



Ministry
of Defence



Military Search and Rescue Monthly Statistics

March 2013

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Coverage

United Kingdom, Cyprus, Falkland Islands

Theme

Defence

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The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods,
- and are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

Key Points

- During March 2013 there were 143 incidents, resulting in 156 callouts and 176 persons moved. The number of incidents, callouts and persons moved were all higher than in March 2012.
- Callout numbers are most pronounced for land based callouts with 126 this month. The number of persons moved was also high at 176, higher than usual for March and higher than all of the last 13 months. This can be seen clearly on the chart and graph on page 8.
- The unit which responded to the most callouts during March was HMS Gannet which had 40 callouts. HMS Gannet also had the highest number of persons moved, with 56.
- The type of callout that was highest during the month was Medrescue with 78 callouts. The furthest distance flown from base for any callout was 153 miles for a RAF Boulmer maritime Medrescue from a rig. The shortest distance flown was 3 miles for a coastal civilian Medrescue by RAF Valley.
- The unit with the highest total flying hours this month was HMS Gannet, with over 82 hours flown at an average of over two hours per callout. Their average time to casualty was 39 minutes.
- During March 2013 there were 9 mountain rescue team callouts, with a total man hours of 990.

What is included in this report

This report covers military SAR activities for March 2013. 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. Details of MCA helicopter units are not included in this report. However, a summary is provided in the quarterly and annual SAR Reports, which are available at the following links:

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

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 Co-ordination 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. 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. 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.

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 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. Details of their activities are included in the SAR Quarterly and Annual reports.

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/>

UK & Overseas Search And Rescue Summary

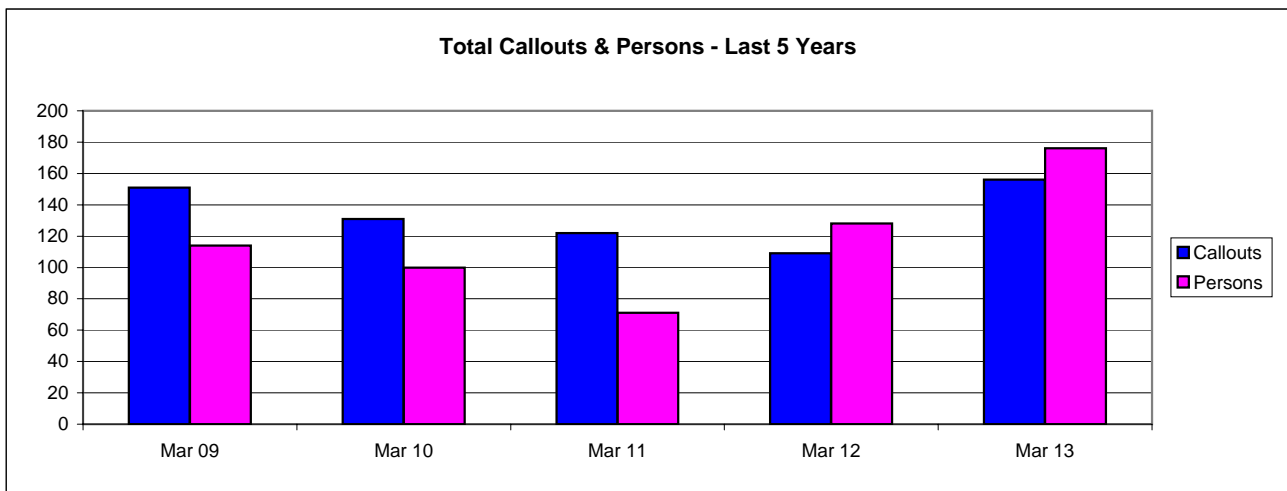
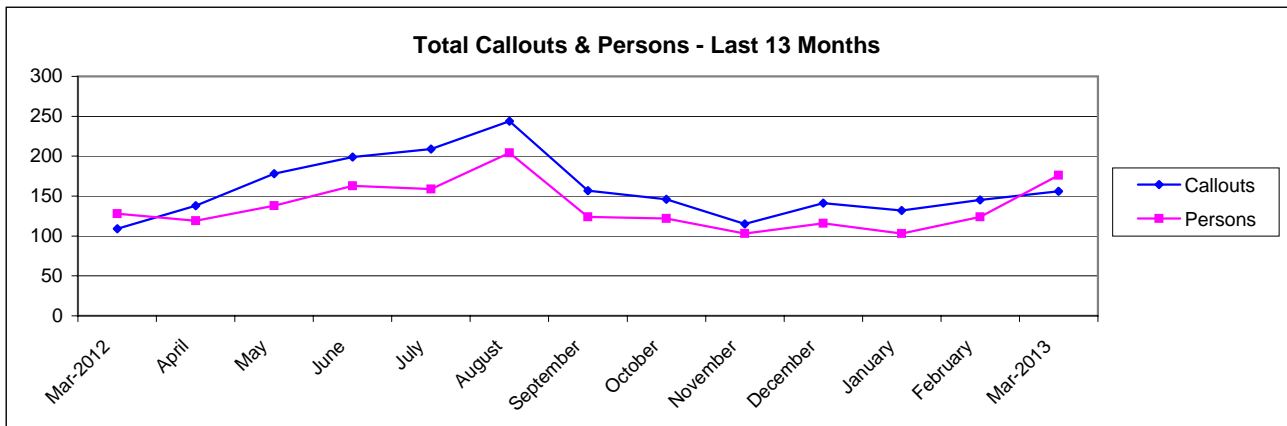
Current Month

