



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 STATION OFFICER
2005 – 1ST RE-SIT

1. The examination was set on the syllabus of study published in May 2004. This was the twentieth occasion on which the qualifying examination for promotion to the rank of Station Officer was conducted by the Board.
2. Assessors responsible for the setting of question papers, the preparation of notes for the guidance of examiners and for the co-ordination of marking were appointed as follows:

Lead Assessor: Mr H E Wright

General Assessor (Scotland): Mr A J Early

3. Examination centres at 33 locations were arranged by the local examination boards.
4. The examination was held on Tuesday and Wednesday 13 and 14 September 2005.
5. 99 candidates initially entered for the examination at the Board's closing date for entries (15 July). However, the final number of candidates entering the examination was 98 after late entries and withdrawals had both been accepted. 27 (27.6%) absented themselves from the examination. Thus, the number of candidates who attended the examination was 71. Of these, 2 attempted all four papers.
6. A total of 13 officers attended the marking session together with one Assisting Assessor, the Acting General Assessor (Scotland), and the Lead Assessor.
7. The marking of scripts took place at Daventry from 30 October to 1 November 2005.

Results

8. Of the 71 candidates who attempted the examination, 45 (63.4%) were awarded a pass. Appendix B shows the cumulative results for all candidates entered.
9. Of the 6 female candidates entered for the examination 3 were successful in passing the whole examination.
10. 27 candidates were absent from the whole examination. In addition 4 candidates were absent from individual papers and under the Restriction of Entry Scheme, 2 candidates (6.5%) appealed to the Board. Under the delegated authority given to the Chairman, both appeals were individually considered and 2 (100.0%) were upheld. These candidates will have one further attempt to complete their examination in February 2006.

General Comments

11. The qualifying examination for promotion to the rank of Station Officer, in which the level of knowledge and understanding of candidates on subjects considered of particular importance to those wishing to attain that rank is assessed, was the twentieth to be held under the auspices of the Fire Services Examinations Board. As part of the transitional arrangements, this examination could only be entered by candidates already in this system who had achieved a pass in a minimum of one of the four Papers in accordance with the flexible system when taking this examination. Those who fail in their attempts to achieve the necessary passes in this examination, together with those who now enter the fire & rescue service, will in future be assessed as part of the Integrated Personal Development System (IPDS).
12. 98 candidates initially entered the examination after late entries and withdrawals. Of these, 27 (27.6%) absented themselves which is a decrease in both numerical and percentage terms to that experienced last year, leaving 71 actually attempting the examination.
13. Of the 71 who sat the examination, 45 (63.4%) were awarded a pass. These figures signify a significant reduction in the number of candidates sitting the examination and could only provide a decrease in the number achieving a pass, but an improved percentage pass rate from the previous 45.7%.
14. The flexible system of taking the examination enables candidates to take two, three or four papers in their first attempt. Thereafter, having passed at least one of the papers, the candidates have a further two consecutive occasions in which to obtain a pass in any remaining papers in order to pass this qualifying examination. Consequently, only 2 candidates sat all four papers, 10 sat three, 36 sat two and 23 sat one.

15. Having previously noted that 45 candidates have now achieved a pass in all four papers, it will also be noted from the detail provided that of those remaining in the system, 21 have now achieved passes in three papers, 20 in two and 10 in one. Thus from those candidates who entered the examination, there are 53 who have achieved credit passes, but 19 of these have unfortunately failed to obtain passes in all papers in the requisite period. Therefore, of these, there are 34 candidates with credit passes who may continue to work to achieve this qualification. For further information, there are 3 additional candidates who have credit passes who did not enter the examination on this occasion who still remain in the system, thus providing a total of 37.
16. There now remains one further examination for those candidates who remain in the system to achieve a pass in all papers and consequently, the examination, should they wish to do so. This examination will take place in February 2006.
17. Comparison with the results achieved by candidates last year show an improved pass rate in Papers 1, 2 and 3 and an almost equal pass rate in Paper 4, these being 73.5% in Paper 1 (Operations) from 70.8%; 75.8% in Paper 2 (Fire Safety, Education and Enforcement) from 70.5%; 79.3% in Paper 3 (Human Resource Management) from 68.8%; and 63.4% in Paper 4 (Business Administration) from 64.3%.
18. It was apparent that the majority of candidates who sat the examination had made a serious attempt to prepare themselves with many quality scripts being submitted. These were rewarded with a high level of marks and no significant areas of weakness were noted.
19. There were no problems associated with the format of the examination, the venues or the instructions to candidates in the various question papers.

