



SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Her Majesty's
Inspector of Fire Services
for Scotland
Report for 1978

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland
by Command of Her Majesty
August 1979*

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THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONERS FOR SCOTLAND

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SECTION A

General

Introduction

1. This report deals with the Scottish Fire Brigades during the year ended 31st December 1978.
2. After the ending of the first total strike by Fire Service personnel at the beginning of the year, a prompt return to normal working was top priority with management and the representative bodies. The manner in which this was achieved, and the promptness with which employers and employees resolved their main differences, were commendable and the public were quick to appreciate the return to normal standards of fire cover.
3. Financial restraints on fire authorities remained throughout the year and once more projects and developments, especially those involving buildings, were affected. Whilst the overall efficiency of the Service in relation to the provision of adequate standards of fire cover did not suffer, the replacement of fire appliances, equipment and personal items has been affected and Firemasters, through their respective authorities, have had to replan and redesign maintenance schedules and replacement procedures in order to maintain a tight budgetary control. That they have done so without significant reduction in fire safety cover and services is to their credit.
4. Negotiations between the employers' side and employees' representatives on hours of duty eventually produced a commitment for the service to reduce the working week for the lower ranks from 48 to 42 hours with effect from early 1979. It was anticipated that most of the Scottish brigades would change over to the shorter working week in January 1979.
5. The 42 hour week agreement meant an increase in manpower requirements throughout the Service and consequently a national recruitment campaign was launched. The Scottish Information Office produced material for the media, including television advertising, and this was backed up by well organized local displays. At the end of the year the increase in applications from interested persons proved the success of the campaign and the majority of brigades were well on the way to meeting their new establishment requirements.
6. Because the number of recruits was greater than could be accommodated at the Scottish Fire Service Training School for initial training purposes, several brigades undertook to run their own recruit courses on the basis of the Training School's syllabus. During this period the Commandant and staff from the Training School visited brigades to advise on the setting up of the brigade schools and on the standard of instruction required. These arrangements proved very satisfactory and I would commend the staff of the Scottish Fire Service Training School, Firemasters and brigade training school staffs for the hard work and effort which produced such successful results.

7. Finally, I would wish to express my gratitude to fire authorities and Firemasters for the hospitality and courtesies extended during the year to the members of the Inspectorate. I am also grateful to the staff of the Fire Services Branch of the Department for their assistance on the administrative aspects.

The Inspectorate

8. The major change in the Inspectorate during the year was the appointment of myself as HM Inspector of Fire Services (Scotland) on 1st November 1978 pending the retirement of HM Inspector John Jackson, O.B.E. H.M. Inspector Jackson was hospitalized two weeks prior to his official retiral date of 31st December 1978 but I am happy to record that a minor operation was successfully completed and I would pay tribute to the assistance given to me by John Jackson during our spell in double-harness. During his 40 years in the Fire Service, the last 10 as H.M. Inspector, Mr. Jackson's experience has proved a valuable asset in the many areas of Fire Service work in which he became involved. His contribution to the work of the Scottish Inspectorate in particular was always to a high degree of competence and I would join with his colleagues in wishing him a long and healthy retirement.

9. The complement of the Inspectorate remains the same at :

H.M. Inspector Grade I (1)

H.M. Inspector Grade II (1)

Assistant Inspectors (4)—2 of whom are involved
in the inspection and
certification of Crown
properties.

10. The members of the Inspectorate continued to be represented on the various Home Office committees concerned with Fire Service affairs and activities where there are distinctive Scottish interests and legal differences are relevant. A close liaison exists, and is fostered, between the Home Office Inspectorate and its Scottish counterpart, especially in matters affecting the United Kingdom generally. As well as the annual inspection of all Scottish brigades by the Inspectorate staff a great deal of advice and assistance was given on a variety of professional and technical matters.

Inspections

11. All brigades were inspected during the year and it was found that a satisfactory standard of efficiency was being maintained. Personnel were regaining the esteem and co-operation of the public and morale within the Service was fairly high. The demands on the Service, mainly in the operational field, are increasingly wide and varied. Consequently, the dissemination of technical information and the provision of suitable training facilities will continue to be of increasing importance if personnel are to be fully capable of meeting all the potential demands on their services.

Fire Authorities and Firemasters

12. At the end of the year, the following were the Firemasters in the various brigades:

Central Region Fire Brigade	—Firemaster P. S. Morrison, M.B.E., Q.F.S.M.
Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade	—Firemaster R. F. Holland-Thomas, G.I.FireE.
Fife Fire Brigade	—Firemaster F. Ballantyne, M.I.FireE.
Grampian Fire Brigade	—Firemaster D. R. Close, F.I.FireE., A.M.B.I.M.
Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade	—Firemaster J. Anderson, C.B.E., Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE.
Northern Fire Brigade	—Firemaster W. Shand, G.I.FireE.
Strathclyde Fire Brigade	—Firemaster R. J. Knowlton, Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE.
Tayside Fire Brigade	—Firemaster A. Jones, O.B.E., Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE.

