

Notice of Meeting and Agenda



Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Venue: Virtual Meeting,

Date: Monday, 21 February 2022

Time: 11:00

Executive Director : Place

Contact:

Clerk Name: Democratic Services
Clerk Telephone:
Clerk Email: democratic.services@midlothian.gov.uk

Further Information:

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

Privacy notice: Please note that this meeting may be recorded. The recording may be publicly available following the meeting. If you would like to know how Midlothian Council collects, uses and shares your personal information, please visit our website: www.midlothian.gov.uk

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

2 Order of Business

Including notice of new business submitted as urgent for consideration at the end of the meeting.

3 Declaration of Interest

Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

4 Minute of Previous Meeting

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 4.1 | Minute of Meeting 20 December 2021 submitted for approval | 3 - 8 |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------|

5 Public Reports

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 5.1 | Review of Inspection Arrangements across Local Authority Areas | 9 - 10 |
| 5.2 | SFRS Midlothian Scrutiny Performance Report Q3 2021.22 | 11 - 34 |
| 5.3 | Police Scotland Midlothian Q3 Performance Report 2021/22 - To Follow | |
| 5.4 | LET 20211217 CO-149-2021 - SPA Update Correspondence to Local Authority Scrutiny Conveners | 35 - 38 |
| 5.5 | Letter from Commander Paton - for noting | 39 - 40 |

6 Private Reports

No items for discussion

7 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 31 May 2022, 11.00am - Subject to Midlothian Council Approval

Minute of Meeting

Police Fire and Rescue Board
Monday 21 February 2022
Item No: 4.1



Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
20 December 2021	11.00 am	Virtual Meeting by MS Teams

Present:

Councillor Curran (Chair)
Councillor McCall
Councillor Muirhead
Councillor Parry
Councillor Smail

In Attendance:

Midlothian Council	Derek Oliver, Chief Officer Place
	Janet Ritchie, Democratic Services Officer
Police Scotland	Chief Inspector Arron Clinkscales
	Superintendent Alwyn Bell
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Stephen Gourlay, Area Commander
	Andy Anderson, Group Commander
	Hilary Sangster, Area Commander
SpikeAware	Guest Speaker

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apology

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and there followed a round of introductions.

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Munro

2. Order of Business

The order of business was as amended with Item 5.3 taken as the first item as detailed below:

3. Declarations of interest

There was no declarations of interest received.

4. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of Meeting of 30 August 2021 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

5. Public Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	
5.3	SpikeAware	Verbal Update
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>A guest speaker from SpikeAware UK was in attendance at the meeting to raise awareness of SpikeAware UK and advised that spiking in the UK was on the increase. He provided details on what actions are being taken across the country and highlighted that there was no coordinated system and everyone was working differently with regards to this. He further advised that a lot of people do not report being spiked and that spiking does not just happen to teenagers but can happen to any age and also in many different ways.</p> <p>This was followed by a discussion on raising awareness and what could be done by Midlothian Council and Police Scotland to further highlight this in the community and with local license premises. The Police confirmed that the figures of Spiking was not seen as a big problem in Midlothian but did acknowledge that this may be due to these being under reported. He further confirmed that this was a work in progress with MCAT and Council Officers and would continue to be on the radar. He also advised that he would ascertain where the stats on this were recorded and report back. Mr Oliver also confirmed that the Licensing Officer would be working closely with MCAT and Police Scotland to do spot visits and to raise awareness with local License premises. It was also highlighted that the Serious Crime Division were collating all returns relating to this crime and that they hold weekly meetings to look at trends and that feedback is provided to local Divisions.</p> <p>During a demonstration of some of the anti-spiking kits it was acknowledged that this could happen to anyone not just young people. It was also raised that information from the Ambulance Service relating to this might be useful and Mr Oliver advised he would follow this up with the Ambulance Service and also</p>		

confirmed that letters were sent out to Licensees on 10 December 2021 with regards to raising awareness of spiking.

It was also highlighted that Licensees and Taxi Drivers have a duty of care and need to be aware that someone who may appear drunk could have been spiked.

The Chair thanked the Guest speaker for his input and the work that SpikeAware were continuing to do.

Decision

The Board noted:

- Aaron Clinkscales would ascertain where the stats relating to this were recorded and feedback.
- Mr Oliver to liaise with the Ambulance Service with regards to incidents relating to this.

Action

Chief Inspector Aaron Clinkscales / Derek Oliver, Chief Officer Place

Midlothian Fire Service

The Chair acknowledged that Stephen Gourlay was moving from his current post and thanked him for his commitment over the last few years and wished him every success in the future.

Area Commander Stephen Gourlay thanked the Chair and introduced Area Commander Hilary Sangster who was present at today's meeting and advised also on a new Depute Assistant Chief Officer.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Midlothian Fire Service Quarter 2 Scrutiny Performance Report	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Mr Gourlay acknowledged the delay in this meeting due to COP26 which passed relatively quietly and highlighted that although they did have a number of staff commitments to this event this did not have an impact on services in Midlothian.</p> <p>He further advised that Bonfire period had passed and the support provided by Police Scotland was not required as much as in previous years. He further advised on the Unwanted Fire Alarm consultation which was now concluded and the results had been analysed and presented to the National Fire Board who had chosen Option A which was the recommendation from the consultation and this would be formally communicated on Tuesday.</p> <p>He advised on some of the changes due to this and also that new domestic smoke detection legislation which will become live in February 2022. He further advised that he would circulate an Elected Members Briefing paper after the meeting which will provide some advice and guidance.</p> <p>Mr Gourlay highlighted it had been a pleasure working in Midlothian over the last 4 years and expressed his thanks to the fantastic partnership working across Midlothian and also acknowledged the excellent team he has worked with.</p>		

Thereafter Mr Gourlay responded to questions raised with regards to purchasing equipment and advised that the Fire Service would still fit these in high risk areas and that there was affordable systems for the general public. The Chair also highlighted that there is some funding available from Care and Repair Scotland for those who require support.

Mr Oliver advised that communication regarding this had been sent out internally and that this message was getting pushed on Social Media but he would follow up if external communication had been sent out.

The Chair welcomed the new Area Commander, Hilary Sangster to the Board.

Andy Anderson then presented the Quarter 2 Scrutiny report highlighting that this report provides information on prevention, protection and operational response activities within Midlothian for Quarter 2 of 2021-22 (1st July – 30th September 2021). He highlighted the summary of the key performance indicators and then provided a detailed update on each of the key indicators contained within the report. Mr Anderson highlighted that there was a data glitch on some of the figures and graphs on P17 of the report and advised that in year to date table at the bottom the figures under 2021/22 should read Midlothian 2 and as well as 1 for Penicuik it should also read 1 for Midlothian South but advised that this data glitch should be resolved for Quarter 3.

Andrew Anderson then provided an update on the Prevention and Protection Activities and Partnership Working as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Thereafter Officers responded to questions and comments raised which included the increase in the false alarms and if there are particular repeat offenders and Accidental dwelling fires and smoke damage and how these incidents are categorised. Also raised was unwanted fire alarms, duty holders and control measures in place as well as the maintenance and testing of these.

The chair thanked Steve Gourlay for his contributions and wished him well for the future.

