



Fire Services Examinations Board

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT AND
THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS ON THE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION FOR PROMOTION
TO THE RANK OF LEADING FIREFIGHTER PART II – PRACTICAL TEST 2000

1. This was the fourteenth occasion on which the practical test was conducted by the Board in accordance with the rules and syllabuses published in December 1996 (9th Edition).

It consisted of three sections:

SECTION A	The conduct and supervision of one standard drill.
SECTION B	Fireground procedure: taking charge of the situation and controlling the exercise.
SECTION C	An instructional talk on the design, use, disadvantages and limitations of one item of fire service equipment.

2. Mr H E Wright was the Chairman of the Panel of Assessors and Mr Ian Kerr (Shropshire) the Assessor for the practical tests.
3. The tests were held at local examination centres during the months of March and April.
4. The organisation of the tests was undertaken by 21 local examination boards.
5. 1143 candidates initially entered for the examination as at the Board's closing date for entries (14 January). However, the final number of candidates entering the examination was 1048 after late entries and withdrawals had both been accepted. 61 (5.83%) absented themselves from the examination. Thus, the number of candidates who attended the examination was 986. This included the RAF candidate but the following statistics do not include this candidate.

RESULTS

6. Of the 986 candidates who attempted the test 611 (62.0%) were awarded a pass and 375 (38.3%) failed. The 611 successful candidates are now qualified for promotion to the rank of Leading Firefighter.
7. 25 female firefighters attempted the test, of whom 17 (68.0%) were successful.
8. 61 candidates were absent from the examination and with the changes affecting the Restriction of Entry Scheme, under the revised examinations, only candidates whose appeals related to the final year of their three year period were heard. In this respect 5 candidates appealed to the Board against their automatic barring from next year's examination. Under the delegated authority given to the Chairman all appeals were individually considered and the 4 were upheld. These candidates will have a further year to complete their examination.
9. A further 33 candidates have failed to pass their Part II examination within the three year period which means they must now re-sit their Part I examination.

GENERAL COMMENTS

10. The practical test for the qualifying examination to the rank of Leading Firefighter held during 2000 was the fourteenth held under the auspices of the Fire Services Examinations Board.
11. Of the 1047 candidates who entered the test, 61 (5.8%) absented themselves, leaving 986 actually taking the test. 611 (62.0%) were awarded a pass and are now qualified for promotion to the rank of Leading Firefighter.
12. When compared to the figures relating to last year's test, the figures for 2000 indicate a decrease of 179 (14.6%) in the number of candidates entering the examination, a decrease in the number of candidates absenting themselves in both actual and percentage terms, and a decrease of 129 (11.57%) in the number of candidates taking the test. The pass rate reduced numerically by 83 although the percentage pass rate has reduced only slightly (0.2%).
13. The Assessor for the practical test and the Chairman of the Panel of Assessors visited a number of examination centres to assess the facilities provided and observe the tests in progress. Where improvements associated with the organisation of the local board arrangements were considered necessary, advice was given. Examiners were observed and questioned regarding assessment and were considered to be competent and fair.
14. Confirmation was obtained that most brigades provide pre-examination courses which candidates may attend on a voluntary basis. It continues to be reported that some candidates do not avail themselves of this assistance and some fail to attend the complete course. It is invariably the case that those who fail this examination do so in only one of the three sections of the test which suggests that with guidance, and a little more personal application, many of these candidates have the potential to obtain a pass.

15. The test consists of three parts, Section A which is the supervision of a standard drill strictly in accordance with the Fire Service Training Manual. The overall result in this test (87.0%) was an improvement to that of last year (84.0%), and the general quality of candidates observed during this test was good. General weaknesses of failed candidates relate to a hesitance in establishing command which carries over into the debrief where many candidates fail to involve the crew members in a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses displayed.
16. Section B of the test examines the ability of the candidates to deal with an operational incident whilst in command of one appliance and its crew. The pass rate of 73.2% is a decrease to that achieved last year (76.3%), but similar to that achieved in 1998. The general weaknesses displayed by failed candidates in this section of the test related to inadequate information gathering and thus, the application of an inadequate action plan and an unsatisfactory level of command.
17. Section C of the test required the candidates to demonstrate their knowledge of one item of fire service equipment and an ability to instruct others. The item of equipment, which must be available for use in a candidate's brigade, is chosen by examiners from a list of three items selected by the local board and promulgated to candidates on 1 December before the date of the practical test. The pass rate of 82.8% is an improvement on that recorded last year (80.8%).