13. During the year Senior Divisional Officer G. S. Hibbard, B.A., M.I.FireE. was appointed Deputy Firemaster of Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade with the rank of Assistant Firemaster.

Honours and Awards

14. The following received recognition in the Queen's Honours List:

Order of the British Empire (Civil Division)

Officer (O.B.E.)

Alfred Jones, Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE., Firemaster, Tayside Fire Brigade

Member (M.B.E.)

John Waterston, Ex Assistant Firemaster, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

British Empire Medal (B.E.M.)

Sub Officer William Coupland, Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade

Queens Fire Service Medal (Q.F.S.M.)

Philip S. Morrison, M.B.E., Firemaster, Central Region Fire Brigade

The Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was awarded to 103 members of Scottish Fire Brigades.

Legislation

15. The Fire Services (Appointments and Promotion) (Scotland) Regulations 1978 were made by the Secretary of State for Scotland on 22nd November 1978. These Regulations consolidate, with amendments, the Fire Services (Appointments and Promotion) (Scotland) Regulations 1968 and the amending Regulations of 1976. The principal changes made by the new Regulations relate to the specifications of the statutory examinations in Scotland which qualify for promotion to leading fireman, sub-officer and station officer and these are effective from 1979.

16. The Firemen's Pension Scheme (Amendment) Order 1978, which came into operation on 1st October 1978, provides a new method for transferring superannuation rights of an individual where he or she enters a fire brigade from certain other forms of pensionable employment or enters such employment after leaving a fire brigade. The Order widens the scope of existing provisions in terms of entitlement and transferability between schemes. The major provision of the Order is retrospectively effective from 1st January 1974.

17. The Firemen's Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1978 came into operation on 6th October 1978. This Order amends the Firemen's Pension Scheme, the main change being to enable the Scheme to satisfy requirements for the issue of a contracting-out certificate under Section 31 of the Social Security Pensions Act 1975. The main changes were retrospectively effective from 6th April 1978.

SECTION B

Personnel and Administration

Establishment and Strengths

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

Whole-time Personnel

19. A total of 653 new entrants for operational duties were recruited into the Service during the year, this figure being 326 more than for the previous year. Apart from replacements for normal wastage, additional personnel were recruited to meet the prospective increase in manpower which the introduction of the 42 hour week would involve.

20. A national recruitment campaign was launched in Scotland by Mr. Harry Ewing, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland, at a press conference held at the Scottish Fire Service Training School, Gullane on 15th August. The campaign was backed by media advertising and television publicity by the Scottish Information Office. Brigades also organized local displays, and the response to these various activities was reflected in the additional number of applications received by brigades.

21. By the end of the year the operational establishment for the Scottish Fire Service had increased from 3,978 to 4,071, an increase of 93 but the actual strength rose from 3,844 to 4,236, an increase of 392. The anomaly in the figures arises through some brigades, whilst recruiting for the 42 hour week, not being in a position to declare the required number for the 42 hour week establishment. Consequently the actual strength total exceeds the establishment total by 165, but this figure may change as establishments are firmed up after consultation with accredited representatives.

22. Concern has been expressed in some areas at the fact that the number of acceptable recruits in relation to the number of applicants was so low. There are several reasons why applicants have been unable to meet the required standards for the Fire Service, the main ones being educational, physical and medical grounds.

Wastage

23. The whole-time intake of 653 men was partially offset by a loss of 292 men during the year. A total of 152 men with less than ten years service left brigades in Scotland. Eighteen of these transferred to brigades in England and Wales while 8 personnel transferred in from England and Wales. (See Table 2).

Retained and Volunteer Personnel

24. The part-time retained and volunteer establishment and strengths were as follows:

	<i>Establishment</i>		<i>Actual</i>	
	1977	1978	1977	1978
Retained	2,615	2,643	2,288	2,331
Volunteer	1,329	1,356	1,119	1,196

25. A marginal increase in both categories has occurred although the retained strength is still 312 below the required establishment. There are still areas within brigades where recruitment of retained personnel is proving difficult despite efforts of Firemasters to reach the establishment figures. Whilst operational fire cover is provided within these areas to an acceptable standard the position is constantly monitored to ensure that suitable cover is maintained.

26. During the year the volunteer unit at Brae, Shetland Islands, was upgraded to retained status with the opening of the Sullom Voe Oil Terminal. Four new volunteer units were opened during the year, two in Strathclyde and two in Northern area. These units, whilst being rather basic in material facilities, provide a standard of fire cover suitable to the needs of the community and the personnel manning the units are ably supported by a retained appliance at any incident.

Discipline

27. Twelve cases of breach of discipline, under the Fire Service (Discipline) (Scotland) Regulations 1953, were heard and 9 punishments were awarded:

- 1 Being required to resign as an alternative to dismissal.
- 6 Stoppage of pay.
- 2 Caution
-
- 9
-

Health

28. The total number of working days lost through sickness and injury by whole-time personnel was between 6 and 6.5 per cent. The percentage given is the average for Scotland. Sickness and injury has a direct effect on manning standards unless appropriate allowance is made by fire authorities when determining their establishments. One retained man collapsed and died at a fire during the year. It was established that death was due to natural causes. There were no reports of serious injury to personnel.

