



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

**Working together  
for a safer Scotland**

  
**Renfrewshire**  
Council



Report to:	<b>Renfrewshire Council Housing and Community Safety Policy Board</b>
Date of Report:	<b>15<sup>th</sup> February 2017</b>
Report by:	<b>David Proctor, Local Senior Officer ( LSO) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</b>

Subject:	<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Report</b>
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## **PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) performance and activities during the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 reporting period.

## **PERFORMANCE**

2. The information provided in this report and attached appendix relates to the specific key performance indicators detailed in the Renfrewshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-2017. The SFRS Local Senior Officer will be happy to meet with any Elected Members who wish to discuss specific Ward issues.

A summary of the key performance indicators is detailed below:

- a. The total number of Accidental Dwelling Fires decreased from **46** in the same period in 2015/16 to **23** in the current reporting period.
- b. The total number of All Non-Fatal Fire Casualties decreased from **11** in the same period in 2015/16 to **4** in the current reporting period.
- c. The total number of incidents involving Deliberate Fire Raising increased from **22** in the same period in 2015/16 to **74** in the current reporting period.
- d. The total number of Fires in Non-Domestic Buildings decreased from **15** in the same period in 2015/16 to **11** in the current reporting period.

- e. The total number of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal incidents increased from **98** in the same period in 2015 to **110** in the current reporting period.
- f. The total number of Road Traffic Collisions incidents attended by SFRS which resulted resulting in non-fatal casualties, increased from **11** in the same period in 2015 to **13** in the current reporting period. The number of recorded casualties increased from **7** in the same period in 2015 to **15** in the current reporting period.

## **PRIORITIES & INTERVENTIONS**

- 3. SFRS is committed to working in partnership with Community Planning partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors in order to work together for a safer Scotland. Strengthening our relationship with and working in partnership to add value to our communities is critical to the success of our strategy.

The following activities are illustrative of SFRS arrangements in terms of partnership working and targeted engagement:

- a. The Local Area Liaison Officer (LALO) attends the Daily Tasking Meetings within Renfrewshire Safety Hub on a daily basis and provides statistics of incidents within the Local Authority Area to ensure partners are aware of all fire related activity. This forum continues to deliver on achieving joint positive initiatives and outcomes.
- b. In support of partnership working the Community Action Team have engaged with a number of key partners to promote Fire Safety within the home and the wider unintentional harm agenda.
- c. The Community Action Team have conducted 2 'firesetter' intervention events speaking with young people who have a fascination with fire.
- d. The Community Action Team conducted a number of information/awareness events to support the work of the SFRS Winter Thematic Action Plan.
- e. A total of 305 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) was carried out by in Renfrewshire during the reporting period. These HFSVs are carried out by our operational personnel and

Community Action Team officers who will conduct these visits jointly with partner agencies where deemed appropriate. Of these HFSVs:

- i. 22 of these HFSV were as a result of high risk referrals from Renfrewshire Community Planning partners to SFRS.
- ii. 88 were as a result of Post Domestic Incident Responses (PDIR). The SFRS conducts a PDIR at all domestic dwelling incidents (includes fire alarm actuations and special services). This involves positive engagement with the occupier(s) of the affected property and neighbouring properties by SFRS personnel. Fire safety advice and support are provided; where required SFRS provide and fit 10 year battery powered smoke detectors.

