



SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Her Majesty's Chief
Inspector of Fire Services
for Scotland
Report for 1983

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland
by Command of Her Majesty
September 1984.*

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Report 1983
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 1983.

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. As I retire from my present appointment in the autumn of 1984 this is my final report on the fire service in Scotland.
2. I am pleased to say that the service is operationally sound, the manpower levels are, in the main, satisfactory and the equipment, appliances and premises are in good order and well maintained.
3. One black spot in the 1983 statistics is in the number of fire fatalities recorded for the year. The total of 155, an increase of 13 over last year's figure, is a sad reflection on the attitude of the public to the dangers of fire. I specifically mention the public because, as will be seen from Table 4 at the end of this report, 138 persons of varying ages died as a result of fires in the home. The home may be where the heart lies but it is also where danger lurks. I accept the fact that electrical apparatus will develop faults, gas leaks will be ignited and genuine accidents will cause fires which may maim or kill. However, the majority of incidents which resulted in a fire fatality did not occur from these causes. They occurred because someone was careless, because someone disregarded the basic rules of fire prevention in the home, because someone was oblivious of, or ignored, the warning signs of a potential fire hazard. How else would 22 children under the age of 11 lose their lives and 23 adults in the prime of their lives succumb to a fire at home were it not for the fact that children were left in a hazardous situation and adults contributed in some way to their own downfall?
4. The Committee set up to Review the Standards of Fire Cover continued their deliberations during 1983. The area of the review is complex and a technical group has carried out a number of exercises in order to test theories. It is hoped that a final conclusion can be reached in the latter part of 1984.
5. During the year fire authorities and Firemasters continued to give close attention to financial control over the running of their brigades, and their careful control enabled brigades to operate to a satisfactory level.

The Inspectorate

6. The complement of the Inspectorate comprises:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| HM Chief Inspector Grade I | (1) |
| HM Inspector Grade II | (1) |
| Assistant Inspectors | (4) |

Two of the Assistant Inspectors are responsible for the inspection of Crown property premises. During the year Mr H. Moran, previously Firemaster of

Central Region Fire Brigade, joined the Inspectorate in the grade of Assistant Inspector as a replacement for Mr A. Macklin.

Inspections

7. A programme of visits to all Scottish brigades was carried out during the year and I am pleased to report that the overall standards of efficiency were found to be satisfactory. In each brigade a large-scale exercise was organised in order to test the mobilising and call-out arrangements of the brigade and also to observe at first hand the operational efficiency, control on the fireground, topographical knowledge, familiarity with the use of special equipment, fire safety procedures and expertise of the personnel taking part. Apart from the inspection visits, contact was maintained with all brigades throughout the year when views were exchanged on a variety of subjects, such exchanges proving of benefit to both brigades and Inspectorate staff.

Fire Authorities and Firemasters

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

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Central Region Fire Brigade | Firemaster F. G. Wilton, M.I.FireE. |
| Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade | Firemaster R. F. Holland-Thomas, Q.F.S.M., G.I.FireE. |
| Fife Fire Brigade | Firemaster J. Thomson, F.I.FireE. |
| Grampian Fire Brigade | Firemaster T. Bond, G.I.FireE. |
| Highland and Islands Fire Brigade | Firemaster W. Shand, Q.F.S.M., G.I.FireE. |
| Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade | Firemaster W. M. G. Kerr, F.I.FireE. |
| Strathclyde Fire Brigade | Firemaster R. J. Knowlton, C.B.E., Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE. |
| Tayside Fire Brigade | Firemaster D. Nicholl, M.B.E., F.I.FireE. |

Early in the year Firemaster H. Moran from Central Region Fire Brigade and Firemaster F. Ballantyne from Fife Fire Brigade retired from the service and were replaced by Firemaster F. G. Wilton and Firemaster J. Thomson respectively.

Honours and Awards

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

Commander of the Order of the British Empire (Civil Division)
Richard J. Knowlton, Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE., F.B.I.M., Firemaster,
Strathclyde Fire Brigade.

Officer of the Order of the British Empire (Civil Division)
David Dick, D.I.C., CEng, F.I.E.E., F.I.E.R.E., F.R.S.A., Chair-
man, Fire Services Examinations Board (Scotland).

Queen's Fire Service Medal
Hugh Moran, G.I.FireE., F.I.C.D., M.B.I.M., formerly Fire-
master, Central Region Fire Brigade.

The Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was awarded to 223 members of Scottish Fire Brigades.

Legislation

10. The Northern Combined Fire Area Administration (Amendment) (No. 2) Scheme Order 1983, which came into operation on 28 February 1983, made provision for changing the name of the combined fire brigade for the Northern Combined Fire Area from "Northern Fire Brigade" to "Highland and Islands Fire Brigade". It also changed the name of the Board set up to administer that brigade from "The Northern Fire Board" to "The Highland and Islands Fire Board". Provisions of interest to the fire service in the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 came into effect on 1 April 1983.

11. The Firemen's Pension Scheme (Amendment) Order 1983, which came into operation on 1 May 1983, increased the rate of pension contribution payable by a regular fireman under Article 56 of the Firemen's Pension Scheme 1973. The contribution payable was increased to 1p per week less than 8.75% (increasing to 10.75% from 1 November 1983) of pensionable pay, or in the case of certain persons who were serving on 10 July 1956, to 1p per week less than 6.25% (increasing to 7.5% from 1 November 1983) of pensionable pay.

12. The Firemen's Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1983, which came into operation on 10 October 1983 (with effect from 25 November 1982), amends the Firemen's Pension Scheme 1973.

Articles 5 and 7 of the Order modify the references to a father's death, under Article 35, and to retirement, under Article 40 of the 1973 Scheme, to take account of the possibility that benefits for children may in future be payable in respect of a mother who was a regular fire-fighter.