| 2013 | Total Callouts | UK Helicopters | Overseas Helicopters | Mountain Rescue Team | Incidents | Persons Moved |
|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| March | 156 | 143 | 4 | 9 | 143 | 176 |

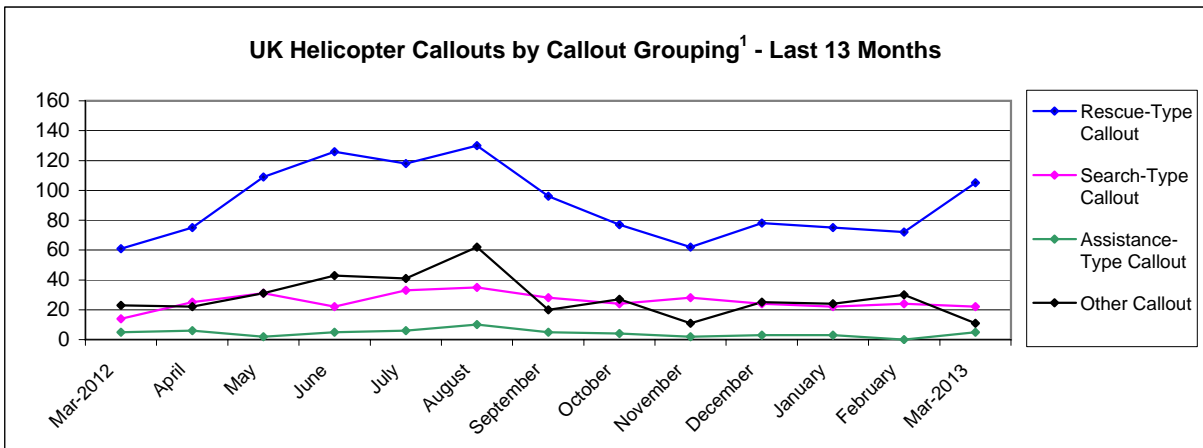
Previous 12 Months

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|---|----|-----|-----|
| February | 145 | 126 | 2 | 17 | 123 | 124 |
| January | 132 | 124 | 3 | 5 | 123 | 103 |
| December | 141 | 130 | 3 | 8 | 128 | 116 |
| November | 115 | 103 | 4 | 8 | 107 | 103 |
| October | 146 | 132 | 3 | 11 | 132 | 122 |
| September | 157 | 149 | 1 | 7 | 147 | 124 |
| August | 244 | 237 | 2 | 5 | 237 | 204 |
| July | 209 | 198 | 1 | 10 | 199 | 159 |
| June | 199 | 196 | 1 | 2 | 194 | 163 |
| May | 178 | 173 | 1 | 4 | 170 | 138 |
| April | 138 | 128 | 3 | 7 | 127 | 119 |
| March | 109 | 103 | 3 | 3 | 105 | 128 |