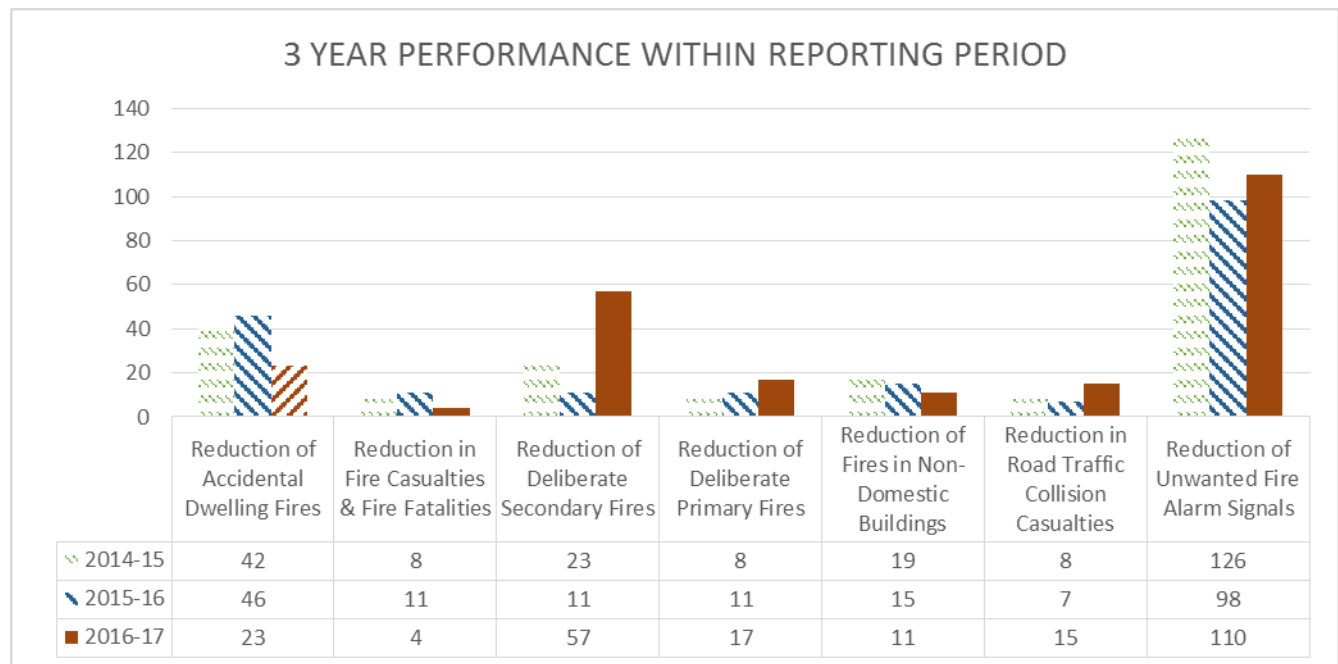
## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Housing and Community Safety Board members are asked to note the contents of this report and the attached appendix.

## **APPENDIX A**

The graph below provides a comparative overview of the activity levels within the reporting period over the last 3 years.

## 1. THREE YEAR PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW



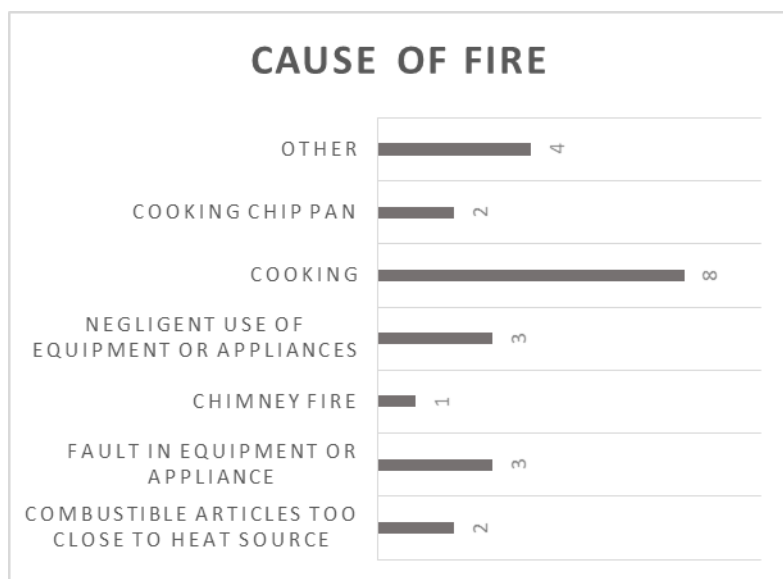
## 2. REDUCTION OF ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRES

### 2.1. Incidents by Ward



The slightly higher level of activity in a number of wards is a direct correlation to the number of residents and homes within each locality.

