



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF POLICE, FIRE and COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2024, 10AM  
VIA HYBRID SYSTEM**

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### **Committee Members Present:**

Councillor Akhtar  
Councillor Allan  
Councillor Hampshire (Chair)  
Councillor McGinn  
Councillor McGuire  
Councillor McMillan  
Councillor Menzies

### **Police Scotland**

Mr B Leathes, Chief Inspector  
Mr A Carson, Superintendent

### **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Mr G Ferguson, Group Commander  
Mr M Pincombe, Area Commander

### **Other Councillors Present**

N/A

### **Council Officials Present:**

Mr K Black, Safer Communities Team Leader  
Lynn Crothers, Service Managers – Protective Services

### **Clerk:**

Ms M Scott

### **Apologies:**

Councillor Trotter

### **Declarations of Interest:**

N/A

### **1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: POLICE, FIRE & COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, 12 JUNE 2024**

The minutes of the Police, Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee held on 12 June 2024 were approved.

Councillor Akhtar asked for feedback on Bonfire Night and for more information regarding the new pathway within the Police. Chief Inspector (CI) Ben Leathes reported the pathway had been running since November 2023 and it is clear the Police are able to make direct referrals to NHS and substance use services and where received they are being acted upon which has been effective and reducing the number of referrals and calls being made to the Police. He added this is looking to be extended within the decision to make best use of it when addition is encountered. CI Leathes noted Halloween was busier than Bonfire Night itself and any calls received were not different to usual calls, especially within the Musselburgh area. He felt the night was an overall success but there were still areas of learning for next year in terms of organised events to allow support for parking and construction of bonfires. He stated he did not feel control zones were required as they are difficult to police and would prohibit the use of fireworks from anyone in those areas.

Station Commander (SC) Grant Ferguson, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service reported from the 31<sup>st</sup> October to the 8<sup>th</sup> November there were around 10 incidents which were easily absorbed through business as usual arrangements and there was no physical or verbal abuse towards crews in East Lothian. He added the exclusion zones implemented in Edinburgh had a positive effective on keeping East Lothian appliances within the area.

## **2. SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE - LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR EAST LOTHIAN – Q1 & Q2 2024/25**

Area Commander (AC) Marc Pincombe formally introduced himself to Committee after taking up the post in July this year. He provided Members with an update on the development of Local Fire Plans, noting a local plan update statement was provided to the Chief Executive and Community Planning Boards last month that outlined the approach regarding local fire plans which will be designed, developed and delivered following the release of the updated Strategic Plan which is forecast to be delivered in the Summer of 2025.

SC Grant Ferguson presented the report on the performance of the Fire and Rescue Service in East Lothian over Quarters 1 and 2 of 2024/25. He spoke in detail to the report and provided Members with information in the following areas:

- East Lothian Total Incidents
- Deliberate Fires
- Accidental Fires
- Dwelling Fires
- Non-Domestic Fires
- Fire Casualties
- Special Services
- Unintentional Injury or Harm
- Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
- Engagement & Station Activities

Councillor Akhtar asked for an update on incidents relating to Eden Hall in Musselburgh and if any progression had been made on the sale of the building. GC Ferguson reported in terms of operational activity there had been no significant incidents at the premises since September this year, but he was unable to comment on the future plans for the building. He did note it would be the hope of SFRS for the demolition of the site as soon as possible.

Responding to a question from Councillor McMillan, AC Pincombe explained engagement by the department would depend on if it fell under the scope of legislative fire safety teams, if it did then we would engage where necessary. He added if a building proposed a risk to fire fighters, then an operational intelligence visit would be undertaken for site specific risk

information and also generic risk assessments to protect crews for derelict buildings. AC Pincombe explained engagement with the responsible person generally tends to fall when there is an incident at the premises and then follow up from a fire safety perspective but will look at any preventative work that can be done.

Councillor McGinn asked about levels of vacancies within the service, especially within the county. AC Pincombe reported in terms of whole time vacancies the service were continuing to recruit but East Lothian will see new whole time fire fighters in January 2025. He explained on call recruitment was more complex however there was a strategic service forum to address common challenges and he was hopeful this would improve as well as new pay banding. He noted the East Lothian area had a healthy appliance availability in terms of first appliances as these are 90% and above.

Responding to multiple questions from Councillor Hampshire, SC Ferguson explained SFRS would need to know there had been a confirmed sighting of smoke or fire which could create a delay in the process especially as external alarm companies cannot provide this information and have to wait on confirm from a named person. He added if a building has multiple detectors triggered then this would initiate a quicker response from the service. SC Ferguson reported summer safety is part of the service's thematic action plan which would include barbeque safety and having fires. He stated in terms of fire safety policing, control zones would be difficult to do and both SFRS or the Police did not have the resources to manage this. He added the impact on operations was fairly minimal so was not seen as a red flag area however if there was a localised area with very common issues the service would be happy to respond and get the Community Action Team in to provide education.

Councillor Akhtar asked how all partners could help support the Make the Call Campaign within communities. SC Ferguson stated the phone number was detailed within the report but getting components and key criteria out to people was key as if someone met three of those points, they could have a fire safety visit.

Councillor McGinn said a 40% drop in incidents should be congratulate and the drop in unwanted fire alarm signals should be commended. He also thanked the service and highlighted the immense pressure and difficulties faced by SFRS as well as day to day challenges not just peaks like Halloween and Bonfire Night.

### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Scrutiny Report.

### **3. POLICE SCOTLAND SCRUTINY REPORT – THE LOTHIANS AND SCOTTISH BORDERS – Q1 & Q2 2024/25**

Police Scotland submitted a scrutiny report to update members on their work during Quarters 1 and 2, 2024/25.

Chief Inspector (CI) Ben Leathes, Police Scotland, provided an update on strategic projects such as DESC (Digital Evidence Sharing Capability) which allows officers to upload CCTV directly from a crime scene to send direct to the fiscal, which will speed up cases passage through court, allow for earlier guilty pleas and ultimately speed up the efficiency of the wider criminal justice system. He added body worn videos will be introduced in 2025 which have a link to DESC capability to be able to download incidents to form part of the case immediately. This will lead to a better and more efficient justice system for victims and also an element of officer safety so there is hope it reduces assaults and abuse towards officers. CI Leathes provided an update on the Estate Master Plan to close Dunbar, North Berwick and Prestonpans stations as part of move to improve facilities at other stations and to plan for the future. These changes will deliver real benefits and increase patrols on the streets.

CI Leathes then spoke in detail to the report, highlighting the local policing priorities of:

- i) Protecting the most vulnerable people
- ii) Reducing violence & anti-social behaviour
- iii) Reducing acquisitive crime
- iv) Improving Road Safety and
- v) Tackling serious and organised crime,

and provided a thorough outline of the report's contents.

Councillor Akhtar asked for more details on domestic abuse incidents and the enquiry team dealing with turning incidents into a crime. CI Leathes explained the way domestic abuse incidents are managed, these go through three different ranks to ensure the nature of call has been understood and where it meets the threshold for criminality it is correctly recorded. He added if offenders cannot be located immediately the Domestic Abuse Enquiry Team would then they would pick up the case.

Councillor Menzies asked about antisocial behaviour in Musselburgh and surrounding areas and was there anything the Council could do to assist with this from a police perspective. CI Leathes stated the Police would like to see a greater access to leisure facilities and opportunities for young people to meet as this would aid officers displacing them from the High Street. He noted the Police were keen to see organised events for bonfire night as it draws people together and would have knock on effect of deterring those committing antisocial behaviour.

Responding to questions from Councillor McGinn, CI Leathes explained the Police keep a record of how many people are notified in relation to partners who have potentially engaged in abusive behaviour. He explained these figures were growing which has led the Police to consider how they resource it and are hopeful to introduce a Safeguarding Team in the future. CI Leathes offered to provide figures for this calendar year if it would be helpful. He also reported that the offence of using a mobile phone while driving was straight forward to enforce with a fixed penalty notice initially unless the driver already had points on their license but in terms of how prolific mobile phone use is this was hard to quantify. CI Leathes stated the figures were stable and inform part of national campaigns through the year, but mobile phone use continued to feature in 5 main causalities of accidents seen by Police so remained a key area of focus.

Councillor Menzies stated she attended a meeting recently where two female officers spoke about domestic abuse and violence against woman and girls, so she was not surprised figures going up as whole load of confidence from that hearing the language used and the way they were dealing with it.

Councillor Akhtar stated the Connected Communities Manager passed information onto Members about some of the activities that had been organised such as youth outreach work on Friday and Saturday evening. She also highlighted the third sector partners work with Heavy Sound and the Haddington Bridge Centre Motorbike Project as activities happening in Musselburgh and the continued work to build on that. Councillor Akhtar also thanked the Community Officers that attend Community and Police Partnership meetings as they give the local community an important avenue to be able to be able to engage with the Police and raise areas of concern.

Councillor McGinn thanked officers who attend the Fa'side CAP meetings as communities benefit greatly from these. He noted the community feedback at the latest meeting was really positive with antisocial behaviour figures dropping and also a lot of work going on with young people which was paying dividends.

Councillor Akhtar added to her previous comment by highlighting the Private Members Bill by Martin Whitfield, MSP that is currently going through parliament about the importance of youth work and would encourage as many people as possible to engage in that work.

Councillor McMillan echoed the thanks of his colleagues and noted the important of this meeting to highlight the work of the Police, SFRS and the Anti-Social Behaviour Team as well as making Members aware of the challenges faced by each service. He also welcomed the responses from all teams on how they are delivering against challenges and the work done within schools, especially the young driver training. Councillor McMillan highlighted the important of CAPP meetings to allow people in communities to report issues and Police to respond.

Councillor Hampshire stated the partnership working between the Council and different services was so important and he highlighted the closure of stations within Dunbar, North Berwick and Prestonpans. He added at a previous meeting with Police Scotland the communication between the Police and young people was raised as a concern due to the majority of young people only having involvement with the Police if they have done wrong which results in a negative relationship. Councillor Hampshire asked, if possible, could officers visit community centres, leisure centres or schools to talk to young people and build a positive relationship so they feel comfortable speaking to the Police and so they know they are there for their protection. CI Leathes agreed with the importance of this and noted last year the school link provision was increased to enable this work on relationships. He added he visited Bleaching Field Centre at Dunbar recently to see if Police surgeries could be held within community centres from the start of 2025.

#### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to note the report.

#### **4. TACKLING ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Executive Director for Place had submitted a report to advise the Committee on the number, type and geographical breakdown of antisocial behaviour complaints received by East Lothian Council during the reporting period (1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024) and to advise on actions taken in response to same.

Kenny Black, Team Manager - Safer Communities Team, spoke to the report in detail, highlighting the overall number of Antisocial Behaviour Complaints, themes for complaints (noise, youth, drug misuse, and others including shouting, swearing and neighbour disputes), a breakdown of complaints by place, comparisons to the equivalent reporting period in 2023/24. Mr Black noted during the report period 55 referrals were made to the mediation service, there were 22 live Antisocial Behaviour Orders in East Lothian, the Multi-agency Adult Case Monitoring Group were currently monitoring the behaviour of 64 individuals within the community who are involved in more serious, complex and persisting cases of anti-social behaviour. He reported the Antisocial Behaviour Overview Group and the weekly Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (TAC) met throughout the reporting period; the latter informs the deployment of Police Officers, Neighbourhood Outreach Youth Workers and mobile CCTV cameras to antisocial behaviour hotspots. Mr Black added this reporting period saw an increase in the number of youth related antisocial behaviour complaints in Musselburgh leading to a multi-agency operational response being initiated by the weekly TAC Group and 53 joint Police/Council letters were sent to parents of children whom the police had identified as being present in instances and areas affected by antisocial behaviour. Mr Black provided Members with an update on the review of the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy which he hopes to be completed during 2025 and highlighted the ongoing work of the Community Protection Officers.

Responding to multiple questions from Councillor Akhtar, Mr Black reported Council officers have the power to invoice individuals who have been caught fly tipping and to serve fixed penalty notices on offenders and noted the noise app was commercially available through the Council, but consideration was still being given on if this would be adopted locally due to ongoing discussions around data protection. He added, in his opinion, the parental advisory letters were effective, and he had received a number of calls from parents after receiving them who were not aware of their child's involvement in antisocial behaviour and vow, they will take the correct parental action to address their behaviour.

Councillor McGinn stated anyone giving over work to a tradesperson has a responsibility to know where their waste is getting disposed of and asking if they have the appropriate licenses to dispose of waste and asked if Mr Black had any thoughts on that. Mr Black agreed and highlighting with Council Coms would be a sensible approach to take for homeowners who are instructing tradesmen to carry out work at their home. He added the type of waste being deposited was definitely more trade waste than domestic.

Councillor Hampshire asked if the current four Community Protection Officers were enough to cover the work or would it be more beneficial to increase to the previous number of six. Ms Lynn Crothers, Service Manager for Protective Services stated the reduction of the weekend work was triggered by the lack of resource but it was found the officers doing those patrols were not picking up on antisocial behaviour issues and as these officers were granted a rest day during the week and resource was reduced when there were more environmental concerns to investigate. She added it was found resource was best focused on the daytime work rather than the weekend work but if there were issues or hotspots raised then the team would still conduct joint visits and the team were in discussions with the police often through the weekly TAC meetings to keep an eye on hotspot areas.

Councillor Akhtar thanked Mr Black for his report, especially for the update on work going on in Musselburgh and asked if this could be communicated to the community to make them aware of the work of all partner organisations. She highlighted the considerable number of the cases the small team deals with and noted communities would benefit from having protection officers out on weekends, but the level of funding received does not allow for this. Councillor Akhtar added the concerted, very hard work the team do on the ground has helped to reduce antisocial behaviour over the years.

Councillor McGinn was heartened to hear of the work going on in Musselburgh in terms of youth groups and engagement.

Councillor McMillan stated he had been in touch with Mr Blacks team regarding fly tipping and they traced the person who dumped the rubbish very quickly. He highlighted the difficulty the team has with resources but praised their work and thanked them for everything they do to help the community.

Councillor Hampshire stated he was extremely grateful for the work the Community Protection Officers do and raised the importance of the community getting a response from the Council, which is something these officers have helped massively with. He also highlighted the connection between these officers, Police and the Fire service was extremely helpful to make sure they can help to resolve any issues raised. Councillor Hampshire hoped in the future the Council would be able to allocate more funding to this area as it is so important to our communities.

## **Decision**

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

## **5. PFCSSC DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2024/2025**

A draft annual work programme was presented to Committee. This provided the next dates of the Committee; 11 June 2025.

Councillor Akhtar asked if there could be an opportunity to get an update from the Leadership Programme Board at the next Committee. It was agreed this would be added to the workplan and Caroline Rodgers would be asked if she would be able to provide this update.

### **Decision**

The Committee were happy to note the programme.

Signed

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Councillor Norman Hampshire  
Convener of the Police, Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee







## East Lothian Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders



### Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

Quarter 4 – 2024/2025

The data provided in this report is for information purposes only and is not official crime statistics. This report has been generated to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities. Due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, incidents or road accidents and the management of crime enquiries, there is likely to be differences between the information in this report and the final Police Scotland statistics. It would not be appropriate to refer to, quote or use any data in this report as official statistics.



## **Our Vision**

Sustained excellence in service and protection.

## **Our Purpose**

To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland.

## **Our Values**

Integrity, Fairness and Respect.

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## Lothian and Scottish Borders Division Policing Priorities



## **Introduction**

Crimes and offences are grouped under recognised categories for statistical purposes. The Scottish Government defines these categories, as follows;

- Group 1 – Non Sexual Crimes of Violence
- Group 2 – Sexual Crimes
- Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty
- Group 4 – Damage and Reckless Behaviour
- Group 5 – Crimes against Society
- Group 6 – Antisocial Offences
- Group 7 – Miscellaneous Offences
- Group 8 – Road Traffic offences

Police Scotland publishes management information on an annual and quarterly basis by local authority and police division, as well as at a national level. These reports are produced to demonstrate Police Scotland's commitment to transparency. Police Scotland publishes all of these reports on the 'Our Performance' section of the Police Scotland website. The reports can be accessed here:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>

The East Lothian Policing Plan uses the following Police performance indicators, and these have been mirrored in the Scrutiny Report to maintain parity of understanding:

1. Protecting the most vulnerable people;
2. Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour;
3. Reducing acquisitive Crime;
4. Improving road safety;
5. Tackling Serious and Organised Crime.

All figures quoted in this report are for the period April 2024 to March 2025 and are compared against the five year average.

## Performance Summary Report

### East Lothian Performance Summary Report Reporting Period: April 2024 – March 2025

Total Crime: 7,182

Crime Decrease: 2.7%

#### Protecting the most vulnerable people

% Criminal  
Domestics

35%



41% 23/24

Missing  
Persons

26%



79<23/24

#### Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour

Robbery

13



23 23/24

Serious  
Assault

35



52 23/24

#### Reducing Acquisitive Crime

Housebreaking

83



163 23/24

Acquisitive Crime

1835



2012 23/4

#### Improving road safety

Road Traffic  
Casualties

66



109 23/24

#### Serious Organised Crime

Drug supply

46



47 23/24

## Executive Summary

I am delighted to present the end of year scrutiny report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 which completes my second year as Local Area Commander for East Lothian. I am delighted to report that overall crime is down year on year from 7382 2023/4 to 7182 2024/5 which is a notable achievement by all our officers when set against the ever-increasing population in the county. In addition we have seen overall decreases in important areas of violent and acquisitive crime along with missing persons but as the report will highlight there are still areas we are seeking to improve and take positive action on to impact trends of criminality.

One of the main ways in which we hope to impact and reduce criminality at all levels is through a strong partnership approach. The growth of the membership of our weekly partnership Tactical and Coordination group by attendance from Substance Use Services, Criminal Justice and Community Mental Health Teams has been a really welcome step forward. I am particularly grateful to Martin Bonnar (MELDAP), Julie Morton (Criminal Justice Social Work) and Guy Whitehead (East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership) for enabling this which will ensure a joined-up approach to trends and individuals in the community. It also recognises the importance of getting the right response to problems as they occur in addition to reducing the demands on all agencies time by solving problems efficiently as they manifest themselves.

Road Safety continues to be a priority, and we have seen notable decreases in both fatalities and casualties which is testament to the approach taken by our Specialist Road Policing officers focussing their attention on the priority roads identified from casualty data. I am aware that we frequently receive complaints of speeding from communities however these are not necessarily backed up with reports of either accidents or casualties that would justify enforcement with the exception of schools where we are implementing regular speed patrols. In response to some of these issues and to raise awareness of speeding we have been rolling out our Community Speed Watch Initiative (CSW) which allows community groups to be trained in the use of speed monitoring equipment and is now well established in Inveresk in Musselburgh with other groups at various stages of implementation.

