



Aberdeen City

**Communities, Housing and
Public Protection
Committee
2024-25**

Scrutiny Report



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



Aberdeen City

**Communities, Housing and Public
Protection Committee**

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

End of Year Performance Report

April 2024 - March 2025

Contents









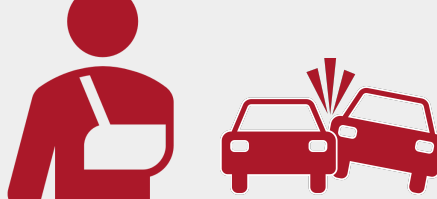



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About the statistics within this report

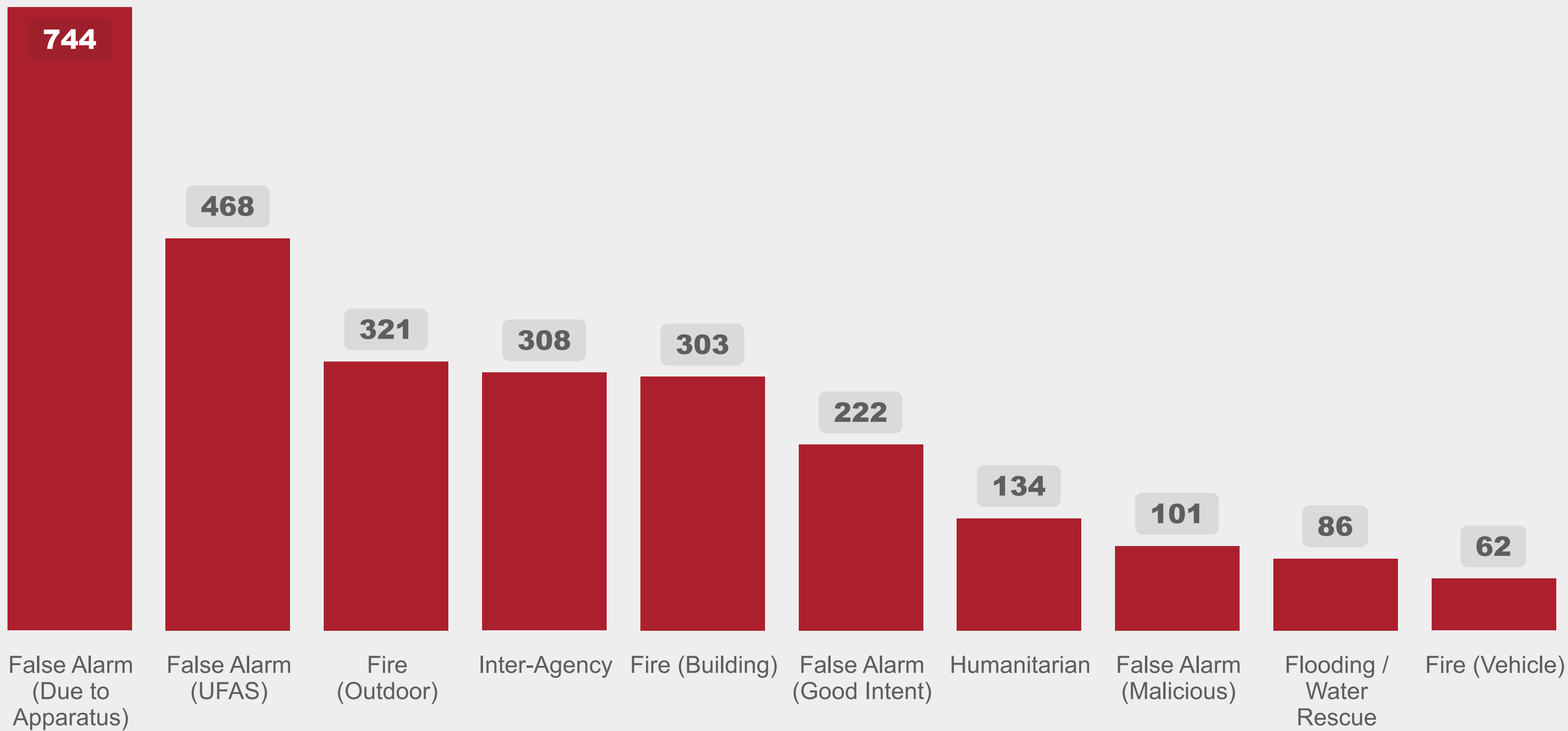
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference in the period totals quoted in our reports after local publication which result from revisions or additions to the data in our systems. The Scottish Government publishes official statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

1. Summary

2024-25

 2,890 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	 686 Fires	 666 Non-Fire Incidents	 1,535 False Alarms	 468 UFAS
 182 People Rescued by Firefighters	 23 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	 3 Fire Fatalities	 40 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	 8 Non-Fire Fatalities
 1,242 Home Fire Safety Visits	 364 Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types



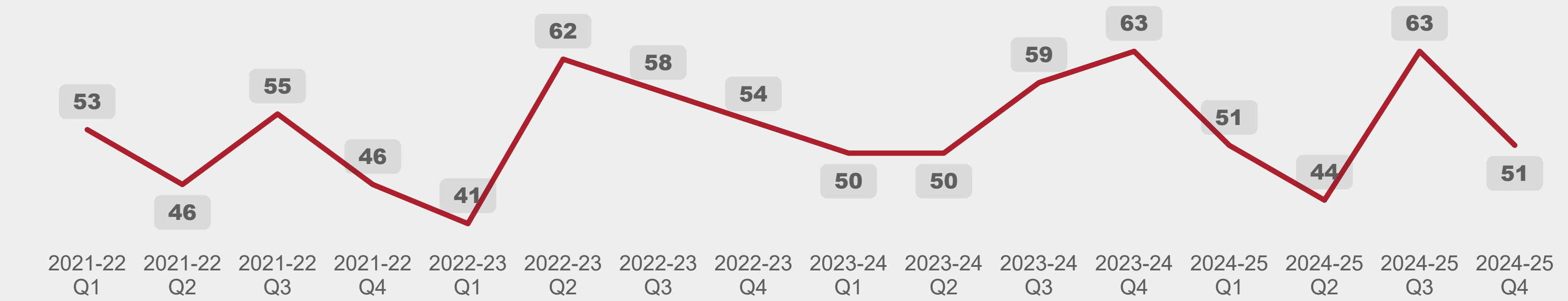
The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 2890 incidents across the City of Aberdeen during the reporting period. Of that total 1535, over fifty percent, were False Alarm incidents. These include malicious, good intent, due to apparatus and Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS). This is down considerably on the period 2023-24 when there were 2275 False Alarm incidents. Our Operational personnel, Fire Safety Enforcement and Community Action Teams work with stakeholders to ensure that we are delivering fire safety advice to reduce false alarm incidents.

The SFRS attended 686 incidents involving fire over the reporting period, a reduction of 5% from the previous year.

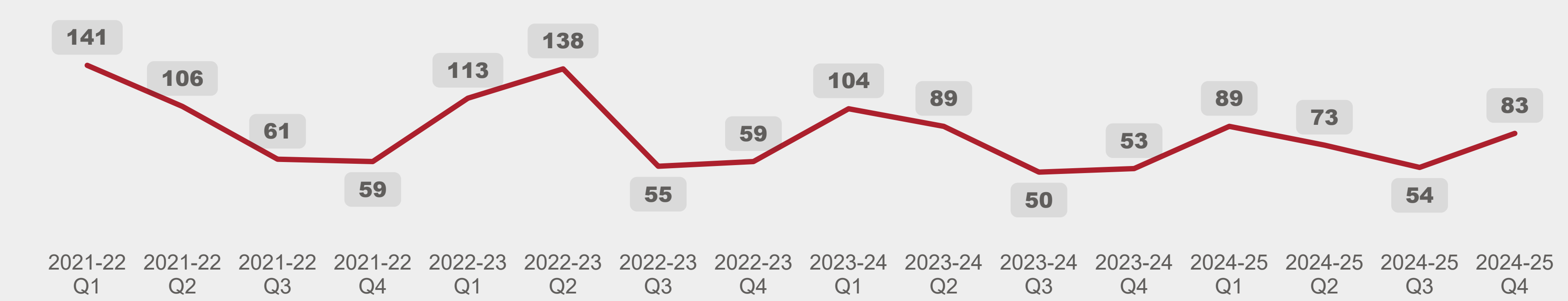
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

