



Fire Services Examinations Board

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER AND THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS ON THE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION FOR
PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF
LEADING FIREFIGHTER PART II – PRACTICAL TEST 2002

1. This was the sixteenth occasion on which the practical test was conducted by the Board in accordance with the rules and syllabuses published in May 2000.

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 Lead Assessor 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. 822 candidates initially entered for the examination as at the Board's closing date for entries (15 January). However, the final number of candidates entering the examination was 751 after late entries and withdrawals had both been accepted. 56 (7.5%) absented themselves from the examination. Thus, the number of candidates who attended the examination was 695. This included the two RAF candidates but the following statistics do not include these candidates.

RESULTS

6. Of the 693 candidates who attempted the test 481 (69.4%) were awarded a pass and 212 (30.6%) failed. The 481 successful candidates are now qualified for promotion to the rank of Leading Firefighter.
7. 38 female firefighters attempted the test, of whom 31 (81.6%) were successful.
8. 56 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. Under the delegated authority given to the Chairman all appeals were individually considered and the 5 were upheld. These candidates will have a further year to complete their examination.
9. A further 61 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 2002 was the sixteenth held under the auspices of the Fire Services Examinations Board.
11. Of the 749 candidates who entered the test, 56 (7.5%) absented themselves, leaving 693 actually taking the test. 481 (69.4%) 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 2002 indicate an increase of 88 (13.3%) in the number of candidates entering the examination, a slight increase in number but similar percentage of candidates absenting themselves, resulting in an increase of 80 (13%) in the number of candidates taking the test. The number of candidates passing the test increased by 89, and the pass rate improved by 5.5%.
13. The Assessor for the practical tests, the Lead Assessor and the Secretary of the Board visited a number of the 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 assessing in general and their assessments of the observed candidates in particular, and were considered competent and fair.
14. The test consists of three parts, Section A being the supervision of a standard drill carried out in accordance with the Fire Service Manual – Training. The pass rate of 88.8% in this test is an improvement to that achieved last year (86.3%), and the general standard of candidates observed during these tests over the years continues to be good. The general weaknesses observed by failed candidates continues to relate to a lack of ability to command and control the crew, and a failure by many candidates to use the debriefing of the crew as a training aid.

15. Section B of the test assesses the ability of the candidates to deal with an operational incident whilst in command of one appliance and it's crew. The pass rate of 79.9% is an improvement to that achieved last year (78.8%). The identification of a general weakness in this test has been difficult to identify but inadequate safety considerations for crew members and the inability of candidates to take command of the situation continue to be recognised.
16. In Section C of the test the candidates are required to demonstrate their knowledge of an item of fire service equipment and by using this information demonstrate an ability to instruct others. The item of equipment, which must be available for use in the candidate's brigade, is chosen by examiners from a list of three items selected by the local board. The pass rate of 87.6% confirms the continued improvement shown by candidates over the years, last year's pass rate being 84.3%.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

