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Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL 

REPORT TO KINCARDINE AND MEARN'S AREA COMMITTEE – 31 AUGUST 2021

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – KINCARDINE AND MEARN'S COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 1ST APRIL 2020 – 31ST MARCH 2021

1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 The reason for this report is to inform members how Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is performing locally in Kincardine and Mearns against key performance measures and associated targets, as set out in the Aberdeenshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan and Kincardine and Mearns Multi-Member Ward Plan.

2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Area Committee:

- 2.1 Acknowledges and discusses the attached performance report at Appendix 1 to this report relating to the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021; and**
- 2.2 Acknowledges and discusses any local operational matters arising, together with key resource issues, as detailed within Appendix 1 to this report.**

3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 Since it became a single service for Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has provided quarterly information on its performance and activities to Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee both formally and informally. **Appendix 1** to this report provides performance information for this area. It gives the opportunity for Elected Members to discuss fire and rescue performance and activities in the local area, in order to ensure that good outcomes are achieved for the residents of Kincardine and Mearns.

4. Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 This report helps deliver the following Council Priorities

- Our Economy
- Our Environment

4.2 The Table below shows whether risks and implications apply -

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			X
Staffing			X
Equalities			X
Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Town Centre First		X	
Sustainability			X
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			X

4.3 An integrated impact assessment is not required because the reason for the report is for the committee to take note and it does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

4.4 There are no direct risk implications for the Council as this report is in relation to the performance reporting of an external organisation.

5. Scheme of Governance

5.1 The Committee can consider this item in terms of Section B.1.7 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as the Area Committee is authorised to consider the performance of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and to make any necessary recommendations to the appropriate Policy committee or governing body.

Martin Tait
Local Senior Officer
Aberdeenshire and Moray

Alan Wood
Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Martin Tait, Local Senior Officer
Date 19 June 2021

List of Appendices
Appendix 1: Summary Report



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Appendix 1

Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Introduction

From 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 there have been 323 incidents within the Kincardine and Mearns Area;

- 30 Deliberate Fires
- 75 Accidental Fires
- 62 Special Service Incidents
- 138 False Alarms

As a result of these incidents there have been:

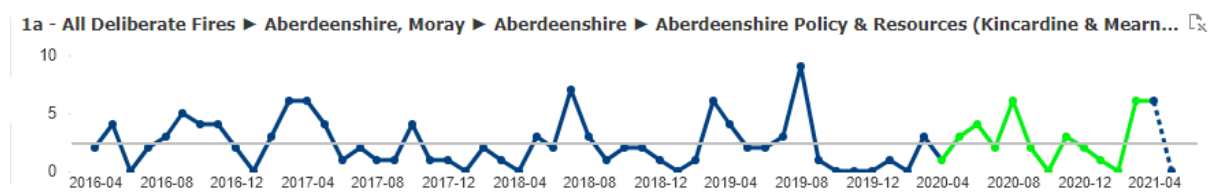
- 0 Fire Fatalities
- 4 Non-fatal fire casualties
- 1 RTC fatality
- 13 RTC Casualties
- 20 Accidental Dwelling Fires
- 13 Non-Domestic Fires

The Aberdeenshire Management Team and staff within the area are committed to working with Communities and Partners to reduce all types of incidents and continue working to make Kincardine and Mearns a safe place to work, live and visit.

This report provides the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee with an overview of performance within the area and what the service are doing in partnership with both communities and partners to continuously improve performance within the area.

Deliberate Fires

Reducing Deliberate Fires is a priority for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service within the Kincardine and Mearns area. The chart below shows that there has been a slight increase in incidents. (the sections of the chart coloured green represent April to March from 2016/17 to 2020/21).