Decision

The Board noted the content of the report

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Police Scotland Midlothian Quarter 2 Performance Report 2021/22	Police Scotland
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
Arron Clinkscales also expressed his congratulations and good wishes to Stephen Gourlay.		
Arron Clinkscales in presenting this report highlighted the main points contained within the Executive Summary and commented on the excellent partnership working with the Fire Service and Council services in the collaborating working in Midlothian and the significant work of MCAT. He then provided a brief update on each separate category of crime within the report advising that this was on a 5 year average highlighting some of the main challenges and also some of the good partnership working in Midlothian.		

Thereafter Officers responded to questions and comments raised by members including group 2 sexual crimes increase and the work done to address this, the high rate of domestic abuse in Midlothian and alarms going off at Straiton.

Officers advised that there was a new Domestic Abuse team advising that this was a supplement to what was already in place which meant an increase in Officers and this should make a difference in the coming weeks. Also advised was the issue with the fire alarms at Straiton and that work was ongoing at the moment to try and resolve this.

The Board noted their thanks to Chief Inspector McKenzie and welcomed Alwyn Bell to the board.

The Chair thanked everyone involved in COP26 and asked for statistics on responding to 911 calls and the allocation of resources. Mr Clinkscales advised that he could not advise on the stats at this time but outlined the call grading system as detailed below:

- Immediate call grading is where circumstances dictate that there is a threat to life or property;
- A prompt call is dispatched as soon as possible but within 4 hours;
- Local policing appointment which is a standard response and is a scheduled appointment;
- A non-attendance, non-incident resolution which is advice and partner signposting – resolution team at control centre or direct crime recording.

Mr Clinkscales advised that he would provide further details and stats on this at the next meeting.

Decision

The Board noted the contents of the Report.

The meeting terminated at 12.43 pm

St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Telephone: 0131-244 2342
Fax: 0131 244 2564
Robert.Scott2@gov.scot
www.gov.scot/fireinspectorate



HM Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland

HM Chief Inspector
Robert Scott QFSM MBA FFireE

Councillor Stephen Curran
Chair
Police and Fire and Rescue Board
Midlothian Council
Midlothian House
40-46 Buccleuch Street
Dalkeith
EH22 1DN

Our ref: SDAI/01/RDS

9 February 2022

Stephen.Curran@midlothian.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Curran

Review of Inspection Arrangements across Local Authority Areas

As you may be aware, HM Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI) has a statutory responsibility, detailed within the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, to provide independent scrutiny of the fire and rescue service and to give assurance to Ministers, and the people of Scotland, that the Service is operating in an effective and efficient manner.

The Act places specific responsibility on the fire and rescue service to engage with partners, and to produce local area plans that ensure local needs are considered and incorporated into service delivery arrangements. To ensure the Service is delivering against this obligation the Inspectorate has, since 2013, carried out regular inspections of service delivery at a Local Authority level. To date we have carried out a total of 15 of these inspections, averaging between 2 and 3 inspections per year.

As a recently appointed Chief Inspector I am keen to review existing practices and identify opportunities for improvement. Whilst I fully appreciate the rationale behind the current arrangement for local area inspection, I am concerned that to continue in this way it would take around 16 years to visit all 32 of Scotland's Local Authority areas. As such it is my intention to review this process and to move to a system of inspection that will allow me to provide assurance, and make relevant recommendations for improvement, across the entire country, in a greatly reduced timeframe.

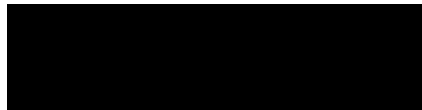
In carrying out this review I want to provide assurance that it will still be my intention to meet with relevant people from each of Scotland's Local Authorities, and to ensure that the fire and rescue service continues to work in partnership and deliver against its statutory obligations defined within the Act.

**Integrity, Objectivity
and Fairness**

I wrote to the Chief Executive and President of COSLA to advise them of this revision and to offer an opportunity to discuss this change should they wish to do so. I would also be delighted to discuss this with you, or any member of your team, should you feel that would be of benefit. If you would like to do so then please do not hesitate to contact me and I will arrange a briefing session via MS Teams.

In closing, I genuinely believe this review will provide a better opportunity to understand performance across Scotland within greatly reduced timescales. In addition, I assure you that HMFSI remain committed to ensuring that arrangements for the delivery of fire and rescue services in Scotland give appropriate consideration to local needs, and that SFRS play an appropriate part in partnership arrangements.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Robert D Scott.

Robert D Scott QFSM MBA FIFireE
HM Chief Inspector of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service



LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR MIDLOTHIAN



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Quarter 3 Report, 1st October – 31st December, 2021

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

Midlothian



DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Please ensure any external partners in receipt of these reports are aware of this.

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Introduction

This performance report provides information on our prevention, protection and operational response activities within Midlothian for Quarter 3 of 2021-22 (1st October – 31st December 2021) including information on the year to date figures.

The Scottish Government provides an overarching vision for public services. This vision supported by 16 National Outcomes, which demonstrate commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable growth. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes for Midlothian by contributing to the Community Planning arrangements across the area.

The national priorities for the SFRS are set out in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland. The SFRS Strategic Plan 2019-2022 outlines how the SFRS will deliver against these priorities and the outcomes against which this delivery can be measured.

The priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Midlothian 2021 contribute towards the priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan.

The aims of the local Fire & Rescue Service in Midlothian are to reduce fire deaths and to reduce injuries from fire and other emergencies in the community. We aim to achieve this by working in partnership, being pro-active and targeting our prevention and protection activities to where they are required, based on evidence.

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Midlothian 2021 identifies the following five objectives as the main focus for service delivery locally:

Local Priorities:

- As part of a Community Partnership approach, we will make people safer in their homes.
- We will promote Community Resilience whilst contributing to improved outcomes for people involved in non-fire emergencies.
- Together with our Community Partners, we will contribute to making roads in East Lothian safer.
- As part of a Community Partnership, we will challenge anti-social behaviour.
- In partnership, we will aim to reduce the occurrence and impact of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

Area Commander Hilary Sangster

Local Senior Officer for Midlothian, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders.

hilary.sangster@firescotland.gov.uk

Performance Summary

We measure how well we are meeting our priorities using 6 key indicators, depicted below

	Apr to (& incl.) Dec					RAG rating
Key performance indicator	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	YTD
All accidental dwelling fires	45	35	51	40	45	◆
All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))	15	13	7	15	3	●
All deliberate fires excl. dwellings	378	244	208	173	176	▲
Special Service - RTCs	30	25	28	12	22	◆
Special Service Casualties - All	44	24	40	21	24	◆
False Alarm - UFAs	276	290	301	215	335	◆

RAG rating - KEY

◆	RED DIAMOND	10% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
▲	YELLOW TRIANGLE	Up to 9% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
●	GREEN CIRCLE	Equal to or improved upon the previous equivalent quarter (or YTD period), or local target achieved.