ASSESSORS' REPORT

18. Detailed comments of the national assessor in connection with the practical test will be prepared and issued to brigades.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

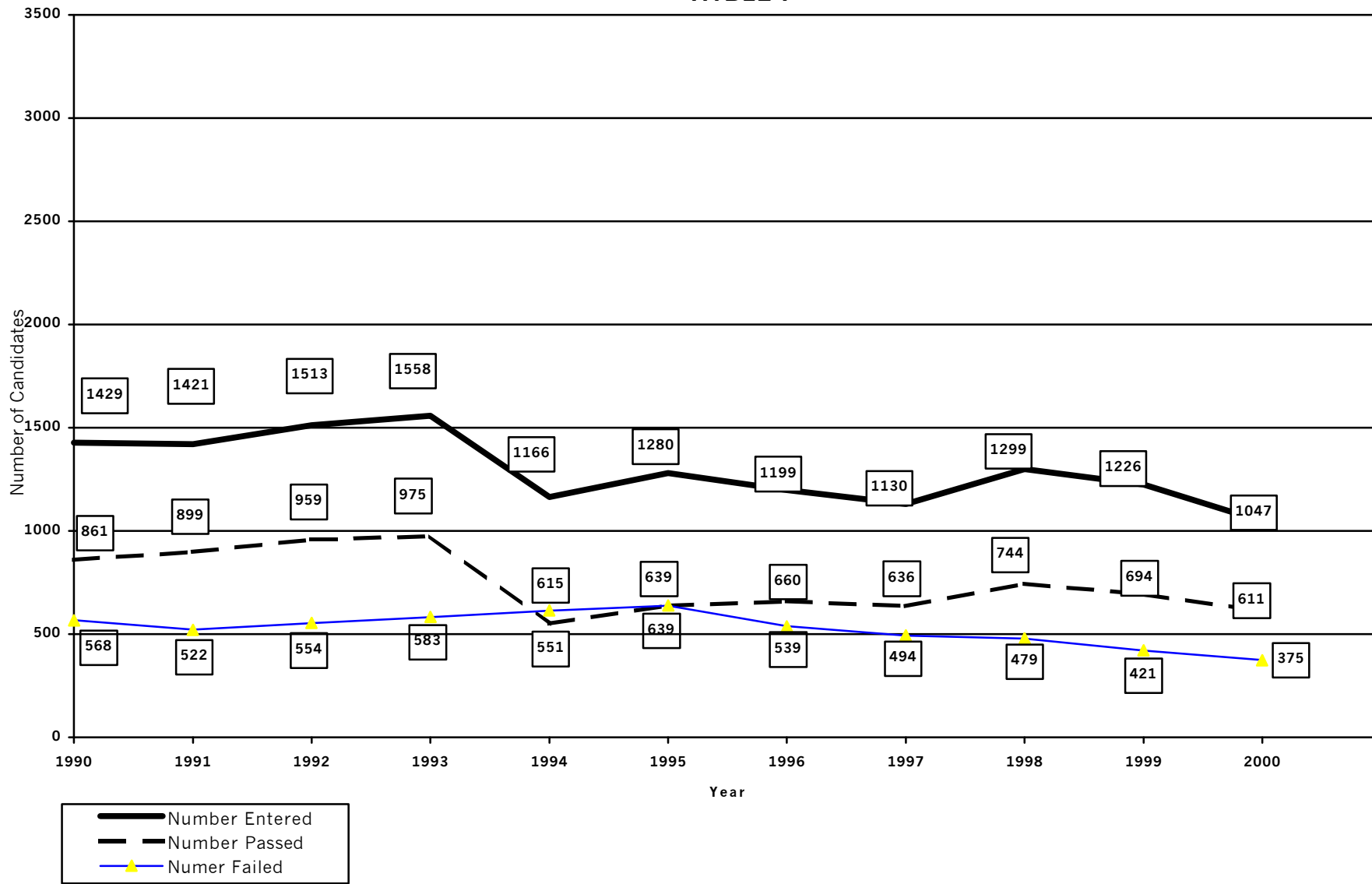
19. The following tables show the results of the examination as a whole in both graphical and tabular format. Graphs showing the numbers attempting and passing the examination and percentage passing is attached at Appendix A. A summary of the results as a whole and by individual sections of the examination is attached at Appendix B and a full statistical report for the examination, including an analysis by brigade is attached at Appendix C.