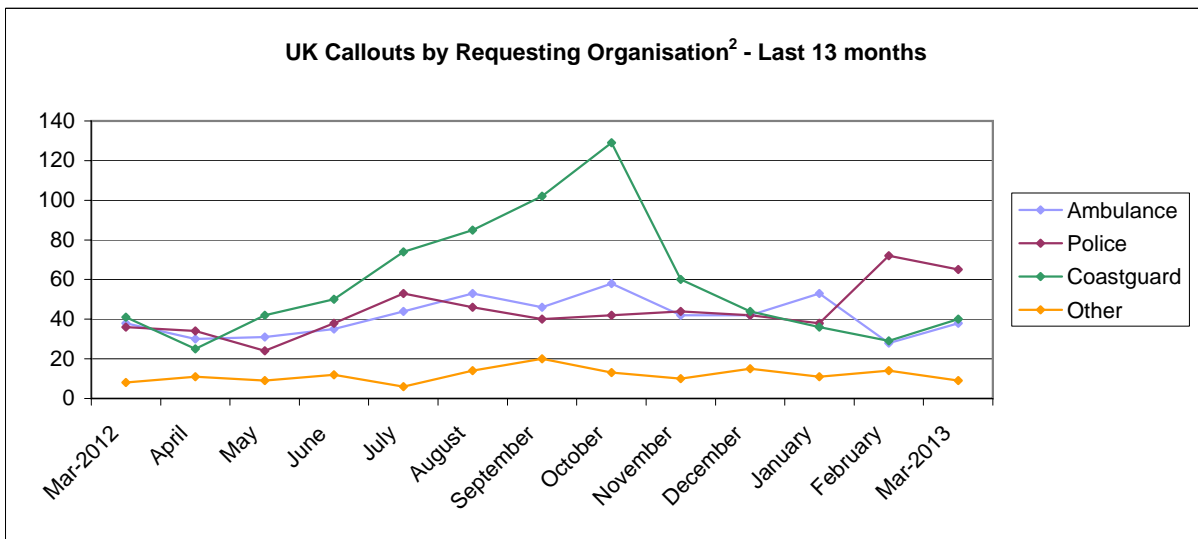
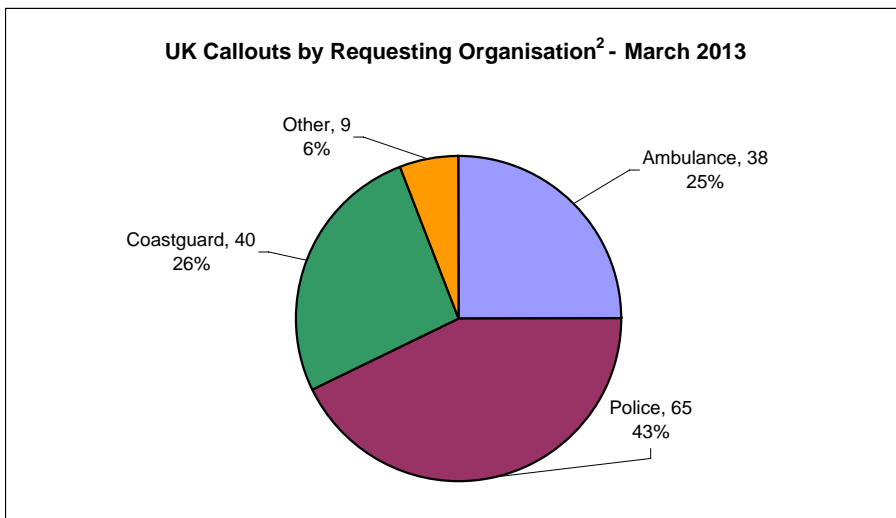
| | ARCC Kinloss | RCC Cyprus | RCC Falklands | Total |
|-----------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------|
| Callouts | 152 | - | 4 | 156 |
| Incidents | 139 | - | 4 | 143 |
| Persons | 171 | - | 5 | 176 |



