



Ministry  
of Defence



## Military Search and Rescue Quarterly Statistics

2012 Quarter 3

Published: 1 November 2012

**Coverage**

United Kingdom, Cyprus, Falkland Islands

**Theme**

Defence

**Issued by**

Defence Analytical Services and Advice  
Ministry of Defence  
Oak 0W, Abbey Wood  
Bristol BS34 8SJ

**Internet**

[www.dasa.mod.uk](http://www.dasa.mod.uk)

**Enquiries**

Press Office  
020 721 83255

**Responsible Statistician**

DASA DESA Price Indices - Head of Branch  
030 679 32100

[dasadesa-pi-hob@mod.uk](mailto:dasadesa-pi-hob@mod.uk)

**Other Statistical Enquiries**

DASA DESA Price Indices - Analyst 1  
030 679 34524

[dasadesa-pi-1@mod.uk](mailto:dasadesa-pi-1@mod.uk)

## Military SAR Statistics

This report covers military Search and Rescue (SAR) activities for 2012 Q3 (July to September). The report includes the number of incidents (i.e. the number of emergencies that military SAR units have responded to), the number of callouts (i.e. the number of units attending an incident) and the number of persons moved. There is a strong seasonal pattern to SAR callouts, with the peak activity occurring in Q3, corresponding to the warmer summer months when people are more active around the coast and mountains of the UK. The long term trend shows that SAR callouts peaked in 2009, and since then there has been a reduction in callout numbers, reverting towards the long term average. Over the past ten years, annual callout numbers have averaged 1,959. During 2011, there were 1,921 callouts.

### Key Points

- Between July and September 2012, military Search and Rescue units attended 583 incidents resulting in 610 callouts (Table 1). This represents a 5% decrease in incidents since 2011 Q3. The comparatively wet weather continued in this quarter which possibly reduced activity around inland and coastal regions.
- Between July and September 2012, 487 persons were moved. This is slightly less than the number of persons moved in 2011 Q3 (504). As in previous quarters, during 2012 Q3 there were several incidents in which a large number of persons were moved. This quarter both RAF Valley and HMS Gannet were involved in separate incidents each of which resulted in the rescue of 14 walkers. These incidents contributed to the high number of persons moved by these units. RNAS Culdrose had the second highest number of persons moved this quarter - similar to 2011 Q3. This is likely due to increased activity in the South West area of UK during the summer months (Table 6).
- The unit which attended the most callouts this quarter was RAF Valley (Table 4). Valley typically responds to high numbers of callouts, as it covers the North Wales area, which is a very popular area for walkers and climbers. The number of Valley callouts in 2012 Q3 (106 callouts) was the highest for any Q3 since 2009 (111 callouts).
- Callouts on land and coast both show strong seasonal patterns, with the peak callout numbers generally occurring in Q3 each year. Maritime callouts show less seasonality, with no clear peaks during the year. Over the past five years, the average number of quarterly maritime callouts has been 61, ranging from 36 to 102. The 2012 Q3 figure of 58 is generally in line with this historical average (Figure 2).

## What is included in this report

This report covers military SAR activities for 2012 Q3. It includes details of the activities of UK military SAR helicopters, RAF SAR helicopters operating in Cyprus and the Falkland Islands, and military MRT units. It also provides a summary of Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) helicopter callouts. Additionally, military SAR reports are produced on a monthly and annual basis, available at the following links:

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=SAR-REPORT-MONTHLY>

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=SAR-REPORT-ANNUAL>

The report includes counts of the number of incidents, callouts and persons moved in the previous quarter. It also includes time series representations of quarterly incidents, callouts and persons moved since 2002 Q3.

*Incidents* are emergencies attended by Royal Navy or Royal Air Force units whose primary task is SAR, plus other military aircraft and ships that are available to the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC).

Each SAR unit attending an incident is described as a *callout*. An incident may result in one or more callouts.

*Persons moved* involves moving people from a hostile environment to a safe environment, or to a medical facility to receive urgent medical attention. It may also involve moving individuals between medical facilities at the request of the NHS.

The data source for this report is a weekly download from the ARCC database. Every incident recorded by the ARCC is included in these tables. Incident data from Cyprus and the Falklands is received by email on an ad hoc basis and may be incomplete, although it is rare that any data is received too late to be recorded in the report (the last such occasion was in 2009). If necessary we revise the figures once we receive the data, but this is rarely necessary. There are no revisions to the previous quarter's data in this report. All data is validated and checked by DASA on receipt. Further details are available in DASA's SAR Background Quality Report. This also includes details of internal and external users of the reports, including a summary of their requirements and how well DASA's reports meet these requirements.

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/apps/publications/pubViewFile.php?content=2100&date=2012-01-23&type=pdf&PublishTime=09:30:00>

## Introduction

### *Military Search and Rescue*

The military Search and Rescue (SAR) service exists primarily to assist military personnel in difficulty, although the majority of its work involves assisting civilians in distress, both on land and at sea (data on the split between civilian and military callouts is presented on page 4). SAR coverage for the United Kingdom and a large area of the surrounding sea is provided 24 hours a day and 365 days a year by the RAF and the Royal Navy.

#### *UK Helicopters*

The UK military SAR aeronautical coverage currently consists of RAF and Royal Navy SAR Sea King helicopters operating from eight locations around the UK (RAF Boulmer, RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Leconfield, RAF Valley, RAF Chivenor, RAF Wattisham, RNAS Culdrose and HMS Gannet). The military SAR force operates 24 hours a day. It provides coverage throughout the UK, and also covers an area extending from the Faroe Islands in the north, the English Channel in the south, about half way across the North Sea to the east and halfway across the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

The UK SAR helicopter coverage is coordinated by the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) based at Kinloss Barracks.

#### *Mountain Rescue Teams*

The RAF has four mountain rescue teams (MRT), based at RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Leuchars, RAF Leeming and RAF Valley. The MRT units provide land rescues, primarily over the mountain regions of the UK. Military MRT units are coordinated by the ARCC, and often work in conjunction with helicopter units. During 2012 Q3, MRT Lossiemouth was formed by the transfer of the existing team based at Kinloss.

#### *Overseas Helicopters*

A SAR service is also provided by two overseas bases, at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus and RAF Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands.

Further information on the UK's military SAR coverage is available at:

<http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafsearchandrescue/>

<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Operations/Enduring-Operations/UK/Search-and-Rescue>

### *Other Search and Rescue*

In addition to the RAF and Royal Navy, a number of non-military organisations provide SAR coverage throughout the UK. The activities of most of these non-military organisations is outside the scope of this report, however background information on some of the organisations involved is provided below.

#### *Maritime and Coastguard Agency*

In addition to the eight military aeronautical SAR units, additional aeronautical SAR coverage is provided by four Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) helicopter units. Although these are not part of the military SAR service, the MCA helicopters are coordinated by the ARCC at Kinloss Barracks, to provide integrated coverage across the UK. A summary of callouts for this quarter is provided in this report.

In addition to its aeronautical coverage, the MCA provides maritime SAR coverage throughout the UK. Details of maritime SAR callouts are not included in this report. Further information is available at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/mcga07-home/emergencyresponse/mcga-searchandrescue.htm>

#### *RNLI*

The RNLI is a charitable organisation providing 24 hour lifeboat SAR coverage around the coast of the UK and Republic of Ireland, along with a seasonal lifeguard service.

<http://www.rnli.org.uk/>

#### *Mountain Rescue Teams*

A number of voluntary Mountain Rescue services operate throughout the UK. These often work in conjunction with the military SAR service. Details of non-military Mountain Rescue callouts are not included in this report. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.mountain.rescue.org.uk/>

<http://www.mrcofs.org/>

#### *Air Ambulance*

Air Ambulance services operate throughout the UK, providing emergency medical assistance. Further information is available at:

<http://www.airambulanceassociation.co.uk/>

## 1. Search and Rescue Summary

This section provides a summary of SAR activity for this quarter, covering both helicopter and mountain rescue units for the UK and Overseas.

[Table 1](#) shows the incidents, callouts and persons moved for 2012 Q3. August was the month with the most SAR callouts this quarter, with 244 callouts. August is usually the month with the highest number of callouts each year. In the summer months, during the school break, the increased number of holiday activities at the coast or in the mountains results in an increased requirement for assistance from the military SAR service.

[Table 2](#) shows the quarterly incidents, callouts and persons moved since 2002 Q3. Through much of the past decade, the number of callouts has generally increased year-on-year. However, the number of callouts peaked in 2009, and since then there has been a return to the long term average. The number of callouts in 2012 Q3 was similar to both 2010 Q3 and 2011 Q3 callout numbers.

[Figure 1](#) provides a graphical representation of the numbers in [Table 2](#). SAR activity shows a strong seasonal pattern. The busiest quarter is always Q3, corresponding to the warmer summer months and the increased participation in outdoor activities.

[Table 3](#) shows the location and category of callouts in 2012 Q3. Maritime incidents are those that occur more than 3 nautical miles from the high tide line. Coastal incidents are those occurring between the high tide line and 3 nautical miles out to sea. All other incidents are classed as land. Land incidents can include those occurring at inland waterways, such as lakes or rivers.

[Figure 2](#) shows the locations of callouts over the past five years. The majority of callouts are on land, averaging around 66% of all callouts over the past five years. Both land and coast callouts show a seasonal pattern, with the peaks occurring in the summer months of Q3. Maritime callouts only show a very slight seasonal pattern, as these callouts are generally in response to people taken sick on boats, which does not depend on the season.

[Table 3](#) also shows the category of the callout. This records the type of environment to which the callout is made. The categories are 'aero' for incidents involving aeronautical accidents, 'ship' to casualties located on a ship or large boat, 'leisure craft' for casualties on a smaller vessel such as a yacht or a dinghy, 'rig' for casualties on an oil rig, 'beacon' or 'flare' for callouts responding to these type of distress signals, and 'person' for an individual not on any of the aforementioned structures. The majority of callouts are generally categorised as 'person'.

## 1. Search and Rescue Summary (continued)

Figure 3 shows the current quarter's split between callouts to civilian casualties and those to military casualties. Although the military SAR service exists primarily to assist military personnel, the vast majority of their work is to assist civilian casualties. During 2012 Q3 97% of callouts were to civilians, which is consistent with the long-term average.

Figure 4 shows UK callouts over the past 5 years grouped according to the categories shown on page 23 of this report. Essentially the 'Rescue-Type' callouts are those where a person was moved without the need for an extensive search, 'Search-Type' callouts are those where a search was performed due to an unknown casualty location, 'Assistance-Type' are those where the unit provided assistance without moving a casualty, and 'Other' are those where the SAR unit was ultimately not needed.

The majority of callouts are generally 'Rescue-Type', averaging around 55% of all callouts over the past five years. These show a seasonal pattern, with the peak occurring in Q3 each year. Callouts grouped as 'Other' also show a seasonal pattern. There is less seasonality in the 'Search-Type' and 'Assistance-Type' callouts, although these quarterly series are based on relatively low numbers of callouts.

Figure 5 shows the requesting organisations for UK callouts for 2012 Q3. These are the organisations that initially requested the assistance of a military SAR unit. Figure 6 shows a time series over the past five years.

The coastguard requested 48% of UK callouts during 2012 Q3, more than the police or ambulance services. The coastguard often has the highest number of requests, although more so during the summer months. The number of coastguard requests is highly seasonal, with the peak in Q3 corresponding to more people being active around coastal areas. There is less of a seasonal pattern to police or ambulance requested callouts, which are generally in response to road traffic accidents, missing persons, or transfers between hospitals. These broadly occur equally throughout the year.

During 2012 Q3, there was an annual increase in the number of callouts requested by the coastguard service (2% increase on 2011 Q3) and other organisations (115% increase on 2011 Q3), while callouts requested by the ambulance and police both fell.

The number of callouts requested by the coastguard, police and ambulance during 2012 Q3 were all broadly similar to 2011 Q3.

