



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 2004

1. This was the eighteenth occasion on which the practical test was conducted by the Board in accordance with the rules and syllabuses published in May 2003.

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. 746 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 661 after late entries and withdrawals had both been accepted. 91 (13.8%) absented themselves from the examination. Thus, the number of candidates who attended the examination was 569. This included one RAF candidate who was absent, but the following statistics do not include this candidate.

RESULTS

6. Of the 569 candidates who attempted the test 451 (79.3%) were awarded a pass and 118 (20.7%) failed. The 451 successful candidates are now qualified for promotion to the rank of Leading Firefighter.
7. 35 female firefighters attempted the test, of whom 30 (85.7%) were successful.
8. 91 candidates were absent from the examination. There were no appeals from candidates as this was the last practical test to be held and candidates would be unable to carry forward any successful appeals.
9. 23 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 or enter directly into the Integrated Personal Development System (IPDS) process.

GENERAL COMMENTS

10. The practical test for the qualifying examination to the rank of Leading Firefighter held during 2004 was the eighteenth held under the auspices of the Fire Services Examinations Board. This was the last to be so organised as the examination will be replaced by workplace assessments in the future as part of the Integrated Personal Development System (IPDS).
11. Of the 660 candidates who entered the test, 91 (13.8%) absented themselves, leaving 569 actually taking the test. 451 (79.3%) were awarded a pass.
12. When compared to the figures relating to last year's test, the figures for 2004 indicate a reduction of 74 (10.0%) in the number of candidates entering the examination, an increase in the number (+8) and percentage (+2.4%) of candidates absenting themselves, which resulted in a decrease of 79 (12.2%) in the number of candidates taking the test. The number of candidates passing the test decreased by 37, but the pass rate improved by 4.0%.
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 low number of candidates entering the examination and the high absentee rate were believed to be mainly due to the lack of confidence on the period of validity of the promotion examination under the IPDS and when this would be introduced.

15. 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 92.6% in this test is an improvement to that achieved last year (91.2%), and the general standard of candidates observed during these tests over the years continues to improve. The identified general weaknesses of failed candidates continue to relate to inadequate observation of safety issues and shortfall in the demonstration of the ability to command and control personnel. Whereas the debriefing of the crew following the drill was invariably adequate, it did not suggest that this was an area of strength with the majority.
16. 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 87.2% is an improvement to that achieved last year (85.0%). Whilst it is extremely difficult to be specific about the reasons for the failure of 73 candidates, the general weaknesses in this test were, yet again, the inadequate observation of safety issues and an inability to demonstrate an ability to command and control personnel. As is usually the case, the general weakness regarding the debriefing of the crew was repeated in this section of the test.
17. 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 91.9% again confirms the continued improvement shown by candidates over past years, last year's pass rate being 89.3%. The main factor relating to the failure of candidates continued to be the lack of effective preparation for this test.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