UK Search And Rescue Summary



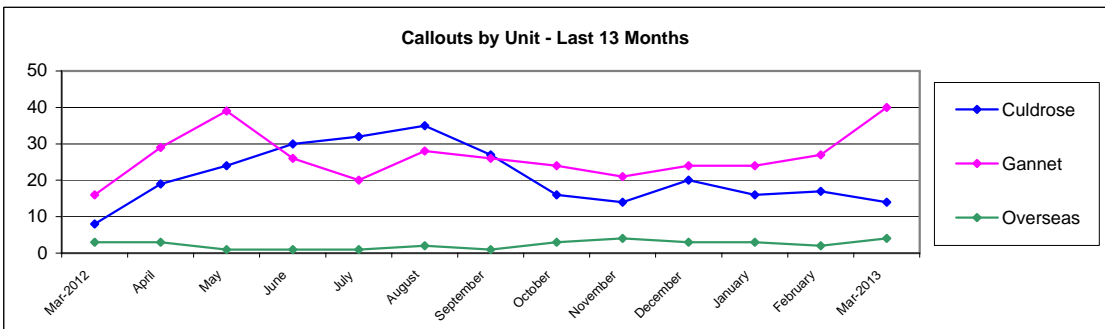
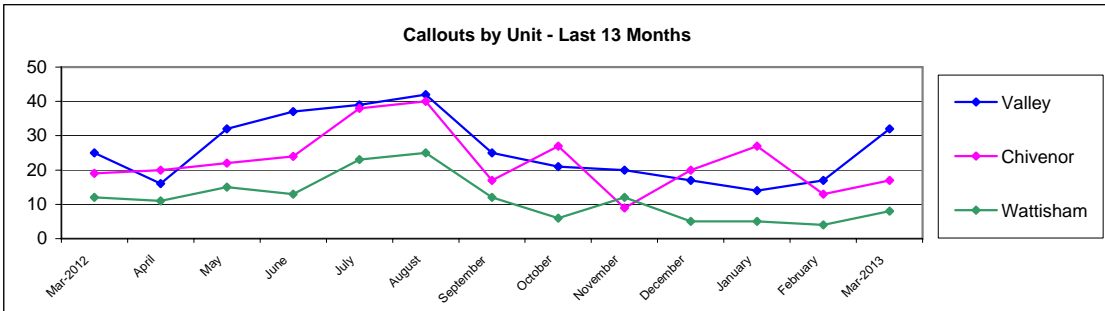
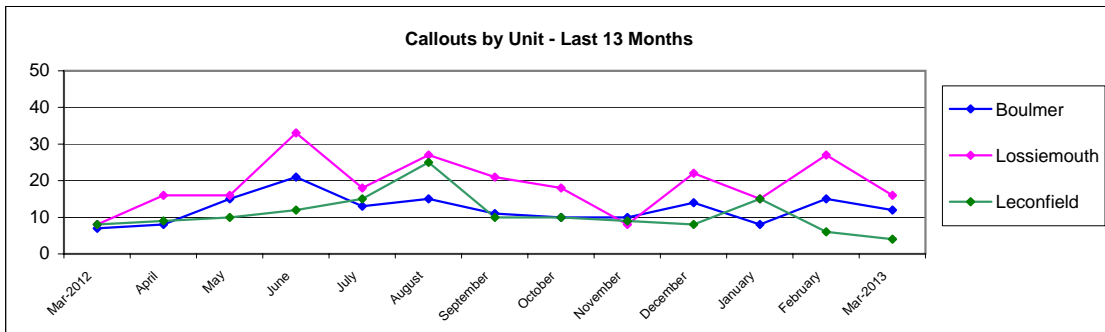
1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10