**Table 1 UK & Overseas Callouts, Incidents and Persons Moved, 2012 Q3**

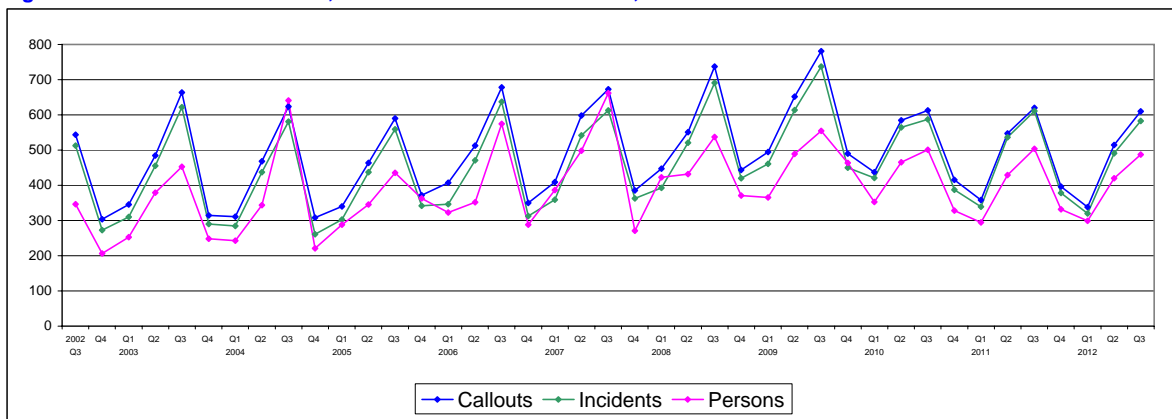
		<b>Total Callouts</b>	<b>UK Helicopters</b>	<b>Overseas Helicopters</b>	<b>Mountain Rescue</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Persons Moved</b>
<b>2012</b>	Jul	<b>209</b>	198	1	10	199	159
	Aug	<b>244</b>	237	2	5	237	204
	Sep	<b>157</b>	149	1	7	147	124
<b>2012</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>487</b>

# 1. Search and Rescue Summary

Table 2 UK & Overseas Incidents, Callouts and Persons Moved, 2002 Q3 to 2012 Q3

	Incidents			Callouts			Persons Moved		
	All	UK	Overseas	All	UK	Overseas	All	UK	Overseas
2002 Q3	513	506	7	544	537	7	346	341	5
Q4	273	265	8	304	295	9	206	200	6
2003 Q1	310	296	14	345	331	14	253	235	18
Q2	455	441	14	485	467	18	379	370	9
Q3	622	603	19	664	633	31	453	446	7
Q4	290	260	30	315	283	32	248	222	26
2004 Q1	285	277	8	311	303	8	243	235	8
Q2	437	418	19	468	445	23	344	332	12
Q3	581	557	24	624	595	29	641	627	14
Q4	261	252	9	308	295	13	221	218	3
2005 Q1	303	292	11	340	328	12	288	275	13
Q2	437	418	19	464	442	22	345	337	8
Q3	559	545	14	590	573	17	435	425	10
Q4	342	329	13	372	359	13	363	347	16
2006 Q1	346	334	12	407	394	13	323	310	13
Q2	471	451	20	513	488	25	352	340	12
Q3	637	612	25	678	651	27	575	560	15
Q4	313	306	7	350	342	8	288	253	35
2007 Q1	359	339	20	409	387	22	386	370	16
Q2	542	524	18	598	572	26	498	488	10
Q3	613	588	25	673	640	33	662	650	12
Q4	363	352	11	385	374	11	271	259	12
2008 Q1	393	361	32	447	412	35	423	304	119
Q2	521	494	27	551	519	32	432	412	20
Q3	691	680	11	737	724	13	537	530	7
Q4	420	406	14	444	428	16	371	361	10
2009 Q1	461	436	25	495	470	25	365	334	31
Q2	614	602	12	652	637	15	489	484	5
Q3	737	725	12	781	768	13	555	552	3
Q4	450	428	22	490	462	28	464	440	24
2010 Q1	421	402	19	437	418	19	353	337	16
Q2	565	553	12	585	570	15	465	462	3
Q3	587	574	13	613	597	16	501	491	10
Q4	387	372	15	415	398	17	328	315	13
2011 Q1	339	319	20	358	337	21	295	283	12
Q2	536	523	13	547	533	14	429	418	11
Q3	611	596	15	620	605	15	504	487	17
Q4	378	363	15	396	381	15	332	313	19
2012 Q1	320	311	9	338	329	9	299	292	7
Q2	491	486	5	515	510	5	420	417	3
Q3	583	579	4	610	606	4	487	481	6

Figure 1 UK & Overseas Callouts, Incidents and Persons Moved, 2002 Q3 to 2012 Q3



# 1. Search and Rescue Summary

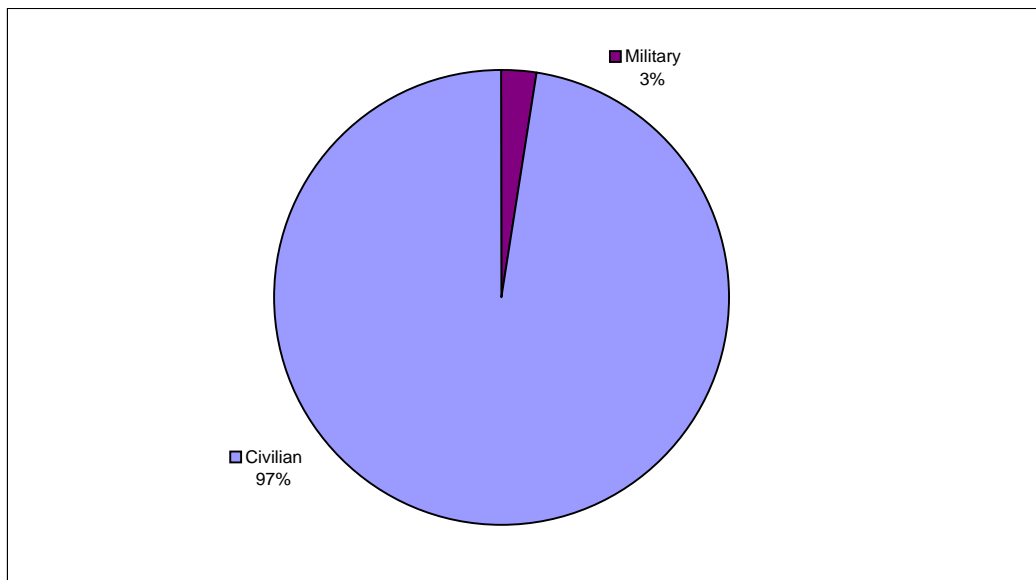
**Table 3 UK & Overseas Incidents, Callouts by Location and Category, 2012 Q3**

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Beacon	Flares	Person	Other	Total
Land	10	-	1	-	-	2	369	1	<b>383</b>
Coast	4	5	33	-	-	-	127	-	<b>169</b>
Maritime	6	32	9	9	1	-	-	1	<b>58</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>610</b>

**Figure 2 UK & Overseas Callouts by Location, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3**

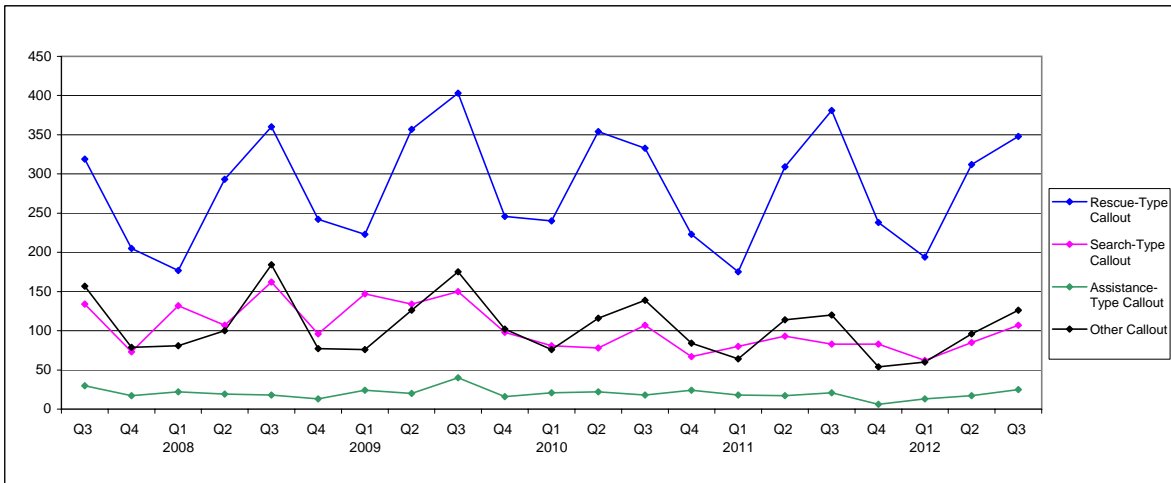


**Figure 3 UK & Overseas Callouts by Civilian or Military, 2012 Q3**



# 1. Search and Rescue Summary

Figure 4 UK Callouts by Callout Grouping, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3



1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 23.

Figure 5 UK Callouts by Requesting Organisation, 2012 Q3

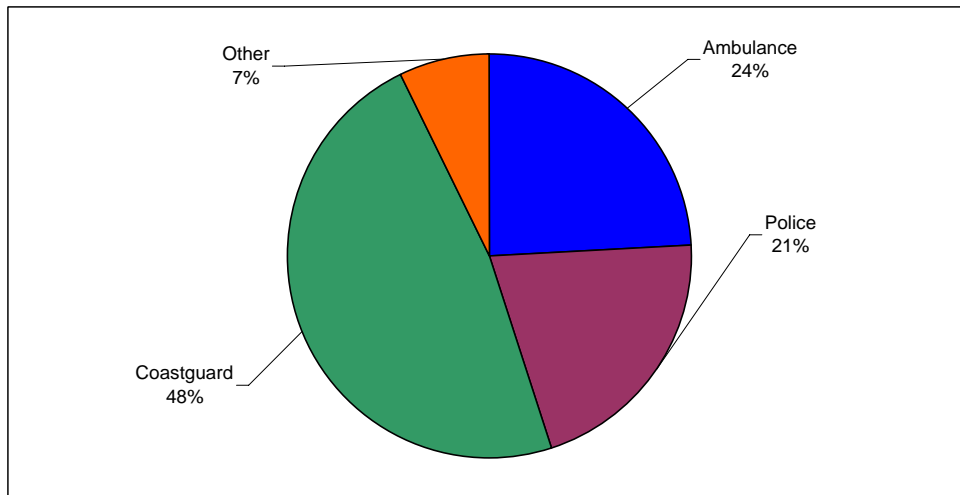
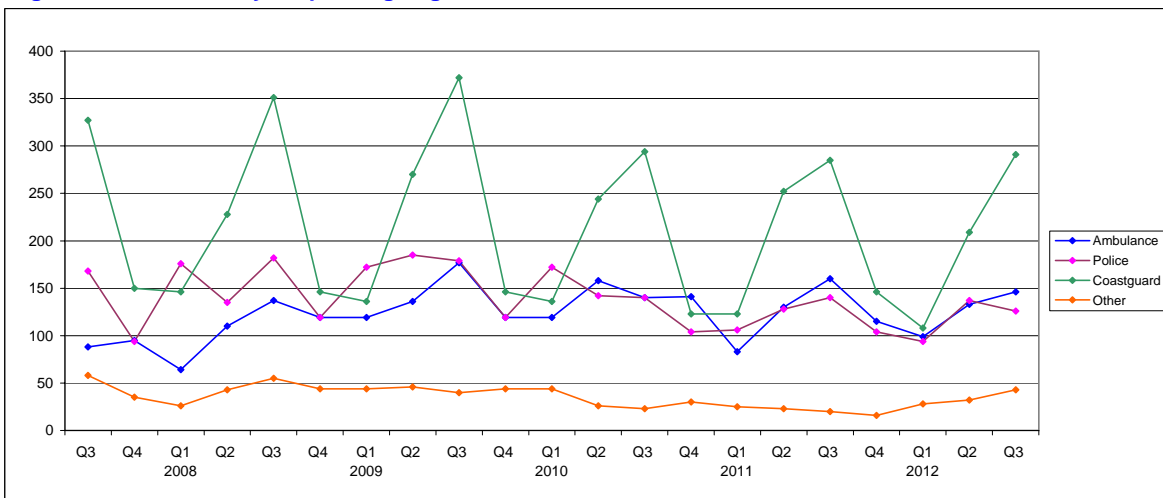


Figure 6 UK Callouts by Requesting Organisation, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3



2. The requesting organisation is determined using an automated lookup function which searches for key text within the organisations' name. Within the 'Other' category, there may be a limited number of callouts by either Ambulance, Police or Coastguard due to the automated algorithm used.



