



Mr Mike Smith
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Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Website: www.dft.gov.uk/mca/
Our Reference: ID3748
17/09/2021

Freedom of Information Act Request – ID3748

Dear Mr Smith,

Thank you for your email of 19/08/2021, in which you have made a request for:

- 1) The number of independent lifeboat organisations (i.e. non-RNLI) you have the ability to request/task around the country, regardless of whether they are HMCG fully declared assets or additional facilities.
- 2) The number of taskings/incidents attended during all of 2020 by the independent lifeboats around the country regardless of whether they are HMCG fully declared assets or additional facilities.
- 3) A list of the independent lifeboats that are HMCG fully declared assets and currently hold Rescue Boat Coding for their assets.
- 4) A list of the independent lifeboats that do not hold HMCG fully declared asset status and are either classed as additional facilities or categorised another way.

The responses to your questions are provided on the following pages.

In response to questions 1, 3 and 4, please see the paragraph and table below:

HM Coastguard recognises and values the critical role undertaken by the 27 independent rescue boat organisations (IRBOs) in fulfilling UK Search and Rescue response. Please find below a summary outline of IRBOs as requested. HM Coastguard is aware that a number of Independent Rescue Boat Organisations (IRBOs) have not been able to undertake periodic re-certification of vessels in accordance with the Rescue Boat Code since March 2020 to date as a direct result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. HM Coastguard is currently working closely through Declared Facility Liaison Officers to support the five IRBOs requiring re-certification and anticipate re-certification or withdrawal of declared facility status by the end of calendar year.

Boats operating as additional facilities are not represented, as this status refers to any vessel which may be available to assist with Maritime Search and Rescue at the time of the incident.

| Independent Rescue Boat Organisation | Status | Number of Rescue Boat Certified Vessels |
|--|----------|---|
| Caister Lifeboat | Declared | 2 |
| East Sutherland Recue Association (Dornoch) | Declared | 1 |
| Ferryside Lifeboat | Declared | 1 |
| Findhorn (Moray Inshore Rescue) | Declared | 0 |
| Hemsby Lifeboat | Declared | New Vessel |
| Hope Cove IRB | Declared | 1 |
| Hornsea Rescue | Declared | 1 |
| Humber Rescue | Declared | 1 |
| Lagan Search and Rescue | Declared | 1 |
| Lough Neagh Rescue | Declared | 0 |
| Loughor Lifeboat | Declared | 1 |
| Mary Port Inshore Rescue | Declared | 1 |
| Mundesley Lifeboat | Declared | 0 |
| Nith Inshore Rescue | Declared | 1 |
| Port of William Inshore Rescue | Declared | 1 |
| Portsea Rescue | Declared | 1 |
| Runswick Rescue | Declared | 1 |
| Sea Palling ILB | Declared | 2 |
| Severn Area Rescue Association | Declared | 5 |
| Sidmouth Lifeboat | Declared | 0 |
| Southport IRB | Declared | 2 |
| SSRO Freshwater Lifeboat | Declared | 2 |
| SSRO Gosport and Fareham Inshore Rescue (GAFIRS) | Declared | 1 |
| SSRO Hamble Lifeboat | Declared | 1 |
| SSRO Ryde Rescue | Declared | 1 |
| SSRO Sandown Rescue Lifeboat | Declared | 0 |
| St Abbs | Declared | 1 |

In response to question 2, please see the paragraph and table below:

Below is the data from Vision 4, our Coastguard incident logging database. The data represents all incidents within Vision 4 for 2020 against each asset alias attributed to an independent. It is important to note that we do not distinguish between a declared asset and an additional asset within Vision, so the total is for all assets under the asset type of an independent rescue boat.

| Alias | Team Name | Total Incidents for 2020 |
|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| DUDIRB | Duddon Independent Rescue | 10 |
| FERIRB | Ferryside Lifeboat Station | 13 |
| FWRILB | Freshwater SSRO IRB | 5 |
| FWRLB | Freshwater SSRO IRB | 4 |
| FYLIRB | Foyle IRB | 4 |
| GOSILB | Gosport SSRO Lifeboat | 41 |
| GOSLB | Gosport SSRO Lifeboat | 70 |
| HAMLB | Hamble SSRO IRB | 97 |
| HCIRB | Hope Cove IRB | 26 |
| HEMA | Hemsby IRB | 25 |
| HEMB | Hemsby IRB | 22 |
| HMIRB | Humber Independent Rescue | 124 |
| HRIRB | Hornsea Independent Rescue | 32 |
| HVGIRB | Haverigg Independent Rescue | 1 |
| LAKIRB | Windermere Lake Wardens | 13 |
| LOIRB | Lougher IRB | 13 |
| LSAR | Lagan Search and Rescue | 25 |
| MPTIRB | Maryport Independent Rescue | 11 |
| MUIRB | Mundesley Independent Rescue | 5 |
| MYDIRB | Mossyard Independent Rescue | 5 |
| NITIRB | Nith Independent Rescue | 19 |
| PETT | Pett IRB | 3 |
| POWIRB | Port William Independent Rescue | 12 |
| PR1IRB | Portsea Rescue SSRO IRB | 1 |
| RR1IRB | Ryde Rescue SSRO LIRB | 21 |
| RR2IRB | Ryde Rescue SSRO LIRB | 5 |
| RSBIRB | Runswick Independent Rescue | 11 |
| SAN1 | Sanday CG | 2 |
| SARA1 | Seven Area Rescue Chepstow | 16 |
| SARA3 | Seven Area Rescue Chepstow | 20 |
| SARA4 | Seven Area Rescue Sharpness | 6 |
| SARA5 | Seven Area Rescue Chepstow | 1 |
| SIDIRB | Sidmouth IRB | 17 |
| SIDIRB2 | Sidmouth IRB | 1 |
| SPIRB | SEA PALLING INSHORE RESCUE | 10 |
| SPTIRB | Southport Independent Rescue | 43 |
| ULVIRB | Ulverston Inshore Rescue | 5 |

This concludes our response to your request. If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you may contact us within two calendar months to request an internal review by an officer who was not involved in the original response. Please write to the FOIA Unit at:

Maritime & Coastguard Agency,
Bay 3/08, Spring Place,
105, Commercial Rd,
SOUTHAMPTON,
Hampshire,
SO15 1EG.

For the duration of the COVID-19 lockdown, please use E-mail: InformationAssurance@mcga.gov.uk. Please remember to explain the reasons for your dissatisfaction and 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's offices are currently closed due to the COVID-19 situation, and the following link contains information on how you should proceed: [Link to ICO information](#).

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Andy Cooper BACS Hons.