SECTION C

Operational

Fires and Other Emergencies

29. The firemen's strike affected the statistical returns for the first 16 days of 1978 so the totals reported by brigades are not a complete picture of the year's events. Allowing for a margin of error, however, the number of fire calls (excluding chimney fires) was down by 20 per cent. A reduction of fire calls is a welcome sign and hopefully will set a pattern which will be followed in future. (See Table 3).

30. Chimney fires showed a slight increase during the year and it is interesting to note that Northern and Grampian areas accounted for approximately 31 per cent of these, exactly the same percentage of the total as occurred in Strathclyde where the population is almost four times greater.

31. An encouraging feature of the fire statistics was the reduction in the number of malicious false alarm calls, which showed a decrease of 17.5 per cent from the previous year's total. It would be perhaps unduly optimistic to assume that the perpetrators of this form of vandalism are becoming less irresponsible. It is more likely that improved vigilance, and the likelihood of higher fines resulting from prosecution, are the reasons for the decline. The principal reductions of malicious calls relate mainly to Strathclyde and Lothian and Borders.

32. The number of fire fatalities increased, and dramatically so. The figures for 1977 were assessed at 106 but excluded 17 deaths which occurred during the firemen's strike. During 1978 the total number of deaths caused by fire increased to 145, an increase of 22 over the previous year (17.9 per cent).

33. Previous reports have applauded the public for their vigilance in regard to fire safety: their genuine concern for the safety of other people as well as themselves has been a main reason for the reduction in past years in the number of deaths from fire. There are those of course who have a complete disregard for fire safety, either personal or otherwise, who ignore basic fire prevention advice on safety in the home, whose careless attitude to those around them and to those within their homes can only be described as criminal. Responsibility for any increase in the number of fatalities must therefore rest with the individual members of society. There are still parents who leave children unattended at home, open to the hazards of fire. There are still elderly persons living on their own who would welcome a neighbourly visit, when cautionary advice may be given on apparent fire dangers, and there will always be the unattended chip pan, switched-on electric blankets, and the smoker who falls asleep with a lit cigarette poised above combustible and flammable materials. One can only sympathize with the surrounding occupiers who are put at risk. People die mainly as a result of carelessness and in 1978 approximately 96 per cent of deaths occurred in dwellings. Fire authorities have as yet no direct legislative control over domestic dwellings and can only rely on repetitive publicity of fire dangers

in the home and the need for personal vigilance. The highest fatality figures are still to be found amongst children and old people. (Details at Table 4).

34. The number of persons rescued by the Fire Service at fires was 312, and at incidents other than fires 569. This was a fine achievement and reflects great credit on brigades.

35. Although fire calls in total were fewer in number in 1978, the cost of fire damage as estimated by the British Insurance Association increased during the year. This may be attributable to factors such as inflation, more sophisticated and expensive machinery destroyed and total replacement costs. A major worry is the extent to which fires appear to be caused by incidents of vandalism, particularly in the case of schools, although vandalism is not confined to school premises. At a special conference held on 31st October, the Home Secretary, in association with the Secretary of State for Scotland, announced the setting up of a working party to examine the problem of fires due to vandalism generally.

SECTION D

Supplies and Services

Appliances and Equipment

36. A total of 36 new fire appliances were purchased during the year by brigades, with a further three smaller first strike units purchased by one brigade. Financial constraints have resulted in fewer new appliances being purchased but the general condition of fire appliances throughout the brigades is satisfactory. There are a number of vehicles overdue for replacement on age grounds and whilst these older vehicles are serviceable and roadworthy, mainly due to the skills and expertise of the brigade mechanics, the provision of spare parts for normal servicing is increasingly difficult.

37. In the past few years Scottish brigades have been involved in a phasing out of the 'wheeled escape' type rescue ladder. The alternative ladder in this height range is the 13.5 metres (45 ft) ladder which is lighter and more easily handled. The few remaining wheeled escapes will eventually be phased out of service and another piece of Fire Service equipment will fade into the history books.

Water Supplies

38. The number of fire authority hydrants in the country decreased by 198 to a total of 124,183 in 1978. The decrease was due to a greater number of obsolete hydrants being removed in areas where replacement of these hydrants was not considered necessary. A total of 1,681 new installations were made however and fire authorities, in conjunction with water authorities, continued to implement a replacement programme for older hydrants in addition to the installation of new units in development areas.

Premises

39. At the end of the year there were 378 fire stations in Scotland comprising 73 whole-time; 178 retained; 127 volunteer. One volunteer station was upgraded to retained status in Northern area and a further four volunteer units were opened, two in Northern and two in Strathclyde. One whole-time, six retained and four volunteer stations were under construction at the end of the year.