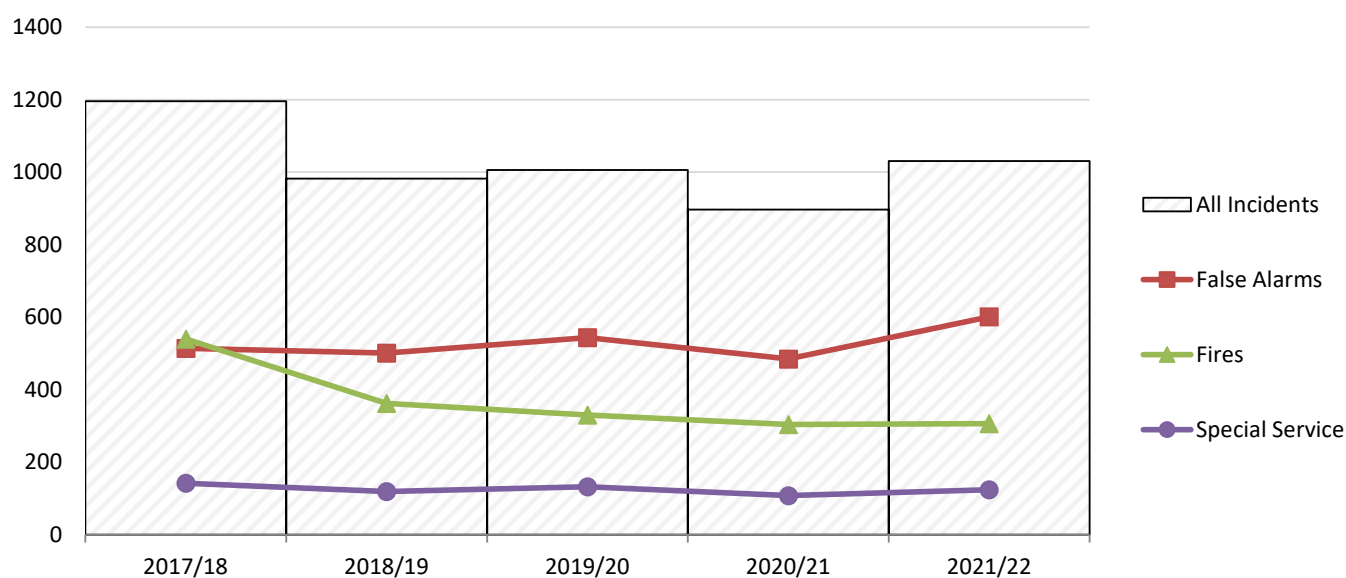
Note

Quarterly comparison RAG Rating = the reporting period compared to the average of the three previous quarterly reporting periods.
Year to Date RAG Rating = the cumulative total of all quarterly performance in current year compared to cumulative total of all quarterly performance in previous year.

Incident Overview

Year to date (1st April – 31st December 2021), the SFRS, responded to 1031 incidents in Midlothian, which is a increase of 134 incidents compared with the same reporting period last year.

The chart below illustrates incidents YTD attended within Midlothian council over the last 5 fiscal years



Local Risk Management and Preparedness

The Service must identify, prioritise and plan to meet the risks in each local community.

We said we would:

- train our staff to deal with our local risks
- gather and analyse risk information
- work with partners to mitigate risks
- deal with major events

Train our staff to deal with our local risks

All of our operational staff undertake routine and risk specific skill acquisition and maintenance training.

Gather and analyse risk information

All of our operational staff gather and analyse local risk information and operational intelligence, used in our preparations to resolve incidents.
We conduct Post Incident Debriefs to identify any lessons that can be learned from our preparedness and response to emergency events.
We use Urgent Operational Intelligence Briefings to inform our operational staff of any safety critical information.

Work with partners to mitigate risks

We continue to be an active member of the East Local Resilience Partnership.
We share information with local authority partners and other key stakeholders (e.g. Police Scotland) to ensure emergency event risks are mitigated.

Deal with major events

There were no major fire events or significant emergency events in this reporting period.

Reduction of 'All accidental dwelling fires'

Accidental dwelling fires can have devastating effects on our community. The SFRS is committed to keeping people safe in their homes. We share information with partners to make sure that the right people get the right information they need, particularly those who are vulnerable due to age, isolation or addiction. Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires contributes to The Single Midlothian Plan.

Results

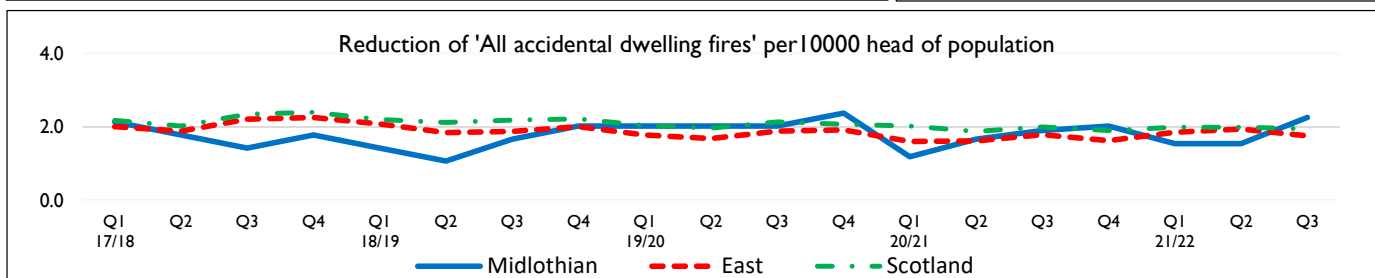
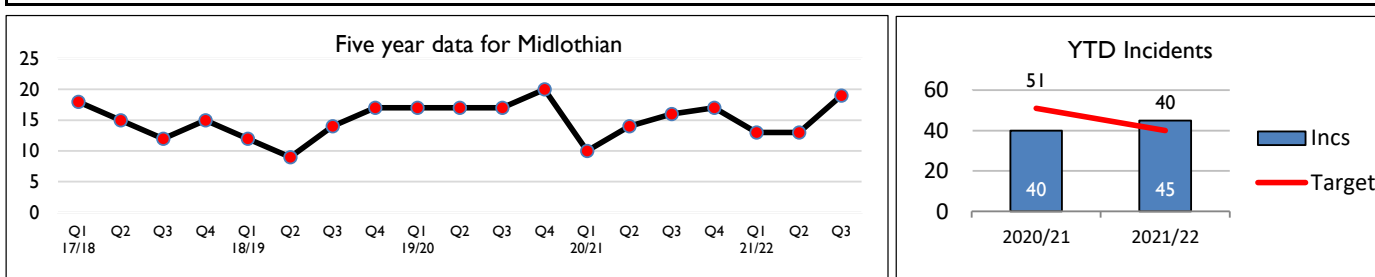
We aim to reduce Accidental Dwelling Fires in Midlothian by contributing towards the SFRS target of 10% reduction per year, over a three-year rolling period. During this quarter, we responded to 19 Accidental Dwelling Fires, which is a increase of 3 incident compared with the same period last year. The long-term trend based upon incidents/10,000 population shows Midlothian performing above the Scottish and East Service Delivery Area trend line.

Reasons

Of the 19 accidental dwelling fires attended, 12 occurred in single occupancy households. The main cause of fire is cooking (36%). 17 of the 19 fires had no fire damage, were limited to the first item ignited and/or confined to the room where the fire started and therefore, relatively minor in nature. 2 fires were of a more serious nature with fire damage over 1 or 2 floors. It is clear from this evidence to continue to target those mostly at risk in single occupancy households and to ensure those properties have working smoke detection. Unfortunately, 11 of the 19 properties did not have working smoke alarms fitted.