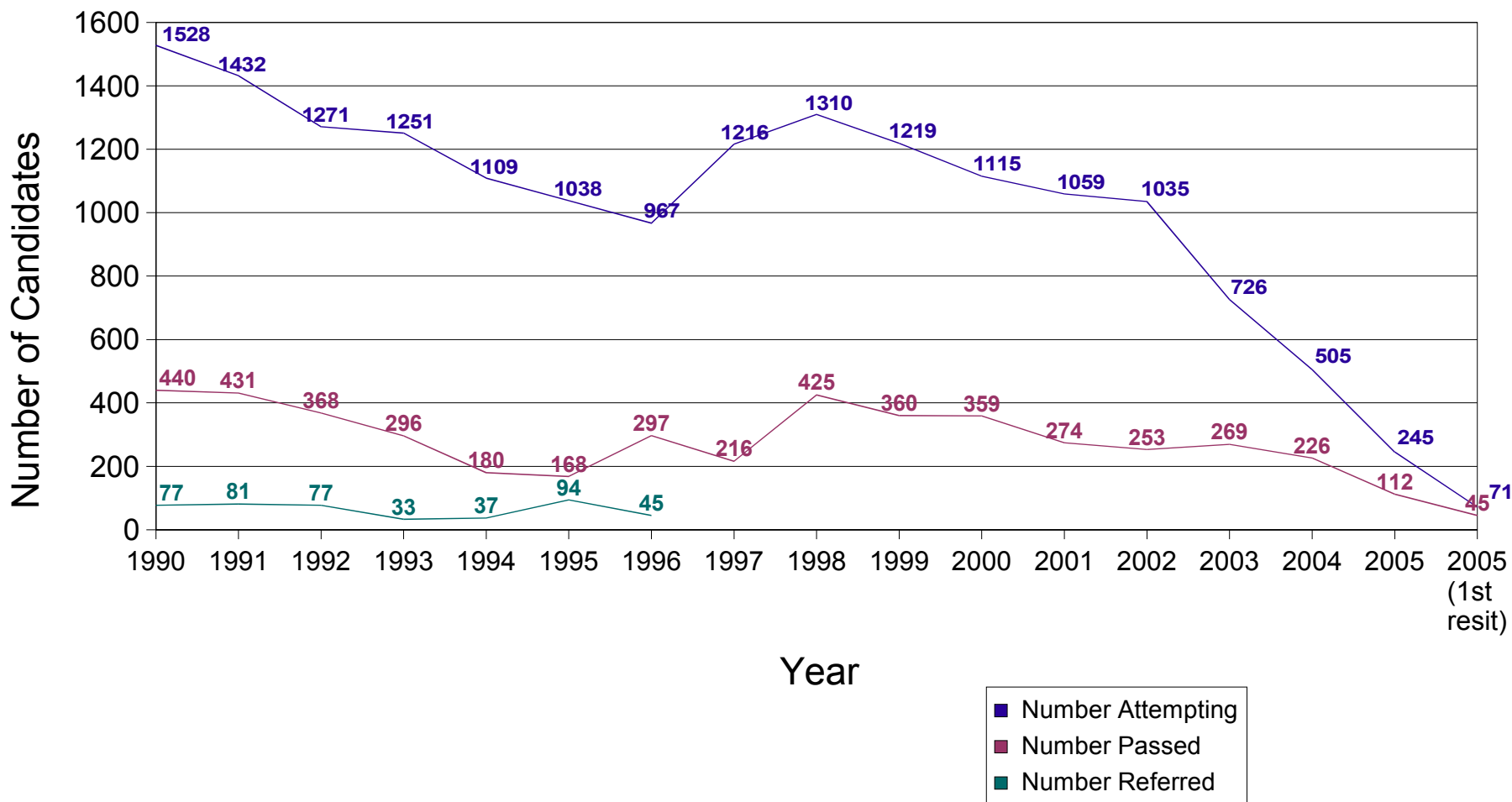
Summary of Results

20. The following tables show the results in the examination as a whole, in both graphical and tabular format. A graph showing the numbers attempting the examination and the numbers passing it is attached at Appendix A. A summary of statistics 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

Station Officers' Written Examination 1990 to 2005





Fire Services Examinations Board

Qualifying Examination for Promotion to the Rank of Station Officer 2005 Written Examination - 1st Re-sit

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

ENTRY SUMMARY

The following table provides a breakdown of candidates by the number of papers they have entered for the above examination.