## 2. Search and Rescue Helicopter Callouts

This section focuses on SAR helicopter callouts, excluding Mountain Rescue Teams.

[Table 4](#) presents the number of callouts for 2012 Q3 by both unit and assistance type. The unit responding to the most callouts in 2012 Q3 was RAF Valley, with 106 callouts. Valley typically responds to high numbers of callouts, as it covers the North Wales area, where many people go walking and climbing.

The assistance type with the most callouts during 2012 Q3 was medrescues - 275 callouts, representing around 47% of all helicopter callouts during the quarter. Medrescues involve moving an injured person to a medical facility. These generally account for a large proportion of the work of the SAR helicopter units.

[Figures 7a, 7b](#) and [7c](#) show callouts by unit over the past five years. The units responding to the highest number of callouts tend to be Gannet (averaging 92 per quarter over the past five years), Chivenor (averaging 74), and Valley (averaging 69), which generally cover the Scottish Highlands, Dartmoor National Park and the Devon/Dorset coastline, and Snowdonia National Park respectively.

Most units show some seasonality in their callout numbers, although this is most pronounced for Chivenor and Culdrose (both covering the south west of UK) and Valley (covering north Wales). These regions typically see a large increase of activity during the summer months, both around the coast and inland. Notably, RNAS Culdrose responded to more callouts during 2012 Q3 than HMS Gannet, only the second time this has happened in the past five years. As the same occurred in 2011 Q3, this is likely due to increased activity in the South West during the summer months.

[Figures 8a to 8g](#) show the callouts for each helicopter unit over the past five years by the callout groupings shown on page 23 of this report. For most units 'Rescue-Type' tends to be the largest grouping, although there is some seasonal variation. Most units tend to follow the overall pattern of peak activity in Q3, although this is most pronounced for the 'Rescue-Type' callouts. This is most noticeable for Chivenor and Culdrose, who are located in the south west of England and consequently see an increase in activity around the coastal areas during the summer.

[Table 5](#) presents flying times associated with the helicopter units. The total flying hours is a measure of the total time spent flying whilst on SAR callouts during the quarter. The average flying hours is the average time spent flying per callout during the quarter. The average time to casualty is the average time between departure from the base and arrival at the incident. All timings are expressed in hours and minutes. SAR units are held at a readiness of 15 minutes between 08.00 and 22.00, and a readiness of 45 minutes between 22.00 and 08.00.

The unit with the highest number of flying hours this quarter was Valley. The unit with the second highest number of flying hours was Gannet. This is understandable as these units are normally represented by the highest number of callouts.

[Figures 9a to 9c](#) show flying hours by unit over the past five years. There is usually a strong correlation between callouts numbers and total flying hours, although this can be affected by significant callouts which can often involve many hours searching. Gannet not only shows high total flying hours but also represents one of the highest average time to casualty, as this unit typically respond to callouts in remote regions in Scotland. Notably, the average time to casualty is closely related to the average distance travelled to the casualty, reflected in Gannet's high average distance from base statistic.

## 2. Search and Rescue Helicopter Callouts

Table 4 UK & Overseas Callouts by Unit and Assistance Type, 2012 Q3

	RAF Boulmer	RAF Lossiemouth	RAF Leconfield	RAF Valley	RAF Chivenor	RAF Wattisham	RAF UK Total	RNAS Culdrose	HMS Gannet	RN Total	UK Other	UK Total	Cyprus	Falklands	Overseas Total
Rescue	3	3	2	5	5	3	21	11	1	12	-	33	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	-	3	1	-	1	1	6	1	5	6	-	12	-	-	-
Medrescue	15	29	25	61	48	14	192	44	37	81	-	273	-	2	2
Search-Medrescue	-	2	-	1	2	-	5	6	3	9	-	14	-	-	-
Medtransfer	-	1	-	5	5	4	15	11	5	16	-	31	-	-	-
Recovery	-	2	-	1	2	-	5	-	1	1	-	6	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Search	5	8	6	6	8	11	44	4	7	11	-	55	1	-	1
Top Cover	-	-	2	1	1	1	5	1	3	4	-	9	-	-	-
Assist	1	3	2	2	1	-	9	-	1	1	-	10	-	-	-
Search-Assist	1	5	-	3	-	2	11	1	-	1	-	12	-	-	-
Recalled	9	5	8	10	15	19	66	8	6	14	-	80	-	-	-
Not Required	4	3	4	10	6	3	30	6	3	9	-	39	-	-	-
False Alarm	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Hoax	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Precaution	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Aborted	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
<b>Total Callouts</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

Figure 7a UK & Overseas Callouts for Boulmer, Lossiemouth & Leconfield, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3

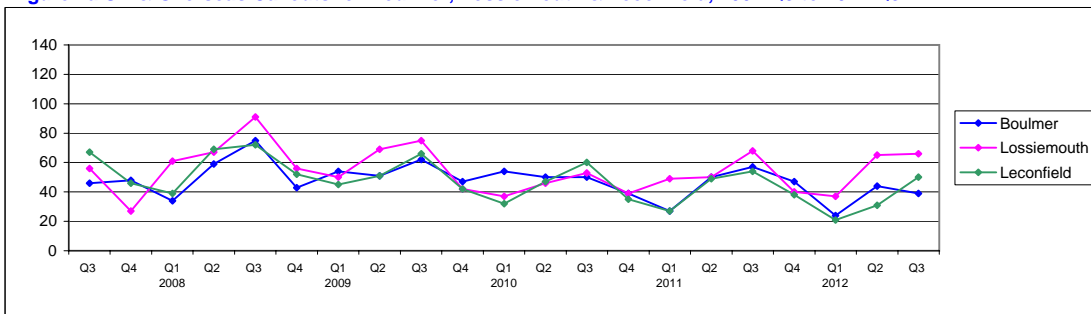


Figure 7b UK & Overseas Callouts for Valley, Chivenor & Wattisham, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3

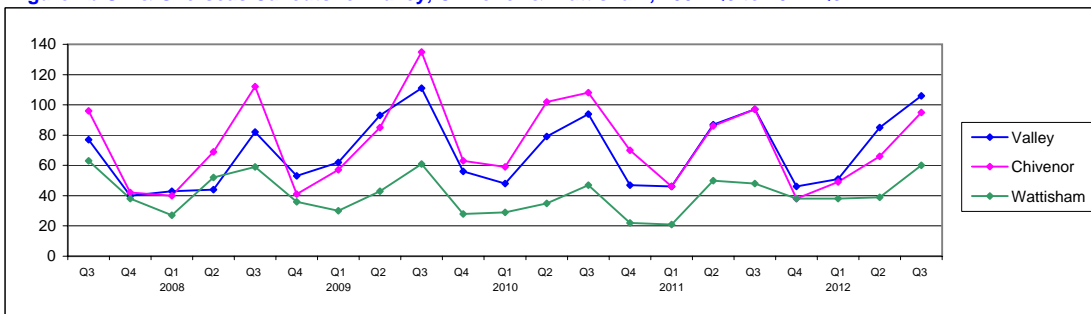
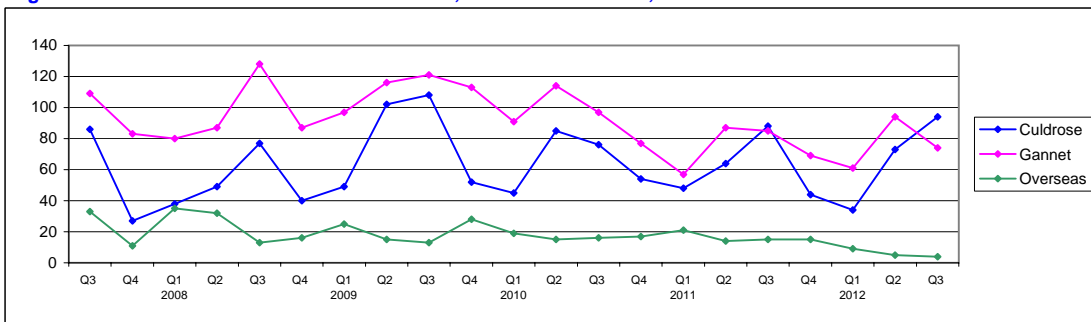


Figure 7c UK & Overseas Callouts for Culdrose, Gannet & Overseas, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3



## 2. Search and Rescue Helicopter Callouts

Figure 8a Callouts for Boulmer by Callout Grouping, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3

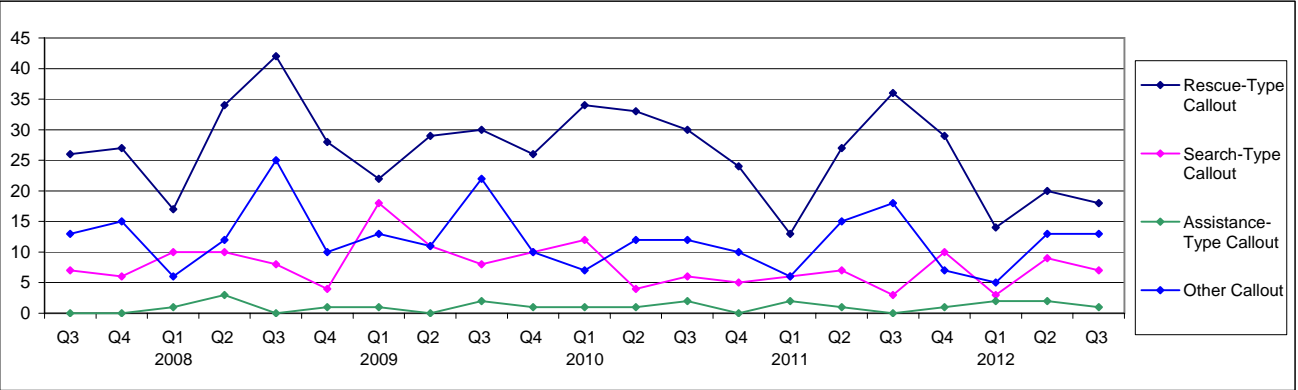


Figure 8b Callouts for Lossiemouth by Callout Grouping, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3

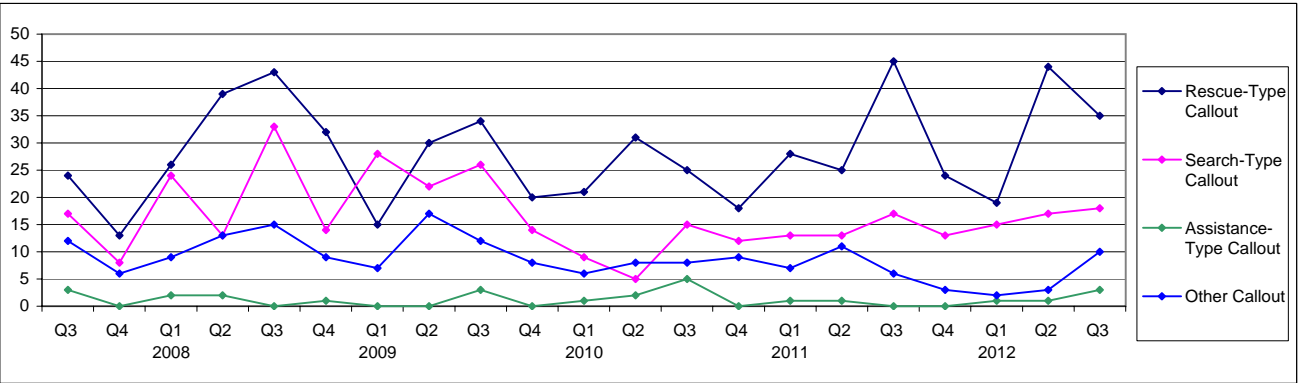


Figure 8c Callouts for Leconfield by Callout Grouping, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3