Actions

During this reporting period, 179 Home Fire Safety Visits were carried out within Midlothian. SFRS continue to work in partnership to educate and inform people about the fire and safety in the home. Appendix I 'Midlothian Prevention & Protection Activities' provides further details on our prevention activities.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 8	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Midlothian	45	35	51	40	45	
Penicuik	8	3	2	11	11	
Bonnyrigg	8	3	5	2	3	
Dalkeith	7	7	10	11	12	
Midlothian West	7	10	12	9	7	
Midlothian East	8	5	13	1	5	
Midlothian South	7	7	9	6	7	

Reduction of 'All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))'

Fire casualty and fatality rates provide an indication of the amount of serious, life-threatening injuries that occur due to fire. This can indicate not only the success of SFRS in reducing the number of life risk fires through community fire safety and similar activities, but also their success in response activity in saving lives.

Results

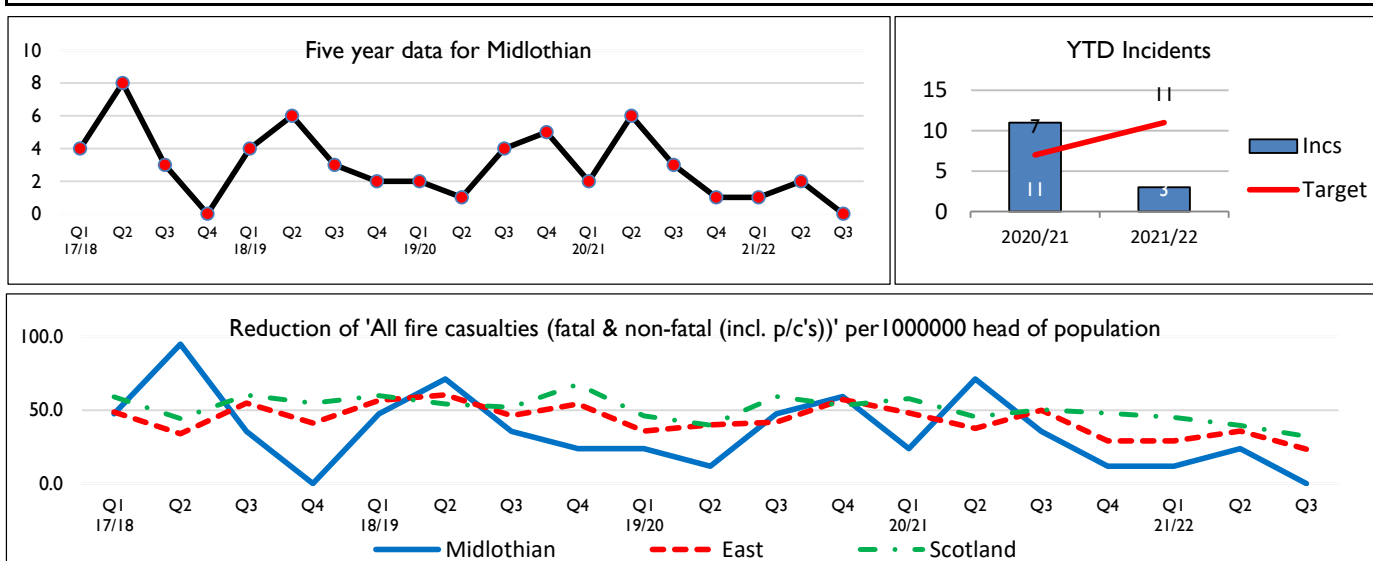
There were no reported fire fatalities, in the 3-month period. We aim to reduce Fire Casualties in Midlothian each per year, which contributes towards the SFRS target of reducing Fire Casualties by 5% per year, over a three-year rolling period. In this reporting period, SFRS dealt with 1 other casualties due to an accidental dwelling fire. This is a reduction of 2 when compared to the same period last year. The long-term trend based upon casualties/10,000 population shows Midlothian is performing below the Scottish average and East SDA average.

Reasons

Historically Midlothian has low numbers of casualties from fires and it is positive to note that this trend remains low.

Actions

During this reporting period, 179 Home Fire Safety Visits were carried out. We continue to work with our partners in Midlothian Council and seek opportunities with social work and NHS to target those most vulnerable and at risk from fire. We have provided 4 referrals for support to partner agencies. Appendix I 'Midlothian Prevention & Protection Activities' provides further details on current activities.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - I	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Midlothian	15	13	7	15	3	
Penicuik	2	4	0	2	2	
Bonnyrigg	1	1	3	0	0	
Dalkeith	2	2	3	7	0	
Midlothian West	0	1	0	1	0	
Midlothian East	1	4	1	0	0	
Midlothian South	9	1	0	5	1	

Reduction of 'All deliberate fires excl. dwellings'

Historically deliberate fire setting has not been a significant problem for the SFRS in Midlothian, however recent years have shown a distinct increase in this activity and there is a close link between deliberate secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour. In the main, deliberate fires are secondary fires categorised into refuse/bins, grassland or derelict buildings incidents. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting contributes to the Single Midlothian Plan.

Results

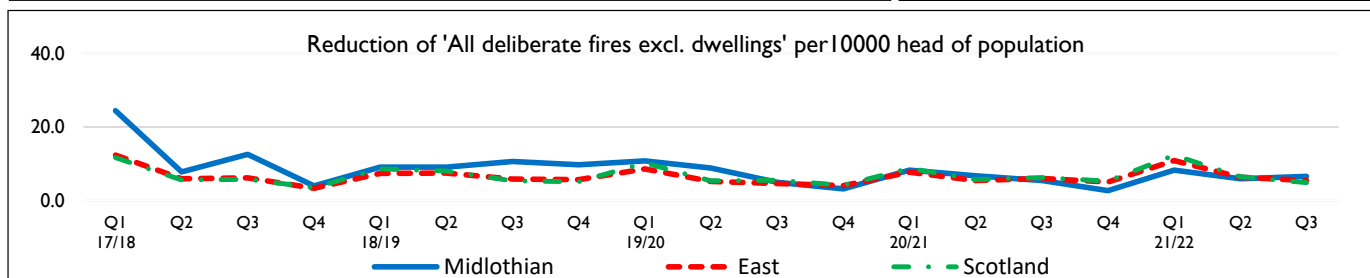
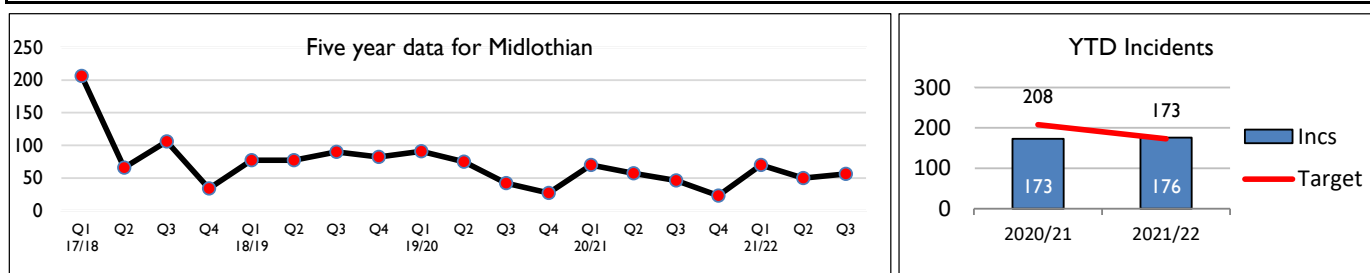
There were 56 deliberate fires within the reporting period, which is a increase of 10 when compared to the same period last year. The long-term trend based upon incidents/10,000 population shows Midlothian performing in line with the Scottish and East Service Delivery Area trend line.

