



HM Coastguard

Migrant Red Days – Meeting

22/11/2021 – 1600 – MS Teams

Attendees:

Name	– HMCG – STN
Peter Mizen – HMCG - PM	
Duncan Ley - HMCG – DL	
Mike Bill - HMCG – MB	
Name	– HMCG - PD
George Papadopoulos – HMCG - GP	
Name	– HMCG - PS
Name	– HMCG - RH
Name	– HMCG – RP
Name	– HMCG – NB
Name	– HMCG - SA
Name	– RNLI – AH
Name	– 2XL – MT
Name	- JA

1. Welcome and apologies Chair

Steve Whitton – Border Force

2. Situation Brief (including intel and other organisation’s activity) COLO (Dover)

DL – Projected red days are from 0300 on 24/11/2021 to 0900 on 25/11/2021.

MB – Weather window opens Wednesday morning, likely to get a fair few coming across, although Wednesday is only scored as an amber day on

Deveron forecast, but highly likely on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning/ afternoon.

DL – Strengthening northerly wind at approximately 0900 on Thursday, which will likely see rapidly increasing wave heights and will put boats on the water at more risk if they launch.

3. Risks to effective response

Reps

- Assets
- Maritime RNLi / Border Force / Network Cmdr
- Aeronautical JRCC-AR Cmdr
- Coastal Div Cmdr / COAC
- Other

AH – No planned off service periods for his areas, Ramsgate and Walmer. (Confirmed with colleague during meeting - no planned off service periods from Dover through to Hastings).

SW - Pre-submitted brief from Steve Whitton - It seems that we have a weather window overnight on Wednesday into Thursday which could be busy, and we are planning to ensure we have good Op Deveron coverage from Border Force Maritime.

Action – RP – Obtain an update every 24 hours from Border Force on the status of their assets prior to Wednesday morning. DL – should there be any issues, a Gold meeting will reconvene.

PM – It was mentioned by Steve Whitton during planning that when assets allocated to Op Sommen had finished, that they were heading towards Portland. Also aware of a Port blockade exercise planned for the end of this week. Can we check if any assets from the Channel have been sent to the exercise and if their response has changed?

MB – Border Force send an email into Op Deveron account every night advising their status for the following day - at 1627 yesterday, stating today's plan – that wouldn't indicate that they're not on their way to Portland.

NB – 23rd - Both drones due up at 0530 to 1330. CG22 is on standby overnight for SAR.

24th – One AR3 drone up on Deveron, AR5 on rest day and Op Eos (?) has been requested to 2XL from 0300 - 0800 as has the amber day.

25th – Red day has also been requested.

DL – The boat launches at the weekend were significantly earlier than expected which resulted in rapid launches.

ST – Activity started at 2030 on the Friday evening, all through the night and most of Saturday. What we were expecting on Saturday evening/Sunday didn't happen. Activity moved a lot earlier.

DL – Don't need to adjust the proactive patrol timings at the moment, although the air crew should be made aware of the possible change to timings.

AH – Considering the email that's been received from Border Force, are their assets available 24/7, are they restricted?

MB – Assumes they are restricted for their 'shift patterns'.

Action – MB – Obtain an understanding of Border Force's flexibility/shift patterns/regular start time of their vessels and distribute their response.

AH – Appreciate that Border Force are looking after their staff but worth noting that the volunteers that are being requested to launch also have day jobs. Going through the night is not uncommon.

DL – MB will have the discussion with Border Force, and we appreciate the commitment of volunteers.

MB located a historical email for amber day planning and states 'Hunter, not before 0900', 'Hurricane, not before 0830', 'Safeguard, not before 0700'.

PM – Those times could have reflected migrant behaviour at the time and may be subject to change and reflect the difference in migrant behaviour now.

MB – No change, don't foresee any issues.

4. Options for response (any special arrangements required)

All

DL – Have sufficient assets identified as available, if situation changes, response options can be reconsidered.

5. Staffing

Reps

RP – Overtime taken doesn't reflect the following numbers - Network numbers for 24th and 25th November are healthy, at least 10 above minimum recommended staffing levels. JRCC numbers are also healthy, more so during day but still above minimums at night, support for Dover should take place smoothly. No issues with SMC availability, although numbers at Dover are low - 2 on Wednesday night and 3 on Thursday – JRCC support numbers are at 7 during the Weds/Thurs nights and 11 during the days.

PM – Two SMCs at Dover on nights isn't enough, if overtime has been taken, it would be useful to have that information for this meeting to appreciate the full picture.

DL asked MB or PD if we have any more clarity for the nights?

MB – Two for Wednesday night with break cover from a third (VTM Operator). It will have been issued locally for overtime, assume no interest at the moment. No externals for those nights, although Richard Cockerill (SMC) will be there for Wednesday and Thursday days.

GP – No response locally for overtime, additional action would be an A&T message to get interest from the wider network.

Action – DL – Send email to network asking for volunteers for Wednesday night at MRCC Dover and prepare JRCC teams that they will supporting the Dover response.

PM – Very grateful that Richard is travelling and supporting Dover – what hours is he working? Can they be altered?

MB – He can be asked.

DL – If one member of staff falls sick at Dover, co-ordination will move to JRCC.

RP – This isn't an issue; decision can be made at the time.

ST – Concerns around the possibility of earlier activity on Tuesday, following what the weekend was like and considering the numbers at Dover on Tuesday.

MB – 2 on Tuesday night, 2 on Wednesday night and 3 on Thursday.

PM – Valid point, was DOD last week and had 1096 migrants cross on Tuesday which was an amber day, which is 2 less than the 1098 record, for the red Thursday before. The amber days are starting to look more red than amber.

DL – Asked RP if we can move any staff from days to nights.

RP – It can be looked at; doubt we'll get many volunteers.

6. Actions (discussion and summary) All / Chair

See above actions.

7. Review of decisions Chair / Loggist

None created at this meeting.

8. Date and time of next meeting Chair

29th November 2021 at 1600 unless situation changes, no need to call a full Gold meeting prior to the red day that's been discussed. Should staffing at MRCC Dover change due, an internal Gold meeting could be arranged to discuss resilience options provided by JRCC.

Note: These meetings may be single or multi agency and may be held at the Gold / Strategic or Silver / Tactical level and are to be convened as soon as the risk is identified. (Red and Amber days)

Standing Attendees:

Duty Strategic Commander – Maritime (Chair)

Loggist (Please approach Head of Coastguard Operational Support for Loggist)

Duty Strategic - Coastal

Duty COLO (Dover)

Coastal Operations Divisional Commander

Maritime Operations Commander / Migrant SAR Lead

Maritime Tactical Commander (Dover)

Duty Network Commander

Duty ARCC Commander

Area 8 Duty Coastal

RNLI:

-	Name	Lifesaving Manager South East	Personal Data	635	Personal Data
		Personal Data			
-	Name	ALM Whitstable to Walmer	Personal Data	924	
		Personal Data			
-	Name	ALM Dover to Hastings –	Personal	968	
		Personal Data			

Border Force

Duty Press

Optional:

NMIC LO

Bristow - Lydd Flight - Personal Data 609

2XL