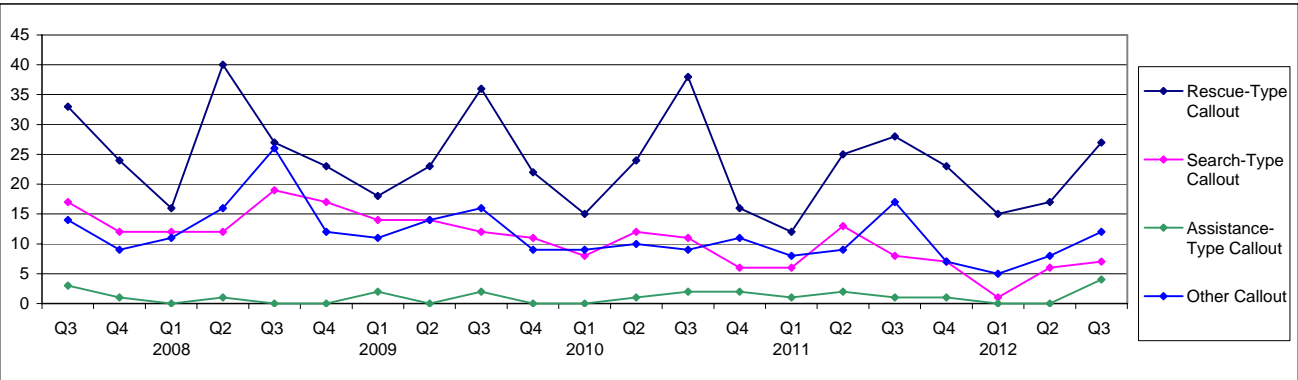
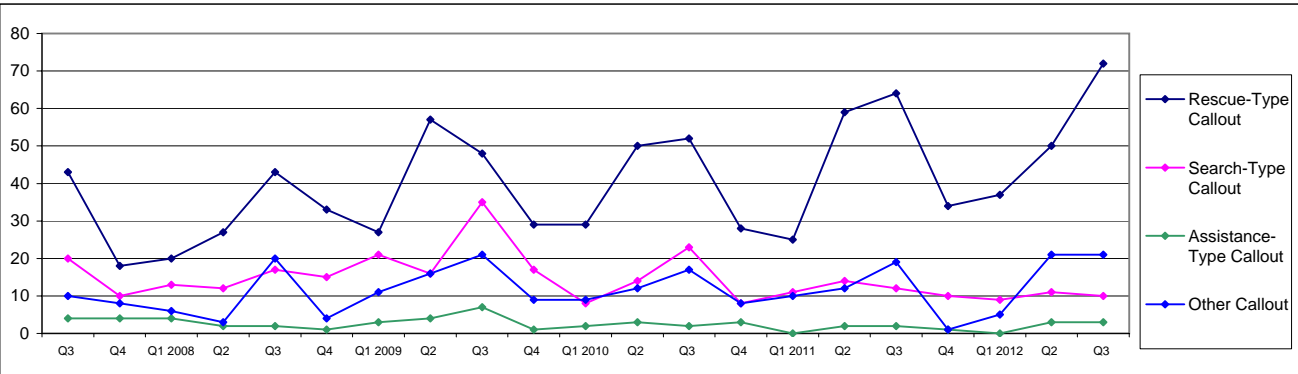


Figure 8d Callouts for Valley by Callout Grouping, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3



## 2. Search and Rescue Helicopter Callouts

Figure 8e Callouts for Chivenor by Callout Grouping, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3

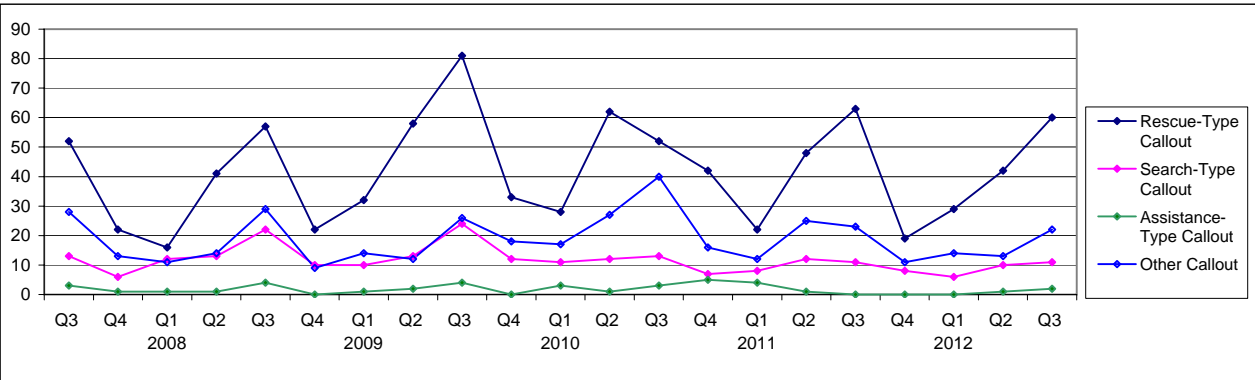


Figure 8f Callouts for Wattisham by Callout Grouping, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3

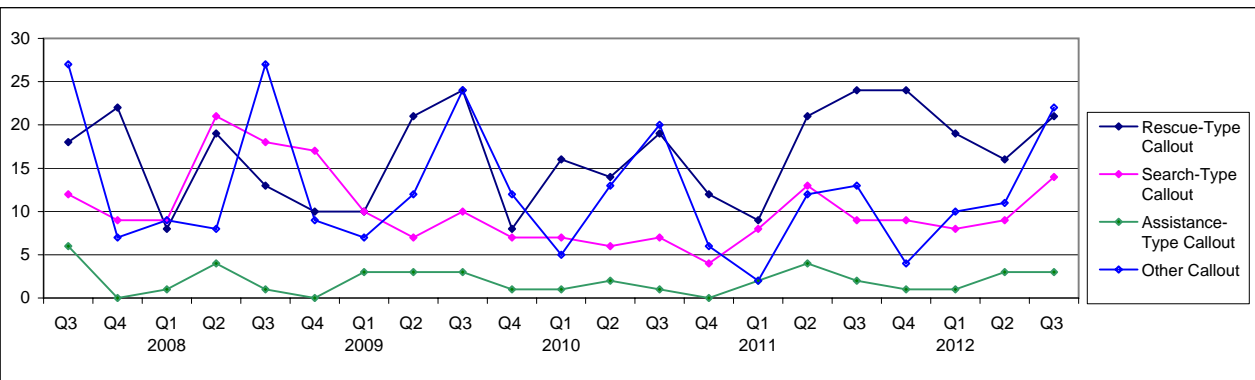


Figure 8f Callouts for Culdrose by Callout Grouping, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3

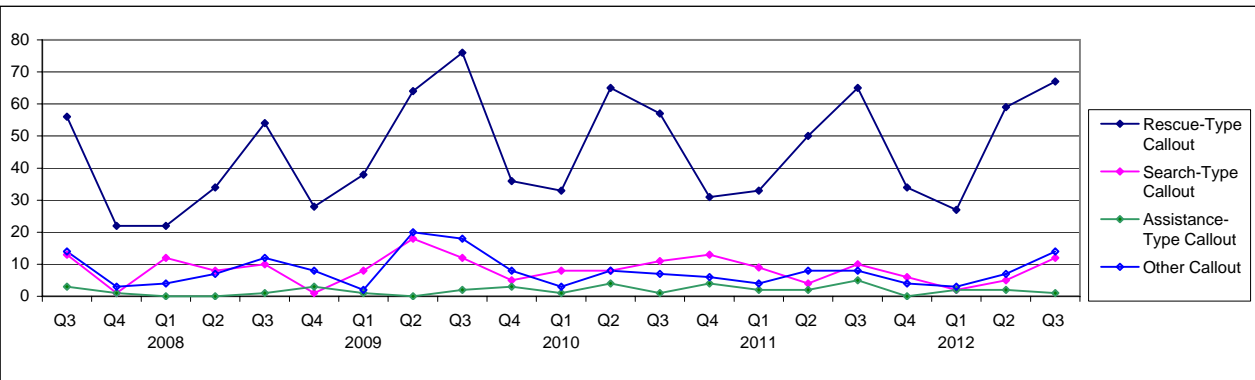
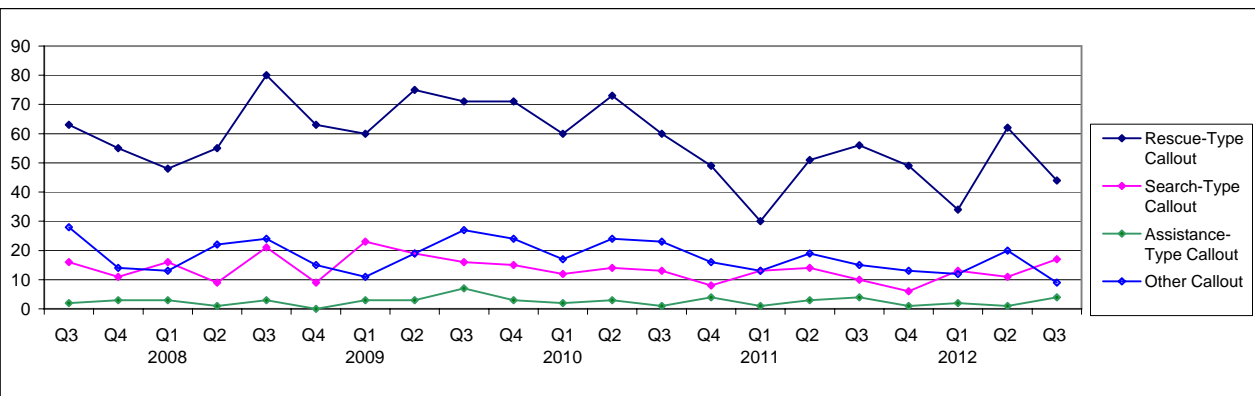


Figure 8g Callouts for Gannet by Callout Grouping, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3



## 2. Search and Rescue Helicopter Callouts

Table 5 UK & Overseas Flying Hours by Unit, 2012 Q3

	Total Flying Hours <sup>3</sup>	Average Flying Hours <sup>3</sup>	Average time to casualty <sup>3,4</sup>	Average distance from base (nm)
RAF Boulmer	68.10	1.45	0.32	59
RAF Lossiemouth	127.55	1.56	0.28	56
RAF Leconfield	63.60	1.17	0.19	41
RAF Valley	168.17	1.35	0.16	29
RAF Chivenor	120.50	1.16	0.18	32
RAF Wattisham	72.20	1.12	0.20	43
RNAS Culdrose	114.10	1.13	0.16	26
HMS Gannet	151.07	2.03	0.31	57
UK Other Helicopters	-	-	-	-
Cyprus	3.20	1.40	0.02	1
Falklands	3.10	1.35	0.10	13
Overseas Other Helicopters	-	-	-	-
	<b>893.19</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>40</b>

3. Times are expressed in Hours and Minutes.

4. Time to casualty is the time from departure from base to arrival at incident.

Figure 9a Flying Hours for Boulmer, Lossiemouth & Leconfield, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3

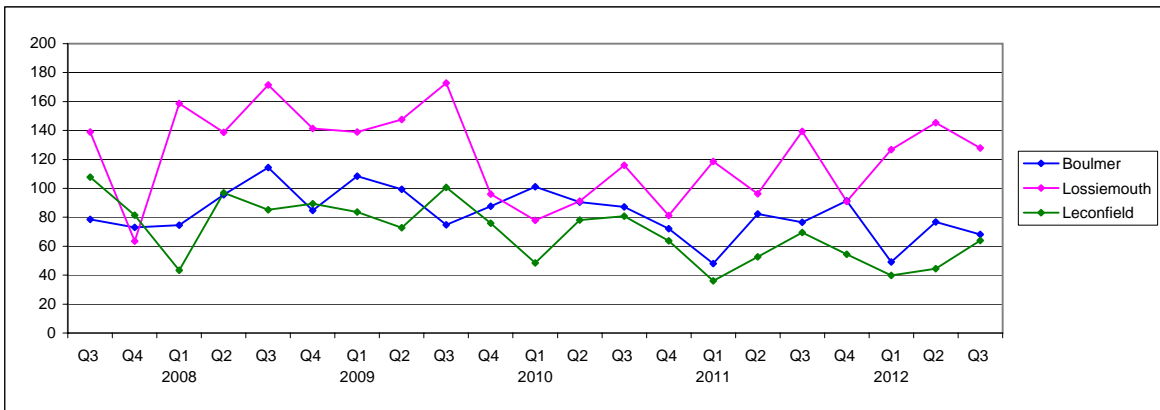


Figure 9b Flying Hours for Valley, Chivenor & Wattisham, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3