Reasons

Of the 56 deliberate fire incidents, 24 (43%) of incidents were 'deliberate secondary fires' mainly, waste or scrubland, wood or crop. 14 (25%) involved refuse/bins including wheelie bins and recycling bins. 3 incidents involved vehicles and 1 incident in a fast food take away and 1 in a primary school.

Actions

SFRS continues to work in a restricted capacity with partner agencies attending the weekly TACG meetings. Emerging patterns continue to be monitored and prevention activities carried out. Various on-going preventative activities have been undertaken throughout the year targeting the issue of deliberate fire-raising. This includes various youth engagement events, Stair Aware activity, information sharing/visits to schools and other partnership work.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 29	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Midlothian	378	244	208	173	176	
Penicuik	46	14	8	13	10	
Bonnyrigg	24	19	26	32	23	
Dalkeith	92	58	40	32	34	
Midlothian West	53	30	28	26	19	
Midlothian East	86	60	70	39	58	
Midlothian South	77	63	36	31	32	

Reduction of 'Special Service - RTCs'

While much of this risk is out with the control of SFRS, responding to Non-Fire Emergencies such as Road Traffic Collisions is a key part of our intervention activities. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to drive continuous improvement in this area. Reduction of Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies contributes to the Single Midlothian Plan, number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents.

Results

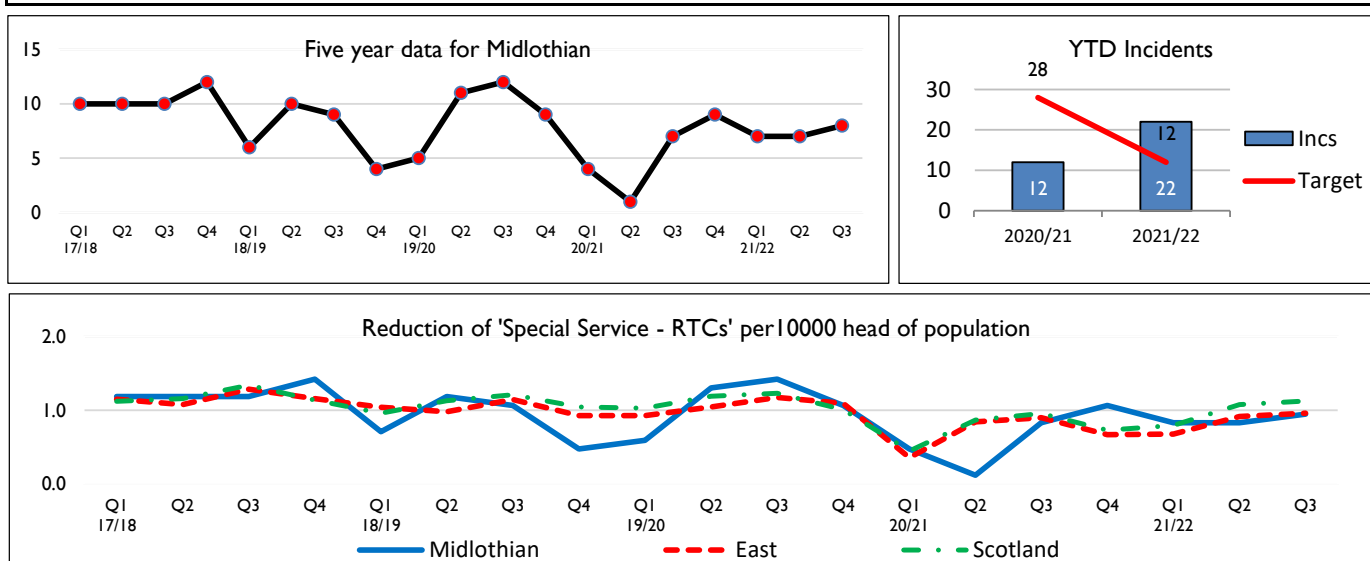
We attended 8 Road Traffic Collisions during this period; a increase of 1 from same reporting period last year. Per 10,000 head of population, Midlothian is performing in below the Scottish and East Service Delivery area trend lines.

Reasons

The SFRS only attend those RTC's they are requested to attend this number does not reflect the total number within Midlothian.

Actions

The SFRS is a member of a multi-agency approach to reducing Road Traffic Collision's and the associated casualties and fatalities. The continued delivery of Tomorrow's Driver programme targeting young people is an excellent partnership approach to reducing road traffic collisions.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 4	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Midlothian	30	25	28	12	22	
Penicuik	4	2	9	3	2	
Bonnyrigg	3	0	1	0	2	
Dalkeith	4	11	3	1	4	
Midlothian West	7	4	5	4	7	
Midlothian East	4	6	7	3	4	
Midlothian South	8	2	3	1	3	

Reduction of 'Special Service Casualties - All'

While much of this risk is out with the control of SFRS, responding to Non-Fire Emergencies is a key part of our intervention activities. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to drive continuous improvement in this area. Reduction of Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies contributes to the Single Midlothian Plan.

Results

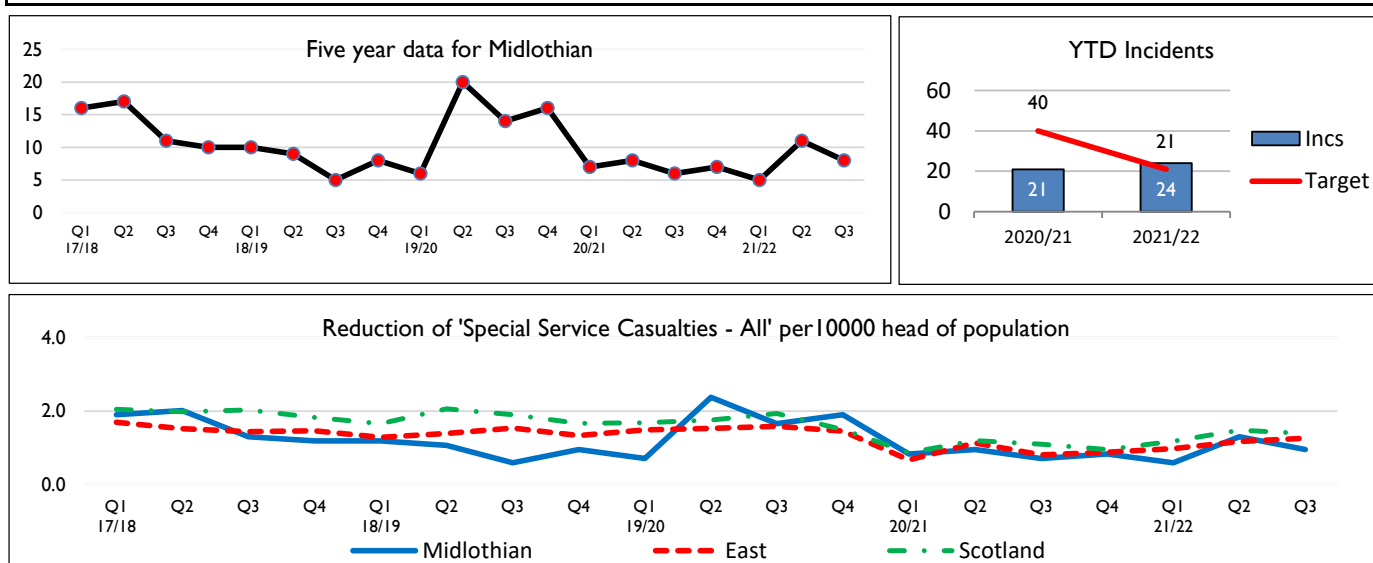
We attended special service incident types in the last quarter with a total of 8 casualties (1 fatal and 7 non-fatal casualties). This is an increase of 2 special service casualties in comparison to the same reporting period last year. Per 10,000 head of population, Midlothian is performing in line with the Scottish and East Service Delivery area trend lines.

