



SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Her Majesty's  
Inspector of Fire Services  
for Scotland  
*Report for 1979*

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland  
by Command of Her Majesty  
September 1980*

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Inspector of Tax Services  
for Scotland  
Report for 1979

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Report 1979  
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 1979.

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*

1. The main event affecting all brigades was the introduction of the 42-hour working week within the service. The special recruitment campaign launched in the previous year resulted in the majority of the Scottish brigades acquiring the additional manpower necessary to implement this shorter working week. Those brigades which were unable to increase their establishments to the necessary level in the time available agreed suitable arrangements with the representative bodies concerned to effect a phased changeover in the duty systems, which resulted in the shorter working week coming into effect in brigades at different dates between 1st January and 1st April.
2. A disquieting feature in 1979 was the increase in deaths as a direct result of fire. Safety legislation introduced in recent years appears to be reducing the numbers of deaths in premises subject to inspection and certification by the fire brigades, but in dwelling houses, which are not subject to direct legislative control, their number has increased. This subject is covered in more detail in Section C of my report.
3. Financial constraints on fire authorities during the year made it necessary to defer some building work and the replacement of some vehicles and equipment. The efficiency of the fire service depends of course largely on the quality of its manpower and equipment, and in the unremitting battle against the evils of fire the fire service must be given sufficient resources to enable it to do its job effectively.
4. Despite financial constraints, there was no deterioration in the morale of the service and, as always, there was clear evidence that the personnel of all ranks were not lacking in either personal courage or professional ability in preventing fire damage and reducing danger to life.
5. I would wish to thank fire authorities and Firemasters for the assistance and courtesies extended to myself and my staff during our visits to brigades. In this I would include the members of the Fire Services Branch and associated Departmental groups who assisted in providing the necessary administrative back-up.

#### **The Inspectorate**

6. There were no changes in the Inspectorate personnel during the year and the complement remains at:
  - HM Inspector Grade I (1)
  - HM Inspector Grade II (1)
  - Assistant Inspectors (4)—2 of whom are involved in the inspection and certification of Crown properties.
7. Several new sub-committees and working parties were set up under the auspices of the Joint Home Office/SHHD standing committees, and the Scottish

Inspectorate were represented as necessary on most of these groups. Matters of interest and concern to the fire service are constantly changing and developing throughout the country, and I consider it imperative that the Inspectorate are made aware of and take an active part in these developments and in the formulation of policies at national level to counteract, combat and control new problems and dangers as they arise.

8. The fires at the Manchester branch of Woolworth and the nursing home at Sutton Coldfield warranted detailed investigation into the cause and effects of such incidents and it is hoped that the findings of the working parties concerned will provide guidance as to ways of reducing losses in life and property in such circumstances.

9. During the year a special seminar was held at the Fire Service Technical College at Moreton-in-Marsh on the theme of Fire Safety in Farming. Members of the Inspectorate attended this seminar, the relevant report of which was published and distributed to all those who were present. This will, I feel, prove most beneficial to firemen and farmers alike.

### **Inspections**

10. Inspection visits were made to all brigades in Scotland and I am pleased to be able to report that the overall efficiency of the service is of a satisfactory standard. In certain areas it is recognised that there may have to be deviations in the adoption of national guidelines due to particular local and geographical considerations. The Inspectorate were able to offer guidance and advice to Firemasters on local policy matters affecting their particular brigades.

11. Inevitably, the fire service is affected by a wide range of new developments, by technological processes in industry and commerce, by changes in criteria and standards, and by the introduction of new materials, processes and equipment in the production areas. All such changes may have an effect on fire-fighting procedures and on the training and knowledge required on the part of a fireman in order to combat the dangers which can arise in the event of fire.

12. It is accepted that the modern fireman must increase his awareness of current developments and his professional knowledge. It should be remembered, however, that the recruit entrant to the service must first of all acquire the necessary basic training as soon as possible so that he can play his part as a member of a team with his colleagues who have much longer service and are more experienced.

13. It is for this reason that a greater emphasis is being placed on the training of brigades to ensure that training staff are given the scope and facilities to provide the degree of instruction necessary. In general, Firemasters appear to be conscious of the importance of training and the way in which it can help to ensure the efficiency, welfare and well-being of personnel.

### **Fire Authorities and Firemasters**

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

Central Region Fire Brigade      Firemaster H. Moran, GRAD. I.FireE.



Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade	Firemaster R. F. Holland-Thomas, Q.F.S.M., GRAD. I.FireE.
Fife Fire Brigade	Firemaster F. Ballantyne, M.I.FireE.
Grampian Fire Brigade	Firemaster D. R. Close, F.I.FireE.
Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade	Firemaster J. Anderson, C.B.E., Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE.
Northern Fire Brigade	Firemaster W. Shand, GRAD. 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.

Following the retirement of Firemaster P. S. Morrison, M.B.E., Q.F.S.M. from the Central Region Fire Brigade, the fire authority appointed Mr. H. Moran to the post of Firemaster.

15. I would take this opportunity to pay tribute to ex-Firemaster Morrison for his undoubted dedication to the fire service in general and for the value of his work in Scotland in particular. I wish him well in his retirement.

16. During the year Divisional Officer P.C. Moon was appointed Assistant Firemaster in Central Region Fire Brigade in the post of Deputy Firemaster.

#### **Honours and Awards**

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

- (a) Order of the British Empire (Civil Division)  
Commander (C.B.E.)  
James Anderson, Q.F.S.M., F.I.FireE., Firemaster, Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade;
- (b) Member (M.B.E.)  
Joseph Simpson, Retained Station Officer, Strathclyde Fire Brigade (Oban);
- (c) British Empire Medal (B.E.M.)  
Lachlan MacLean, Retained Sub-Officer, Northern Fire Brigade (Portree);
- (d) Queen's Fire Service Medal (Q.F.S.M.)  
Raymond Frederick Holland-Thomas, G.R.A.D. I.FireE., Firemaster, Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade.

The Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was awarded to 101 members of Scottish brigades.

#### **Liaison with HM Inspectorate in England and Wales**

18. Liaison is maintained with the Inspectorate in England and Wales, and because the Scottish Inspectorate is relatively small we tend to follow the initiatives of the Home Office in many matters. A number of questions affecting research, operational practices and procedures, training standards, appliance specifications, communications and uniform design have been the subject of joint discussion, the results of which have been communicated to the Scottish brigades.

## Legislation

19. The Firemen's Pension Scheme (Amendment) Order 1979, which came into operation on 1st May 1979, increased the rate of interest payable by a Fire Authority on a transfer value in respect of a fireman who ceased to be a member of that authority's brigade. Interest is only payable where the transfer value is not paid within 6 months of the fireman ceasing to be a member of the brigade. Transfer values are paid to the new employer where the fireman joins another brigade or takes employment with an employer with whom interchange arrangements exist. The Order is retrospectively effective from 1st April 1979.

20. The Firemen's Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1979 came into operation on 20th August 1979. This Order amends the Firemen's Pension Scheme Order 1973 by, firstly, extending, with effect from 1st April 1972, the definition of "infirmity occasioned by a particular injury" to include cases where an injury which became apparent only after retirement so aggravated an infirmity as to result in death or disablement; secondly, by giving, with effect from 13th July 1978, widows of firemen the option to take a smaller pension and lump sum in lieu of the pension currently provided by the scheme; and lastly, with effect from 13th July 1978, in addition to the present benefit, providing for the payment of lump sums to widows of firemen who die in service as the result of injuries sustained on duty.

21. The Firemen's Pension (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 1979, which came into operation on 12th November 1979, amends the Firemen's Pension Scheme Order 1973 and earlier schemes by increasing from that date the flat-rates by which the amounts of certain awards are determined.

22. The Firemen's Pension Scheme (War Service) Order 1979 supplements the Firemen's Pension Scheme Order 1973 and earlier Pension Scheme Orders. This Order makes special provision enabling a qualified fireman who has completed a period of war service to elect to increase his own pension by buying additional years of reckonable service up to half his period of war service, or pay more and provide also a corresponding increase in the benefit under the pension scheme for widows and children. It also provides that, where a qualified fireman dies without electing to increase his widow's pension in this way, she may, in certain circumstances, exercise the right to elect. This Order is retrospectively effective from 1st April 1975.

## SECTION B

### *Personnel and Administration*

#### **Establishment and Strength**

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

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

24. A total of 428 entrants were recruited into the service for operational duties. This is 225 fewer than for the previous year but completes the necessary large-scale intake of recruits required to maintain the 42-hour week duty systems now operated by all brigades.

25. At the end of the year the total operational establishment for the Scottish Fire Service had risen to 4,258, 187 more than at the end of 1978. The actual number in post had increased by 255, from 4,236 in 1978 to 4,491 at the end of 1979. The actual strength still shows an increase over the establishment total owing to one brigade not having a 42-hour week establishment approved, although it is manned to that requirement.

26. Despite initial difficulties in recruiting suitable personnel it would appear that the major shortage has been overcome and that, for the immediate future at least, recruitment will be required only to cater for those vacancies occurring through normal wastage.

#### **Wastage**

27. The recruitment of 428 entrants was partially offset by a loss of 193 operational personnel. Of these, 81 were men with less than 10 years service. In recent years the number of personnel with under 10 years service who have resigned from brigades has accounted for a high percentage of the total resignations. It is hoped that, with the introduction of the 42-hour week duty system and present level of wages and conditions generally, losses in future may be somewhat reduced.

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

28. The part-time retained and volunteer establishment and strength is as follows:

	<i>Establishment</i>		<i>Actual Strength</i>	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
Retained	2,643	2,636	2,331	2,351
Volunteer	1,356	1,392	1,196	1,177

The retained section shows an "under strength" situation which, though undesirable, is not serious. There is no loss of fire cover in the main areas which are under strength since all brigades are able to provide alternative mobilising arrangements. Three additional volunteer units were formed during the year, providing minimum fire-cover in certain of the more remote areas.

**Discipline**

29. Eleven cases of breach of discipline, under the Fire Service (Discipline) (Scotland) Regulations 1953, were heard during the year and 9 punishments were awarded.

**Health**

30. The total number of working days lost due to sickness in brigades averaged 5 per cent. No fatalities or serious injuries to personnel were reported.

## SECTION C

### *Operational*

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

31. Fire calls increased by 10 per cent over the totals for the previous year but were slightly less than in 1977 (see Table 3). The number of fires increased from 30,250 to 33,848, chimney fires increased from 5,868 to 6,070 and false alarm calls rose from 19,457 to 21,752. Including the calls for special services, Scottish brigades attended a total of 66,278 incidents as against 59,671 for the previous year.

32. Perhaps the only encouraging trend in the statistics is in the number of occasions when brigades were called to an incident where a fire was suspected which, in the event, proved to be a false alarm made with good intent. On the whole, members of the public are to be complimented on their safety consciousness rather than discouraged from taking such action.

33. Malicious false alarm calls on the other hand, which constitute a deliberate misuse of fire brigade resources, increased to 6,829, being 503 more than last year. It is a sad reflection on the standards of public responsibility that, throughout the year, 6,829 calls were made to brigades with the intention of deliberately sending a fire appliance and crew on a wasted journey to the possible danger of the fire service crews and the general public and with complete disregard for the possible consequence that these services would not be available to attend a genuine fire promptly. Any persons convicted of such vandalism deserve a scale of punishment in keeping with the seriousness of the potential dangers created by their senseless and dangerous acts.

#### **Fatalities**

34. There has been another increase in the estimated number of fire fatalities for the year. A total of 175 deaths were recorded, this being 30 more than in the previous year. More detailed information about the age and location of persons who died in fires, or through injuries sustained at fires, is provided in Table 4. It is significant that, of the total number, 153 deaths are attributable to dwelling house fires and, again, out of the total number there were 12 children under the age of five years and 86 persons over the age of sixty years. Table 5 shows fatalities over the last 4 years distributed by fire area.