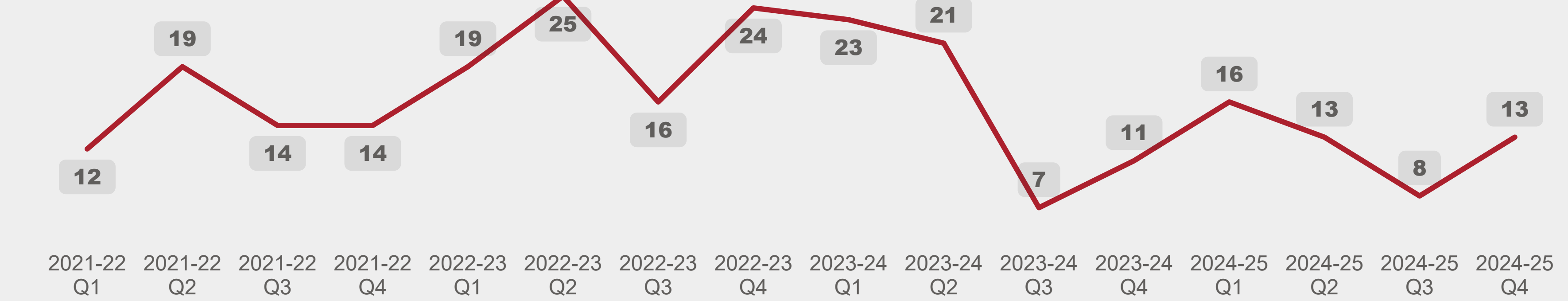
Accidental Dwelling Fires



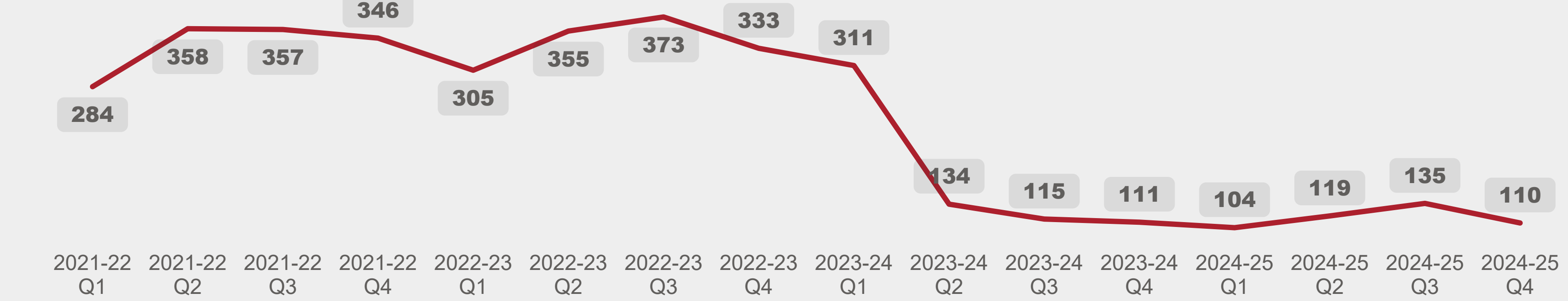
Deliberate Fires



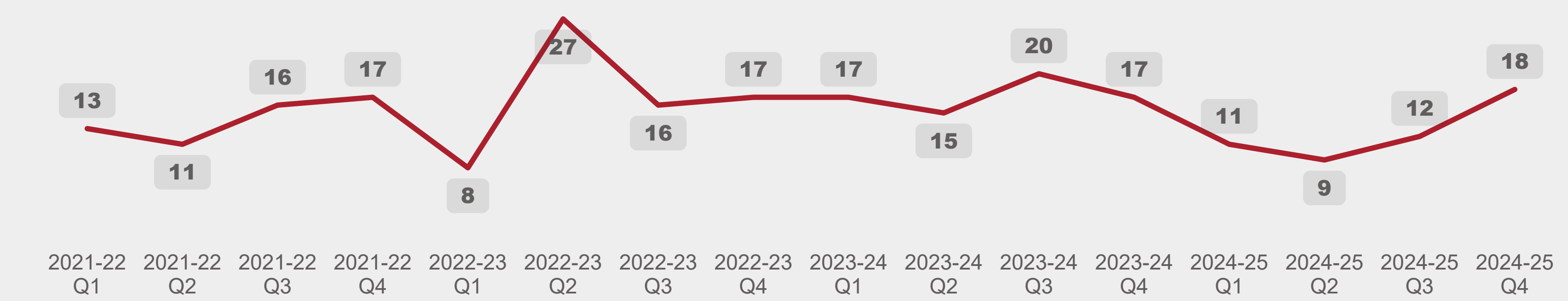
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



Road Traffic Collisions

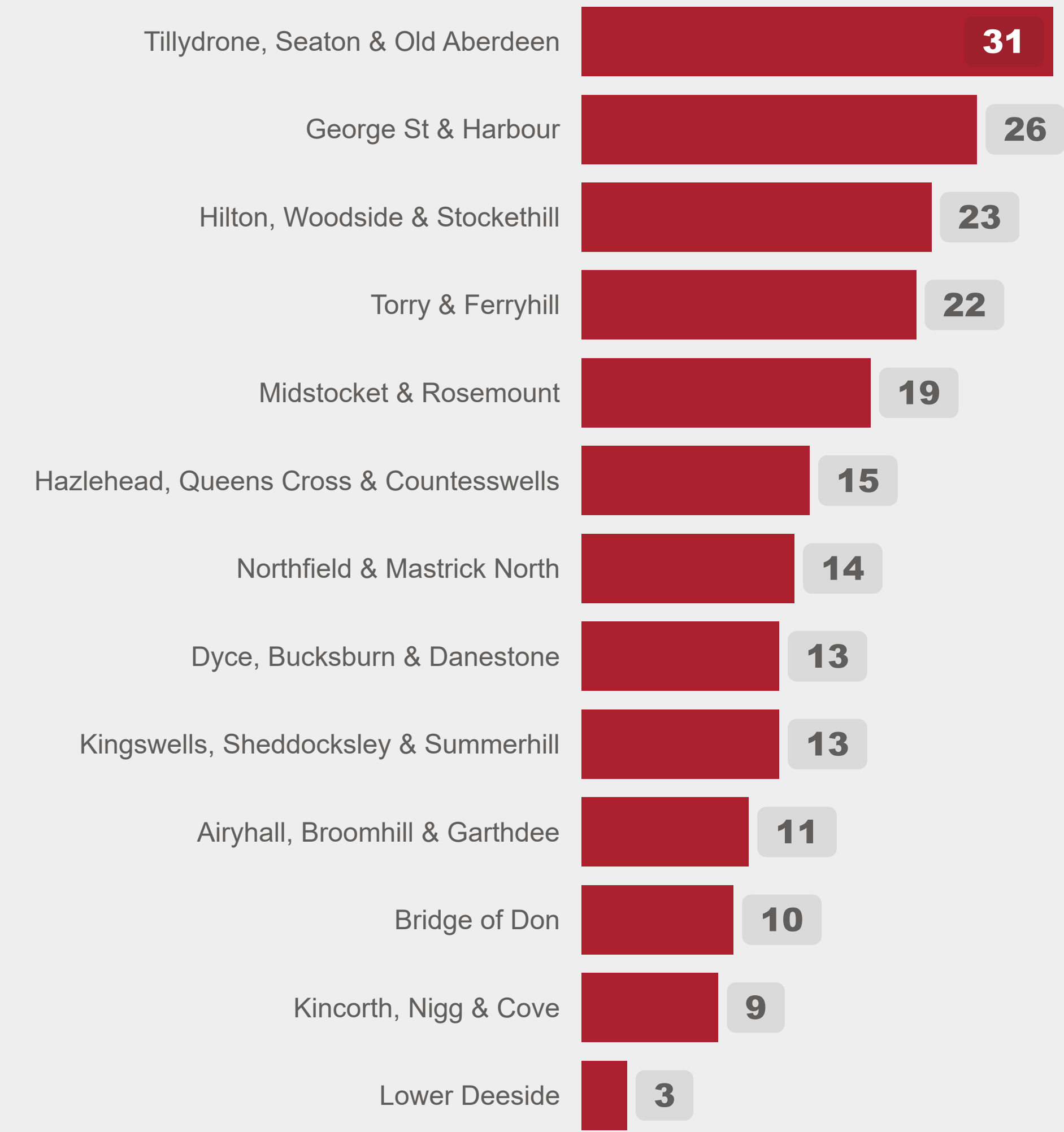


Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Extent of Damage	Incidents
Limited to item 1st ignited	109
Not applicable	68
Limited to room of origin	16
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	11
Whole building	2
Affecting more than 2 floors (not whole building)	1
Limited to 2 floors (not whole building)	1
Roof space and other floors(s)	1