Reasons

There was 1 fatal casualty from RTC incident type. There was 7 non-fatal casualties (5 from RTC incidents, 2 from effecting entry, co-responding or assisting other agencies).

Actions

The SFRS in Midlothian will continue to respond to the communities needs in terms of other non-fire emergencies with the overall objective of reducing casualty and fatality rates within Midlothian.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 4	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Midlothian	44	24	40	21	24	
Penicuik	10	4	10	6	3	
Bonnyrigg	5	0	5	1	2	
Dalkeith	5	6	3	5	4	
Midlothian West	6	7	8	3	5	
Midlothian East	13	4	13	6	4	
Midlothian South	5	3	1	0	6	

Reduction of 'False Alarm - UFAs'

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are defined as incidents where an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be connected with faulty or defective alarm equipment. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

Results

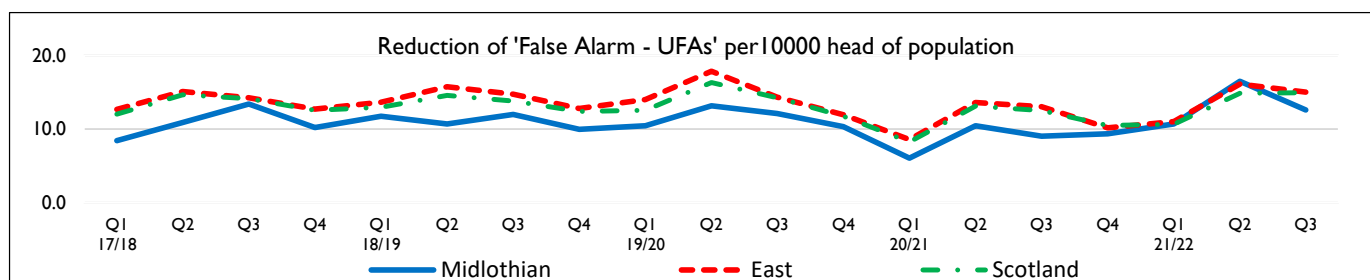
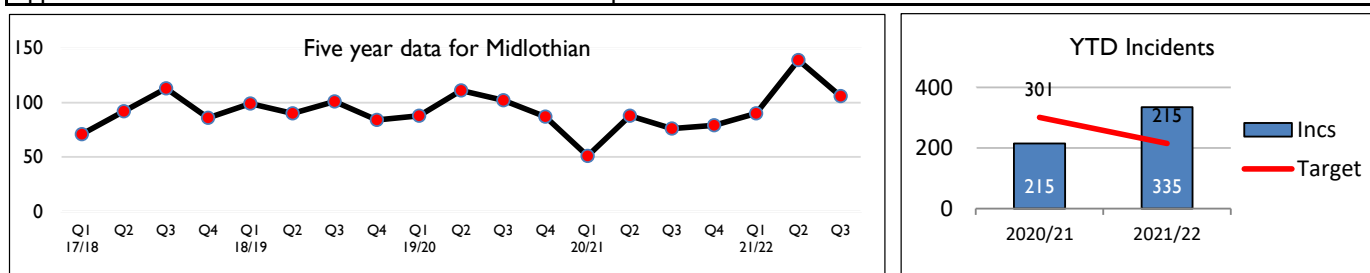
SFRS attended 106 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals incidents during this reporting period, which is an increase of 30 incident when compared to the same reporting period last year. Midlothian trend line is performing below the Scotland and the East delivery area trendline.

Reasons

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals were caused by the following: 49% faults/Defects & cause of actuation unknown, 21% due to contaminants (dust/insects/steam/aerosol), 14% accidental or good intent, 9% caused by fumes from people smoking, cooking or burnt toast, 5% were malicious breakage of call points and the remaining 2% fire alarm system testing.

Actions

We continue to monitor Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals calls and our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers work closely with premises to reduce further incidents. This includes discussing technological, procedural and management solutions in order to prevent future Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals incidents. In Midlothian, we are currently engaging with various premises giving advice to prevent further occurrences. The SFRS has now completed the consultation on 'Time for Change - Reducing Unwanted fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)'. Appendix I 'Midlothian Prevention & Protection Activities' provides further details.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 56	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Midlothian	276	290	301	215	335	
Penicuik	27	30	39	34	34	
Bonnyrigg	46	46	49	30	47	
Dalkeith	41	47	49	18	45	
Midlothian West	85	86	94	75	121	
Midlothian East	38	41	44	30	54	
Midlothian South	39	40	26	28	34	

Appendix 1

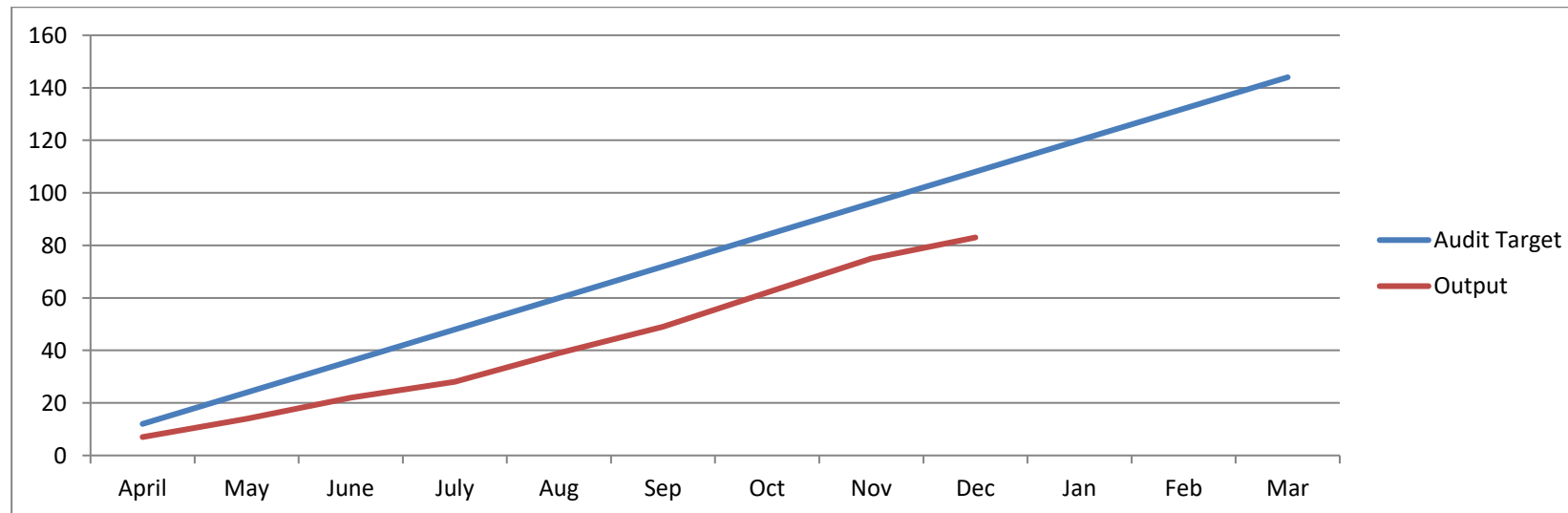
Midlothian Prevention & Protection Activities