35. In previous reports it has been emphasised that the majority of fires occur in the home and it has been further emphasised that the main casualties of such fires are those in the extremes of the age groups i.e. the helpless child and the occasionally helpless, though often fiercely independent, senior citizen. I can but reiterate the advice given last year—do not leave young children unattended and do try to assist the elderly neighbour with an occasional visit and some friendly advice on fire dangers. I am sure that attention to these two points alone would significantly reduce the death toll from fire throughout the country. It

has often been said that fires do not happen, they are caused, and it is carelessness or neglect which are the principal causes. There is a great deal of truth in this statement; only by giving constant attention to the dangers of fire can the risk be reduced.

36. Most fatalities occur in the place where people live and sleep and, owing to the use of new materials for bedding, carpets, furniture, etc., a new danger exists in that dense volumes of smoke can be generated very rapidly, spreading swiftly through a dwelling house and trapping the occupants. Smoke fumes can be lethal and the need for sensible precautions to be taken in the home to prevent fires cannot be too strongly emphasised.

### **Rescues**

37. Fire Brigade personnel were directly responsible for rescuing 333 members of the public from fire incidents and a further 439 persons were brought to safety at incidents other than fires. The latter figure is indicative of the wide range of expertise covered by present day fire service resources and involving a variety of life-saving situations.

### **Road Accidents**

38. A total of 1,367 road accidents were attended by fire brigades during the year where assistance was given to the removing of casualties and the clearing of debris.

### **Fire Loss**

39. The UK fire damage figures estimated by the British Insurance Association show an increase over those for the previous year; the total for 1979 was £355.3 million, or close to £1 million per day. Fire damage in Scotland, included in this total, was estimated at £26.7 million as against the previous year's total of £40 million. The reduction of fire damage in financial terms in Scotland is very encouraging but the increase in fire deaths must be balanced against it.

40. While national and Scottish fire loss figures are not broken down so as to distinguish the types of buildings involved, it is clear that industrial and commercial interests suffer most. It is noteworthy that there were only two fatalities recorded as due to fires in industrial premises during the past year. While it is commendable that employers normally take all necessary precautions to protect the lives of their workforce, they do not always take similar steps to protect their properties. Despite the stringent fire prevention and fire protection measures often instituted within workplaces, carelessness, lack of attention to detail and general disregard by employees for the consequences are, in many instances, the main reasons for fire occurring. It is generally accepted that buildings are reasonably safe from fire until such time as people are allowed to enter.

## SECTION D

### *Supplies and Services*

#### **Appliances and Equipment**

41. Scottish fire brigades have a total of 561 first line manned appliances of which 23 per cent are over 15 years old. All brigades have a vehicle replacement policy aimed at a maximum life for each vehicle. In some cases, however, the programmes have been curtailed owing to financial restrictions, although this has been somewhat compensated for by closer attention during an already-demanding maintenance programme. The acquisition of spare parts for the older appliances continues to be the major problem facing transport engineers, and only the versatility and adaptiveness of the transport workforce prevents the lack of replacement parts being critical in certain areas.

42. While most of the equipment used by firemen is of a traditional kind, many innovations become available on the market each year. Several brigades are involved in research projects and evaluation trials of specific pieces of equipment with a view to their general use in the service.

#### **Uniform and Personal Equipment**

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

(a) *Helmets*

The Motor Industry Research Association have undertaken the testing of firemen's helmets in two stages. The first test will involve the development of protection criteria based on a survey of accidents. The second phase will be aimed at developing a basic understanding of constructional factors contributing to impact and penetration protection.

(b) *Fire Boots*

Trials are continuing in an attempt to evaluate the comfort and safety of rubber boots. Brigades were invited to comment on the Home Office Specification No. A17 for these. Complaints were noted and passed on to manufacturers in an endeavour to produce a more comfortable and safer boot. Trials continue and will result in the production of a revised user specification.

(c) *Nomex Tunics*

The Home Office consultants, Woollen Industry Research Association, have been involved in dealing with the problems of the Nomex Tunic. After research, they made recommendations to improve its functional purpose and a revised specification has been drawn up in consultation with the major manufacturers of the tunic. Considerable effort has been put into providing an efficient fire tunic giving the best protection for the wearer and it is hoped that brigades will now favour the use of these tunics.



Trials of overtrousers are continuing but a flame resistance test to British Standard 5438 was considered to be unsatisfactory. The Home Office, in consultation with WIRA, intend to draw up a more realistic specification for overtrouser material.

With a view to providing greater safety for personnel, tests are continuing with industrial-type gloves and firemen's neckerchiefs. The results of the evaluation tests will be published as soon as possible.

The safety and comfort of service personnel is of prime importance and every effort will be made to increase the safety and efficiency of all items of personal equipment.

(d) *Breathing Apparatus*

All brigades have standardised on compressed air breathing apparatus for the protection of the firemen when working in oxygen-starved areas. Some substances are very toxic and have a capability of creeping into the face mask of the wearer, so a "positive pressure" in the mask is necessary and brigades have programmes in hand to convert all wearer sets to positive pressure.

### **Water Supplies**

44. The number of fire authority hydrants increased by 34 to a total of 124,217 in 1979. Since 1948 a programme has operated in brigades aimed at eliminating all non-standard hydrants, but about 8 per cent of the total are still non-standard. The continuing programme of replacements will reduce this percentage and one brigade has completed its programme. At the same time, although certain hydrants in brigade areas are classified as non-standard, they are no less efficient as far as fire-fighting uses are concerned. Their style and design, however, make it necessary for brigades to carry additional equipment and to give special instruction on their method of operation.

### **Premises**

45. At the end of the year there were 381 fire stations in Scotland, comprising 73 whole-time units, 178 retained, and 130 volunteer. Three new volunteer units were formed during the year in the Northern Fire Brigade area.