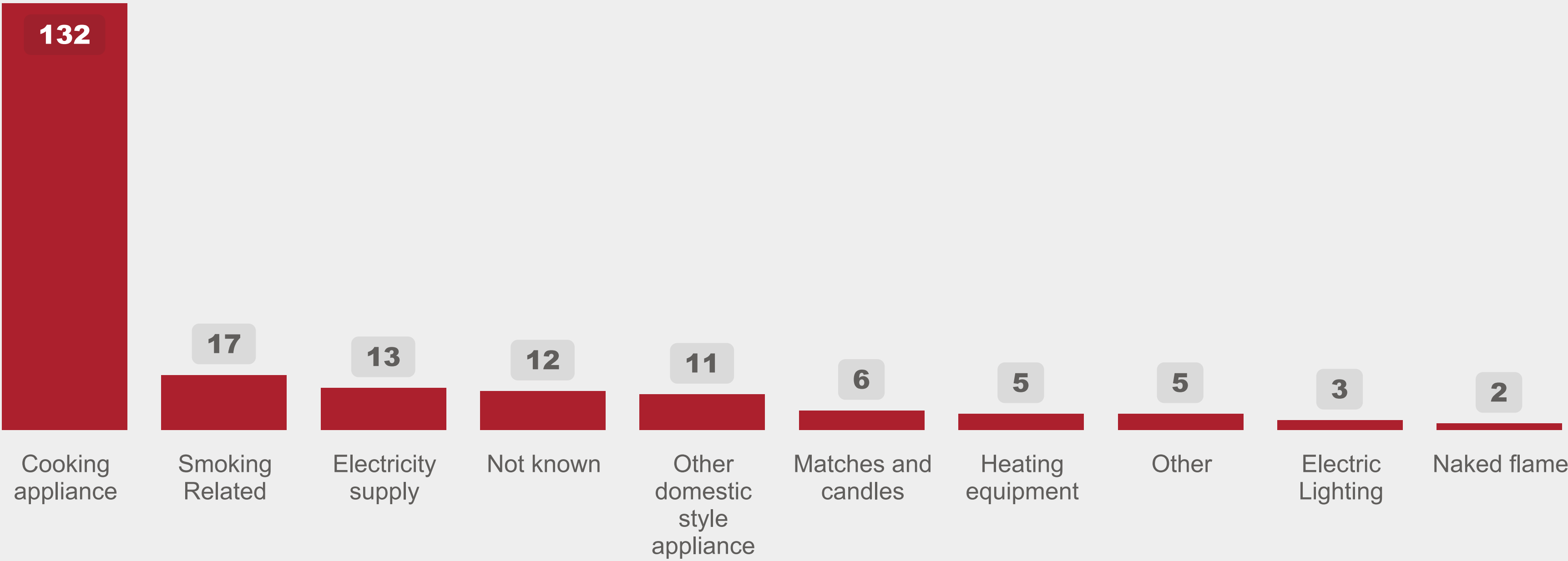
Incidents by Ward



209

Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

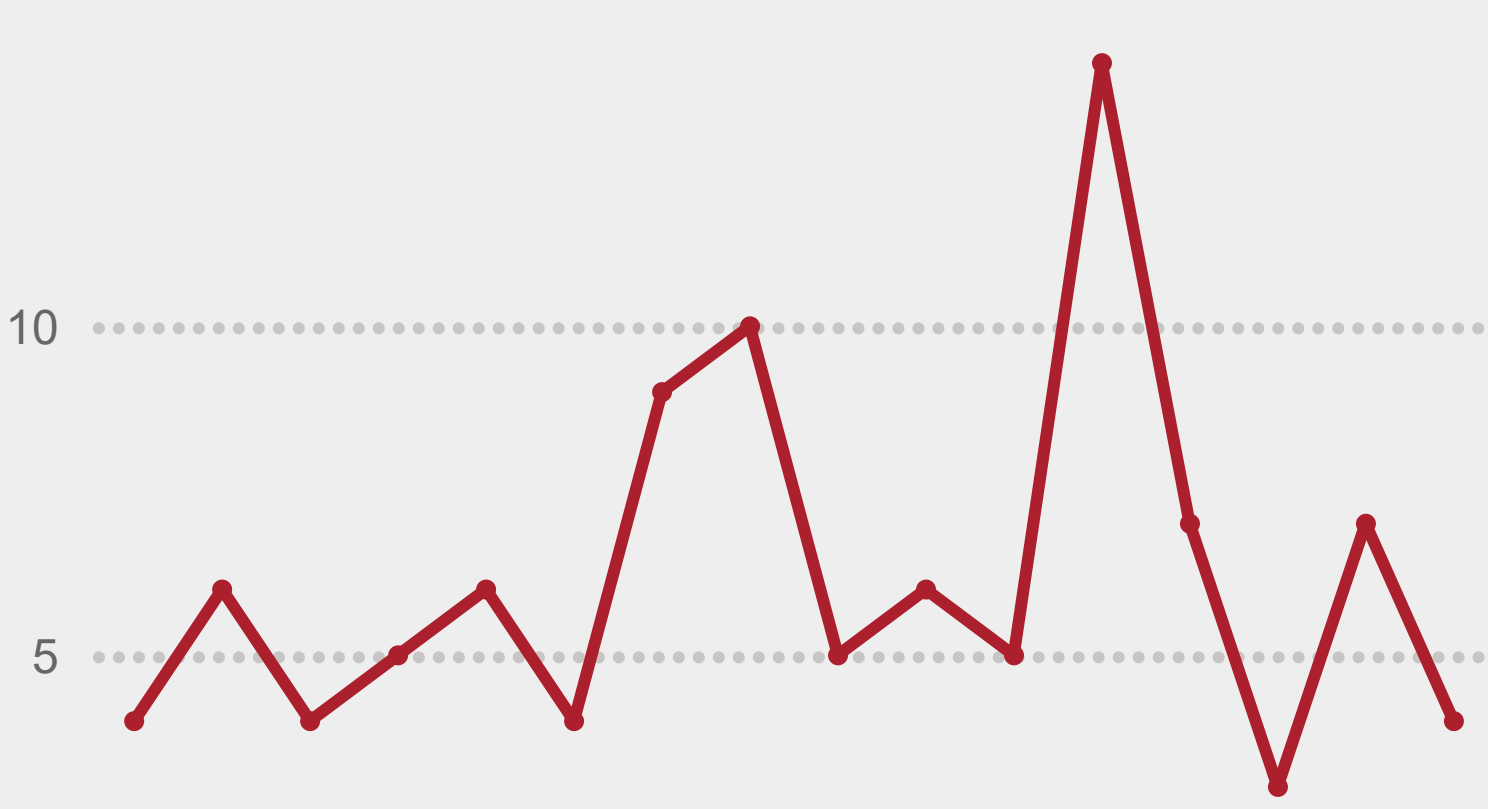
Source of Ignition (Top 10)



There were 209 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF) during the reporting period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 which reflects a decrease in the same reporting period from the previous year which was 222 and is lower than the three-year average 216. The fire damage in 109 of the incidents was contained to the item that was first ignited and the main source of ignition of ADFs over the reporting period was due to cooking.

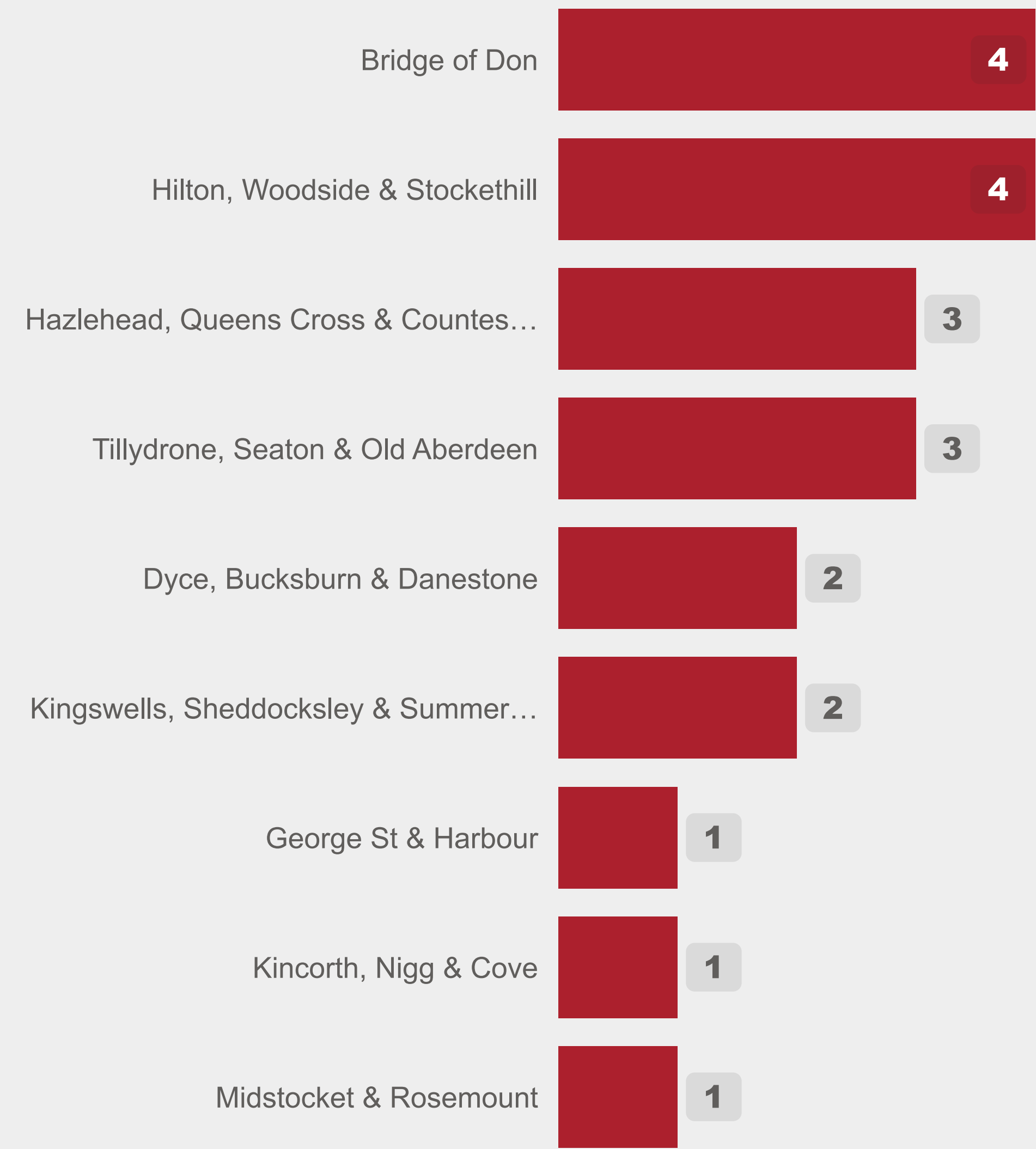
The total number of ADFs continues to decrease in the long term, currently we are reporting the second lowest number of ADFs in the last four years. This is as a result of a number of community safety initiatives delivered through partnership working.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation	16
Burns - slight	2
Burns - severe	1
Combination of burns and overcome by gas/smoke	1
Other medical condition	1