Quarter 3: 1st October– 31st December 2021

Fire Safety Enforcement Audits

The figures represent the audit workloads delivered by the Midlothian Fire Safety Enforcement Officer (FSEO). Following the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Enforcement Framework, local deployment ensures compliance for relevant premises in terms of the Fire Scotland Act (2005) and associated Fire Safety Regulations. In line with the SFRS enforcement framework all of the area high risk sleeping premises receive an annual audit and this includes hospitals, care homes, houses of multiple occupation, hostels and hotels. We continue to experience the consequences of the COVID 19 lockdown, however, we are attending an increased number of premises for audit with our focus on those that present a higher risk of fire.

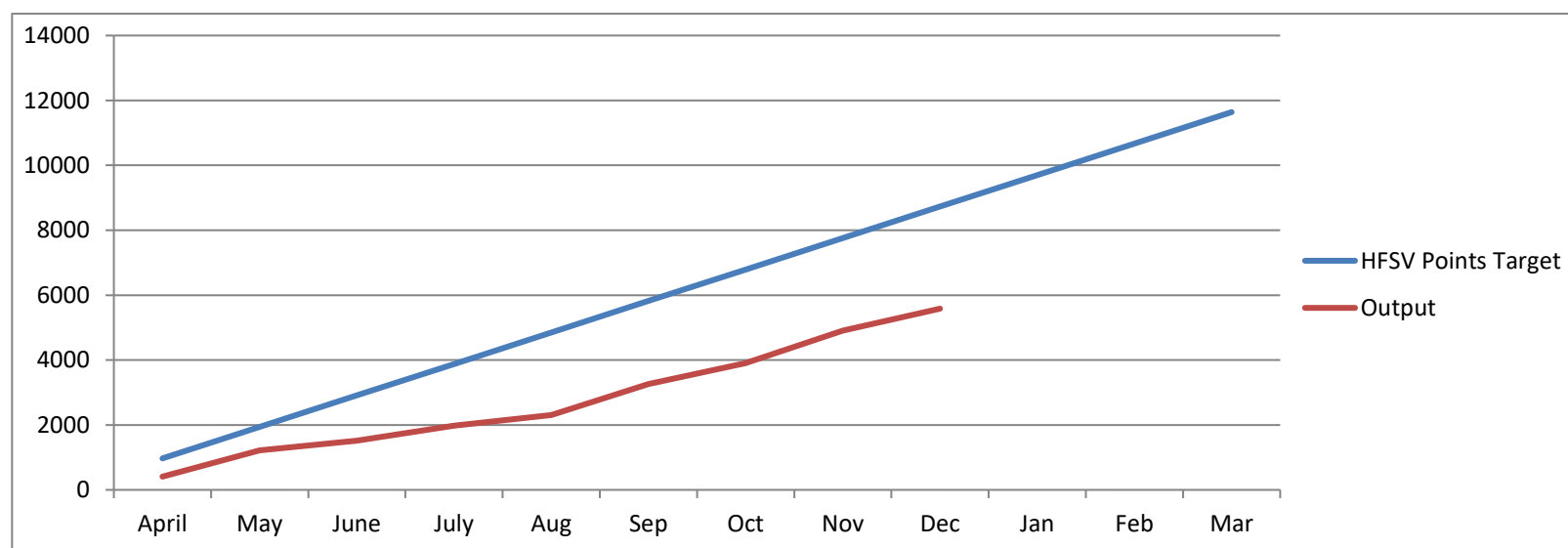
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target:	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144	144
Completed:	7	14	22	28	39	49	62	75	83				



Home Fire Safety Visits

The delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) is the corner stone of the SFRS Community Safety Engagement framework. By visiting households and providing fire safety advice and smoke alarms the numbers of dwelling fires and casualties will be reduced. To target the highest risk households across Midlothian a points allocation based on risk and associated target has been set (24 points per high, 8 per medium, 4 per low risk visit). Once again COVID restrictions limited opportunities to engage more widely and offer our HFSV services to all households with High Risk referrals only being offered a visit. A **total of 179** HFSVs were delivered in Midlothian in **Q3**.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target	970	1940	2910	3880	4850	5820	6790	7760	8730	9700	10670	11640	11640
Completed	408	1220	1520	1980	2308	3256	3904	4904	5584				



Total visits delivered by ward area 2021/22 YTD:

The following table gives a good indication of the coverage across Midlothian where the SFRS delivers Home Fire Safety Visits.

Ward Area	Visits delivered in Q1 2021/22	Visits delivered in Q2 2021/22	Visits delivered in Q3 2021/22	Visits delivered in Q4 2021/22
Bonnyrigg	22	28	30	
Dalkeith	22	27	33	
Midlothian East	20	16	18	
Midlothian South	19	21	25	
Midlothian West	17	31	35	
Penicuik	11	11	38	
TOTAL	111	134	179	

Partnership Working

Youth Engagement

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, our usual Youth engagement programmes have not been delivered. We have however, maintained contact with many partner groups, providing advice via social media and delivering thematic information such as autumn/winter safety and deliberate fire-setting. Further information within Thematic Action Plans section below.

During this period our local teams have been preparing Bonfire and Road Safety videos that will be delivered across the Midlothian. These presentations have been created in partnership with Police Scotland and the Local Authority.

Safeguarding

Close collaboration with our partner organisations across the public and third sector continues to generate our HFSV referrals. The local crews and Community Action Team (CAT) within Midlothian continue to proactively deliver the Adult/Child protection policy and procedure with referrals (AP1) made to Social Services during this period.

Thematic Actions Plans

During this period our safety initiatives focused on several areas including;

- Older & Vulnerable people
- Road Safety
- Safety in the Home
- Festive Safety
- Bonfire Night

Locals Fire crews supported by our Community Action Team delivered relevant safety messages to Schools, Youth and Community Groups and the wider public using various methods, including virtual platforms, direct engagement and social media.