G Meldrum
Chairman

D J Stanley
Secretary

Leading Firefighters' Practical Examination 1990 - 2000

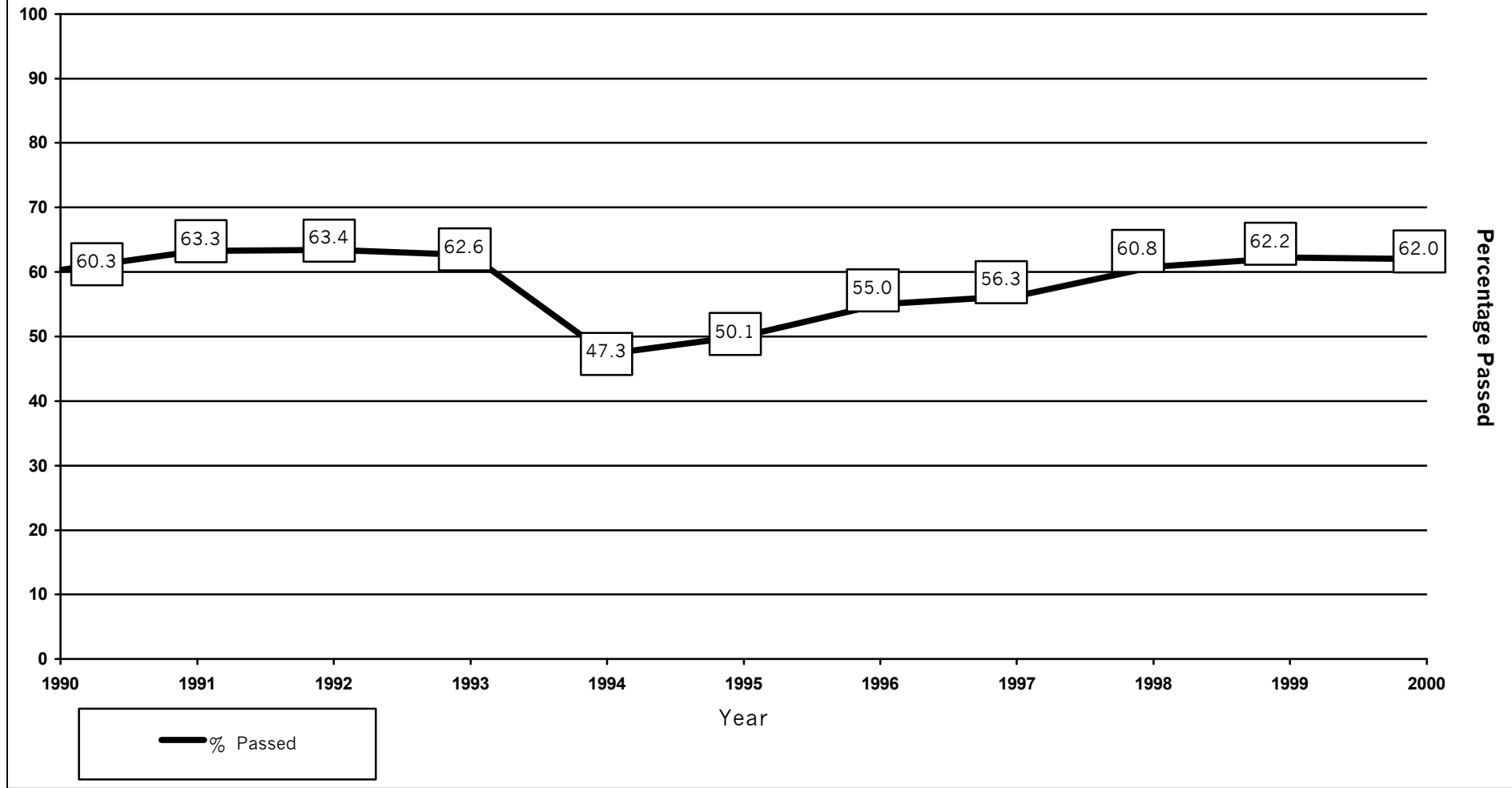
TABLE I



APPENDIX A

Leading Firefighters' Practical Examination 1990 - 2000

TABLE II



APPENDIX A

RESULTS IN TEST AS A WHOLE

Table I shows the results in the test as a whole.

TABLE I

	2000		1999		1998		1997		1996		1995		1994		1993		1992		1991		1990	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Passed	611	62.0	694	62.2	744	60.8	636	56.3	660	55.0	641	50.1	551	47.3	975	62.6	959	63.4	899	63.3	861	60.3
Failed	375	38.0	421	37.8	479	39.2	494	43.7	539	45.0	639	49.9	615	52.7	583	37.4	554	36.7	522	36.7	568	39.7
Totals	986		1115		1223		1130		1199		1280		1166		1558		1513		1421		1429	

Performance in each Section

Table II shows the distribution of candidates by section and their performance in the 2000 test.

TABLE II

Section	Subject	Passed		Failed		Total
		No	%	No	%	No
Section A	Supervise one standard drill	858	87.0	128	13.0	986
Section B	Fireground procedure: taking charge of the situation and controlling the exercise	721	73.2	265	27.0	985
Section C	An instructional talk on the design, use, disadvantages and limitations of one item of fire service equipment	815	82.8	171	17.4	984



Fire Services Examinations Board

Qualifying Examination for Promotion to the Rank of Leading Firefighter 2000 Practical Test

FULL STATISTICAL REPORT

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY AGE GROUP

The following table shows the distribution of candidates by age and their performance in the above examination.