Article 6 of the Order amended the provisions relating to children's awards under Articles 38 and 39 of the 1973 Scheme. The amendments:

- (i) Raise the lower age limit for automatic payment of a child's award from 16 to 17;
- (ii) Remove the existing upper age limit of 19 on the payment of a child's allowance to those undertaking full-time education or vocational training or are permanently disabled;
- (iii) Provide for the non-payment of a gratuity or allowance to a "child" of any age who is permanently disabled but not wholly or mainly dependant on the fireman when that fireman dies;
- (iv) Replace the reference to an apprentice with a reference to a child who is in full-time training of at least one year's duration for a trade, profession or calling.

Article 9 of the Order preserves the existing rights of children whose parents have already died or ceased to serve at the coming into effect of Article 6.

Articles 10, 11 and 12 modify Schedule 3 to the 1973 Scheme to take account of the provisions relating to child allowances insofar as their application is in-

appropriate to the children of a woman who is a regular fire-fighter thereby having the same effect as at present for the children of male regular firemen.

Article 4 makes consequential amendments in Articles 33 and 34 of the 1973 Scheme.

SECTION B

Personnel and Administration

Establishments

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

Wholetime Personnel—Operational

14. The total establishment figure for Scottish brigades is 4,372 which is one less than 1982. The actual strength total at the end of December 1983 was 4,291, a total of 81 under strength. The 81 compares with a shortfall of 94 for the previous year. The shortages are spread over all brigades as follows:

| <i>Brigade</i> | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Fife | 7 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| Lothian and Borders | — | 1 | 7 | 10 |
| Strathclyde | 21 | 42 | 59 | 46 |
| Tayside | 26 | 19 | 17 | 12 |
| Others | 6 | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| | — | — | — | — |
| Total shortfall | 60 | 77 | 94 | 81 |
| | — | — | — | — |

15. It will be seen that Tayside is making very good progress in reducing its shortfall and in 1983 the position in Strathclyde also improved. Lothian and Borders, however, from a position of full establishment in 1980 has shown a continual deterioration in the last 3 years.

16. Although all brigades have a sufficiency of applicants for vacancies, and indeed most brigades retain a waiting list of enquiries, the standard of applicant is generally well below the minimum level required. All brigades are now taking part in a recruitment exercise whereby applicants are tested prior to entry using a series of Ability Range Tests specifically designed to suit fire service requirements. These tests are being used on a national basis and an evaluation of the success, or otherwise, will be completed by the end of 1984.

17. During the year a total of 123 wholetime operational personnel entered the fire service in Scotland and 111 operational personnel left the service, resulting in a gain of 12 persons.

Retained and Volunteer Personnel

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

| | <i>Establishment</i> | | <i>Actual Strength</i> | |
|-----------|----------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|
| | 1982 | 1983 | 1982 | 1983 |
| Retained | 2,548 | 2,548 | 2,353 | 2,359 |
| Volunteer | 1,450 | 1,465 | 1,276 | 1,295 |

19. Included in the Volunteer Actual Strength figures are 7 female fire-fighters, 5 in Grampian and 2 in Strathclyde. Considering that the volunteer units are sited predominantly in the extreme outlying areas of the brigade boundaries, the community spirit shown when the women play a full part in serving with the emergency service is very commendable.

Control Room (Non-Operational Staff)

20. The establishment total for control room staff has fallen from 230 in 1982 to 204 in 1983, the actual strength being 208. The reduction is due to the re-structuring of the control room locations in Strathclyde where progress towards a central control in Johnstone has brought about the closure of other control centres with a consequent reduction in the number of operators.

Discipline

21. The number of cases of breach of discipline, under the Fire Services (Discipline) (Scotland) Regulations 1953, was less than half that recorded for the previous year. A total of 20 cases were heard and 12 punishments were awarded. The figures for 1982 were 43 and 28 respectively.

Health

22. The average number of days lost owing to sickness throughout the year was 5.12%, this percentage remaining at the level of previous years.

SECTION C

Operational

Fires and Other Emergencies

23. Table 3 lists in detail the number of fires and other emergencies attended by brigades. Compared with last year's totals there has been an increase in the numbers of fires, chimney fires and false alarms with good intent by 272, 645 and 316 respectively.

24. Despite the fact that Scotland enjoyed mild weather during the middle part of 1983 there was an increase in the number of chimney fires. This would seem to bear out the supposition in previous reports that climatic conditions do not affect materially the use of open fires; it is their use that is the main source of chimney fires.

25. In all other categories of emergencies attended there has been a reduction in numbers, the most heartening decrease being in the number of false alarm calls of a malicious nature. The total for this class of call was 7,847 as against 8,082 in 1982. Although some satisfaction can be taken from the reduction in malicious fire alarm calls it is distressing nevertheless to record that Scottish fire brigades had, on average, to answer 21 such calls each day throughout the year.

26. There was a noticeable increase in the number of fires requiring the attendance of 6-10 pumping appliances. Despite a general downward trend in the number of large fires occurring in the United Kingdom, the figures for Scotland in this category rose from 16 in 1982 to 25 in 1983. Investigation, however, confirms that in some brigades additional pumping appliances were mobilised to attend farm and moorland fires where water supplies were restricted during the summer months.

27. Only one incident occurred which involved 10 or more appliances and on that occasion Grampian Fire Brigade were in attendance at a hotel where a gas explosion, and resultant fire, required a full commitment from the city and surrounding fire stations. This incident also accounted for 6 of the fire fatalities listed from the area of that brigade.

Fatalities

28. It is with very deep regret that I have to report an increase in the number of persons who died in fires, or whose deaths occurred as a result of injuries received in fires. The total figure is recorded as 155 which is an increase of 13 above the number for the previous year.

29. This is the highest number of recorded fatal fire casualties since 1979 when 175 persons lost their lives. Once more the under 10 years and over 60 years age groups accounted for more than half the total fatalities.

30. Each year I urge parents to make their children aware of the dangers of fire. Friends and neighbours are likewise encouraged to keep a friendly eye on the elderly. I hope that such advice does not fall on deaf ears but the annual fire death statistics would seem to indicate otherwise.

