uniform and Personal Equipment. In addition the Council, taking account of the relevant work being done in the various Joint Committees, continued with consideration of developments in fire prevention and research aspects of the review of fire policy.

### **Research**

51. During the year the Joint Fire Research Committee continued to give consideration to various fire-related projects in the programme of research carried out by the Scientific Research and Development Branch of the Home Office and a number of outside agencies. These included projects concerned with the health of firemen; the physical fitness of firemen; information on hazardous substances; assisting the vision of firemen in smoke; and development of a non-asbestos fire blanket.

52. It is proposed to hold a seminar at the Fire Service College early in May of 1982 on False Alarms in Automatic Detection Systems. Attendance will be open to representatives of manufacturers and insurance companies as well as fire service personnel.



## ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTH

as at

TABLE 1

	CENTRAL			DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY			FIFE			GRAMPIAN		
	Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength	
		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female
<b>WHOLETIME</b>												
<b>OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL</b>												
Firemasters ... ..	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Assistant Firemasters ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	—
Senior Divisional Officers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Divisional Officers Grade I ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Divisional Officers Grade II ... ..	2	2	—	1	1	—	3	3	—	4	5	—
Divisional Officers Grade III ... ..	2	3	—	4	4	—	—	1	—	2	2	—
Assistant Divisional Officers ... ..	5	5	—	5	5	—	11	11	—	10	9	—
Station Officers ... ..	15	14	—	10	10	—	28	26	—	18	17	—
Sub-Officers ... ..	23	24	—	7	6	—	27	25	—	23	22	—
Leading Firemen ... ..	28	27	—	8	8	—	74	68	—	38	40	—
Firemen ... ..	140	138	—	52	51	—	224	228	—	145	142	—
Totals ... ..	218	215	—	88	86	—	371	366	—	244	241	—
<b>CONTROL ROOM STAFF</b>												
P.F.C. Officers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
G.F.C. Officers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F.C. Officers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
S.F.C. Operators ... ..	1	1	—	1	—	1	4	—	4	4	—	4
L.F.C. Operators ... ..	4	3	1	5	—	5	4	—	4	4	—	4
F.C. Operators ... ..	8	1	7	5	1	4	8	—	8	6	—	6
Totals ... ..	13	5	8	11	1	10	17	—	17	15	—	15
<b>PART-TIME RETAINED</b>												
Station Officers ... ..	4	—	—	3	3	—	2	2	—	11	11	—
Sub-Officers ... ..	16	16	—	16	16	—	10	10	—	33	35	—
Leading Firemen ... ..	20	20	—	20	20	—	16	17	—	45	51	—
Firemen ... ..	160	121	—	157	149	—	132	93	—	361	332	—
Totals ... ..	200	157	—	196	188	—	160	122	—	450	429	—
<b>PART-TIME VOLUNTEER</b>												
Assistant Divisional Officers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Station Officers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-Officers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Leading Firemen ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—
Firemen ... ..	24	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	8	4
Totals ... ..	24	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	13	4
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>												
WHOLETIME ... ..	218	215	—	88	86	—	371	366	—	244	241	—
CONTROL ROOM ... ..	13	5	8	11	1	10	17	—	17	15	—	15
PART-TIME RETAINED ... ..	200	157	—	196	188	—	160	122	—	450	429	—
PART-TIME VOLUNTEER ... ..	24	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	13	4
Grand Totals ... ..	455	398	8	295	275	10	548	488	17	753	683	19