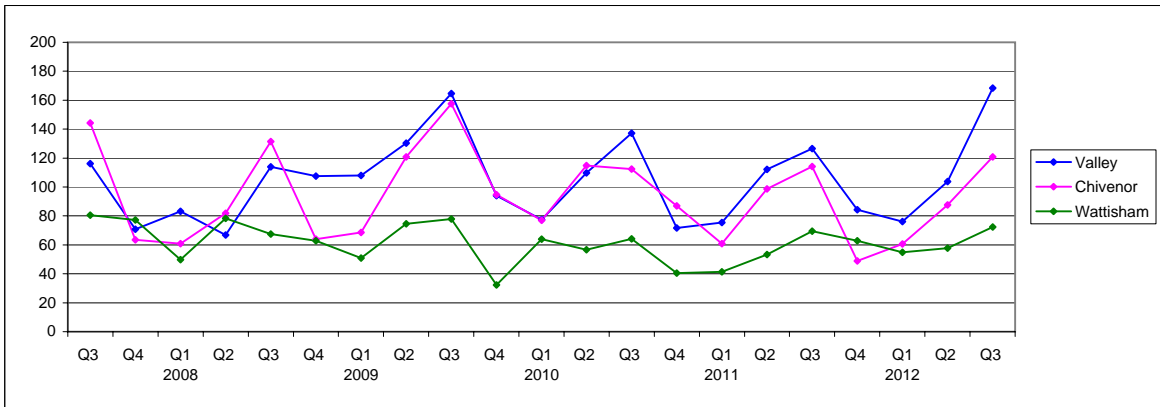
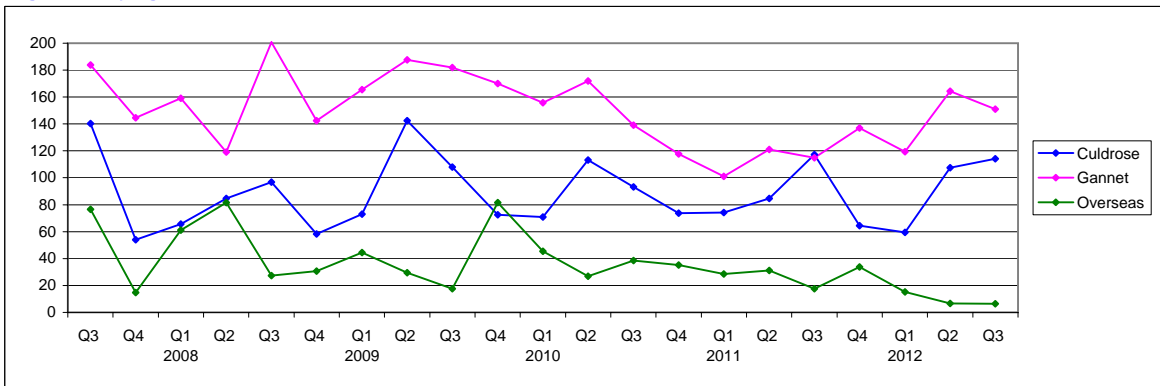


Figure 9c Flying Hours for Culdrose, Gannet & Overseas, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3



### 3. Persons Moved

This section provides a summary of the persons moved during SAR callouts this quarter.

**Table 6** shows the persons moved by helicopter unit and assistance type for 2012 Q3. A single callout can have persons moved under more than one assistance type. For example, if two persons were moved from a hostile environment, one being injured and the other not, this would be recorded as one medrescue and one rescue.

The number of persons moved is generally strongly correlated with the number of callouts. A callout typically involves moving 1, 2 or no persons. However, occasionally there are large incidents with many persons moved. This quarter both RAF Valley and HMS Gannet were involved in separate incidents resulting in search for and rescue of 14 walkers. This explains the high number of persons moved for both of these units compared with their callout numbers (see Table 4) .

**Table 6** shows that during 2012 Q3, 61% of the persons moved were for medrescues, whilst 19% were for rescues. The next highest group was search-rescue, representing 8% of the quarterly total. Medrescue involves moving injured people from a hostile environment to a recognised medical facility, while rescues involve transferring uninjured people to a safe environment.

**Figures 10a to 10c** show the persons moved by unit over the past five years. During this period Gannet averaged the highest number of persons moved each quarter (79), followed by Valley (66) and Chivenor (59). These units are located in areas which typically show high demand for SAR assistance (see page 5).

**Table 7** shows the number of persons moved in 2012 Q3 by location. As with callouts, the highest number of persons moved are generally from land.

**Figure 11** shows persons moved by location over the past five years. In any given quarter over this period, land represents over 50% of the persons moved, with the average being 72%. There is a seasonal pattern to both the land and coast numbers, with the peak occurring in the summer months during Q3. The number of persons rescued from a maritime environment (typically people taken ill on ships) does not show a large degree of seasonal fluctuation.

**Table 8** shows the number of persons moved this quarter by category. Nearly 87% of persons moved are categorised as 'Person', i.e. an individual not associated with any of the other structures, such as ships, leisure crafts, rigs or aeroplanes.

**Figure 12** shows the split between civilian and military persons moved over the past five years. Typically around 95% of persons moved are civilians. A notable exception to this was in 2008 Q1, when 90 military personnel were rescued from adverse weather conditions in the Falkland Islands.

### 3. Persons Moved

Table 6 UK & Overseas Persons Moved by Unit and Assistance Type, 2012 Q3

	RAF Boulmer	RAF Lossiemouth	RAF Leconfield	RAF Valley	RAF Chivenor	RAF Wattisham	RAF UK Total	RNAS Culdrose	HMS Gannet	RN Total	UK Other	UK Total	Cyprus	Falklands	Overseas Total
Rescue	5	10	11	26	8	6	66	21	5	26	-	92	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	-	6	1	-	2	1	10	1	28	29	-	39	-	-	-
Medrescue	17	30	25	63	51	15	201	46	39	85	-	286	-	6	6
Search-Medrescue	-	2	-	1	2	-	5	6	3	9	-	14	-	-	-
Medtransfer	-	1	-	5	5	4	15	12	4	16	-	31	-	-	-
Recovery	-	3	-	4	2	-	9	-	1	1	-	10	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

Figure 10a UK & Overseas Persons Moved for Boulmer, Lossiemouth & Leconfield, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3

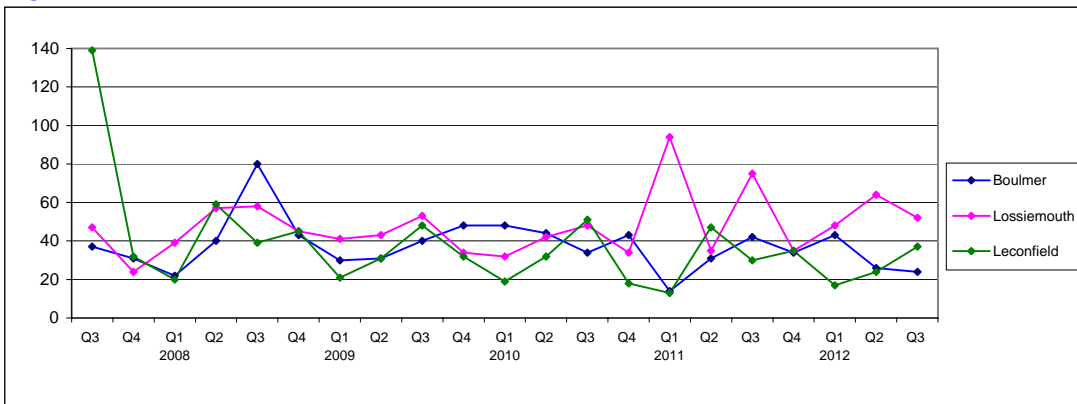


Figure 10b UK & Overseas Persons Moved for Valley, Chivenor & Wattisham, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3

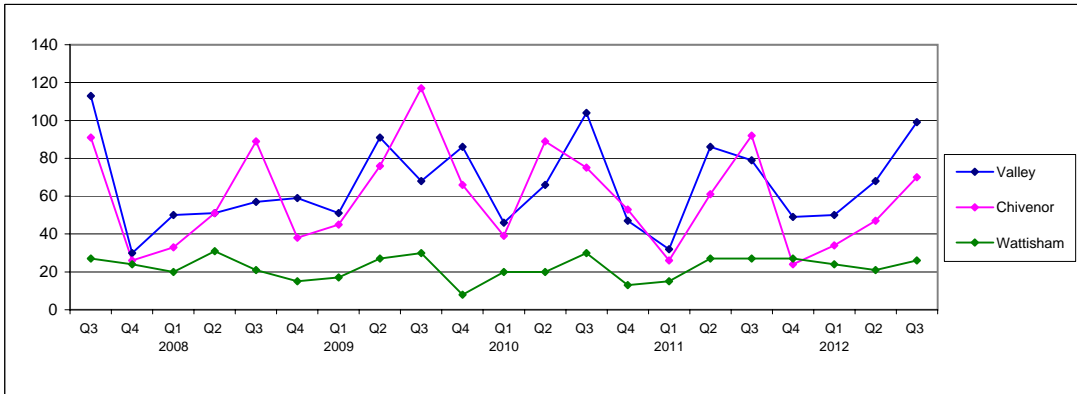
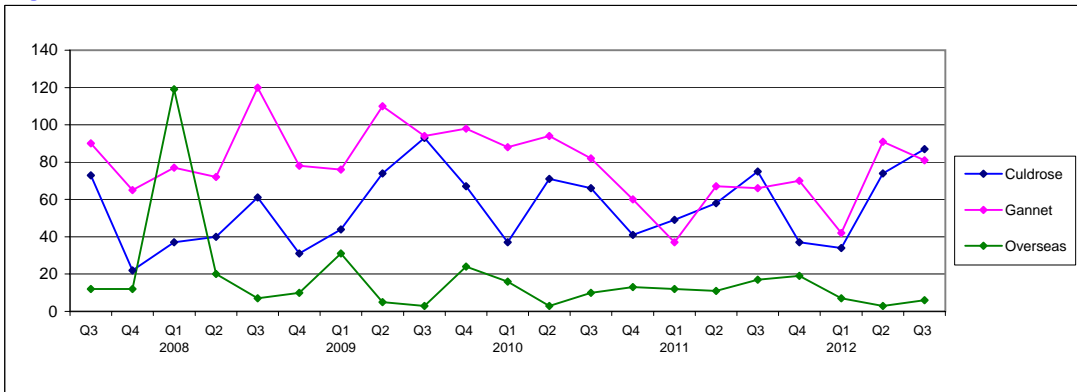


Figure 10c UK & Overseas Persons Moved for Culdrose, Gannet & Overseas, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3



### 3. Persons Moved

**Table 7 UK & Overseas Persons Moved by Location and Assistance Type, 2012 Q3**

**Persons by Callout Location**

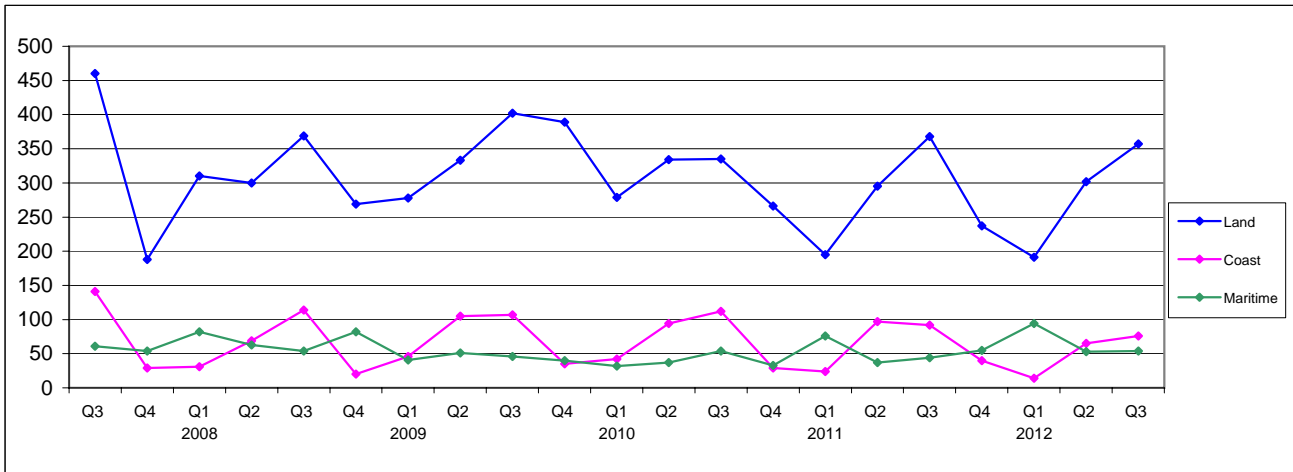
	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	58	24	11	93
Search-Rescue	36	3	-	39
Medrescue	212	46	37	295
Search-Medrescue	7	3	4	14
Medtransfer	31	-	-	31
Recovery	9	-	1	10
Search-Recovery	4	-	-	4
Transfer	-	-	1	1
<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>487</b>