Casualties by Ward



18

Non-Fatal Casualties

3

Fatal Casualties

16

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

13

First Aid Given at Scene

4

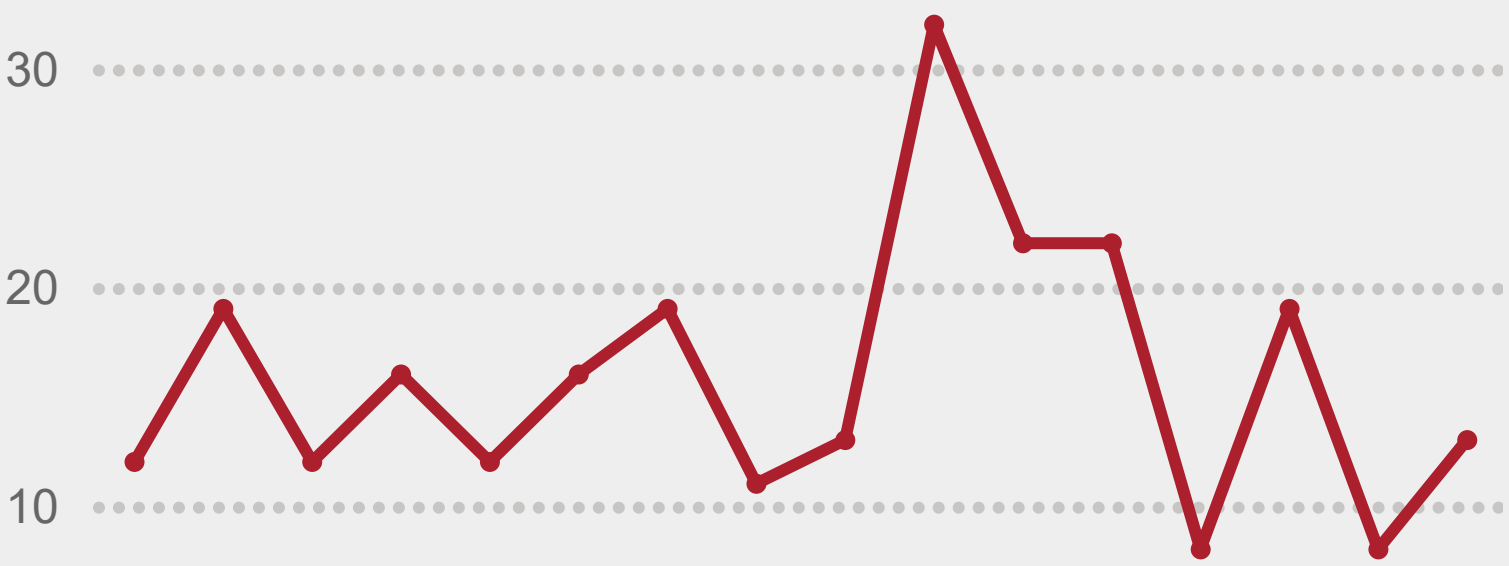
Hospital Slight Injuries

1

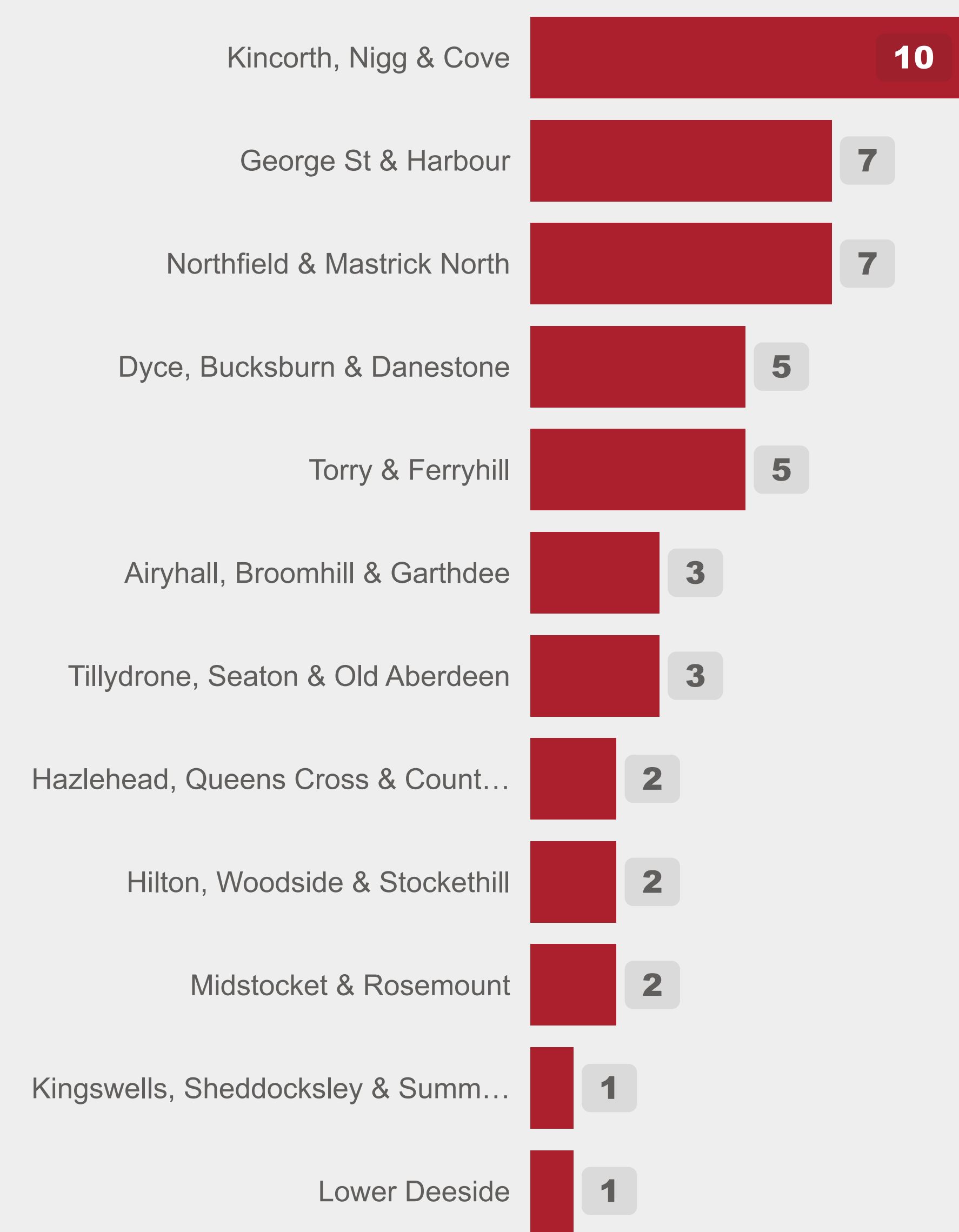
Hospital Serious Injuries

There were 3 fatalities from fire during the reporting period. These occurred in Laverock Way, Middlefield Crescent and Denmore Gardens and were all caused by accidental fires. Within Aberdeen City we continue to work with our partners to ensure that we positively contribute to reducing the risk to our communities and staff by analysis of our operational activities and targeting those most at risk and vulnerable, particularly around unintentional harm in the home. These targeted initiatives will continue to develop and improve as we move forward together to ensure that we provide the most appropriate support for our communities with regard to unintentional harm.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



40

Non-Fatal Casualties

8

Fatal Casualties

164

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



9

First Aid Given at Scene



20

Hospital Slight Injuries



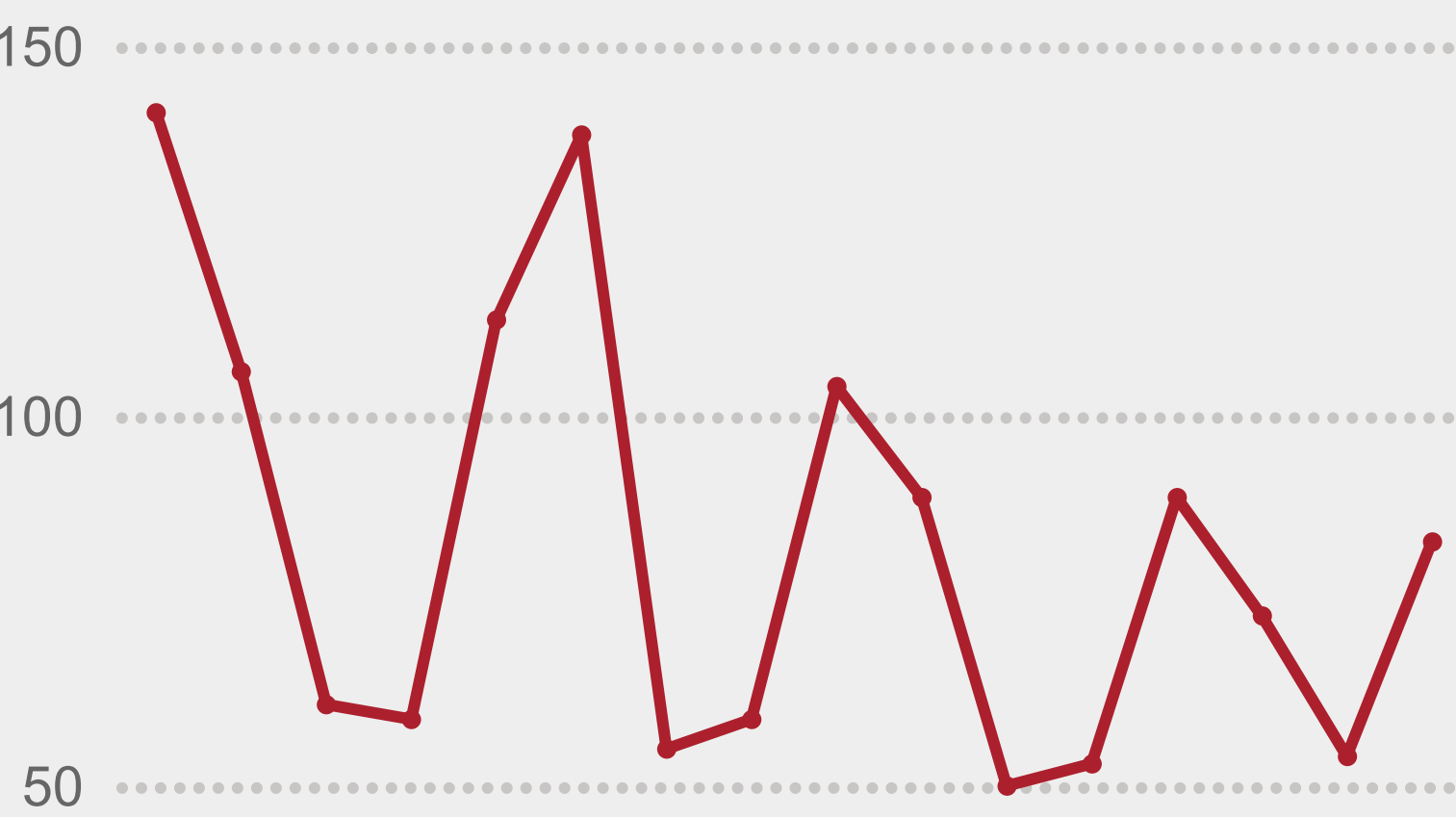
11

Hospital Serious Injuries

The SFRS attends a variety of incidents that involves the treatment of casualties such as Road Traffic Collisions (RTC), Water Rescue, Rescue from Height and Medical Emergencies. We attended incidents where there were 8 fatalities over the reporting period which was a decrease from the reporting period 23-24 (13) and we also attended incidents where there were 40 non fatal casualties, a decrease from 76 in the previous year.

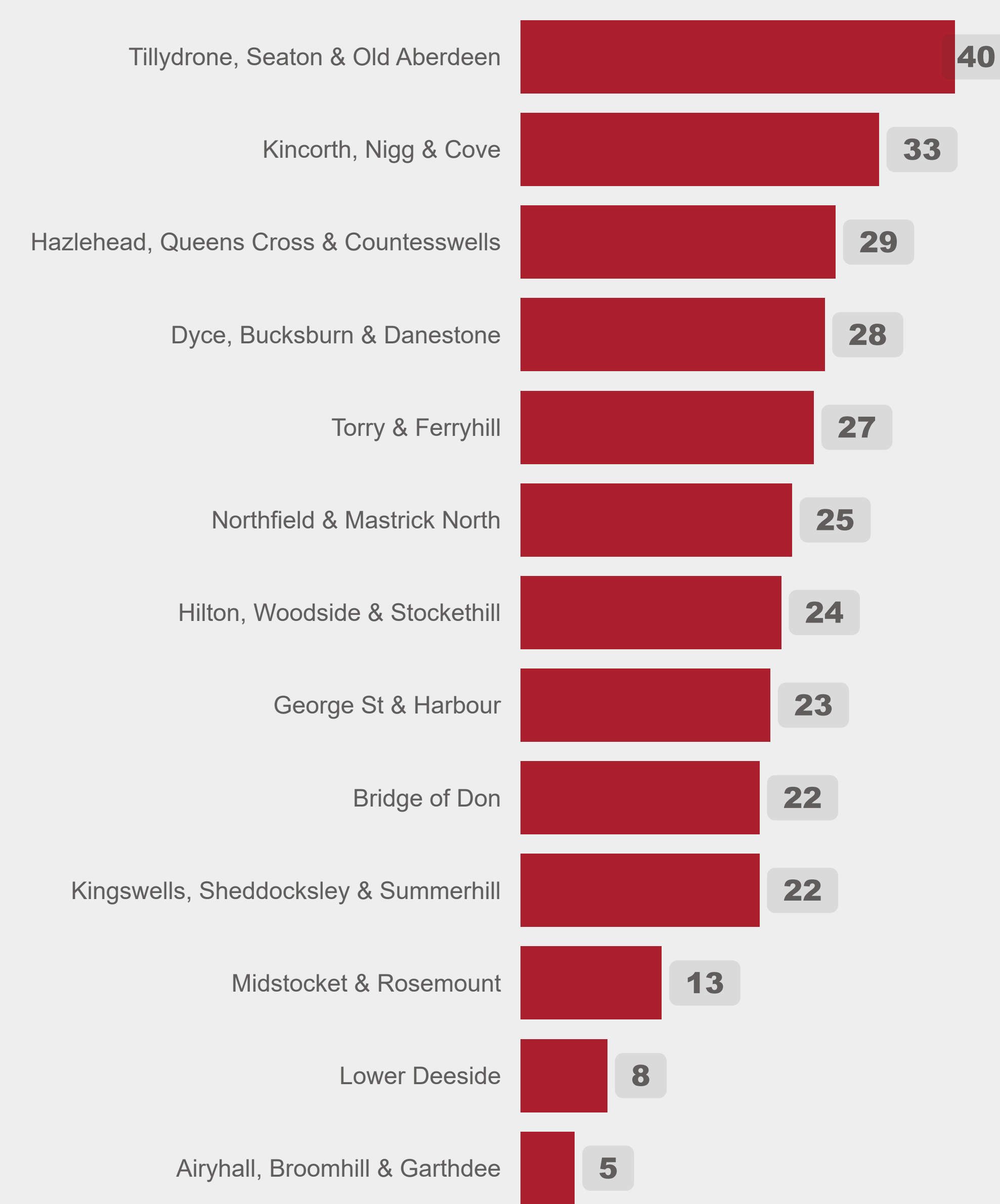
Of the 40 persons who were assisted 9 were given first aid at the scene of the incident, 11 were taken to hospital with serious injures and 20 attended hospital with slight injuries. There total number of people rescued by Firefighters across the City of Aberdeen from all incident types during the reporting period was 164.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Property Type	Incident
Grassland, woodland and crops	95
Refuse	70
Other outdoors (including land)	51
Dwelling	32
Road Vehicle	25
Non Residential	14
Outdoor structures	11
Outdoor equipment and machinery	1

