

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday 10 August 2023

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Local Plan Performance Report – City of Edinburgh – April 2022 to March 2023

Executive/routine
Wards

1. Recommendations

1.1 To note the update from the Area Commander.

Dr Deborah Smart
Executive Director of Corporate Services

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Report

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Local Plan Performance Report – City of Edinburgh – April 2022 to March 2023

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on the Edinburgh City Area for the period April 2022 to March 2023.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 9 February 2023, the Council agreed that police and fire and rescue services' city-wide plans, policies and performance would be transferred from the Policy and Sustainability Committee to the Culture and Communities Committee for consideration with effect from 17 April 2023.
- 2.2 This provides a forum for Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to discuss major cross-cutting issues with the Council as well as fulfilling their duty to engage with the local authority.
- 2.3 This consideration provides a forum for Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to discuss major cross-cutting issues with the Council as well as fulfilling their duty to engage with the local authority.
- 2.4 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are required by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 to involve the local authority in the setting of its priorities and objectives for its area.

3. Main report

- 3.1 This report covers the period April 2022 to March 2023 and is part of a regular update from the Area Commander to the Council.
- 3.2 The report contains an overview and summary by the Area Commander on the following topics: Performance Summary, Accidental Dwelling Fires, All Fire Casualties, All Deliberate Fires, Special Services, Special Service Casualties and False Alarm.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Under the [Police and Fire Reform \(Scotland\) Act](#) the Council can monitor and provide feedback to the Area Commander.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 6.1. Not applicable.

7. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 8.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have discussed the content of the report with the Council and the information can develop as feedback is received.

9. Background reading/external references

- 9.1 Policy and Sustainability Committee 17 January 2023 – [Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Local Plan Performance Report](#)
- 9.2 The City of Edinburgh Council 9 February 2023 – [Decision Making Framework 2023](#)

10. Appendix

- 10.1 Report by the Area Commander.



LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

CITY OF EDINBURGH



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

Annual Performance Report, 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

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Introduction

This report provides information on our prevention, protection and operational response activities within the City of Edinburgh area during the period 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023.

The Scottish Government provides an overarching vision for public services. This vision is 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 SFRS can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes for the City of Edinburgh (CoE) by contributing to the Community Planning arrangements across the area.

The aims of the Local Fire and Rescue Service in the CoE are to reduce death and injury from fire and other emergencies in the community. To achieve this, we will work in partnership, be pro-active and target our prevention and protection activities to where they are required, based on evidence. Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the City of Edinburgh 2020, six priorities for the local Fire and Rescue Service to work towards have been identified:

1. Operational Resilience and Preparedness
2. Domestic Fire Safety
3. Reducing Unintentional Injury and Harm
4. Reducing Deliberate Fire Setting
5. Non-Domestic Fire Safety
6. Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (False Alarms).

These priorities, and our strategies for service delivery, are clearly aligned to the Community Planning structure, which supports the delivery of the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2018-2028 and the four Locality Improvement Plans.

The full Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Edinburgh can be accessed at:

www.firescotland.gov.uk/media/1144207/localfrplanedinburgh2020.pdf

Area Commander David Dourley,

Local Senior Officer for City of Edinburgh.

Performance Summary

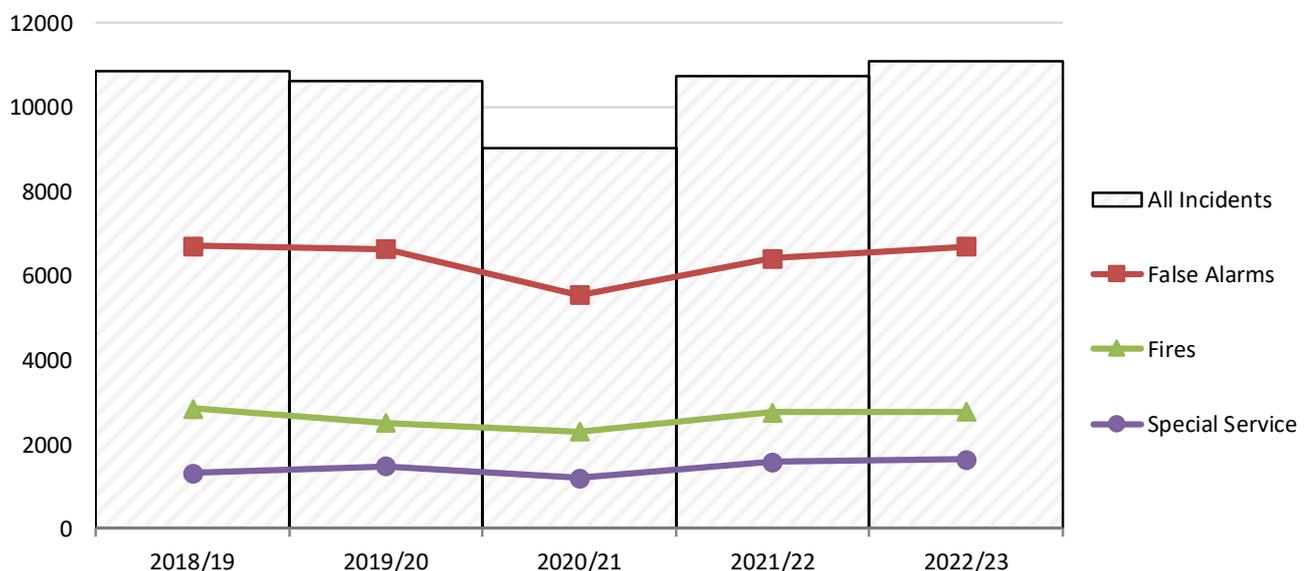
We measure how well we are meeting our priorities using 6 key indicators, depicted below

Key performance indicator	Apr to (& incl.) Mar					RAG rating
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	YTD
All accidental dwelling fires	448	438	369	398	366	●
All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))	131	106	73	74	106	◆
All deliberate fires excl. dwellings	1342	1195	1218	1485	1437	●
Special Service - RTCs	107	118	81	92	99	▲
Special Service Casualties - All	196	224	111	154	161	▲
False Alarm - UFAs	4011	4110	2996	3673	3908	▲

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
<p>Quarterly comparison RAG Rating = the reporting period compared to the average of the three previous quarterly reporting periods.</p> <p>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.</p>
Incident Overview
<p>Year to date (1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023), the SFRS responded to 11096 incidents in Edinburgh, which is an increase of 355 incidents compared with the same reporting period last year.</p>

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



Progress on local fire & rescue plan priorities

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

The former Jenners Building fire incident on 23/1/23 and the Petrel Ship special service incident at Imperial Dock, Leith on 22/3/2023 were 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 Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2018-2028 and the four Locality Improvement Plans.