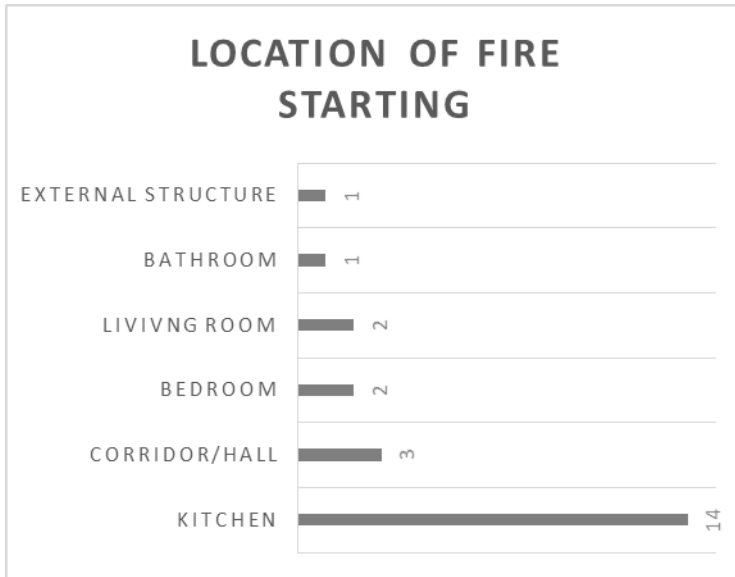
### 2.2. Cause of Fire



As is evident from graph 2.2 cooking remains the most significant cause of accidental dwelling fires in Renfrewshire.

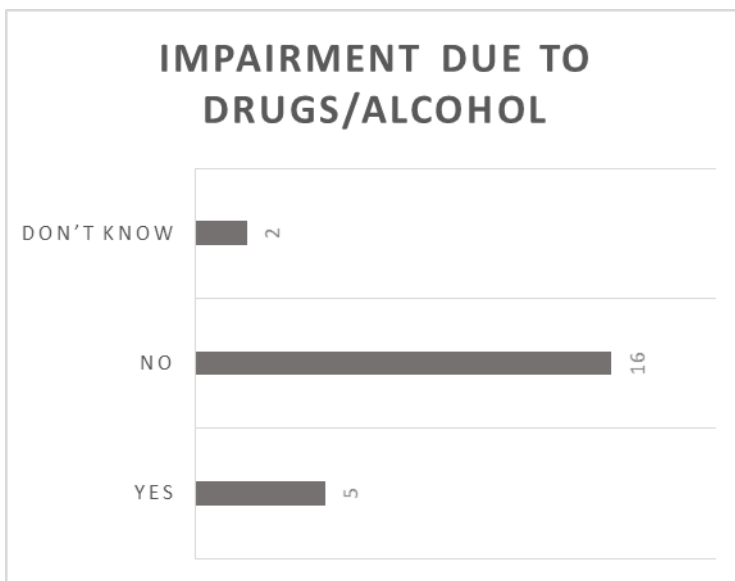
However further analysis of the information has shown that the majority of the incidents are small in nature and require no action by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). The increase in detectors within homes has provided early warning and intervention.

### 2.3. Location of Fire



The information within this graph links directly to 2.2 above where cooking was identified as the most common cause of fire and this is further confirmed with 14 fires starting within the Kitchen.

### 2.4. Human Factors



It is encouraging to see that in 18 out of the 23 incidents that alcohol or drugs were not a factor.

However distraction still has a bearing on accidental fires and this is a hard factor to resolve.

Partnership working to address alcohol and drug related incidents is central to reducing the risk to the individuals identified as well as their neighbours.



3. REDUCTION OF FIRE CASUALTIES



Distraction includes conditions such as alcohol/ drug (prescribed or other) use, mental health, capability and individuals dealing with other matters and forgetting that they have left something cooking.

The 8 fires having no known contributory factors are considered purely accidental.

3.1. Casualties by Ward

There were only 4 recorded casualties during the reporting period and these were in the Renfrew North, Paisley North and Renfrew South & Gallowhill Wards . In comparison to the same period last year this is a reduction of 7 less recorded fire casualties.

3.2. Casualties by Age and Gender

One casualty was male in the 40 to 49 age range. The other casualties's were female in the 20 to 39 age group category. This fire casualty profile is not reflective of the Scottish profile, which over the past two years has seen a growing trend of older females being the most at risk of harm from fire.