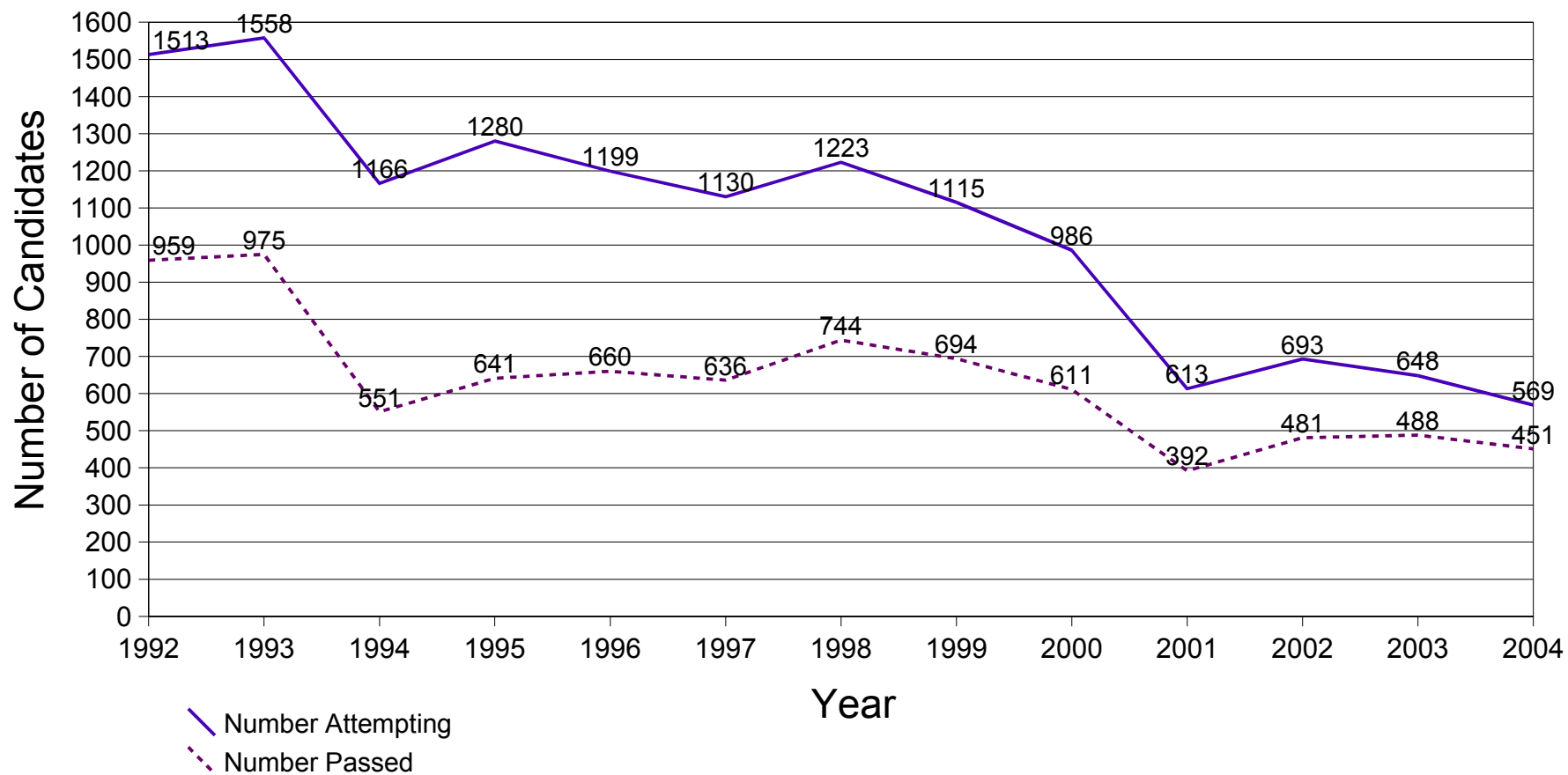
18. The following tables show the results of the examination as a whole in both graphical and tabular format. Graphs showing the numbers attempting and passing the examination and percentage passing is attached at Appendix A. A summary of the results as a whole and by individual sections of the examination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