Results

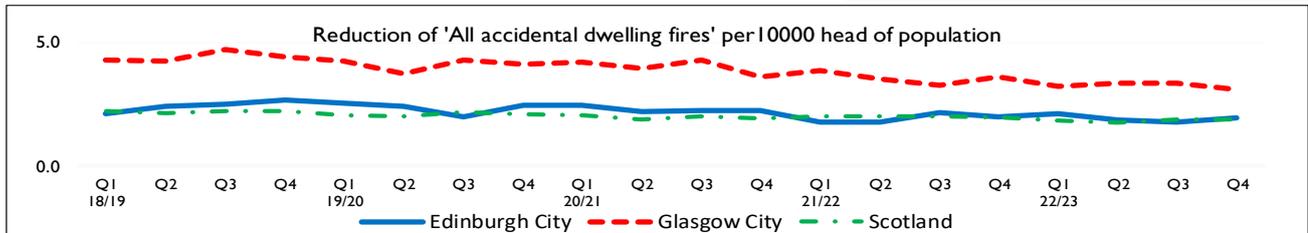
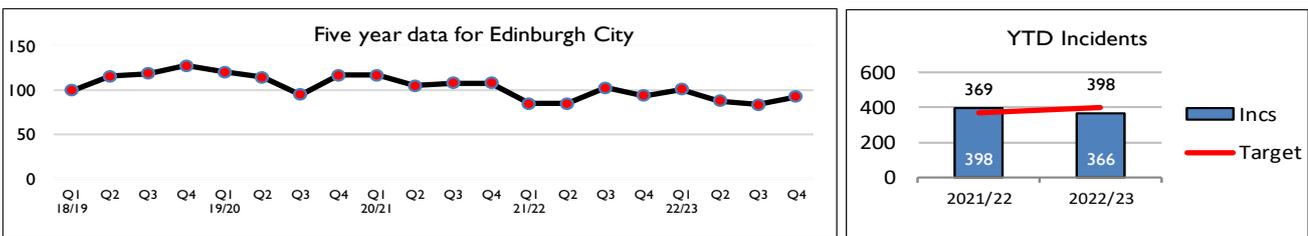
We aim to reduce Accidental Dwelling Fires in City of Edinburgh by contributing towards the SFRS target of 5% reduction per year, over a three-year rolling period. During this quarter, we responded to 366 Accidental Dwelling Fires, which is a reduction of 32 incident compared with the same period last year. The long-term trend based upon incidents/10,000 population shows Edinburgh performing well below Glasgow but in line with the wider Scotland trend line.

Reasons

Of the 366 accidental dwelling fires attended, 208 (57%) occurred in tenement buildings or purpose built flats and 63 (19%) of the 366 incidents occurred in single occupancy dwellings. The main cause of fire is cooking (39%). 207 of 366 incidents 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. 7 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 flats and single occupancy households and to ensure those properties have working smoke detection. Unfortunately, 123 from the 366 domestic properties did not have working smoke alarms fitted.

Actions

During this reporting period, 2035 Home Fire Safety Visits were carried out within City of Edinburgh. SFRS continue to work in partnership to educate and inform people about fire and safety, in the home. Appendix I 'Prevention & Protection Activities' provides further details.



YTD ward ave. for Edinburgh City - 22	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Edinburgh City	448	438	369	398	366	
Almond	21	18	18	29	14	
Pentland Hills	19	29	21	30	23	
Drum Brae & Gyle	15	19	14	10	13	
Forth	32	37	34	31	27	
Inverleith	26	20	19	16	18	
Corstorphine & Murrayfield	12	14	9	7	4	
Sighthill & Gorgie	36	43	33	26	26	
Colinton & Fairmilehead	17	17	8	13	17	
Fountainbridge & Craiglockhart	17	18	15	17	20	
Morningside	23	19	19	15	10	
City Centre	33	26	38	35	40	
Leith Walk	39	40	36	38	25	
Leith	30	35	19	22	22	
Craigentinny & Duddingston	27	24	19	18	19	
Southside & Newington	37	23	28	32	28	
Liberton & Gilmerton	32	28	22	26	22	
Portobello & Craigmillar	32	28	17	33	38	

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 our success in response activity in saving lives.

Results

We aim to reduce Fire Casualties in Edinburgh 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 150 non fatal fire casualties primarily due to accidental and deliberate dwelling fires. The figures show an increase of 36 compared with the same reporting period last year. The long-term trend based upon casualties/10,000 population shows Edinburgh is performing slightly above the Scottish average trend line.