Our Police Scotland Young Volunteers (PSYV) group has also participated in this initiative and will continue to do so over the coming months which will complement the enforcement action Community officers will be taking around identified hotspots and schools. On this subject, I was delighted to attend the annual PSYV awards in March to present the young people with well-deserved awards and it is clear the group is thriving.

In my last report I noted the implementation of Digital Evidence Sharing Capability (DESC) and Body Worn Video (BWV) as expected milestones for 2025. DESC was implemented in February and is already showing the expected efficiencies in more efficiently gathering and sharing CCTV evidence with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. The expectation is that this will start to speed up the outcomes at court, yielding better outcomes for victims and delivering efficiencies such as reductions in the number of officers removed from frontline duties due to being cited for court. BWV will only add to these efficiencies when it is implemented later in the year as well as enhancing the safety of all frontline officers and providing best evidence.

Finally March also saw the closure of the Police Stations at Dunbar, North Berwick and Prestonpans which whilst sad to see were important milestones in a move to drive efficiency and improvements to accommodation for officers in the remaining stations. I want to emphasise that disposing of a building does not mean there will be a withdrawal of service from the area. Our officers will continue to respond to incidents and support the local areas through regular patrols and Initiatives such as Coffee with a Cop which have proved popular around the county, and we plan to continue this type of community engagement going forward.



Protecting the most vulnerable people.		Missing Persons				
<p>The Lothians &amp; Scottish Borders (J) Division and the communities of East Lothian recognise that protecting people, particularly those considered vulnerable, is a policing priority. Within the remit of protecting people is the work and investigations carried out to trace people who are reported missing. To put the scale of this work into context, Police Scotland undertook 13,752 investigations into missing people 2024/5.</p> <p>Below is a breakdown of the missing persons reported in East Lothian over the last 12 months when compared with last year.</p>						
	Total missing persons	Adult	Child	Care Experienced Child	Cared for adult	Deceased
2023/24	302	86	129	73	11	1
2024/25	223	63	101	72	4	0
Change	-79	-23	-28	-1	-7	-1
<p>Recognising the vulnerability associated with missing people, particularly those that are young or suffering from mental health challenges, Police Scotland has adopted a rigorous investigation structure and management approach to incidents involving missing people and mental health. In addition to this, additional training to support those in mental health crisis is being undertaken through Distress Brief Intervention training which is currently being rolled out to all East Lothian officers in partnership with Penumbra.</p> <p>In East Lothian we review the circumstances of every missing person report to identify any vulnerability, and we will then link in with partners to ensure appropriate support is provided to keep that individual safe. This approach has seen the number of missing persons within East Lothian fall consistently over the last 2 years.</p> <p>A large proportion of young people who are reported missing in East Lothian are either care experienced or experiencing difficulties at home. We continue to work with care establishments on a daily basis to support the development of individual care plans and with statutory agencies in East Lothian and other local authority areas to ensure young people are cared for in the most appropriate place.</p> <p>We have continued to raise awareness of the Philomena, Herbert and Autism Missing Person Protocols to protect those individuals most at risk of going missing. These protocols apply to individuals living in a care setting and in their own homes.</p> <p>During this reporting period we have been able to draw on national resources such as Dog handlers and Air and Marine Support, as well as our partners including Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Her Majesty’s Coastguard and Mountain Rescue teams, to safely trace a number of High Risk missing persons and I am grateful for their continuing support.</p>						



Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Domestic Abuse Incidents
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	5yr Average	Q4 2024/25	% change from 5yr average
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents	1182	1296	9.6
Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	474	452	-5
Percentage of Domestic Incidents that result in a crime	40	35	-7
Total crimes and offences detection rate	66	67	1
Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences	75	70	6

**Domestic Abuse definition (Taken from the COPFS joint protocol on domestic abuse).**

*Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct, and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, co-habiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse can be committed in the home or elsewhere, including online.*

Tackling domestic abuse alongside Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and a commitment to the Scottish Government Equally Safe Strategy is a national strategic priority for Police Scotland and these priorities are addressed through specific local partnership forums. We have multi-agency partnership arrangements in place through MATAC (Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating – Offenders) and MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing – victims) to both manage high risk offenders and provide appropriate support to vulnerable/repeat victims and survivors.

This year we have seen the overall number of domestic incidents increase slightly against the 5-year average whilst the number of domestic crimes have fallen. It is difficult to read too much into these figures however clearly the reduction in those incidents which are deemed criminal is welcome.

In East Lothian we have robust scrutiny arrangements in place with every domestic incident reviewed on a daily basis by the Local Area Commander and Detective Inspectors from the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit and Public Protection Unit so every opportunity to detect the crime is maximised.

We continue to promote the use of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) which gives people the right to ask about the background of their partner to see if they have been abusive in the past. It also allows concerned families, friends and professionals such as midwives and social workers to make a referral to the scheme. DSDAS gives Police Scotland the power to tell people they may be at risk even if they have not asked for the information themselves. The numbers of referrals to the DSDAS scheme continue to increase year on year and are managed by our Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Unit which plays an important role in safety planning and supporting victims in the aftermath of domestic incidents.

We are currently supporting the establishment of an Equally Safe group in East Lothian which recognises the importance of a partnership approach in tackling domestic abuse and later this year officers from across East Lothian will support the 16 days of action for the Violence Against Women and Girls.

In addition to this we will continue to support other national campaigns such as “DON’T BE THAT GUY” aimed at encouraging peers to challenge abusive and unacceptable behaviour as well as carrying out prevention and education work in our schools and higher education establishments.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Hate Crime
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East Lothian			
	5 year average	Q4 2024/25	% change from 5 year average
Hate Incidents	23.4	19	-18.8
Hate Crimes	84	99	4.9
Hate Crime Detection Rate	66.3	56.6	-9.7

The new Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 is defined below and went live on **1st April 2024**.

**HATE INCIDENT** - Any incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated (wholly or partly) by malice and ill-will towards a characteristic group, but which does NOT constitute a criminal offence (non-crime hate incident).

**HATE CRIME** - Any crime which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated (either wholly or partly) by malice and ill will towards a characteristic group listed in the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021

In Scotland, prior to April 2024, the law recognised hate crimes as motivated by prejudice based on:

- Disability
- Race
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity

From 1st April 2024, this was extended to include Age and Variations in sex characteristics.

This period has seen a slight increase in the number of hate crimes but a reduction in hate incidents compared to the 5-year average. Every hate incident and hate crime reported in East Lothian is subject to intense scrutiny with the Local Area Commander having overall responsibility for this. This ensures that incidents and/or crimes are not treated in isolation and processes are in place to identify repeat victims, locations and offenders.

There are no noticeable trends in the data. However, that is not to say we are complacent bearing in mind the national context of both the widening of the legislative definitions for the last 12 months and some of the highly emotive developments, both nationally and internationally, particularly around gender identity which have brought unwelcome publicity and criticism towards some of the characteristic groups.

Policing continues in the face of these challenges, and it is important that all groups and views are respected and cherished and we will continue to investigate all such reports robustly to bring perpetrators to justice whilst working with partners to support victims.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.		Sexual Crimes (Group 2)		
Crime Type	5 Year average	Q 4 2024/25	% change from 5 year average	% Detection Rate
Group 2	232.0	242	4.3	56.9
Rape	41.0	54	31.7	53.2
Attempt Rape	1.2	8	566.7	54.4
Indecent/Sexual Assault	86.6	66	-23.8	55.3
Other Group 2	18.6	24	29.0	52.3

Overall, group 2 sexual crimes have increased when compared against the 5 year average but are down by 7 when compared to last year and indeed there have been some notable decreases in the area of indecent and sexual assault.

One of the group 2 crimes categories to increase are in non-recent (over a year old) rape and attempt rape. The reporting of non-recent offences continues to demonstrate that victims do have the confidence in the Police response and criminal justice system to come forward and whilst no one would wish to see either their friends or family members fall victim to such crimes, by continuing to encourage the reporting of these crimes it means that no offender is ever safe from prosecution no matter how much time has elapsed since the offence took place. Frequently offenders are brought to justice using Moorov Doctrine opportunities from non-recent reporting.

Non-contact offences perpetrated over the internet or through communications devices used by young people continue to be prevalent and our school link officers continue to be a vital part of prevention work around young people falling victim to internet “sextortion” style crimes; providing regular inputs on internet safety to our young people to raise awareness and keep them safe.

The You, Me, Together approach which was part of a pilot undertaken in Dunbar High School, raising awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls, is established as best practice and our school link officers are concentrating their efforts in line with the style of offences being reported. We are also being supported by the Lucy Faithful Foundation in delivering preventative inputs to parents of high school age children.

We want all victims of sexual offences to continue to have the confidence to report the perpetrators and will continue to work closely with our partners through the Violence Against Women and Girls Working Group and the newly formed Equally Safe Group, to encourage and support victims to report sexual crimes.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Drug Supply, Production & Cultivation
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Drugs Supply	5 year average	Q4 2024/25	% Change from 5 year average	% Detection Rate
Drugs Supply (including possession with intent)	35.4	46	29.9	90.0

The continued year on year increase and the number of drug supply charges labelled this year reflects the excellent proactive work by our Proactive Crime Team based at Musselburgh and our Community Action Teams based at Tranent and Haddington. The harm from drugs caused to our communities at all ages cannot be underestimated and we remain committed to preventing the harm caused by the misuse of drugs through enforcement and preventative measures

Our effective use of stop and search (216) demonstrates that an intelligence led Policing approach targeting the right people in the right place at the right time brings positive results and disrupts criminality. We also continue to refer individuals who have taken a near or non-fatal overdose to support services within 24 hours of police contact.

The success of the pilot to share information with NHS Lothian on those most at risk of harm through addiction to drugs and alcohol continues and has seen 213 referrals sent via our Vulnerable Person Database over the 12 month period.

As mentioned in the executive summary this is an area of prevention work which we are expanding on with partners and via the partnership forums such as East Lothian Tactical and Coordination group, Community Safety Partnership and Mid and East Lothian Drugs and Alcohol Partnership where membership has increased.

Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour	Crimes of Violence (Group 1)																												
<table><tr><th>Crime Type</th><th>5 year average</th><th>Q4 2024/25</th><th>% Change from 5 year average</th><th>Q4 2024/25 Detection Rate</th></tr><tr><td>Group 1</td><td>1008.6</td><td>1017</td><td>0.8</td><td>68.4</td></tr><tr><td>Serious Assault</td><td>36.6</td><td>35</td><td>-4.4</td><td>80.1</td></tr><tr><td>Robbery</td><td>16.8</td><td>13</td><td>-22.6</td><td>75.3</td></tr><tr><td>Common Assault</td><td>798.0</td><td>771</td><td>-3.4</td><td>64.2</td></tr></table>					Crime Type	5 year average	Q4 2024/25	% Change from 5 year average	Q4 2024/25 Detection Rate	Group 1	1008.6	1017	0.8	68.4	Serious Assault	36.6	35	-4.4	80.1	Robbery	16.8	13	-22.6	75.3	Common Assault	798.0	771	-3.4	64.2
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<p>Violent crime is one of the main success stories of the reporting year and whilst the total figure is fairly static in comparison to the 5 year average the upward trend of the last few years has been halted and important areas of serious assaults and robberies have reduced markedly with 35 as opposed to 52 serious assaults and 13 as opposed to 23 robberies when compared against the previous 12 months 2023/24. Our detection rate for serious assault and robbery also remain strong which means that perpetrators face the consequences of their actions and there is a deterrent to committing violence offences in the community.</p> <p>The link between crimes of violence and involvement of both perpetrators and victims in other criminality such as drug misuse remains strong and affirms the work alluded to on the previous page under both enforcement and prevention to try and reduce levels of violence seen in our communities both in public and private space. Crimes of violence within licensed premises continue to be monitored and we do not have any monitored Licensed Premise in East Lothian.</p> <p>We have also seen a reduction in threats and extortion down from 59 to 38 which is most welcome and vindicates the work done through a number of campaigns, both locally and nationally to try and reverse the upward trend seen in recent years. The vast majority these crimes are “sextortion” offences whereby victims are encouraged to share intimate images or videos with individuals they have met online and are then threatened that these will be distributed to friends and family unless monies are paid. These generally involve victims living locally with the perpetrator often operating from abroad. These crimes are difficult to solve (reflected in low detection rates) to the different social media platforms and jurisdictions involved.</p> <p>Our focus continues to be on providing support to victims and raising awareness through social media campaigns which we do in partnership with both national (National Crime Agency) and local partners such as local authority education and student bodies to tailor and deliver messages to the demographic groups most impacted (currently ages 18-25).</p>																													

Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour	Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
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Indicator	5 Year Average	Q4 2024-25	% Change from 5 year average	Q4 2024/25 % Detection Rate
Antisocial Behaviour Incidents	4,982	4780	-12.4	
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)	714.4	668	-6.5	29.4
Fire-raising	38.2	54	41.4	28.4
Breach of the Peace	17.4	21	20.7	94.0
S38 CJ&L(S) A 2010	635.8	582	-8.5	77.1

We continue to see a downward trend of incidents recorded as ASB in comparison to the 5-year average which reflects positively on the hard work done by the Community and Police Partnerships in identifying and addressing ASB before it becomes a long-term problem and emphasised by the fact that we do not have any live Problem-Solving Partnerships (PSPs) currently. Fire-raising is an area of concern and an area we will continue to monitor closely, and I am grateful for the prevention work undertaken by colleagues in Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). The Musselburgh area has the majority of incidents reported and there are a number of specific seasonal plans in place in regard to the ongoing work to tackle and reduce these calls.

Dealing effectively with ASB and associated issues remains a priority and something which we are constantly working on with our partners, recognising that there are many reasons for ASB and that a combination of prevention and enforcement is recognised as the most effective mechanism. The work is coordinated by our weekly tasking and coordinating group undertaken with our partners and is also used to address and plan for different seasons of the year such as summer, Halloween and Christmas/New Year.

Our school link officers work closely with partners to support young people and their families to improve their behaviour and reduce vulnerabilities and much of this work feeds into the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and Community Learning and Development Plan which we support across all areas of the county.

We continue to advocate around responsible use of the bus network and are engaged with bus companies, local community councils and elected members around concerns over free travel connected to ASB on the bus network as well as disrupting travel into the county by exchanging information on young offenders with Edinburgh Policing division and the utilisation of the team of Special Constables under the Special Initiative Team (SIT) who deploy regularly in East Lothian with as many as 11 additional volunteers making themselves available for Saturday evening shifts.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime	Dishonesty (group 3)
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Crime Type	5 year average	Q4 2024/25	% change from 5 year average	Q4 2024/25 Detection Rate
Total Group 3	1755.0	1835.0	4.6	35.1

Overall, Group 3 Crimes are higher than the 5-year average, but we have seen a reduction from last year in total from 2012 to 1835 which is seen in a number of categories. Detection rates have increased alongside this which is testament to the hard work of officers around the county in identifying serial offenders and ensuring we maximise all opportunities to report offenders to the courts.

Shoplifting is slightly down on last year but still trending at well above the five year average and we remain committed to working with partners to enforce, target harden and encourage reporting from local businesses as well as diverting prolific shoplifters to addiction services which will hopefully continue over the next business year.

We will also dedicate from the Retail Crime Taskforce which is a specialist unit which established to tackle retail crime throughout Scotland following a £3m funding allocation from the Scottish Government. The strategy has been developed in consultation with members of the Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime (SPPAACE), including the Scottish Retail Consortium, Retailers Against Crime, the Scottish Grocers Federation, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, and Trading Standards Scotland.

Acquisitive rural crime, particularly in regard to plant and vehicle theft in the farming community remains a focus through regular meetings of ELPARC. Earlier in the year we launched the STOP ME campaign and had additional officers trained in the use of VIN CHIP which is a state-of-the-art theft detection and forensic security system designed to minimise asset loss due to theft, which can be used to deter criminals and facilitate rapid detection and recovery by the police, reducing personal inconvenience, business disruption, and financial impact.

The introduction of VIN CHIP has resulted in a 90% reduction in caravan theft according to the National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service ([NaVCIS](#)). VIN CHIP has now extended its protection to new sectors, including the agricultural and construction industries, where theft remains a significant concern.

Fraud has again declined on last year and fallen back as a growth area which is reflective of the multi-agency prevention work which is done both locally and nationally. We have continued to promote national fraud awareness campaigns through our social media accounts and have provided face-to-face fraud prevention inputs to elderly residents in a variety of locations. We visit all victims of high value frauds and those who we deem may be vulnerable to carry out crime prevention surveys and provide advice and reassurance.

We also continue to work locally with Trading Standards and Trusted Traders to provide residents with advice re bogus workers and signpost them to Trusted Traders.



Reducing Acquisitive Crime

Housebreaking

Crime Type	5 Year Average	Q4 2024/25	% Change from 5 year average	Q4 2024/25 Detection Rate
Dwelling HB	98.0	83	-15.3	29.0
Non Dwelling (Sheds, garages) HB	66.8	51	-23.7	22.1
Other (Business) HB	74.8	85	13.6	43.9

\*All crime types include attempt thefts.

This time last year we had seen a sizable increase in domestic housebreaking driven by offenders in their late teens and early 20s who were often not resident in East Lothian, targeting domestic houses to steal high value cars and jewellery. Due to the hard work of our Proactive officers this trend has been significantly reversed and several prolific offenders incarcerated.

The other trend we have seen more of in this business year are break-ins to building sites and the theft of construction materials and tools from these locations. This has been successfully disrupted in the last month with a group of young people identified and charged, however we continue to promote building site security measures and advice whilst there remains a large amount of construction work in the county.

Trends in housebreakings are subject to continual analysis and increasingly where they develop there continues to be a cross-boundary element to the offending which often takes place over a number of different local authority areas and indeed across national boundaries with England and Wales. There is a National Acquisitive Crime group which the division attends and this allows trends to be highlighted, and good practice exchanged across all areas of the country.

Participation in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme is encouraged and something we would ideally like to see more of as this allows real time alerts to be issued in relevant areas. We are continuing to promote the alerts system to have more communities signed up and increase participation in initiatives such as the Quad Bike alert, Stop Me and VIN CHIP.

Improving road safety	Road Casualties
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	Q4 2023/24	Q4 2024/25	% Change
Fatal	4	1	-75%
Serious	28	22	-21%
Slight	77	43	-44%
Total	109	66	-39.45%
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	0	-
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	1	3	200%

	5 Year Average	Q4 2024/25	% Change from 5 year average
<b>Dangerous driving offences</b>	55.0	65	18.2
<b>Driving carelessly</b>	127.8	148	15.8
<b>Speeding offences</b>	67.8	51	-24.8
<b>Unlawful use of a motor vehicle</b>	519.8	529	1.8
<b>Seat Belt offences</b>	15.2	13	-14.5
<b>Mobile Phone offences</b>	24.8	42	69.4
<b>Driving under the influence</b>	104.4	116	11.1

Encouragingly there has been only one fatality on our road network this year and all other areas of our collision and casualty data indicate that our roads have been safer to use however these improvements are only achieved through continued commitment and hard work around both education and enforcement, particularly in the area of road safety around schools where we have been involved in reviewing travel plans for primary schools over the last 12 months and will continue to do this on an ongoing basis.