OF FIRE BRIGADES

31st December 1981

LOTHIAN AND BORDERS			NORTHERN			STRATHCLYDE			TAYSIDE			GRAND TOTALS		
Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength	
	Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female
1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	8	8	—
2	2	—	1	1	—	5	4	—	1	1	—	13	11	—
3	3	—	—	—	—	7	8	—	—	—	—	11	12	—
2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	5	5	—	12	12	—
6	5	—	4	3	—	13	14	—	1	—	—	34	33	—
7	7	—	1	1	—	24	25	—	8	8	—	48	51	—
13	19	—	9	9	—	33	34	—	14	12	—	100	104	—
31	33	—	10	9	—	178	178	—	37	35	—	327	322	—
70	74	—	7	7	—	233	231	—	36	39	—	426	428	—
94	96	—	13	13	—	272	274	—	44	45	—	571	571	—
429	415	—	48	48	—	1,514	1,469	—	263	245	—	2,815	2,736	—
658	657	—	94	92	—	2,282	2,240	—	410	391	—	4,365	4,288	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2
1	—	1	—	—	—	5	—	6	—	—	—	8	—	9
4	2	2	1	—	1	15	2	13	4	—	4	34	5	29
4	4	—	1	—	1	20	1	18	4	—	4	46	8	37
13	4	9	9	—	9	78	9	66	10	4	6	137	19	115
23	10	13	11	—	11	120	13	104	18	4	14	228	33	192
5	4	—	13	13	—	8	7	—	7	7	—	53	47	—
25	24	—	27	27	—	59	58	—	18	18	—	204	204	—
30	30	—	54	53	—	69	65	—	35	35	—	289	291	—
215	205	—	284	256	—	543	487	—	238	238	—	2,090	1,881	—
275	263	—	378	349	—	679	617	—	298	298	—	2,636	2,423	—
—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
—	—	—	90	90	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	92	92	—
—	—	—	98	83	—	2	2	—	1	1	—	104	90	—
—	—	—	928	800	—	219	212	—	30	30	—	1,241	1,071	4
—	—	—	1,117	974	—	221	214	—	32	32	—	1,438	1,254	4
658	657	—	94	92	—	2,282	2,240	—	410	391	—	4,365	4,288	—
23	10	13	11	—	11	120	13	104	18	4	14	228	33	192
275	263	—	378	349	—	679	617	—	298	298	—	2,636	2,423	—
—	—	—	1,117	974	—	221	214	—	32	32	—	1,438	1,254	4
956	930	13	1,600	1,415	11	3,302	3,084	104	758	725	14	8,667	7,998	196

**CHANGES IN WHOLE-TIME OPERATIONAL STRENGTH DURING YEAR  
ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1981**

TABLE 2

BRIGADE	LOSSES											GAINS			
	By Death		By Resignation								Recruit	Transfer	Total		
	Service	Non-Service	1 to 2 Years	2 to 10 Years	Over 10 Years	Discharge	Retire-ment	Medical	Transfer	Total					
Central	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	5	4	—	4	
Dumfries and Galloway	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	—	2	
Fife	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	4	6	—	12	14	—	14	
Grampian	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	1	—	6	4	2	6	
Lothian and Borders	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	5	1	1	10	10	—	10	
Northern	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	7	—	7	
Strathclyde	—	2	9	12	2	—	—	16	22	2	65	41	2	43	
Tayside	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	4	11	—	11	
Totals	1	2	12	23	4	—	—	31	34	4	111	93	4	97	

**SUMMARY OF FIRES AND SPECIAL SERVICES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1981**

**TABLE 3**

BRIGADE	Fires requiring the attendance of								Total Fires	Chimney Fires	False Alarms			Total Fire Calls	Special Services	Total Calls
											Malicious	With good intent	Total			
	1 Pump	2 Pumps	3-4 Pumps	5 Pumps	6-8 Pumps	9-10 Pumps	11-20 Pumps									
Central	647	658	21	2	1	—	—	1	1,330	267	406	679	1,085	2,682	61	2,743
Dumfries and Galloway	459	119	10	—	—	—	—	—	588	286	120	326	446	1,320	265	1,585
Fife	1,812	46	5	—	—	—	—	—	1,863	492	487	901	1,388	3,743	288	4,031
Grampian	2,198	122	58	1	3	—	—	—	2,382	877	313	790	1,103	4,362	497	4,859
Lothian and Borders	6,625	436	102	3	5	—	—	—	7,171	655	1,292	2,165	3,457	11,283	680	11,933
Northern	1,181	37	10	—	—	—	—	—	1,228	960	150	284	434	2,622	239	2,861
Strathclyde	14,907	1,077	75	7	2	1	—	—	16,069	1,631	4,045	8,999	13,044	30,744	2,347	33,091
Tayside	3,278	49	5	1	—	—	—	—	3,333	458	344	840	1,184	4,975	464	5,439
Total	31,107	2,544	286	14	11	1	1	1	33,964	5,626	7,157	14,984	22,141	61,731	4,811	66,542