### **Communications**

46. In order to respond with speed to an emergency it is essential to have an efficient means of alerting members of the service, including the retained section. It is encouraging therefore to be able to report that brigades are taking the opportunity of improving lines of communication. Most of the work carried out on telecommunications during the year was directed to improving and extending existing systems. In addition, however, a start was made with developments employing the latest micro-processor technology.

47. All brigades are now wholly or partly involved in the use of the Radio Alerting Scheme for the retained section. The scheme dispenses with the need for a noisy siren on site and allows greater freedom of movement for retained personnel.

48. The Joint Committee on Fire Brigade Communications discussed the operational requirements for a new fire service control system for centralised



mobilising and communications. It was agreed that, when sufficient information was available, the recommended operational requirements would be circulated to brigades. With one exception, all Scottish brigades have adopted the new system and the proposed recommendations could be most helpful. Apart from producing greater efficiency, centralised mobilisation allows a more productive use of brigade personnel. The one remaining brigade is working towards a central system of control.

49. The Joint Committee on Fire Brigade Operations prepared an operational requirement for communications at all levels of incidents ranging from small to major which has been agreed by the Communications Committee. This information has now been circulated to brigades. Effective and reliable communications on the fireground or incident site are of paramount importance and it is hoped that the information circulated will encourage brigades to reassess the facilities available and, where necessary, make the required improvements.

50. International agreements reached at the World Administrative Radio Conference, held during the latter part of the year in Geneva, have produced a requirement for the frequency band presently occupied by the majority of brigade mobile radio systems to be given up in order to make room for additional broadcasting channels. A new frequency band is to be allocated to emergency services in the UK. This change requires to be fully implemented by 1989.

51. The Scottish Office Directorate of Telecommunications staff continued to be closely involved at all stages with various brigade control and communications schemes, and full use was made of the expertise available from this unit.

## SECTION E

### *Fire Prevention*

#### **Summary**

52. The number of premises visited for fire prevention purposes was 59,903, a total of 117 less than the previous year's figures. In addition, copies of 10,544 plans were submitted to fire brigade officers for comment or discussion.

#### **Education and Publicity**

53. Owing to industrial action affecting commercial television services, the commencement of the Department's normal fire prevention publicity campaign was delayed until December, when a film highlighting fire dangers associated with Christmas activities was shown. Concurrently, this theme was also the subject of publicity carried by the commercial radio media. As experience in the previous year indicated that the handling of fireworks continues to be the cause of injury to many children, Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, M.P., Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment in Scotland, was interviewed about the extent of this problem when he attended a special demonstration arranged in conjunction with the Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade in Edinburgh on 29th October.

54. In consultation with the Scottish Information Office, the Department's Fire Precautions Publicity Steering Committee prepared a leaflet for distribution by brigades on the fire precautions which should be taken by the public at caravan sites. The Committee was also responsible for the production, for use by local newspapers, of photographic prints concerning countryside fire safety and fire safety in the home at night.

55. Under the co-ordination of the Home Office, work continued on the development of fire prevention teaching packages suitable for secondary schools, including certain material prepared by a group of Scottish teachers in association with their local fire brigade.

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

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

Factories	340 (377)
Offices and Shops etc.	657 (805)
Hotels and Boarding Houses	361 (596)

The 1978 figures are shown in brackets.

Table 6 shows the percentage of premises issued with fire certificates.

57. In addition to the issue of new fire certificates, authorities issued revised certificates to 109 factories, 228 offices and shops, and 274 hotels and boarding houses.

58. Because tourism is increasingly important to the economy, the standard of fire safety of hotels and boarding houses continues to be of considerable general interest. At the end of the year, of the 4,537 premises of this kind which were subject to the certification provisions of the Act, 4,004 (88 per cent) had received their fire certificates. Of the remainder, 393 (74 per cent) had been inspected and issued with a notice of requirements.

#### **Use of Operational Firemen on Fire Prevention Duties**

59. The use of firemen for this work was the subject of a Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council Report published in 1971. Since then steady progress has been maintained and it is encouraging that some brigades have extended the scope of their activities to include routine inspections of certificated premises and the certification of smaller premises by station personnel.

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

60. Two draft guides are in course of preparation, Fire Precautions in Hospitals and Fire Precautions in Residential Care Establishments. It is hoped that these will be available later during 1980.

61. The Planning Legislation Sub-Committee was given the task of investigating the two serious multiple death fires that occurred during May at a Woolworth store in Manchester and a nursing home at Sutton Coldfield. The reports are expected to be available early during 1980. As part of its normal work the Sub-Committee is considering the feasibility of securing more uniform treatment under The Fire Precautions Act for small factories and offices and, in the case of larger premises, the effectiveness of fire certification as a method of control. One of the Sub-Committee's current recommendations proposes the making of regulations under Section 12 of the 1971 Act to establish national minimum standards of fire precautions for places of recreation and assembly.

#### **Fire Precautions in European Hotels**

62. The European Commission has set up a working group to prepare a draft directive on fire precautions in hotels. The draft proposal for a directive will be circulated to interested organisations in the United Kingdom for comment.

#### **Consumer Protection Legislation**

63. In the aftermath of a recommendation of a Technical Sub-Committee of the Joint Fire Prevention Committee concerning the fire resistance of upholstered furniture, and the subsequent findings of a Department of Trade Working Party, draft Upholstered Furniture (Safety) Regulations are expected to be laid before Parliament early in 1980.

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

64. During the year the Inspectorate were involved in a number of committees, working parties and meetings with various Health and Safety representatives and interested parties, which included contributions to the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Substances and Working Parties on the Definition of Highly Flammable Substances and the Safe Use and Storage of Highly Flammable Liquids. This is a continuing and important commitment to the field of fire safety.

### **Building Regulations**

65. Fire brigades and the Inspectorate are represented on the Scottish Building Standards Advisory Committee. The work includes advising on new and amended regulations and proposed relaxation of any particular regulation. At present a major revision of Parts D and E of the Building Standards (Scotland) (Consolidation) Regulations 1971 is underway and this should effectively rationalise and update the fire-safety sections of the regulations.