31. It is accepted that the public are not too familiar with the contents of the annual fire service report and consequently may not be aware of the total deaths attributable to fire in the course of a year. Nevertheless I commend the media in general and newspapers in particular for warning people throughout the year of the dangers of fire, particularly in the home.

32. Despite graphic reports of incidents involving fatalities it would appear that many people have adopted the slogan "it couldn't happen to me". To those who consciously, or unconsciously, harbour such thoughts may I say that they are wrong in their assumptions. Such thoughtlessness and disregard for safety are the prime reasons behind the carelessness which allows fires to develop in the first instance and this, coupled with an apparent disregard for human life, is the main contributor to the toll of deaths from fire.

33. It may be prudent to point out that during the year under review a total of 58 persons in the 21 to 60 years age group were killed by fire. These figures provide a timely reminder that even the more active person is far from safe when fire gets out of hand.

Rescues

34. Fire brigade personnel rescued 505 persons from fire situations during the year and a further 549 persons were conducted to safety from a variety of other hazardous situations.

35. There is a wide range of specialised equipment on the market designed to assist the fire service, and other emergency services, in the rescue and subsequent removal of casualties from positions of danger. Constant evaluation by brigades, and an exchange of reports on performance, ensures that the best possible use is made of the available equipment.

36. The ability of people to trap themselves in seemingly inaccessible positions will long continue to tax the minds and skills of their rescuers. In spite of this it is pleasing to note that the fire service personnel are more than able to cope with the diversity of incidents attended.

Road Accidents

37. The attendance of fire brigades was required at 1,092 road accidents last year, 10 more than in the previous year. At those incidents a total of 403 persons were rescued from crashed vehicles.

38. It is interesting to note that of the 1,092 occasions in which brigades were involved fire occurred at just over 3% of the incidents. However, there is always a possibility that fire may develop and in many instances brigades were in attendance to counter such an outbreak.

Fire Damage in the UK

39. During the year there were 40 fires costing in excess of £1 million, compared with 32 in this category during the previous year. There were 3 fires out of the total of 40 where losses exceeded £10 million.

40. Fire losses for Scotland were estimated to be £59.2 million compared with £50.3 million in 1982.

SECTION D

Supplies and Services

Transport

41. The useful life of fire service vehicles is maintained by a continuing programme for replacing vehicles, together with a system of good maintenance. Brigades seek to achieve an optimum vehicle life and, despite financial constraints, are providing a satisfactory standard. The present total of first-line appliances available in Scotland is 575 of which approximately 90% are over 15 years old.

Equipment

42. Steady progress is being made in the provision of operational equipment carried on fire appliances, and Firemasters and fire authorities are to be commended on their efforts to accomplish good standards in the face of strict budgetary controls.

43. Breathing apparatus continues to be a high priority with brigades both in the updating of equipment and in improving the numbers of sets carried on the fire appliances. It is pleasing to note the very considerable progress being made.

44. Over the years additional and new types of equipment have been added to the list of items carried on appliances. Consequently there is a need to re-appraise the value of some traditional equipment such as branch pipes in the light of new multipurpose types now in service. There is also a need to improve the standard layout of the lockers in which the equipment is carried. All brigades have recognised the need to rationalise and base their equipment range accordingly.

Uniform and Personal Equipment

45. Following extensive trials, work on a revised specification for rubber boots for operational personnel is now nearing completion.

46. Trials are also still in progress on improved design and alternative materials for fire tunics and overtrousers. The difficulty is in finding a suitable compromise which gives firemen a high protection safety factor against heat and flames compatible with adequate ventilation of the garments during operational use.

47. Feasibility trials are in progress to provide additional protection to the head and neck areas during fire situations and two types of balaclava style headgear are being evaluated.

Water Supplies

48. At the end of the year there were 129,196 local authority fire hydrants in Scotland, an increase of 582 over the 1982 total.

49. Just over 5% of the total number of hydrants do not comply fully with the relevant British Standard requirements for fire hydrants. However, even that small percentage are operationally sound and provide an adequate water supply for fire-fighting.

50. A further 1.5% of the total number are of the ball type and this form of installation is not considered hydraulically sound. Those brigades which have such types are being exhorted to phase them out in favour of the British Standard type as soon as possible.

Premises

51. Fire brigade premises, both operational and administrative units, are generally in good order. Most brigades maintain a good record of buildings replacement and such replacements incorporate the specialist design features appropriate to their purpose.

52. The standard of house-keeping at fire stations is very good with most cleaning and maintenance work being carried out by janitors or cleaners. However, in certain brigades, mainly at part-time stations, the cleaning is undertaken by fire service personnel. Whilst this is an acceptable part of fire service life, at station level, one must beware of cleaning time encroaching into training time. Part-time retained firemen normally report for a two-hour training period each week and such are the demands on their training periods that any ancillary duties should be allocated outwith the training sessions.

Communications

53. The Co-ordinating Committee set up to monitor the implementation of the new arrangements stemming from the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) has been pushing ahead in conjunction with the Directorate of Telecommunications; and the necessary surveys to determine brigade needs are being carried out on a planned programme.

54. Scotland has opted for the 145 MHz part of the radio spectrum and the Directorate of Telecommunications, which is the authority for spectrum management for the emergency services in Scotland, has assessed that there will be sufficient spectrum available within the higher band to accommodate brigade requirements for at least the next 20 years.

55. The timescales for the overall frequency plans are expected to be made available during the summer of 1984.

56. The Directorate of Telecommunications expect to have completed hilltop initial surveys in Central, Fife, Tayside, Grampian, Highland and Islands and Strathclyde by the end of 1984 and Dumfries and Galloway and Lothian and Borders by early in 1985.

57. Firemasters are now evaluating the new equipment available for the new radio schemes and the results of trials and assessments carried out by the Directorate of Telecommunications are available to them.

58. Strathclyde Fire Brigade's unified Control Room at Johnstone is nearing completion and should have its official opening during 1984.