**Table 8 UK & Overseas Persons Moved by Category and Assistance Type, 2012 Q3**

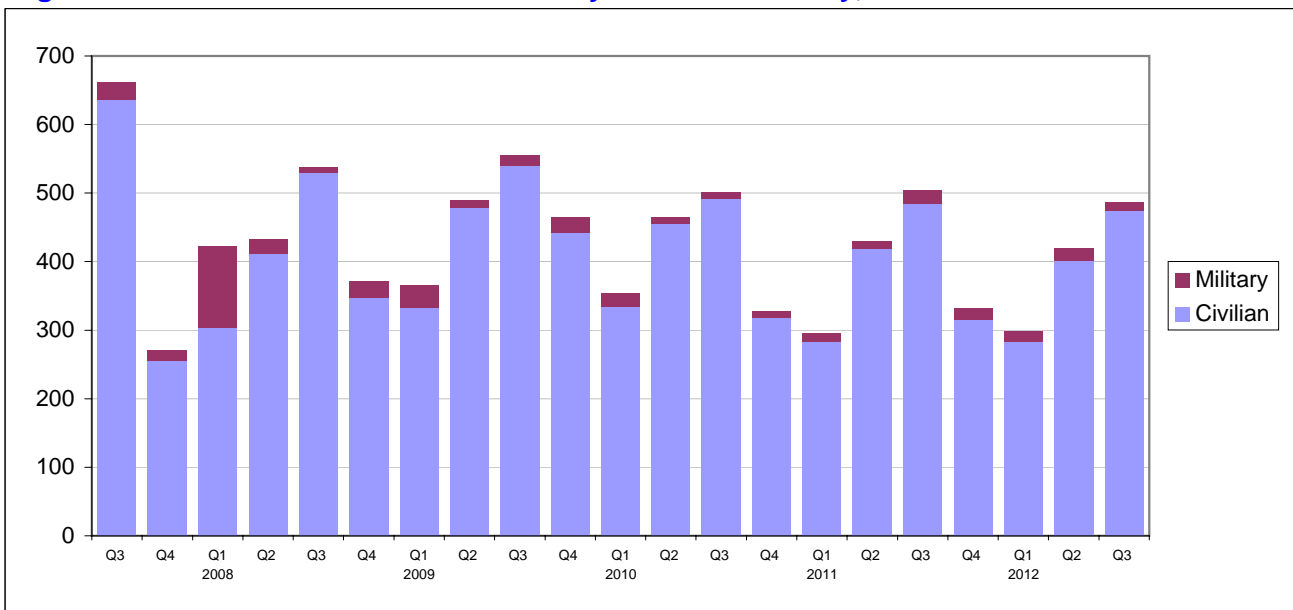
**Persons by Callout Category**

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Person	Other	Total
Rescue	-	11	1	-	81	-	93
Search-Rescue	-	-	2	-	37	-	39
Medrescue	1	26	7	9	252	-	295
Search-Medrescue	2	1	1	-	9	1	14
Medtransfer	-	-	-	-	31	-	31
Recovery	1	-	-	-	9	-	10
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Transfer	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>487</b>

**Figure 11 UK & Overseas Persons Moved by Location, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3**



**Figure 12 UK & Overseas Persons Moved by Civilian or Military, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3**





## 4. Other Search and Rescue

This section focuses on the non-helicopter units within the military SAR service, and also gives a summary of the Maritime & Coastguard Agency's (MCA) helicopter callouts, for this quarter.

[Table 9](#) shows the callouts, persons moved and man hours for each military Mountain Rescue Team (MRT) during 2012 Q3. The number of persons moved by each MRT unit tends to be relatively low. MRT units often work in conjunction with helicopter units, to help locate casualties in difficult terrain. If the casualty is then transferred out by the helicopter unit, it is them who will be associated with the person moved in the report, rather than the MRT unit.

The MRT man hours are the total time spent working on a callout by all members of the unit. The total man hours this quarter was 2,778, which is above the average over the past five years of around 1,545 hours per quarter. This is largely the result of a number of callouts from MRT Kinloss\Lossiemouth, looking for people lost around the Cairngorms area. Note: the Lossiemouth mountain rescue team moved from Kinloss during July 2012.

[Figures 13a to 13d](#) show the callouts and man hours for each MRT unit over the past five years. These tend to be fairly volatile series, with some large changes from one quarter to the next. This is primarily due to the small numbers of callouts, which can vary considerably from month to month, and the large range of activities undertaken by MRT units which result in considerable variability in man hours required. This variability can be appreciated by considering MRT Leeming, who attended 6 callouts, more than both Leuchars and Valley, yet was required for a fraction of the man hours.

There is little appreciable seasonality, although the MRT units can often be at their busiest during the winter months. This is often the result of walkers in mountain regions being caught by rapidly changing weather during the colder months, and consequently need rescuing.

[Table 10](#) and [Figure 14](#) present military fixed wing callouts. Prior to March 2010, fixed wing coverage was provided by Nimrod aircraft operating out of RAF Kinloss. Nimrod was withdrawn from service in March 2010. Since this time, occasional fixed wing coverage is provided by civilian contractors operating Cessna aircraft. As this is not part of the military SAR service, the activities of these contractor aircraft is outside the scope of this report.

[Table 11](#) shows MCA callouts for this quarter. Portland was the unit with the highest number of callouts in 2012 Q3 (78). These statistics are validated and provided by the MCA. They are subject to change and are outside the scope of National Statistics.

[Figure 15](#) shows MCA callouts over the past five years. As with the military SAR callouts, there is a seasonal pattern, with the peak callout numbers occurring over the summer. Although the 2012 Q3 figure (215) was higher than the 2011 Q3 figure (199), it was still below the average of the last five years Q3 figures (232). This might be a reflection of the relatively wet summer in 2012.

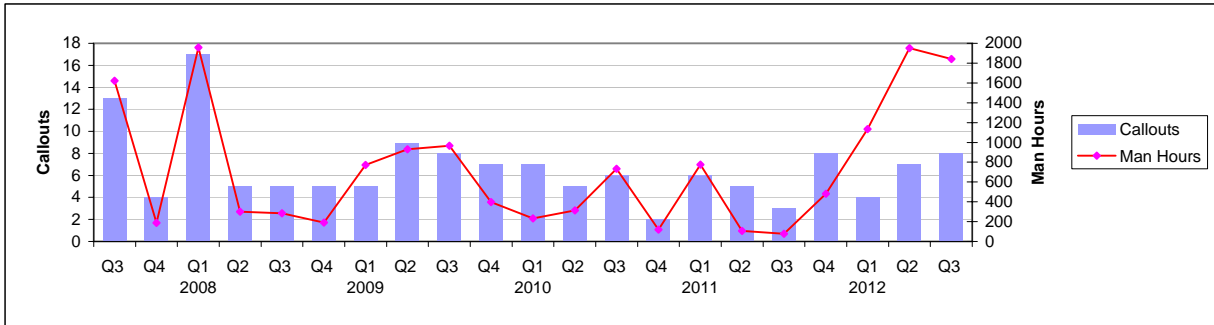
## 4. Other Search and Rescue

**Table 9 MRT Callouts, Persons Moved and Man Hours by Unit, 2012 Q3**

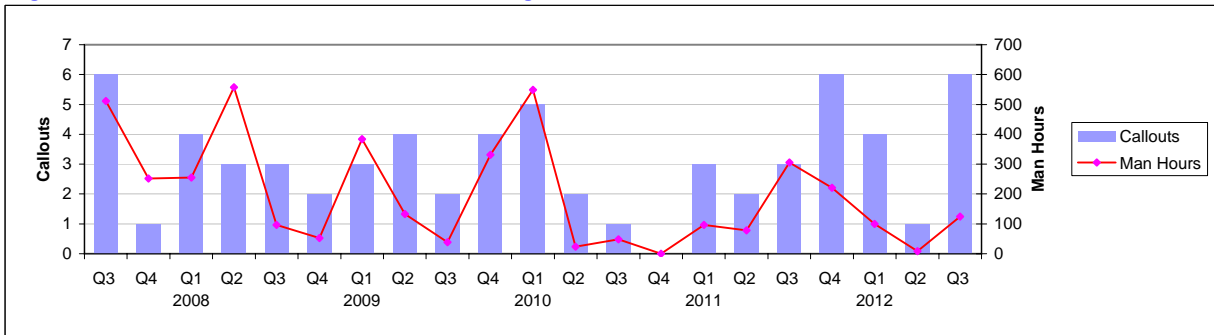
	Callouts	Persons	Man Hours
Kinloss/Lossiemouth <sup>5</sup>	8	3	1,842
Leeming	6	-	124
Leuchars	3	-	512
Valley	5	2	300
Other	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2,778</b>

5. The Lossiemouth mountain rescue team moved from Kinloss during July 2012.

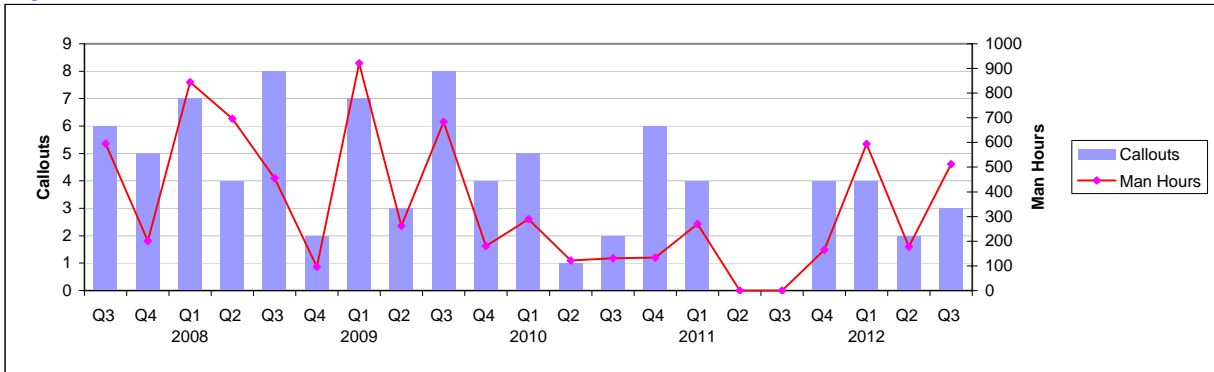
**Figure 13a Callouts and Man Hours for MRT Kinloss/Lossiemouth, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3**



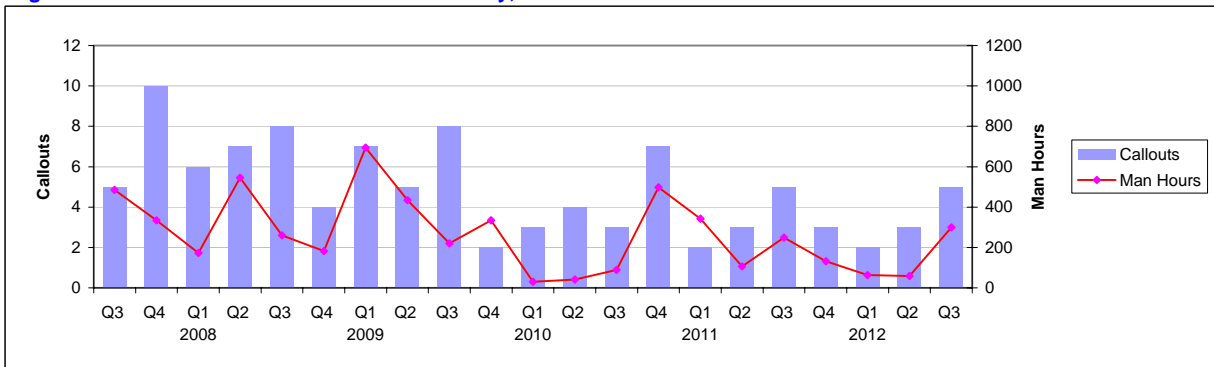
**Figure 13b Callouts and Man Hours for MRT Leeming, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3**



