



# 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 2003

1. This was the seventeenth occasion on which the practical test was conducted by the Board in accordance with the rules and syllabuses published in May 2002.

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. 819 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 735 after late entries and withdrawals had both been accepted. 84 (11.5%) absented themselves from the examination. Thus, the number of candidates who attended the examination was 651. This included three RAF candidates but the following statistics do not include these candidates.

## RESULTS

6. Of the 648 candidates who attempted the test 488 (75.3%) were awarded a pass and 160 (24.7%) failed. The 488 successful candidates are now qualified for promotion to the rank of Leading Firefighter.
7. 35 female firefighters attempted the test, of whom 28 (80.0%) were successful.
8. 84 candidates were absent from the examination and under the Restriction of Entry Scheme 11 candidates appealed to the Board. At the time of preparing this report, the appeals panel have been unable to meet and their decision will be reported to the Board on 1 July.
9. A further 18 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 2003 was the seventeenth held under the auspices of the Fire Services Examinations Board.
11. Of the 732 candidates who entered the test, 84 (11.5%) absented themselves, leaving 648 actually taking the test. 488 (75.3%) 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 2003 indicate a reduction of 19 (-2.5%) in the number of candidates entering the examination, an increase in the number (+25) and percentage (+4%) of candidates absenting themselves, which resulted in a decrease of 45 (6.5%) in the number of candidates taking the test. However, the number of candidates passing the test increased by 7, and the pass rate improved by 5.9%.
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 91.2% in this test is an improvement to that achieved last year (88.8%), and the general standard of candidates observed during these tests over the years continues to improve. The identified general weaknesses of failed candidates relate to the inadequate observation of safety issues. Whilst improvements have been noted when the candidates debrief the crew, there are still many candidates who fail to fully use this 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 its crew. The pass rate of 85.0% is an improvement to that achieved last year (79.9%). It is difficult to be specific about general weaknesses in this test but the lack of observance of safety issues has been recognised. As was noted with the Section A test, many candidates failed to take full advantage of the debriefing of the crew and use it as a training aid.
16. In Section C of the test the candidates are required to demonstrate their knowledge of a specified item of fire service equipment and use this information to demonstrate an ability to instruct others. The item of equipment, which must be available for use in the candidate's brigade, is chosen from a list of three items selected by the local board. The pass rate of 89.3% confirms the continued improvement shown by candidates over recent years, last year's pass rate being 87.6%. The main factor relating to the failure of candidates was a lack of preparation for this test.