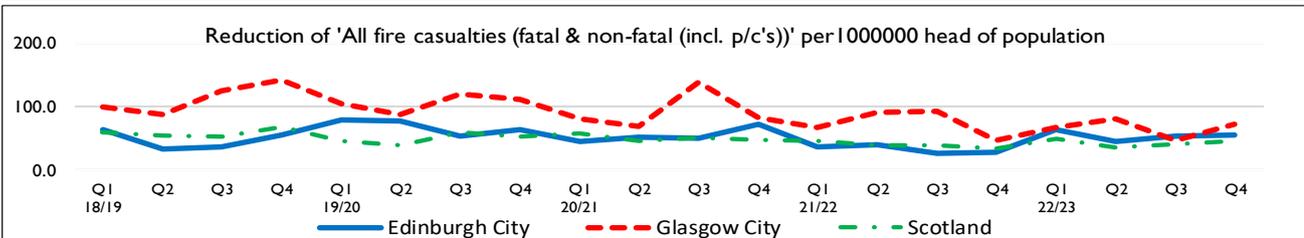
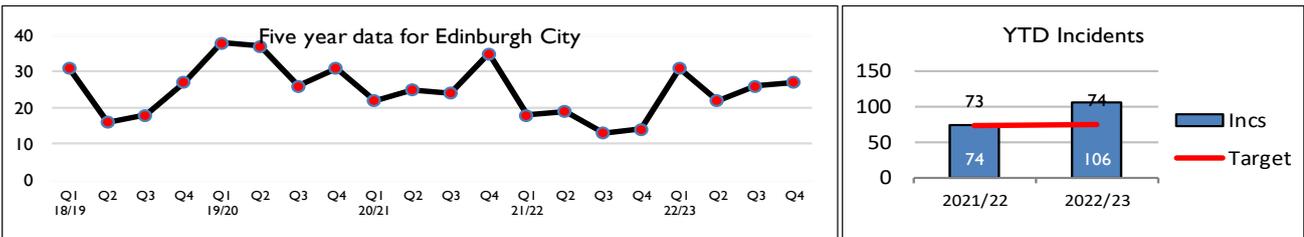
Tragically, we have suffered a fatality of one of our own Firefighters. FF Barry Martin, who died on 27th January 2023 as a result of injuries sustained whilst dealing with a fire in the former Jenners building.

Reasons

Historically, City of Edinburgh has relatively low numbers of casualties from fires compared with Glasgow. The non fatal casualties were as result of dwelling fires. The main contributory factors were cooking and smoking materials.

Actions

During this reporting period, 2035 Home Fire Safety Visits were carried out. We continue to work with our partners in Edinburgh Council and seek opportunities with social work and NHS to target those most vulnerable and at risk from fire. Appendix I 'Prevention & Protection Activities' provides further details on current activities.



YTD ward ave. for Edinburgh City - 6	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Edinburgh City	131	106	73	74	106	
Almond	6	11	8	6	1	
Pentland Hills	10	4	8	4	9	
Drum Brae & Gyle	5	5	5	5	2	
Forth	6	5	5	5	9	
Inverleith	10	3	1	3	0	
Corstorphine & Murrayfield	0	2	2	1	0	
Sighthill & Gorgie	12	11	8	7	15	
Colinton & Fairmilehead	1	7	2	0	3	
Fountainbridge & Craiglockhart	9	3	2	2	7	
Morningside	8	4	2	9	4	
City Centre	4	10	14	5	7	
Leith Walk	12	14	8	4	16	
Leith	15	7	0	3	6	
Craigentinny & Duddingston	17	7	4	7	3	
Southside & Newington	5	2	0	4	12	
Liberton & Gilmerton	8	4	3	5	4	
Portobello & Craigmillar	3	7	1	4	8	

Reduction of 'All deliberate fires excl. dwellings'

Deliberate fire setting has historically, been a problem for the SFRS in various Edinburgh ward areas. 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.

Results

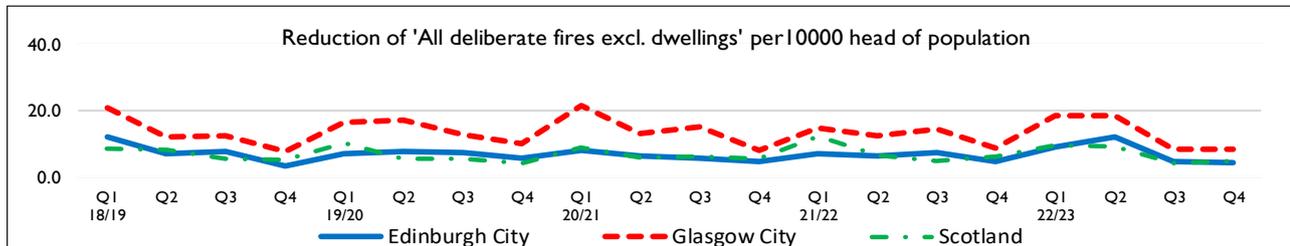
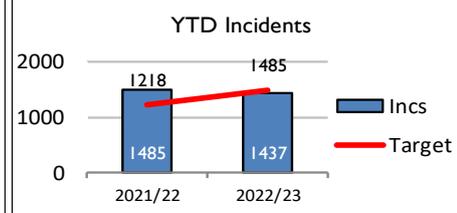
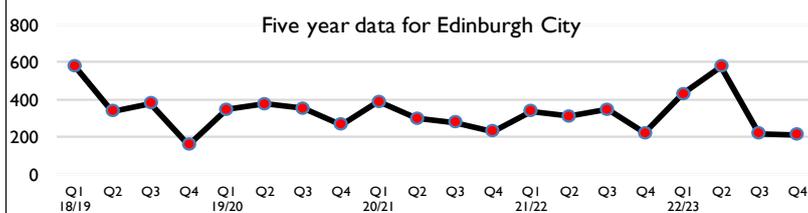
There were 1437 deliberate fires within the reporting period, which is a reduction by 48 when compared to the same period last year. The long-term trend based upon incidents/10,000 population shows Edinburgh is performing slightly below the Scottish trend line.

Reasons

Of the 1437 deliberate fire incidents, 39% involved refuse/bins (including wheelie bins and recycling bins); 33% of incidents were 'deliberate secondary fires' mainly, waste or scrubland, wood or crop; 28% involved Commercial buildings, outdoor structures, garden/street furniture and non domestic property and the remaining (6%) incidents involved vehicles.

Actions

The SFRS continue to work with our partners and any emerging themes are managed in partnership with relevant intervention 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, thematic actions, information sharing/visits to schools and other partnership work.