**Figure 13c Callouts and Man Hours for MRT Leuchars, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3**



**Figure 13d Callouts and Man Hours for MRT Valley, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3**

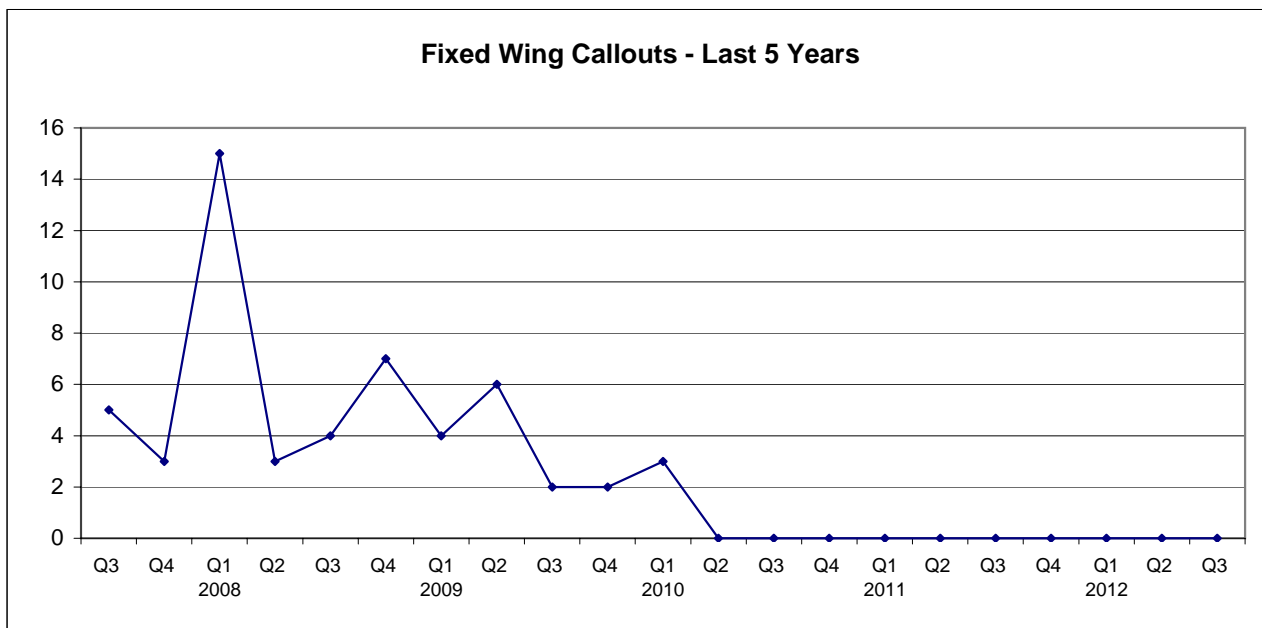


## 4. Other Search and Rescue

**Table 10 Fixed Wing Callouts, 2012 Q3**

	Callouts	Average Flying Hours	Average distance from base (nm)
UK Fixed Wing	-	-	-
Overseas Fixed Wing	-	-	-
	-	-	-

**Figure 14 Fixed Wing Callouts, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3**



## 4. Other Search and Rescue

Source: Maritime & Coastguard Agency.

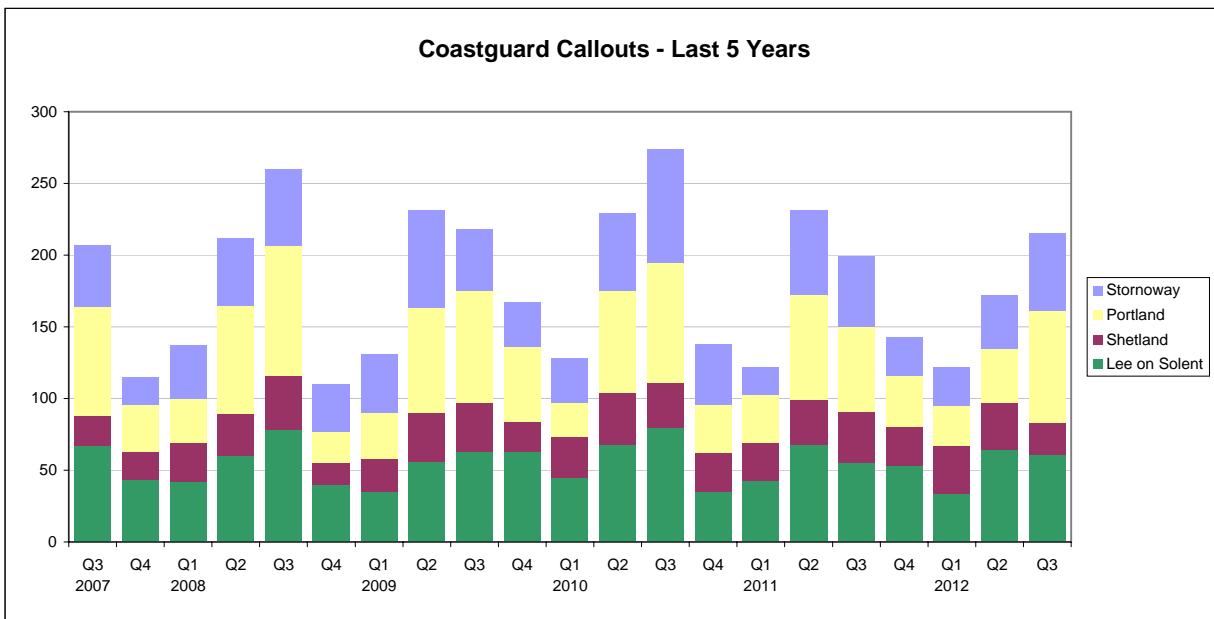
Please note that these figures are provisional and subject to audit.

The following tables are provided by other bodies and are not designated as National Statistics. The Department has not assessed the quality of these statistics. They are published to provide extra context.

Table 11 Maritime & Coastguard Agency Helicopters Callouts by Unit, 2012 Q3

	Lee on Solent	Shetland	Portland	Stornoway	Total
July	25	8	32	16	81
August	24	8	28	25	85
September	12	6	18	13	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>215</b>

Figure 15 Maritime and Coastguard Agency Helicopter Callouts by Unit, 2007 Q3 to 2012 Q3



## 5. UK Search and Rescue Geography

The maps over the following four pages show the locations of military SAR callouts during this quarter.

Each unit has an area over which they typically respond to incidents. Sea King helicopters have a maximum endurance of 6 hours, giving a usual radius of actions of around 300 nautical miles from base.

Boulmer typically respond to callouts in the Lake District, the North East coast of England, and into South East Scotland. Valley typically respond to incidents in North Wales and in the Irish Sea. Wattisham provides coverage over the South East of England.




Chivenor typically provides coverage around South West England and South Wales. Leconfield provides coverage throughout the Midlands and the East coast of England. Lossiemouth provides coverage over the North of Scotland.

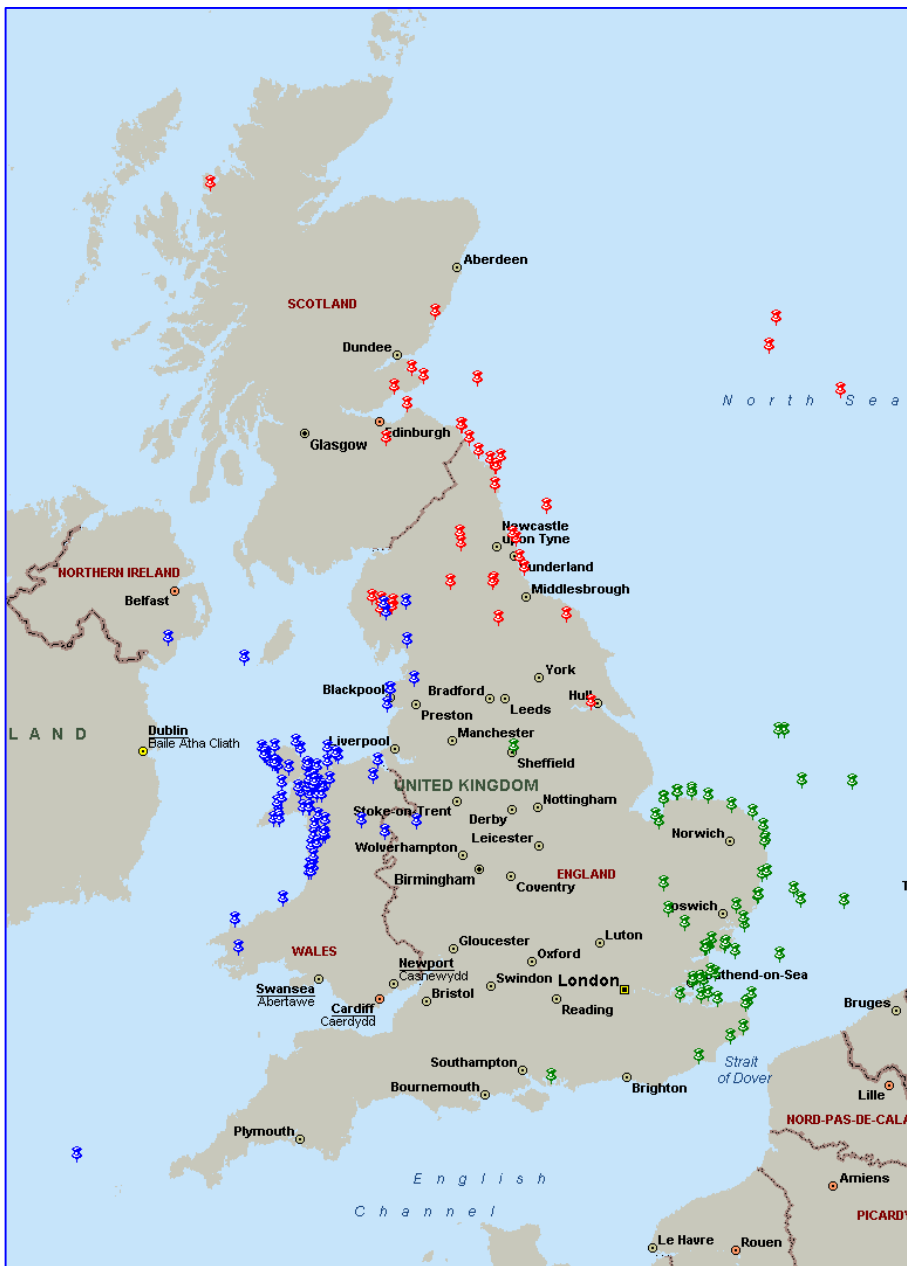
Gannet's typical range is throughout the central and western areas of Scotland. Culdrose provide coverage throughout Cornwall and out into the Atlantic Ocean.

The consolidated aeronautical SAR coverage provided by the RAF, Royal Navy and MCA means that there are certain areas which are typically covered by the MCA (and as such are not represented on the following maps). In particular, the South coast of England is typically covered by the MCA units at Lee on Solent and Portland. Similarly, the Hebrides and Shetland Islands are typically covered by MCA units.