Drug driving is now far more easily detectable with the aid of drug wipes to detect the presence of illicit drugs from driver samples. The catastrophic effects of driving whilst under the influence of drugs have been seen first

hand with 2 serious collisions in the last month so we are committed to identifying and enforcing against those who take drugs and drive and will be using a range of measures to do this.

Work is ongoing nationally to improve enforcement around the illegal use of e-bike and e-scooters and we are in direct dialogue with National Road Policing Partners on this topic.

We continue to work closely with Community Councils and Community and Police Partnerships with the recently launched Community Speed Watch initiative which is a national initiative designed to assist Police and local communities in problem solving around speed awareness and we continue to support and encourage all 6 Community wards to take this up.

Making our roads safer is a key priority and our specialist Road Policing officers are tasked on a daily basis to patrol routes on the A1 and other fast roads, with our community officers focussed on our towns and villages, specifically around our schools.

Roads Safety Strategy continues to prioritise enforcement around the FATAL 5:

- ☐ Careless driving
- ☐ Drink & drug driving
- ☐ Not wearing a seatbelt
- ☐ Speeding
- ☐ Using a mobile telephone while driving.

Moving forward we will continue with a number of road safety initiatives on issues such as motorcyclist safety and drink/drug driving enforcement campaigns will continue throughout the year with the current focus being on a 2 Wheels campaign to promote the safety and cyclists and motorcyclists. As ever these campaigns will focus on casualty reduction on our priority routes.

Tackling Serious & Organised Crime	Tackling Serious & Organised Crime (SOC)
<p>The National Terror Threat level is currently SUBSTANTIAL meaning an attack is likely.</p> <p>We continue to implement the Serious Organised Crime Multi-Agency Action Plan 2024-2027 in conjunction with the East Lothian Council (ELC) and other law enforcement and regulatory bodies.</p> <p>This plan shows we are committed to keeping people safe and disrupting organised crime groups within our community. This Action Plan is based on the revised national strategy to tackle SOC across Scotland. This strategy is about all of Scotland working together to reduce the harm caused by serious and organised crime and has many overlaps with the national CONTEST strategy of which all parties are committed to fulfilling their obligations under that strategy.</p> <p>The action plan is aligned to the four priority themes of the national SOC strategy (2015) which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Divert: To divert people from being involved in SOC</li><li>• Deter: To deter SOC by supporting private, public and third-party organisations to protect themselves</li><li>• Disrupt: To disrupt SOC Groups.</li><li>• Detect: To identify, detect and prosecute those involved in SOC</li></ul> <p>The main focus of this Action Plan is on Prevention, and both we and ELC accept that SOC within our communities may not be easily identifiable as it comes in many forms and guises, and before we have the opportunity to react or respond, it has infiltrated our communities and caused harm.</p> <p>To ensure greater awareness of the SOC within our communities, and how best to move towards early and effective intervention, we will develop an evolving training and awareness programme over the lifetime of the Action Plan, for all Police, ELC and East Lothian Health and Social Care (HSCP) staff. ELC's Safer Communities Team will take the lead in facilitating training within ELC and HSCP.</p> <p>This will bring enhanced awareness and ensure that all staff are aware of the existence of the Action Plan and how they can contribute effectively to its success and reduce the harm caused by SOC within the communities of East Lothian.</p> <p>Every elected member in East Lothian continues to be offered crime prevention surveys of their home and offices which have been widely taken up.</p> <p>Whilst we have undertaken a number of enforcement activities against the presence of SOC in our communities it important that all our communities remain vigilant in reporting the presence of SOC in the form of exploitation, cuckooing and drug dealing all of which we have seen in the last 12 months.</p>	

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Complaints	Executive Summary					
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*Table: Complaints and allegations received in the East Lothian Council area, by period <sup>1</sup>*

	TOTAL COMPLAINT CASES RECEIVED			TOTAL NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED		
	YTD	LYTD	% Change	YTD	LYTD	% Change
East Lothian Council	108	95	13.7%	176	170	3.5%

The breakdown above details the total number of Complaints about the Police, received in relation to the East Lothian area command as of 31 March 2025.

The breakdown below provides further detail on the Allegation Category and Type. As can be seen there has been a slight increase in the overall number of Complaints about the Police when comparing PYTD and YTD.

*Table: Allegations received in the East Lothian Council area, by category, type and period <sup>1</sup>*

Allegation Category and Type	YTD	PYTD	% change from PYTD
<b>Off Duty - TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>
Incivility	0	1	-100.0%
<b>On Duty - TOTAL</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>14.4%</b>
Assault	4	1	300.0%
Discriminatory Behaviour	1	3	-66.7%
Excessive Force	15	5	200.0%
Incivility	35	25	40.0%
Irregularity in Procedure	54	59	-8.5%
Neglect of Duty	1	1	0.0%
Oppressive Conduct/Harassment	2	1	100.0%
Other - Criminal	4	2	100.0%
Other - Non Criminal	1	3	-66.7%
Traffic Irregularity/Offence	2	2	0.0%
Unlawful/Unnecessary Arrest or Detention	0	2	-100.0%
<b>Quality Of Service - TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>-12.3%</b>

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Policy/Procedure	9	11	-18.2%
Service Delivery	15	19	-21.1%
Service Outcome	33	35	-5.7%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>3.5%</b>

1 . Data is based on the case received date.

Police Scotland's ability to function effectively is reliant upon the trust of the public and their belief that we can carry out our duties in a fair and impartial manner. It is accepted that on occasions things may go wrong and mistakes will be made. Police Scotland's national Professional Standards Department oversee all complaints made against officers in East Lothian with robust processes in place to ensure that when members of the public wish to raise a concern or make a complaint about either the quality of the policing service provided or the actions of an officer, their concerns will be listened to and appropriate action taken.

In Lothians and Borders Division there is a focus on learning from complaint investigation to ensure that we can continuously improve our service.

## Appendix - Lothian and Scottish Borders Divisional Crime Overview

Lothian and Scottish Borders Division	5 Year Average	Q4 2024/25	% Change against 5 year average	Detection Rates 2024/25
<b>GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE</b>	<b>5,732.4</b>	<b>6,080</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>60.4%</b>
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	3.0	5	66.7%	100.0%
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0.6	1	66.7%	100.0%
Culpable Homicide (other)	4.2	10	138.1%	100.0%
Attempted Murder	18.6	18	-3.2%	100.0%
Serious Assault (of an emergency worker)	-	1	-	100.0%
Serious Assault (Incl. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct – causing injury)	261.6	235	-10.2%	77.0%
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	430.0	430	-	99.1%
Common Assault	4,433.6	4,621	4.2%	56.9%
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	98.6	116	17.6%	65.5%
Domestic Abuse (of male)	4.4	14	218.2%	64.3%
Domestic Abuse (of female)	133.0	225	69.2%	64.0%
Stalking	93.4	106	13.5%	72.6%
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	66.4	78	17.5%	92.3%
Threats and extortion	144.4	175	21.2%	5.1%
Other group 1 crimes	40.6	45	10.8%	37.8%
<b>GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES</b>	<b>1,193.2</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>54.1%</b>
Rape	209.8	309	47.3%	45.6%
Attempted Rape	8.4	31	269.0%	19.4%
Sexual assault	437.4	443	1.3%	55.3%
Crimes associated with prostitution	1.2	1	-16.7%	100.0%
Indecent photos of children	64.8	97	49.7%	88.7%
Communicating indecently	111.4	83	-25.5%	72.3%
Causing to view sexual activity or images	172.0	199	15.7%	53.3%
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image	83.6	90	7.7%	43.3%
Other Group 2 crimes	104.6	123	17.6%	49.6%
<b>GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY</b>	<b>8,268.8</b>	<b>8,867</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>30.5%</b>
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	386.6	350	-9.5%	30.0%
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	250.2	162	-35.3%	10.5%
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	283.4	232	-18.1%	28.0%
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	173.0	160	-7.5%	18.1%
Theft of a motor vehicle	431.2	465	7.8%	35.7%
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	375.4	270	-28.1%	18.5%
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	34.2	55	60.8%	23.6%
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	138.8	152	9.5%	16.4%
Common theft	2,298.4	1,903	-17.2%	17.7%
Theft by shoplifting	2,138.6	3,477	62.6%	44.4%
Fraud	1,2440.0	1,228	-1.3%	15.0%
Other Group 3 Crimes	516.0	413	-20.0%	42.4%

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<b>GROUP 4: DAMAGE AND RECKLESS BEHAVIOUR</b>	<b>3,972.8</b>	<b>3,635</b>	<b>-8.5%</b>	<b>27.4%</b>
Fireraising	243.0	274	12.8%	23.0%
Vandalism (including reckless damage etc)	3,447.2	3,128	-9.3%	25.4%
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	4.2	2	-52.4%	100.0%
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	261.6	211	-19.3%	64.9%
Other Group 4 Crimes	16.8	20	19.0%	10.0%
<b>GROUP 5: CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY</b>	<b>4,124.6</b>	<b>4,336</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>93.0%</b>
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (not used in crime)	24.0	17	-29.2%	82.4%
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (not used in crime)	11.4	11	-3.5%	90.9%
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	7.6	39	413.2%	110.3%
Possession of a corrosive substance (not used in crime)	-	-	-	-
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	277.2	260	-6.2%	87.3%
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (used in criminal activity)	5.2	15	188.5%	73.3%
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (used in criminal activity)	3.8	7	84.2%	85.7%
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (used in criminal activity)	3.8	6	57.9%	100.0%
Possession of corrosive substance (used in criminal activity)	0.4	-	-	-
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	241.2	401	66.3%	65.3%
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	51.8	34	-34.4%	102.9%
Supply of drugs (incl possession with intent)	178.0	236	32.6%	95.3%
Bringing drugs into prison	21.0	59	181.0%	33.9%
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	10.0	20	100.0%	80.0%
Possession of drugs	1,562.4	1,234	-21.0%	100.3%
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	4.0	17	325.0%	82.4%
Bail offences (other than absconding)	957.2	1,065	11.3%	96.5%
Other crimes against public justice	750.2	891	18.8%	96.2%
Other crimes against society	15.4	24	55.8%	87.5%
<b>GROUP 6: ANTISOCIAL OFFENCES</b>	<b>3,892.8</b>	<b>3,732</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>	<b>74.1%</b>
Breach of the Peace	102.2	133	30.1%	92.5%
Threatening & abusive behaviour	3,485.6	3,345	-4.0%	72.1%
Hate aggravated conduct (incl stirring up hatred)	118.0	141	19.5%	86.5%
Drunk and incapable	29.8	16	-46.3%	100.0%
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	24.8	23	-7.3%	100.0%
Other alcohol related offences	34.2	27	-21.1%	100.0%
Urinating	98.2	47	-52.1%	91.5%
<b>GROUP 7: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES</b>	<b>1,296.8</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>56.7%</b>
Wildlife offences	41.4	28	-32.4%	28.6%
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	119.4	118	-1.2%	55.9%



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Community and public order offences	897.8	1,070	19.2%	52.7%
Environmental offences	31.0	23	-25.8%	82.6%
Licensing offences	116.2	85	-26.9%	85.9%
Other misc. offences	91.0	70	-23.1%	87.1%
<b>GROUP 8: ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES</b>	<b>7,409.0</b>	<b>7,326</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>	<b>81.5%</b>
Dangerous driving offences	255.2	268	5.0%	76.1%
Driving carelessly	659.6	643	-2.5%	85.5%
Driving under the influence	554.8	598	7.8%	102.5%
Speeding offences	433.2	187	-56.8%	100.0%
Seatbelt offences	128.4	114	-11.2%	100.0%
Mobile phone offences	157.2	184	17.0%	98.9%
Unlawful use of a motor vehicle	2,787.2	2,545	-8.7%	99.3%
Vehicle defect offences	224.4	372	67.3%	99.5%
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	447.4	374	-16.4%	90.9%
Road traffic offences (involving bicycle/tricycle)	9.0	4	-55.6%	75.0%
Other Group 8 offences	1,754.6	2,037	16.1%	43.3%

## East Lothian Recorded Crime Overview

East Lothian	5 Year Average	Q4 2024/25	% change against 5 year average	Detection Rates 2024/25
<b>GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE</b>	<b>1008.6</b>	<b>1017</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>68.4</b>
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0.4		-100.0	105.1
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0.2		-100.0	100.0
Culpable Homicide (other)		1	0.0	94.0
Attempted Murder	2.4	5	108.3	95.2
Serious Assault (of an emergency worker)			0.0	96.9
Serious Assault (Incl. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct – causing injury)	36.6	35	-4.4	80.1
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	67.0	74	10.4	99.0
Common Assault	798.0	771	-3.4	64.2
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	16.8	13	-22.6	75.3
Domestic Abuse (of male)	1.8	3	66.7	57.1
Domestic Abuse (of female)	23.0	37	60.9	69.9
Stalking	18.2	14	-23.1	77.7
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	10.6	15	41.5	92.9
Threats and extortion	25.8	38	47.3	8.1
Other group 1 crimes	7.8	11	41.0	47.8
<b>GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES</b>	<b>232.0</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>56.9</b>
Rape	41.0	54	31.7	53.2
Attempted Rape	1.2	8	566.7	54.4
Sexual assault	86.6	66	-23.8	55.3
Crimes associated with prostitution	0.2		-100.0	77.5
Indecent photos of children	9.6	27	181.3	87.1
Communicating indecently	25.2	15	-40.5	65.9
Causing to view sexual activity or images	31.8	37	16.4	56.1
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image	17.8	11	-38.2	41.3
Other Group 2 crimes	18.6	24	29.0	52.3
<b>GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY</b>	<b>1755.0</b>	<b>1835.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>35.1</b>
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	98.0	83	-15.3	29.0
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	66.8	51	-23.7	22.1
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	74.8	85	13.6	43.9
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	37.8	33	-12.7	22.2
Theft of a motor vehicle	90.2	78	-13.5	44.6
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	82.8	67	-19.1	23.6
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	8.6	13	51.2	32.4
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	36.6	48	31.1	20.1
Common theft	452.0	424	-6.2	22.9
Theft by shoplifting	404.8	607	50.0	49.0
Fraud	263.0	246	-6.5	19.2

**OFFICIAL**

Other Group 3 Crimes	139.6	100	-28.4	35.5
<b>GROUP 4: DAMAGE AND RECKLESS BEHAVIOUR</b>	<b>814.2</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>31.0</b>
Fireraising	38.2	54	41.4	28.4
Vandalism (including reckless damage etc)	714.4	668	-6.5	29.4
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	1.0		-100.0	46.9
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	54.0	35	-35.2	53.5
Other Group 4 Crimes	6.6	8	21.2	14.5
<b>GROUP 5: CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY</b>	<b>869.4</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>93.8</b>
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (not used in crime)			0.0	96.1
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (not used in crime)	1.2		-100.0	93.4
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	0.6	12	1900.0	93.2
Possession of a corrosive substance (not used in crime)			0.0	83.3
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	61.0	71	16.4	88.0
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (used in criminal activity)		1	0.0	95.4
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (used in criminal activity)	0.4		-100.0	92.2
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (used in criminal activity)	0.8	3	275.0	93.5
Possession of corrosive substance (used in criminal activity)			0.0	88.9
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	38.4	78	103.1	69.2
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	6.6	3	-54.5	77.6
Supply of drugs (incl possession with intent)	35.4	46	29.9	90.0
Bringing drugs into prison			0.0	33.5
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	2.4	5	108.3	62.7
Possession of drugs	359.6	276	-23.2	101.7
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	0.2	3	1400.0	91.3
Bail offences (other than absconding)	193.0	187	-3.1	95.5
Other crimes against public justice	167.6	208	24.1	96.3
Other crimes against society	2.2	5	127.3	87.4
<b>GROUP 6: ANTISOCIAL OFFENCES</b>	<b>713.6</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>-9.6</b>	<b>79.5</b>
Breach of the Peace	17.4	21	20.7	94.0
Threatening & abusive behaviour	635.8	582	-8.5	77.1
Hate aggravated conduct (incl stirring up hatred)	23.6	19	-19.5	81.7
Drunk and incapable	5.6	4	-28.6	98.8
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	12.0	7	-41.7	100.0
Other alcohol related offences	8.0	5	-37.5	98.7
Other Group 6 offences			0.0	100.0

OFFICIAL

Urinating	11.2	7	-37.5	95.7
<b>GROUP 7: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES</b>	<b>212.2</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>62.7</b>
Wildlife offences	10.0	11	10.0	38.3
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	12.8	14	9.4	61.9
Community and public order offences	161.4	194	20.2	57.6
Environmental offences	4.8	5	4.2	84.2
Licensing offences	21.6	16	-25.9	88.6
Other misc. offences	1.6	6	275.0	87.2
<b>GROUP 8: ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES</b>	<b>1313.6</b>	<b>1400</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>87.4</b>
Dangerous driving offences	55.0	65	18.2	80.3
Driving carelessly	127.8	148	15.8	89.8
Driving under the influence	104.4	116	11.1	99.2
Speeding offences	67.8	51	-24.8	99.9
Seatbelt offences	15.2	13	-14.5	99.8
Mobile phone offences	24.8	42	69.4	99.5
Unlawful use of a motor vehicle	519.8	529	1.8	99.2
Vehicle defect offences	47.0	71	51.1	99.3
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	19.2	12	-37.5	97.3
Road traffic offences (involving bicycle/tricycle)	2.6	2	-23.1	64.5
Other Group 8 offences	330.0	351	6.4	46.3



3

**East Lothian**

**Police, Fire & Community Safety  
Committee**

**2024-25 Q3 & Q4  
Scrutiny Report**



**SCOTTISH**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**  
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Working together  
for a safer Scotland**



**East Lothian**

**East Lothian Safe and Vibrant Communities**

**Group**

**2024-25 Q3 & Q4**

**Scrutiny Report**

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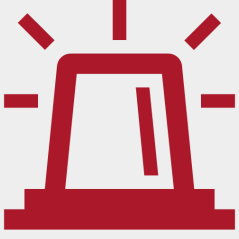