### **Vandalism**

66. A special working party set up to consider the problem of vandalism in relation to fires, completed its work by the end of the year and has recommended a number of precautionary and security and surveillance measures. Following their recommendations it has been agreed that a seminar should be held early in 1980 to review the proposals contained in the report. The views of the interested parties at the seminar will be taken into consideration before the report is made generally available.

### **Voluntary Activities**

67. Prior to the start of National Fire Prevention Week in October the Scottish Fire Prevention Council sponsored a special conference on the subject of fire. The main object of the conference, which was attended by representatives of industry, commercial, and insurance interests, was to impart a better understanding of the dangers of fire, particularly in relation to modern furnishings, electrical fire dangers, and the value of smoke and fire detectors and sprinkler systems.

## SECTION F

### *Training*

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

68. A total of 326 recruits completed their training at the Scottish Fire Service Training School during the year.

69. During periods of free time between recruit courses arrangements were made to run a series of short courses on fire prevention for personnel from the Scottish Health Boards and a total of 40 persons attended.

70. Work on the second and third phases of the School building programme, which commenced in October 1978, proceeded as planned and it is hoped that the residential building, refectory, lecture rooms and drill yard (phase 2) will be in service by late July 1980. The alterations to the existing building (phase 3) are expected to be completed in December 1980.

71. In order to consider the use of the improved School facilities which will be available after the current building work is complete a working party representative of the fire service interests was set up.

#### **Fire Service National Colleges**

72. Scottish brigades continued to support the courses held at the national colleges under the progressive training system. Slight variations to the attendance qualifications for candidates for the junior officer courses were agreed by the Joint Training Committee during the year but the numbers awaiting places remain fairly high. Firemasters are making every effort to afford the opportunity of attending the colleges to the personnel of their brigades, and the Colleges are likewise making use of all available places on each course.

73. The value of higher training cannot be over-emphasised if the fire service is to keep abreast of technical developments and trends and the new hazards they frequently present. Training is important at all levels and particularly so at the more senior levels: it is encouraging that Firemasters are recognising this and are each playing their part, in association with their fire authority, in making full use of the training opportunities available.

74. The influx of new recruits following the implementation of the shorter working week in each brigade has meant a corresponding increase in the number of local training courses held by brigades. All brigades provide training for drivers, breathing apparatus wearers, fire prevention for operational personnel as well as a variety of courses to train personnel on certain specialist vehicles and equipment relevant to their respective areas. Full use has been made of the brigade training departments and personnel during the past year in order to maintain a suitable standard of training for the new entrants.

75. Despite the pressures created in the additional training of recruits, most brigades continued to assist a variety of outside organisations by helping with the training of their personnel.

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

76. The 1979 statutory promotion examinations were held under the new examinations syllabus and took place at various centres during the months of January, February and March. The results were as follows:

<i>Examination</i>	<i>Number of Candidates</i>	<i>Passes</i>
Station Officer	168	54
Sub-Officer	381	150
Leading Fireman	688	176

77. Absenteeism and withdrawals from the examinations, while showing a slight improvement over the position in 1978, continued to be at a disappointingly high rate.

78. Prize certificates were presented by the Chairman of the Board to the leading candidates in the written examinations at a ceremony held in Inverness on 21st June by courtesy of the Northern Fire Board. The following were the prize winners:

*Station Officer Examination:*

Leading Fireman Graham Hill, Tayside Fire Brigade

*Sub-Officer Examination:*

Leading Fireman Kenneth Daye, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

*Leading Fireman Examination:*

Fireman Richard Smith, Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade

79. The practical examinations for Sub-Officer and Leading Fireman candidates were conducted by the Board and the fire authorities respectively during May and June with the following results, (1978 figures in brackets).

<i>Examination</i>	<i>Number of Candidates</i>	<i>Passes</i>
Sub-Officer	171 (101)	128 (73)
Leading Fireman	190 (208)	128 (187)

80. A seminar for Brigade Training Officers to discuss the new form of the examinations and other related matters was held in Edinburgh on 24th May.

### **Research**

81. The Joint Committee on Fire Research continued to sponsor further research on fire-related matters through the Scientific Advisory Branch to the Home Office, the Fire Research Station, and certain outside agencies. Work on the provision of special research and development facilities for the use of the Scientific Advisory Branch was completed at the Fire Service Technical College in June.

82. A progress report on a project involving the development of certain new equipment for seeing through smoke, which was sponsored by the Fire Research Committee, was issued to brigades during the year.

83. The serious fire and explosion which took place at Braehead Container Depot, Renfrew, on 4th January 1977 was the subject of a report by HM Factory Inspector of the Health and Safety Executive which was published in March by HMSO. The report provided fresh information about the behaviour of sodium chlorate in fires and made a number of recommendations about its classification and storage.



## SECTION G

### *Miscellaneous*

#### **Fire Brigade Sports and Athletics Association**

84. The eight Scottish brigades, along with the Glasgow Salvage Corps and the Fire Service Training School, enjoyed another successful year of sporting activities thanks to the hard working members of the relevant sports committees at local level.

85. Apart from domestic competitions the Scottish District fielded a team in the Volleyball Home Internationals where they gained second place. Our football internationalists lost to England and Holland but won against Ireland. For the first time ever, an international team from the UK took part in a European Sports Federation competition in Holland and returned with the trophy from that event.

86. Once more, Strathclyde Athletics Committee organised the annual International Road Race, with teams from England, Ireland, Holland and Scotland taking part. Tayside hosted the Sheriff Cup, the highlight of the golfing calendar, with teams from all over Britain taking part, and Fife provided the venue for the new Scottish Fire Services Darts Pairs Championships, an event which drew representatives from all the brigades in Scotland.