YTD ward ave. for Edinburgh City - 85	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Edinburgh City	1342	1195	1218	1485	1437	
Almond	116	109	112	108	80	
Pentland Hills	108	96	101	134	102	
Drum Brae & Gyle	42	25	18	15	23	
Forth	169	147	130	177	209	
Inverleith	47	50	54	66	73	
Corstorphine & Murrayfield	21	40	37	11	26	
Sighthill & Gorgie	107	80	99	146	162	
Colinton & Fairmilehead	31	24	35	31	27	
Fountainbridge & Craiglockhart	28	20	11	31	28	
Morningside	26	17	14	18	15	
City Centre	81	60	34	54	49	
Leith Walk	54	42	73	53	43	
Leith	68	38	50	73	28	
Craigtintny & Duddingston	70	73	89	113	112	
Southside & Newington	38	33	25	41	53	
Liberton & Gilmerton	76	146	118	122	121	
Portobello & Craigmillar	260	195	218	292	286	

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 Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2018-2028 and the four Locality Improvement Plans with regards the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents.

Results

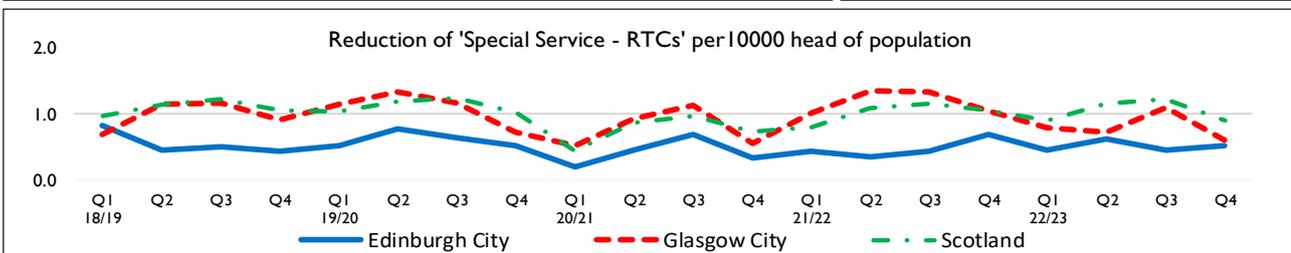
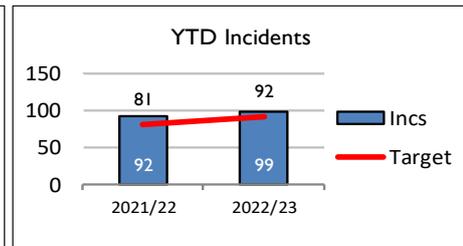
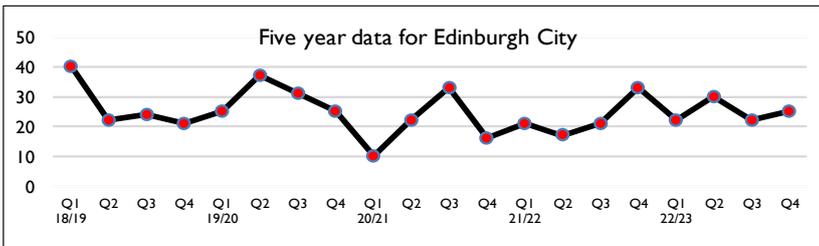
We attended 99 Road Traffic Collisions which is an increase of 7 when compared with the same reporting period last year. Per 10,000 head of population, Edinburgh is performing below the Scottish and Glasgow trend lines.

Reasons

The SFRS only attend RTC's they are requested to attend, primarily where persons are trapped or involved. The figures tabled does not reflect the total number of vehicle accidents within the City of Edinburgh.

Actions

The SFRS is key partner in the multi-agency approach to reducing Road Traffic Collision's and the associated casualties and fatalities. The continued delivery of the Risk Factory -Young Driver programme targeting young people is an excellent partnership approach to reducing road traffic collisions.



YTD ward ave. for Edinburgh City - 6	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Edinburgh City	107	118	81	92	99	
Almond	14	24	8	16	11	
Pentland Hills	13	7	11	7	12	
Drum Brae & Gyle	3	3	5	4	3	
Forth	5	5	3	1	3	
Inverleith	6	4	4	9	6	
Corstorphine & Murrayfield	1	5	1	3	3	
Sighthill & Gorgie	10	8	6	5	9	
Colinton & Fairmilehead	4	9	10	5	8	
Fountainbridge & Craiglockhart	6	5	2	2	2	
Morningside	4	3	2	2	4	
City Centre	12	9	5	5	9	
Leith Walk	2	1	1	3	0	
Leith	2	2	2	5	4	
Craigentinny & Duddingston	4	6	5	3	4	
Southside & Newington	5	8	4	8	6	
Liberton & Gilmerton	6	8	7	7	4	
Portobello & Craigmillar	10	11	5	7	11	

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 Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2018-2028 and the four Locality Improvement Plans.