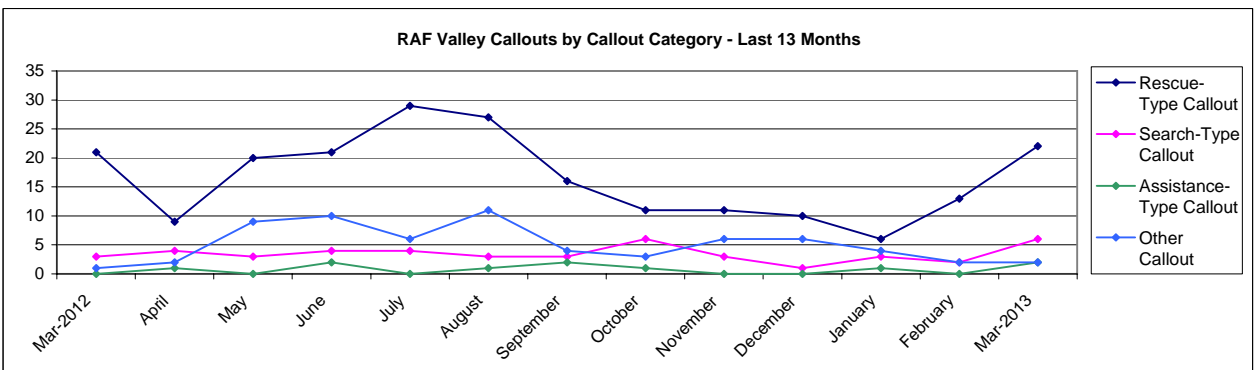
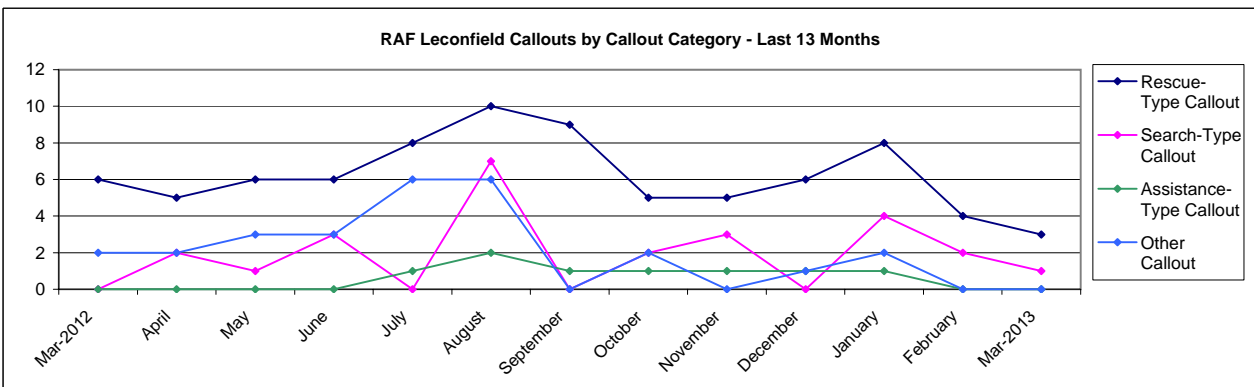
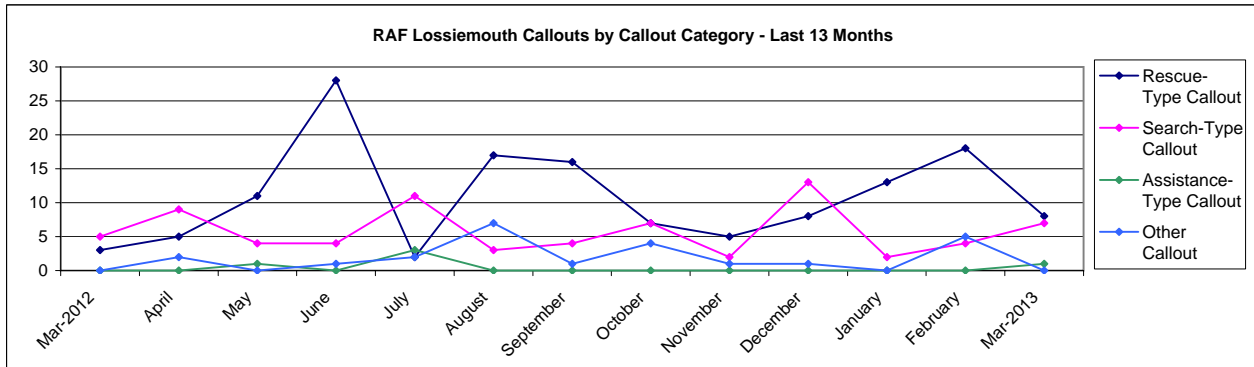
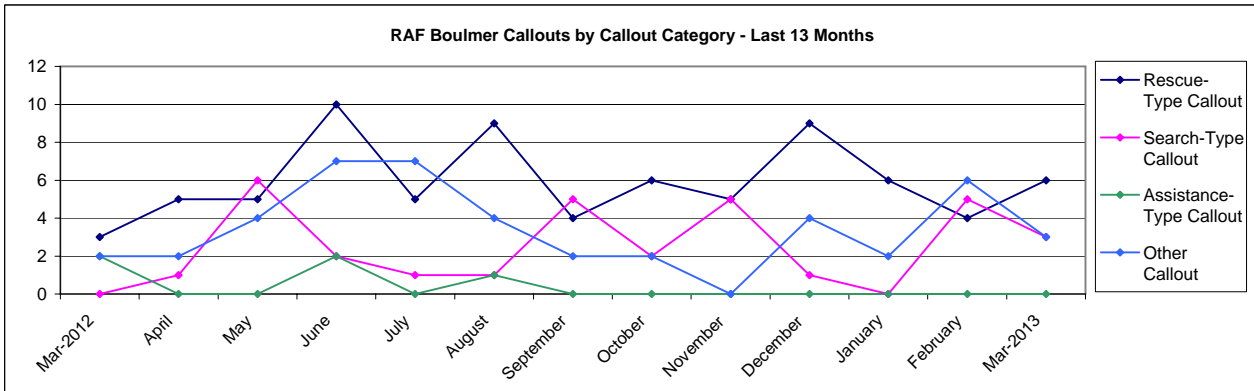
2. The requesting organisation is determined using an automated lookup function which searches for key text within the organisations' name. Within the 'Other' category, there may be a limited number of callouts by either Ambulance, Police or Coastguard due to the automated algorithm used.