Incidents by Ward



299

Deliberate Fires
in this period

Hour of Day



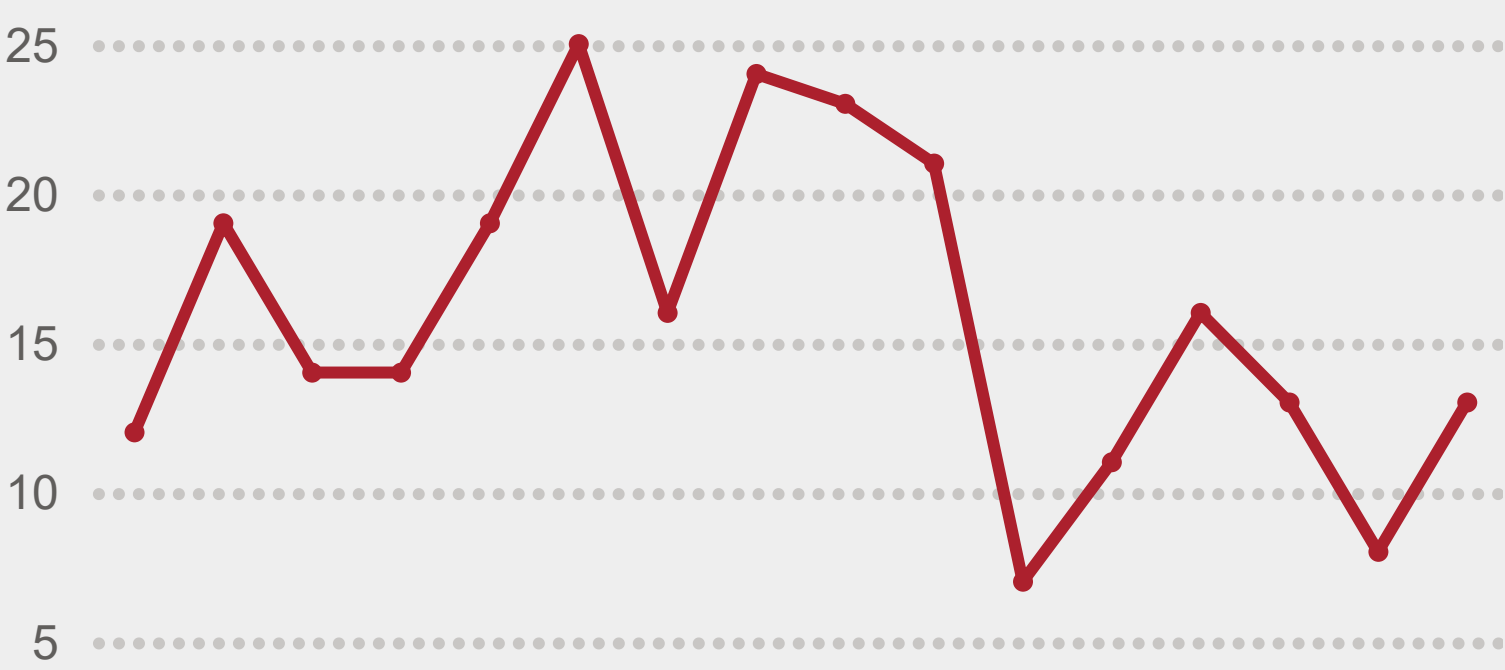
There were 299 deliberate fire incidents during the reporting period which is below the three-year average of 320 but slightly higher than last year (296). 95 of the incidents were Grassland, Wood and Crops with the the area of Tillydrone, Seaton and Old Aberdeen having 50 deliberate fire incidents.

During the reporting period we have continued to work with partners to reduce the number of all deliberate fire incidents within the City of Aberdeen . This proactive approach, particularly around youth engagement, endeavors to reduce the number of deliberate fires. We have worked alongside partners and local schools to reduce this unacceptable, anti-social behaviour.

7. Non-Domestic Fires

2024-25

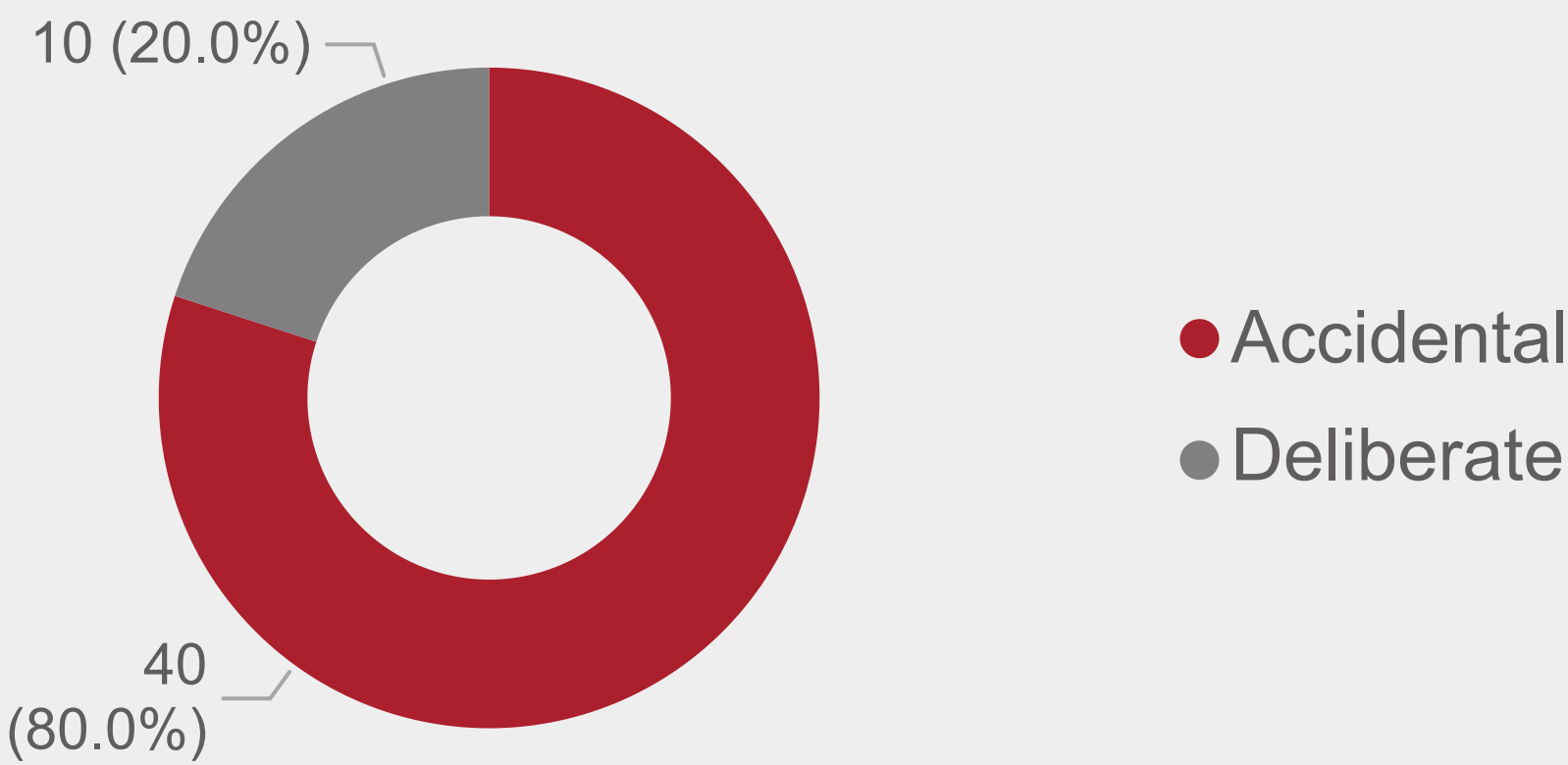
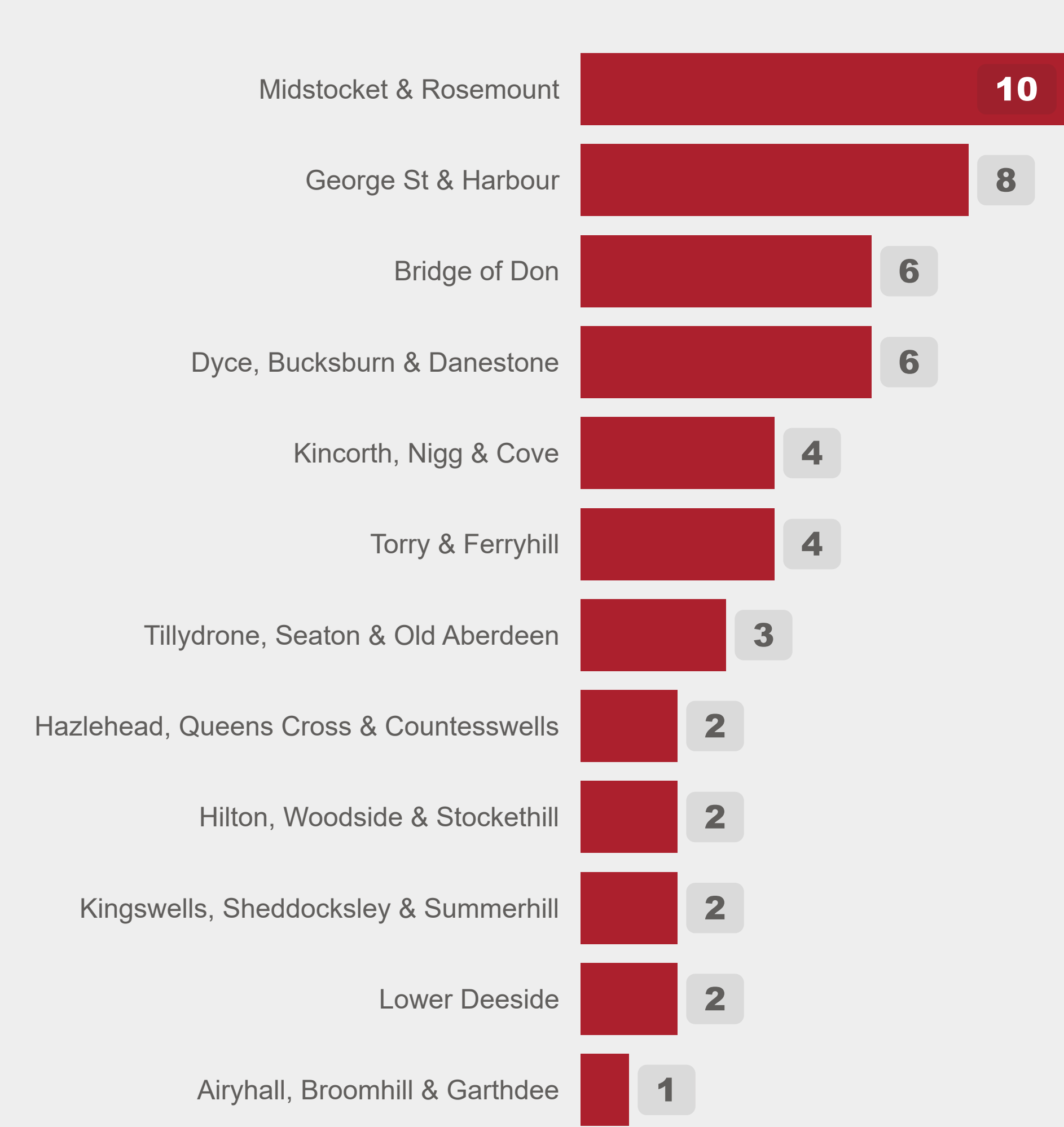
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Hospitals and medical care	9
Industrial Manufacturing	5
Retail	5
Food and Drink	4
Hotel/motel	4
Student Hall of Residence	4
Education	3
Other buildings/use not known	2
Sheltered Housing - not self contained	2
Vehicle Repair	2
Car Parks	1
Entertainment and culture	1
Hostel (e.g. for homeless people)	1
Industrial Processing	1
Offices and call centres	1
Permanent Agricultural	1
Public Utilities	1
Sporting venues	1
Transport buildings	1
Warehouses	1