Sir G Meldrum
Chairman

D J Stanley
Secretary

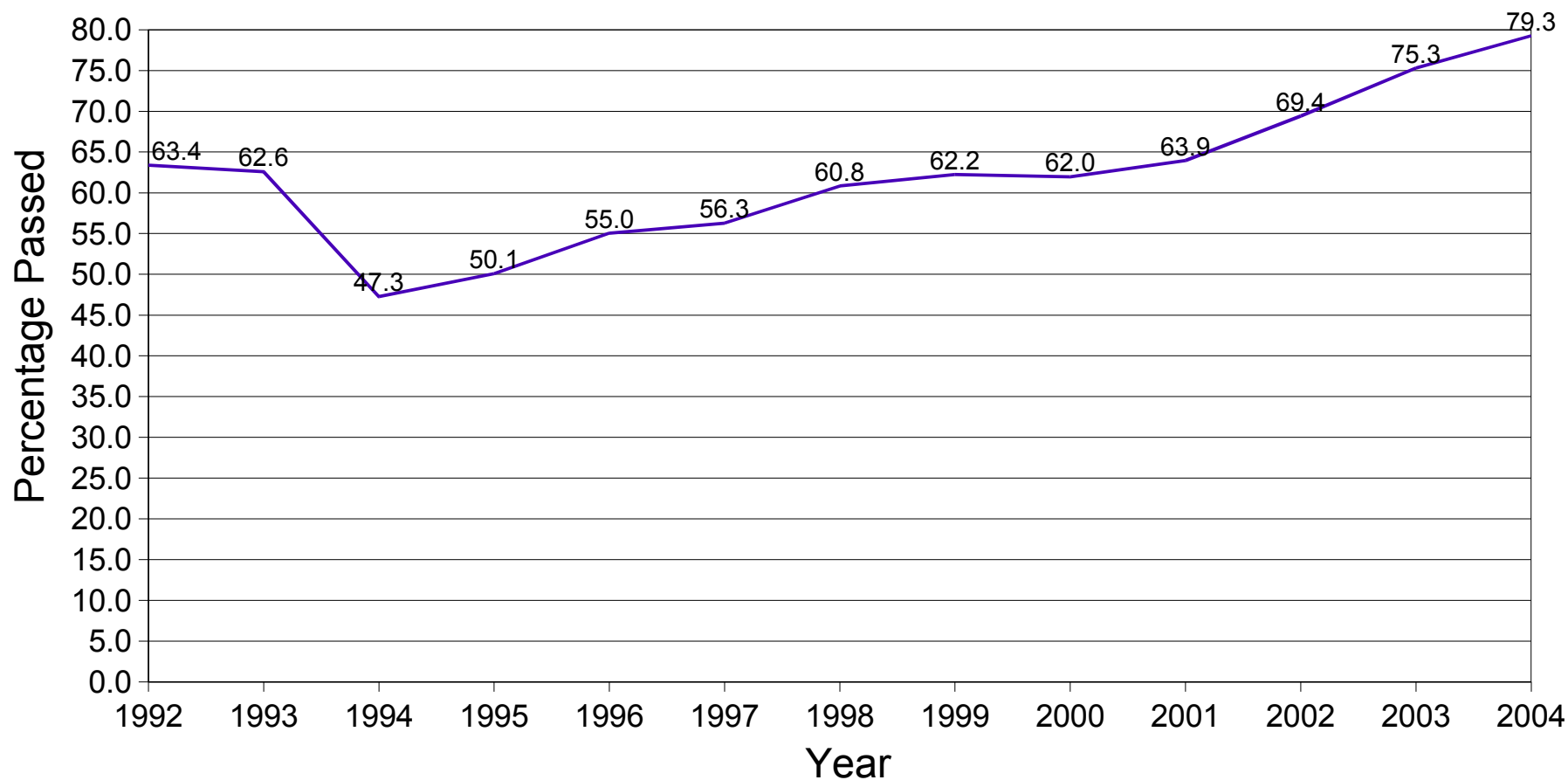
Leading Firefighters' Practical Test 1992 to 2004

TABLE I



Leading Firefighters' Practical Test 1992 to 2004

TABLE II



RESULTS IN TEST AS A WHOLE

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

TABLE I

	2004		2003		2002		2001		2000		1999		1998		1997		1996		1995		1994	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Passed	451	79.3	488	75.3	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
Failed	118	20.7	160	24.7	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
Totals	569		648		693		613		986		1115		1223		1130		1199		1280		1166	

PERFORMANCE IN EACH SECTION

Table II shows the distribution of candidates by section and their performance in the 2004 test.

TABLE II

Section	Subject	Passed		Failed		Total
		No	%	No	%	No
Section A	Supervise one standard drill	527	92.6	42	7.4	569
Section B	Fireground procedure: taking charge of the situation and controlling the exercise	496	87.2	73	12.8	569
Section C	An instructional talk on the design, use, disadvantages and limitations of one item of fire service equipment	523	91.9	46	8.1	569



Fire Services Examinations Board

Qualifying Examination for Promotion to the Rank of Leading Firefighter 2004 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	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
20 To 24	63	85.14	11	14.86	74	82	12.42
25 To 29	124	78.98	33	21.02	157	180	27.27
30 To 34	152	78.35	42	21.65	194	219	33.18
35 To 39	86	77.48	25	22.52	111	136	20.61
40 To 44	23	79.31	6	20.69	29	36	5.45
45 To 49	3	75.00	1	25.00	4	7	1.06
50+	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
TOTALS:	451	79.26	118	20.74	569	660	100.00

ANALYSIS 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	451	79.26	118	20.74	569	660	100.00
TOTALS:	451	79.26	118	20.74	569	660	100.00