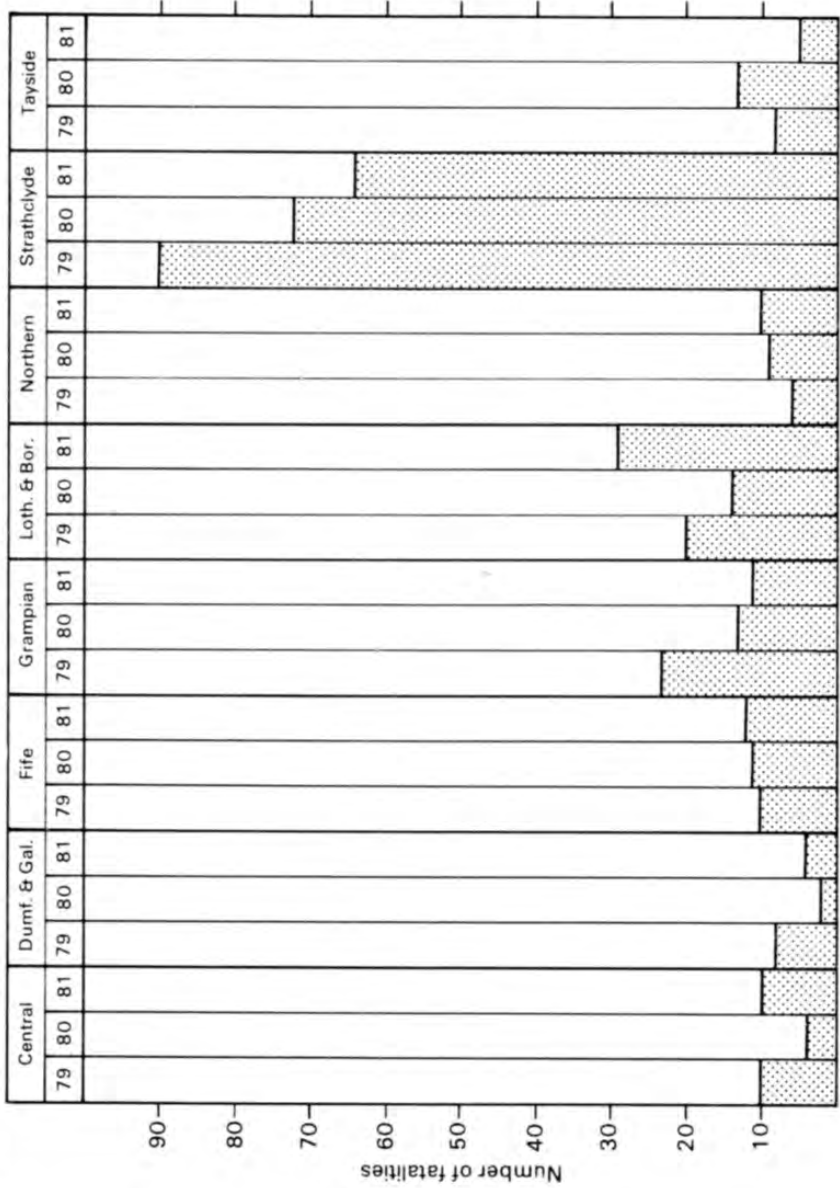
**FATALITIES (Listing Age Groups and Locations)**

TABLE 4

BRIGADE	Age Groups										Location—Dwellings					Location Other Buildings					Open	Misc.							
	Up to 5 years	6 to 10 years	11 to 20 years	21 to 40 years	41 to 60 years	Over 60 years	Total Fatalities	Flat—including Terrace/Tenement	Bungalow—Semi or Detached	Maisonette	Standard Dwelling	Other Dwelling	Hostels—Homes—	Hotels and Boarding Houses	Caravans	Vehicles	Industrial or Commercial Premises												
																		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.			Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.
Central	1	—	—	1	—	8	10	6	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Dumfries and Galloway	—	—	2	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Fife	2	—	—	2	3	5	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Grampian	—	—	—	2	3	6	11	4	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Lothian and Borders	3	1	1	5	7	12	29	20	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Northern	—	—	—	3	1	3	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Strathclyde	2	2	3	9	18	30	64	51	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Tayside	—	—	1	—	2	2	5	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals	11	3	7	24	34	66	145	84	13	5	20	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fatalities by Month		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total															
Central	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10															
Dumfries and Galloway	4	2	4	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4															
Fife	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6														
Grampian	1	3	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12															
Lothian and Borders	2	3	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29															
Northern	6	12	2	9	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10															
Strathclyde	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	64															
Tayside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5															
Totals	21	18	12	11	8	7	2	3	6	11	10	10	36	145															