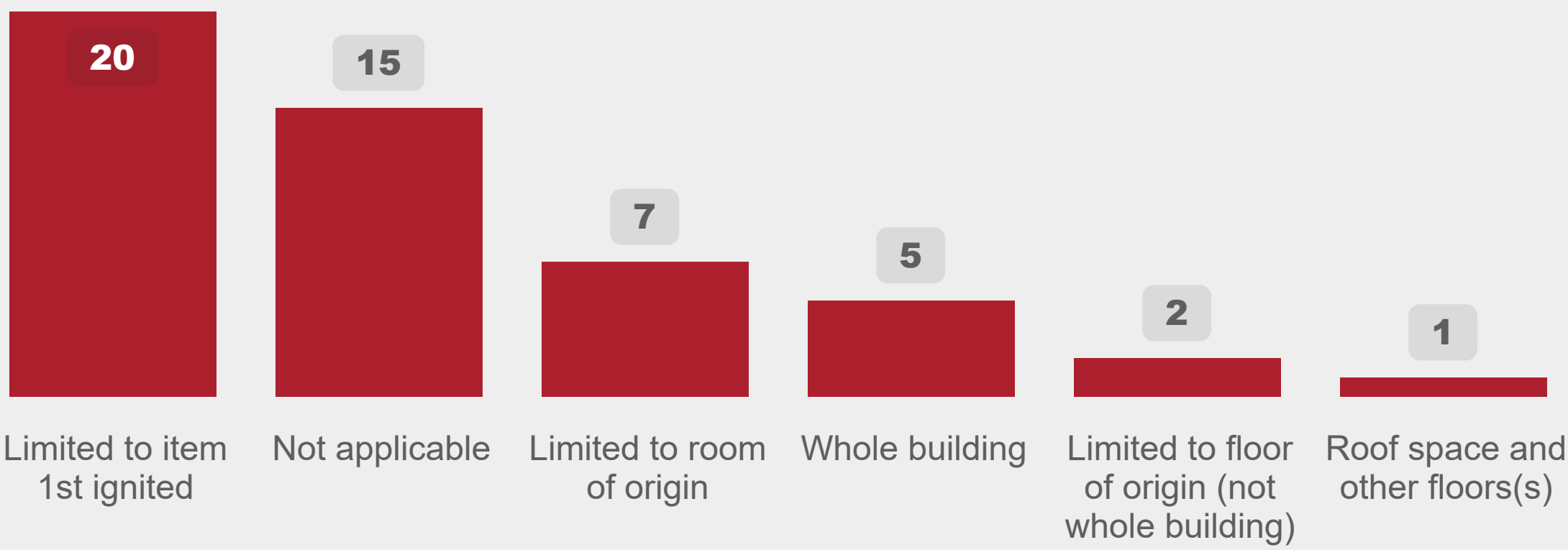
Incidents by Ward



50

Non-Domestic
Fires in this
period

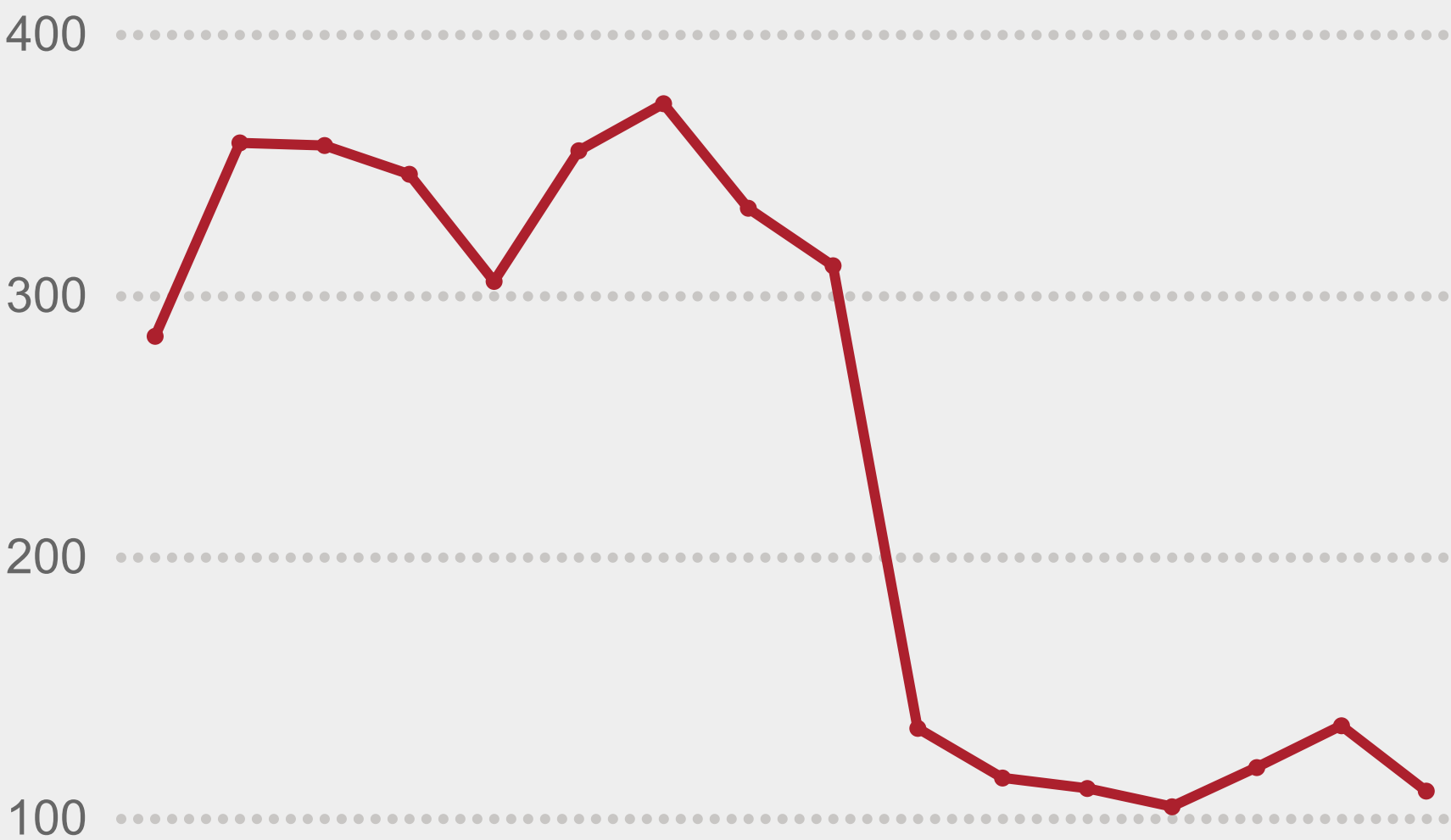
Extent of Damage



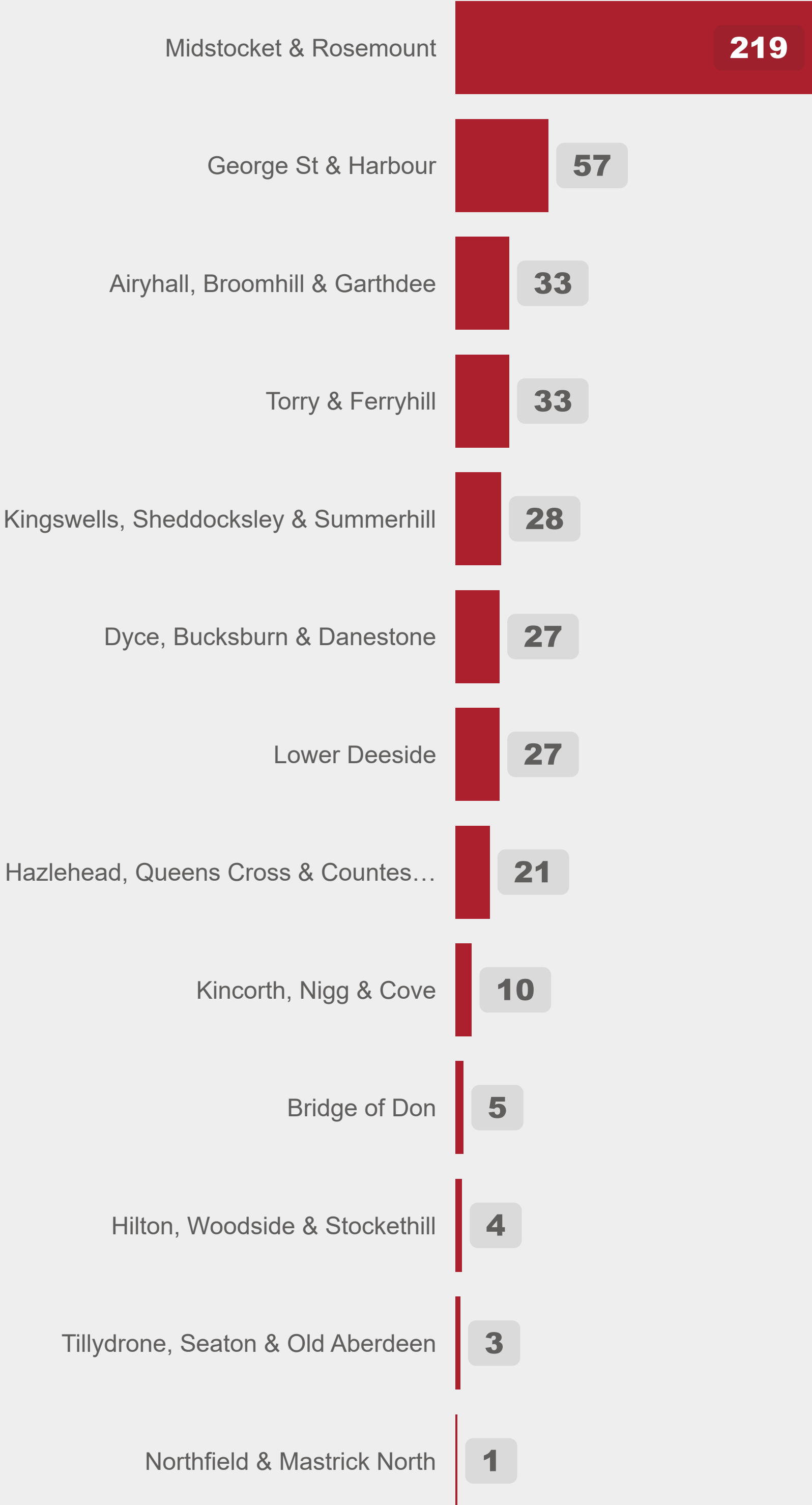
There were 50 fires in non domestic properties over the reporting period which reflects a decrease from the same reporting period last year (51). Hospital and Medical Care facilities accounted for 9 incidents with Industrial Manufacturing and Retail accounting for 5 incidents each. 40 of the incidents were accidental with 10 being fires that were started deliberately.

