



# MCA Job Description

Role Title	Network Commander
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Location	UK's Joint Rescue Coordination Centre	Grade	SEO
Directorate	HM Coastguard	Reports To	HMCG National Network Operations Manager
Direct Reports	0	Indirect Reports	0

## Area of work

HM Coastguard (HMCG) is the operational arm of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency with responsibility for 6 key functions: Search and Rescue, Pollution Response, Vessel Traffic Management, Maritime Safety, Maritime Security and Emergency and Disaster Management. There are three delivery disciplines within HM Coastguard: Maritime and Aeronautical Operations, which coordinate activities from an operations room environment, and; Coastal Operations, which manages resources and service provision on the coast. This is part of Maritime Operations.

## Role Purpose

To provide tactical leadership and operational oversight of the HMCG National Network; to ensure that HMCG fulfils all operational responsibilities relating to its six key functions; to act as a business continuity subject matter expert and maintain network oversight of activity, resources, resilience and technical capability, and; to act as HMCG Tactical Commander where required.

## Key Responsibilities

Throughout their period of duty, ensuring that the HMCG national network fulfils all operational responsibilities relating to the six Coastguard functions, by:

- Acting as the senior Coastguard officer (Maritime) on duty within the National Network, responsible for maintaining the link to on-call Strategic Commanders and other senior officers, including the preparation and presentation of relevant briefs as required;
- Developing and instigating tactical plans to mitigate or reduce planned network disruptions (technical, staffing, events, workload, etc.);
- Providing direction where necessary to Team Leaders undertaking the watch-bill governance process in support of the Network Governance Manager;
- Planning, coordinating and dynamically managing the allocation of zones and functions to RCCs, by best utilising the distribution of staff numbers, qualifications and experience across the network;
- Continuously monitoring operational workload, performance and staff welfare across the network, anticipating and providing support to teams by dynamic network flexing and the assigning of remote operational specialists (SMC, search planning, comms operator, etc.);
- Providing sound leadership, tactical direction and guidance to operational teams, including medium-and longer-term tactical planning and the coordination of resources and functions based on dynamic risk analysis, and identifying, reporting and responding to tactical and strategic organisational risks;
- Ensuring operational standards are maintained and all operations and activities are reviewed, and guidance, assurance and support is provided to SMCs and their team;

- Ensuring oversight of the HMCG National Network infrastructure, identifying and reporting technical hardware and software issues, undertaking impact assessments, instigating impact mitigations, and providing operational expertise to ICT helpdesk/engineers;
- Maintaining knowledge and currency of HMCG operational business continuity (BC) and disaster recovery (DR) plans, and coordinating the Network response during any planned or unplanned network disruption, including the implementation of appropriate BC/DR plan(s);
- Undertaking the role of HMCG Tactical or Silver Commander when required during national SAR and other maritime-related incidents, and when delegated or necessary, undertaking the role of HMCG Strategic or Gold Commander;
- Fulfilling the accreditation, duty and reporting requirements of a Single Point of Contact (SPoC) for all Investigatory Powers Act (IPA) communication data requests that assist HMCG operational response;
- Being the point of contact for the MCA Press Office, contributing to the sanitisation and drafting of appropriate press releases, assessing media requests, providing interviews when needed and authorising the release of material as required in conjunction with the MCA Duty Press Officer, escalating where uncertainty exists; and
- Coordinating regular SAR, BCP and zone awareness exercises across the HMCG national network, to contribute to the effective readiness of all stations and staff.

Contributing to Business Management Groups (BMGs) and associated working groups, and other management meetings to identify and mitigate business risk and shortfalls in operational capability, procedures and equipment, and review and implement decisions and actions from audits, OMI, incident reviews and other quality assurance processes;

Contributing to effective network management, through regular attendance and participating in management and leadership meetings and discussions, leading on specific assigned work areas and projects and completing work within agreed time frames;

Ensuring that a culture of safety is maintained at all times and, through monitoring and coaching, that staff are conforming to procedures and agency guidance whilst on duty, in addition to promoting the safety of mariners and coastal users;

Upholding and promoting MCA values and behaviours to all teams worked with, and acting as a crucial information conduit between staff and management, including seeking out and providing answers to operational staff questions; and

Participating in their own continuous professional development, including all operational, management, leadership training programmes, as required, and developing specialist knowledge in a specific, agreed area of operational delivery.

### Civil Service Behaviours

The Behaviours shown will be assessed during the recruitment process however, all Maritime and Coastguard Agency employees are expected to meet the [ HYPERLINK

"[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/717275/CS\\_Behaviours\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/717275/CS_Behaviours_2018.pdf)" ] at their level

Seeing the Big Picture  
 Making Effective Decisions  
 Managing a Quality Service  
 Leadership  
 Communicating & Influencing

## Technical Competencies or Professions

\*Remove box if not required

Coastguard Framework – Level 3:  
MCA Organisation  
Mission Conduct & Incident Command  
Emergency Planning  
Operational Communications  
Vessel Traffic Monitoring  
Search

## Essential Minimum Criteria

\* Consider the qualifications and experience that are minimum and essential for the role. Desirable criteria should not be included on the role profile.

A demonstrable knowledge and experience of command, control and management of teams in a response environment.

Candidates must not have been dismissed by the MCA within the past 24 months for failure to pass the required training for operational posts within HM Coastguard.

## Special Features of the role (working hours/health standards, etc.)

Based at the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) the role holder will be required to work shifts 24/7 within an overall national staffing system.

The role holders may also periodically rotate out of the watch rota in order to fulfil the requirements as an assessor or investigator, undertake training or meetings, or conduct project work.

The role holder will be expected to exercise appropriate command and control of HMCG operations and hold national responsibility for major events and incidents, or a proportion of the UK Maritime domain.

The role holder will be expected throughout their period of duty to work collaboratively with peers and to maintain an analysis of the risk picture for their delegated area of responsibility and/or function, making tactical adjustments to the national resource and workload distribution.

The role holder will be required to attend formal training events and this may require spending time away from home and the normal workplace.

Periodic travel to the HMCG Business Continuity Suite in Southampton may be required to exercise or conduct business continuity or disaster response.

This role is subject to health standard requirements.

The role holder will be contractually obliged to work towards and obtain a Maritime Operations Officer qualification (if not already held).

Prepared by	Duncan Ley	Date	14/02/2023
JEGs approved		Date	Click or tap to enter a date.
HR approved		Date	Click or tap to enter a date.