Callouts - Helicopters (UK & Overseas)

| | 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 | 1 | - | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | 7 | - | - | - |
| Search-Rescue | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| Medrescue | 5 | 8 | 3 | 18 | 11 | 4 | 49 | 9 | 16 | 25 | - | 74 | - | 3 | 3 |
| Search-Medrescue | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 5 | - | - | - |
| Medtransfer | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 13 | - | 18 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Recovery | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Search-Recovery | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| Transfer | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 4 | 4 | - | 5 | - | - | - |
| Civil Aid | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| Search | 1 | 4 | - | - | - | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 8 | - | - | - |
| Top Cover | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Assist | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | - | - | - |
| Search-Assist | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - |
| Recalled | 1 | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 6 | - | - | - |
| Not Required | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - |
| False Alarm | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hoax | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Precaution | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Aborted | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Search-Aborted | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Total Callouts | 12 | 16 | 4 | 32 | 17 | 8 | 89 | 14 | 40 | 54 | - | 143 | - | 4 | 4 |

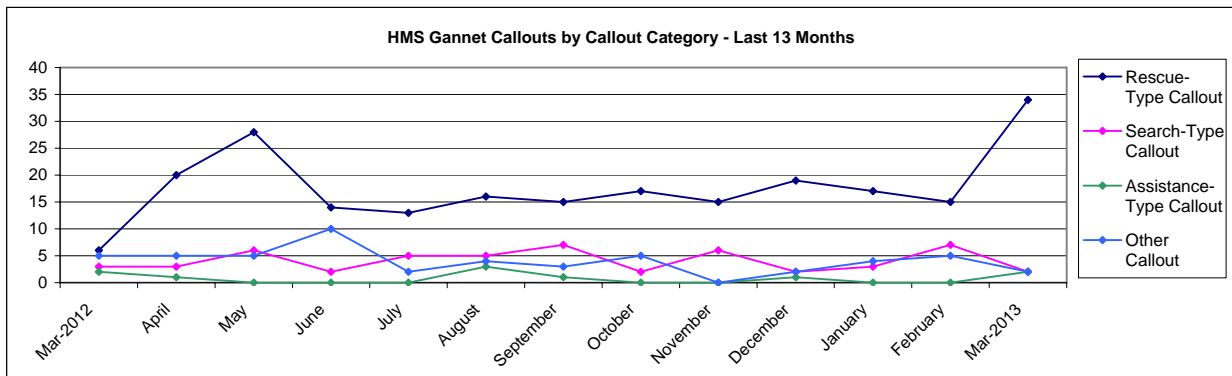
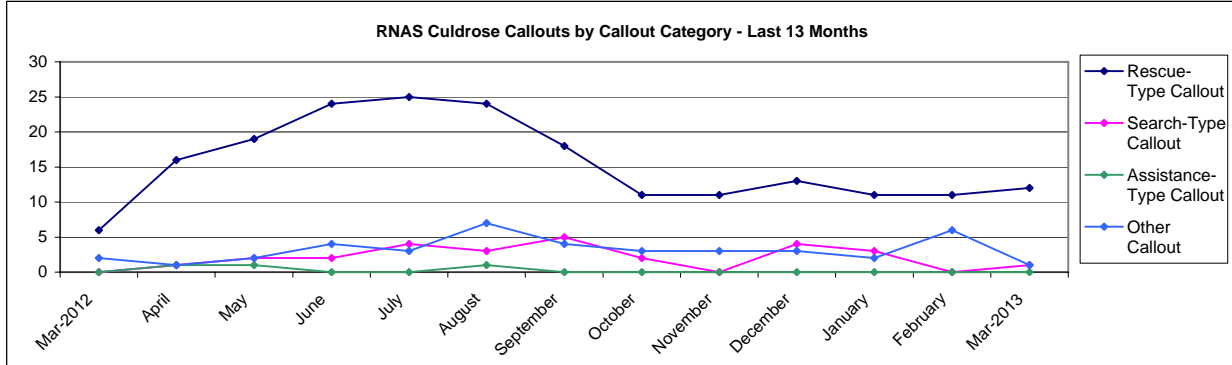
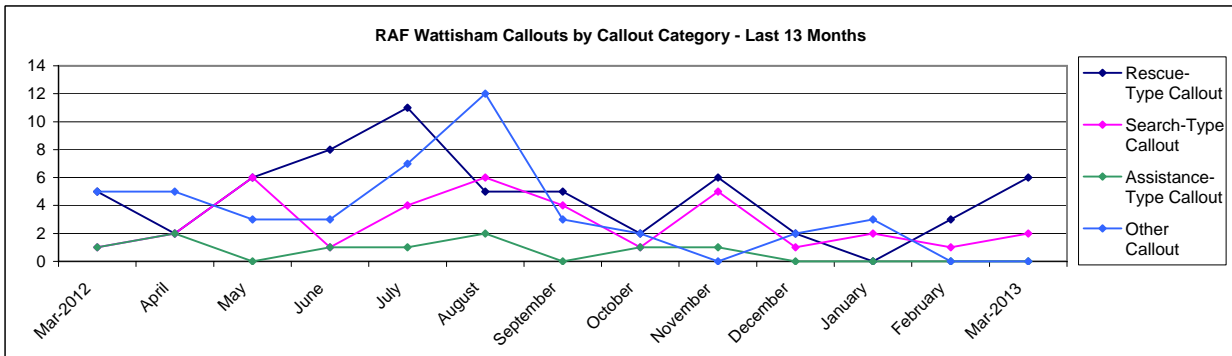
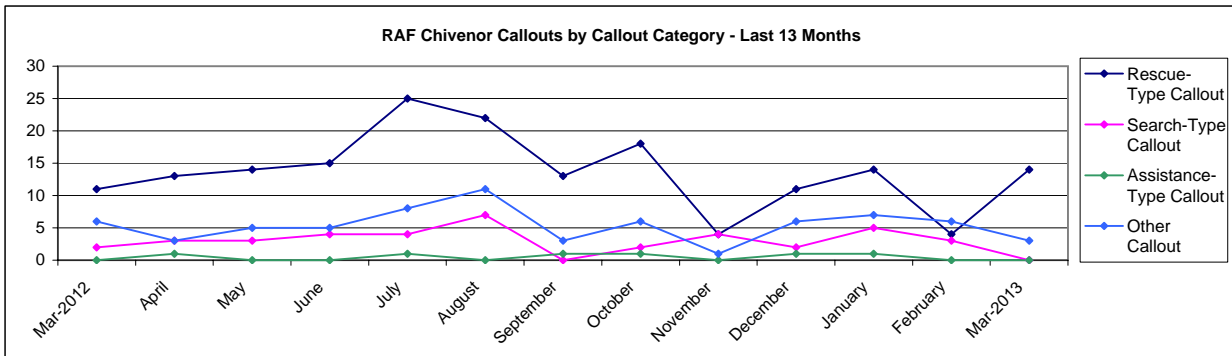


