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**From:** Julie-Anne Wood [PD]@mcga.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 12/11/2021 3:07:33 PM  
**To:** James Driver [PD]@dft.gov.uk; claire hughes (MCGA Mail Contact) [PD]@mcga.gov.uk; Helen.McCaffery [PD]@mcga.gov.uk  
**CC:** Beth Newing [PD]@dft.gov.uk; Simon Budder [PD]@dft.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Re: Line on MCA capacity

Hi James

Please see the lines below which explain the situation with the RNLI.

Please amend as you see fit for the CRIP. Any questions please let us know.

The surface lifeboat SAR facilities in the south East of the English Channel are provided by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). These are declared facilities and are crewed by volunteers in the community.

The current lifeboat provision is based on historical SAR data for the area prior to the occurrence small boat crossings.

The recent volume of crossings and the duration of call outs in the Channel has put an increased pressure on the availability of crews and maintenance of vessels in the region.

The RNLI are a declared service to the MCA, that is they are available to a set standard and criteria 24 hours/365 days. In the event of there being a degradation in their availability they will inform HM Coastguard.

In the event of consecutive days for crossings this does put a strain on the crews and their availability to respond. In this circumstance the RNLI may declare a lifeboat as unavailable to enable recovery of crews, when this occurs the flank station will provide cover. This will be for the shortest period possible and during this time HM Coastguard can also request other vessels in the area to respond to the assistance of vessels in distress under SOLAS.

There are currently 4 All Weather Lifeboats (ALB) and 2 inshore Lifeboats (ILB) in the South East corner of the English Channel these are:

Dungeness ALB - Shannon Class - survivor capacity - 73  
Littlestone-on-sea ILB - Class B Atlantic 75 - survivor capacity 20  
Dover ALB - Severn Class Lifeboat - survivor capacity 124  
Walmer ILB - Class B Atlantic 85 - survivor capacity 20  
Ramsgate ALB - Trent Class Lifeboat - survivor capacity 73

Kind regards  
Julie

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**From:** James Driver [PD]@dft.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2021 1:55:31 PM  
**To:** Claire Hughes [PD]@mcga.gov.uk>; Julie-Anne Wood [PD]@mcga.gov.uk>; Helen McCaffery [PD]@mcga.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Beth Newing [PD]@dft.gov.uk>; Simon Budden [PD]@dft.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Line on MCA capacity

Claire/Julie/Helen,

I flagged in the 12:00 meeting today, that SAR resource not infinite, and will be a problem if capacity is maintained at such a high level. I extrapolated to say that capability was okay for the immediate outlook, but please correct that if I am wrong. FYI, on situational reporting in that meeting, it was reported that the next good weather window on Mon/Tues.

I think we need a line on HMCG/RNLI capability for input into a CRIP (which is coming around), to flag this concern. Could I ask you to write that up please, at pace, this afternoon, please. It would also be useful to have your thoughts on how specifically you can describe capacity, e.g. x numbers of days and x level...?

Does that sound doable?

James



Mr James Driver  
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