Results

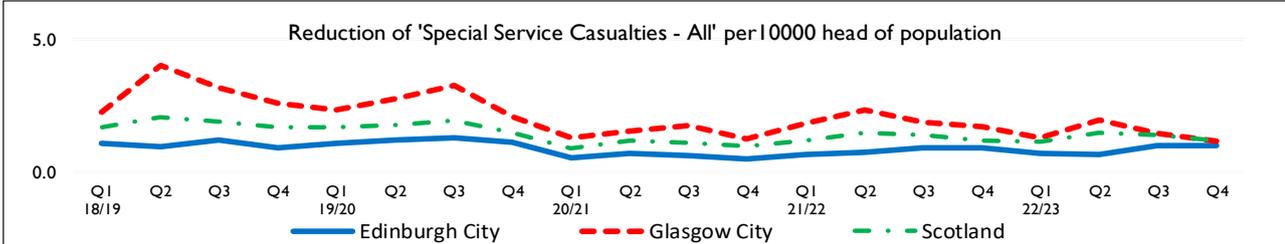
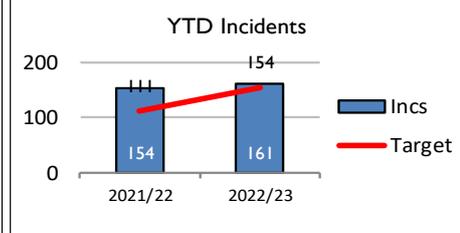
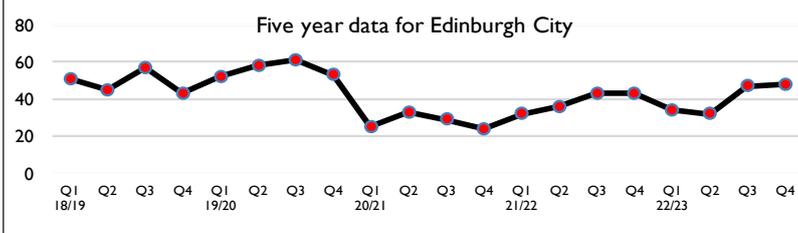
We attended special service incident types in this reporting period with a total of 161 casualties (34 fatal and 127 non-fatal casualties). This is a increase of 7 when compared with the same reporting period last year. Per 10,000 head of population, Edinburgh is performing below the Scottish and Glasgow area trend lines.

Reasons

From the 165 casualties, 65 casualties were from co-responding or assisting other agencies incidents, 61 casualties from RTC/transport incidents and 7 casualties from water. The remaining 32 casualties were from other misc. incidents including hazardous materials and suicide/attempts.

Actions

The SFRS in the City of Edinburgh will continue to respond to the communities needs in terms of other non-fire emergencies with the overall objective of reducing fatal and non fatal casualties.



YTD ward ave. for Edinburgh City - 9	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Edinburgh City	196	224	111	154	161	
Almond	13	15	4	19	14	
Pentland Hills	15	17	8	8	7	
Drum Brae & Gyle	8	10	4	9	3	
Forth	9	8	3	8	14	
Inverleith	12	10	1	9	17	
Corstorphine & Murrayfield	3	12	3	2	4	
Sighthill & Gorgie	14	20	8	15	8	
Colinton & Fairmilehead	9	8	8	5	8	
Fountainbridge & Craiglockhart	10	7	5	3	4	
Morningside	7	13	7	3	3	
City Centre	26	23	13	16	13	
Leith Walk	9	11	7	7	4	
Leith	9	15	4	14	19	
Craigtinny & Duddingston	21	22	15	14	16	
Southside & Newington	12	9	8	8	6	
Liberton & Gilmerton	5	11	6	5	16	
Portobello & Craigmillar	14	13	7	9	5	

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

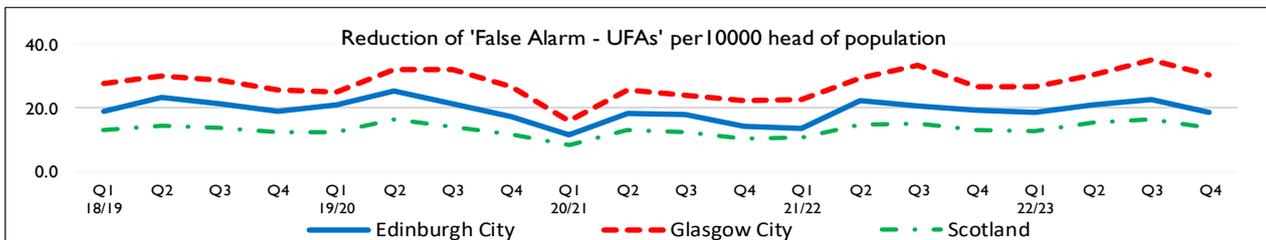
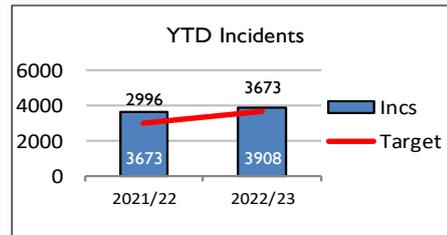
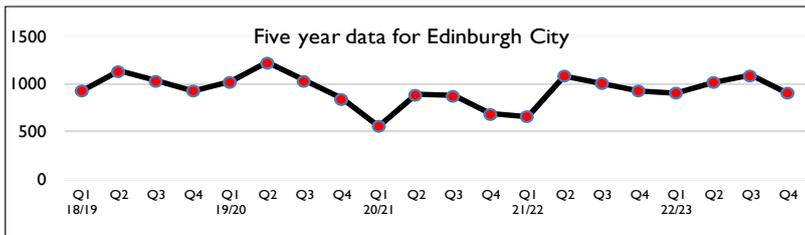
SFRS attended 3908 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals incidents during this reporting period, which is an increase of 235 incidents when compared to the same reporting period last year. The City of Edinburgh trend line is performing above the Scotland but below the Glasgow area trendlines.

Reasons

The primary reason for Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals was alarm system faults/defects & cause of actuation unknown (38%). Worthy of note is that 110 incident attendances were due to malicious breakage of a break glass call point. Other reasons included accidental or good intent activations, the system being carelessly set off, contaminants (dust/insects/steam/aerosol) and fumes from people smoking, cooking or burning toast. Finally external source for fire, smoke or contamination activating the fire alarm system.

Actions

We continue to monitor Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals calls and our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers work closely with premises responsible persons to reduce further incidents. This includes discussing technological, procedural and management solutions in order to prevent future Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals incidents. In Edinburgh, we are currently engaging with various premises responsible persons giving advice to prevent further occurrences. Note: Appendix I 'Prevention & Protection Activities' provides further details.