Table I

Quantity of papers	Overall Total				
	Entered	Absent		Sat	
	No	No	%	No	%
1 Paper	29	6	20.69	23	79.31
2 Papers	48	12	25.00	36	75.00
3 Papers	18	8	44.44	10	55.56
4 Papers	3	1	33.33	2	66.67
Overall Total	98	27	27.55	71	72.45

OVERALL CUMULATIVE RESULTS

The following table shows the cumulative results for candidates entered (including absentees) for the above examination.

Table II

Paper Passes	Overall Total	
	No	%
Passed all papers	45	45.92
Passed 3 papers	21	21.43
Passed 2 papers	20	20.41
Passed 1 papers	10	10.20
Passed 0 papers	1	1.02
Absent with No Cumulative Credits	1	1.02
Total Candidates Entered	98	100.00

Note: 8 candidates above, with cumulative papers to date, and 11 Absent/Lapsed candidates have failed to complete the examination within the requisite period.

PAPER SUMMARY

The following table provides a breakdown of the number of candidates entered for a particular paper in the above examination and the respective results.

Table III

Paper Number	Overall Total						
	Entered	Absent		Sat		Passed	
	No	No	%	No	%	No	%
Paper 1	55	21	38.18	34	61.82	25	73.53
Paper 2	50	17	34.00	33	66.00	25	75.76
Paper 3	43	14	32.56	29	67.44	23	79.31
Paper 4	43	10	23.26	33	76.74	21	63.64

Note: Passed percentage is calculated against the number of candidates who sat the paper.



Fire Services Examinations Board

Qualifying Examination for Promotion to the Rank of Station Officer 2005 Written Examination - 1st Re-sit

FULL STATISTICAL REPORT

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY AGE GROUP

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

Table I

Age Group	Passed Complete Exam		Passed 3 Papers		Passed 2 Papers		Passed 1 Paper		Passed 0 Papers		Absent With No Credits		Total Entered
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No
Up To 20 Years	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
20 To 24	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
25 To 29	5	62.50	3	37.50	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	8
30 To 34	11	47.83	5	21.74	3	13.04	2	8.70	1	4.35	1	4.35	23
35 To 39	15	44.12	8	23.53	6	17.65	5	14.71	0	0.00	0	0.00	34
40 To 44	12	50.00	3	12.50	8	33.33	1	4.17	0	0.00	0	0.00	24
45 To 49	2	22.22	2	22.22	3	33.33	2	22.22	0	0.00	0	0.00	9
50+	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
TOTALS:	45	45.92	21	21.43	20	20.41	10	10.20	1	1.02	1	1.02	98

ANALYSIS BY RANK

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

Table II

Rank	Passed Complete Exam		Passed 3 Papers		Passed 2 Papers		Passed 1 Paper		Passed 0 Papers		Absent With No Credits		Total Entered
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No
Firefighter	11	44.00	6	24.00	4	16.00	3	12.00	0	0.00	1	4.00	25
Leading Firefighter	17	50.00	6	17.65	8	23.53	2	5.88	1	2.94	0	0.00	34
Sub-Officer	17	43.59	9	23.08	8	20.51	5	12.82	0	0.00	0	0.00	39
TOTALS:	45	45.92	21	21.43	20	20.41	10	10.20	1	1.02	1	1.02	98

ANALYSIS BY GENDER

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

Table III

Title	Passed Complete Exam		Passed 3 Papers		Passed 2 Papers		Passed 1 Paper		Passed 0 Papers		Absent With No Credits		Total Entered
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No
Female	3	50.00	1	16.67	0	0.00	1	16.67	1	16.67	0	0.00	6
Male	42	45.65	20	21.74	20	21.74	9	9.78	0	0.00	1	1.09	92
TOTALS:	45	45.92	21	21.43	20	20.41	10	10.20	1	1.02	1	1.02	98