#### 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

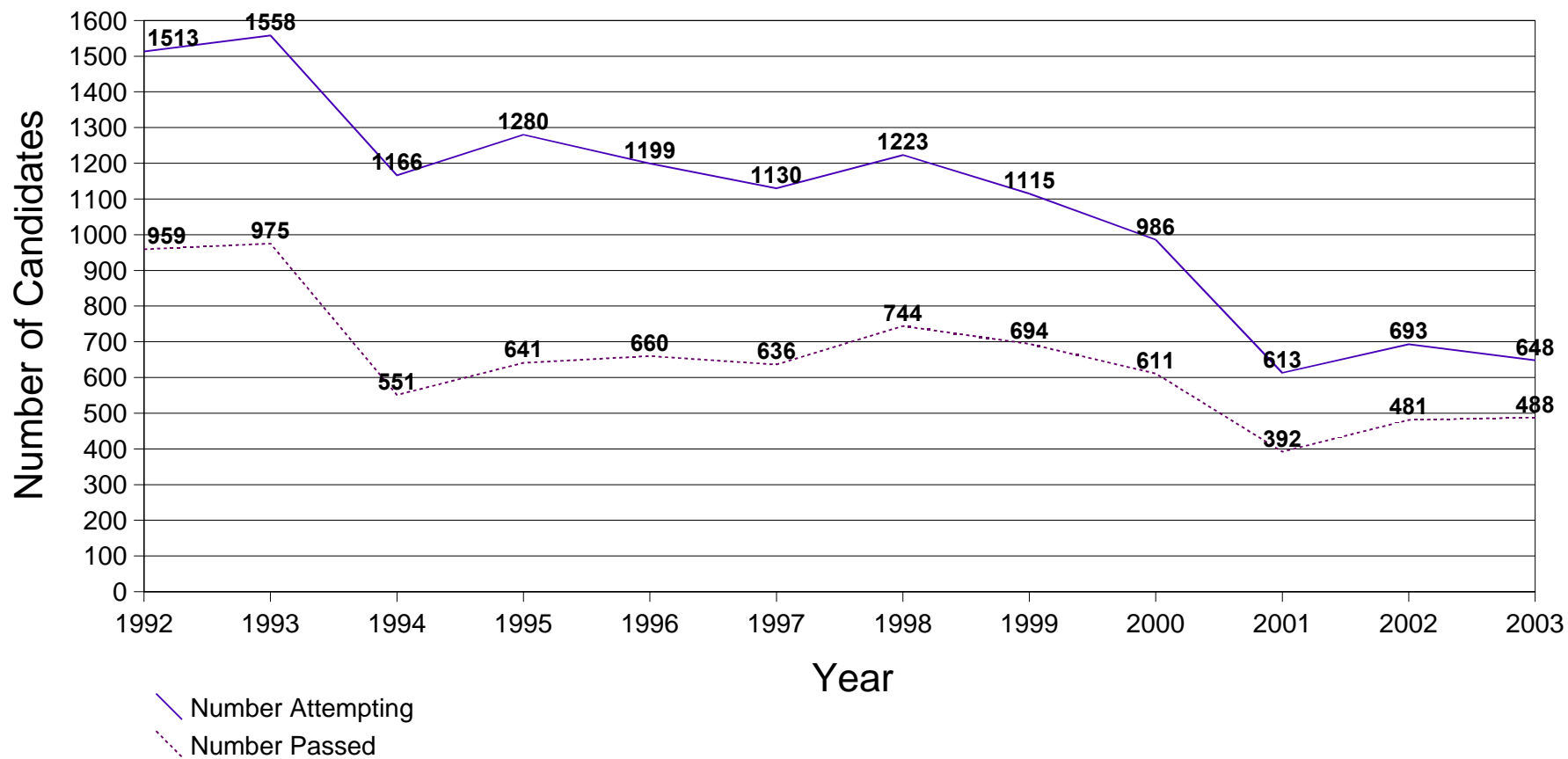
18. The following tables show the results of the examination as a whole in both graphical and tabular format. Graphs showing the numbers attempting and passing the examination and percentage passing is attached at Appendix A. A summary of the results as a whole and by individual sections of the examination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