59. Discussions are continuing between Firemasters and the Directorate of Telecommunications regarding the provision and adequacy of portable radio sets for use on the fireground. Improvements, where applicable, will be built into future specifications.

SECTION E

Fire Prevention

Summary

60. The number of premises visited by brigades for fire prevention purposes was 67,656, this number being 194 above the figure for the previous year. Plans submitted to brigades' Fire Prevention Departments for comment also showed an increase, the total being 9,246 compared with 8,583 in 1982.

61. Apart from personal site visits to premises by members of the fire prevention staff and qualified operational personnel, a great deal of time is spent in discussions with architects, building authorities and other groups associated with developments in brigade areas. Fire authorities also have a statutory obligation to give advice on request on a variety of fire prevention measures applicable to buildings and properties.

62. The workload in the aforementioned paragraphs ensures that staff in brigades' Fire Prevention Departments are fully committed whilst on duty and the diversity of problems encountered ensures that their expertise is fully utilised.

Education and Publicity

63. The Scottish Fire Precautions Publicity Steering Committee commissioned a new fire prevention film which was screened on the commercial television networks during November. Press releases concerning fire safety, with which Mr Michael Ancram, MP, Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment at the Scottish Office was associated, were issued at the start of National Fire Safety Week (24-29 October) and prior to 5 November 1983.

Inspection and Certification of Premises

64. The number of Fire Certificates issued under the Fire Precautions Act 1971 during the year was:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Factories | 201 (262) |
| Offices and Shops etc. | 943 (916) |
| Hotels and Boarding Houses | 109 (127) |

From the 1982 figures shown in brackets there is, as in the previous year, a slight reduction in two of the categories. Table 6 shows the certification progress in Scotland.

65. In addition to the issue of new Fire Certificates, brigades issued the following number of revised Certificates:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Factories | 201 (200) |
| Offices and Shops etc. | 402 (383) |
| Hotels and Boarding Houses | 459 (584) |

The 1982 figures are shown in brackets.

Joint Fire Prevention Committee

66. A draft guide to Fire Precautions in Existing Residential Care Premises was issued in Scotland to fire authorities, fire brigades and directors of social work in February 1983. The purpose of the guide was to set out basic standards for means of escape in case of fire and related fire precautions in existing residential care premises.

67. The Committee considered the Second Report by its Planning/Legislation Sub-Committee on the review of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 and submitted the proposals to the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils for England and Wales and for Scotland. The proposals, together with the views of the Councils, were put to Ministers, who agreed that work should commence on the preparation of a consultative document, with a view to seeking comments on the proposals from wider interests. The Sub-Committee continued its enquiries with regard to fire precautions in enclosed shopping centres.

Health and Safety Executive

68. Continued liaison exists between the Inspectorate staff and the Health and Safety Executive officers at headquarters and local levels. Although meetings and discussions are infrequent this is an indication of the general goodwill which exists in brigades whereby their individual health and safety committees are able to agree practices and principles which are implemented into training and work areas to the benefit of the personnel.

69. Members of the Inspectorate staff continue to serve on Health and Safety Executive Committees concerned with Dangerous Substances and the Certification and Testing of Breathing Apparatus.

SECTION F

Training

Scottish Fire Service Training School

70. The major building developments at the School are now completed, although minor works continue in certain areas.

71. A total of 110 recruits completed their training during the year and courses were also provided for the following groups:- Retained Firemen (54), Retained Leading Firemen/Sub-Officers (21), Retained Sub-Officers/Station Officers (10), Wholetime Leading Firemen (68), Breathing Apparatus Instructors (28), Specialist Legislation (31).

72. Fire related courses were provided on Hospital Safety (30) and for Industrial Personnel (93). In each of the aforementioned categories the figures in brackets indicated the attendances.

73. A further course was held on appliance/vehicle maintenance which was attended by 14 persons and spare capacity at the School enabled non-fire service courses to be organised for Scottish Office and local authority students.

Fire Service College

74. Scottish brigades continue to make good use of the facilities at the Fire Service College situated at Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire. The opportunity to develop through the progressive system of courses is available to all qualified officers, and brigade training departments ensure that places are reserved on each course in order to meet the needs of the brigade.

75. In addition to supporting the "development-training", brigades are also sending personnel to the more concentrated specialist courses available at the College.

Physical Education

76. During the year 'pilot courses' were arranged via the Home Office Prisons Department to enable fire service personnel, of reasonable physical development, to receive instruction in physical training leadership. It is intended that these personnel will receive training to a level which will enable them to organise physical training sessions within their respective brigades.

77. It is expected that a further series of courses will be organised if the 'pilot' courses are successful. Physical fitness is essential to operational efficiency and the special courses are an aid to improving fitness levels at fire stations.

Fire Services Examinations Board (Scotland)

78. The 1983 written promotion examinations took place at various centres during the months of January, February and March. The results were as follows (the 1982 figures are shown in brackets):

| <i>Examination</i> | <i>No. of Candidates</i> | <i>No. of Passes</i> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Station Officer | 226 (272) | 56 (72) |
| Sub-Officer | 330 (396) | 116 (142) |
| Leading Fireman | 393 (527) | 116 (142) |

79. At a ceremony held in Tayside on 10 June prize certificates were awarded to the following candidates who obtained the highest marks at each level in the written examinations:

Station Officer—Leading Fireman Edward Hattie, Strathclyde Fire Brigade
Sub-Officer—Fireman Brian Sweeney, Strathclyde Fire Brigade
Leading Fireman—Fireman Gilbert Gallie, Highland and Islands Fire Brigade.