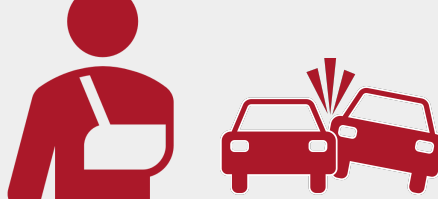



**About the statistics within this report**

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

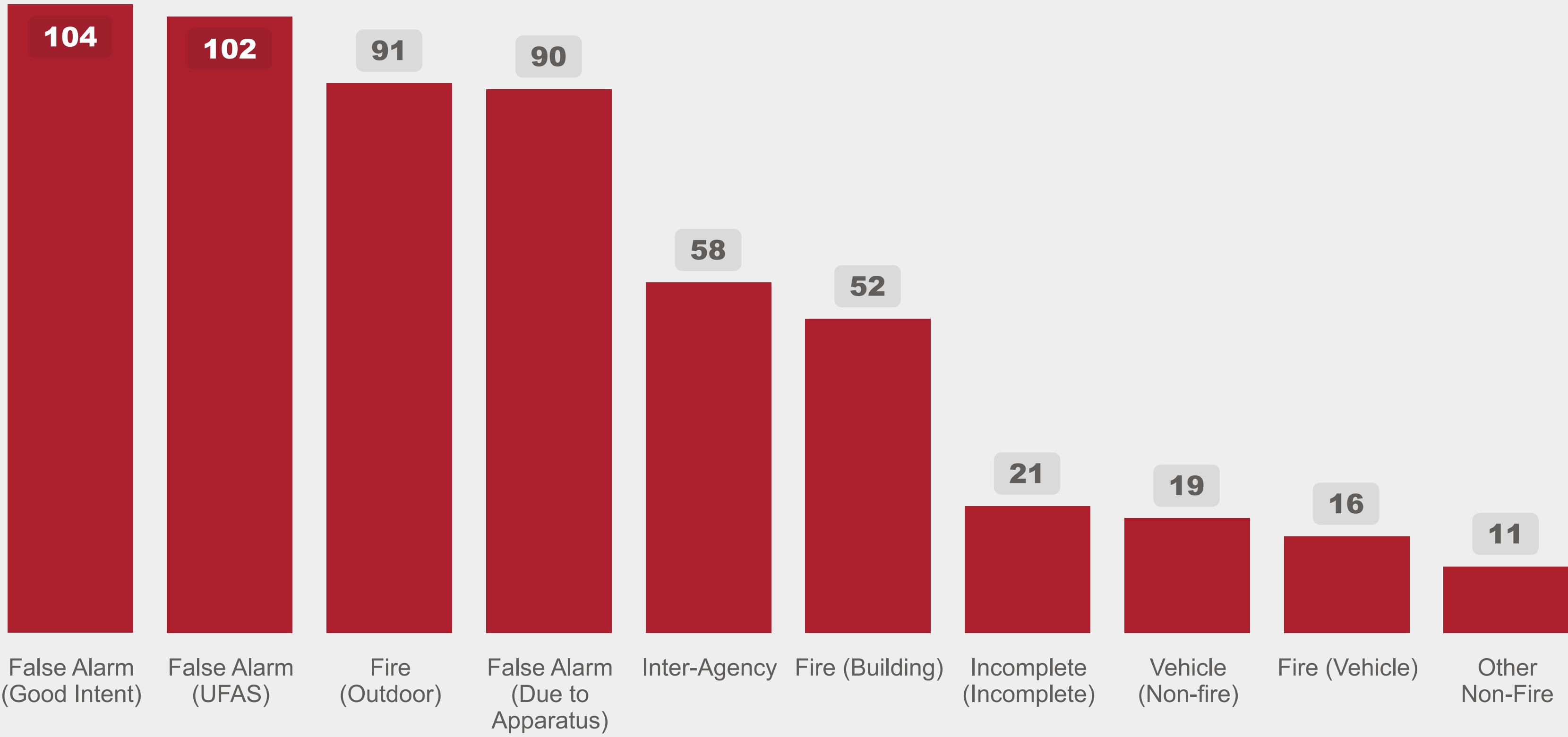


1. Summary

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

 <b>603</b> Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	 <b>159</b> Fires	 <b>118</b> Non-Fire Incidents	 <b>305</b> False Alarms	 <b>102</b> UFAS
 <b>9</b> People Rescued by Firefighters	 <b>2</b> People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	 <b>2</b> Fire Fatalities	 <b>10</b> People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	 <b>2</b> Non-Fire Fatalities
 <b>163</b> Home Fire Safety Visits	 <b>45</b> Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types

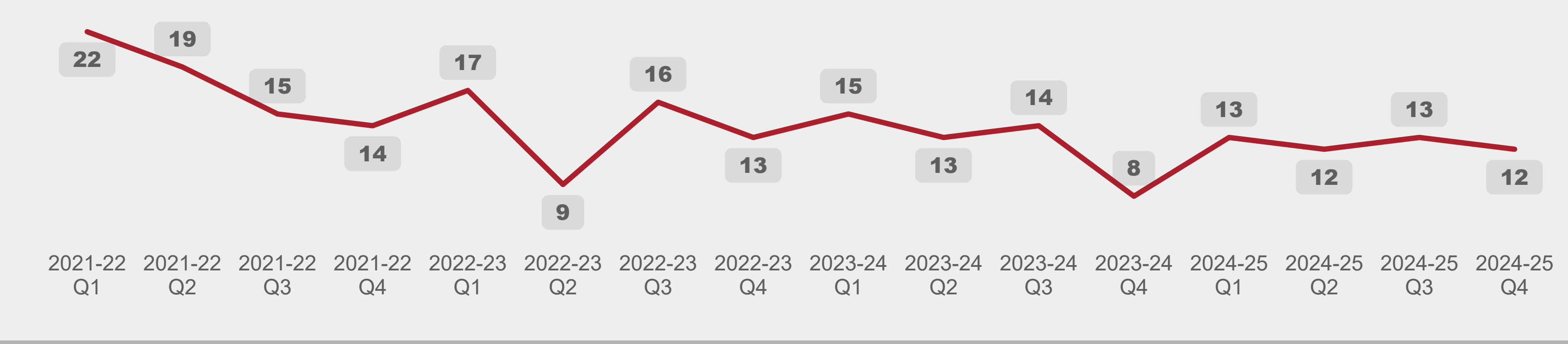


Over the Reporting Period SFRS attended 603 total incidents, which is an increase of 18 incidents from the same reporting period for 2023-24. This is largely attributed to an increase in outdoor fires, which have risen from 70 in 2023-24 to 91 in 2024-25, Our community action team continue to work closely with partner agencies in an attempt to mitigate these instances of anti social behaviour. SFRS has however, seen a reduction in Non-fire incidents, false alarms and UFAS incidents across the reporting period in comparison to 2023-24. Sadly, we have recorded two fire fatalities over the two quarters while seeing an overall reduction in non-fire casualties and non fire fatalities.

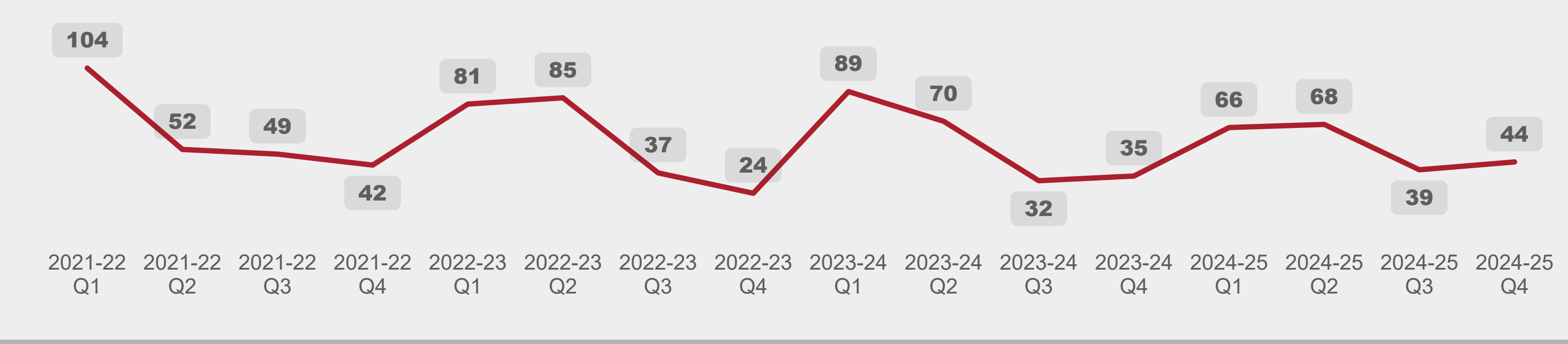
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

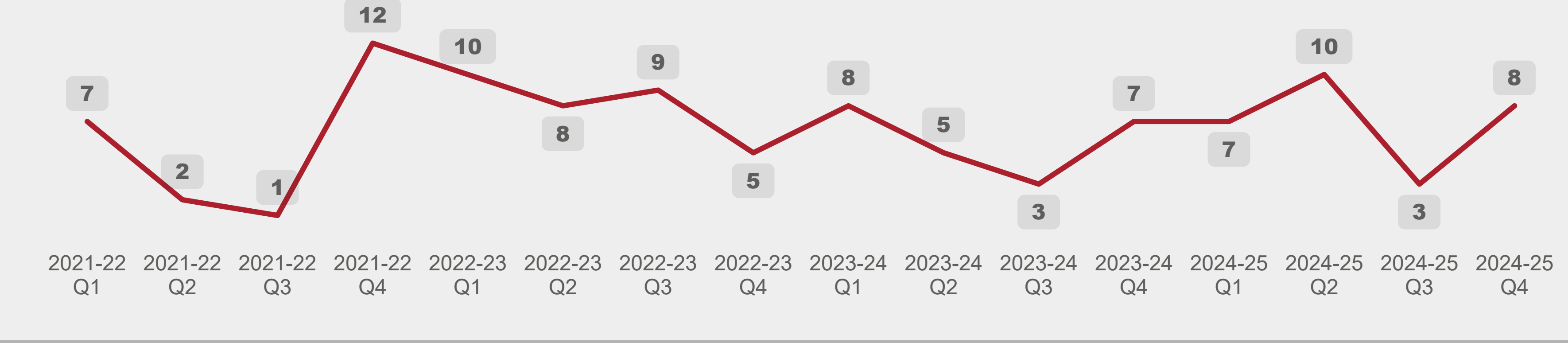
Accidental Dwelling Fires



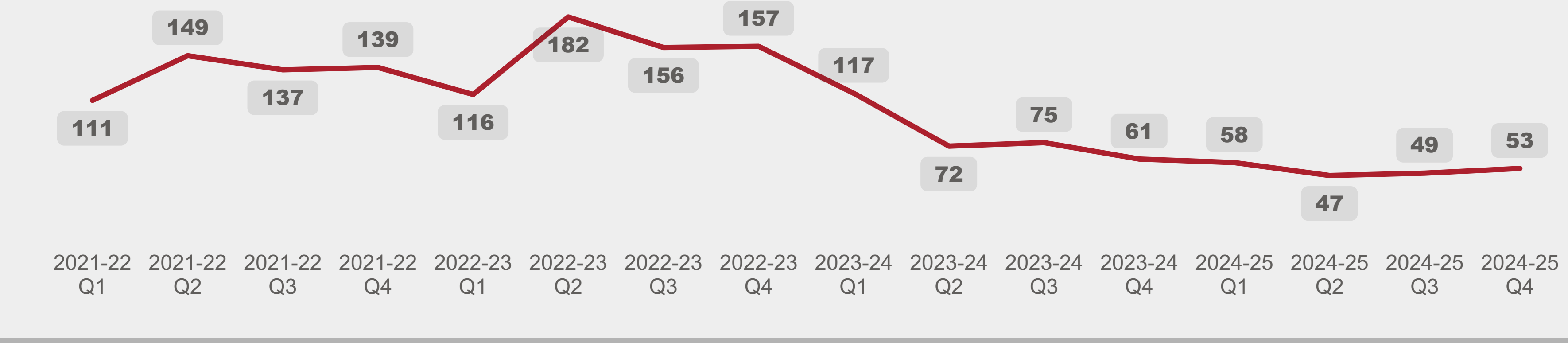
Deliberate Fires



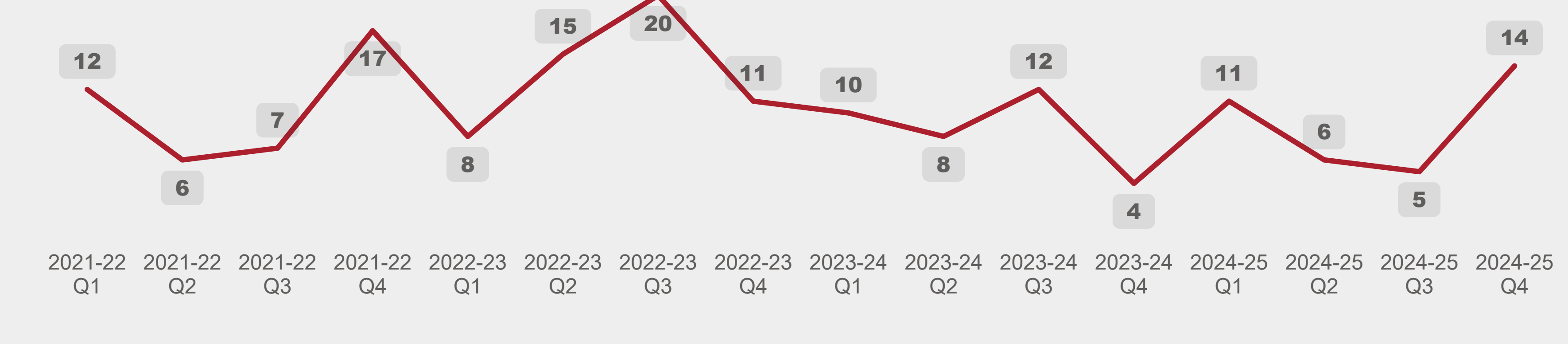
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



Road Traffic Collisions





3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

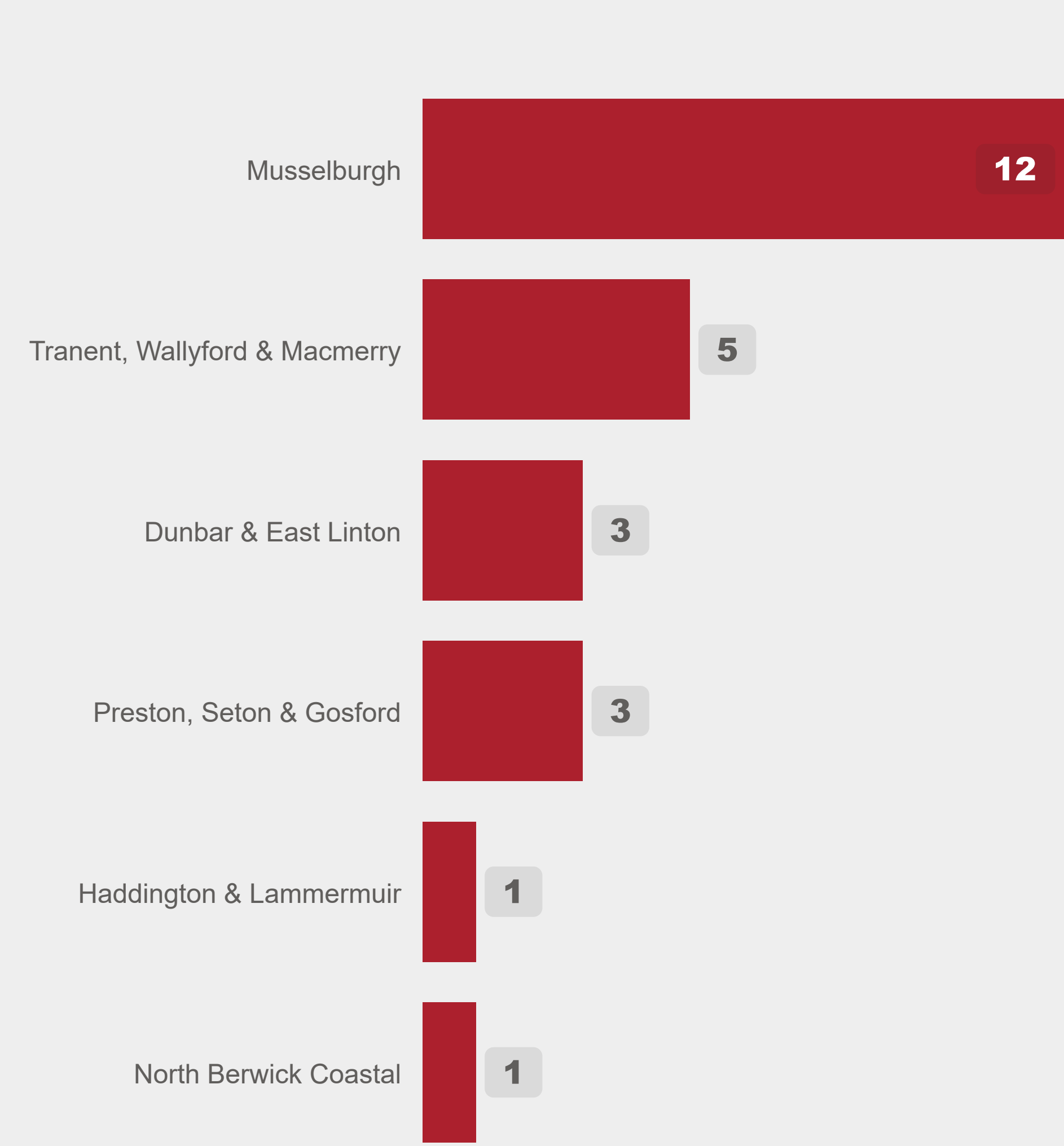
2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)

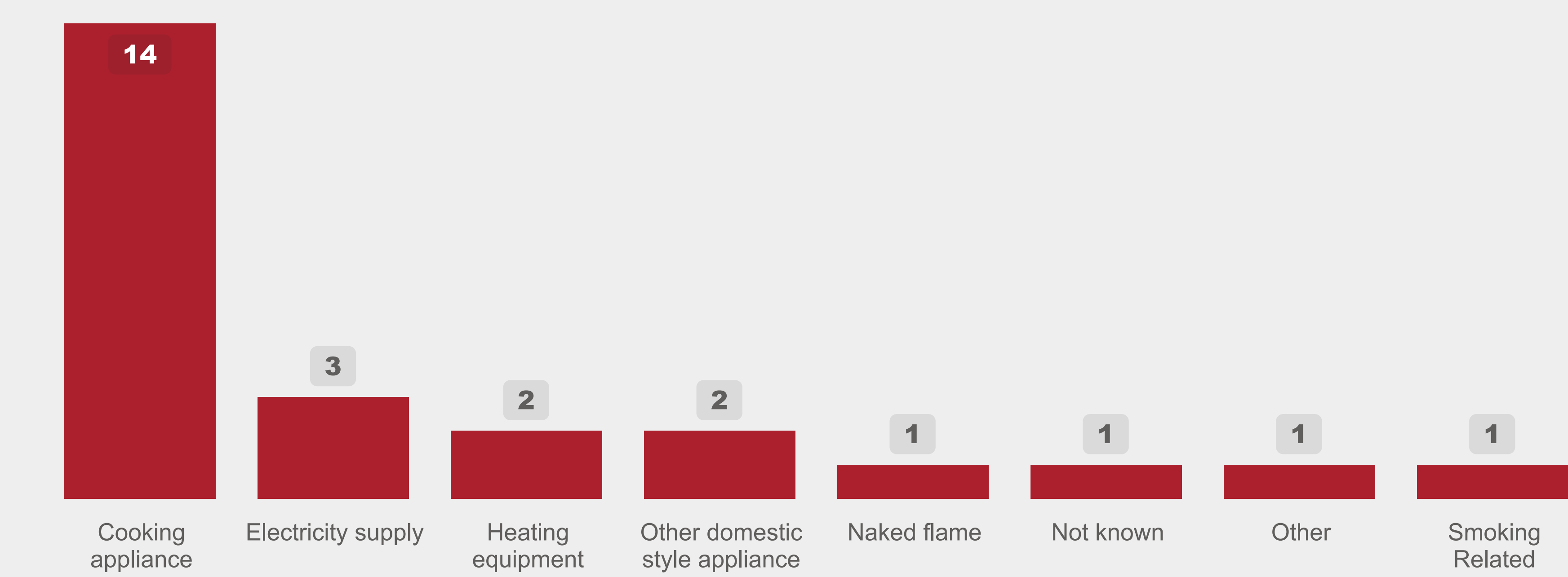


Extent of Damage	Incidents
Limited to item 1st ignited	10
Limited to room of origin	6
Not applicable	5
Affecting more than 2 floors (not whole building)	1
Limited to 2 floors (not whole building)	1
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	1
Whole building	1

Incidents by Ward



Source of Ignition (Top 10)



25  
Accidental Dwelling Fires  
in this period

Over Quarters 3 & 4, SFRS have reported 25 Accidental dwelling fires, this can be broken down further to 13 reported incidents in Quarter 3 and 12 in Quarter 4, this is an increase of 3 from the same reporting period 2023-24, as highlighted above, the majority of incidents occurred within the Musselburgh Ward (48%), with 56% of incidents attributed to cooking appliances. 84% of these incidents were limited to either the first item ignited, smoke damage (not applicable) or confined to the room of origin.

4. Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

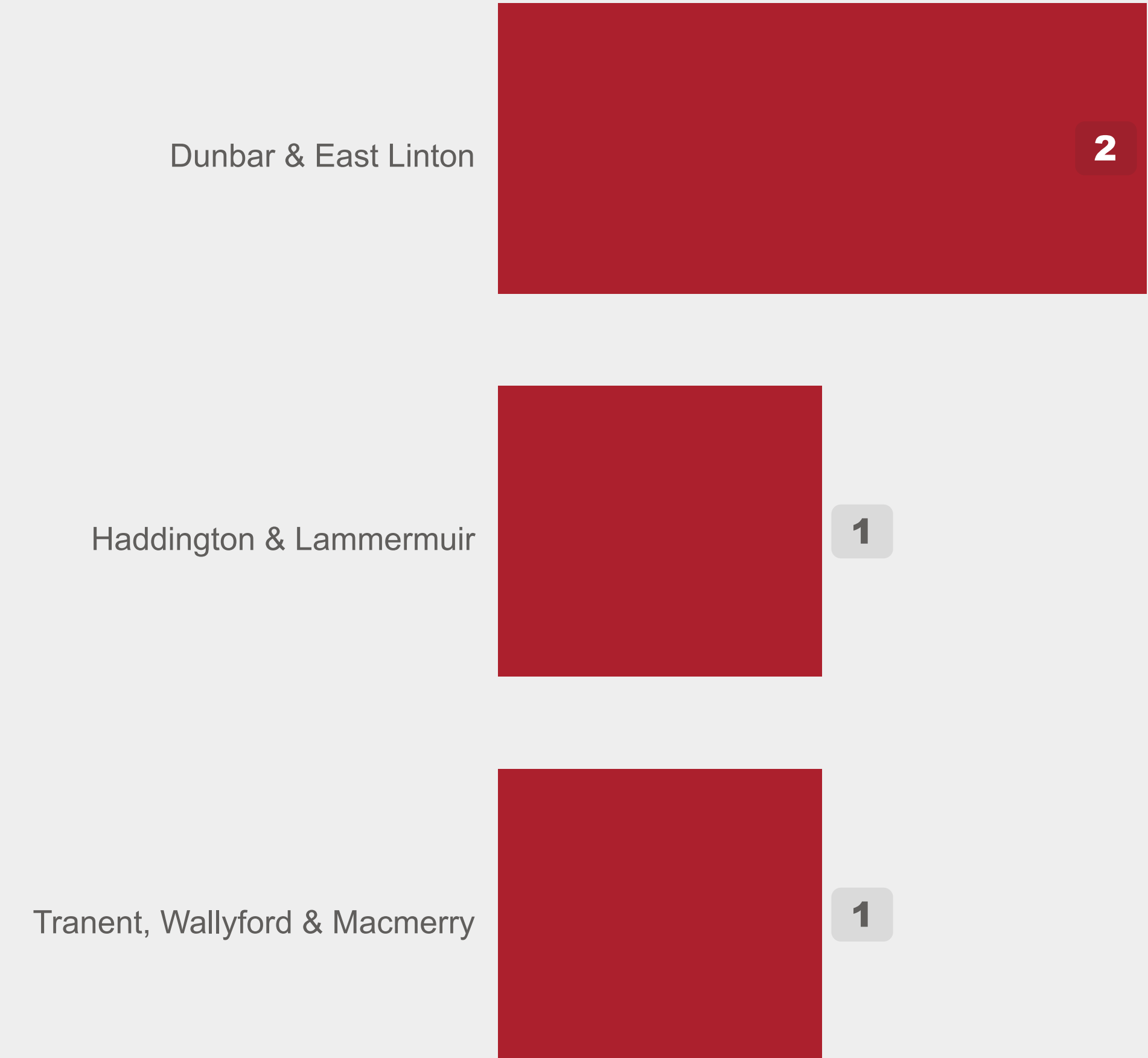
2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation	2
Burns - severe	1
Not known	1

Casualties by Ward



Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



1

First Aid Given at Scene



0

Hospital Slight Injuries



1

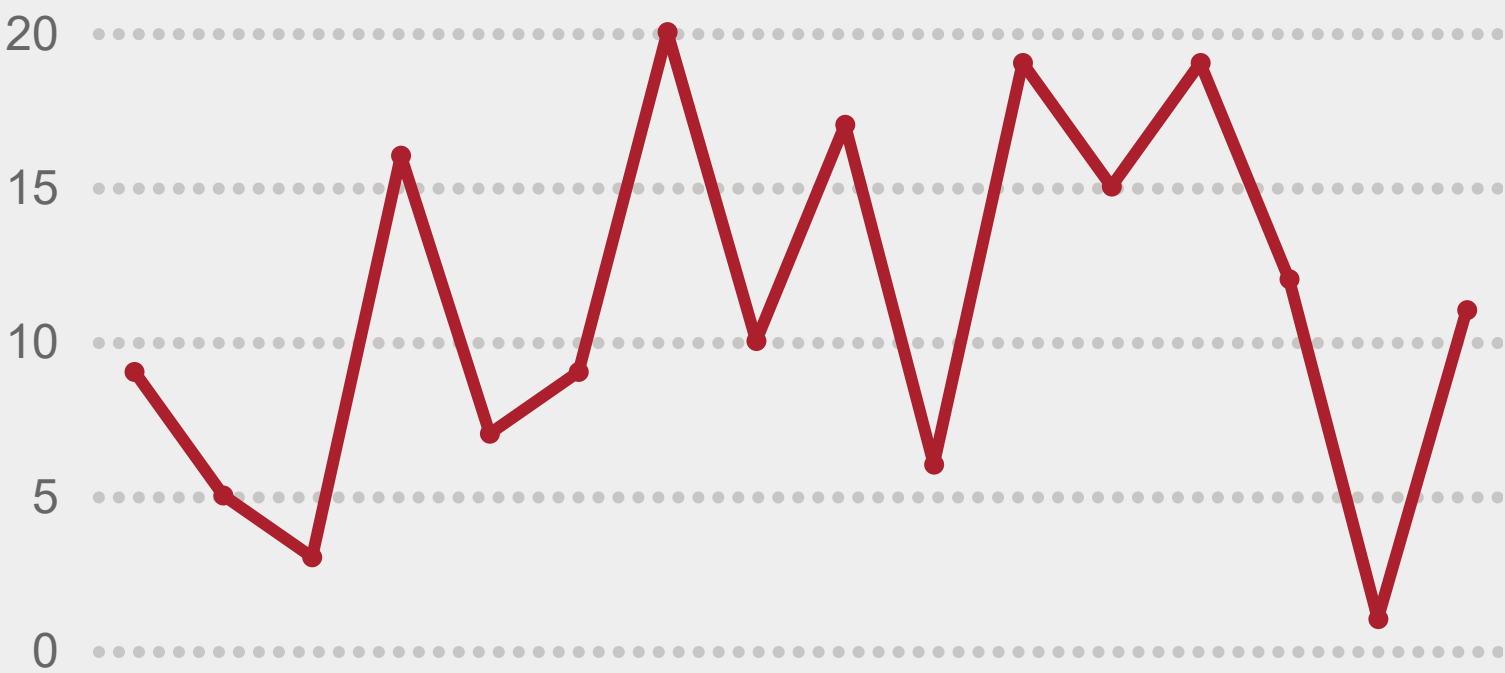
Hospital Serious Injuries

Statistics for Accidental Dwelling Fires over the reporting period show four casualties, one casualty in Q3 and 3 in Q4, sadly as a result of injuries sustained, this has led to 2 fatal fire casualties.

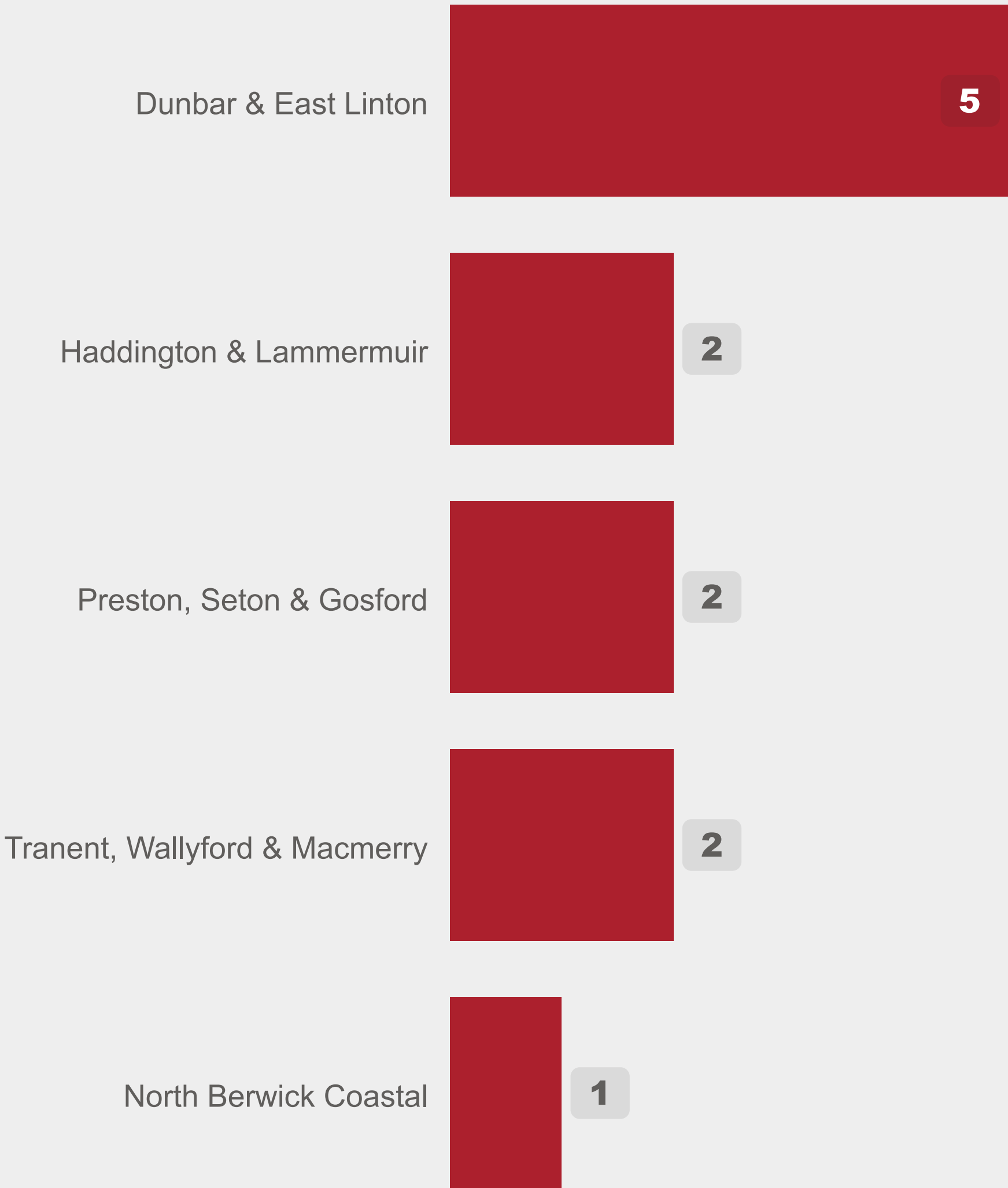
5. Non-Fire Casualties

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



10

Non-Fatal Casualties

2

Fatal Casualties

7

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

0

First Aid Given at Scene

9

Hospital Slight Injuries

1

Hospital Serious Injuries

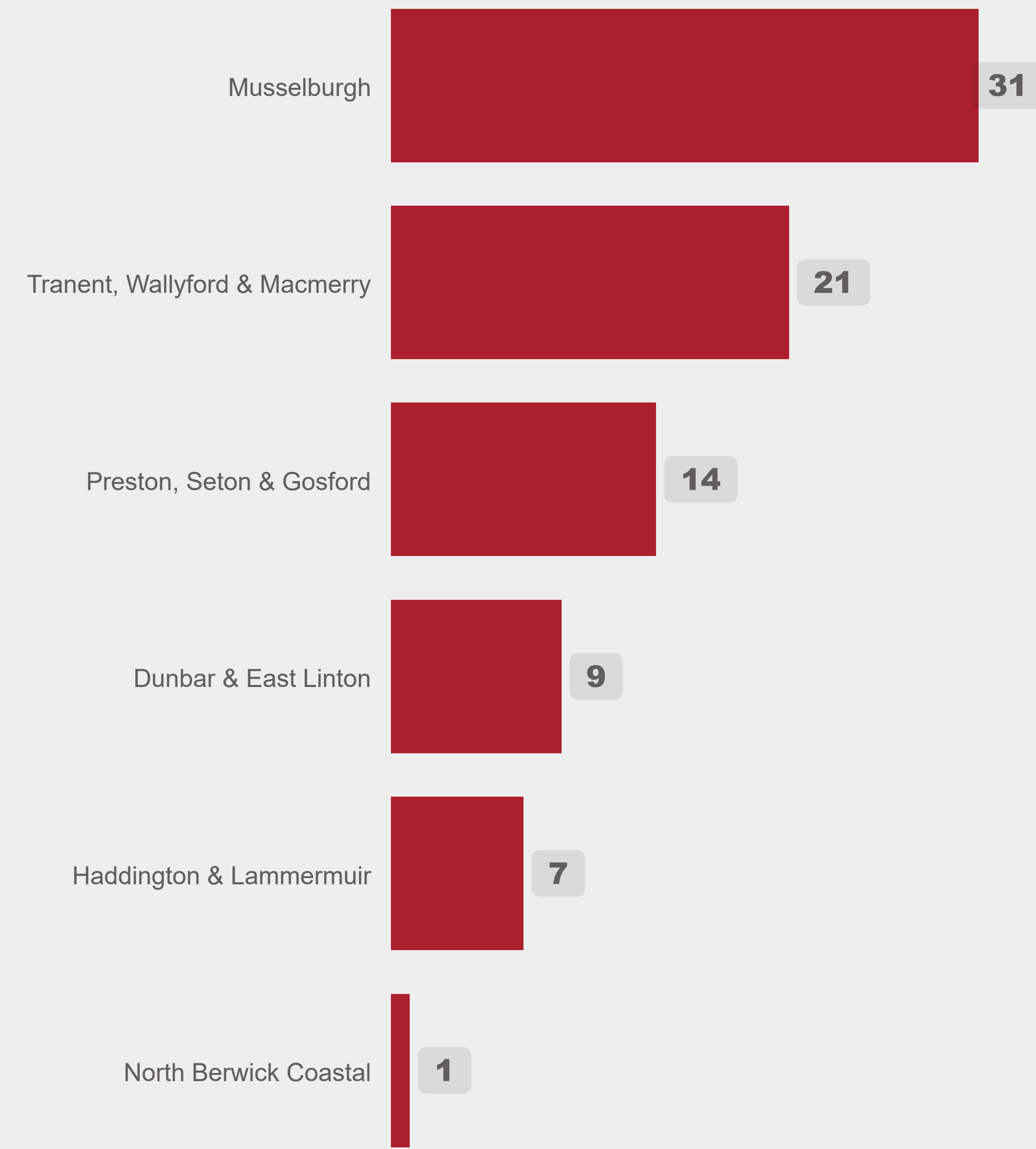
The statistics above for Non-Fire Related Casualties show a significant drop from the same reporting period of 2023-24, SFRS has recorded 10 non fatal casualties and 2 fatal casualties over Quarters 3 & 4, this can be broken down further to one reported casualty in Q3 and 11 casualties in Q4. By comparison SFRS reported 21 non fatal casualties and 13 fatal casualties over the same reporting period for 2023-24, this is a 64% reduction from 2023-24.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Property Type	Incident
Refuse	30
Grassland, woodland and crops	22
Other outdoors (including land)	12
Road Vehicle	11
Dwelling	5
Non Residential	2
Outdoor equipment and machinery	1