3.3. Extent of Harm

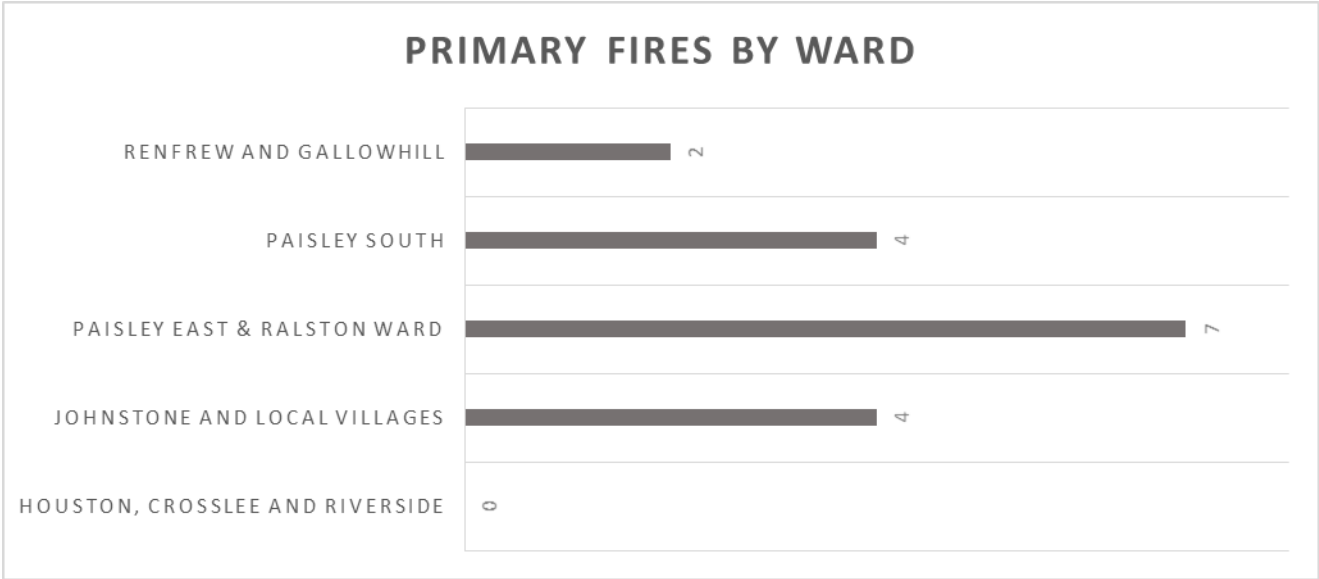
All of the incidents resulted in slight injury or requirement for a precautionary at the scene. The positive impact of early warning of fire provided by either standalone or linked smoke alarms is evident in terms of the reduction in the number of severe dwelling fires and the associated level of fire related injuries compared to 10 years ago.