Fire Safety Enforcement Officers (FSEO’s) will continue to provide the most appropriate level of support to local businesses to enable suitable and timely legislative fire safety guidance and enforcement to be undertaken.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Hospitals and medical care	222
Hotel/motel	50
Sheltered Housing - not self contained	49
Student Hall of Residence	44
Residential Home	37
Food and Drink	15
Offices and call centres	10
Hostel (e.g. for homeless people)	7
Education	5
Retail	5
Warehouses and bulk storage	5
Boarding House/B&B for homeless/asylum seekers	4
Industrial Processing	4
Entertainment and culture	3
Boarding House/B&B other	2
Other Residential Home	2
Transport buildings	2

468

Unwanted Fire Alarm
Signals in this period

During the reporting period the SFRS attended 468 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) from a total of 1535 false alarms. Hospitals and Medical Care facilities are responsible for the vast majority of UFAS incidents and operational crews continue to investigate the cause of every UFAS event to ensure the appropriate level of engagement with the duty holder when in attendance at these call-outs. Every UFAS incident SFRS attends is used as an opportunity to educate the duty holder about the impact UFAS has on their businesses, the community and the Fire and Rescue Service.

Since the introduction of the UFAS Reduction Policy there has been a marked decrease in UFAS incidents that has allowed our operational crews to dedicate additional time to ensuring operational preparedness and to conduct community safety engagement activities.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



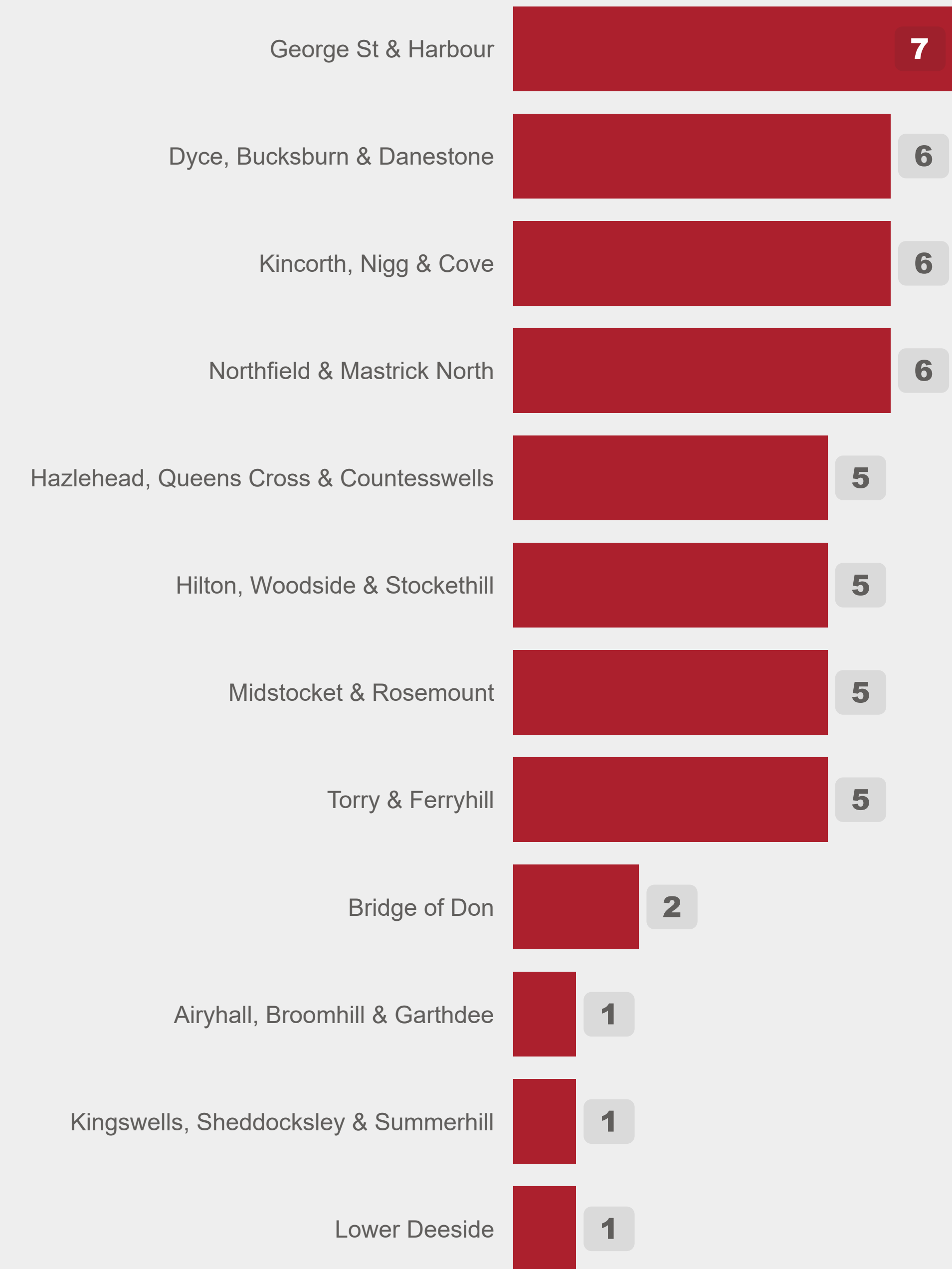
50

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
Car	41
Lorry/HGV	5
Van	2
Motorcycle	1
Multiple Vehicles	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	50