80. Practical examinations for Leading Fireman and Sub-Officer candidates who were successful in the written examinations were conducted by the fire authorities and the Board respectively during April and May with the following results (the 1982 figures are shown in brackets):

| <i>Examination</i> | <i>No. of Candidates</i> | <i>No. of Passes</i> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Sub-Officer | 197 (151) | 112 (92) |
| Leading Fireman | 185 (223) | 127 (116) |

81. In the practical examinations for Sub-Officer candidates Firemasters have assisted the Board in providing suitably qualified officers who serve on the examining panels. The officers selected visit a variety of examination centres throughout Scotland, such centres being located at fire stations providing a catchment area for candidates from surrounding localities. I wish to record my appreciation to Firemasters for their co-operation in the provision of centres and relevant equipment and I would also thank those officers attending as members of the Panels for their valuable assistance.

82. During the year consideration was given to the possibility of establishing a common system of fire service promotion examinations throughout the United Kingdom, and the Fire Services Examinations Board (Scotland) and the Fire Services Central Examinations Board established a joint working party to explore this possibility.

SECTION G

Miscellaneous

Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council

83. At the Council meetings held on 3 June and 16 December 1983, the Chair was taken, respectively, by Mr W. Baird, Under Secretary, Scottish Home and Health Department, and by Mr Michael Ancram, Scottish Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment.

84. The Council considered reports from the Joint Committee on Appliances, Equipment and Uniform; the Joint Committee on Fire Brigade Operations; the Joint Training Committee; the Joint Fire Prevention Committee; the Joint Pensions Committee and the Joint Committee on Fire Research.

85. Information on certain matters, after due discussion and agreement by the Council, was issued to fire authorities and Firemasters.

Research

86. During the year the Joint Committee on Fire Research continued to give consideration to various fire-related projects in the programme of research carried out by the Research and Planning Unit of the Home Office and a number of outside agencies. These included projects concerned with health hazards to firemen and the performance of medium and high expansion foams in extinguishing petrol fires.

87. The Committee also undertook to look into research being carried out by the furniture industry into toxic fumes given off by fires originating in chairs, settees, etc.

Fire Services National Benevolent Fund

88. The contributions raised by Scottish brigades for the above Fund amounted to £75,319 which is £4,616 less than in the previous year but still represents a considerable effort from all personnel.

89. For the first time in many years Highland and Islands Fire Brigade, formerly Northern Fire Brigade, were ousted from the top of the collection table by Grampian Fire Brigade, whose efforts produced the magnificent total of £13,240.

90. To those who donated, but particularly to those who collected, the contributions I would wish to express my sincere gratitude on behalf of the organisers of the Fund at local and national level.

Fire Services Sports and Athletics Association

91. Scottish brigades have participated in a number of sporting events at local, national and even international level. At international level a Scottish

player was selected for the UK Fire Brigades Table Tennis team competing in Germany when he maintained an unbeaten performance for the duration of the tournament.

92. The Scottish brigades football select played two matches during the year beating England in the annual international and winning against the R.A.F. in a specially arranged match at Leuchars in Fife. The Scottish Cup and League finals have yet to reach their climax and there promises to be a few hard-fought battles in those arenas before the season draws to a close.

93. Six events were organised by the Angling section of the Scottish District, a commendable achievement by any standards, and an opportunity was given to participate in a Sea Angling Survey in Northern Ireland pending selection of a venue in that area for future competitions.

94. To cater for the indoor sports enthusiast a darts competition was arranged in Central Region and this could be the fore-runner of an annual event in the darts calendar.

95. To the members of the Scottish District Sports and Athletics Committee I would say congratulations on your achievements in promoting a sports interest within all the brigades. I would also offer my sincere congratulations to the organisers of the various activities at brigade level, for without their dedication and enthusiasm the sports and athletics side of brigade interests and pursuits would surely be the worse off.

ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTH

as at

TABLE 1

| WHOLETIME | DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY | | | CENTRAL | | | FIFE | | | GRAMPIAN | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|---------------|-----------------|--------|---------------|-----------------|--------|---------------|-----------------|--------|
| | Establishment | Actual Strength | | Establishment | Actual Strength | | Establishment | Actual Strength | | Establishment | Actual Strength | |
| | | Male | Female | | Male | Female | | Male | Female | | Male | Female |
| OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Firemasters | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Assistant Firemasters | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 2 | — |
| Senior Divisional Officers | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Divisional Officers Grade I | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 2 | — |
| Divisional Officers Grade II | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 3 | 3 | — | 2 | 3 | — |
| Divisional Officers Grade III | 4 | 4 | — | — | 3 | — | — | 1 | — | 4 | 4 | — |
| Assistant Divisional Officers | 5 | 5 | — | 5 | 5 | — | 10 | 10 | — | 11 | 11 | — |
| Station Officers | 10 | 9 | — | 15 | 14 | — | 38 | 37 | — | 21 | 21 | — |
| Sub-Officers | 6 | 6 | — | 23 | 23 | — | 27 | 27 | — | 29 | 28 | — |
| Leading Firemen | 8 | 8 | — | 28 | 28 | — | 58 | 58 | — | 38 | 38 | — |
| Firemen | 52 | 52 | — | 140 | 136 | — | 236 | 232 | — | 145 | 143 | — |
| Totals | 87 | 86 | — | 218 | 214 | — | 376 | 371 | — | 255 | 253 | — |
| CONTROL ROOM STAFF | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prin. F.C. Officers | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Group F.C. Officers | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Fire Con. Officers | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Sen. Fire Con. Operators | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 4 | — | 4 | 4 | — | 4 |
| Lead. Fire Con. Operators | 5 | — | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | — | 4 | 4 | — | 4 |
| Fire Control Operators | 5 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 8 | — | 9 | 6 | — | 6 |
| Totals | 11 | 1 | 10 | 13 | 3 | 10 | 17 | — | 18 | 15 | — | 15 |
| PART-TIME RETAINED | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Station Officers | 3 | 3 | — | 4 | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | 11 | 11 | — |
| Sub-Officers | 16 | 16 | — | 16 | 15 | — | 8 | 8 | — | 33 | 36 | — |
| Leading Firemen | 20 | 20 | — | 20 | 16 | — | 10 | 11 | — | 45 | 55 | — |
| Firemen | 157 | 149 | — | 160 | 135 | — | 92 | 75 | — | 361 | 327 | — |
| Totals | 196 | 188 | — | 200 | 166 | — | 112 | 96 | — | 450 | 429 | — |
| PART-TIME VOLUNTEER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Assistant Divisional Officers | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Station Officers | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | — |
| Sub-Officers | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | 4 | — |
| Leading Firemen | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 26 | 15 | 5 |
| Firemen | — | — | — | 24 | 18 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | — | — | — | 24 | 18 | — | — | — | — | 32 | 21 | 5 |
| GRAND TOTALS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WHOLETIME OPERATIONAL | 87 | 86 | — | 218 | 214 | — | 376 | 371 | — | 255 | 253 | — |
| WHOLETIME CONTROL ROOM | 11 | 1 | 10 | 13 | 3 | 10 | 17 | — | 18 | 15 | — | 15 |
| PART-TIME RETAINED | 196 | 188 | — | 200 | 166 | — | 112 | 96 | — | 450 | 429 | — |
| PART-TIME VOLUNTEER | — | — | — | 24 | 18 | — | — | — | — | 32 | 21 | 5 |
| Grand Totals | 294 | 275 | 10 | 455 | 401 | 10 | 505 | 467 | 18 | 752 | 703 | 20 |