Communications

40. Efficient means of communication are vital to the efficiency of brigades. As technology advances therefore it is necessary to examine existing systems, to plan to replace obsolete equipment, and to arrange for installation of new and replacement equipment. The year was spent mainly in extending and consolidating present communicating systems but some work was started on new developments aimed at improving mobilising facilities and at providing improved facilities on the fireground. In particular, new repeater stations were installed, an existing radio scheme was extended, two brigades completed the centralisa-

tion of call-out facilities, and one brigade installed a computer terminal with access to a national data bank which will be used for a trial period to provide essential information to firemen when dealing with hazardous substances.

41. A good deal of preparatory work was undertaken by brigades in preparing specifications and completing designs for radio systems and retained call-out alerters and in arranging installation of computer assisted information retrieval systems for mobilising purposes.

SECTION E

Fire Prevention

Summary

42. The number of premises visited for fire prevention purposes was 60,020, an increase of 7,408 over the previous year's figures. In addition, copies of 11,266 plans were submitted to fire brigade officers for comment or discussion. (See Table 5).

Education and Publicity

43. Fire Brigades participated in giving lectures and instruction to public groups and bodies, and 1,955 such meetings took place, 226 more than in 1977. The Fire Precautions Publicity Steering Committee, in conjunction with the Scottish Information Office, sponsored a number of fire prevention publicity projects during the year. These included an autumn campaign of fire prevention advice by means of advertising on commercial television and radio, press releases on the handling of fireworks and on Christmas activities, and special press interviews held by Mr. Harry Ewing, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland.

44. Following the issue to interested primary schools of a special teaching pack called "Project Fire", a number of brigades have been co-operating with local schools in its use. A further project has now been mounted in conjunction with the Home Office with a view to the preparation of similar material and techniques for use in secondary schools and at the end of the year one brigade was assisting one of the working groups of teachers set up to undertake this project.

Inspection and Certification of Premises

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

Factories	377 (141)
Offices and Shops etc.	805 (238)
Hotels and Boarding Houses	596 (565)

The 1977 figures are shown in brackets.

In addition to the issue of new fire certificates, authorities issued revised certificates to 131 factories, 226 offices and shops and 286 hotels and boarding houses.

46. Continued progress is being maintained with the inspection and certification of hotels and boarding houses under the Act. At the end of the year, of the 4,597 certifiable premises of this kind, 3,680 (80 per cent) had been issued with fire certificates. Of the remainder, 688 (14.9 per cent) had been inspected and issued with notices of requirements. While in general this is a very satisfactory

situation, with some areas virtually up to date, there is still a backlog in certain other areas.

47. The number of officers in brigades whose primary reference is fire prevention increased slightly from 179 in 1977 to 182 in 1978. The increase in all areas of fire prevention, as indicated in the preceding paragraphs, is largely due to better allocation of workloads by fire prevention departments combined with the increasing use of operational personnel in specific areas of fire prevention work.

48. The number of certifiable premises owned or occupied by the Crown was 141 factories and 838 offices as at the end of 1978. In addition there were a further 704 non-certifiable offices. Since the certification responsibility for Crown premises passed to the Fire Service Inspectorate a total of 7 and 54 fire certificates for factories and offices respectively have been issued under the Fire Precautions Act. A further 84 factories and 320 offices hold certificates which are deemed to be fire certificates under the Fire Precautions Act. In addition to those new fire certificates issued, 30 premises have been inspected for certification purposes and the appropriate plans are in preparation.

Voluntary Activities

49. The Scottish Fire Prevention Council (formerly the Scottish Fire Liaison Panel) continued its work of strengthening the voluntary fire prevention activities of the various industrial, commercial and insurance interests.

SECTION F

Training

Scottish Fire Service Training School

50. A total of 273 recruits completed their training at the Scottish Fire Service Training School during the year. In addition, 92 students attended other courses.

51. The School also provided courses for a number of Scottish Health Board personnel. These courses, which are specially arranged to occupy available free time between recruit courses, have proved popular with the personnel attending and have been appreciated by the Health Boards concerned.

52. The second and third phases of the School building programme commenced in October and it is hoped that phase 2, the residential building, refectory, lecture rooms and drill yard, will be completed in May 1980. The alterations to the existing building, phase 3, are expected to be completed in October 1980.

53. The reduction in hours of the Fire Service will eventually produce a greater number of personnel, with a consequent increase in the demand for recruit places. The provision of the additional residential space, lecture rooms and drill area will enable the School to cope with the extra workload and also, it is hoped, to provide additional courses for the Fire Service on a variety of subjects.

Fire Service National Colleges

54. A total of 345 students from Scottish brigades attended the Fire Service Staff College and Fire Service Technical College during the year. The majority of students attended courses linked to the progressive training system, the remainder attending the variety of specialist courses run at both establishments. Recent discussions by the Joint Training Committee on the future requirements of the Intermediate Command Course have resulted in this course being suspended for one year. The Staff College will provide in the curriculum a course designed to suit the needs of Divisional Officers commanding divisions within brigades. It was felt that suitable training should be provided for those officers responsible for divisional organisation and for their respective deputies, and to this end five such courses will be arranged for 1979. The number of nominations for places on these courses for officers from Scottish brigades has proved to be most encouraging.

