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**SCOTTISH
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SFRS Spotlight Report: Inverclyde Deliberate Fire Setting

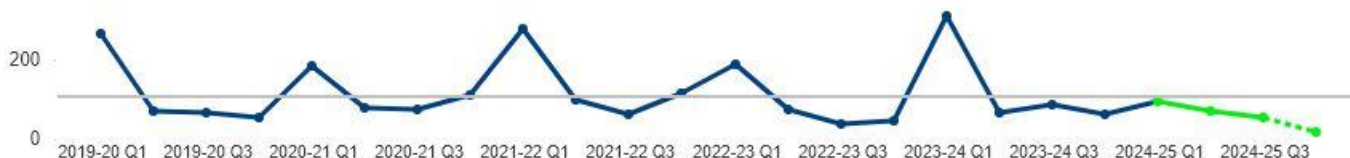
Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

This spotlight report will provide an overview of the statistics around deliberate fire setting within the Inverclyde area and the wider West of Scotland as well as highlighting the activities undertaken by SFRS, in conjunction with our partners to address this issue. Deliberate fire setting and fire related anti-social behaviour is an ongoing problem across Scotland, with SFRS attending between 10,000 and 15,000 deliberate fires each year, these incidents impacting on communities, businesses and the environment.

Although it is perceived to be a major issue within Inverclyde, in relation to the overall statistics, Inverclyde compares positively with many other local authority areas when looking at total numbers of incidents of deliberate fire setting, as illustrated below:

Local Authority Area	Number of Deliberate Fires Recorded 2024-25
City of Glasgow	1680
North Lanarkshire	1054
South Lanarkshire	709
Renfrewshire	415
North Ayrshire	375
East Ayrshire	357
West Dunbartonshire	265
Inverclyde	237
South Ayrshire	184
East Renfrewshire	157
Dumfries & Galloway	92
East Dunbartonshire	92
Argyll & Bute	34

The numbers of deliberate fire setting incidents recorded in Inverclyde has been reducing over the last 5 years with occasional spikes in numbers in some quarters as shown on the chart below:

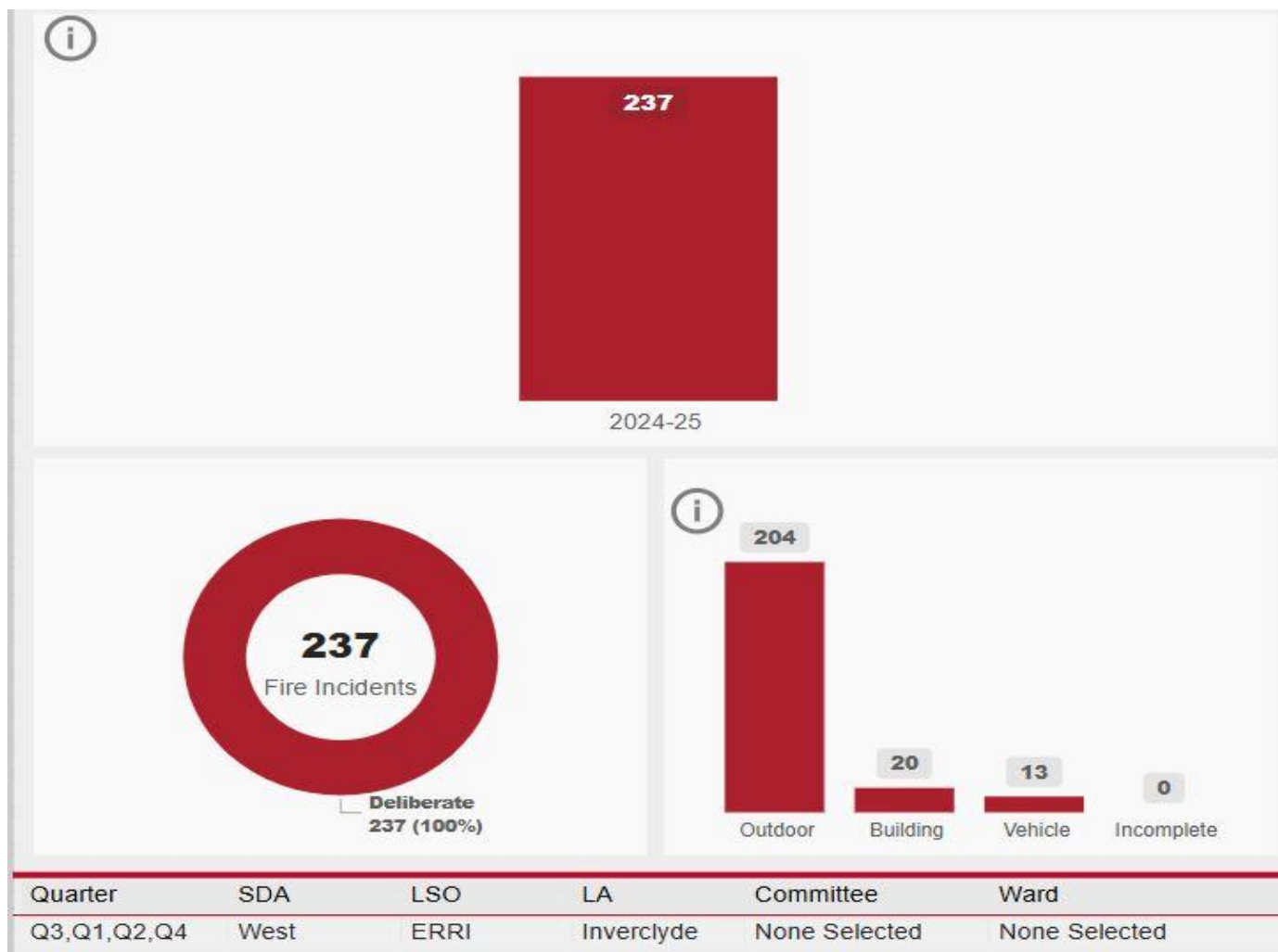


These fluctuations in incident numbers can be attributed to various influencing factors, these include the time of year, the weather and other anti-social behaviour, for example fly tipping.

The annual totals for the last 5 years started at 449 in 2019-20, peaked at 553 in 2020-21 with the lowest being this year, where to date we have recorded 237 deliberate fires in Inverclyde. The geographic spread of these incidents across Inverclyde’s wards is as follows:

Inverclyde Central	40
Inverclyde East	38
Inverclyde East Central	50
Inverclyde North	14
Inverclyde South	27
Inverclyde South West	51
Inverclyde West	17
Total	237

Most incidents of deliberate fire setting within Inverclyde involve outdoor fires, these can be further broken down into those which involve refuse or refuse containers, and then other outdoor fires. To date for 2024/25 we have recorded 204 outdoor fires, with 88 involving refuse and 116 in the other outdoor category. The remaining deliberate fires have been 20 involving buildings and 13 vehicle fires.



Further statistics are provided for information on page 5 and 6 of this report.

Deliberate fire setting is a core SFRS Prevention and Protection objective for several reasons, it is a Key Performance Indicator within our Performance Management Framework, is one of the performance measures which we report on to the Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel, but also because targeting our education and engagement to address deliberate fire setting has many benefits, including:

- Demand reduction for SFRS
- Demand reduction for our partners
- Financial savings for SFRS and partners because of demand reduction
- Improved community safety and wellbeing.

Our Community Action Team (CAT) and operational crews are at the forefront of delivering our safety messaging around deliberate fire setting, this being covered as part of our education engagement syllabus with this being one of the topics covered as part of a wider presentation on fire related anti-social behaviour. The presentation also covers:

- Deliberate fire setting and fire vandalism
- Fire hydrant vandalism and misuse
- Damage or theft of firefighting equipment and/or facilities
- Malicious/hoax 999 calls
- Deliberate actuations of fire warning systems
- Acts of violence against fire service personnel.

These topics are also covered by our operational crews during visits to youth groups etc. as well as by CAT during the FireSkills courses which we have delivered and continue to deliver in Inverclyde, with the support of Inverclyde Council and our partners.