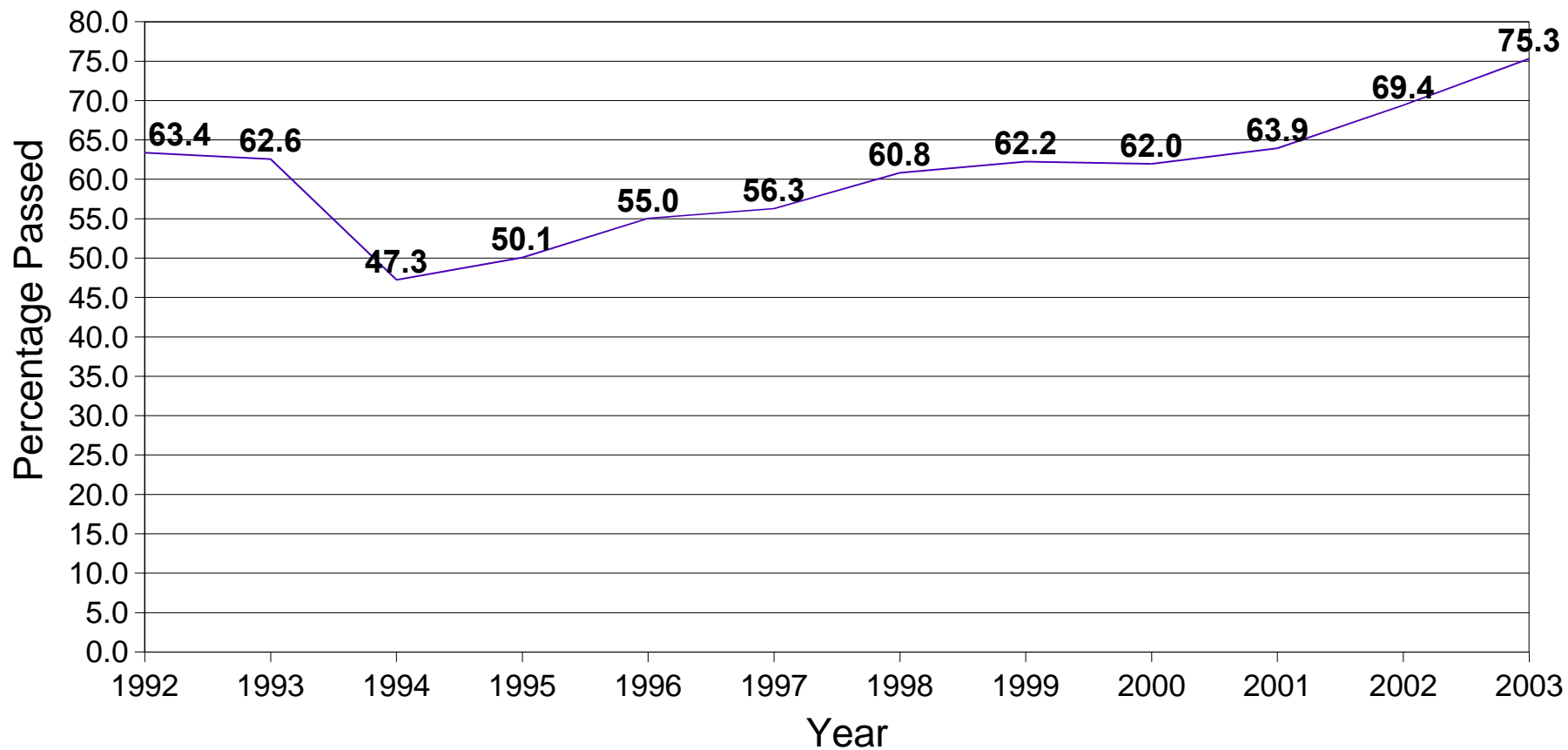
Leading Firefighters' Practical Test 1992 to 2003

TABLE I



Leading Firefighters' Practical Test 1992 to 2003

TABLE II



## RESULTS IN TEST AS A WHOLE

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

TABLE I

	2003		2002		2001		2000		1999		1998		1997		1996		1995		1994		1993		1992	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
<b>Passed</b>	488	75.3	481	69.4	392	64.0	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
<b>Failed</b>	160	24.7	212	30.6	221	36.0	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	36.6
<b>Sat</b>	648		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 2003 test.

TABLE II

Section	Subject	Passed		Failed		Total
		No	%	No	%	No
<b>Section A</b>	The conduct of one composite drill	591	91.2	57	8.8	648
<b>Section B</b>	Fireground procedure: taking charge of the situation and controlling the exercise	549	85.0	97	15.0	646
<b>Section C</b>	An instructional talk on a specific fire risk within the candidate's brigade area	576	89.3	69	10.7	645



## Fire Services Examinations Board

### Qualifying Examination for Promotion to the Rank of Leading Firefighter 2003 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		Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
Up To 20 Years	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
20 To 24	45	66.18	23	33.82	68	73	9.97
25 To 29	143	79.01	38	20.99	181	205	28.01
30 To 34	181	76.37	56	23.63	237	266	36.34
35 To 39	95	76.00	30	24.00	125	147	20.08
40 To 44	24	72.73	9	27.27	33	36	4.92
45 To 49	0	0.00	4	100.00	4	5	0.68
50+	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>75.31</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>24.69</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>ANALYSIS BY RANK</b>
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The following table shows the distribution of candidates by rank and their performance in the above examination.

**Table II**

Rank	Passed		Failed		Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
Firefighter	488	75.31	160	24.69	648	732	100.00
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>75.31</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>24.69</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>ANALYSIS BY GENDER</b>
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The following table shows the distribution of candidates by gender and their performance in the above examination.