Brigade Courses

55. All Scottish brigades, in addition to providing internal brigade training, provided some form of training for industrial and commercial concerns throughout the year. One brigade was involved in the training of Mercantile Marine personnel and a total of 1,675 persons attended the various courses offered. These included 40 personnel from the Sullom Voe Oil Terminal, who attended a three day course on firefighting in ships.

56. One other brigade provided training in general firefighting for Sullom Voe personnel and some 56 personnel passed through the Brigade Training School during the year. This brigade also organised 13 courses in conjunction with the Petroleum Industry Training Board for a total of 200 members of the oil-related industries. Another brigade organized training in basic firefighting for fishing vessel owners, and the course was attended by 18 such owners. In all, a total of 229 non-fire service personnel passed through the Brigade School from outside organisations.

57. Training on a regular basis and on a comprehensive scale in realistic conditions is a prerequisite to maintain and improve general efficiency. Unless regular and properly planned training is organized and implemented, Fire Service personnel cannot keep pace with the ever changing pattern of technological progress. I am pleased to say therefore that brigades recognize this and during the year regular exercises of varying natures took place, including joint exercises at oil terminals in the Forth and the Shetlands.

Fire Services Examinations Board (Scotland)

58. The arrangements to hold the statutory written examinations for promotion to the ranks of leading fireman, sub-officer and station officer during January, February and March were cancelled because of the aftermath of the strike and, instead, all the examinations were held during the month of March. For the first time, duplicate examinations on separate days were set for the leading fireman and sub-officer examinations as certain brigades would otherwise have had difficulty in releasing all their candidates for these examinations on the same day.

59. The results of the 1978 examinations were as shown hereunder (1977 figures in brackets).

	<i>Presentations</i>	<i>Passes</i>
Station Officer Examination	133 (161)	43 (64)
Sub-Officer Examination	348 (268)	104 (84)
Leading Fireman Examination		
Educational	295 (518)	113 (210)
Technical	485 (659)	204 (270)

60. A disturbing feature of the 1978 examinations was the high rate of absenteeism and withdrawals, amounting in some cases to over 40 per cent. To some extent this may have been attributable to the disturbance caused by the strike, although the Board are aware that absenteeism from the examinations has been a growing problem in recent years and have been considering possible action.

61. Prize certificates were presented to the leading candidates in the technical examinations by Sir James Macfarlane, the former Chairman of the Board, at a ceremony held in Stirling on 29th June when the Board members were the guests of the Central Region Fire Authority. Certificates were awarded as follows:

Station Officer Examination:

Leading Fireman Alastair W. Keating, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

Sub-Officer Examination:

Leading Fireman Gordon G. Kennedy, Grampian Fire Brigade
Fireman David A. Irwin, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

Leading Fireman Examination:

Fireman Vincent Simson, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

62. The practical examinations for sub-officer and leading fireman candidates were conducted by the Board and the fire authorities respectively, and the results are shown hereunder. (1977 figures in brackets).

	<i>Number of Candidates</i>	<i>Passes</i>
Sub-Officer	101 (86)	73 (80)
Leading Fireman	208 (281)	187 (245)

At their meeting in June the Fire Services Examinations Board (Scotland) appointed Mr. David Dick, D.I.C., C.Eng., F.I.E.E., F.I.E.R.E., F.R.S.A., Principal of Stevenson College of Further Education, as their Chairman in succession to Sir James Macfarlane. Mr. Dick, who has served on the Board since 1968, has been an invaluable source of consultation and advice on educational matters and has acted as the Chairman of the special panel responsible for the setting and marking of examination papers. The Board are indebted to Firemasters and their staff for the excellent assistance given so readily in preparing examination questions and participating in the final marking.

Research

63. Through the Scientific Advisory Branch of the Home Office, the Fire Research Station, and certain outside agencies, the Joint Committee on Fire Research continued to sponsor further research on matters relating to the Fire Service and fire safety. Included in the programme for 1978 was a grant of £1,000 to Dundee College of Technology for the purpose of investigating the problem of "learning at a distance" for firemen studying for the statutory promotion examinations. The project will last for a period of about three years.

64. As recommended by the Committee, the final volume (Volume 3) of the Report of a Study of Systems of Control in the Fire Service dealing with Control System Design and Development was issued to fire authorities in April. Another report which has proved to be of considerable interest to local authorities generally was that of the special Technical Sub-Committee on the Fire Risks of New Materials, which had been appointed by the Joint Fire Prevention Committee. The report found no case at present for a general ban on the use of any particular materials but made a number of recommendations about their use and storage.

65. The Joint Committee on Fire Research and Fire Brigade Operations instituted an investigation into the value of having information on hazardous substances available on a 24 hour basis from a computer based data bank accessible to brigades using their own computer terminal equipment. A number of selected brigades in Britain, including Strathclyde, will utilise the system known as HAZFILE which has already been developed by Harwell Laboratories for an experimental period, after which the experience gained will be assessed.