Table I

Age Group	Passed		Failed		Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
Up To 20 Years	0		0		0	0	0.00
20 To 24	71	63.96	40	36.04	111	114	10.89
25 To 29	265	60.23	175	39.77	440	466	44.51
30 To 34	215	65.15	115	34.85	330	349	33.33
35 To 39	49	55.68	39	44.32	88	98	9.36
40 To 44	8	66.67	4	33.33	12	15	1.43
45 To 49	3	60.00	2	40.00	5	5	0.48
50 To 54	0		0		0	0	0.00
55 +	0		0		0	0	0.00
TOTALS:	611	61.97	375	38.03	986	1047	100.00

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY RANK

The following table shows the distribution of candidates by rank and their performance in the above examination.

Table II

Rank	Passed		Failed		Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
Firefighter	611	61.97	375	38.03	986	1047	100.00
TOTALS:	611	61.97	375	38.03	986	1047	100.00

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY TITLE

The following table shows the distribution of candidates by title and their performance in the above examination.

Table III

Title	Passed		Failed		Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
Miss	11	73.33	4	26.67	15	17	1.62
Mr	594	61.62	370	38.38	964	1022	97.61
Mrs	5	100.00	0	0.00	5	6	0.57
Ms	1	50.00	1	50.00	2	2	0.19
TOTALS:	611	61.97	375	38.03	986	1047	100.00

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY LENGTH OF SERVICE
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The following table shows the distribution of candidates by length of service and their performance in the above examination.