87. Scotland's super-sportsman title was won by the Lothian and Borders entrant with a Strathclyde and Fife member second and third respectively. In the National event, however, where the standard of competition is extremely high, our competitors failed to achieve any of the first three places.

88. Next year sees the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the Scottish District of the FBSAA and I would wish all members of the association, especially the hard-working committee representatives, a successful anniversary year.

89. Sport is of particular benefit to the Fire Service because of the nature of the fireman's work where irregular periods of intense physical activity is mixed with long periods of "standby" duty. As the successful completion of rescues from fire and emergencies calls for a high degree of fitness and the success of operational activity depends on team work and personal dedication, it is of benefit to fire brigades to give maximum support to sporting and athletic competition and to give encouragement to individuals to become actively involved in sport.

90. It is not always recognised that sport in the fire service is run on a voluntary basis and thanks are due to the dedicated few who are largely responsible for all the association's activities.

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

91. The Advisory Council held 2 meetings during the year. On the first occasion the Chair was taken by Mr. A. L. Rennie, Secretary of the Scottish Home and

Health Department; at the second meeting Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, M.P., Scottish Office Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment, was in the Chair.

92. The Council considered reports from the Joint Standing Committees on Pensions, Training, Communications, Fire Brigade Operations, Fire Research, Uniform and Personal Equipment and Design and Development of Appliances and Equipment. The Council also considered and approved the second report of the Working Party on Incidents on Ships in Docks and Ports.

93. Among other matters discussed were a working party report on the role of the helicopter and light aeroplane in the fire service, and certain proposals for developing the joint consultative processes on safety matters arising in fire service training and operations under the Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974.





## ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTH

as at

TABLE I

	CENTRAL			DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY			FIFE			GRAMPIAN		
	Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength		Establishment	Actual Strength	
		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female
<b>WHOLE-TIME</b>												
<b>Operational Personnel</b>												
Firemasters ... ..	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Asst./Firemasters ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	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 ... ..	3	3	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Asst. Div. Officers ... ..	5	5	—	5	5	—	11	11	—	10	9	—
Station Officers... ..	15	13	—	10	10	—	28	29	—	17	17	—
Sub-Officers ... ..	23	20	—	7	7	—	27	27	—	18	17	—
Leading Firemen ... ..	28	20	—	8	8	—	74	67	—	37	40	—
Firemen ... ..	140	143	—	52	52	—	224	223	—	145	144	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Control Room Staff</b>												
P.F.C. Officers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
G.F.C. Officers... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F.C. Officers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
S.F.C. Operators ... ..	1	1	—	1	—	1	4	—	4	4	1	3
L.F.C. Operators ... ..	4	3	1	4	—	4	4	—	3	4	—	4
F.C. Operators ... ..	8	3	5	5	1	4	8	—	8	6	—	6
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Part-time Retained</b>												
Station Officers... ..	4	1	—	3	3	—	2	2	—	11	13	—
Sub-Officers ... ..	16	15	—	16	16	—	10	10	—	33	35	—
Leading Firemen ... ..	20	21	—	20	20	—	16	16	—	45	51	—
Firemen ... ..	160	125	—	157	144	—	132	97	—	361	302	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Part-time Volunteer</b>												
Asst. Div. Officers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Station Officers... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-Officers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Leading Firemen ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Firemen ... ..	24	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	12	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Totals ... ..</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Whole-time Operations</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Whole-time Control ... ..</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Retained ... ..</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Volunteer ... ..</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Grand Total ... ..</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>14</b>

OF FIRE BRIGADES

31st December, 1979

LOTHIAN AND BORDERS			NORTHERN			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	—
2	2	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	1	1	—	11	10	—
3	3	—	—	—	—	7	7	—	—	—	—	11	11	—
2	2	—	1	1	—	2	2	—	5	7	—	14	16	—
6	6	—	4	4	—	12	12	—	1	1	—	33	33	—
7	8	—	1	1	—	17	24	—	8	8	—	41	49	—
13	13	—	9	9	—	34	32	—	14	14	—	101	98	—
32	28	—	9	8	—	147	171	—	37	32	—	295	308	—
68	71	—	7	6	—	218	229	—	36	38	—	404	415	—
94	98	—	13	11	—	226	263	—	44	44	—	524	551	—
429	426	—	48	50	—	1,290	1,484	—	263	250	—	2,591	2,772	—
657	658	—	93	91	—	1,959	2,229	—	410	396	—	4,033	4,271	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2
1	—	1	—	—	—	5	—	6	—	—	—	8	—	9
4	2	2	1	—	1	15	2	13	4	—	4	34	6	28
4	3	1	1	—	—	20	1	17	4	—	4	45	7	35
12	4	8	8	—	—	78	11	64	10	4	6	135	23	109
22	9	13	10	—	10	120	15	101	18	4	14	225	37	183
5	4	—	13	13	—	9	7	—	7	7	—	54	50	—
25	25	—	26	26	—	59	61	—	18	20	—	203	208	—
30	29	—	52	50	—	70	68	—	35	39	—	288	294	—
215	194	—	277	251	—	551	496	—	238	190	—	2,091	1,799	—
275	252	—	368	340	—	689	632	—	298	256	—	2,636	2,351	—
—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	88	88	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	88	89	—
—	—	—	81	81	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	84	85	—
—	—	—	935	711	—	219	220	—	32	35	—	1,219	1,002	—
—	—	—	1,105	881	—	221	222	—	32	35	—	1,392	1,177	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
657	658	—	93	91	—	1,959	2,229	—	410	396	—	4,033	4,271	—
22	9	13	10	—	10	120	15	101	18	4	14	225	37	183
275	252	—	368	340	—	689	632	—	298	256	—	2,636	2,351	—
—	—	—	1,105	881	—	221	222	—	32	35	—	1,392	1,177	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
657	658	—	93	91	—	1,959	2,229	—	410	396	—	4,033	4,271	—
22	9	13	10	—	10	120	15	101	18	4	14	225	37	183
275	252	—	368	340	—	689	632	—	298	256	—	2,636	2,351	—
—	—	—	1,105	881	—	221	222	—	32	35	—	1,392	1,177	—
954	919	13	1,576	1,312	10	2,989	3,098	101	758	691	14	8,286	7,836	183