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

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

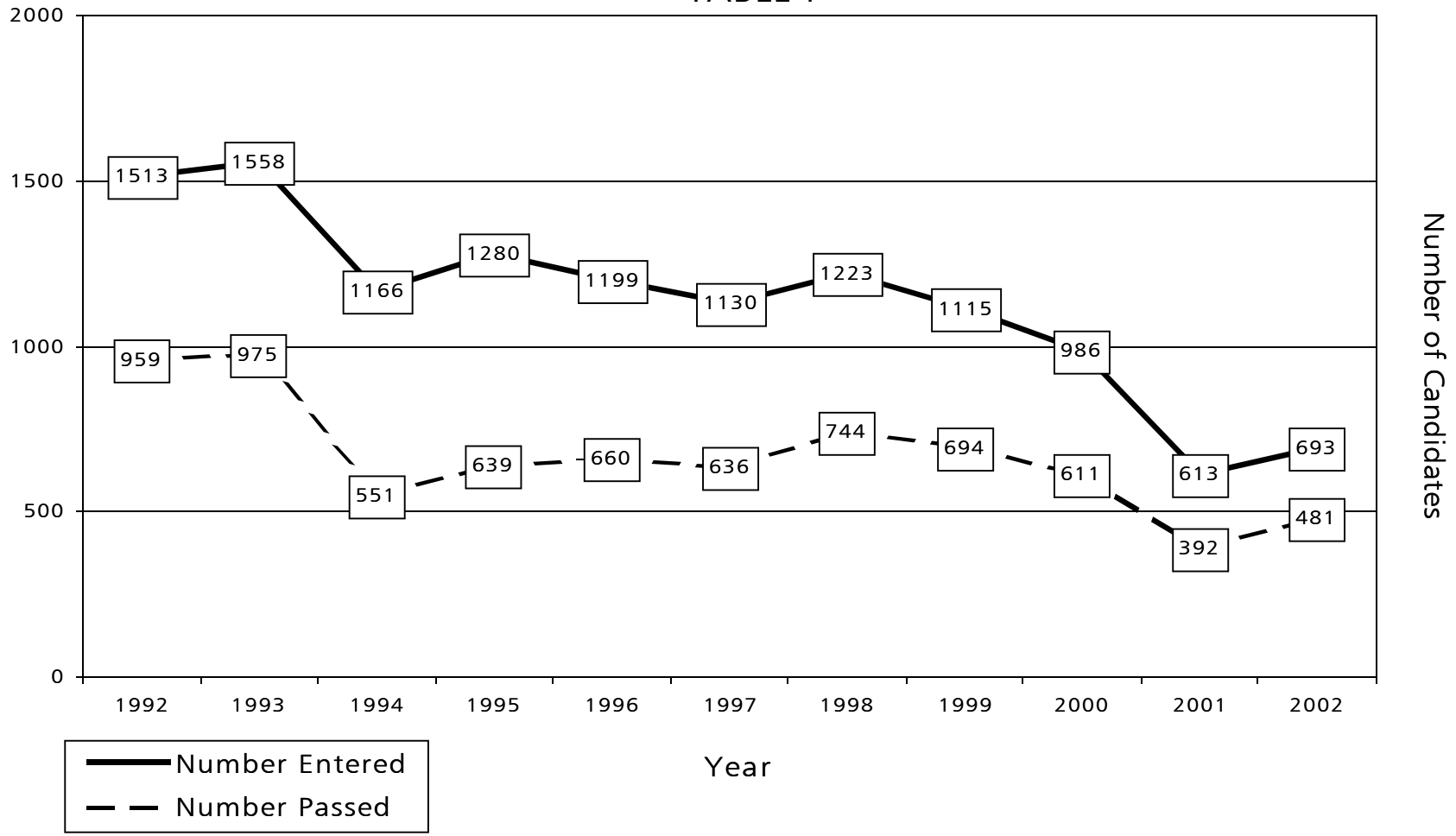
18. The following tables show the results of the examination as a whole in both graphical and tabular format. Graphs showing the numbers attempting and passing the examination and percentage passing is attached at Appendix A. A summary of the results as a whole and by individual sections of the examination 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 1992 - 2002

