Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) presentation noted.

6 There was heard a presentation by Group Commander Garry Marshall, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, in relation to changes in responding to reports of automatic fire alarm activations that could potentially realise a number of benefits for both the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the wider public, advising that

(1) Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) accounted for 31% of all operational activity nationally;

(2) despite attempts through greater engagement and policy change, UFAS incidents had continued to increase;

(3) the SFRS Board had agreed that from 1st July 2023, SFRS would stop attending automatic fire activations to commercial business and workplace premises unless a fire had been confirmed;

(4) the change would not apply to sleeping premises, such as hospitals, care homes, hotels or domestic dwellings who would still receive the full pre-determined attendance;

(5) SFRS control operators would undertake call challenge to establish the type and circumstance of activation to reach an informed decision to mobilise appliances or not and that alarm receiving centres would be encouraged to implement a similar arrangement prior to passing to SFRS operations control; and

(6) SFRS had no legislative requirement to attend premises in response to an activation of a fire alarm to investigate the cause, the responsibility rested with the duty holder of the premises.

After consideration, the Partnership noted

(a) the presentation; and

(b) that SFRS would link in with the properties highlighted by Councillor Mooney, in relation to them being of greater risk due to those with disabilities working or attending the premises.