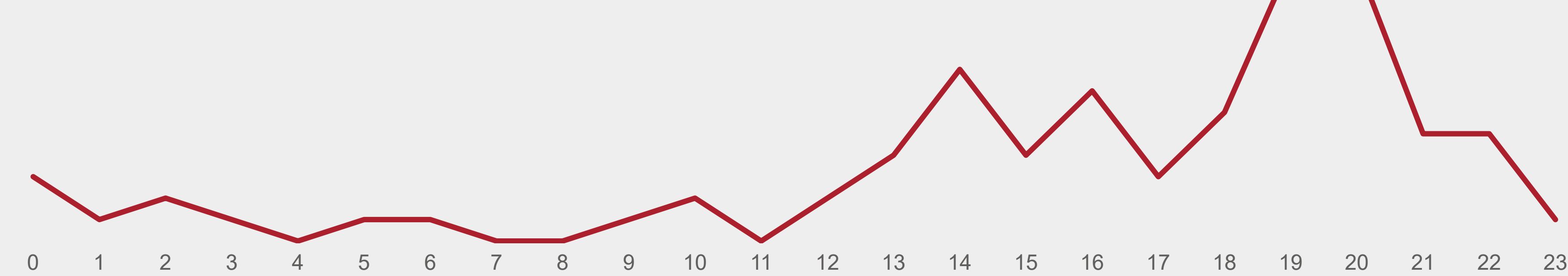
Incidents by Ward



83

Deliberate Fires  
in this period

Hour of Day



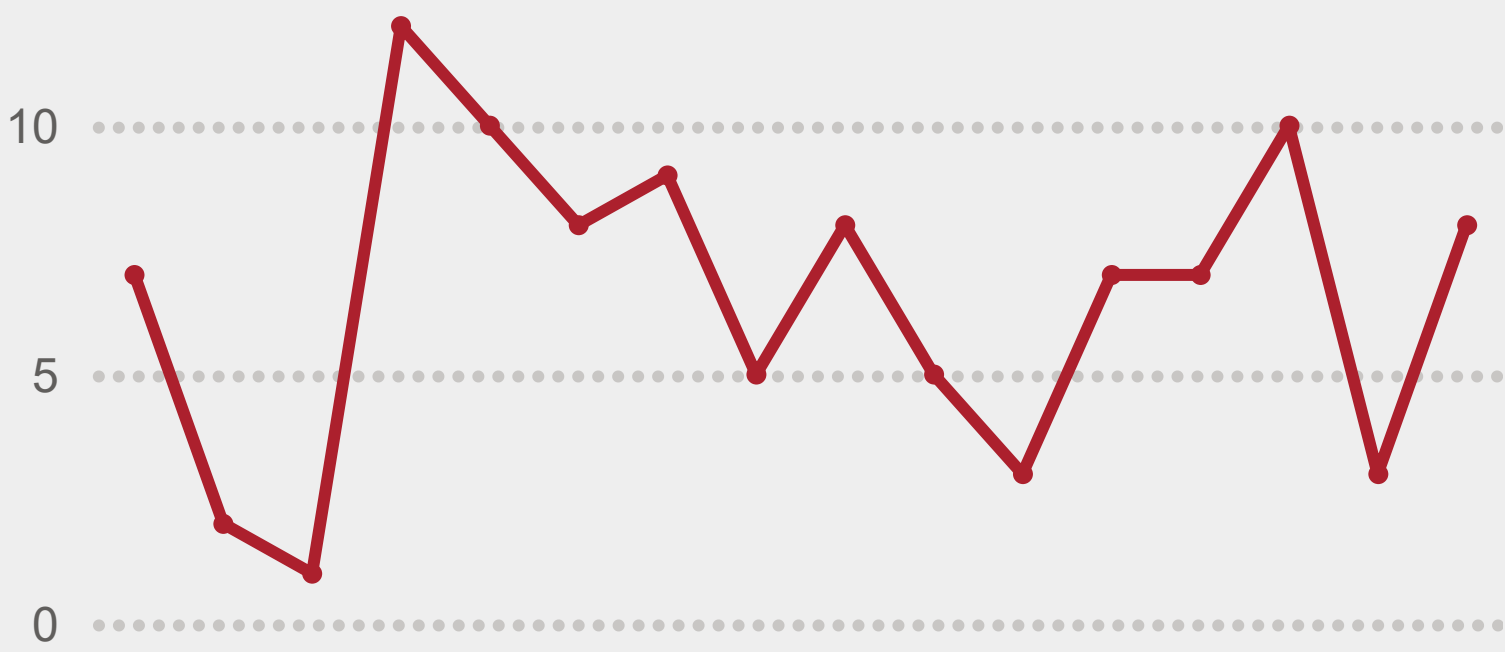
Section six of the report details the Deliberate Fires recorded by SFRS over the reporting period, the 83 deliberate fires reported by SFRS is a 23% increase from the same reporting period of 2023-24. The Musselburgh ward continues to see the largest proportion of these incidents. 62%of the incidents recorded were attributed to Refuse or Grassland fires, with the majority of incidents occurring between the hours of 1800-2100.



7. Non-Domestic Fires

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

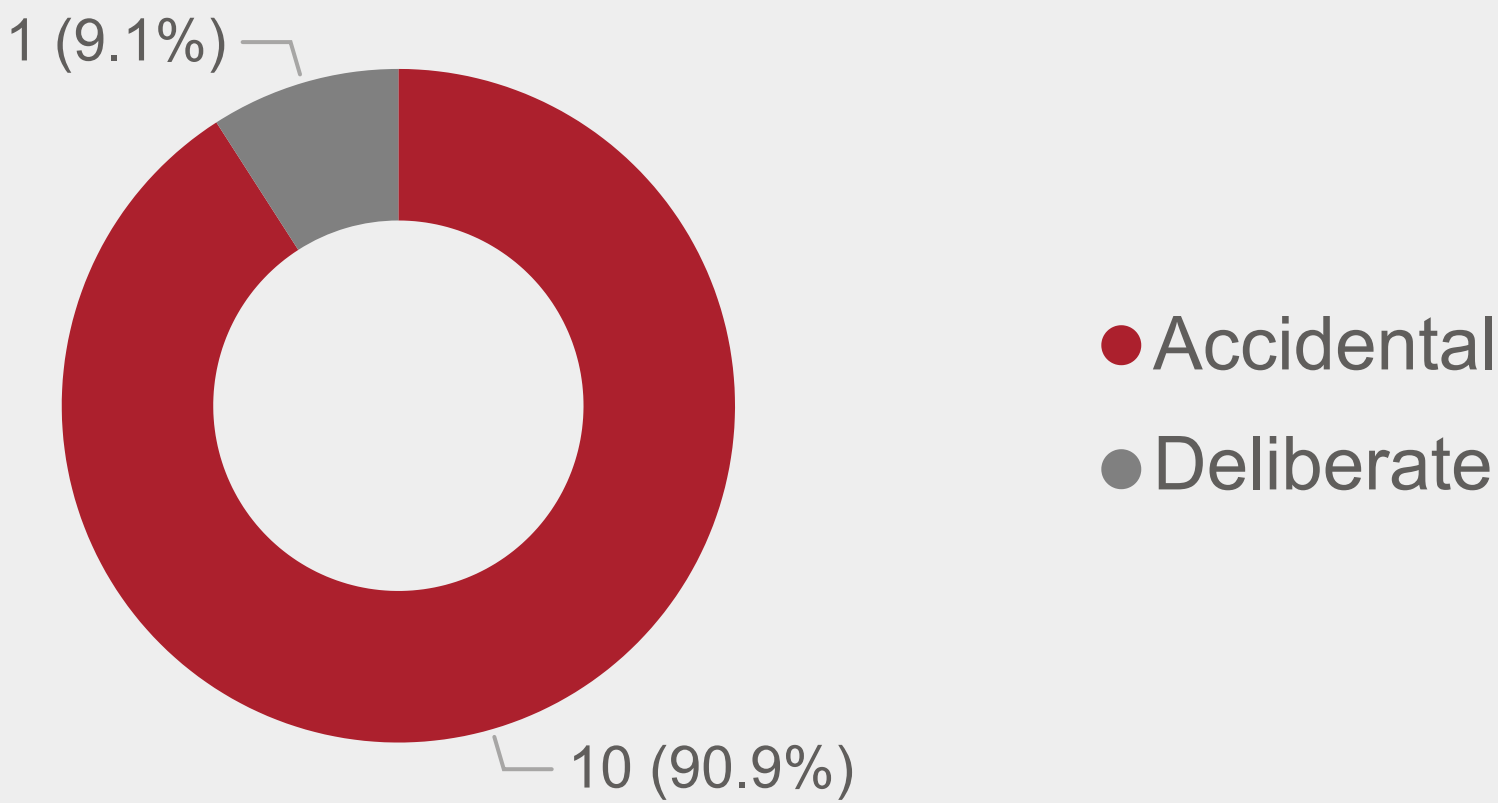
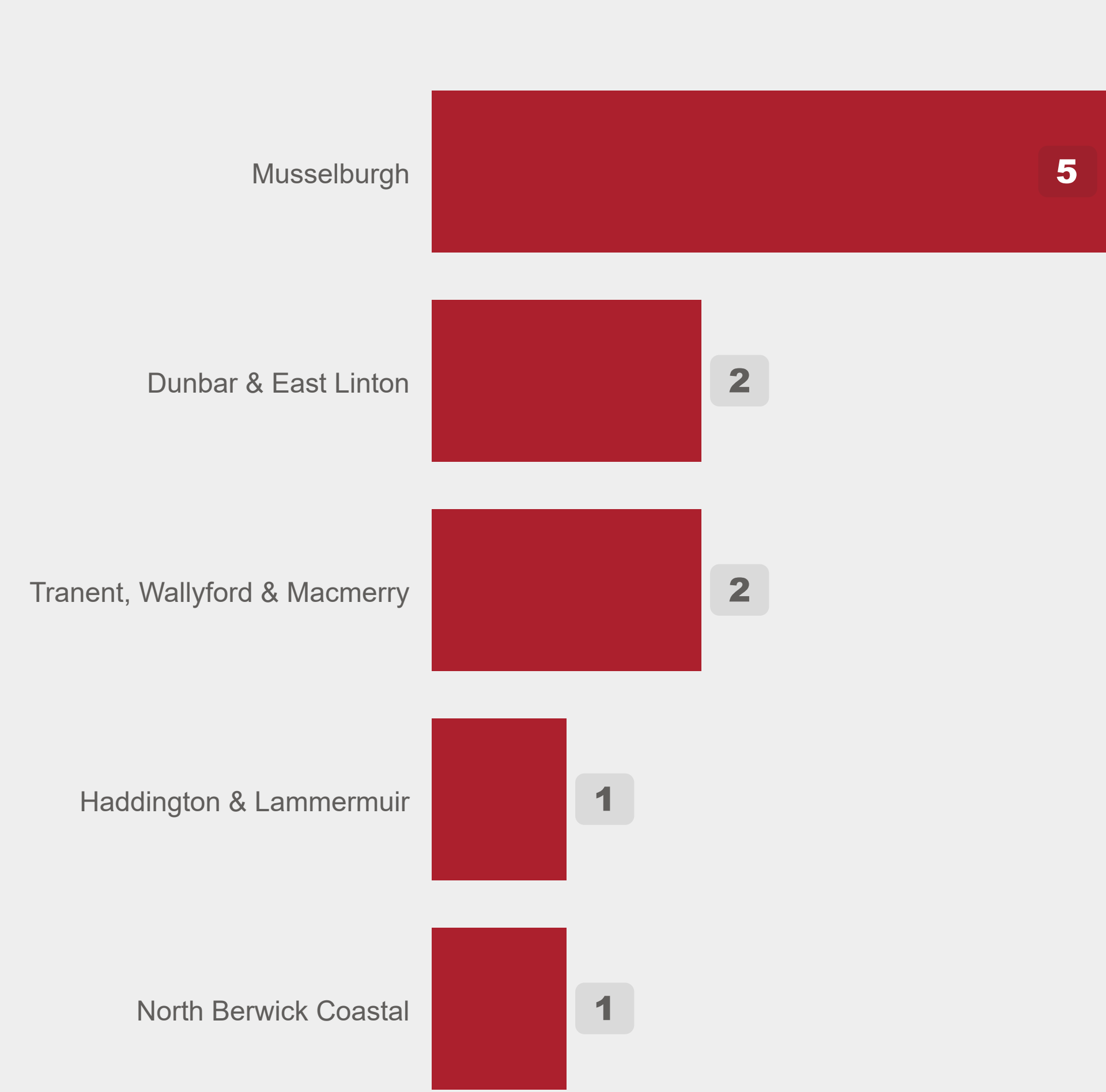
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Industrial Processing	3
Boarding School accommodation	2
Hotel/motel	1
Industrial Manufacturing	1
Retail	1
Sporting venues	1
Student Hall of Residence	1
Warehouses and bulk storage	1

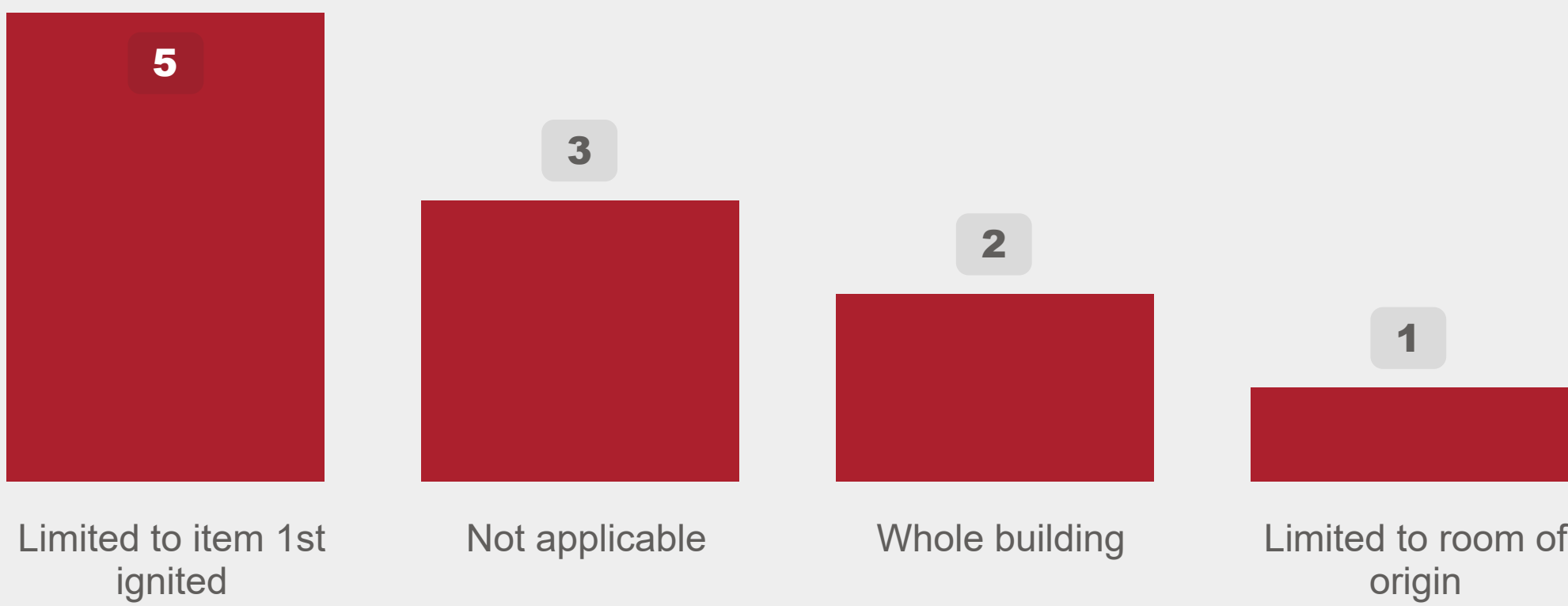
Incidents by Ward



11

Non-Domestic  
Fires in this  
period

Extent of Damage

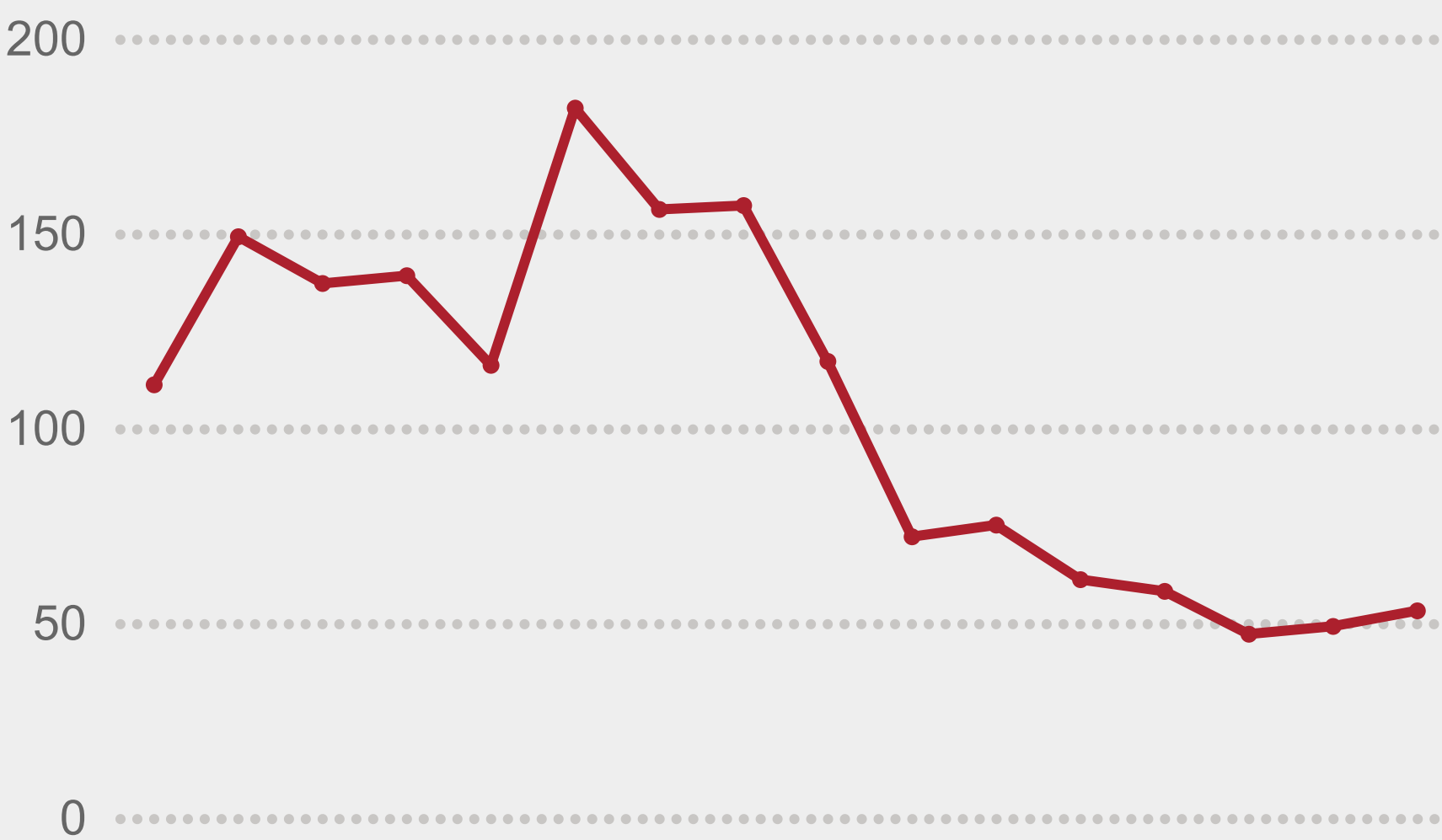


Section seven of the report highlights fires within Non-Domestic Premises recorded by SFRS over the two quarters, this can be broken down as 3 incidents within Q3 and 8 incidents within Q4, this figure is comparable to the same reporting period within 2023-24, following each incident within a non domestic property a routine audit is carried out by Fire Safety Enforcement officers to ensure compliance with the Fire Scotland Act 2005 by the duty holder of the relevant premises.