Bonfire Night Activity

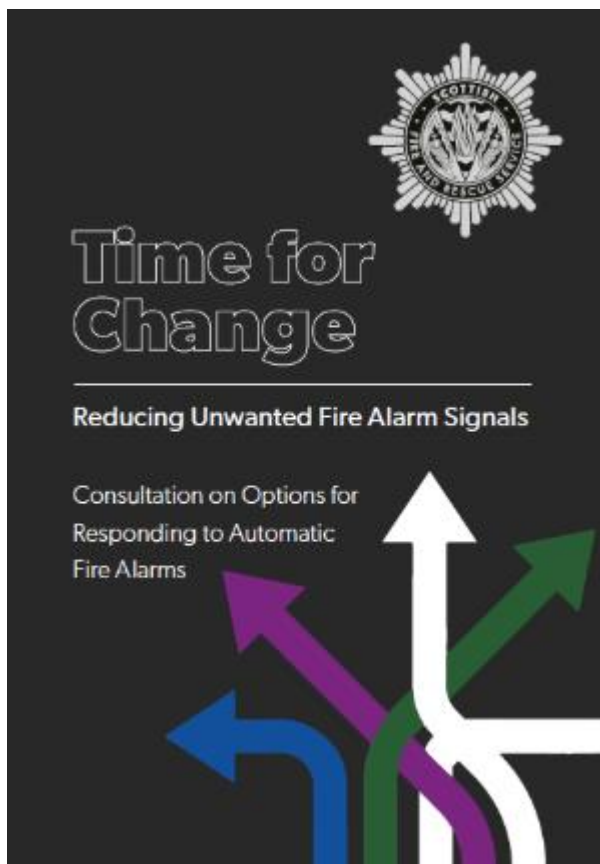
As a result of our prevention activities, delivered with partners, including Police Scotland and Midlothian Council, I am pleased to report that the immediate period leading up to and including the 5th of November was very quiet in relation to deliberate secondary fires, with only 4 incidents recorded on Bonfire night. Equally pleasing to report was that there were no physical or verbal attacks on Fire crews during this period.

Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) Update.

Further to previous updates re the above project which looked at options to reduce the number of UFAS calls SFRS respond to;

The 12-week public consultation concluded on 11 October 2021, with a total 567 responses received by the Service and around 200 engagement activities conducted during the consultation period to raise awareness and seek feedback.

After review of all feedback and other contributions, a preferred option detailing response criterion has now been approved by SFRS Board. Further engagement and communication with local stakeholders will commence early 2022. It is anticipated that this new response model will be implemented April 2023.



LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

TO: LOCAL AUTHORITY POLICE SCRUTINY CONVENERS

17 December 2021

CO/149/2021

Dear Police Scrutiny Convener

UPDATE FROM THE SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY

Following my last update of 28 September, and my recent attendance at the COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners Forum on 2 December, I wanted to write ahead of the festive break to provide an update on some policing issues.

Policing of COP26

I was very pleased to hear such positive feedback from Conveners about Police Scotland's approach to policing COP26. It is the Authority's view that the policing of COP26 was a significant success and Police Scotland delivered a safe and secure operation, while also ensuring people's rights to peaceful protest were upheld. I have congratulated the Chief Constable and every officer and member of staff who contributed to the conference and business as usual activity in the run up to, during and after the conference.

The Authority commissioned independent polling through the ScotPulse Public Opinion Survey to gain a better understanding and insight into the public's views of the policing of the conference. The polling targeted those living in the Greater Glasgow area. We have just received the results, which we will publish on the Authority's website next week. The first indications are of a high level of support for the policing approach taken by Police Scotland to both safety of the delegates and facilitating peaceful protest. This independent evidence adds to our initial assessment and Police Scotland's own data and reporting to us.

Call Handling Response Times

Police Scotland's call handling approach and performance continues to be closely monitored by the Authority. I understand Conveners' continued interest in this important area of policing. The most recent update on service delivery was reported and discussed at the Authority's Policing Performance Committee on 9 December. Conveners can read that update in full from the [Authority's website](#).

Police Scotland reported on a number of measures implemented to improve call handling. Unfortunately, the new variant of Covid will present significant challenges for police call answering times over the coming weeks. Staff absences are increasing and demand is remaining high. [Police Scotland is communicating these challenges to the public](#). This is a shared challenge for other emergency and public services. Police call handling will therefore pick up even more demand. Police Scotland will prioritise 999 calls and maintain the very good 'immediate' 999 response times. The Service is working to mitigate the anticipated lengthening wait times for 101 calls as much as possible and the Authority will continue to monitor this.

Review of Local Police Plans

DCC Kerr and I reported to the COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners Forum on Thursday 2 December that we expect to finalise the tripartite review of local police plans with COSLA in the New Year. I want to record my thanks to everyone who took the time to feed back their views and inform this important piece of work. The best practice and learning identified will play an important role in informing the next scheduled Local Policing Plan development cycle, which will begin in the Spring of 2022.

Dedicated SPA Local Authority Engagement Plan

A significant commitment of the Authority's [local authority engagement plan](#) is to offer regional meetings with Police Scotland's participation to local authority scrutiny partners. Dates for these meetings have now been identified and are listed below for your awareness:

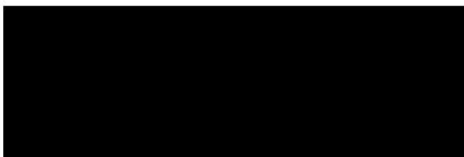
- North Division - Thursday 3 February between 9.30 - 12 noon
- East Division - Tuesday 8 March between 1.30 – 4.00 pm
- West Division – Wednesday 16 March between 1.30pm – 4 pm

Officials from the Authority will be in touch with more information and calendar invitations shortly, together with a call for any agenda items you would like to suggest. I look forward to engaging with you further at these meetings.

I hope you have found this update helpful. Should you have any feedback, please do not hesitate to get in touch with my office.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable festive break.

Yours sincerely



MARTYN EVANS
Chair

OFFICIAL

Copy to: Cllr Alison Evison, President, COSLA
Cllr Graham Houston, Vice Chair, COSLA
Cllr Kelly Parry, Community Wellbeing Spokesperson
Sally Loudon, Chief Executive Officer, COSLA
DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland, Local Policing

Date: 15th December 2021



Divisional Commander
The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Tel: 0131 561 6101
e-mail: Catriona.Paton@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you will be aware, I have recently commenced my new role as Divisional Commander of Lothians and Scottish Borders Division, following the retirement of Chief Superintendent John McKenzie.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

Let me first say that I am truly delighted to be taking on this new role as Divisional Commander for the Lothians and Scottish Borders and I am confident that my thirty-plus years of experience will help me as I listen, learn and lead staff to support our policing response in our local communities.

During my tenure with the police, which began in 1989 with Central Scotland Police, I have been a leader across virtually the full spectrum of policing functions both operationally and organisationally. This includes leadership roles within Response Policing, Community Planning, Community Policing, Criminal Investigation, Public Protection, Counter Terrorism and Organisational Change.

Already, in my short time within this division, I recognise the significant level of support, commitment and dedication you all give to Police Scotland and its staff, as together we seek to help those in need, sometimes critical need and address the issues which matter most to those in our diverse communities.

The last twelve months have continued to bring us all a myriad of challenges, not least in responding to the pandemic, but have also tested our continued resolve to meet the varying demands placed upon us including COP26 and more recently responding to the implications of the extreme weather we have experienced.

OFFICIAL

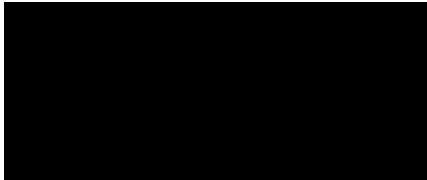
I have no doubt that the Christmas and New Year period will be another busy time for us all, where our priorities as always will be to respond effectively to those in need and to provide the community with protection and reassurance.

It is my intention in the New Year to build on this initial message by hopefully meeting with you, if need be virtually, and I look forward to having that opportunity to speak with you.

In the meantime I would like to extend my thanks for your continued support, and as always please do not hesitate to contact myself or your respective Local Area Commanders should you wish to discuss any areas of concern you may have in your communities / departments.

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year when it comes, and look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours faithfully



Catriona Paton

Divisional Commander
Lothians and Scottish Borders