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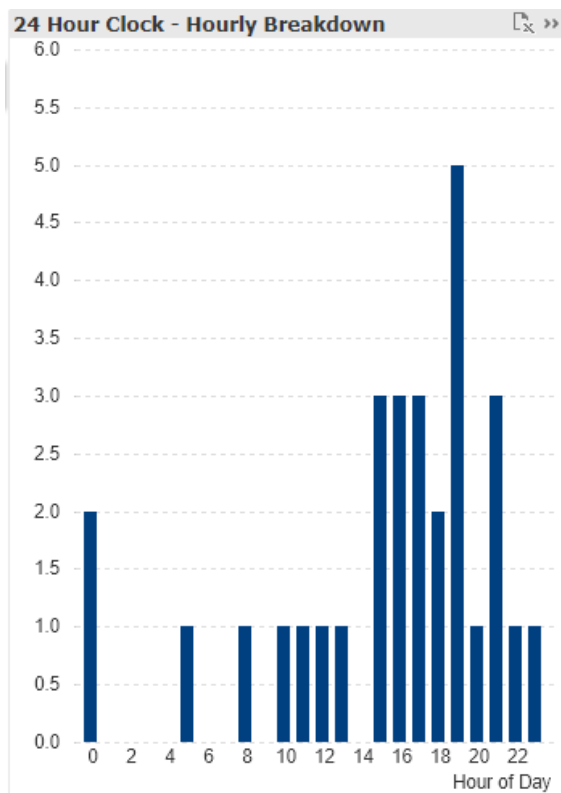


The table below shows the breakdown of Deliberate Fires throughout the Kincardine and Mearns area down to ward level. 25 out of 30 incidents were located outdoors involving grassland, woodland, crops or refuse.

It can be seen from the table that the deliberate fires over the current period have seen an increase overall but a sizeable reduction in the Stonehaven & Lower Deeside Area. 10 of these deliberate fires in the North Kincardine & Mearns Wards were attributed to burning their own property. (This is one third of all deliberate fires).

Geography/Reporting Year					
↑ Ward	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Mearns	8	9	8	3	8
North Kincardine	7	7	10	7	16
Stonehaven & Lower Deeside	20	8	10	15	6
Total	35	24	28	25	30

22 out of the 30 incidents that have occurred during this period have taken place between 1500 – 2300hrs (this can be seen in the figure below).