ANALYSIS BY LENGTH OF SERVICE

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

Table IV

Length of Service	Passed Complete Exam		Passed 3 Papers		Passed 2 Papers		Passed 1 Paper		Passed 0 Papers		Absent With No Credits		Total Entered	
	Years	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	No	
0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
1	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
2	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
3	1	1	33.33	1	33.33	1	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3
4	2	2	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2
5	7	7	63.64	2	18.18	1	9.09	1	9.09	0	0.00	0	0.00	11
6	7	7	53.85	2	15.38	2	15.38	1	7.69	0	0.00	1	7.69	13
7	5	5	71.43	1	14.29	1	14.29	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	7
8	2	2	25.00	4	50.00	1	12.50	1	12.50	0	0.00	0	0.00	8
9	2	2	40.00	2	40.00	0	0.00	1	20.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	5
10	3	3	50.00	1	16.67	0	0.00	1	16.67	1	16.67	0	0.00	6
11	1	1	33.33	1	33.33	0	0.00	1	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	3
12	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2
13	4	4	66.67	0	0.00	1	16.67	1	16.67	0	0.00	0	0.00	6
14	3	3	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3
15	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2
16	1	1	25.00	1	25.00	2	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4
17	0	0	0.00	1	25.00	3	75.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4
18	1	1	33.33	1	33.33	1	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3
19	1	1	33.33	2	66.67	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3
20	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	66.67	1	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	3
21	1	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1
22	2	2	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2
23	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
24	1	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1
25	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
26	1	1	25.00	2	50.00	0	0.00	1	25.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4
27	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	50.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2
TOTALS:	45	45	45.92	21	21.43	20	20.41	10	10.20	1	1.02	1	1.02	98

ANALYSIS BY ETHNIC ORIGIN

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

Table V

Ethnic Origin	Passed Complete Exam		Passed 3 Papers		Passed 2 Papers		Passed 1 Paper		Passed 0 Papers		Absent With No Credits		Total Entered
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No
Black-Caribbean	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1
Declined To Say	1	50.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2
Irish	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1
White	42	45.16	20	21.51	19	20.43	10	10.75	1	1.08	1	1.08	93
White Other	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1
TOTALS:	45	45.92	21	21.43	20	20.41	10	10.20	1	1.02	1	1.02	98

ANALYSIS BY BRIGADE

The following table shows the cumulative results achieved in each brigade (grouped in local examination boards.) The percentage figure for absentees is calculated on the number of candidates entering the examination.

Table VI

Board	Brigade	Passed Complete Exam		Passed 3 Papers		Passed 2 Papers		Passed 1 Paper		Passed 0 Papers		Absent With No Credits		Total Entered	Total Absent	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	No	%
A	Cleveland	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
A	Tyne & Wear	1	33.33	2	66.67	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	2	66.67
Sub-Totals:		2	50.00	2	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	2	50.00
B	Humberside	1	33.33	1	33.33	1	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	0	0.00
B	North Yorkshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
B	South Yorkshire	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
Sub-Totals:		1	20.00	2	40.00	1	20.00	0	0.00	1	20.00	0	0.00	5	0	0.00
C	Greater Manchester	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
C	Lancashire	4	66.67	0	0.00	2	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	1	16.67
Sub-Totals:		4	57.14	0	0.00	3	42.86	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	7	1	14.29
D	Cheshire	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
D	Isle of Man	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
Sub-Totals:		2	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	0	0.00
E	Shropshire	2	66.67	0	0.00	1	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	0	0.00
E	Warwickshire	0	0.00	1	50.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1	50.00
E	West Midlands	0	0.00	2	66.67	0	0.00	1	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	2	66.67
E	Hereford and Worcs	0	0.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2	100.00
Sub-Totals:		2	20.00	4	40.00	2	20.00	2	20.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	10	5	50.00
H	Bedfordshire & Luton	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1	100.00
H	Northamptonshire	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
Sub-Totals:		1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1	50.00
I	Essex	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1	50.00
I	Hertfordshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
Sub-Totals:		1	33.33	0	0.00	1	33.33	1	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	1	33.33
J	London	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
Sub-Totals:		1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
K	East Sussex	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
Sub-Totals:		1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
L	Berkshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1	100.00
L	Buckinghamshire	1	50.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	0	0.00
L	Hampshire	3	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	0	0.00
Sub-Totals:		4	66.67	1	16.67	1	16.67	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	1	16.67

Continues...