YTD ward ave. for Edinburgh City - 230	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Edinburgh City	4011	4110	2996	3673	3908	
Almond	175	215	188	181	232	
Pentland Hills	101	121	65	77	92	
Drum Brae & Gyle	140	130	81	83	115	
Forth	103	118	83	135	115	
Inverleith	206	222	160	170	199	
Corstorphine & Murrayfield	85	101	70	83	101	
Sighthill & Gorgie	176	175	157	174	198	
Colinton & Fairmilehead	48	65	37	48	44	
Fountainbridge & Craiglockhart	229	177	151	178	185	
Morningside	222	226	167	185	196	
City Centre	1409	1341	893	1260	1313	
Leith Walk	136	157	94	125	139	
Leith	131	167	143	139	138	
Craigentinny & Duddingston	60	87	50	83	86	
Southside & Newington	429	389	338	401	422	
Liberton & Gilmerton	173	216	170	190	179	
Portobello & Craigmillar	188	203	149	161	154	

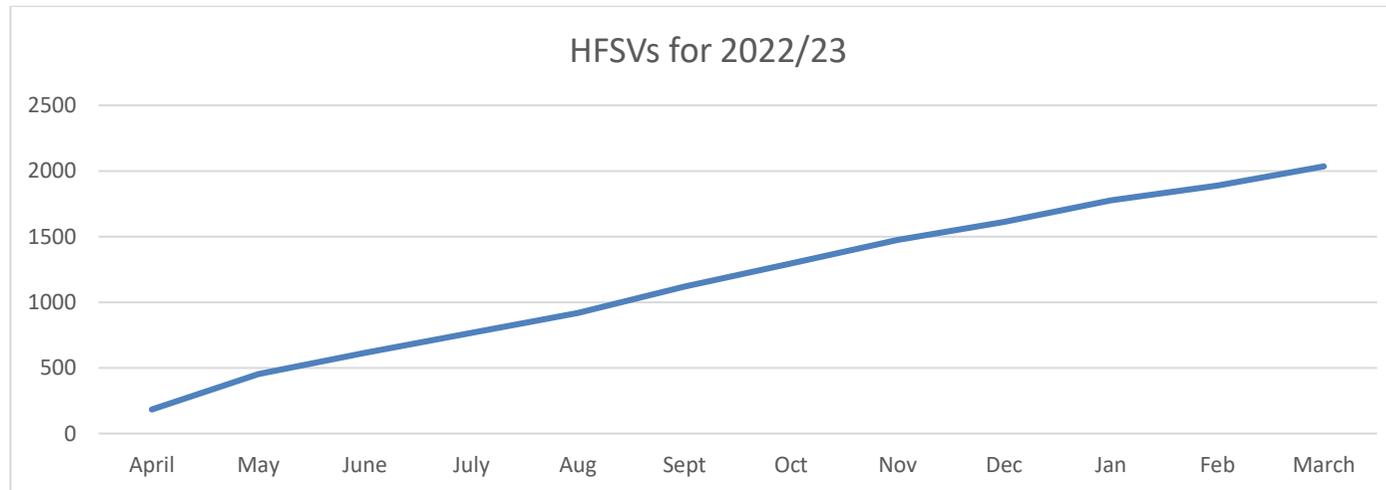
Appendix 1 – Prevention & Protection Activities

April 1st 2022 – March 31st 2023

Home Fire Safety Visits

Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) are key to reducing accidental dwelling fires and are undertaken mainly by operational fire crews. For people with more complex support needs, our Community Action Team undertake joint visits with partner agencies. By visiting households and providing fire safety advice and free smoke and heat alarms, we reduce the potential for accidental dwelling fires and fire casualties. We generate HFSVs from 3 main sources: (i) through our website/HFSV freephone hotline; (ii) referrals from partner agencies; and (iii) following an incident at a domestic premises (post domestic incident response or PDIR). In terms of performance, the last 3 years have been adversely affected by the Covid pandemic, with a corresponding downturn in HFSV referrals from partners. Work is underway to reinvigorate the referral process.

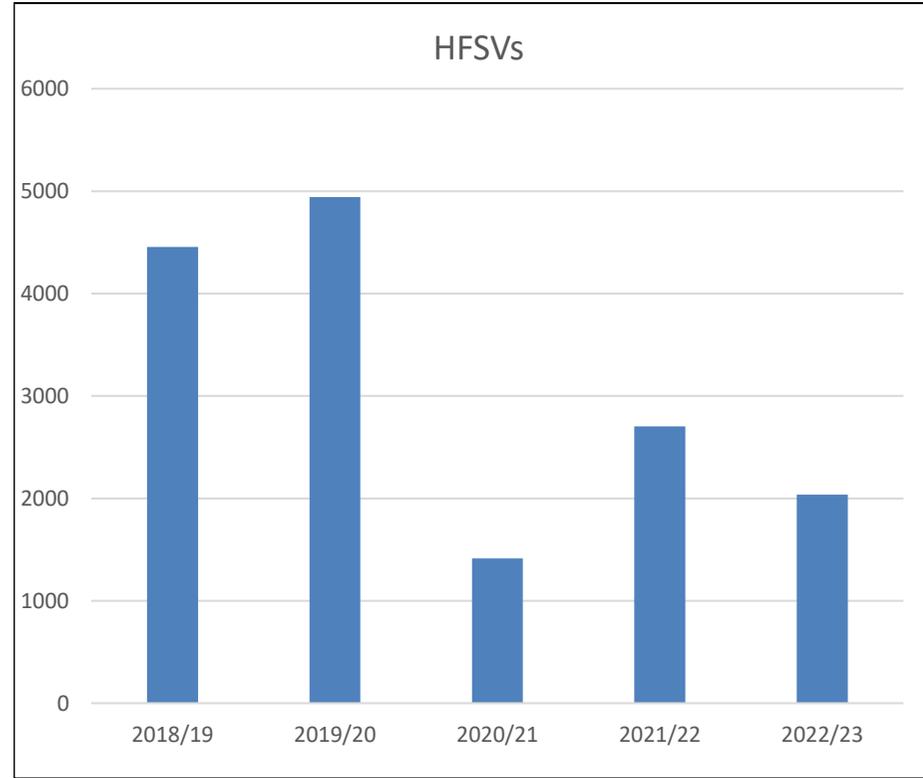
2022/23	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
HFSVs	183	269	163	151	152	202	175	181	137	164	113	145	2035