Another part of our targeted safety messaging can be seen within our Fire Safety Support and Education Programme (FSSE). It is one of a suite of educational interventions designed to promote fire safety and is aimed at young people, under 18 years of age, who have shown an unsafe interest in fire or fire related anti-social behaviour. This programme involves engagement with professionals from a wide range of disciplines to benefit individuals, families and communities. Engagements can often be with some of the most vulnerable in society and our staff delivering the programme, FSSE advisors, undergo specialist training to enable them to effectively communicate with the young people, being aware of factors that drive this type of behaviour such as the impact of trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and can then employ strategies to encourage behavioural change.

During routine fire safety audits our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers (FSEOs) will provide advice and guidance to responsible persons in relation to their premises waste management practices and how these can reduce incidences of deliberate fire setting. Where we have a spate of deliberate fires involving refuse or refuse containers at a specific premises, which might suggest there are issues with their waste management procedures, our FSEOs would engage with our partners, other enforcing authorities and responsible persons with an aim to addressing the issue.

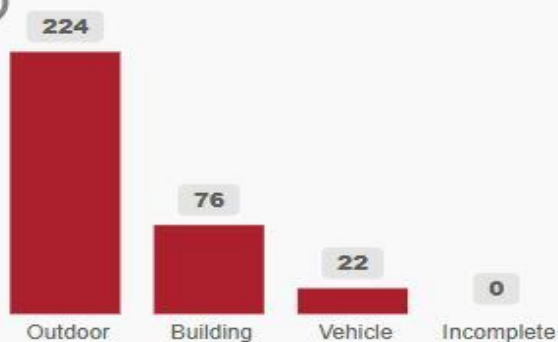
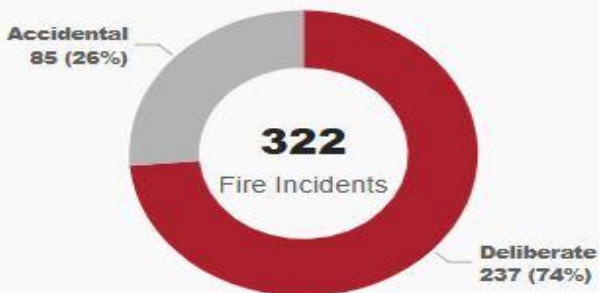
Derelict and unoccupied properties can be targets for deliberate fire setting as witnessed within the Clune Park area, some of these incidents were a substantial draw on the resources of SFRS and our partners. Through partnership working it was possible to put together a plan to tackle the issues in this area of Inverclyde and the incidences of deliberate fire setting reduced dramatically.

It is clear that deliberate fire setting and fire related anti-social behaviour is not something which SFRS can tackle on its own, with partnership working being key to reducing these types of incidents. SFRS works closely with our partners, particularly via the Inverclyde Hub, to ensure a co-ordinated approach to responding to incidences of deliberate fire setting or to other fire related anti-social behaviour. The Hub provides a valuable forum where information and intelligence can be shared with partners including Police Scotland, Inverclyde Council staff including community wardens and registered social landlords. The regular sharing of operational and community intelligence has allowed us to find opportunities for preventative work and to identify various individuals at risk of harm. The mutual sharing of information has also informed operational preparedness across all partners and has had a significant impact on improving the safety of firefighters, partners and the wider community.

SFRS will continue to have a focus on the reduction of deliberate fire setting within Inverclyde and will continue our close collaboration with all our local partners to assist in achieving this aim, ultimately making the communities across Inverclyde safer.