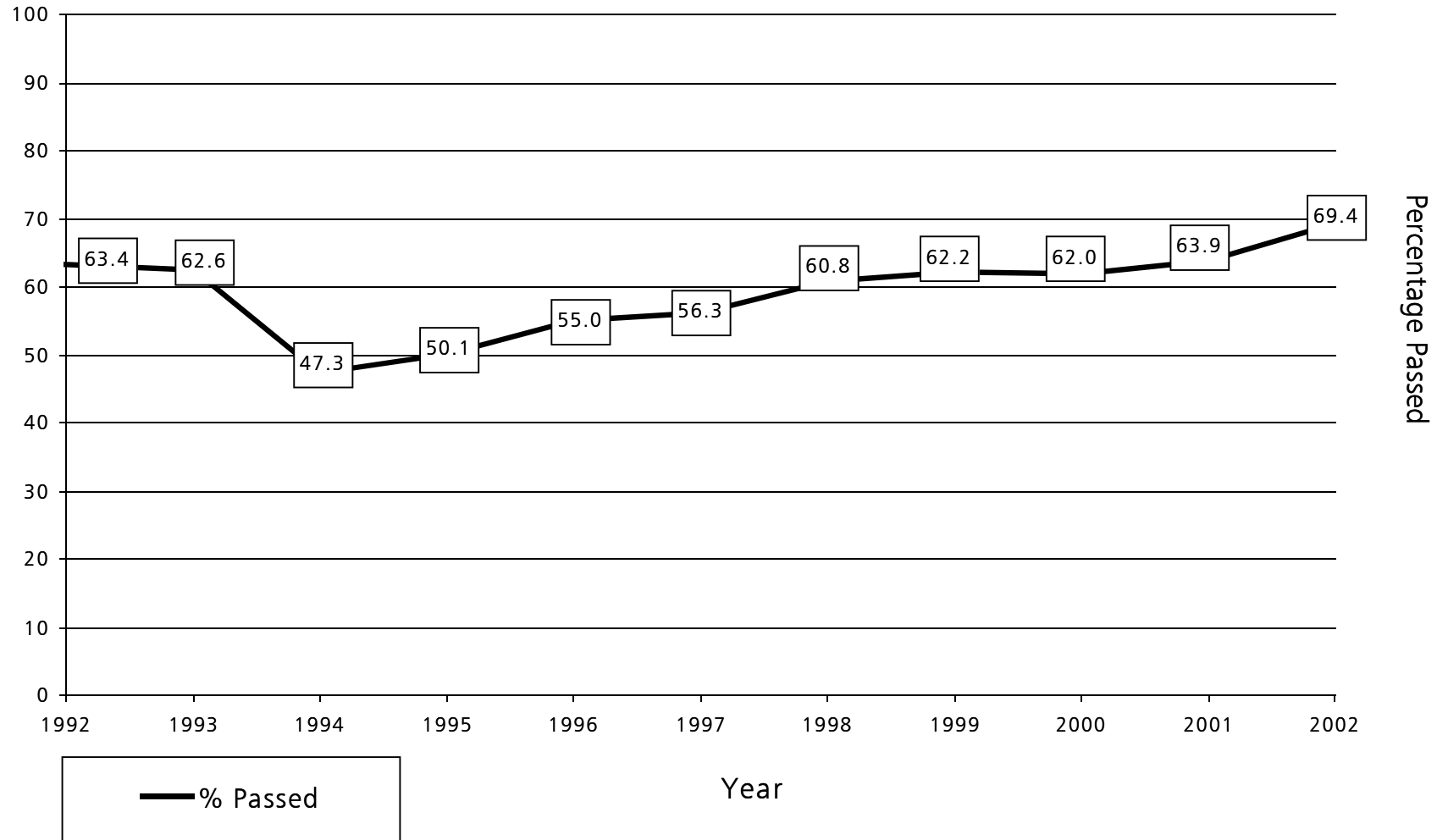
TABLE I



Appendix A

Leading Firefighters' Practical Examination 1992 - 2002

TABLE II



Appendix A

RESULTS IN TEST AS A WHOLE

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

TABLE I

	2002		2001		2000		1999		1998		1997		1996		1995		1994		1993		1992	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Passed	481	69.4	392	63.9	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
Failed	212	30.6	221	36.1	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
Totals	693		613		986		1115		1223		1130		1199		1280		1166		1558		1513	

PERFORMANCE IN EACH SECTION

Table II shows the distribution of candidates by section and their performance in the 2002 test.

TABLE II

Section	Subject	Passed		Failed		Total
		No	%	No	%	No
Section A	Supervise one standard drill	615	88.8	78	11.2	693
Section B	Fireground procedure: taking charge of the situation and controlling the exercise	554	79.9	139	20.1	693
Section C	An instructional talk on the design, use, disadvantages and limitations of one item of fire service equipment	607	87.6	86	12.4	693



Fire Services Examinations Board

Qualifying Examination for Promotion to the Rank of Leading Firefighter 2002 Practical Test

FULL STATISTICAL REPORT

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY AGE GROUP

The following table provides a breakdown of candidates by the number of papers they have entered for 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	
20 To 24	44	65.67	23	34.33	67	69	9.21
25 To 29	171	73.39	62	26.61	233	254	33.91
30 To 34	186	68.13	87	31.87	273	295	39.39
35 To 39	62	66.67	31	33.33	93	103	13.75
40 To 44	14	63.64	8	36.36	22	23	3.07
45 To 49	4	100.00	0	0.00	4	4	0.53
50 +	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	1	0.13
TOTALS:	481	69.41	212	30.59	693	749	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	481	69.41	212	30.59	693	749	100.00
TOTALS:	481	69.41	212	30.59	693	749	100.00