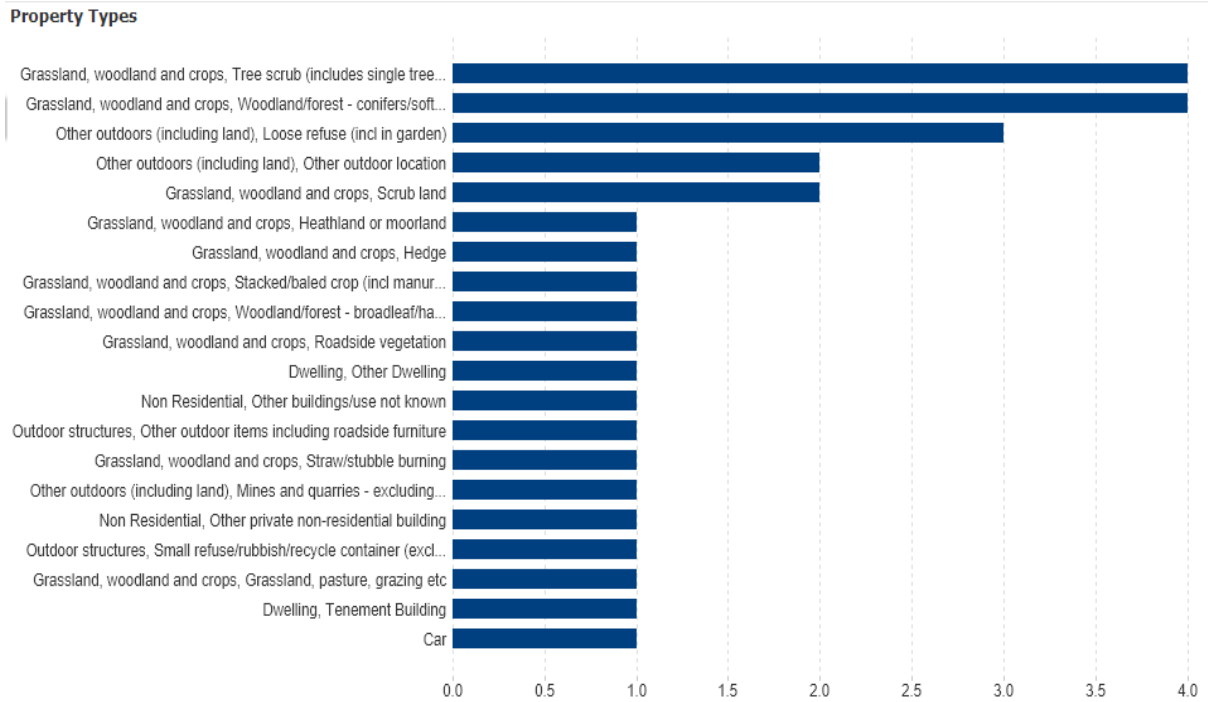




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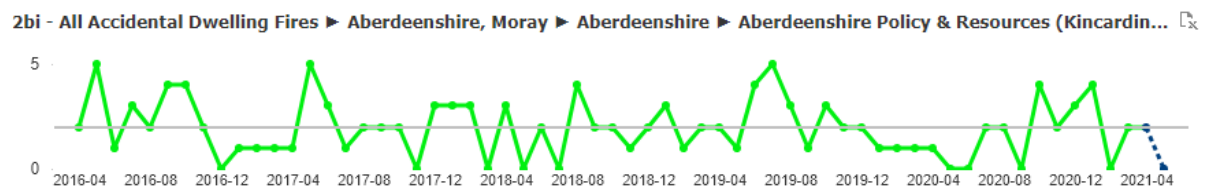


The graph below indicates the property types where the incidents occurred.



Unintentional Harm and Home Safety

Reducing unintentional harm and improving home safety remain a priority for the SFRS. The chart below shows that the number of Accidental Dwelling Fires within the area have shown a dramatic decrease over previous years.



The table below shows the breakdown of accidental dwelling fires down to ward level. It can be seen from the table that all areas have reduced their number of incidents.



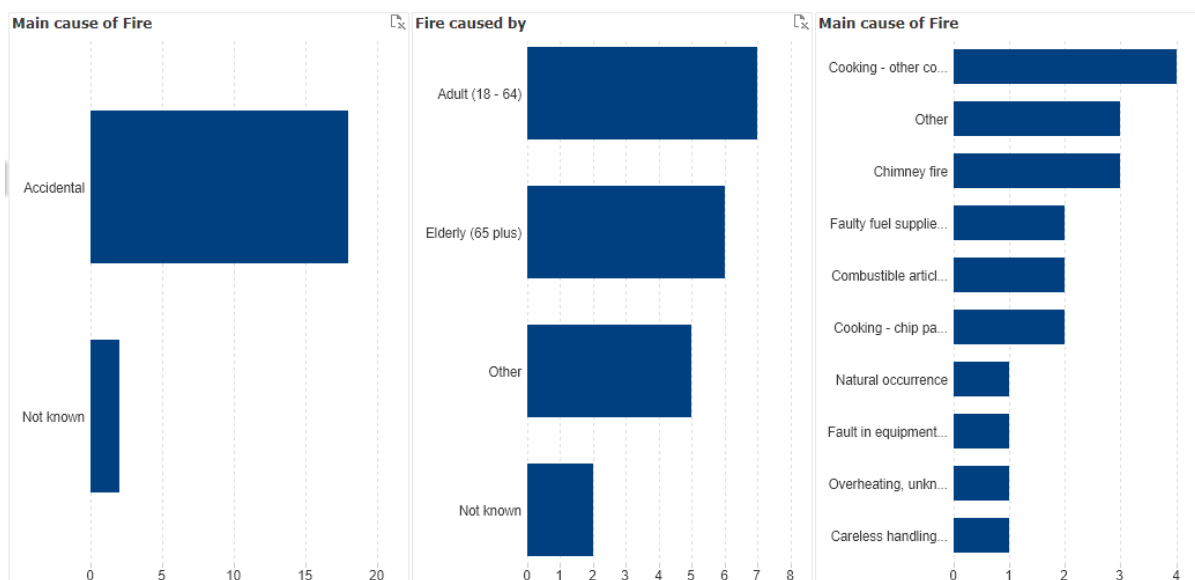
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Geography/Reporting Year					
↑ Ward	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Mearns	8	4	5	9	6
North Kincardine	6	6	4	6	5
Stonehaven & Lower Deeside	12	15	13	11	9
Total	26	25	22	26	20

The breakdown of causes is shown in the graphs below.



Home Fire Safety Visits continue to be our primary method for reducing accidental dwelling fires however this year, due to Covid restrictions, our ability to undertake visits has been dramatically affected as indicated in the numbers below.