SECTION G

Miscellaneous

Fire Brigade Sports and Athletics Association

66. The eight brigades in Scotland, together with the affiliated Glasgow Salvage Corps and Scottish Fire Service Training School, continued to benefit from sports and athletics activities organised through the Association representatives. The success of the Association owes much to the assistance and goodwill of the Firemasters in all areas and the voluntary efforts of brigade representatives and their co-operation is greatly appreciated. The following sporting highlights are worthy of recording:

Football—The Scottish International team competed against teams from Holland, R.A.F., Police, Prisons Service and the traditional English fire brigades select. Apart from a draw against England the remaining matches resulted in victory for our members.

Rugby—The Scottish International rugby team played one match against a Welsh select and ran out winners.

Athletics—Strathclyde Sports and Athletics section once more organized the International Road Race in Glasgow, a well attended event with teams competing from Holland as well as from the United Kingdom. England won the national award with London Fire Brigade winning the brigade team event. As part of a weekend of sport Strathclyde also organised a five-a-side football event on the Sunday at which our colleagues from Holland took the first place.

Table Tennis—A Scottish select entered the International Quadrangular Tournament held in Lancashire at the latter part of the year and gained a commendable second place against very fierce competition.

Volleyball—The first home International was held at Meadowbank Stadium in Edinburgh in June at which event England ran out convincing winners being undefeated in all matches.

Super Sportsman—This event proves to be popular with individual entrants from most brigades taking part in what proves to be hard fought contests. In the national final the best Scottish placing was twelfth.

I would wish to place on record my own appreciation of the hard work undertaken by the Scottish District Committee and by the respective brigade organisers whose efforts have done much to foster goodwill amongst the sporting and athletics fraternity of the Fire Service in Scotland.

Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council

67. The Advisory Council met twice during the year; at the first meeting the Chair was taken by the Rt. Hon. Bruce Millan, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland, and at the second meeting by Mr. Harry Ewing, M.P., Parliamentary

Under-Secretary of State for Devolution and Home Affairs at the Scottish Office.

68. The agreement which ended the firemen's strike in January 1978 provided for, inter alia, the introduction of a 42 hour week and the Council took note of a proposal by the Fire Brigades Union that the Government should mount a publicity campaign to promote the recruitment of the additional manpower required to implement this part of the settlement. The Unions' proposal received the support of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and, with the Secretary of State's approval, a central publicity campaign to supplement existing advertising of individual fire authorities was held in late August and early September with coverage on television and in the press designed to encourage interest in the Fire Service as a career. There can be no doubt that the advertising campaign contributed substantially to the 12 per cent increase in fire brigades' manpower between July and December.

69. The Council received and considered reports from the Joint Standing Committees on Pensions, Training, Design and Development, Uniforms and Personal Equipment, Fire Research, Fire Brigade Operations, Fire Brigade Communications and Fire Prevention. In addition the Council approved the final report of the Joint Working Party set up to review the experience of the Fire Service during the exceptionally dry summer of 1976.

70. Among other matters discussed by the Council were the proposed guidance to the Fire Service on the implications of the Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977 made under the Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1977. The Council also noted the first substantive report of the Planning/Legislation Sub Committee of the Joint Fire Preventions Committee which was concerned mainly with future planning in respect of fire precautions matters.

TABLE 1

WHOLE-TIME	CENTRAL			DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY			FIFE			GRAMPIAN		
	Estab.	Actual Strength		Estab.	Actual Strength		Estab.	Actual Strength		Estab.	Actual Strength	
		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female
Operational Personnel												
Firemasters	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Asst./Firemasters	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Senior Div. Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Div. Officers I	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	—
Div. Officers II	2	2	—	1	1	—	3	3	—	4	4	—
Div. Officers III	2	2	—	4	4	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Asst. Div. Officers	5	6	—	4	4	—	11	11	—	10	10	—
Station Officers	15	12	—	9	8	—	22	21	—	17	15	—
Sub-Officers	23	15	—	6	6	—	21	18	—	16	15	—
Leading Firemen	28	23	—	6	6	—	57	57	—	35	29	—
Firemen	140	120	—	48	56	—	201	233	—	149	143	—
Totals	218	183	—	79	86	—	319	347	—	236	221	—
Control Room Staff												
P.F.C. Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
G.F.C. Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
F.C. Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
S.F.C. Operators	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	1	3
L.F.C. Operators	4	3	1	4	—	4	4	—	4	4	—	4
F.C. Operators	8	3	5	5	1	4	8	—	8	6	1	5
Totals	13	7	6	10	1	9	13	—	13	15	2	13
Part-Time Retained												
Station Officers	4	1	—	3	3	—	2	2	—	1	1	—
Sub-Officers	16	15	—	16	16	—	9	10	—	44	43	—
Leading Firemen	20	21	—	20	20	—	16	16	—	47	48	—
Firemen	160	126	—	157	141	—	132	94	—	365	311	—
Totals	200	163	—	196	180	—	159	122	—	457	403	—
Part-Time Volunteer												
Asst. Div. Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Station Officers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-Officers	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leading Firemen	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Firemen	18	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	14	—
Totals	24	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	15	—
Grand Totals												
Whole-time	218	183	—	79	86	—	319	347	—	236	221	—
Control Room Staff	13	7	6	10	1	9	13	—	13	15	2	13
Retained	200	163	—	196	180	—	159	122	—	457	403	—
Volunteer	24	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	15	—
Brigade Grand Total	455	376	6	285	267	9	491	469	13	718	641	13