ANALYSIS BY GENDER

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

Table III

Gender	Passed		Failed		Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
Female	30	85.71	5	14.29	35	43	6.52
Male	421	78.84	113	21.16	534	617	93.48
TOTALS:	451	79.26	118	20.74	569	660	100.00

ANALYSIS BY LENGTH OF SERVICE

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	5	71.43	2	28.57	7	8	1.21
1	90	78.26	25	21.74	115	122	18.48
2	116	82.86	24	17.14	140	159	24.09
3	115	79.86	29	20.14	144	167	25.30
4	39	78.00	11	22.00	50	60	9.09
5	25	75.76	8	24.24	33	45	6.82
6	13	86.67	2	13.33	15	20	3.03
7	6	85.71	1	14.29	7	7	1.06
8	5	71.43	2	28.57	7	8	1.21
9	3	42.86	4	57.14	7	8	1.21
10	6	85.71	1	14.29	7	7	1.06
11	8	100.00	0	0.00	8	9	1.36
12	2	100.00	0	0.00	2	2	0.30
13	4	50.00	4	50.00	8	10	1.52
14	2	66.67	1	33.33	3	3	0.45
15	3	60.00	2	40.00	5	7	1.06
16	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	2	0.30
17	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.15
18	3	75.00	1	25.00	4	6	0.91
19	2	66.67	1	33.33	3	3	0.45
20	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.15
21	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
22	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
23	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	1	0.15
24	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	1	0.15
25	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.15
26	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
27	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
28	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	1	0.15
29	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	1	0.15
TOTALS:	451	79.26	118	20.74	569	660	100.00

ANALYSIS 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	
Any Other	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.15
Black-Caribbean	1	50.00	1	50.00	2	2	0.30
Black-Other	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	2	0.30
Declined To Say	8	72.73	3	27.27	11	13	1.97
Indian	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.15
Irish	5	100.00	0	0.00	5	5	0.76
Mixed Other	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.15
Other	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.15
White	429	79.01	114	20.99	543	630	95.45
White & Asian	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.15
White Other	2	100.00	0	0.00	2	3	0.45
TOTALS:	451	79.26	118	20.74	569	660	100.00

ANALYSIS 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	3	75.00	1	25.00	0	4	4	0.61
A	Durham & Darlington	3	42.86	4	57.14	1	7	8	1.21
A	Northumberland	4	80.00	1	20.00	1	5	6	0.91
A	Tyne & Wear	16	84.21	3	15.79	0	19	19	2.88
Sub-Totals:		26	74.29	9	25.71	2	35	37	5.61
B	Humberstone	8	80.00	2	20.00	4	10	14	2.12
B	North Yorkshire	4	66.67	2	33.33	1	6	7	1.06
B	South Yorkshire	9	69.23	4	30.77	1	13	14	2.12
B	West Yorkshire	20	68.97	9	31.03	7	29	36	5.45
Sub-Totals:		41	70.69	17	29.31	13	58	71	10.76
C	Cumbria	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	1	1	0.15
C	Greater Manchester	14	73.68	5	26.32	5	19	24	3.64
C	Lancashire	8	66.67	4	33.33	5	12	17	2.58
Sub-Totals:		23	71.88	9	28.13	10	32	42	6.36
D	Cheshire	8	80.00	2	20.00	1	10	11	1.67
D	Isle of Man	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	1	1	0.15
D	Merseyside	4	40.00	6	60.00	0	10	10	1.52
Sub-Totals:		12	57.14	9	42.86	1	21	22	3.33
E	Shropshire	3	75.00	1	25.00	1	4	5	0.76
E	Staffordshire	4	100.00	0	0.00	1	4	5	0.76
E	Warwickshire	1	50.00	1	50.00	1	2	3	0.45
E	West Midlands	22	84.62	4	15.38	5	26	31	4.70
E	Hereford and Worcs	3	75.00	1	25.00	4	4	8	1.21
Sub-Totals:		33	82.50	7	17.50	12	40	52	7.88
F	Derbyshire	12	92.31	1	7.69	0	13	13	1.97
F	Leicestershire	2	40.00	3	60.00	0	5	5	0.76
F	Nottinghamshire	5	83.33	1	16.67	2	6	8	1.21
Sub-Totals:		19	79.17	5	20.83	2	24	26	3.94
G	Cambridgeshire	4	80.00	1	20.00	0	5	5	0.76
G	Lincolnshire	5	100.00	0	0.00	1	5	6	0.91
G	Norfolk	3	100.00	0	0.00	1	3	4	0.61
Sub-Totals:		12	92.31	1	7.69	2	13	15	2.27

Continues...