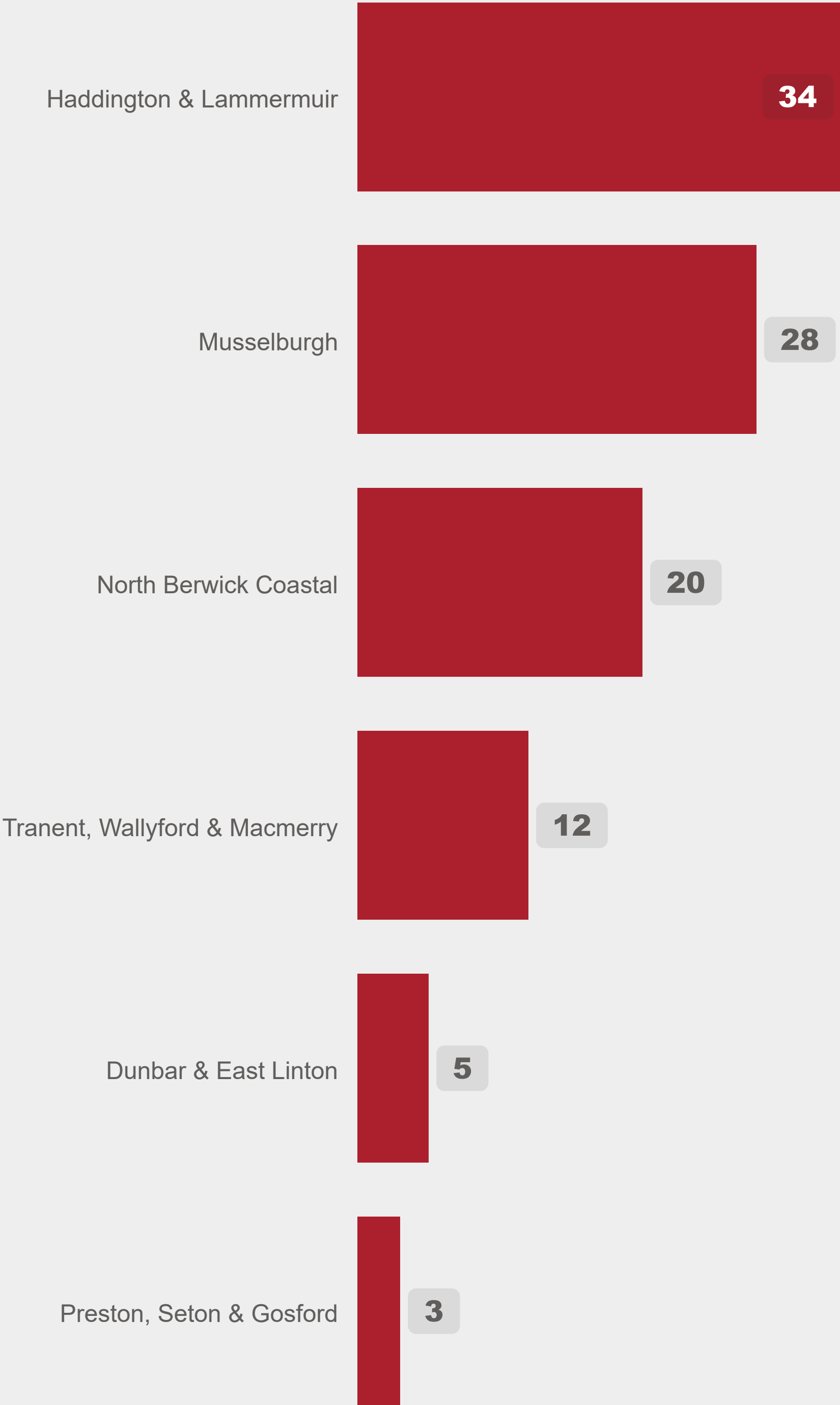
8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Residential Home	23
Education	18
Entertainment and culture	14
Hospitals and medical care	7
Hotel/motel	7
Student Hall of Residence	7
Sheltered Housing - not self contained	5
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	4
Food and Drink	3
Boarding School accommodation	2
Hostel (e.g. for homeless people)	2
Sporting venues	2
Sports pavilion/shower block/changing facility	2
Mines and quarries - buildings above ground	1
Monastery/convent	1
Offices and call centres	1
Public admin, security and safety	1
Public Utilities	1
Transport buildings	1

102

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

Section 8 of the report Highlights the amount of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals SFRS responded to over Quarters 3 & 4, this is a 28% reduction from the same reporting period of 2023-24 (136). The figure of 102 can be broken down further to 49 incidents within Q3 & 53 within Q4, SFRS continues to see the majority of false alarms within Residential Care homes, education facilities and Entertainment and culture buildings, our team of Fire Safety Enforcement officers liaise with duty holders within these premises in an effort to reduce these figures further.

9. Road Traffic Collisions

2024-25 Q3 & Q4

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



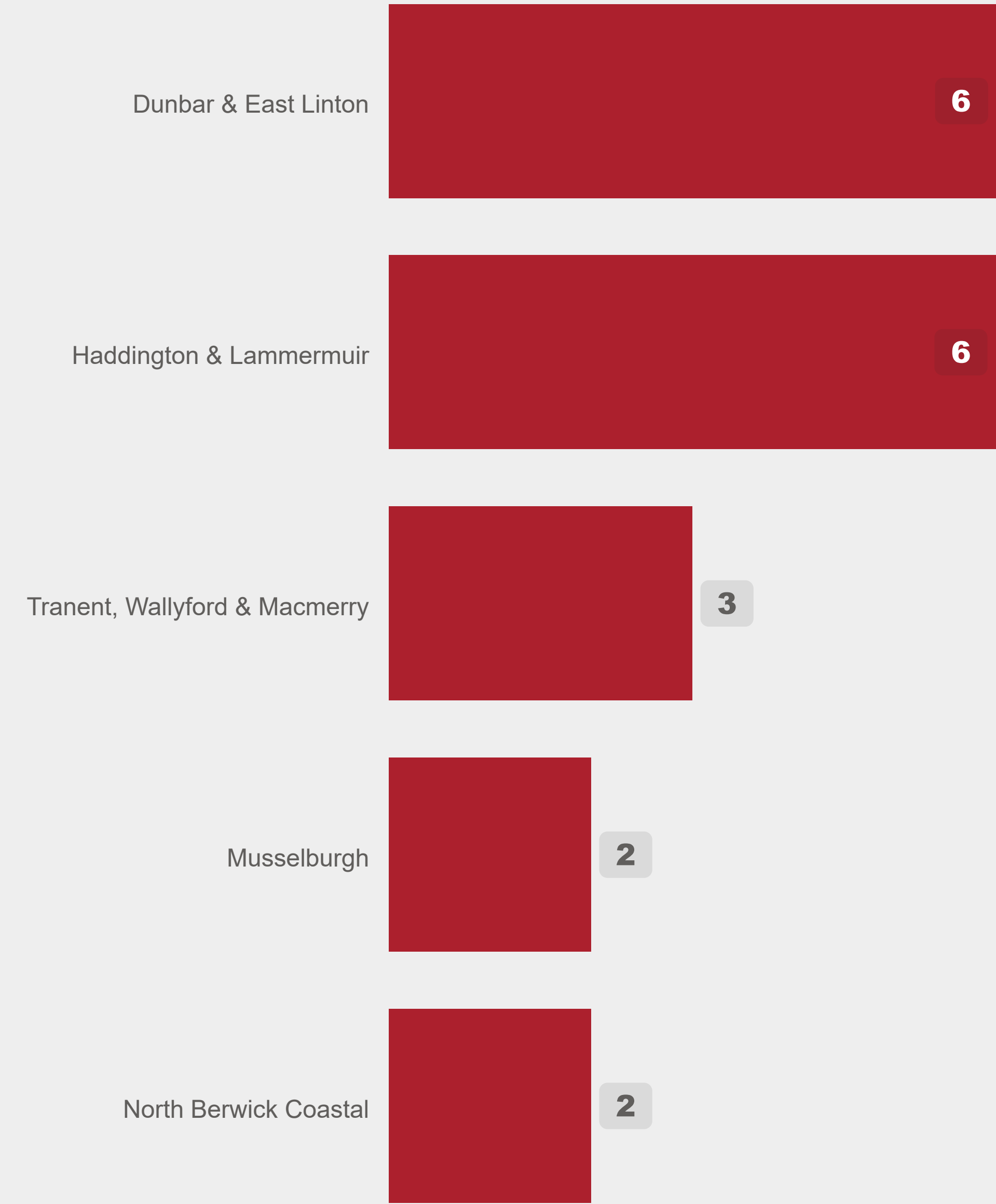
19

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
Car	16
Agricultural	1
Lorry/HGV	1
Multiple Vehicles	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	19

Incidents by Ward



10

Non-Fatal Casualties

0

Fatal Casualties

3

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

0

First Aid Given at Scene

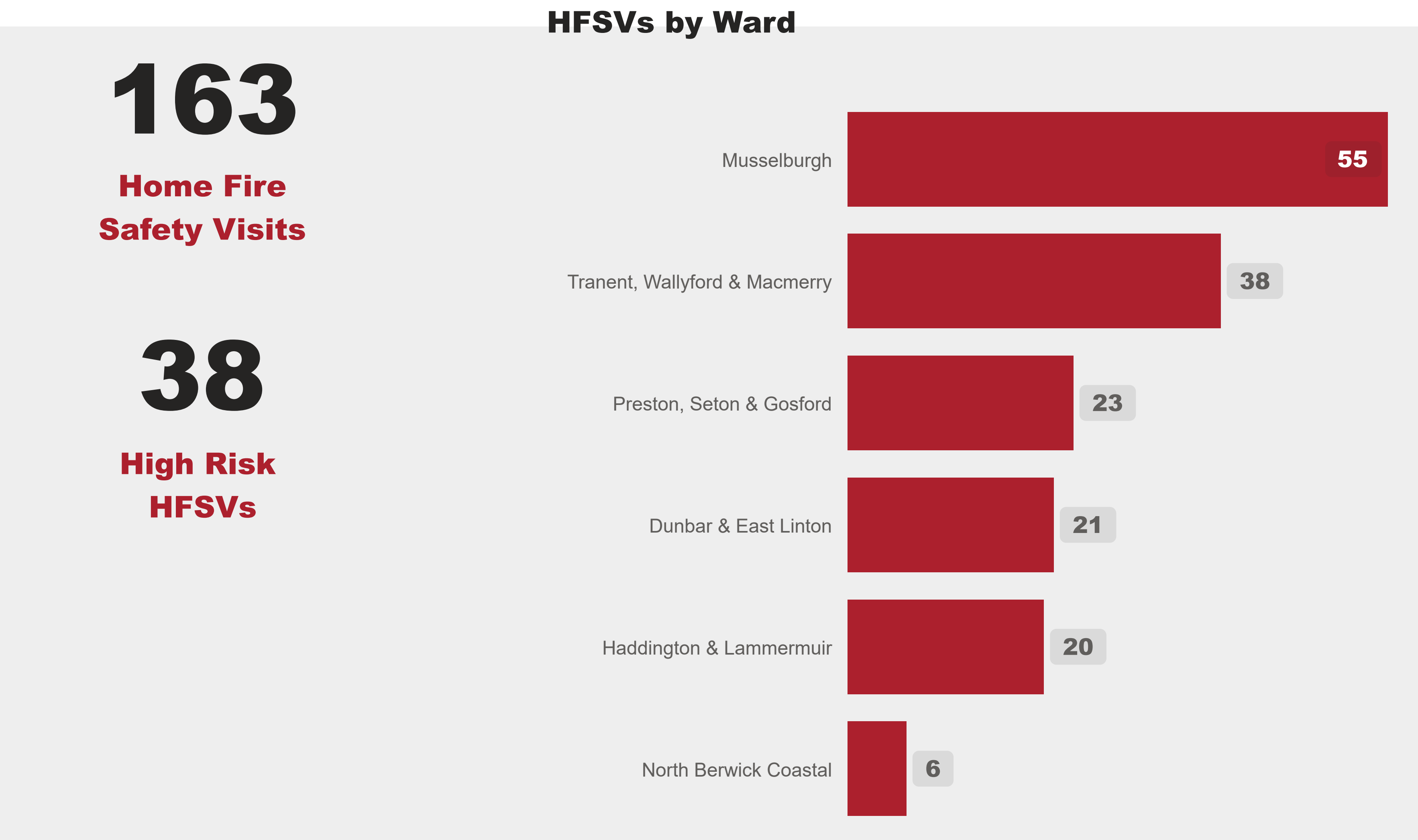
9

Hospital Slight Injuries

1

Hospital Serious Injuries

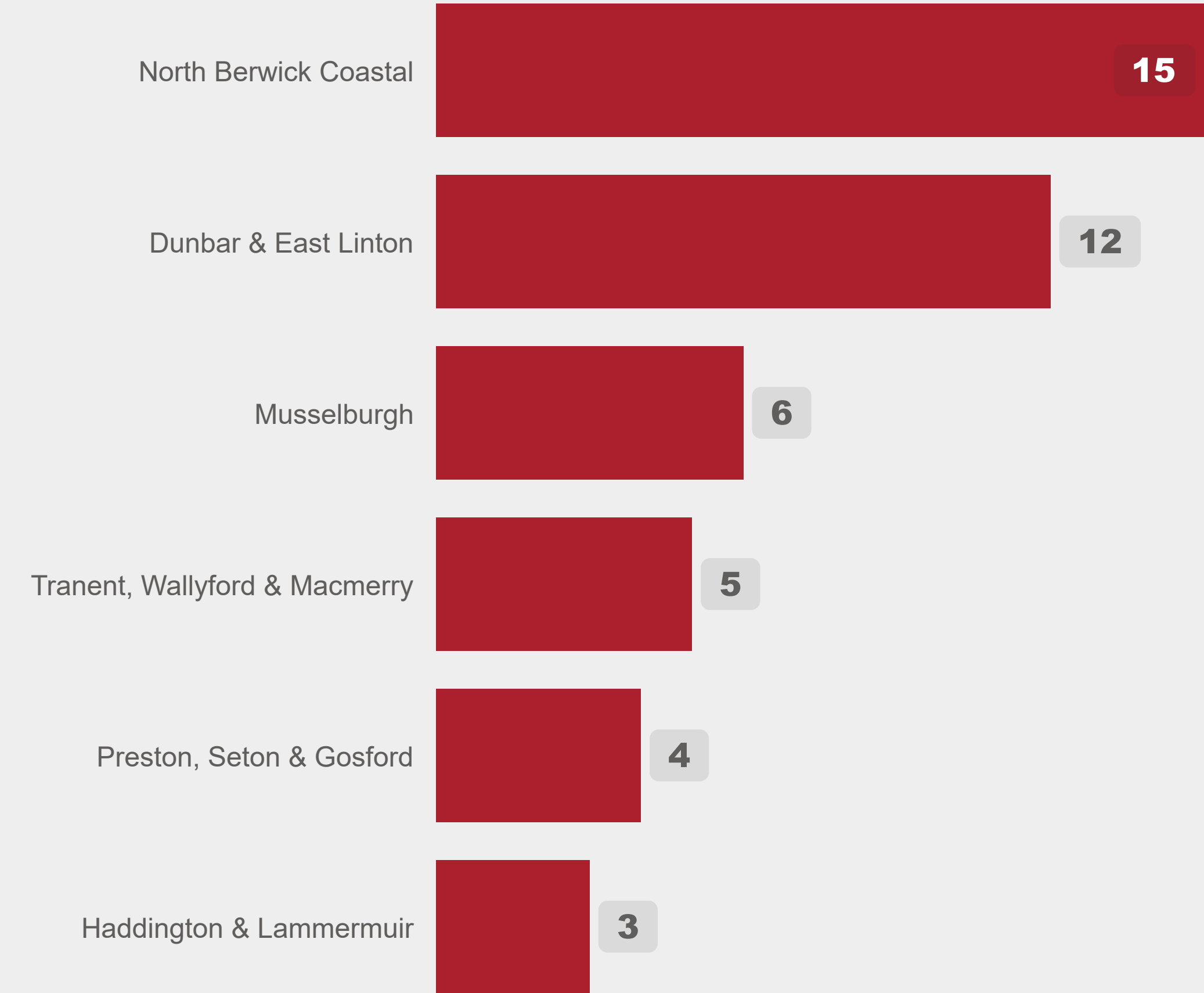
Section 9 highlights Road Traffic Collisions attended by SFRS over Quarters 3 & 4 2024-25, this is an 18% increase (16) from the same reporting period of 2023-24, the incidents attended can be broken down further to 5 RTC's within Q3 and 14 RTC's within Q4, we have also seen a 40% reduction in People rescued by Firefighters from 2023-24 and an 18% reduction on individuals reporting to hospital with slight injuries.



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Audit	45
Specific Visit	11
Consultation	2

Audits by Ward



Section 10 of the report highlights the HFSV 's carried out by SFRS over Q's 3 & 4 2024-25, During this period, SFRS adjusted the criteria for HFSV's to only those deemed at high risk of fire being eligible for a visit, this has resulted in a 63% reduction of visits carried out from the same reporting period in 2023-24, however any individual who enquires about a HFSV will be given a personalised Fire Safety Guidance document if they are ineligible for a visit. Also contained within Section 11 of the report, highlights the continued work carried out by Fire Safety Enforcement in relation to Audits of relevant premises under the Fire Scotland Act (2005), SFRS continues to work with local authorities to assist with the applications for short term lets within East Lothian.



Over the Reporting Period SFRS carried out the following activities in relation to Community Safety across East Lothian:

**Quarter 3**

Both operational staff and Community Action Team (CAT) member engaged with Primary and Secondary Schools across the area to deliver Bonfire Safety presentations in preparation for 5th November as part of the Autumn Thematic Action Plan.

The CAT also delivered '2mors driver' presentations to Dunbar & North Berwick High Schools and fire safety talks to Knox Academy and Dunbar first year pupils.

The CAT continue to target Anti Social Behaviour across the local authority area and have completed Fire Setter Interventions to youths involved in fires around Edenhall and have also visited the North Berwick Youth project to speak to youths who have previously been known to set fires.

Over the Quarter SFRS also assisted Knox Academy to deliver an Anthony Nolan event at the school which resulted in approximately 70 donors joining the Register.

**Quarter 4**

Over Quarter 4 both operational crews and CAT engaged with members of the public to educate and inform them on both Winter & Spring Safety, using the SFRS thematic action plans to focus on topics around cooking safety as well as grassland and wheelie bin fires.

The CAT also delivered '2mors driver' presentations to Knox Academy alongside our partners within Police Scotland.