TH OF FIRE BRIGADES

s at 31st December, 1978

LOTHIAN AND BORDERS			NORTHERN			STRATHCLYDE			TAYSIDE			TOTALS		
Estab.	Actual Strength		Estab.	Actual Strength		Estab.	Actual Strength		Estab.	Actual Strength		Estab.	Actual Strength	
	Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female			
1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	8	8	
2	2	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	1	1	—	10	10	
3	3	—	—	—	—	7	7	—	—	—	—	11	11	
2	2	—	1	1	—	2	2	—	4	4	—	13	13	
6	6	—	4	4	—	12	12	—	1	1	—	33	33	
7	9	—	1	1	—	17	18	—	6	7	—	39	43	
13	12	—	9	8	—	34	34	—	13	13	—	99	98	
28	27	—	9	9	—	147	139	—	30	33	—	277	264	
68	72	—	7	5	—	218	215	—	29	32	—	388	378	
83	83	—	13	13	—	226	230	—	39	39	—	487	480	
365	406	—	48	47	—	1,290	1,414	—	243	259	—	2,484	2,678	
578	623	—	93	89	—	1,959	2,077	—	367	390	—	3,849	4,016	
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	
1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	
1	—	1	—	—	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	8	8	
3	2	2	1	—	1	15	2	13	1	—	1	27	27	
4	3	1	1	—	1	20	2	17	2	—	2	43	42	
5	3	9	8	—	8	78	17	62	16	4	10	141	140	
13	22	8	14	—	10	120	22	98	19	4	13	222	220	
—	5	4	—	13	12	—	9	9	—	7	7	—	44	39
—	25	25	—	26	26	—	59	56	—	18	19	—	213	210
—	30	31	—	52	47	—	71	67	—	35	37	—	291	287
—	215	191	—	277	246	—	551	498	—	238	188	—	2,095	1,795
—	275	251	—	368	331	—	690	630	—	298	251	—	2,643	2,331
—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	89	62	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	93	63
—	—	—	—	89	90	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	94	92
—	—	—	—	890	751	—	221	218	—	30	34	—	1,168	1,040
—	—	—	—	1,069	904	—	221	218	—	32	36	—	1,356	1,196
—	578	623	—	93	89	—	1,959	2,077	—	367	390	—	3,849	4,016
13	22	8	14	10	—	120	22	98	19	4	13	222	220	
—	275	251	—	368	331	—	690	630	—	298	251	—	2,643	2,331
—	—	—	—	1,069	904	—	221	218	—	32	36	—	1,356	1,196
13	875	882	14	1,540	1,324	10	2,990	2,947	98	716	681	13	8,070	7,763

**CHANGES IN WHOLE-TIME STRENGTH DURING THE YEAR
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1978 OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL**

TABLE 2

BRIGADE	LOSSES										GAINS			
	BY DEATH		BY RESIGNATION				By Discharge	By Retirement on Pension	By Retirement on Medical Grounds	By Transfer to other Brigades	Totals	By Recruitment	By Transfer from other Brigades	Totals
	Attributable to Service	Not Attributable to Service	During 1st and 2nd year Service	After 2nd but under 10 years Service	With 10 or more years Service									
Central	—	—	4	9	2	3	1	—	2	21	48	1	49	
Dumfries and Galloway	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	4	16	1	17	
Fife	—	—	4	6	—	3	3	4	—	20	69	1	70	
Grampian	—	—	5	6	3	—	1	—	—	15	46	5	51	
Lothian and Borders	—	—	13	8	3	2	5	6	4	41	104	8	112	
Northern	—	—	6	4	1	—	1	2	1	15	25	4	29	
Strathclyde	—	5	30	40	9	2	20	22	27	155	286	4	291	
Tayside	—	—	2	12	2	1	3	1	—	21	58	3	61	
TOTALS	—	5	64	88	20	11	35	35	34	292	653	27	680	

SUMMARY OF FIRES AND SPECIAL SERVICES—YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1978

Figures in the Main Table relate to calls received from Mid-January onwards. Period 1st to Mid-January added at baseline.