4. REDUCTION OF DELIBERATE FIRE SETTING

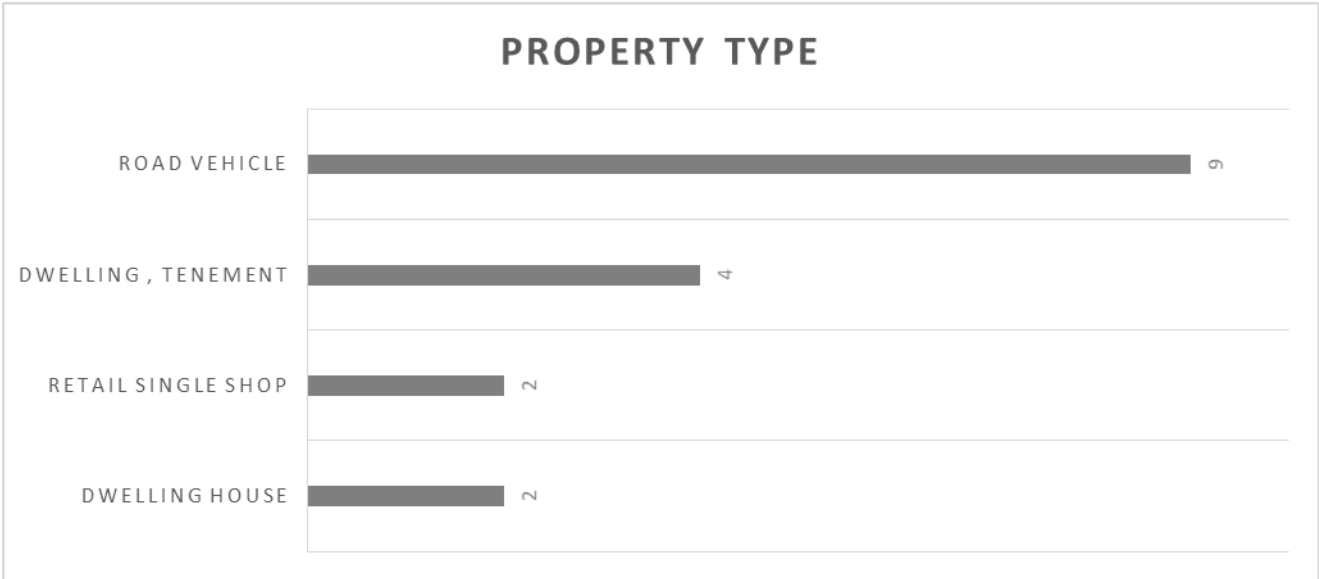
4.1. Primary Fires

Primary fires are classed as those involving property which has a specific private or commercial value; and generally relates to building, structures or vehicle fires. During the reporting period there were a total of 17 deliberate primary fires; this is an increase when compared to the same period in 2015/16 when there were 11 deliberate primary fires.

4.1.1. Incidents by Ward



4.1.2. Property Types



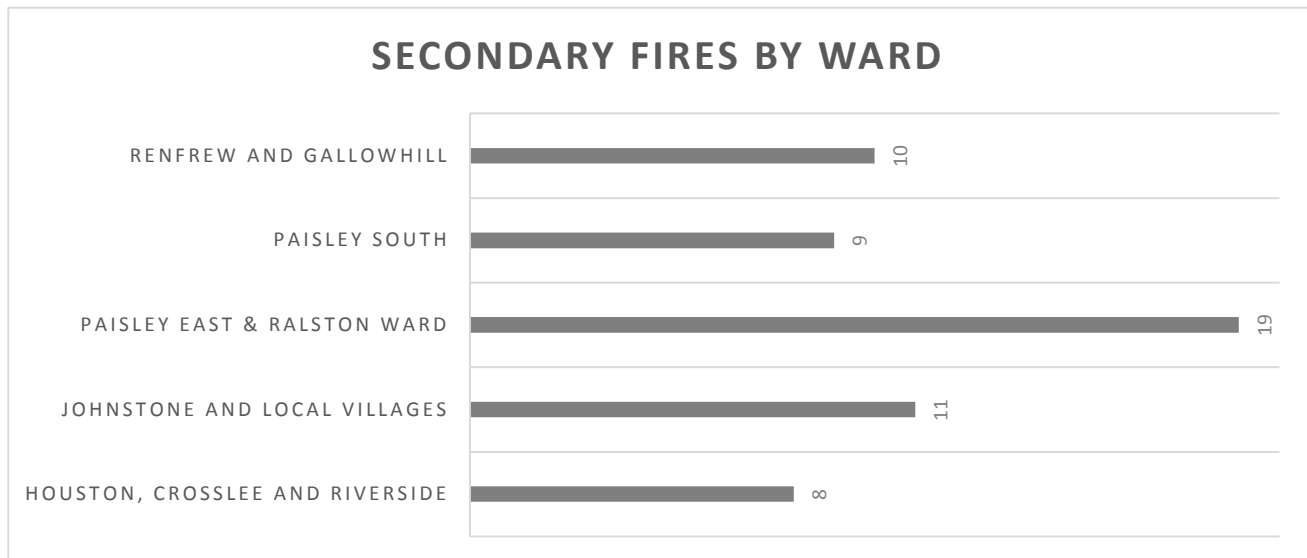
Deliberate fire setting is a criminal offence and SFRS will request Police Scotland to attend suspected deliberate primary fires when deemed appropriate. The SFRS Local Area Liaison Officer (LALO) attends the Daily Tasking meeting in Renfrewshire to provide fire activity overviews for action as appropriate.

SFRS officers will also complete Community Intelligent Reports at incidents where deliberate fire setting occurs; these are passed to Police Scotland where relevant information is gathered and used to support further investigation.