**CHANGES IN WHOLE-TIME OPERATIONAL STRENGTH DURING YEAR  
ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1979**

TABLE 2

BRIGADE	LOSSES											GAINS		
	By death		By resignation							Recruit	Transfer	Total		
	Service	Non-Service	1 to 2 years	2 to 10 years	10+	Discharge	Retirement	Medical	Transfer				Total	
Central ... ..	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	30	3	33
Dumfries and Galloway ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	3	5
Fife ... ..	—	—	11	2	—	—	—	—	1	4	4	32	2	34
Grampian ... ..	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	24	—	24
Lothian and Borders ...	—	—	3	2	—	5	8	3	3	5	5	59	2	61
Northern ... ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4
Strathclyde ... ..	—	2	30	17	2	11	20	22	22	14	14	262	4	266
Tayside ... ..	—	—	4	3	—	—	1	2	2	1	1	16	—	16
Totals ... ..	—	2	55	26	3	16	31	32	32	28	28	428	15	443

SUMMARY OF FIRES AND SPECIAL SERVICES DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1979

TABLE 3

BRIGADE	Fires requiring the attendance of										Total Fires	Chimney Fires	False Alarms			Total Fire Calls	Special Services	Total Calls
													Malicious	With good intent	Total			
	1 Pump	2 Pumps	3-4 Pumps	5 Pumps	6-8 Pumps	9-10 Pumps	11-20 Pumps											
Central	618	753	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,390	256	337	645	982	2,628	65	2,693
Dumfries and Galloway	431	156	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	605	244	143	290	433	1,282	174	1,456
Fife	1,757	50	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,816	438	549	803	1,352	3,606	348	3,954
Grampian	1,998	83	43	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	2,131	888	266	711	977	3,996	536	4,532
Lothian and Borders	6,092	366	98	10	4	—	—	—	—	—	6,570	796	1,147	2,185	3,332	10,698	628	11,326
Northern	1,085	22	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,109	915	150	229	379	2,403	283	2,686
Strathclyde	16,491	585	53	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	17,134	2,005	3,846	9,367	13,213	32,352	2,119	34,471
Tayside	3,037	44	9	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3,093	528	391	693	1,084	4,705	455	5,160
Total	31,509	2,059	250	16	13	—	—	—	—	—	33,848	6,070	6,829	14,923	21,752	61,670	4,608	66,278

FATALITIES (Listing Age Groups and Locations)

TABLE 4

BRIGADE	Age Groups								Location Dwellings					Location Other Buildings					Open	Misc.	
	Up to 5 years	6 to 10 years	11 to 20 years	21 to 40 years	41 to 60 years	Over 60 years	Total Fatalities	Flat—including Terrace/Tenement	Bungalow—Detached or Semi	Maisonette	Standard Dwelling	Other Dwellings	Homes, Hospitals, Hostels	Hotels and Boarding Houses	Caravans	Vehicles	Industrial Premises				
Central	1	1	—	—	2	6	10	2	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dumfries and Galloway	—	—	2	3	1	2	8	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	
Fife	1	—	2	—	2	5	10	—	2	—	5	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	
Grampian	3	—	—	2	4	14	23	12	10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Lothian and Borders	1	—	—	4	3	12	20	15	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Northern	—	2	—	1	1	2	6	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Strathclyde	6	2	6	9	27	40	90	58	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	3	
Tayside	—	—	—	1	2	5	8	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Totals	12	5	10	20	42	86	175	90	47	—	15	1	1	—	2	12	1	—	—	4	
Fatalities by Month		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total							
Central	1	2	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	1	—	10							
Dumfries and Galloway	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	8							
Fife	3	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	4	10							
Grampian	6	2	2	—	1	1	1	—	6	2	1	4	2	23							
Lothian and Borders	3	2	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3	20							
Northern	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6							
Strathclyde	16	8	5	9	7	1	1	3	4	2	9	9	15	90							
Tayside	2	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	8							
Totals	34	19	9	12	11	9	11	11	11	6	10	17	26	175							