TABLE 3

BRIGADE	Fires requiring the attendance of										Total Fires	Chimney Fires	False Alarms			Total Fire Calls	Special Services	Total Calls
													Total	With good intent	Malicious			
	1 Pump	2 Pumps	3-4 Pumps	5 Pumps	6-8 Pumps	9-10 Pumps	11-15 Pumps											
Central	706	603	8	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	215	382	561	943	69	2,547	
Dumfries and Galloway ...	492	184	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	229	174	270	444	129	1,494	
Fife	1,535	11	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	410	446	655	1,101	287	3,349	
Grampian	1,893	47	29	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	911	242	637	879	464	4,228	
Lothian and Borders ...	5,071	292	67	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	790	1,034	2,098	3,132	622	9,981	
Northern	1,204	38	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	821	129	248	377	238	2,686	
Strathclyde	13,705	440	51	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1,745	3,498	7,596	11,094	1,799	28,841	
Tayside	2,691	53	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	451	282	767	1,049	456	4,712	
Total	27,297	1,668	196	12	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	29,183	6,187	12,832	19,019	4,064	57,838	
Totals (Reported during strike period).												296	139	299	438	32	1,833	
New Totals												5,868	6,326	13,131	19,457	4,096	59,671	
1977 Totals												5,279	7,668	12,342	20,010	4,295	67,534	

*The fire calls during the strike period were not broken down into 'pump categories'.

FIRE FATALITIES—1978

Compiled from returns sent in by brigades showing location and age breakdown of fatalities.

TABLE 4

BRIGADE	Total Fatalities	Inside Dwellings	Outside Dwellings	AGE GROUPS					Over 60
				Under 14	15 to 19	20 to 40	41 to 60	Over 60	
Central	3	3	—	1	—	—	2	—	
Dumfries and Galloway ...	8	8	—	1	1	4	—	2	
Fife	4	4	—	—	1	1	1	1	
Grampian	9	8	1	2	—	1	1	5	
Lothian and Borders ...	23	22	1*	6	1	2	5	9	
Northern	20	19	1†	6	—	4	5	5	
Strathclyde	73	71	2	16	2	12	19	24	
Tayside	5	5	—	1	—	2	—	2	
Totals	145	140	5	33	5	26	33	48	

*Suicide by fire.
† Road traffic accident.

**FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTION WORK UNDERTAKEN BY FIRE BRIGADES
DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1978**

TABLE 5

	FIRE AREA										Totals	
	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside				
(a) Industrial or business premises or undertakings subject to	Survey	330	315	526	921	600	163	2,010	532			5,397
	Specific	430	60	603	1,113	2,574	909	7,107	2,563			15,359
	Routine	471	243	412	39	1,159	15	1,608	2,913			6,860
(b) Industrial or business premises or undertakings (Inspected on a goodwill basis)	Follow-up	328	622	395	393	1,564	314	2,152	254			6,022
	Survey	903	77	74	—	—	7	1,151	5			1,417
	Specific	903	469	319	—	520	33	1,856	53			4,153
(c) Local Authority premises or undertakings other than schools, hospitals and homes	Routine	35	12	7	—	—	—	150	22			130
	Follow-up	84	10	2	—	—	—	—	—			246
	Survey	13	2	11	4	153	2	100	29			314
(d) Schools	Specific	31	18	36	13	335	7	761	115			1,316
	Routine	15	7	4	3	16	—	1,156	60			1,258
	Follow-up	6	2	4	—	23	—	19	1			54
(e) Hospitals and homes	Survey	35	9	4	8	27	3	37	20			143
	Specific	84	22	66	48	109	25	285	264			913
	Routine	6	83	30	—	7	—	68	194			388
(f) Cinemas, theatres and other places of public entertainment or assembly	Follow-up	8	3	—	—	10	—	12	17			50
	Survey	10	6	18	9	52	11	34	27			167
	Specific	41	28	51	31	140	22	374	308			995
(g) Miscellaneous premises	Routine	5	67	46	—	18	10	152	10			298
	Follow-up	2	1	3	—	10	9	85	22			132
	Survey	22	30	42	37	95	8	94	28			356
(h) Plans inspected	Specific	61	40	184	177	352	47	185	89			1,135
	Routine	2	49	180	2	765	81	284	81			1,371
	Follow-up	—	18	13	1	44	2	20	4			104
GRAND TOTAL	Survey	26	40	31	14	522	8	228	54			923
	Specific	130	64	163	175	1,731	89	6,928	1,683			9,759
	Routine	2	—	7	—	126	—	13	401			1,496
GRAND TOTAL	Follow-up	1	—	—	—	—	—	26	11			164
	Specific	773	690	709	811	1,294	935	4,603	1,451			11,266
		3,957	2,987	3,936	3,799	11,215	2,609	31,430	11,353			71,288

TABLE 5 (continued)

Fire Precautions Act 1971

Factories	18	11	47	15	35	7	152	92	377
(a) No. of new Fire Certificates issued:	5	16	1	5	32	—	31	41	131
(b) No. of Fire Certificates revised:									
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	3	7	71	116	109	6	315	178	805
(a) No. of new Fire Certificates issued:	1	10	1	45	111	—	17	41	226
(b) No. of Fire Certificates revised:	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) No. of Section 28 Premises inspected and Means of Escape now satisfactory:									
Hotels and Boarding Houses	26	23	25	106	55	185	163	13	596
(a) No. of Fire Certificates issued:	7	43	32	4	109	3	15	73	286
(b) No. of Fire Certificates revised:									

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

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

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

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

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







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