**Table III**

Gender	Passed		Failed		Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
Female	28	80.00	7	20.00	35	38	5.19
Male	460	75.04	153	24.96	613	694	94.81
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>75.31</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>24.69</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>ANALYSIS BY LENGTH OF SERVICE</b>
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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		Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
0	14	77.78	4	22.22	18	19	2.60
1	87	83.65	17	16.35	104	106	14.48
2	140	76.50	43	23.50	183	201	27.46
3	104	73.76	37	26.24	141	160	21.86
4	41	70.69	17	29.31	58	72	9.84
5	24	66.67	12	33.33	36	42	5.74
6	15	75.00	5	25.00	20	22	3.01
7	5	83.33	1	16.67	6	13	1.78
8	10	90.91	1	9.09	11	11	1.50
9	4	50.00	4	50.00	8	10	1.37
10	7	63.64	4	36.36	11	14	1.91
11	3	100.00	0	0.00	3	4	0.55
12	3	75.00	1	25.00	4	5	0.68
13	10	71.43	4	28.57	14	16	2.19
14	7	77.78	2	22.22	9	10	1.37
15	2	100.00	0	0.00	2	2	0.27
16	2	66.67	1	33.33	3	4	0.55
17	4	80.00	1	20.00	5	6	0.82
18	1	50.00	1	50.00	2	2	0.27
19	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
20	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	1	0.14
21	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	3	0.41
22	2	66.67	1	33.33	3	3	0.41
23	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
24	3	100.00	0	0.00	3	3	0.41
25	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	1	0.14
26	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	1	0.14
27	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
28	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	1	0.14
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>75.31</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>24.69</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>ANALYSIS BY ETHNIC ORIGIN</b>
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The following table shows the distribution of candidates by ethnic origin and their performance in the above examination.

**Table V**

Ethnic Origin	Passed		Failed		Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
Bangladeshi	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	1	0.14
Black-Other	3	100.00	0	0.00	3	5	0.68
Declined To Say	18	72.00	7	28.00	25	25	3.42
Irish	2	66.67	1	33.33	3	5	0.68
Pakistani	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.14
White	464	75.45	151	24.55	615	694	94.81
White & Black African	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	1	0.14
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>75.31</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>24.69</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>ANALYSIS BY BRIGADE</b>
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The following table shows the cumulative results achieved in each brigade (grouped in local examination boards).

**Table VI**

Board	Brigade	Passed		Failed		Absentees	Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
		No	%	No	%	No	No	No	
A	Cleveland	9	100.00	0	0.00	0	9	9	1.23
A	Durham	4	57.14	3	42.86	1	7	8	1.09
A	Northumberland	3	75.00	1	25.00	1	4	5	0.68
A	Tyne & Wear	20	95.24	1	4.76	5	21	26	3.55
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>87.80</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12.20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>6.56</b>
B	Humberside	8	80.00	2	20.00	2	10	12	1.64
B	North Yorkshire	4	100.00	0	0.00	2	4	6	0.82
B	South Yorkshire	19	82.61	4	17.39	2	23	25	3.42
B	West Yorkshire	13	61.90	8	38.10	0	21	21	2.87
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>75.86</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24.14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>8.74</b>
C	Cumbria	4	80.00	1	20.00	0	5	5	0.68
C	Greater Manchester	23	79.31	6	20.69	4	29	33	4.51
C	Lancashire	7	58.33	5	41.67	6	12	18	2.46
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>73.91</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26.09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>7.65</b>
D	Cheshire	8	72.73	3	27.27	2	11	13	1.78
D	Isle of Man	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	1	1	0.14
D	Merseyside	1	25.00	3	75.00	0	4	4	0.55
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>62.50</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>37.50</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2.46</b>
E	Shropshire	7	87.50	1	12.50	0	8	8	1.09
E	Staffordshire	4	100.00	0	0.00	0	4	4	0.55
E	Warwickshire	6	85.71	1	14.29	0	7	7	0.96
E	West Midlands	15	60.00	10	40.00	6	25	31	4.23
E	Hereford and Worcs	2	33.33	4	66.67	0	6	6	0.82
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>68.00</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>32.00</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>7.65</b>
F	Derbyshire	5	55.56	4	44.44	0	9	9	1.23
F	Leicestershire	5	71.43	2	28.57	1	7	8	1.09
F	Nottinghamshire	7	70.00	3	30.00	1	10	11	1.50
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>65.38</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>34.62</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3.83</b>
G	Cambridgeshire	4	100.00	0	0.00	0	4	4	0.55
G	Lincolnshire	2	66.67	1	33.33	0	3	3	0.41
G	Norfolk	9	90.00	1	10.00	2	10	12	1.64
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>88.24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11.76</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2.60</b>