The CAT also targeted Anti social behaviour within Dunbar and attended Dunbar High School alongside Police Scotland to engage with youths and also delivered an independent living/fire safety presentation to 30 fifth year pupils at the school.

## 13. Glossary of Terms

### Term - What it means

#### **ADF**

Accidental Dwelling Fire.

#### **HFSV**

Home Fire Safety Visit.

#### **PDIR**

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

#### **RTC**

Road Traffic Collision.

#### **Special Service**

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

#### **UFAS**

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

#### UFAS Policy Change

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

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

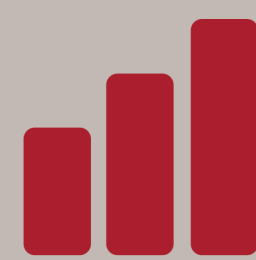
*The new policy is to call challenge all UFAS incidents with the intention of non-attendance. Hospitals, care homes, and sleeping risk premises are all exempt and receive either 2 pumps or their premise specific PDA.*



# SCOTTISH

## FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

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BUSINESS  
**INTELLIGENCE**

Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.



**REPORT TO: POLICE, FIRE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING DATE: 11 June 2025**

**BY: Executive Director for Place**

**SUBJECT: Tackling Antisocial Behaviour**

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4

## **1 PURPOSE**

To advise the Committee on the number, type and geographical breakdown of antisocial behaviour complaints received by East Lothian Council during the reporting period (1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025) and to advise on actions taken in response to same.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the terms of the report.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The number of antisocial complaints received by East Lothian Council during the reporting period was 877 bringing the aggregate number of complaints received during 2024/2025 to 1863. This represents a 3% increase as compared to the preceding year (1803).
- 3.2 Appendix 1 provides a linear analysis of antisocial behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council from 2020/2021 to 2024/2025.
- 3.3 Appendix 2 provides a linear analysis of the number of antisocial behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council per 100 000 of the population from 2020/2021 to 2024/2025.
- 3.4 Of the aggregate 1863 complaints received, 804 related to (all forms of) antisocial noise, 272 were youth related with the remaining 787 consisting of, *amongst other things*, shouting, swearing, neighbour disputes, drug related complaints, harassment, and verbal abuse. The diagram at Appendix 3 offers a visual representation of the breakdown in terms of case type in terms of percentage.
- 3.5 In terms of *loci*, 48% of the aggregate complaints received during 2024/2025 were from Musselburgh and the surrounding environs, 20%

from Tranent, 7% from Dunbar, 12% from Prestonpans, 8% from Haddington and 5% from North Berwick. The diagram at Appendix 4 offers a visual representation of geographical breakdown.

- 3.6 During the reporting period, 37 referrals were made to the mediation service. Following upon a previous review of the way in which lower-level antisocial behaviour complaints were being processed on receipt, cases continue to be, *at first instance*, referred to the mediation service with a view to diverting parties away from traditional enforcement interventions.
- 3.7 There are 24 live Antisocial Behaviour Orders in East Lothian. The Antisocial Behaviour Case Monitoring Group continues to meet on a four weekly basis to ensure that the more *serious, complex, and persistent cases* are addressed from a multi-agency perspective; there are currently 72 cases being so monitored, 20 of which are drug related.
- 3.8 The Antisocial Behaviour Overview Group, along with the weekly and recently Tasking and Co-ordinating Group, met throughout the reporting period; the latter of these multi-agency groups informs the deployment of Police Officers, Neighbourhood Outreach Youth Workers, and mobile CCTV cameras, of which there are 6, to antisocial behaviour “hotspots”, with said deployments being made on an analysis of complaint levels and received intelligence. During the reporting period, membership of the group was extended to include representatives from the Health and Social Care and Midlothian and East Lothian Drugs and Alcohol Partnerships to help inform discussions pertaining to individuals who have come to the attention of Police Scotland and other agencies and who are affected by mental health and substance and alcohol issues.
- 3.9 During the reporting period the Independent Working Group on Antisocial Behaviour established by the Scottish Government published its report entitled “Antisocial Behaviour – Whose responsibility? Towards a more effective response for addressing antisocial behaviour in Scotland”. Contained within were a series of recommendations, including, the establishment of an independently chaired oversight board “to support a whole system approach to drive change and to ... provide leadership to the sustainable delivery of upstream prevention and achieve effective partnership working.” The report also called for, amongst other things, “the development of a preventative framework outlining the supports and resources within public services to achieve upstream prevention.” It is of note that in East Lothian there are already a number of council teams and partner agencies that deliver a range of diversionary and preventative programmes and activities. The report also called for a review and revision of the existing legislation and guidance relating to antisocial behaviour. A full copy of the report can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/report-independent-working-group-antisocial-behaviour/>.
- 3.10 Officers continue to participate in the national Antisocial Behaviour Officers Forum, the Scottish Community Safety Network, and the Scottish Mediation Network.

- 3.11 The Overview Group instructed a review of the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy in December 2022; a cross-service working group consisting of senior officers and police representatives met twice during 2023. Following upon those discussions and having received initial feedback from the East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel, management of the consultation process was outsourced to Green and Burton ASB Associates. Representatives from that organisation are currently consulting with officers from a number of internal council teams and external partners, including, Police Scotland, East Lothian Housing Association and the said Panel. In June 2025 the consultants will be engaging with local Elected Members. A Strategy Workshop will take place in July 2025 to explore the findings from the consultation with a draft being prepared shortly thereafter. Following upon further consultation, the final document will be submitted for Council approval in September 2025.
- 3.12 During the reporting period, 86 joint Police / Council letters were sent to the parents of children whom the police had identified as being present in instances and areas affected by antisocial behaviour; all such letters were copied to Education, Children's Wellbeing, Police Scotland's Youth Justice Officer and to the relevant Area Housing Office where the child formed part of council tenancy household.
- 3.13 The Community Protection Officers, previously known as the Community Wardens, have, amongst other things, continued to investigate complaints of low-level antisocial behaviour, fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, unauthorised Traveller encampments, littering, graffiti, dog fouling and out of control and stray dogs. At the date of the report there were 3 full-time Community Protection Officers covering the East side of the county with 3 full-time and 1 part-time officer in the West; the previous staff complement was added to in May 2025 by the employment of 2 temporary officers whose primary focus will be on addressing fly-tipping but who will also assist in addressing broader types of antisocial behaviour.

## **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

## **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and no negative impacts have been identified.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial – None.
- 6.2 Personnel - None.

6.3 Other – None.

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

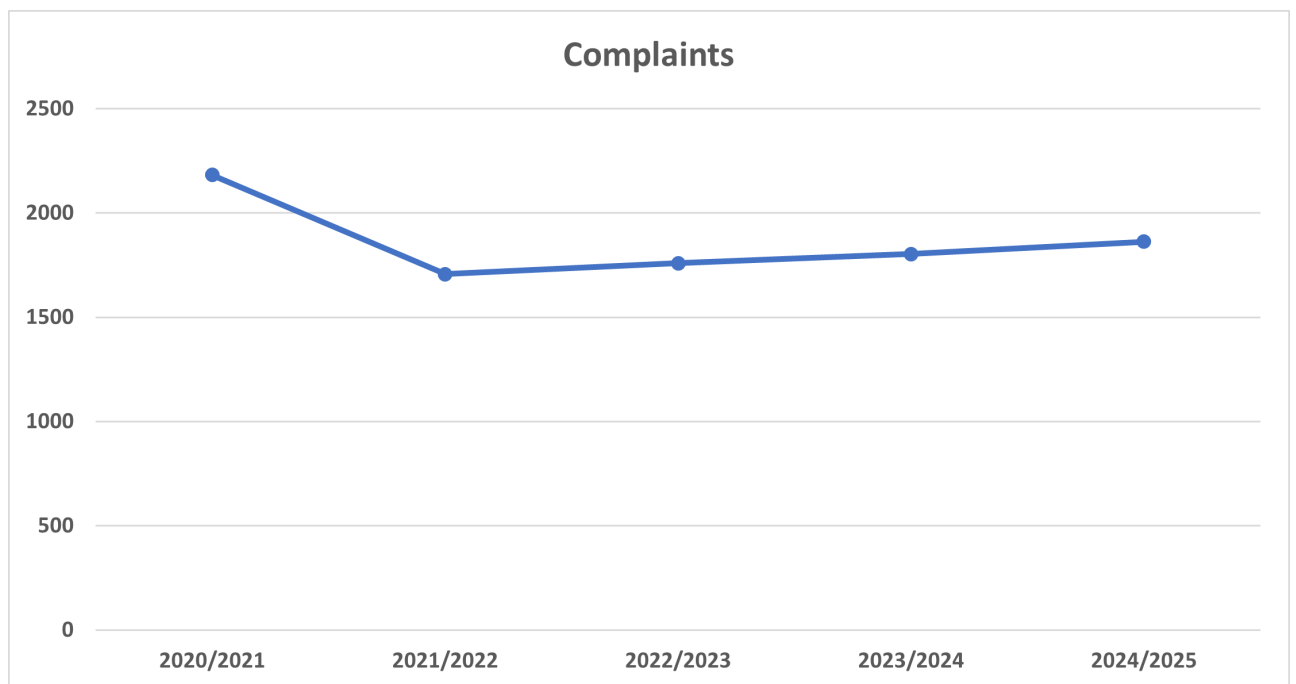
- 7.1 Appendix 1 - Graph showing Antisocial Behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council from 2020/2021 to 2024/2025.
- 7.2 Appendix 2 – Graph showing the number of Antisocial Behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council per 100K of the population (2020/2021 to 2024/2025).
- 7.3 Appendix 3 - Chart showing breakdown of complaint type (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025).
- 7.4 Appendix 4 - Chart showing geographical breakdown (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025).

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Kenneth Black
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Team Manager Community Protection Team
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	01620 829 919
<b>DATE</b>	21 May 2025



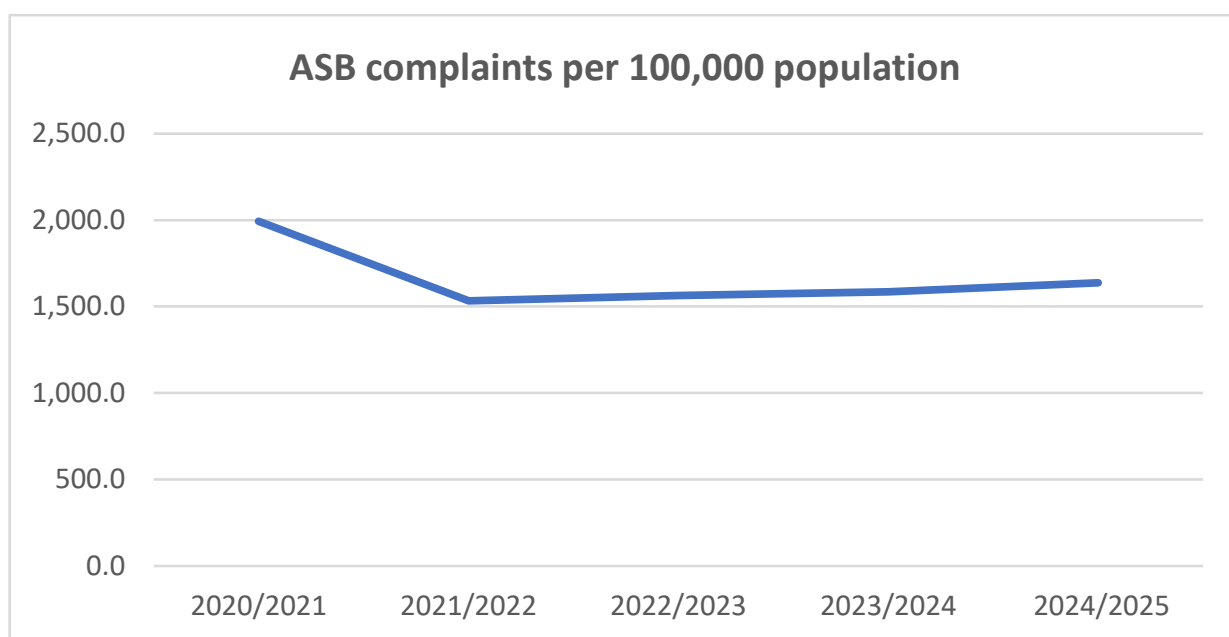
## Appendix 1

### **Number of antisocial behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council 2020/2021 – 2024/2025**



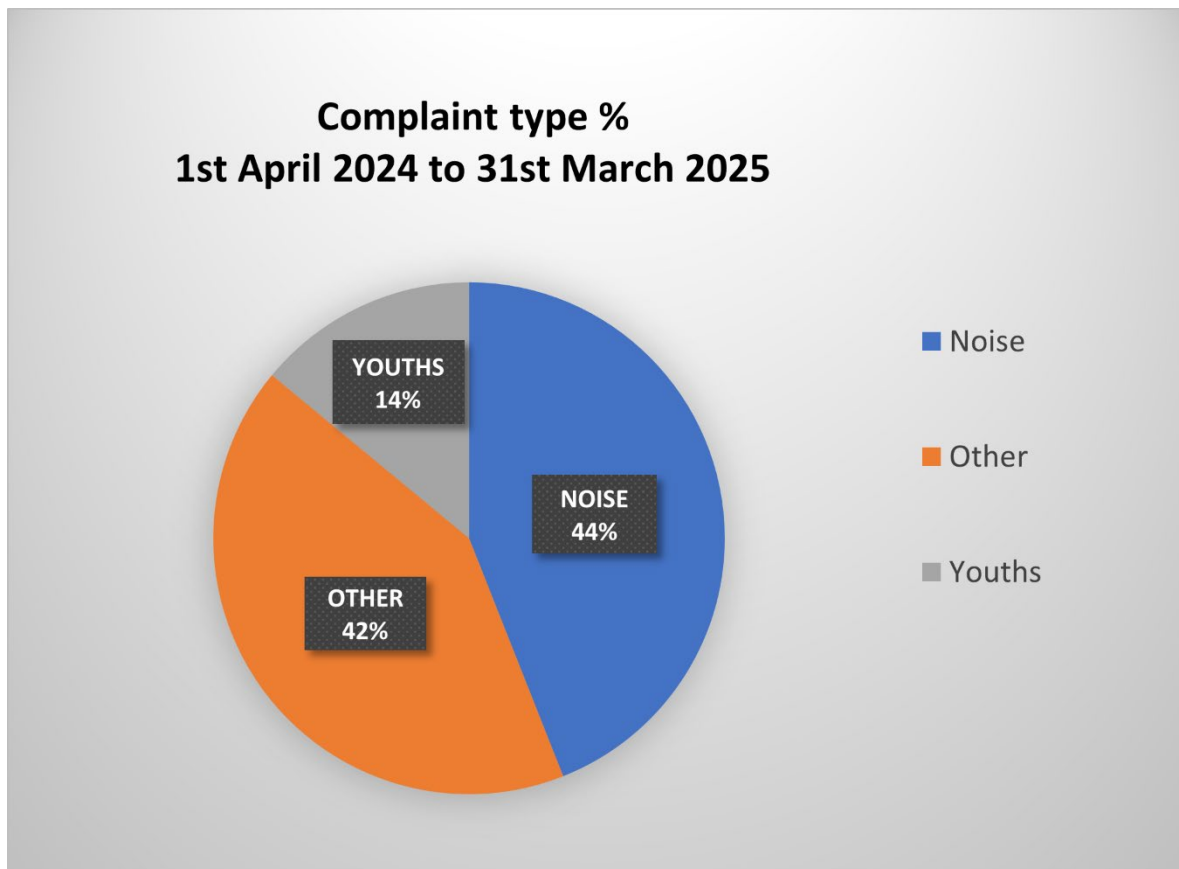
## Appendix 2

### **Number of Antisocial Behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council per 100k of population 2020 – 2025**



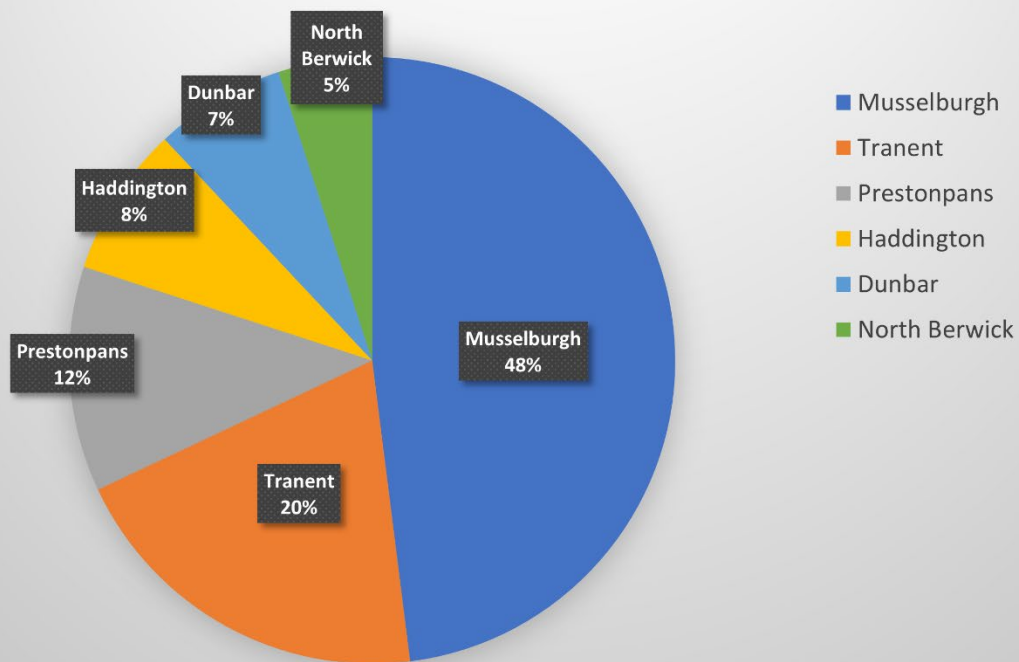
	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
ASB Complaints	2182	1706	1759	1803	1863
Estimated mid year population	109,500	111,350	112,460	113,740	113,740
ASB complaints per 100,000 population	1,992.7	1,532.1	1,564.1	1,585.2	1637.9

## Appendix 3



## Appendix 4

**Geographical breakdown of antisocial behaviour cases %  
1st April 2024 to 31 March 2025**



Meeting Date	Performance Monitoring/ Inspection Reports	Other Reports / Reports Requested by Members	Deadline for Reports	Pre-Meet Date
<b>14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 @ 10am</b>	Fire Service Local Performance Report Q1 and Q2 Police Scotland Scrutiny Report Q1 and Q2	ELC Antisocial Behaviour Report	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 @ 10am
<b>17<sup>th</sup> June 2026 @ 10am</b>	Police Scotland Scrutiny Report Q3 and Q4 Fire Service Local Performance Report Q3 and Q4	ELC Antisocial Behaviour Report	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 @ 10am