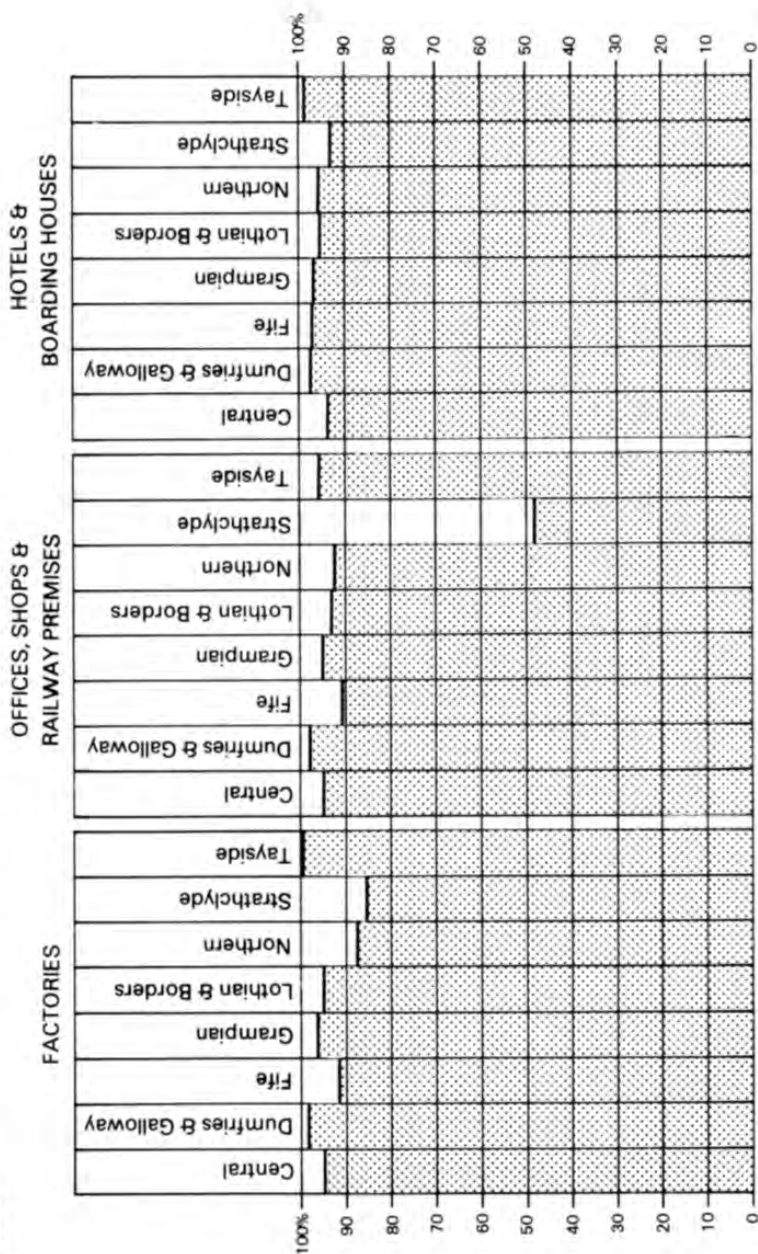
COMPARATIVE FATALITIES BY BRIGADE 1979-80-81

TABLE 5



**FIRE PREVENTION: CERTIFICATION OF REGISTERED PREMISES (FIRE PRECAUTIONS ACT 1971)**

TABLE 6



Total number of Registered Premises in Scotland.— Factories 6,420; Officer and Shops etc. 16,379; Hotels and Boarding houses 4,556. The level indicates the percentage of Registered Premises issued with a Fire Certificate in relation to the number of Registered Premises in the Brigade area requiring a Fire Certificate.



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