*Continues...*

## Appendix C

Board	Brigade	Passed		Failed		Absentees	Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
		No	%	No	%				
H	Bedfordshire & Luton	5	100.00	0	0.00	0	5	5	0.68
H	Northamptonshire	6	85.71	1	14.29	0	7	7	0.96
H	Oxfordshire	5	100.00	0	0.00	0	5	5	0.68
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>94.12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.88</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2.32</b>
I	Essex	21	84.00	4	16.00	3	25	28	3.83
I	Hertfordshire	6	85.71	1	14.29	2	7	9	1.23
I	Suffolk	7	63.64	4	36.36	0	11	11	1.50
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>79.07</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>20.93</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>6.56</b>
J	London	32	62.75	19	37.25	10	51	61	8.33
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>62.75</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>37.25</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>8.33</b>
K	East Sussex	9	64.29	5	35.71	0	14	14	1.91
K	Kent	6	50.00	6	50.00	1	12	13	1.78
K	Surrey	11	91.67	1	8.33	1	12	13	1.78
K	West Sussex	6	85.71	1	14.29	0	7	7	0.96
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>71.11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>28.89</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>6.42</b>
L	Berkshire	7	100.00	0	0.00	0	7	7	0.96
L	Buckinghamshire	9	90.00	1	10.00	1	10	11	1.50
L	Hampshire	17	62.96	10	37.04	4	27	31	4.23
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>6.69</b>
M	Cornwall	7	63.64	4	36.36	0	11	11	1.50
M	Devon	8	66.67	4	33.33	2	12	14	1.91
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>65.22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>34.78</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>3.42</b>
N	Dorset	4	80.00	1	20.00	0	5	5	0.68
N	Wiltshire	9	100.00	0	0.00	0	9	9	1.23
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>92.86</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7.14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1.91</b>
O	Somerset	5	55.56	4	44.44	0	9	9	1.23
O	Avon	8	100.00	0	0.00	1	8	9	1.23
O	Gloucestershire	4	100.00	0	0.00	0	4	4	0.55
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>80.95</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19.05</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3.01</b>
P	Mid & West Wales	10	76.92	3	23.08	1	13	14	1.91
P	North Wales	3	42.86	4	57.14	0	7	7	0.96
P	South Wales	8	80.00	2	20.00	9	10	19	2.60
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>70.00</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5.46</b>
Q	Strathclyde	25	80.65	6	19.35	7	31	38	5.19
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>80.65</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19.35</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5.19</b>

Continues...

Board	Brigade	Passed		Failed		Absentees	Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
		No	%	No	%	No	No	No	
R	Fife	8	100.00	0	0.00	0	8	8	1.09
R	Grampian	3	75.00	1	25.00	0	4	4	0.55
R	Highlands and Islands	4	100.00	0	0.00	0	4	4	0.55
R	Tayside	11	91.67	1	8.33	0	12	12	1.64
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>92.86</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7.14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3.83</b>
S	Central Scotland	6	66.67	3	33.33	1	9	10	1.37
S	Dumfries & Galloway	3	100.00	0	0.00	1	3	4	0.55
S	Lothian and Borders	6	66.67	3	33.33	1	9	10	1.37
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>71.43</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>28.57</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3.28</b>
T	Northern Ireland	16	69.57	7	30.43	4	23	27	3.69
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>69.57</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>30.43</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3.69</b>
U	Guernsey	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	1	1	0.14
U	Jersey	2	100.00	0	0.00	0	2	2	0.27
<b>Sub-Totals:</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.41</b>
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>488</b>	<b>75.31</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>24.69</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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