OF FIRE BRIGADES

31st December 1983

| HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS | | | LOTHIAN AND BORDERS | | | STRATHCLYDE | | | TAYSIDE | | | 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 | — |
| — | 1 | — | 3 | 3 | — | 5 | 5 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 15 | 15 | — |
| — | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | 7 | 8 | — | — | — | — | 10 | 10 | — |
| — | — | — | 3 | 3 | — | 2 | 2 | — | 5 | 5 | — | 14 | 14 | — |
| 5 | 5 | — | 5 | 4 | — | 13 | 12 | — | 1 | — | — | 31 | 29 | — |
| — | — | — | 7 | 7 | — | 17 | 18 | — | 8 | 9 | — | 42 | 46 | — |
| 10 | 10 | — | 14 | 16 | — | 33 | 37 | — | 14 | 12 | — | 102 | 106 | — |
| 9 | 8 | — | 31 | 33 | — | 177 | 173 | — | 37 | 35 | — | 338 | 330 | — |
| 7 | 7 | — | 70 | 73 | — | 233 | 234 | — | 36 | 37 | — | 431 | 435 | — |
| 13 | 13 | — | 94 | 101 | — | 272 | 263 | — | 44 | 45 | — | 555 | 554 | — |
| 48 | 48 | — | 428 | 405 | — | 1,514 | 1,475 | — | 263 | 253 | — | 2,826 | 2,744 | — |
| 94 | 93 | — | 658 | 648 | — | 2,274 | 2,228 | — | 410 | 398 | — | 4,372 | 4,291 | — |
| — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 3 | — | 2 |
| — | — | — | 4 | 2 | 2 | 9 | — | 4 | — | — | — | 15 | 2 | 8 |
| 1 | — | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 10 | 4 | — | 4 | 27 | 5 | 25 |
| 1 | — | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 2 | 18 | 4 | — | 4 | 38 | 5 | 41 |
| 9 | — | 9 | 12 | 3 | 9 | 62 | 4 | 57 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 120 | 12 | 107 |
| 11 | — | 11 | 25 | 10 | 15 | 94 | 8 | 90 | 18 | 3 | 14 | 204 | 25 | 183 |
| 13 | 12 | — | 5 | 4 | — | 8 | 7 | — | 7 | 7 | — | 53 | 46 | — |
| 27 | 27 | — | 25 | 25 | — | 55 | 55 | — | 18 | 20 | — | 198 | 202 | — |
| 54 | 53 | — | 30 | 33 | — | 65 | 65 | — | 35 | 38 | — | 279 | 291 | — |
| 284 | 265 | — | 215 | 207 | — | 511 | 479 | — | 238 | 183 | — | 2,018 | 1,820 | — |
| 378 | 357 | — | 275 | 269 | — | 639 | 606 | — | 298 | 248 | — | 2,548 | 2,359 | — |
| 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | — |
| — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 92 | 92 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 95 | 95 | — |
| 84 | 84 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 91 | 91 | — |
| 975 | 816 | — | — | — | — | 222 | 212 | 2 | 30 | 39 | — | 1,277 | 1,100 | 7 |
| 1,153 | 994 | — | — | — | — | 224 | 214 | 2 | 32 | 41 | — | 1,465 | 1,288 | 7 |
| 94 | 93 | — | 658 | 648 | — | 2,274 | 2,228 | — | 410 | 398 | — | 4,372 | 4,291 | — |
| 11 | — | 11 | 25 | 10 | 15 | 94 | 8 | 90 | 18 | 3 | 14 | 204 | 25 | 183 |
| 378 | 357 | — | 275 | 269 | — | 639 | 606 | — | 298 | 248 | — | 2,548 | 2,359 | — |
| 1,153 | 994 | — | — | — | — | 224 | 214 | 2 | 32 | 41 | — | 1,465 | 1,288 | 7 |
| 1,636 | 1,444 | 11 | 958 | 927 | 15 | 3,231 | 3,056 | 92 | 758 | 690 | 14 | 8,589 | 7,963 | 190 |

TABLE 2
 CHANGES IN WHOLETIME OPERATIONAL STRENGTH DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1983

| 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 | 1 | — | 3 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 8 | 1 | 9 | |
| Dumfries & Galloway ... | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | — | 6 | |
| Fife | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | 4 | 1 | — | 7 | 5 | — | 5 | |
| Grampian | — | — | 1 | 3 | — | — | 3 | 3 | — | 10 | 10 | 1 | 11 | |
| Highland & Islands ... | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | 2 | |
| Lothian & Borders ... | — | 1 | — | 3 | — | — | 4 | 4 | 5 | 17 | 13 | 1 | 14 | |
| Strathclyde | — | 2 | 2 | 8 | 5 | — | 15 | 16 | 3 | 51 | 60 | 4 | 64 | |
| Tayside | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 12 | — | 12 | |
| Totals | — | 3 | 6 | 21 | 6 | — | 32 | 29 | 14 | 111 | 116 | 7 | 123 | |

