



Mr G Rainey  
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Mr Jerry Connors  
Maritime & Coastguard Agency

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Website: [www.dft.gov.uk/mca/](http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/)  
Our Reference: ID 3043  
08/03/2018

## Freedom of Information Act Request – ID 3043

Dear Mr Rainey,

Thank you for your email of 08/02/18 in relation to Rock Armour,

The responses to each of your questions are provided in the response below:

**1A) Can details please be provided as to the number of incidents attended by coastguard rescue officers involving or related to rock armour coastal protection measures.**

Her Majesty's Coastguard emergency response to incidents at sea or on the coastline of the UK is coordinated by the Maritime Operations function across a network of 11 operations centres. Incident activity is logged in a system to be able to process a mission and record activities, decisions, actions and outcomes within it.

Currently the system uses a range of identifiers to classify incident type. There is no incident type for "Rock Armour" incidents. It is likely incidents specific to rock armour will be classified in broader incident types, for example; person in difficulties, stuck on a cliff, cut off or stranded, missing etc. As such, the search function of the system data cannot refine down to rock armour because an incident type doesn't exist.

**2A) If possible, can this be broken down into detail showing the nature of the incident, injury to either a member of the public thus instigating the incident or CRO during the incident.**

For the reason explained in 1A the finer detail of rock armour incidents are not readily identifiable within broader incident types and their narratives.

**3A) Are details available showing the number of searches undertaken on or around Rock armour and how the associated risks are mitigated to prevent injury to the officers involved.**

For the reason explained in 1A the number of searches undertaken on or around rock armour is not readily identifiable within broader incident types and their narratives.

Coastguard Rescue Teams and various Coastguard Officers in emergency response capacities receive a level of training commensurate with SAR operations and their associated risks.

**4) Finally, how many teams around the coast are given dual technical rescue capabilities i.e. how many are mud and rope certified?**

The current established dual technical rescue Mud and Rope teams number 19 throughout the UK. They are positioned nationally subject to the coming together of both mud and cliff environments.

**5) Is there a plan to reduce this number and how will the associated public hazards and lack of rescue capability risks be mitigated?**

There is no plan to reduce the number of mud or rope rescue teams.

**6) Should a loss of life occur because a team has had its capabilities reviewed and they subsequently lose a technical rescue capability who would answer the to the HSE should a breach in legislation be identified?**

The Director of Maritime Operations / Head of Coastal Operations.

If you are unhappy with the way the Agency has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the FOIA Unit at:

The FOIA Unit  
Maritime & Coastguard Agency,  
Bay 3/08, Spring Place,  
105, Commercial Rd,  
SOUTHAMPTON,  
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SO15 1EG.  
E-mail: [InformationAssurance@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:InformationAssurance@mcga.gov.uk)  
Tel: 023 80 839 649

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. In the event that you are not satisfied with the decision resulting from our internal review you can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision notice. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact me.

Please remember to quote the reference number above with the subject line FOIA Comment/Complaint in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. Connors.