Area	Total Visits	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Mearns	12	4 (33%)	6 (50%)	2 (17%)
North Kincardine	23	9 (39%)	10 (44%)	4 (17%)
Stonehaven & Lower Deeside	28	16 (57%)	10 (36%)	2 (7%)
Totals	63	29 (46%)	26 (41%)	8 (13%)



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As restrictions ease, we will continue to work with our Partners through Local Community Planning Arrangements and the Health and Social Care Partnership to increase the number of High Risk Referrals made for Home Fire Safety Visits. This is a critical piece of work delivering these visits to the people that are most in need.

Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

During this reporting period there has been one casualty as a result of accidental dwelling fires. The table below shows how this compares to the previous five years;

Geography/Reporting Year					
↑ Ward	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Mearns	0	1	2	2	1
North Kincardine	0	1	0	3	0
Stonehaven & Lower Deeside	4	7	1	3	0
Total	4	9	3	8	1

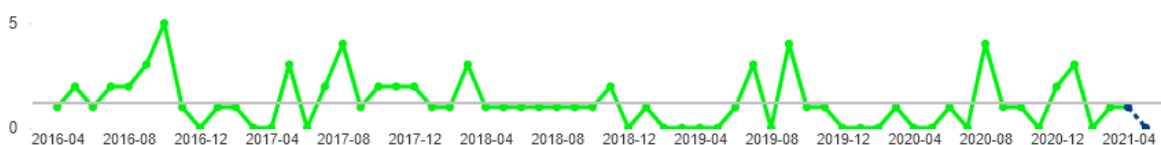
Although the number of casualties remains low and a substantial reduction on the previous years, we will continue to refine our Home Fire Safety Visit process to ensure casualty numbers are minimised.

Non Domestic Fires

During this reporting period there have been 13 non-domestic fires in the area which is a slight increase on the previous two years. The table and chart below allows for comparison with this and the same reporting period for the previous 5 years.

Geography/Reporting Year					
↑ Ward	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Mearns	5	5	3	1	3
North Kincardine	2	8	2	4	3
Stonehaven & Lower Deeside	12	8	5	6	7
Total	19	21	10	11	13

4a - Non Domestic Fires ▶ Aberdeenshire, Moray ▶ Aberdeenshire ▶ Aberdeenshire Policy & Resources (Kincardine & Mearns...

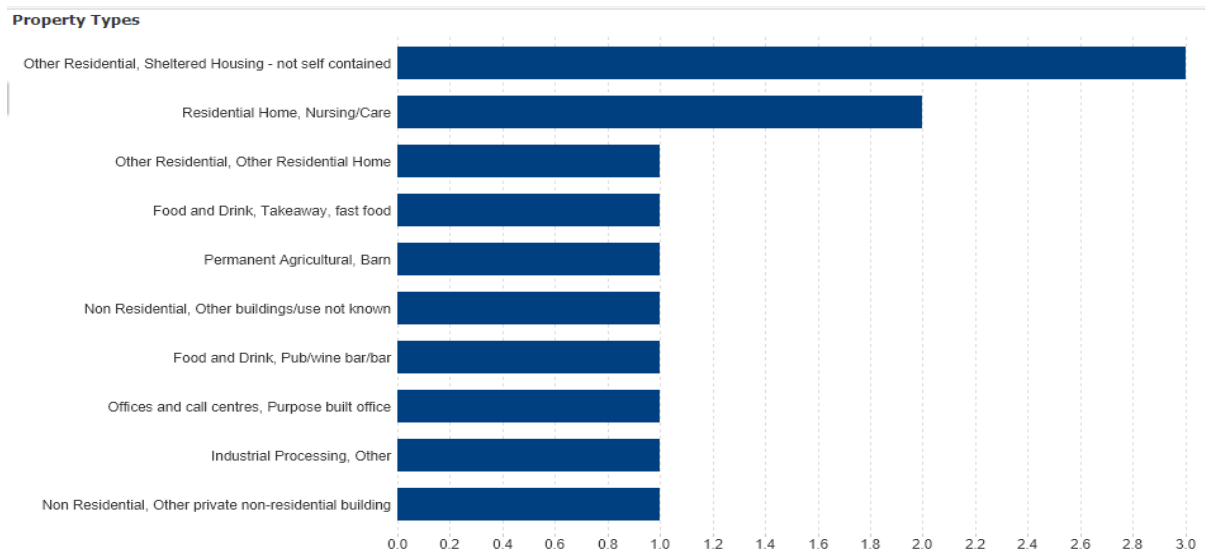




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The chart below shows the property types where these incidents occurred;