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY GENDER

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	
Female	31	81.58	7	18.42	38	40	5.34
Male	450	68.70	205	31.30	655	709	94.66
TOTALS:	481	69.41	212	30.59	693	749	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	10	83.33	2	16.67	12	12	1.60
1	95	70.90	39	29.10	134	142	18.96
2	128	70.33	54	29.67	182	187	24.97
3	85	62.04	52	37.96	137	153	20.43
4	59	73.75	21	26.25	80	88	11.75
5	22	78.57	6	21.43	28	34	4.54
6	15	75.00	5	25.00	20	21	2.80
7	14	60.87	9	39.13	23	25	3.34
8	11	78.57	3	21.43	14	16	2.14
9	8	61.54	5	38.46	13	15	2.00
10	9	81.82	2	18.18	11	12	1.60
11	2	66.67	1	33.33	3	3	0.40
12	5	71.43	2	28.57	7	8	1.07
13	6	66.67	3	33.33	9	11	1.47
14	1	50.00	1	50.00	2	3	0.40
15	2	50.00	2	50.00	4	4	0.53
16	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	1	0.13
17	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.13
18	2	50.00	2	50.00	4	4	0.53
19	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.13
20	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	2	0.27
21	1	50.00	1	50.00	2	2	0.27
22	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.13
23	0		0		0	0	
24	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.13
25	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	1	0.13
26	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
27	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.13
TOTALS:	481	69.41	212	30.59	693	749	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	
Bangladeshi	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	1	0.13
Black-Caribbean	5	100.00	0	0.00	5	5	0.67
Black-Other	1	50.00	1	50.00	2	2	0.27
Declined To Say	10	66.67	5	33.33	15	16	2.14
Indian	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.13
Other	2	66.67	1	33.33	3	5	0.67
White	462	69.37	204	30.63	666	719	95.99
TOTALS:	481	69.41	212	30.59	693	749	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	1	50.00	1	50.00	0	2	2	0.27
A	Durham & Darlington	6	60.00	4	40.00	0	10	10	1.34
A	Northumberland	4	80.00	1	20.00	1	5	6	0.80
A	Tyne & Wear	9	75.00	3	25.00	2	12	14	1.87
Sub-Totals:		20	68.97	9	31.03	3	29	32	4.27
B	Humberside	13	92.86	1	7.14	2	14	16	2.14
B	North Yorkshire	15	93.75	1	6.25	2	16	18	2.40
B	South Yorkshire	15	60.00	10	40.00	2	25	27	3.60
B	West Yorkshire	14	63.64	8	36.36	4	22	26	3.47
Sub-Totals:		57	74.03	20	25.97	10	77	87	11.62
C	Cumbria	5	100.00	0	0.00	1	5	6	0.80
C	Greater Manchester	13	59.09	9	40.91	2	22	24	3.20
C	Lancashire	14	70.00	6	30.00	2	20	22	2.94
Sub-Totals:		32	68.09	15	31.91	5	47	52	6.94
D	Cheshire	4	80.00	1	20.00	1	5	6	0.80
D	Isle of Man	0		0		1	0	1	0.13
D	Merseyside	3	42.86	4	57.14	0	7	7	0.93
Sub-Totals:		7	58.33	5	41.67	2	12	14	1.87
E	Shropshire	2	50.00	2	50.00	0	4	4	0.53
E	Staffordshire	6	66.67	3	33.33	0	9	9	1.20
E	Warwickshire	1	50.00	1	50.00	0	2	2	0.27
E	West Midlands	18	52.94	16	47.06	2	34	36	4.81
E	Hereford and Worcs	1	33.33	2	66.67	1	3	4	0.53
Sub-Totals:		28	53.85	24	46.15	3	52	55	7.34
F	Derbyshire	11	68.75	5	31.25	0	16	16	2.14
F	Leicestershire	3	50.00	3	50.00	0	6	6	0.80
F	Nottinghamshire	7	63.64	4	36.36	3	11	14	1.87
Sub-Totals:		21	63.64	12	36.36	3	33	36	4.81
G	Cambridgeshire	10	76.92	3	23.08	2	13	15	2.00
G	Lincolnshire	3	75.00	1	25.00	0	4	4	0.53
G	Norfolk	7	63.64	4	36.36	0	11	11	1.47
Sub-Totals:		20	71.43	8	28.57	2	28	30	4.01
H	Bedfordshire & Luton	2	66.67	1	33.33	0	3	3	0.40
H	Northamptonshire	4	80.00	1	20.00	0	5	5	0.67
H	Oxfordshire	6	100.00	0	0.00	0	6	6	0.80
Sub-Totals:		12	85.71	2	14.29	0	14	14	1.87
I	Essex	21	75.00	7	25.00	1	28	29	3.87
I	Hertfordshire	9	75.00	3	25.00	0	12	12	1.60
I	Suffolk	5	55.56	4	44.44	0	9	9	1.20
Sub-Totals:		35	71.43	14	28.57	1	49	50	6.68