Appendix C

Board	Brigade	Passed Complete Exam		Passed 3 Papers		Passed 2 Papers		Passed 1 Paper		Passed 0 Papers		Absent With No Credits		Total Entered	Total Absent	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	No	%
M	Cornwall	1	33.33	2	66.67	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	1	33.33
Sub-Totals:		1	33.33	2	66.67	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	1	33.33
N	Wiltshire	3	75.00	1	25.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	1	25.00
Sub-Totals:		3	75.00	1	25.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	1	25.00
O	Avon	1	50.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	0	0.00
O	Gloucestershire	2	33.33	0	0.00	2	33.33	2	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	3	50.00
Sub-Totals:		3	37.50	1	12.50	2	25.00	2	25.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	8	3	37.50
P	Mid & West Wales	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
P	North Wales	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
P	South Wales	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1	50.00
Sub-Totals:		3	75.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	25.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	1	25.00
Q	Strathclyde	5	35.71	4	28.57	5	35.71	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	14	7	50.00
Sub-Totals:		5	35.71	4	28.57	5	35.71	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	14	7	50.00
R	Fife	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
R	Grampian	2	40.00	0	0.00	2	40.00	1	20.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	1	20.00
R	Highlands and Islands	2	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	0	0.00
R	Tayside	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
Sub-Totals:		6	66.67	0	0.00	2	22.22	1	11.11	0	0.00	0	0.00	9	1	11.11
S	Central Scotland	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
S	Dumfries & Galloway	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1	100.00
Sub-Totals:		0	0.00	2	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1	50.00
T	Northern Ireland	5	45.45	2	18.18	3	27.27	1	9.09	0	0.00	0	0.00	11	4	36.36
Sub-Totals:		5	45.45	2	18.18	3	27.27	1	9.09	0	0.00	0	0.00	11	4	36.36
U	Guernsey	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
U	Jersey	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	1	100.00
Sub-Totals:		0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	1	50.00	2	1	50.00
TOTALS:		45	45.92	21	21.43	20	20.41	10	10.20	1	1.02	1	1.02	98	31	31.63

**APPEALS AGAINST STATION OFFICERS' EXAMINATION RESULTS
SEPTEMBER 2005**

1. REPORT

- 1.1 Following the introduction of the Appeals against Examination Results, 1 appeal was received from candidates asking for their failed paper(s) to be re-marked. This represented a total of 1 examination script to be re-marked for Paper 2.

Paper 1	0
Paper 2	1
Paper 3	0
Paper 4	0
TOTAL	<u>1</u>

- 1.2 One experienced examiner was asked to re-mark the above script and this process took place on Friday 20th January at Lincolnshire Fire Brigade Headquarters. Examiners were not allowed to re-mark an examination paper previously allocated at the marking session.
- 1.3 Following the re-mark, the examiner provided a brief report, together with reasons where the re-mark had proved significant.

- 1.4 The Appeals Panel, consisting of the Secretary of the FSEB, the Lead Assessor and the General Assessor for Scotland reviewed the appeal in the light of the examiner's re-mark and comments, and the candidate's original submission. The decision of the Appeals Panel was:

Appeals Successful and Examination Result now ' Passed ' overall	0
Appeals Successful but change to Examination ' Grade ' only	1
Appeals Unsuccessful	0
TOTAL	1

- 1.5 The candidate and respective Chief Officer have been notified of the decision of the Appeals Panel.

- 1.6 The effect to the overall results as shown in Tables II and III of Appendix B of the Secretary of State Report can be summarised as follows:

Table II - Passed All Papers	45
Passed 3 Papers	22
Passed 2 Papers	19
Passed 1 Paper	10
Passed 0 Papers	1
Absent No. Credits	1
Total Entered	98

Table III - Paper 1 Passed	25 (73.5%)
Paper 2 Passed	26 (78.8%)
Paper 3 Passed	23 (79.3%)
Paper 4 Passed	21 (63.6%)

Note: 19 candidates above have failed to complete their examination within the required period. Percentage passing of those who sat remains at 63.4%.

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