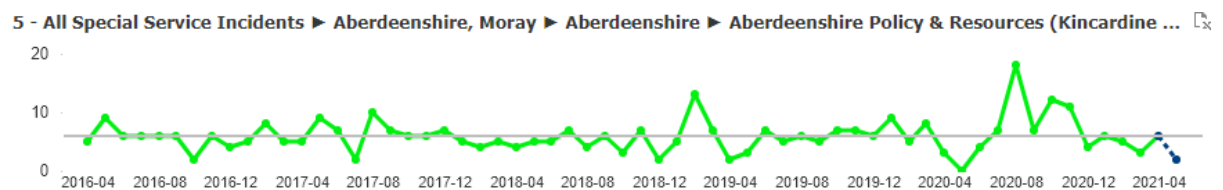


Non-Fire Emergencies

The modern Fire and Rescue Service attends many incidents that are not fires. This section provides information in relation to Non-Fire Emergencies to allow members to see both how we are progressing in this area and the variety of Non-Fire Emergencies that crews within the area deal with.

The table and chart below shows a trend of increased attendance at these types of incidents in comparison with the previous 5 years;

Geography/Reporting Year					
↑ Ward	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Mearns	14	29	24	27	25
North Kincardine	21	19	18	12	19
Stonehaven & Lower Deeside	33	25	26	31	36
Total	68	73	68	70	80



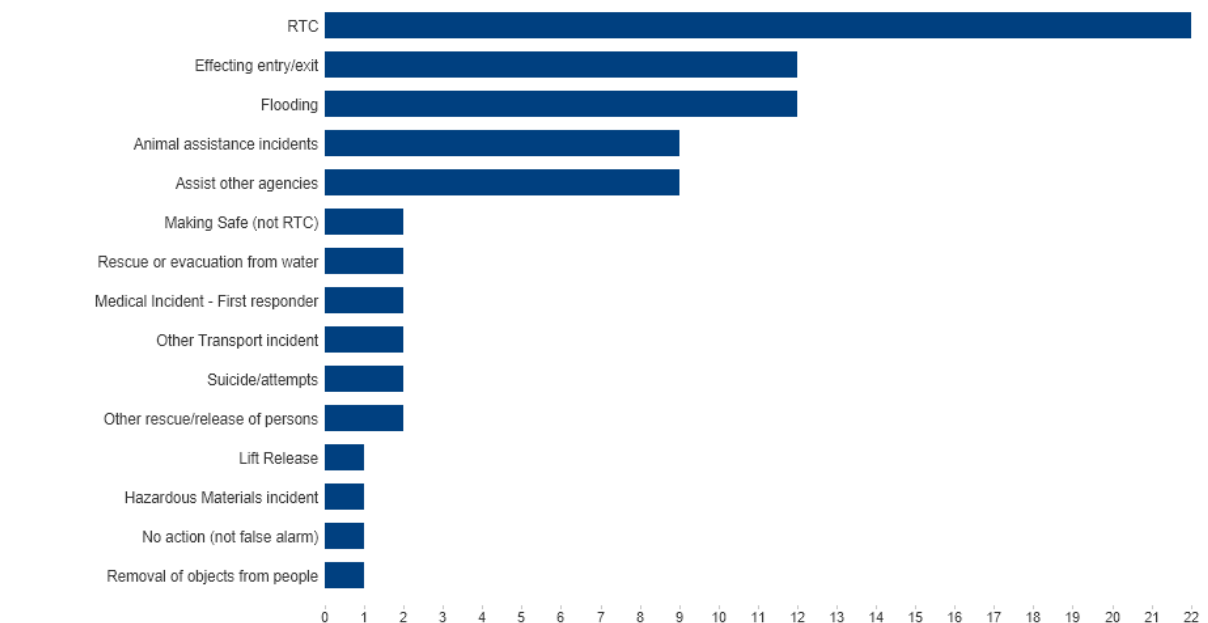


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The chart below shows the number and different categories of Non-Fire Emergencies that the Service have responded to in the Kincardine and Mearns area during the reporting period. The most incidents are RTC's (22 in total) however the next four categories (Effecting Entry/Exit, Flooding, Animal Assistance and Assisting Other Agencies) account for 42 of the 80 incidents recorded.



