



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# HM COASTGUARD (MAROPS)

## TEMPORARY OPERATING INSTRUCTION

Date 19/11/2021

TOI-008-21 | Title. Transfer of Maritime Zones 11 & 13

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1. **Applicability:** JRCC Network Commanders, JRCC Team Leaders, MRCC Commanders (Awareness).
2. **Validity:** With immediate effect > Summer 2022

### Background

It has been decided at the strategic command level to provide MRCC Dover with some enduring, reliable operational network support as it continues to manage and coordinate the SAR response to the constant small boats activity in the English Channel. Therefore, from 1900hr tonight, the following network changes will be introduced until further notice:

### Actions

- MRCC Humber BAU zones will now be considered zones 6-11 (thereby relieving MRCC Dover of zone 11)
- JRCC BAU zones will now be considered zones 13, 15-21 (thereby relieving MRCC Dover of zone 13)
- MRCC Dover will retain responsibility for all SAR activity (incl. small boats activity) for zone 14. The JRCC will generally be the station providing further operational support to zone 14 should either MRCC Dover or the network commander identify that need, or if that support is pre-planned due to low staffing numbers at Dover).
- Any small boats activity in zones 13 or zone 15 should be created as an incident by the station receiving the initial information, but then MRCC Dover informed and coordination passed to them (e.g. MRCC Dover should always, where possible, coordinate the small boats SAR response).
- VTM for all of zone D will continue to be conducted by MRCC Dover (given that Dover VTS are heavily involved in the VTS-VTM interface for VTM zone D).
- MSI for Dover area will be recorded and broadcast by MRCC Stornoway. Should a technical issue result in this being temporarily unachievable, then MRCC Stornoway will contact the network commander who will assign an available station to temporarily take over those MSI responsibilities).

The above solutions are not reliant or changeable on forecasts of migrant activity, but should be considered BAU until such time as they are rescinded by strategic command.

MRCC Dover may volunteer to undertake more zones than zones 14 for a period of time, or an entire shift, in order to maintain SAR currency and provide their new staff operational experience (especially and obviously during a period of no or little small boats activity), and the network commander will arrange this through normal network flexing.

The duty network commander (TACOM) retains responsibility for dynamically managing the network for their period of duty, as they assess the best configuration of the network to be.

Any questions around operational or tactical demarcation should be addressed and resolved by the relevant shift team leaders, or escalated to the duty network commander for resolution.

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