FATALITIES OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD

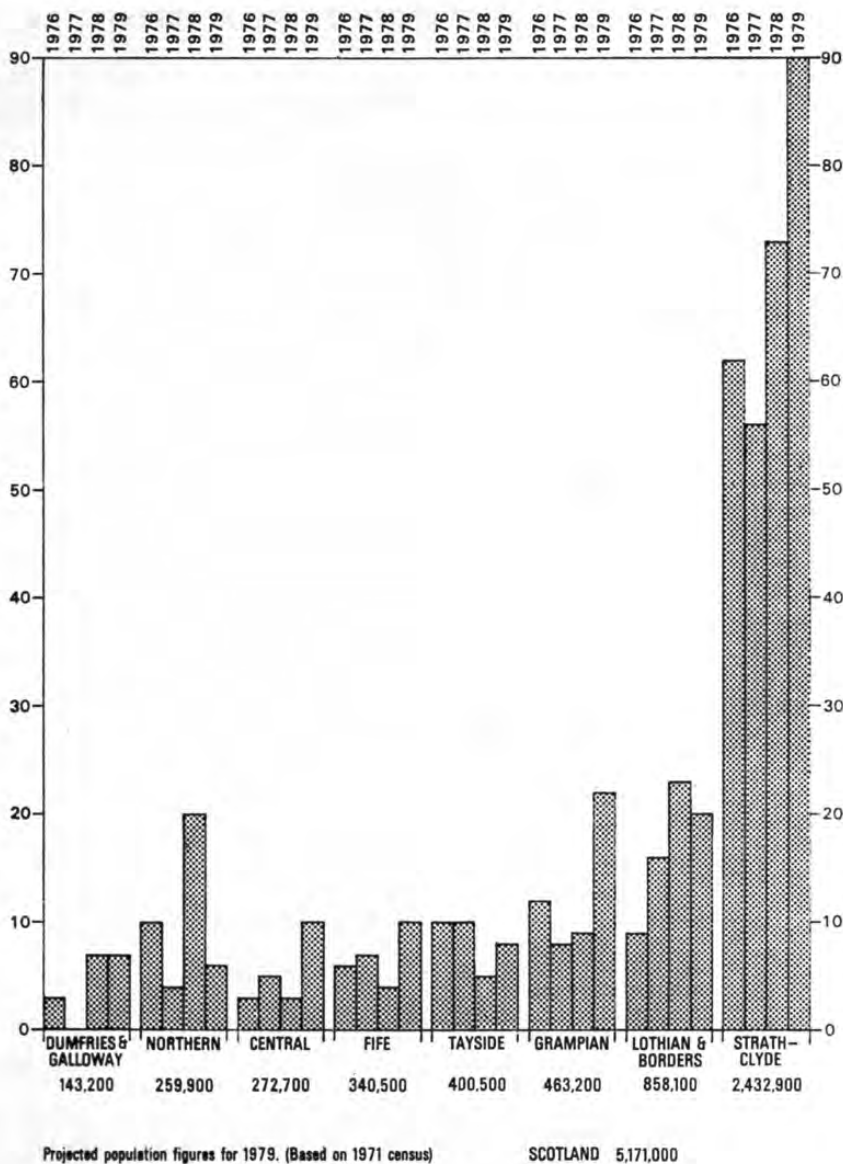
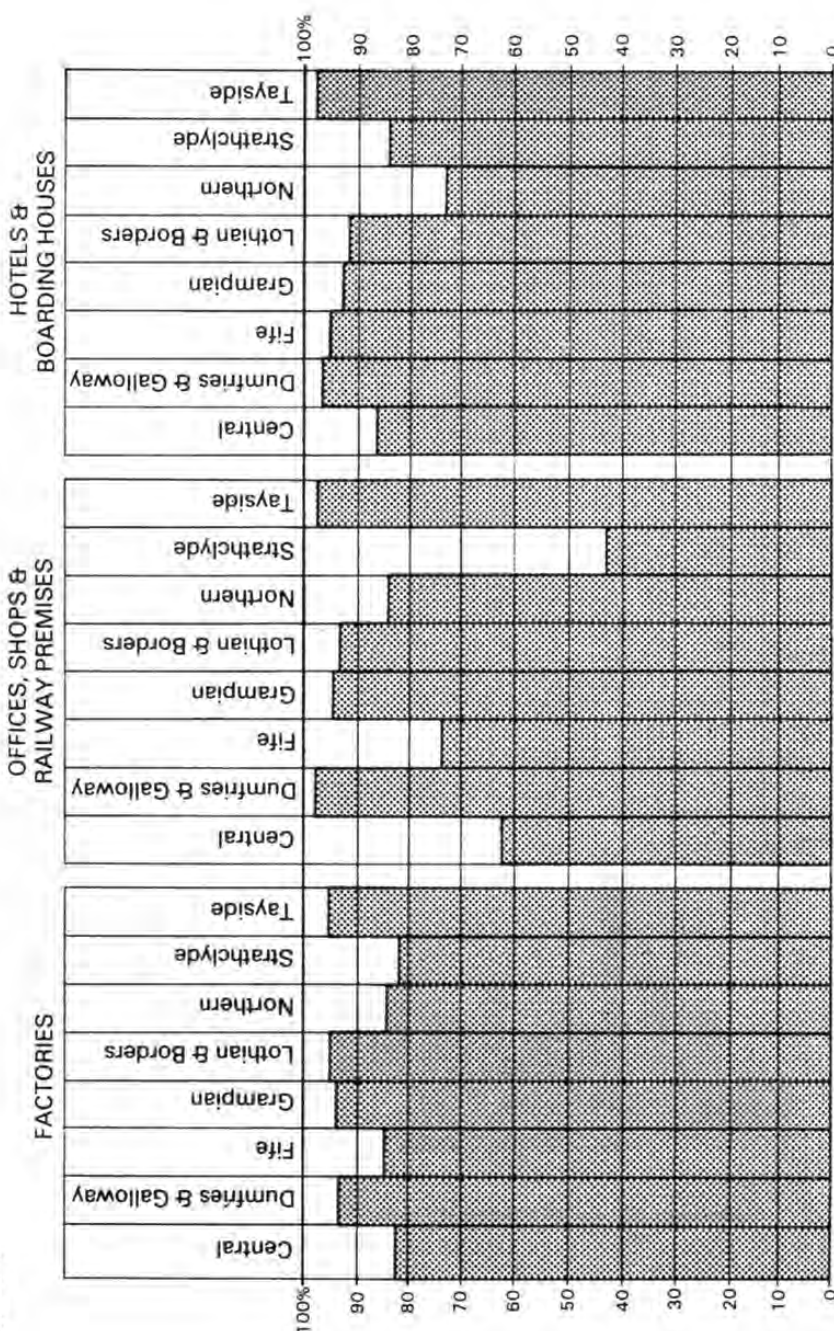


TABLE 5

**FIRE PREVENTION—CERTIFICATION OF PREMISES**

**TABLE 6**



The level indicates the percentage of premises issued with a Fire Certificate in relation to the number of premises in the Brigade area Registered for Certification purposes.



TABLE 6A

BRIGADE	Factory	Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	Hotels etc.
Central ... ..	81·97%	62·44%	86·73%
Dumfries and Galloway ... ..	94·25%	98·13%	97·70%
Fife ... ..	85·75%	74·20%	96·14%
Grampian ... ..	94·19%	95·27%	93·58%
Lothian and Borders ... ..	96·04%	94·62%	92·95%
Northern ... ..	85·08%	85·07%	74·11%
Strathclyde ... ..	82·17%	43·09%	84·47%
Tayside ... ..	96·43%	97·83%	98·11%





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