We continue working with both partners and local communities to reduce the number of Non-Fire Emergencies in the Area and to ensure that there is an effective response when an incident does occur.

Casualties resulting from Road Traffic Collisions

Unfortunately there has been one fatality as a result of Road Traffic Collisions during this reporting period.

The number of Non-Fatal Casualties from RTC's during this quarter is the lowest number recorded since 2017-18. The table below provides information for comparison with the previous 5 years;

Geography/Reporting Year					
↑ Ward	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Mearns	8	6	14	8	3
North Kincardine	9	4	5	1	6
Stonehaven & Lower Deeside	5	3	8	13	4
Total	22	13	27	22	13



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The covid-19 pandemic has contributed to less journeys by road which will have influenced this reporting years figures. We will continue to provide Road Safety Initiatives with partners in the area.

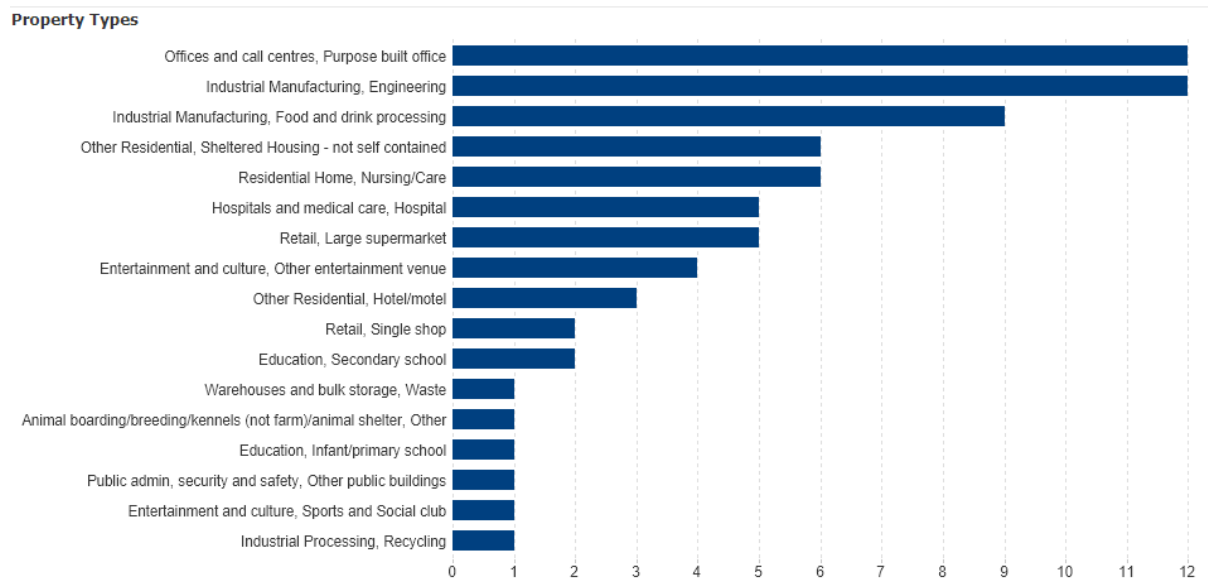
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)

Reducing the number of unwanted fire alarm signals is a priority for the area. Reducing this type of incident has a positive impact on local employers by decreasing the interruption to businesses and the wider community. This also reduces road risk in relation to blue light journeys made while responding to incidents that turn out to be a false alarm.

Covid restrictions has obviously affected the number of incidents this year as many premises have been closed however we will continue working on this priority with business owners and occupiers to continue this reduction which can be seen in the table below;

Geography/Reporting Year					
↑ Ward	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Mearns	23	23	36	24	18
North Kincardine	41	45	48	36	36
Stonehaven & Lower Deeside	19	32	29	17	18
Total	83	100	113	77	72

The chart below shows the property types where UFAS Incidents have occurred during this reporting period



In line with our policy for Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals, all operational crews provide advice and guidance to occupiers/owners every time that they attend an Unwanted Fire Alarm. In cases where there is no improvement we provide occupiers/owners with additional advice from our specialist Fire Safety Enforcement Officers to assist them in resolving the issue.



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Establishment –Kincardine and Mearns Area

Station	Establishment Figures
Inverbervie	8 (-2)
Laurencekirk	9 (-1)
Stonehaven	18 (-4)