Incidents by Ward



13

Non-Fatal Casualties

1

Fatal Casualties

7

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

3

First Aid Given at Scene

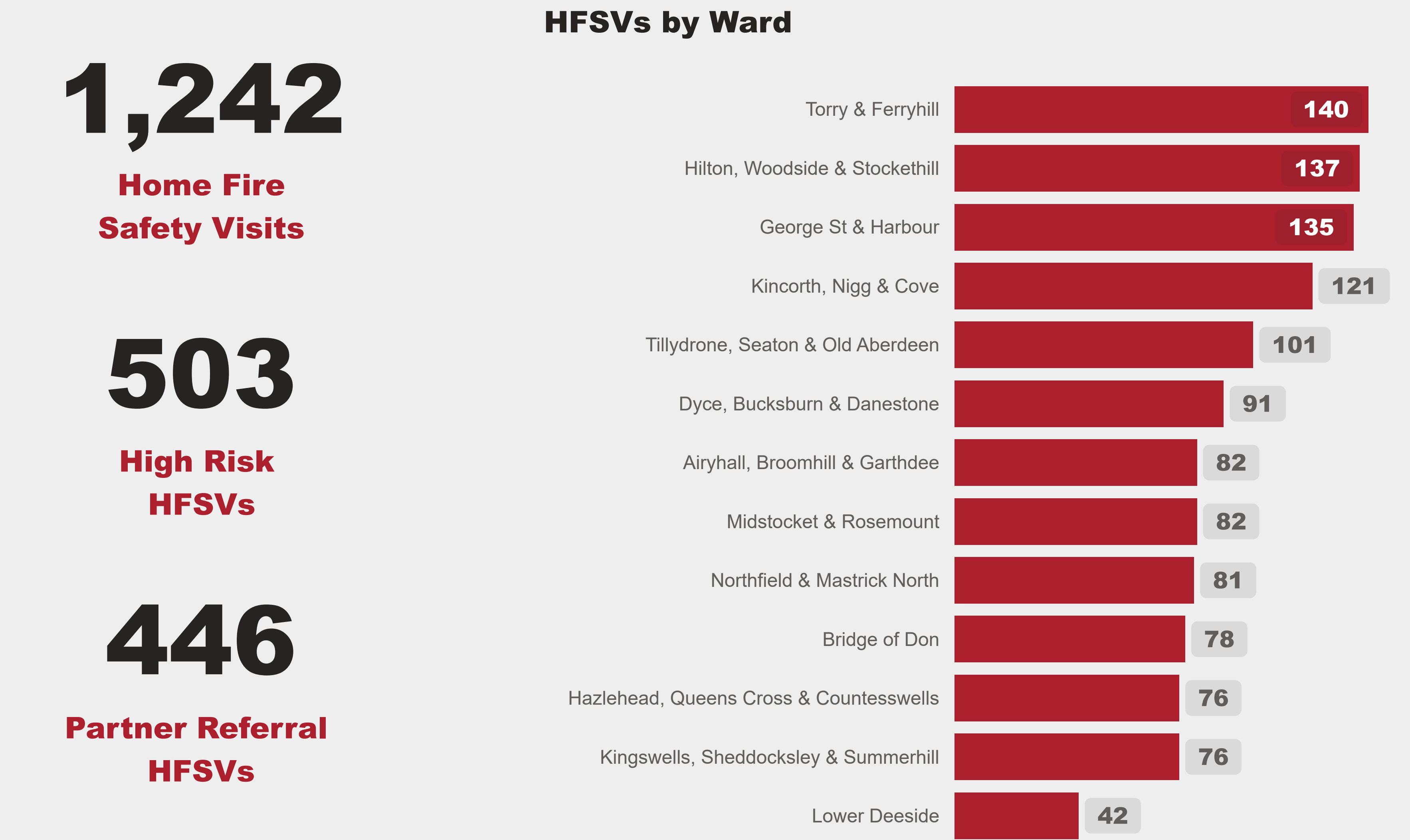
8

Hospital Slight Injuries

2

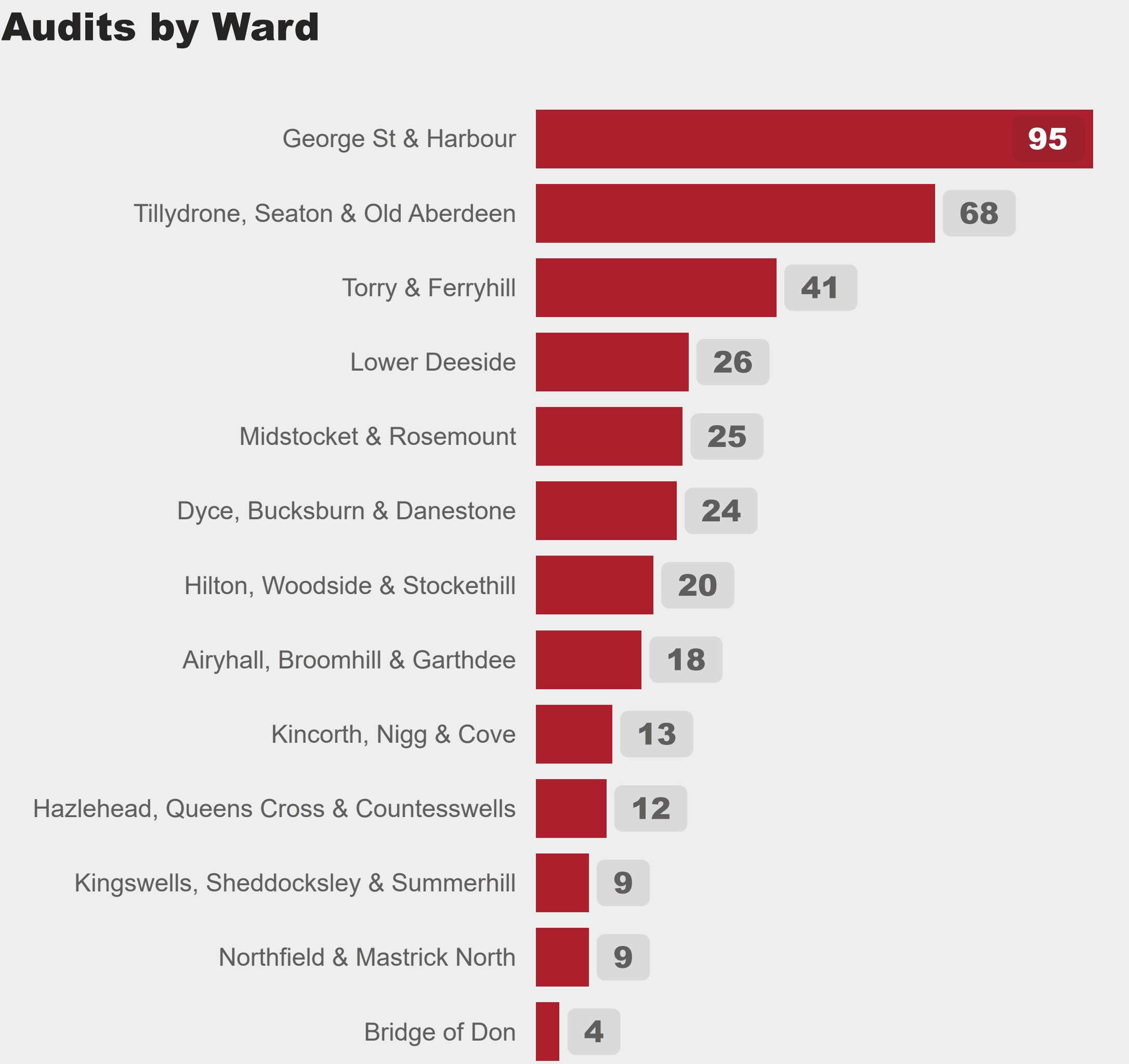
Hospital Serious Injuries

We attended 50 Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) this is the lowest total in the last five years and well below the three-year average of 62. We have been actively engaging with members of the community in initiatives such as New Young Driver Intervention Scheme (targeting 17-25 year olds), FATAL 5 Road Safety Talks (targeting Commuter Drivers) and Elderly Driver talks.



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

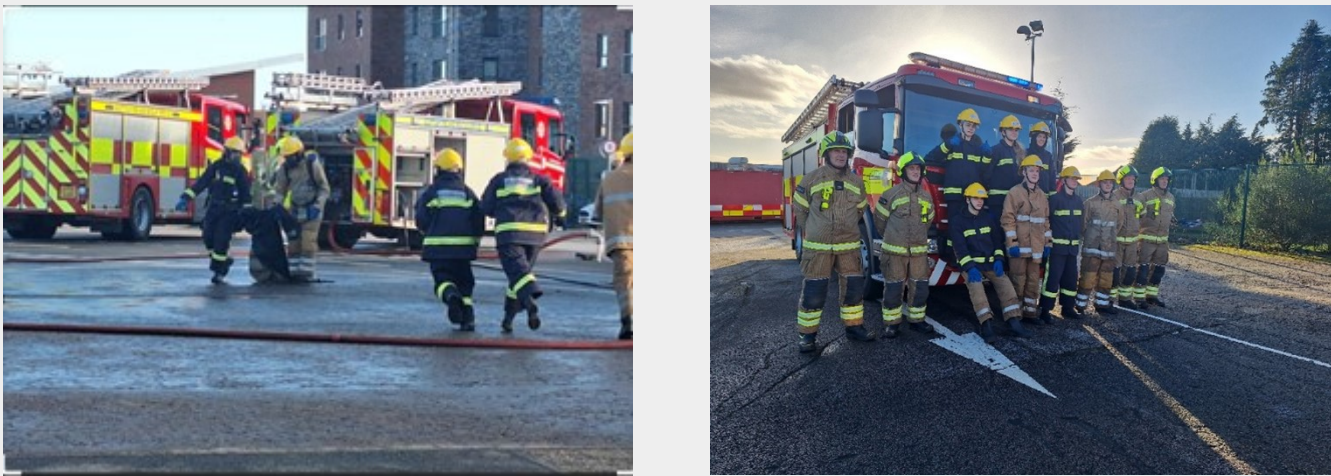
Job Type	Count
Audit	364
Specific Visit	166
Consultation	22
Short Post Fire Audit	3



Home Fire Safety Visits - Prevention is at the heart of our activities and the SFRS carried out 1242 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) across the City of Aberdeen during the reporting period. 503 High Risk HFSV were carried out by Operational personnel and our Community Action Team and there were 446 partner referrals to the SFRS for HFSV to be carried out. Communication with Partners is essential to ensure that we target those most at risk from fire within our communities.

Fire Safety Enforcement - Fire Safety Enforcement Officers (FSEO) conducted 555 visits to premises across the city and a great deal of fire safety enforcement activity involves the engagement with local businesses to ensure they maintain safety procedures to ensure the safety of their staff and members of the public.

Over the reporting period our Operational Staff, supported by our Community Action Team, have delivered a variety of initiatives across the city targeting the most at risk as well as educating members of the community. Working in partnership with colleagues from all sectors the SFRS continues to focus on Prevention and below are some of the initiatives that we have supported.



Throughout the year four Fire Skills Courses were delivered to students from various Secondary Schools in Aberdeen City. The course enabled the students to gain knowledge on basic firefighting, emergency response skills and first aid. More importantly, it is hoped the elements of teamwork, effective communication and problem solving benefited the students as they progress towards their adult life. The positive feedback from students, parents and education staff shows the great benefit that this initiative brings and the service will continue to develop this program.



In conjunction with Police Scotland, The Community Action Team have organised five Child Car Seat Clinics throughout the year. The clinics have given SFRS staff the opportunity to check 106 car seats, checking such things as incompatible seats, loose belts and harnesses and incorrect routings. From the checks, 54% of car seat fittings were found to have major faults, thus enabling us to either correct the fittings or advise on alternative seats.



The City Stations and Community Action Team took the opportunity to get involved with Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) North East and NESCOL and took part in eight Career Fairs throughout the City. A variety of careers within SFRS were showcased including Operational Firefighting, Mechanics, ICT, Human Resources, Operational Control and Business Support Admin etc. The engagement from young people and was extremely encouraging.

After a spate of incidents Operation Personnel conducted inspections of all High Rise premises across the city. Crews visited each premise twice during March and communicated any issues to ACC with a follow up visit carried out to ensure all issues were rectified. The Community Action Team and Operational Crews also engaged with schools and partners after a spate of deliberate fires.

Future Engagement Initiatives - Aberdeen City is now one of three local authorities in Scotland participating in the Marmot collaboration, which aims to address health inequalities by improving local policies and actions that tackle the social determinants of health, such as housing, education and employment.

The SFRS being a Strategic partner in this initiative, brings a unique and vital contribution to addressing health inequalities and improving outcomes across communities. With deep-rooted local presence, high levels of public trust, and routine access to vulnerable households, the SFRS are ideally positioned to support the principles of the Marmot Review. Our role in prevention can help the SFRS, through collaborative partnerships with health, social care, and other partners, identify at-risk individuals, signpost services, and deliver interventions that reduce harm, promote wellbeing, and build community resilience. In addition to the above across the City the SFRS will be expanding their engagement with schools and community groups to include inputs on healthy eating and active lives.

13. Glossary of Terms

Term - What it means

ADF

Accidental Dwelling Fire.

HFSV

Home Fire Safety Visit.

PDIR

Post Domestic Incident Response, a term used to indicate actions taken following attendance at a fire or other incident in the home. PDIRs include amongst things the offer of a free follow up home fire safety visit.

RTC

Road Traffic Collision.

Special Service

Calls to incidents which are not fires or false alarms such as RTCs, rescues, flooding, incidents involving hazardous materials or the provision of assistance to other agencies.

UFAS

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. When an automatic fire detection and alarm system is activated as a result of anything other than an actual fire the activation is classed as a false alarm. If an attendance is made to such an event by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, then the event is recorded as an UFAS incident.

UFAS Policy Change

In response to COVID, on the 6th May 2020, the SFRS decided to send 1 pump to UFAS premises that did not have their own Predetermined attendance (PDA).

As of 1st July 2023, the COVID interim 1 pump response was ended and a new UFAS policy was implemented.

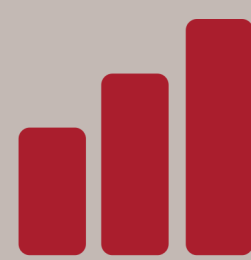
The new policy is to call challenge all UFAS incidents with the intention of non-attendance. Hospitals, care homes, and sleeping risk premises are all exempt and receive either 2 pumps or their premise specific PDA.



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INTELLIGENCE

Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.