Table IV

Length of Service Years	Passed		Failed		Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
0	15	60.00	10	40.00	25	26	2.48
1	181	61.99	111	38.01	292	305	29.13
2	165	61.80	102	38.20	267	277	26.46
3	83	55.70	66	44.30	149	156	14.90
4	41	65.08	22	34.92	63	70	6.69
5	25	65.79	13	34.21	38	43	4.11
6	21	72.41	8	27.59	29	35	3.34
7	15	55.56	12	44.44	27	28	2.67
8	10	66.67	5	33.33	15	20	1.91
9	10	62.50	6	37.50	16	16	1.53
10	7	70.00	3	30.00	10	10	0.96
11	8	61.54	5	38.46	13	14	1.34
12	7	70.00	3	30.00	10	12	1.15
13	3	75.00	1	25.00	4	4	0.38
14	3	75.00	1	25.00	4	4	0.38
15	4	100.00	0	0.00	4	4	0.38
16	4	66.67	2	33.33	6	7	0.67
17	3	75.00	1	25.00	4	4	0.38
18	2	66.67	1	33.33	3	3	0.29
19	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	1	0.10
20	1	50.00	1	50.00	2	2	0.19
21	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	3	0.29
22	1	50.00	1	50.00	2	2	0.19
23	0		0		0	0	0.00
24	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.10
TOTALS:	611	61.97	375	38.03	986	1047	100.00

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY ETHNIC ORIGIN

The following table shows the distribution of candidates by ethnic origin and their performance in the above examination.

Table V

Ethnic Origin	Passed		Failed		Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
Black-Caribbean	2	66.67	1	33.33	3	3	0.29
Black-Other	2	33.33	4	66.67	6	7	0.67
Chinese	2	100.00	0	0.00	2	2	0.19
Declined To Say	20	76.92	6	23.08	26	26	2.48
Indian	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	1	0.10
Other	8	66.67	4	33.33	12	12	1.15
White	577	61.65	359	38.35	936	996	95.13
TOTALS:	611	61.97	375	38.03	986	1047	100.00

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY BRIGADE

The following table shows the cumulative results achieved in each brigade (grouped in local examination boards).

Table VI

Board	Brigade	Passed		Failed		Absentees	Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
		No	%	No	%	No	No	No	
A	Cleveland	4	80.00	1	20.00	0	5	5	0.48
A	Durham & Darlington	6	100.00	0	0.00	0	6	6	0.57
A	Northumberland	6	60.00	4	40.00	0	10	10	0.96
A	Tyne & Wear	10	76.92	3	23.08	0	13	13	1.24
	Sub-Totals:	26	76.47	8	23.53	0	34	34	3.25
B	Humberside	15	60.00	10	40.00	0	25	25	2.39
B	North Yorkshire	16	72.73	6	27.27	1	22	23	2.20
B	South Yorkshire	25	80.65	6	19.35	1	31	32	3.06
B	West Yorkshire	8	50.00	8	50.00	1	16	17	1.62
	Sub-Totals:	64	68.09	30	31.91	3	94	97	9.26
C	Cumbria	9	69.23	4	30.77	0	13	13	1.24
C	Greater Manchester	23	65.71	12	34.29	2	35	37	3.53
C	Lancashire	12	57.14	9	42.86	6	21	27	2.58
	Sub-Totals:	44	63.77	25	36.23	8	69	77	7.35
D	Cheshire	11	57.89	8	42.11	0	19	19	1.81
D	Isle of Man	1	33.33	2	66.67	0	3	3	0.29
D	Merseyside	11	45.83	13	54.17	1	24	25	2.39
	Sub-Totals:	23	50.00	23	50.00	1	46	47	4.49
E	Shropshire	6	75.00	2	25.00	1	8	9	0.86
E	Staffordshire	8	72.73	3	27.27	0	11	11	1.05
E	Warwickshire	1	16.67	5	83.33	2	6	8	0.76
E	West Midlands	35	50.00	35	50.00	2	70	72	6.88
E	Hereford and Worcs	5	50.00	5	50.00	0	10	10	0.96
	Sub-Totals:	55	52.38	50	47.62	5	105	110	10.51
F	Derbyshire	4	57.14	3	42.86	2	7	9	0.86
F	Leicestershire	6	66.67	3	33.33	0	9	9	0.86
F	Nottinghamshire	3	50.00	3	50.00	2	6	8	0.76
	Sub-Totals:	13	59.09	9	40.91	4	22	26	2.48
G	Cambridgeshire	9	64.29	5	35.71	0	14	14	1.34
G	Lincolnshire	9	81.82	2	18.18	0	11	11	1.05
G	Norfolk	9	60.00	6	40.00	0	15	15	1.43
	Sub-Totals:	27	67.50	13	32.50	0	40	40	3.82
H	Bedfordshire & Luton	3	60.00	2	40.00	2	5	7	0.67
H	Northamptonshire	5	41.67	7	58.33	0	12	12	1.15
H	Oxfordshire	10	58.82	7	41.18	0	17	17	1.62
	Sub-Totals:	18	52.94	16	47.06	2	34	36	3.44
I	Essex	14	56.00	11	44.00	2	25	27	2.58
I	Hertfordshire	8	61.54	5	38.46	0	13	13	1.24
I	Suffolk	5	71.43	2	28.57	1	7	8	0.76
	Sub-Totals:	27	60.00	18	40.00	3	45	48	4.58
J	London	48	60.00	32	40.00	7	80	87	8.31
	Sub-Totals:	48	60.00	32	40.00	7	80	87	8.31
K	East Sussex	14	93.33	1	6.67	1	15	16	1.53
K	Kent	15	68.18	7	31.82	3	22	25	2.39
K	Surrey	7	63.64	4	36.36	1	11	12	1.15