## 4.2. Secondary Fires

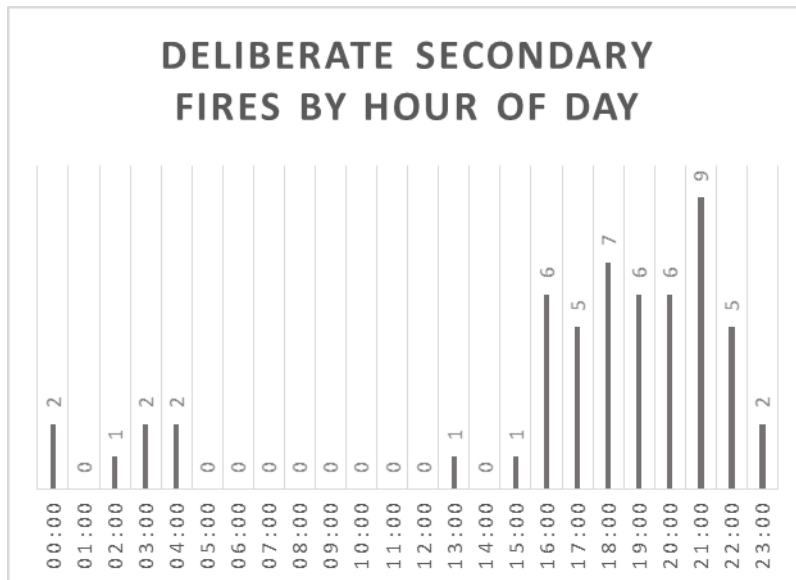
Secondary fires are classed as those involving derelict property (structures or vehicles), refuse, grassland and scrubland. During the reporting period there were a total of 57 deliberate secondary fires; this is an increase when compared to the same period in 2015/16 when there were 25 deliberate secondary fires.

### 4.2.1. Incidents by Ward



SFRS works closely with our partners to provide appropriate engagement, education and intervention approaches. Schools in areas identified as having higher fire incidents are targeted and the CAT officers actively engage with the pupils to educate them on the dangers and subsequences of wilful fire setting.

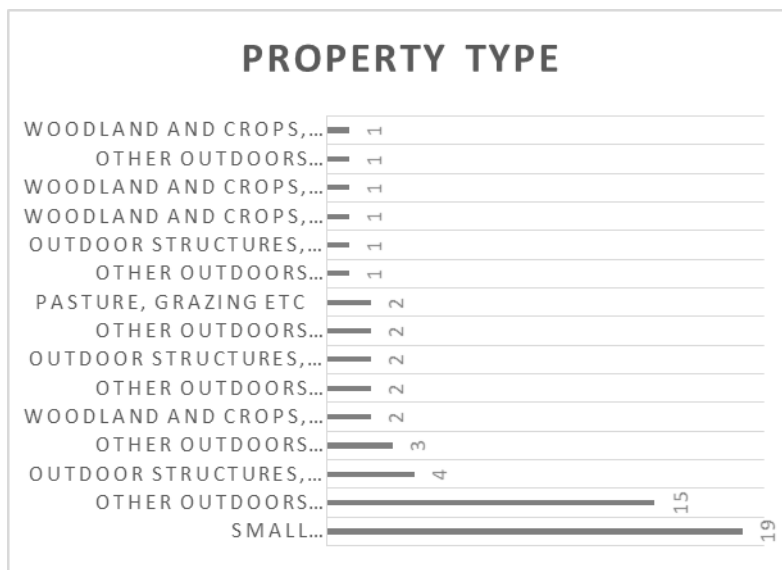
#### 4.2.2. Time of Day



Graph 4.2.2 shows it is evident the vast majority of fires occurred between 16:00hrs to 21:00hrs; this pattern leads us to believe the majority of these fires have been started by school age young people who outwith these times will either be in bed or at school.

The Firereach programme also addresses wilful fire setting and educates young people on the impact of available front line emergency resources attending secondary fires and not being available for life threatening emergencies.

#### 4.2.3. Property Type



Work has been on-going through daily tasking to identify specific area of activity through sharing of information. This has resulted in an increased presence of Wardens, SFRS personnel and Police Scotland in the areas identified. There has also been on-going work with operational staff during the SFRS Winter Thematic Action Plan.

## **5. REDUCTION OF FIRES IN NON-DOMESTIC PREMISES**

This category includes commercial premises, private lockups/ garages and other structures. These incidents are included in the Deliberate Primary Fires referred to in section 4.1.