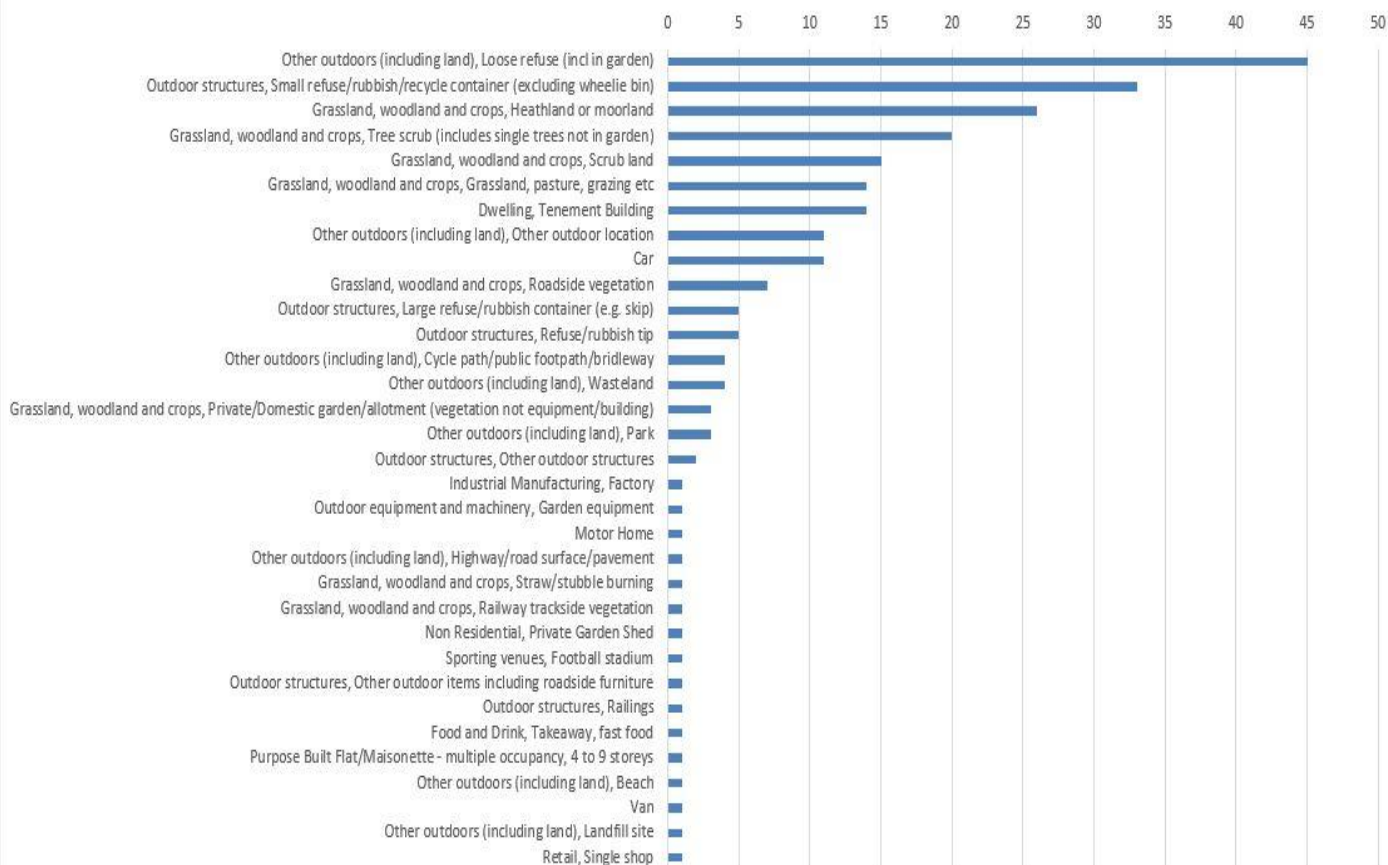


2024-25



Quarter	SDA	LSO	LA	Committee	Ward
Q3,Q1,Q2,Q4	West	ERRI	Inverclyde	None Selected	None Selected

Number Of Deliberate Fires By Property Type



<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Deliberate Fires</u>
2019-20 Q1	264
2019-20 Q2	68
2019-20 Q3	64
2019-20 Q4	53
2020-21 Q1	185
2020-21 Q2	77
2020-21 Q3	75
2020-21 Q4	109
2021-22 Q1	279
2021-22 Q2	100
2021-22 Q3	60
2021-22 Q4	114
2022-23 Q1	190
2022-23 Q2	74
2022-23 Q3	36
2022-23 Q4	44
2023-24 Q1	310
2023-24 Q2	65
2023-24 Q3	86
2023-24 Q4	62
2024-25 Q1	95
2024-25 Q2	69
2024-25 Q3	55
2024-25 Q4 (to date)	18