



10th July 2026

By email only: virginia.mcvea@mcga.gov.uk
CEO, Maritime & Coastguard Agency

Cc: Matthew.Briggs@mcga.gov.uk
Director of People and Safety

Maritime & Coastguard Agency
Freedom of Information
Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG
United Kingdom

Dear Virginia McVea

Subject: Request for Publication of CRO Survey Results and Disclosure of Risk Assessments Relating to the Coastguard Rescue Officer Service

I am writing to request the publication and disclosure of information concerning the Coastguard Rescue Officer (CRO) service.

In the interests of transparency, accountability, and maintaining confidence in His Majesty's Coastguard, I would be grateful if the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) would publish or provide copies of:

1. The results of all Coastguard Rescue Officer surveys conducted within the last six months, including any staff engagement, wellbeing, satisfaction, retention, recruitment, or operational capability surveys.
2. Any reports, analyses, summaries, action plans, recommendations, or management responses arising from these surveys.
3. Risk assessments relating to the Coastguard Rescue Officer service, including assessments concerning:
 - Operational resilience;
 - Recruitment and retention;
 - Training and competency maintenance;
 - Health, safety and welfare;
 - Availability of volunteers and operational cover;
 - Fatigue, workload, and wellbeing;
 - Service delivery risks and mitigation measures.

Given the vital public safety role performed by Coastguard Rescue Officers, there is a significant public interest in understanding the risks identified within the service and the measures being taken to address them.

GMB General Secretary: Gary Smith

Euston Office: Mary Turner House, 22 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD

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In addition, I would be grateful if the Agency could clarify:

1. The MCA's understanding of its statutory responsibilities in relation to the Coastguard Rescue Officer service and how it assures itself that these responsibilities are being met.
2. Whether any of the risks identified in the above risk assessments have affected, or have the potential to affect, the Agency's ability to discharge its statutory duties, and if so:
 - The nature of those risks;
 - Any incidents or near misses arising from them;
 - The mitigation measures implemented; and
 - Any residual risks which remain outstanding.
3. Any assessments, reviews, audits or assurance reports undertaken to determine whether the current Coastguard Rescue Officer service model provides sufficient resilience, capability and resources to enable the MCA to fulfil its statutory obligations for maritime search and rescue and coastal emergency response.

If this information is not already publicly available, please treat this correspondence as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Should any exemptions be considered applicable, I would ask that the relevant exemption(s) be identified and that any non-exempt information be disclosed in accordance with the Act.

Where possible, I would prefer to receive the information electronically.

I look forward to your response within the statutory time limits.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'N. Savage'.

Kind Regards,
Nicola Savage
GMB National Officer

GMB General Secretary: Gary Smith

Euston Office: Mary Turner House, 22 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD

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