SUMMARY OF FIRES AND SPECIAL SERVICES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1983

TABLE 3

| | Total Fires | Classification of fires by number of pumps used for firefighting purposes: | | | | | | Chimney Fires | Secondary Fires | False Alarms | | | Special Service | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------|--|----------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|--------|
| | | (a) 1 pump | (b) 2 pumps | (c) 3/5 pumps | (d) 6/10 pumps | (e) 11/15 pumps | (f) Over 15 | | | Good Intent | Apparatus Fault | Malicious | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Central | 776 | 601 | 135 | 35 | 5 | — | — | 389 | 638 | 428 | 257 | 439 | 68 | 3,015 |
| Dumfries and Galloway ... | 400 | 230 | 157 | 12 | 1 | — | — | 376 | 233 | 179 | 108 | 126 | 194 | 1,616 |
| Fife | 1,013 | 990 | 19 | 4 | — | — | — | 582 | 902 | 507 | 448 | 447 | 177 | 4,076 |
| Grampian | 1,394 | 1,219 | 98 | 75 | 1 | 1 | — | 1,077 | 964 | 688 | 265 | 331 | 411 | 5,130 |
| Lothian and Borders ... | 3,718 | 2,822 | 712 | 177 | 7 | — | — | 893 | 3,571 | 1,884 | 680 | 2,062 | 636 | 13,444 |
| Highland & Islands ... | 704 | 608 | 87 | 9 | — | — | — | 1,248 | 530 | 234 | 68 | 119 | 226 | 3,129 |
| Strathclyde | 8,344 | 7,520 | 683 | 131 | 10 | — | — | 1,920 | 9,597 | 5,053 | 3,290 | 3,935 | 2,411 | 34,550 |
| Tayside | 1,551 | 1,496 | 47 | 7 | 1 | — | — | 574 | 1,574 | 565 | 262 | 388 | 415 | 5,329 |
| Total | 17,900 | 15,486 | 1,938 | 450 | 25 | 1 | — | 7,089 | 18,029 | 9,538 | 5,378 | 7,847 | 4,538 | 70,289 |

FATALITIES (Listing Age Groups and Locations) As at 31st December, 1983

TABLE 4

| BRIGADE | Age Groups | | | | | | | | Location—Dwellings | | | | | | Location Other Buildings | | | | | 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 | Hospitals—Homes—Hostels | Hotels and Boarding Houses | Caravans | Vehicles | Industrial or Commercial Premises | Open | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jan. | | Feb. |
| Central | 2 | — | — | — | — | 3 | 5 | 3 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | |
| Dumfries and Galloway | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | — | — | — | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | |
| Fife | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 2 | — | 1 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | |
| Grampian | — | — | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 12 | 10 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | | |
| Lothian and Borders | 4 | 1 | — | 3 | 13 | 5 | 26 | 4 | — | — | 18 | — | — | 1 | 3 | — | — | — | — | | |
| Highland & Islands | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 6 | 11 | 1 | 6 | — | 2 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | | |
| Strathclyde | 7 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 17 | 30 | 72 | 54 | 8 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 3 | 1 | — | 2 | 3 | | |
| Tayside | 2 | — | — | 2 | 1 | 13 | 18 | 11 | — | 4 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | |
| Totals | 17 | 5 | 5 | 23 | 35 | 70 | 155 | 85 | 14 | 6 | 33 | — | — | — | 3 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| Fatalities by Month | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | Jun. | July | Aug. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Total | | | | | | | | |
| | Central | 1 | — | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | | | | | | | |
| | Dumfries and Galloway | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | | | | | | | |
| | Fife | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | | | | | | | |
| | Grampian | 1 | 4 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 7 | | | | | | | |
| | Lothian and Borders | 1 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 12 | | | | | | | |
| | Highland & Islands | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | — | — | 26 | | | | | | | |
| | Strathclyde | 7 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 72 | | | | | | | |
| | Tayside | — | — | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 4 | — | 18 | | | | | | | |
| | Totals | 13 | 24 | 14 | 11 | 13 | 18 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 9 | 11 | 16 | 155 | | | | | | | |