Board	Brigade	Passed		Failed		Absentees	Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
		No	%	No	%	No	No	No	
K	West Sussex	6	50.00	6	50.00	1	12	13	1.24
Sub-Totals:		42	70.00	18	30.00	6	60	66	6.30
L	Berkshire	8	66.67	4	33.33	1	12	13	1.24
L	Buckinghamshire	14	82.35	3	17.65	2	17	19	1.81
L	Hampshire	10	45.45	12	54.55	0	22	22	2.10
L	Isle of Wight	4	100.00	0	0.00	0	4	4	0.38
Sub-Totals:		36	65.45	19	34.55	3	55	58	5.54
M	Cornwall	8	88.89	1	11.11	0	9	9	0.86
M	Devon	20	83.33	4	16.67	1	24	25	2.39
Sub-Totals:		28	84.85	5	15.15	1	33	34	3.25
N	Dorset	10	90.91	1	9.09	1	11	12	1.15
N	Somerset	6	75.00	2	25.00	0	8	8	0.76
N	Wiltshire	10	71.43	4	28.57	1	14	15	1.43
Sub-Totals:		26	78.79	7	21.21	2	33	35	3.34
O	Avon	10	76.92	3	23.08	0	13	13	1.24
O	Gloucestershire	9	69.23	4	30.77	4	13	17	1.62
Sub-Totals:		19	73.08	7	26.92	4	26	30	2.87
P	Mid & West Wales	11	52.38	10	47.62	1	21	22	2.10
P	North Wales	8	57.14	6	42.86	2	14	16	1.53
P	South Wales	9	40.91	13	59.09	0	22	22	2.10
Sub-Totals:		28	49.12	29	50.88	3	57	60	5.73
Q	Strathclyde	37	72.55	14	27.45	4	51	55	5.25
Sub-Totals:		37	72.55	14	27.45	4	51	55	5.25
R	Fife	6	40.00	9	60.00	3	15	18	1.72
R	Grampian	6	75.00	2	25.00	0	8	8	0.76
R	Highlands and Islands	2	50.00	2	50.00	0	4	4	0.38
R	Tayside	7	50.00	7	50.00	1	14	15	1.43
Sub-Totals:		21	51.22	20	48.78	4	41	45	4.30
S	Central Scotland	2	50.00	2	50.00	0	4	4	0.38
S	Dumfries & Galloway	3	37.50	5	62.50	0	8	8	0.76
S	Lothian and Borders	18	47.37	20	52.63	1	38	39	3.72
Sub-Totals:		23	46.00	27	54.00	1	50	51	4.87
T	Northern Ireland	3	50.00	3	50.00	0	6	6	0.57
Sub-Totals:		3	50.00	3	50.00	0	6	6	0.57
U	Guernsey	2	50.00	2	50.00	0	4	4	0.38
U	Jersey	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	1	1	0.10
Sub-Totals:		3	60.00	2	40.00	0	5	5	0.48
TOTALS:		611	61.97	375	38.03	61	986	1047	100.00

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