Board	Brigade	Passed		Failed		Absentees	Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
		No	%	No	%	No	No	No	
J	London	48	75.00	16	25.00	4	64	68	9.08
Sub-Totals:		48	75.00	16	25.00	4	64	68	9.08
K	East Sussex	10	76.92	3	23.08	1	13	14	1.87
K	Kent	6	85.71	1	14.29	0	7	7	0.93
K	Surrey	13	81.25	3	18.75	0	16	16	2.14
K	West Sussex	7	87.50	1	12.50	0	8	8	1.07
Sub-Totals:		36	81.82	8	18.18	1	44	45	6.01
L	Berkshire	2	50.00	2	50.00	0	4	4	0.53
L	Buckinghamshire	3	100.00	0	0.00	4	3	7	0.93
L	Hampshire	20	58.82	14	41.18	2	34	36	4.81
Sub-Totals:		25	60.98	16	39.02	6	41	47	6.28
M	Cornwall	3	75.00	1	25.00	0	4	4	0.53
M	Devon	4	66.67	2	33.33	0	6	6	0.80
Sub-Totals:		7	70.00	3	30.00	0	10	10	1.34
N	Dorset	8	100.00	0	0.00	0	8	8	1.07
N	Somerset	3	75.00	1	25.00	0	4	4	0.53
N	Wiltshire	9	90.00	1	10.00	0	10	10	1.34
Sub-Totals:		20	90.91	2	9.09	0	22	22	2.94
O	Avon	4	66.67	2	33.33	1	6	7	0.93
O	Gloucestershire	5	71.43	2	28.57	0	7	7	0.93
Sub-Totals:		9	69.23	4	30.77	1	13	14	1.87
P	Mid & West Wales	14	82.35	3	17.65	3	17	20	2.67
P	North Wales	10	100.00	0	0.00	0	10	10	1.34
P	South Wales	7	41.18	10	58.82	2	17	19	2.54
Sub-Totals:		31	70.45	13	29.55	5	44	49	6.54
Q	Strathclyde	21	63.64	12	36.36	2	33	35	4.67
Sub-Totals:		21	63.64	12	36.36	2	33	35	4.67
R	Fife	9	75.00	3	25.00	2	12	14	1.87
R	Grampian	5	83.33	1	16.67	0	6	6	0.80
R	Highlands and Islands	3	60.00	2	40.00	0	5	5	0.67
R	Tayside	5	55.56	4	44.44	2	9	11	1.47
Sub-Totals:		22	68.75	10	31.25	4	32	36	4.81
S	Central Scotland	2	66.67	1	33.33	0	3	3	0.40
S	Dumfries & Galloway	3	75.00	1	25.00	0	4	4	0.53
S	Lothian and Borders	10	52.63	9	47.37	3	19	22	2.94
Sub-Totals:		15	57.69	11	42.31	3	26	29	3.87
T	Northern Ireland	13	61.90	8	38.10	1	21	22	2.94
Sub-Totals:		13	61.90	8	38.10	1	21	22	2.94
U	Guernsey	2	100.00	0	0.00	0	2	2	0.27
Sub-Totals:		2	100.00	0	0.00	0	2	2	0.27
TOTALS:		481	69.41	212	30.59	56	693	749	100.00

APPEALS AGAINST EXAMINATION RESULTS

1. REPORT

- 1.1 Following the introduction of the Appeals against Examination Results, candidates were given 28 days from the date of their result letter to appeal in writing direct to the FSEB if they were not satisfied with their results.
- 1.2. Candidates were asked to state the grounds for their appeal and give reasoned arguments and not rely upon their expectations of passing the examination. In the majority of cases candidates were able to provide detail, although in some cases further information was sought. The Secretary has agreed to look at how the guidance can be strengthened to ensure that future appeals received contain fuller information to assist the Appeals Panel.
- 1.3 To date, a total of 21 appeals were received from 20 candidates asking for their failed sections of their practical test to be re-assessed. One candidate asked for two sections.

Section A	3
Section B	11
Section C	7
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TOTAL	21
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- 1.4 The Senior Examiner of the candidate's local examination board was asked to investigate the appeal and provide a report recommending whether to support or reject the appeal. As part of the investigation, the Senior Examiner was required to obtain statements from the examiners concerned and provide copies of all documentation relevant to the examination process.

- 1.5 The Appeals Panel, consisting of the Secretary of the FSEB, the Lead Assessor and the National Assessor for the Practical Tests reviewed all appeals in the light of the Senior Examiners report, examiners comments and the candidate's original submission. The decision of the Appeals Panel was:

Appeals Successful and Examination Result now 'Passed'	2
Appeals Successful but decision to Re-test candidates	2
Appeals Unsuccessful	11
Appeals Pending	6
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TOTAL	21
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- 1.7 Candidates and Chief Officers have been notified of the decision of the Appeals Panel.

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