## 5. UK Search and Rescue Geography




### Map 1 UK Callouts, 2012 Q3

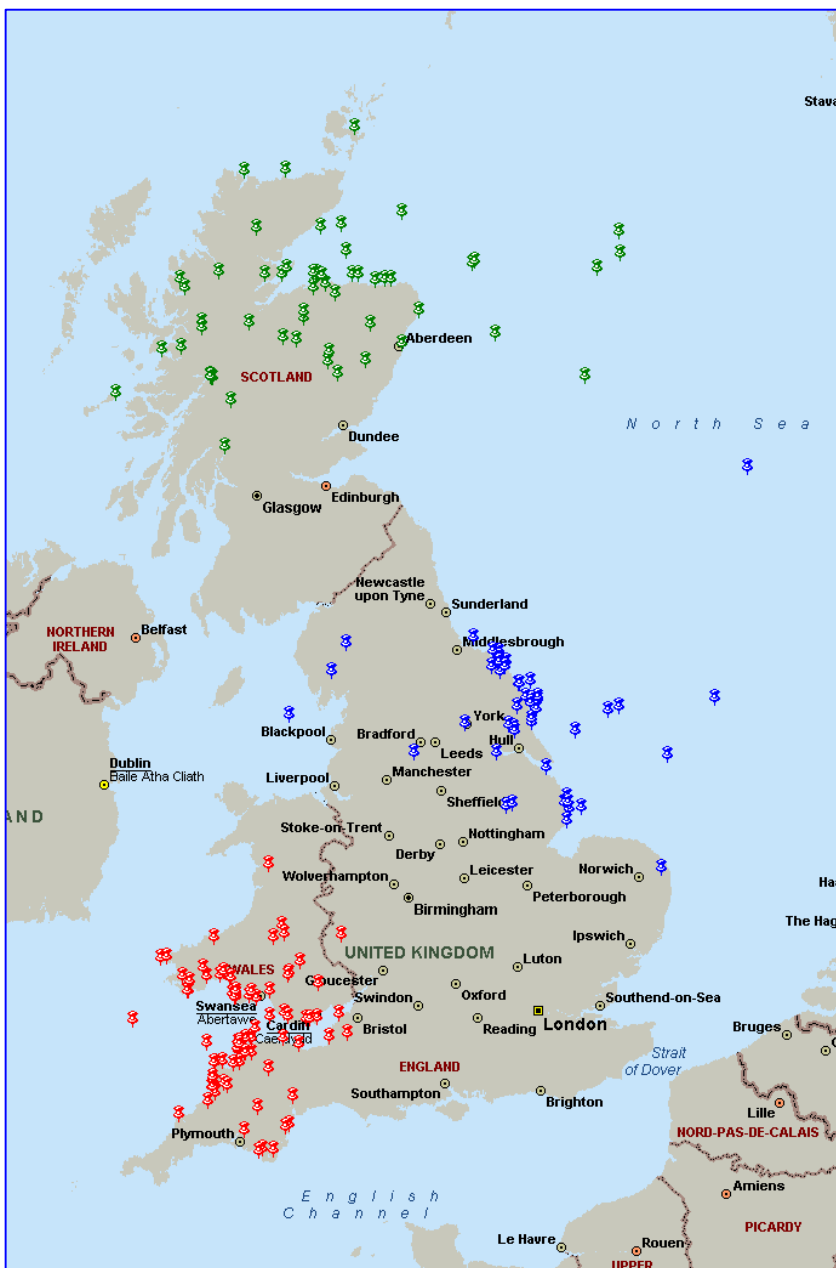
RAF Boulmer	
RAF Valley	
RAF Wattisham	



## 5. UK Search and Rescue Geography

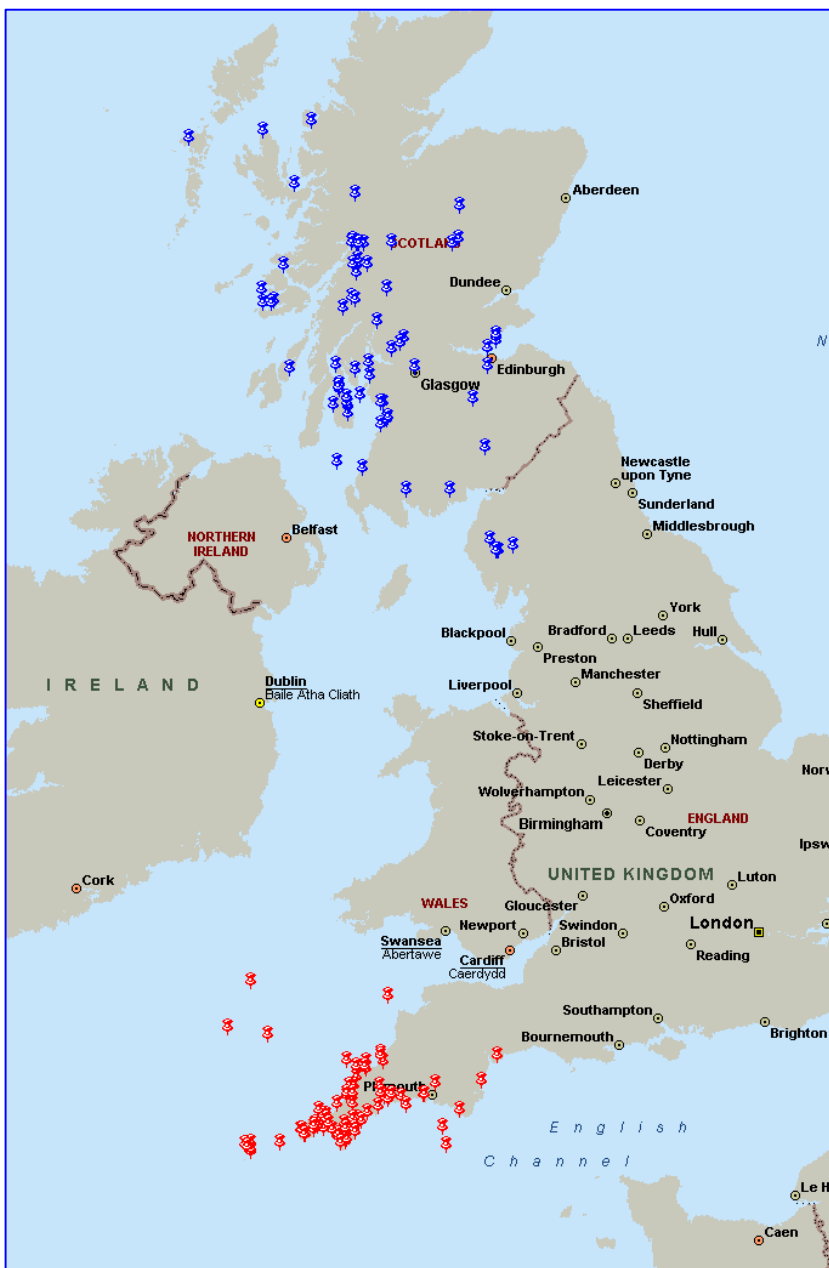
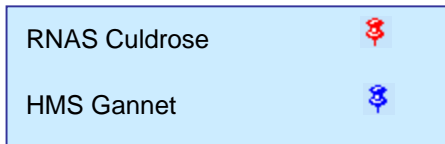
### Map 2 UK Callouts, 2012 Q3

RAF Chivenor	
RAF Leconfield	
RAF Lossiemouth	



## 5. UK Search and Rescue Geography




### Map 3 UK Callouts, 2012 Q3

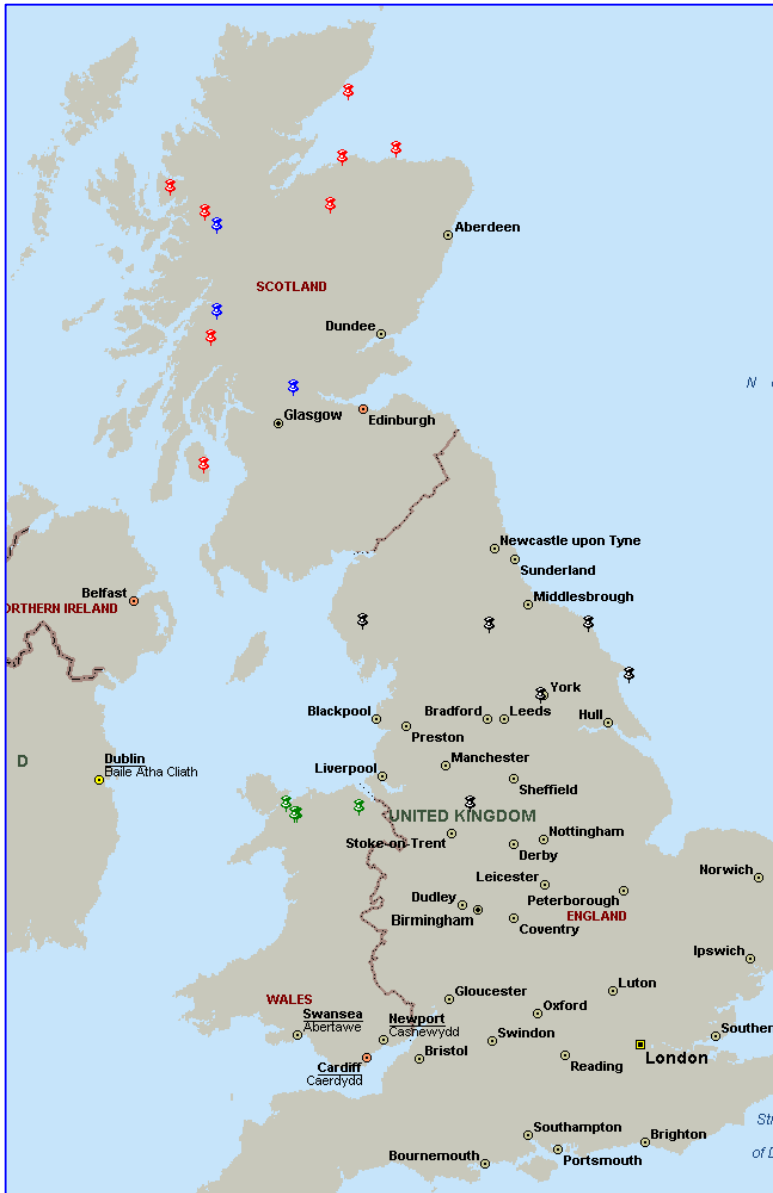




## 5. UK Search and Rescue Geography

### Map 4 UK MRT Callouts, 2012 Q3

MRT Kinloss/Lossiemouth	
MRT Leeming	
MRT Leuchars	
MRT Valley	



## 6. Search and Rescue definitions

		<b>GROUPING</b>
RESCUE	Transfer of distressed uninjured person(s) from a hostile to a benign environment.	Rescue-Type
MEDRESCUE	Transfer of sick or injured persons(s) from a hostile environment to a recognised medical facility (eg, hospital or chamber).	Rescue-Type
TRANSFER	Transfer of military personnel, or their families, on compassionate grounds.	Rescue-Type
MEDTRANSFER	Transfer of patients or organs between medical establishments at the request of a recognised Medical Authority, i.e. NHS Trust, Hospital or Ambulance Authority.	Rescue-Type
RECOVERY	Recovery of person(s) apparently dead.	Rescue-Type
SEARCH	Search for craft, person(s), etc which does not result in moving a person.	Search-Type
SEARCH – RESCUE	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the rescue of an uninjured person.	Search-Type
SEARCH – MEDRESCUE	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the rescue of a sick/injured casualty.	Search-Type
SEARCH – ASSIST	Search for craft, person(s), etc involving assistance to other SAR assets.	Search-Type
SEARCH – RECOVERY	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the recovery of person(s) apparently dead.	Search-Type
SEARCH – ABORT	Search for craft, person(s), etc during which callout terminated due to eg malfunction or adverse weather.	Search-Type
TOP-COVER	On-scene assistance, e.g. communications relay, target identification, vectoring to target etc. for another rescue asset, or as cover for person(s) or vessel(s) in distress that does not result in further intervention.	Assistance-Type
PRECAUTION	Pre-positioning of a SAR helicopter to provide faster response to an anticipated or potential incident, eg, in response to an aircraft declaring a “MAYDAY” or a potential incident on a offshore installation.	Assistance-Type
ASSIST	Assistance to other SAR assets etc, such as moving SAR personnel or equipment (eg, mountain rescue teams, divers, pumps), shepherding of aircraft etc.	Assistance-Type
CIVIL AID	Military Aid to the Civil Community (eg fire control).	Assistance-Type
RECALLED	Asset recalled from incident whilst en route.	Other
NOT REQUIRED	Asset arrived on scene but no action required.	Other
ABORT	Callout terminated due to eg malfunction or adverse weather.	Other
FALSE ALARM	Unnecessary callout with good intent.	Other
HOAX	Unnecessary callout with malicious intent	Other