

From: Name PD @dft.gov.uk  
Sent: Tue 30/11/2021 11:59:15 PM Coordinated Universal Time  
To: Name MCGA Mail Contact PD @mcga.gov.uk; Gareth Davies Personal Data @dft.gov.uk  
Cc: brian johnson (MCGA Mail Contact) PD @mcga.gov.uk; Petra Wilkinson PD @dft.gov.uk; claire hughes (MCGA Mail Contact) PD @mcga.gov.uk; neil grant (MCGA Mail Contact) PD @mcga.gov.uk; Name MCGA Mail Contact PD @mcga.gov.uk; Name PD @dft.gov.uk  
Subject: RE: Search and Rescue in the English Channel

Thanks for the update Name. Looks like you have developed some great support for government policy. I think it would be worth talking to the commercial team to get a sense of whether they think the commercial arrangements need to be considered to make sure we understand the risk profile. Money will be tricky as you say. Would the capital charge be this year? Might be easier to find than next year. Copying N to be aware. Best wishes

Name (Pronouns: he/him) | Director General, Corporate Delivery Group, Department for Transport  
PD 832

From: Name Personal Data @mcga.gov.uk  
Sent: 29 November 2021 10:06  
To: Gareth Davies PD @dft.gov.uk; Name PD @dft.gov.uk Personal Data  
Cc: brian johnson (MCGA Mail Contact) PD @mcga.gov.uk; Petra Wilkinson Personal Data @dft.gov.uk; claire hughes (MCGA Mail Contact) Personal Data @mcga.gov.uk; Name PD @mcga.gov.uk; Name (MCGA Mail Contact) PD @mcga.gov.uk  
Subject: Search and Rescue in the English Channel

Hello Gareth Name  
You may recall we recently put briefing up to Ministers explaining how we plan to increase capacity in our search and rescue aviation arrangements over the Channel. This is in response to the growing demands on our aviation, particularly aerial surveillance. During the month of September, 90% of our national aerial surveillance capacity was consumed providing round the clock patrols over the Channel. While this is absolutely the right thing to do, it does come at the expense of the other missions our surveillance planes conduct including search and rescue elsewhere, counter pollution and fisheries patrols. We expect the number of small boats crossing to more than double as we head into next year. It's worth also noting that the recent tragedy was only 0.2 nautical miles from the UK side of the Channel. Aerial surveillance over the Channel is crucial to our search and rescue response. The situational awareness it provides enables Coastguards to determine the status of small boats crossing the Channel and to prioritise response to those boats at most risk. The intelligence we gather from these patrols also enables Border Force and the Clandestine Threats Team, which is co-located with HM Coastguard at Dover, to respond effectively. I commissioned Bristow Helicopters to put forward a proposal to provide a dedicated aerial surveillance service for the Channel that will run until we reach the start of UKSAR2G, which has got this requirement already baked in. That proposal comprises 50% uncrewed and 50% crewed planes equipped to provide real time situational awareness back to Dover Coastguard. The CAA has been incredibly supportive in allowing us to fly beyond visual line of sight over the Channel with remotely piloted aircraft. Operations using these uncrewed aircraft will be ready within weeks from now. The crewed aircraft comprise of two ex-Police planes that are currently being sold. They will be operated by 2 Excel Aviation which is our aerial surveillance provider. These planes, while not suitable as a national police asset, are ideal for Channel patrols and are the fastest and most cost-effective solution available. They will be ready for operations in March/April 2022. LPP

The total cost of these arrangements is just short of £9m annually. There is also an IFRS upfront £30m capex implication. Clearly MCA does not have the costs of these arrangements within its existing baseline. Claire Hughes and I are working with Dan O'Mahoney who leads on this issue for the Home Office to find a way to secure the funding, which you might think shouldn't be difficult given the very topical nature of this problem. This might be attractive to the new CDL his role in coordinating Government's response to this issue. He might also be pleased to see these Police assets put to work which is what he was pushing me for when he was CST. I might have to come back to you if these routes to funding don't work out. To what extent would you expect to scrutinise these plans? Ordinarily we would go to the Investment Board and/or CAB. I'll take your advice on that.

Name  
Commercial & Programmes Director  
Commercial & Programmes Directorate  
Personal Data 436  
Personal Data @mcga.gov.uk



Maritime and Coastguard Agency  
Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road,  
Southampton, SO15 1EG

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas  
[www.gov.uk/mca](http://www.gov.uk/mca)  
[Social media icons: document, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn]

The information in this email may be confidential or otherwise protected by law. If you received it in error, please let us know by return e-mail and then delete it immediately, without printing or passing it on to anybody else.  
Incoming and outgoing e-mail messages are routinely monitored for compliance with our policy on the use of electronic communications and for other lawful purposes.

This email has originated from external sources and has been scanned by DfT's email scanning service.

---