TABLE 5

COMPARATIVE FATALITIES BY BRIGADE 1980-1983

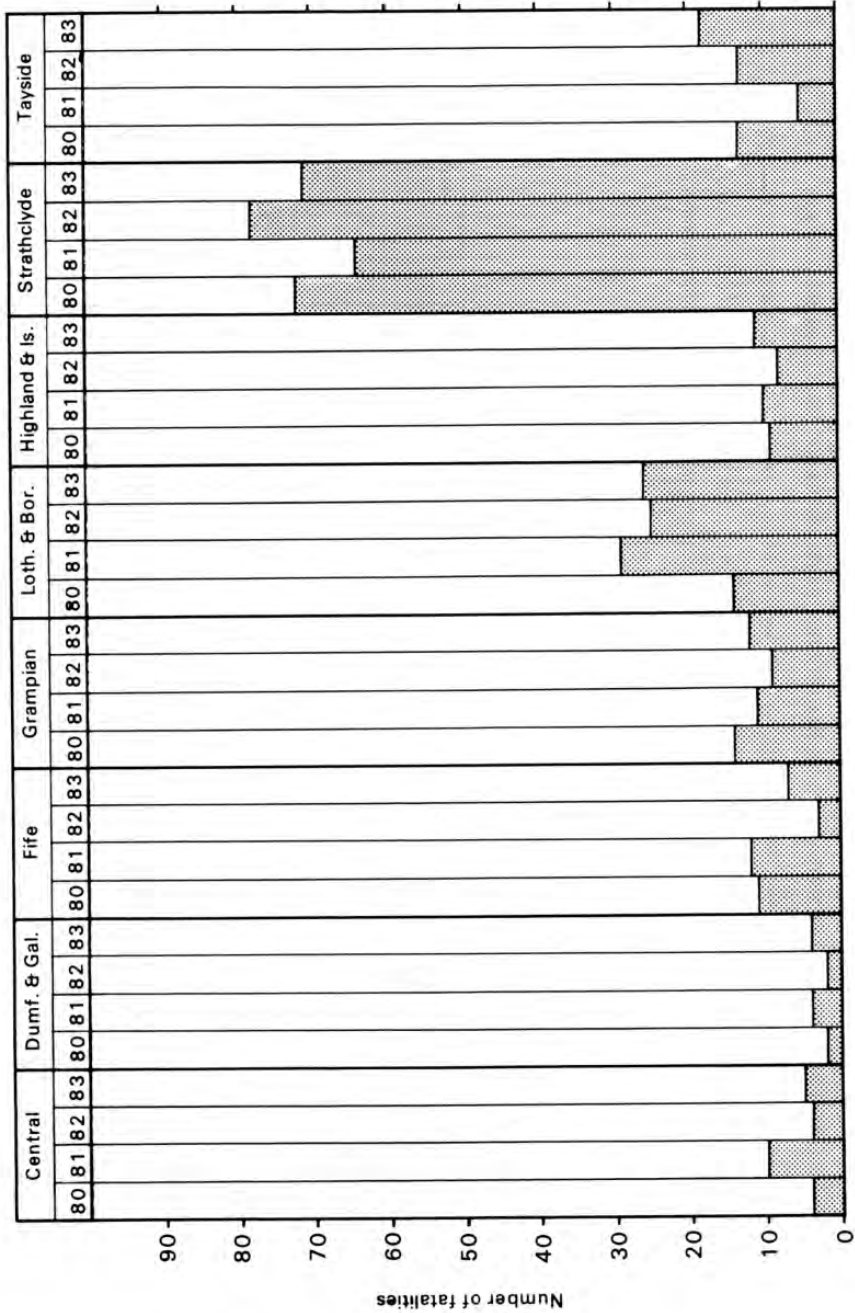
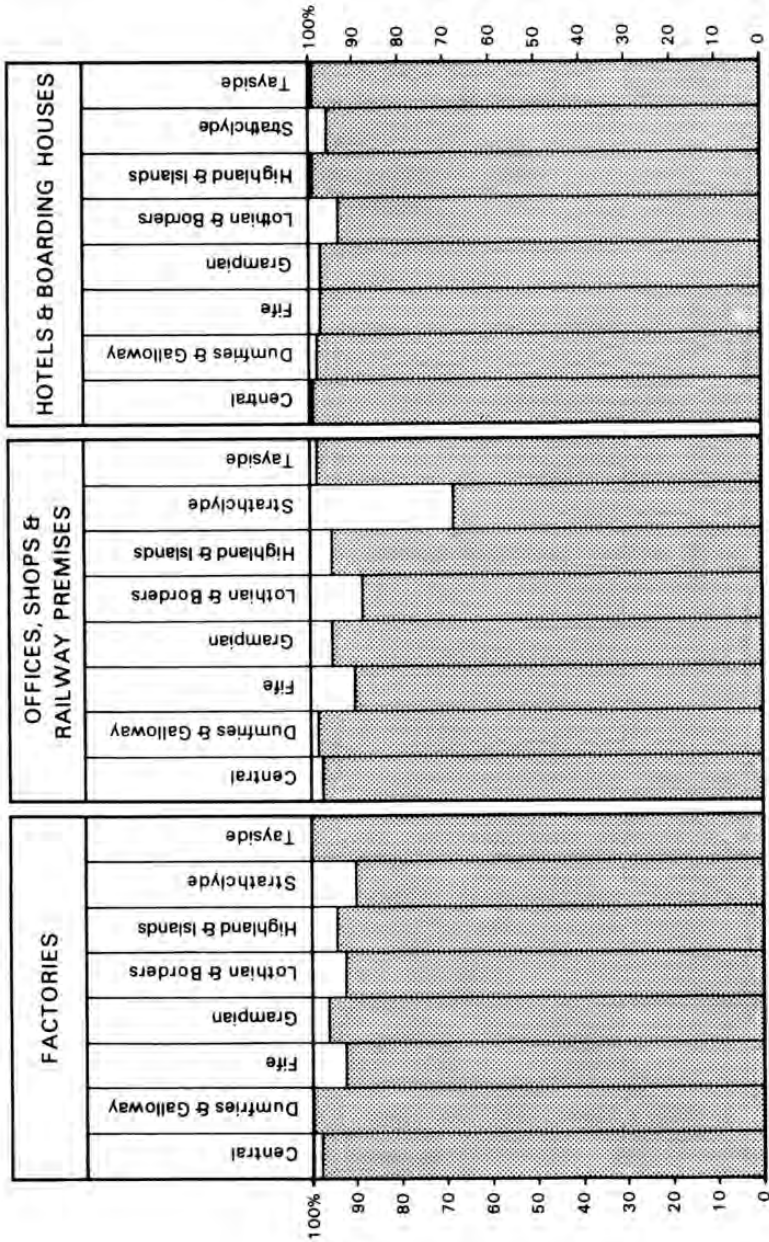


TABLE 6

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



Total number of Registered Premises in Scotland: Factories-5,771; Offices, Shops etc.-14,262; Hotels & Boarding Houses-4,523: The level indicates the percentage of Registered Premises issued with a Fire Certificate in relation to the number of Registered Premises in the Brigade requiring a Fire Certificate.

SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**HER MAJESTY'S CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES FOR
SCOTLAND: ANNUAL REPORT—1983**

ISBN 0 10 193210 3

CORRECTION

Paragraph 41: Last sentence should be amended to read:—

“The present total of first-line appliances available in Scotland is
575 of which approximately 10% are over 15 years old.”

EDINBURGH: HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

September 1984

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