Appendix C

Board	Brigade	Passed		Failed		Absentees No	Total Sat No	Total Entered No	% of Grand Total
		No	%	No	%				
H	Bedfordshire & Luton	3	75.00	1	25.00	2	4	6	0.91
H	Northamptonshire	6	75.00	2	25.00	0	8	8	1.21
H	Oxfordshire	7	87.50	1	12.50	0	8	8	1.21
Sub-Totals:		16	80.00	4	20.00	2	20	22	3.33
I	Essex	9	69.23	4	30.77	2	13	15	2.27
I	Hertfordshire	9	90.00	1	10.00	1	10	11	1.67
I	Suffolk	11	84.62	2	15.38	0	13	13	1.97
Sub-Totals:		29	80.56	7	19.44	3	36	39	5.91
J	London	10	76.92	3	23.08	20	13	33	5.00
Sub-Totals:		10	76.92	3	23.08	20	13	33	5.00
K	East Sussex	7	77.78	2	22.22	2	9	11	1.67
K	Kent	10	83.33	2	16.67	0	12	12	1.82
K	Surrey	8	80.00	2	20.00	0	10	10	1.52
K	West Sussex	5	100.00	0	0.00	1	5	6	0.91
Sub-Totals:		30	83.33	6	16.67	3	36	39	5.91
L	Berkshire	6	85.71	1	14.29	2	7	9	1.36
L	Buckinghamshire	9	81.82	2	18.18	0	11	11	1.67
L	Hampshire	18	78.26	5	21.74	5	23	28	4.24
Sub-Totals:		33	80.49	8	19.51	7	41	48	7.27
M	Cornwall	13	92.86	1	7.14	0	14	14	2.12
M	Devon	15	88.24	2	11.76	0	17	17	2.58
Sub-Totals:		28	90.32	3	9.68	0	31	31	4.70
N	Dorset	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	1	1	0.15
N	Wiltshire	10	100.00	0	0.00	0	10	10	1.52
Sub-Totals:		11	100.00	0	0.00	0	11	11	1.67
O	Somerset	5	62.50	3	37.50	0	8	8	1.21
O	Avon	4	57.14	3	42.86	0	7	7	1.06
O	Gloucestershire	5	62.50	3	37.50	0	8	8	1.21
Sub-Totals:		14	60.87	9	39.13	0	23	23	3.48
P	Mid & West Wales	6	85.71	1	14.29	0	7	7	1.06
P	North Wales	3	60.00	2	40.00	0	5	5	0.76
P	South Wales	4	80.00	1	20.00	6	5	11	1.67
Sub-Totals:		13	76.47	4	23.53	6	17	23	3.48
Q	Strathclyde	28	93.33	2	6.67	4	30	34	5.15
Sub-Totals:		28	93.33	2	6.67	4	30	34	5.15

Continues...

Board	Brigade	Passed		Failed		Absentees	Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
		No	%	No	%				
R	Fife	18	81.82	4	18.18	0	22	22	3.33
R	Grampian	4	66.67	2	33.33	0	6	6	0.91
R	Highlands and Islands	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	1	1	0.15
R	Tayside	5	100.00	0	0.00	0	5	5	0.76
Sub-Totals:		28	82.35	6	17.65	0	34	34	5.15
S	Central Scotland	9	90.00	1	10.00	1	10	11	1.67
S	Dumfries & Galloway	0	0.00	1	100.00	2	1	3	0.45
S	Lothian and Borders	10	83.33	2	16.67	1	12	13	1.97
Sub-Totals:		19	82.61	4	17.39	4	23	27	4.09
T	Northern Ireland	22	81.48	5	18.52	0	27	27	4.09
Sub-Totals:		22	81.48	5	18.52	0	27	27	4.09
U	Guernsey	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	1	1	0.15
U	Jersey	3	100.00	0	0.00	0	3	3	0.45
Sub-Totals:		4	100.00	0	0.00	0	4	4	0.61
TOTALS:		451	79.26	118	20.74	91	569	660	100.00

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