Visits by Ward area

Ward Area	Visits delivered
Almond	95
City Centre	124
Colinton/Fairmilehead	72
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	69
Craigtinny/Duddingston	88
Drum Brae/Gyle	82
Forth	167
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	93
Inverleith	124
Leith	127
Leith Walk	132
Liberton/Gilmerton	154
Meadows/Morningside	121
Pentland Hills	67
Portobello/Craigmillar	171
Sighthill/Gorgie	204
Southside/Newington	145
TOTAL	2035

Year on year comparison

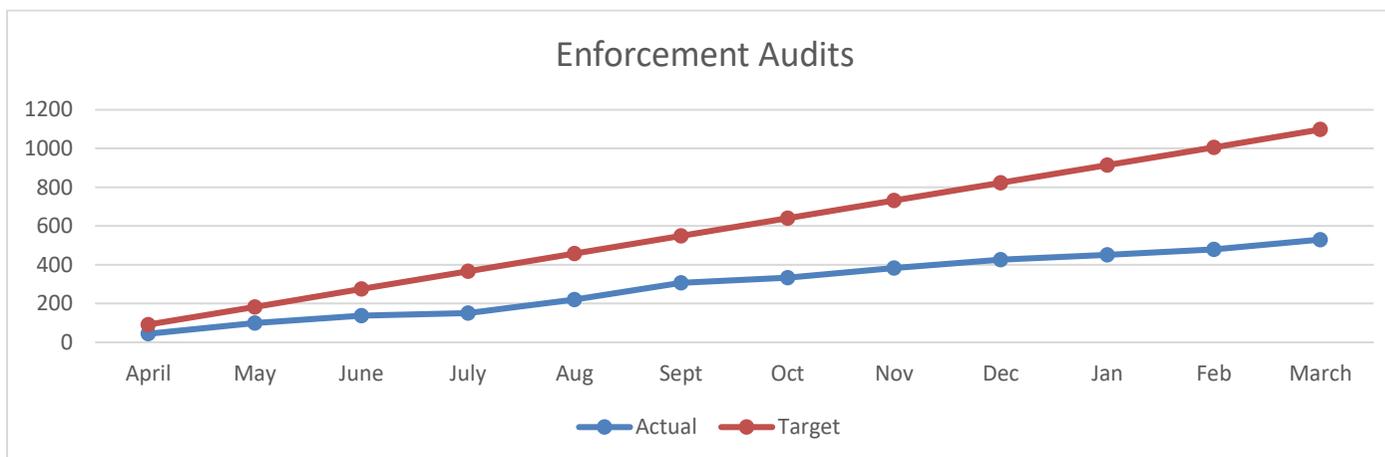


Fire Safety Enforcement Audits

Fires in the home account for the majority of building fires and fire casualties. However, fires in non-domestic (commercial) property have the potential to result in multiple casualties/fatalities and have a detrimental effect on the built environment, local businesses, employment, the provision of critical services and our heritage. Evidence suggests that business premises affected by a serious fire experience a high failure rate.

Our annual risk-based programme of fire safety enforcement audits runs from April to March and targets “relevant premises” that fall within the scope of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. The City of Edinburgh annual target is 1098 audits, based on a full establishment of 9 enforcement staff. During 2022-23, the team was significantly understaffed, due mainly to a large number of retirements across the Service. As a result, establishment levels were often around 50%. New staff are required to attend a 9 week training course and shadow more experienced officers until competent, further impacting on performance.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Completed audits	44	55	38	13	71	86	26	51	42	26	27	51	530



Partnership Working

- Participation in the Edinburgh Partnership Survey Group: in-person street/home survey of approx. 4000 people (1000 per quarter) to evaluate delivery against, and seek views on, the Edinburgh Partnership LOIP priorities. Field work started in January 2023. Funding has been secured for Year 1, which includes a contribution from SFRS.
- We have engaged with Local Authority Housing Services to improve our operational preparedness for High Rise Domestic Buildings. This has included upgrading lifts for use by the fire service and standardising associated firefighter lift switches/keys. Also, our Operational crews undertake regular Operational Assurance Visits (OAVs) to familiarise themselves with vehicular access, hydrant locations, building layout and fire service facilities and equipment. Arrangements are in place so that any faults are quickly rectified to ensure public and firefighter safety.
- Participation in an innovative project with fire safety consultants, CS Todd & Associates to trial an electronic system that logs vulnerable people in/out of high-rise domestic buildings. The system has been developed in response to the Grenfell tragedy and would allow SFRS to quickly identify the location of any vulnerable residents who may require assistance to evacuate in the event of fire.
- The 'Cost of Living Crisis' has the potential to negatively impact on domestic fire safety, as some people may consider alternative and unsafe methods of heating and lighting their homes in the face of increasing energy bills and high inflation. We are working with partners to ensure that domestic fire safety messages are heard. For example, we recently provided the Adult Support Committee newsletter with an article on the dangers of gas/electrical meter bypassing and the use of candles. We have also provided City of Edinburgh Council with a new booklet entitled "*Keep Warm and Well this Winter*" for distribution to residents. The booklet contains fire safety advice and signposts support services in the context of the cost of living crisis. National SFRS initiatives have included social media messaging and an online stakeholder event on 27th October 2022 to which local Edinburgh-based stakeholders were invited.

Youth Engagement

- Information sharing with partners and effective multi-agency partnership working is focused on reducing deliberate fire setting and fire related anti-social behaviour (ASB). In partnership with locality-based Police officers, we adopted a targeted approach. Our Community Action Team (CAT) and operational personnel deliver educational programmes within schools in response to any developing trends.