### **5.1. Incident by Ward**

There were a total of 2 recorded deliberate fires in non-domestic premises during the reporting period in:

- Paisley East and Ralston Ward(1)
- Paisley South Ward (1)

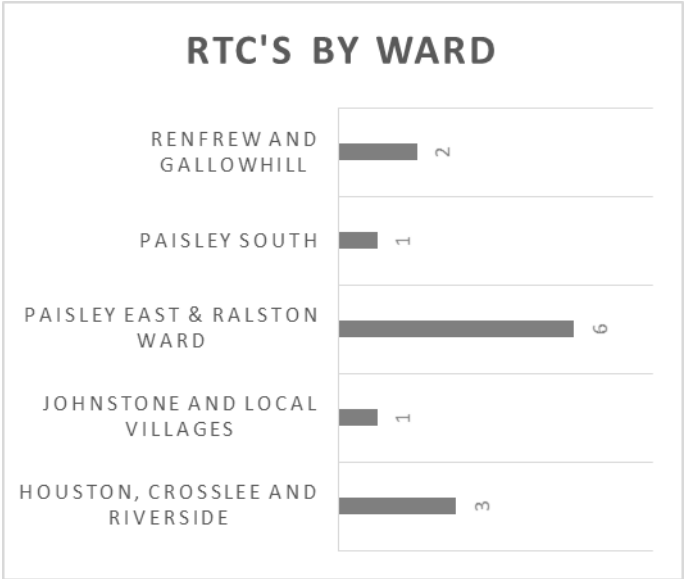
### **5.2. Property Types**

Both incidents were linked to rubbish at the rear of retail outlets.

All fires in non-domestic premises which are classed as relevant premises under The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 will be subject to a post fire audit. These are conducted by specialist Fire Safety Enforcement Officers (FSEO) who will carry out a full inspection of the premises and all paperwork required under the Act; where deficiencies in fire safety management arrangements are identified the 'duty holder' will be issued with a notice as appropriate.

6. REDUCTION OF CASUALTIES IN NON FIRE EMERGENCIES

6.1. Road Traffic Collision Incidents by Ward



There were a total of 13 Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) which SFRS attended in the reporting period; this will not reflect the numbers attended by Police Scotland which will potentially be higher. This is due to the fact SFRS only attends incidents of this nature when requested to assist in extrication of casualties or to make the scene safe.

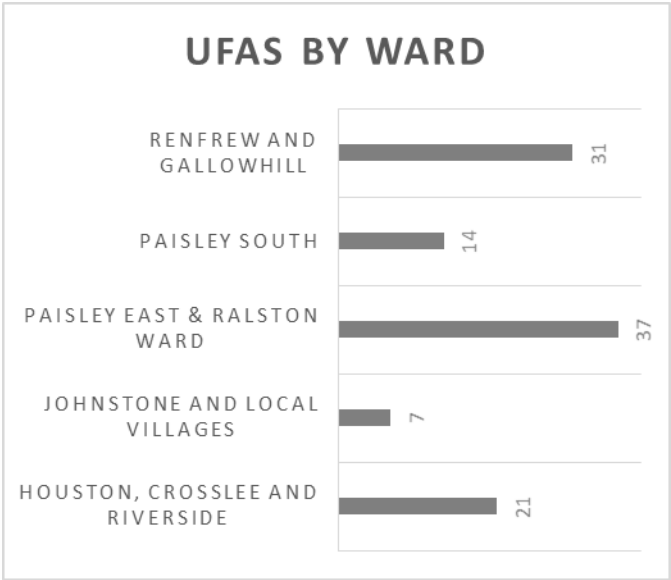
6.2. Road Traffic Casualties by Ward

There were 15 RTC related casualties recorded by SFRS during the reporting period within Renfrewshire. Of the 15 casualties, 1 was deemed to have serious injuries requiring hospital treatment, 8 others had slight injuries which required precautionary check at hospital the remainder were treated at the scene.