- We have responded to ASB, violence to crews and wilful fire raising in Liberton/Sighthill by undertaking joint patrols with local youth groups. This allowed us to engage with young people with the aim of enrolling them on our Fireskills intervention programmes. This work has been successful in reducing the number of fire and ASB incidents in these areas. Fireskills programmes deliver diversionary activities for young people with the aim of reducing fire-related anti-social behaviour, while developing life skills. The associated Employability Award results in 4 points towards a Level 4 SVQ. This can enhance the employability of our young people as well as boosting self-confidence and providing a sense of achievement. For example, a Fireskills (youth engagement) course was held at Liberton from 20-24 March following a spate of anti-social behaviour in Sighthill Park by youths from 2 local high schools. SFRS engaged with the SPA funded “Pitching In” programme and worked closely with Police Scotland and Life Long Learning in developing the course and selecting the participants. All completed the course and gained the nationally recognised Employability Award, with two participants volunteering to mentor at subsequent courses.
- Our bonfire activity included delivering fire safety education, with the focus on reducing fire related ASB and hoax calls, as well as reducing the risk of harm from inappropriate behaviour. Station personnel delivered presentations to schools in higher risk areas. We attended Castlebrae High School on 27 October 2022 with our Police colleagues and the Community Safety Minister, Ash Regan, to deliver a “Fearless” campaign event on firework and bonfire safety. We also part funded a joint Police Scotland/City of Edinburgh Council letter to residents in ASB hotspots ahead of bonfire night to encourage responsible behaviour. Other bonfire related activity included participation in the Bonfire Community Improvement Partnership (CIP), Operation Moonbeam and Operation Crackle. Waste amnesties/uplifts helped to reduce unsafe accumulations of combustible materials, resulting in fewer fire calls on the night. By undertaking joint patrols with Police Scotland, we engaged with communities and gave fire safety advice to ensure bonfires were managed safely. The patrols also assessed incidents to determine whether a fire service attendance was required.

Water Safety

During 2022/23, we established the Edinburgh Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) Group. The Group focuses on three main aspects:

- **Prevention:** Pro-active activities that reduce the likelihood of a water emergency occurring by raising awareness of safety issues, and by educating the public on how to be safe in and around water.
- **Improved Response:** Effective response to water emergency incidents through multi-agency exercises and training the public how to react to incidents safely via the Waterside Responder Scheme.

- **Review:** Implementation of the Drowning & Incident Review (DIR) after significant incidents to ensure learning from water emergency incidents to gain an understanding of the contributory factors and make interventions that may prevent similar events from occurring.

A water safety strategy has been developed and we recently delivered Waterside Responder Courses to businesses on Leith Shore. The course gives business operators the confidence and skills to act safely and effectively when faced with a person in the water and attracted some media attention. Businesses were provided with throw lines and given basic training on what to do if faced with a water based emergency. We also continue to work with Pentland Hills Regional Park, its members and the Council to educate the public on water safety and participate in multi-agency public awareness events e.g. at Harlaw Reservoir.

Road Safety

We continue to support road safety awareness through our commitment to staffing the Risk Factory, the Young Drivers Event at the Corn Exchange each year and through Fireskills/Employability youth engagement work.

Safeguarding

Whenever we become aware of adults or children who are at risk of harm and/or in need of support, we make referrals to Social Care Direct. In 2022/23 we made 119 adult referrals and 2 child referrals.

Thematic Enforcement Activity

In addition to our core enforcement audits, we undertake thematic enforcement activity throughout the year, aligned to local risk e.g.

- Royal Highland Show – providing fire safety advice and support
- Festival inspections – over 200 specific visits undertaken in July/August which were mainly fire safety checks of festival venue locations.
- Operation Unicorn – enforcement activity to ensure the safety and smooth operation of the funeral arrangements in Edinburgh of Queen Elizabeth II. Over 180 fire safety checks of business premises on or near the Royal Mile by our enforcement team, including site specific inspections of St Giles and the Scottish Parliament, and stairwell checks of domestic premises by local operational crews.

- Ukrainian refugees - joint inspection of the MS Victoria with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on 5 August and audits of hotels and apartment blocks throughout 2022/23. Fire safety leaflets, translated into Ukrainian, were also distributed.
- Short term lets – working with Edinburgh Council to agree consultation arrangements for new licence applications and follow up any fire safety issues.
- Fireworks licensing – joint inspections of shops selling fireworks with CEC Licensing/Trading Standards officers in October/November

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)

Around 98% of workplace automatic fire alarms (AFAs) turn out to be false alarms (of the 2% that are confirmed fires, two thirds of those are out by the time we arrive). Through our work with duty holders, we aim to reduce the burden of UFAS on the public, local businesses and SFRS. The Health and Education sectors experience the highest volume of UFAS. We have effective working relationships with NHS Lothian and Edinburgh University and engage with City of Edinburgh Council regarding UFAS in secondary schools.

We have implemented the national SFRS UFAS Policy to ensure that persistent UFAS incidents within premises are addressed appropriately. This consists of a four-step approach: education at the time of incident, formal letter, enforcement audit and for non-sleeping risks, a single pump attendance at normal road speed. One of our Enforcement Officers is a “UFAS Champion” and oversees local implementation of the policy, while analysing trends and engaging appropriately with duty holders.

In 2021, SFRS conducted a 3 month public consultation on our operational response to AFAs. Most stakeholders supported Option A which means that SFRS will establish if fire alarm systems have been triggered by an actual fire before dispatching appliances (hospitals, residential care homes and other sleeping risk premises will be exempt and appliances will continue to be mobilised automatically to any fire alarm activations within these facilities). This change should reduce attendance rates by up to 57% and release 37,524 hours for training and community safety work, bringing SFRS into line with most other UK Fire and Rescue Services. Many duty holders will have received letters about the change. In addition, our website is kept updated and an online duty holder engagement event was held in February 2023 to raise awareness and answer any questions. **The new response model goes live on 1 July 2023.**