7. REDUCTION OF UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SIGNALS

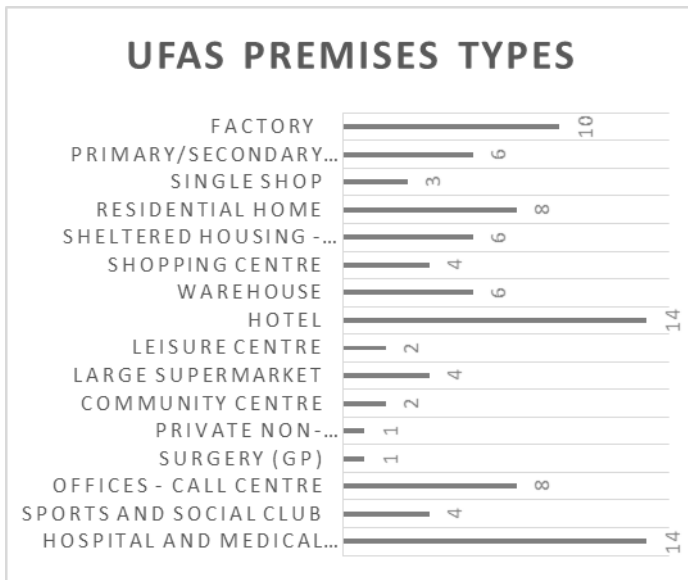
SFRS attends a range of false alarm incidents which include system faults, accidental actuation of fire alarm, malicious calls and good intent calls. SFRS is focused on reducing the associated road risk posed by ‘blue light’ journeys linked to our attendance at Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents. There is a national policy in place which ensures we are adopting a standardised approach to positively engage and educate duty holders at premises which have fire alarm system actuations which are not due to an actual fire.

7.1. Incidents by Ward



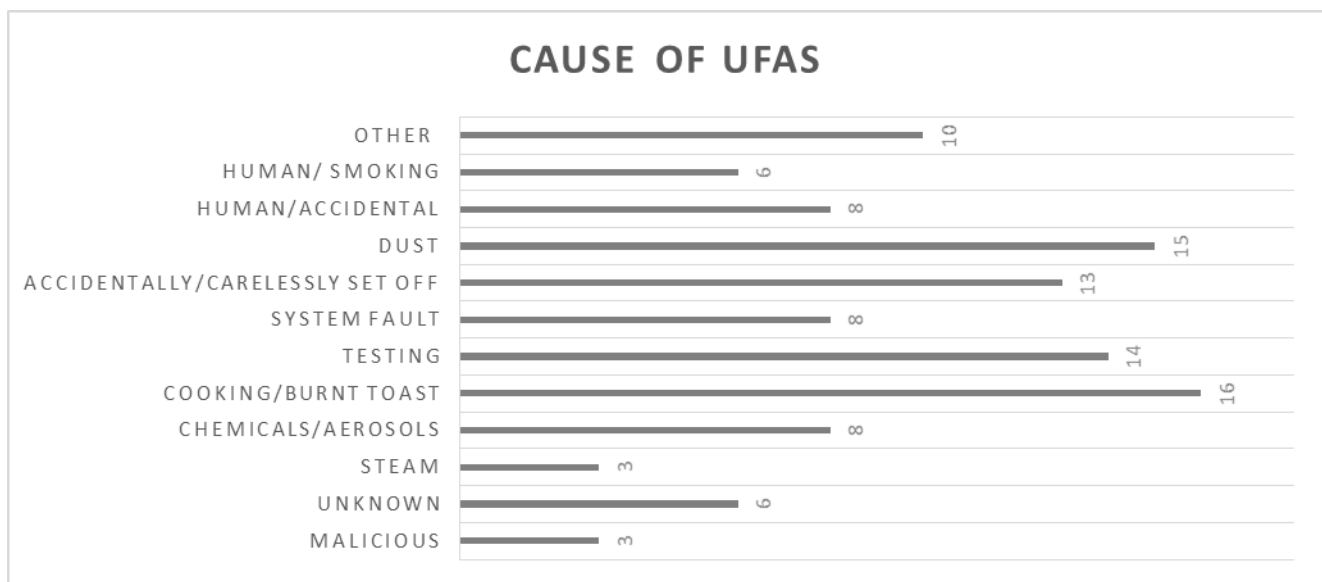
Paisley and Ralston Ward has the highest volume of UFAS incidents which has a direct correlation with the number of commercial premises in this locality.

## 7.2. Property Types



From graph 7.2 it is evident that hospital, medical establishments and hotels account for the majority of UFAS incidents in Renfrewshire.

## 7.3. Cause of Actuation



The SFRS works closely with all relevant premises where UFAS occur and each incident is monitored locally through operational personnel and the area UFAS champion.