Callouts - UK Helicopters



1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10

Callouts - UK Helicopters



1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10

Callouts - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

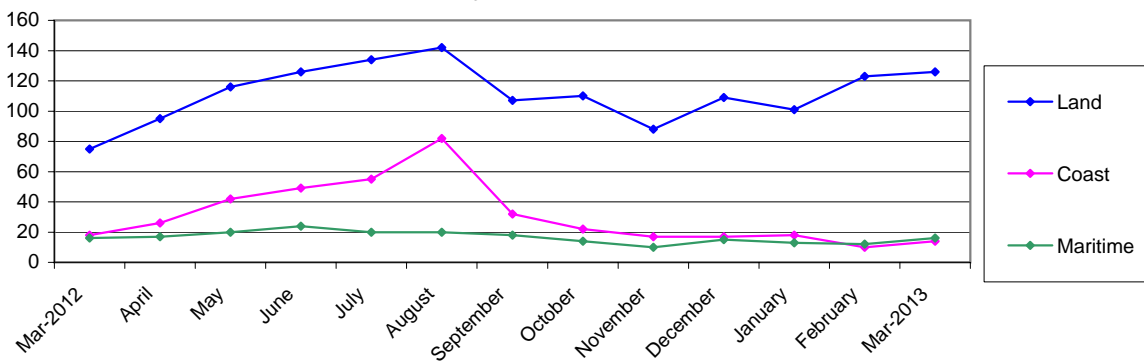
Callouts by Location

| | Land | Coast | Maritime | Total |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Rescue | 6 | 1 | - | 7 |
| Search-Rescue | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| Medrescue | 57 | 6 | 15 | 78 |
| Search-Medrescue | 4 | 1 | - | 5 |
| Medtransfer | 19 | - | - | 19 |
| Recovery | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Search-Recovery | 3 | - | - | 3 |
| Transfer | 4 | - | 1 | 5 |
| Civil Aid | 3 | - | - | 3 |
| Search | 8 | - | - | 8 |
| Top Cover | - | - | - | - |
| Assist | 4 | - | - | 4 |
| Search-Assist | 7 | 1 | - | 8 |
| Recalled | 4 | 2 | - | 6 |
| Not Required | 2 | 3 | - | 5 |
| False Alarm | - | - | - | - |
| Hoax | - | - | - | - |
| Precaution | - | - | - | - |
| Aborted | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Search-Aborted | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Total Callouts | 126 | 14 | 16 | 156 |

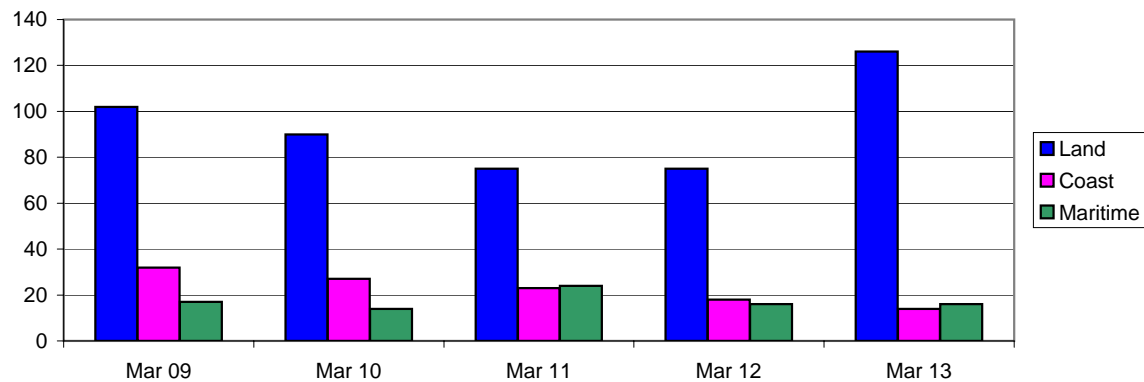
Callouts by Category

| | Aero | Ship | Leisure Craft | Rig | Beacon | Flares | Person | Other | Total |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|------------|
| Rescue | - | - | - | - | - | - | 7 | - | 7 |
| Search-Rescue | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| Medrescue | - | 8 | 1 | 4 | - | - | 64 | 1 | 78 |
| Search-Medrescue | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | 5 |
| Medtransfer | - | - | - | - | - | - | 19 | - | 19 |
| Recovery | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Search-Recovery | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | 3 |
| Transfer | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | 5 |
| Civil Aid | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Search | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8 | - | 8 |
| Top Cover | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Assist | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | 4 |
| Search-Assist | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8 | - | 8 |
| Recalled | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | 6 |
| Not Required | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | 5 |
| False Alarm | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hoax | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Precaution | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Aborted | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Search-Aborted | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Total Callouts | - | 8 | 1 | 4 | - | - | 141 | 2 | 156 |

Callouts by Location - Last 13 Months

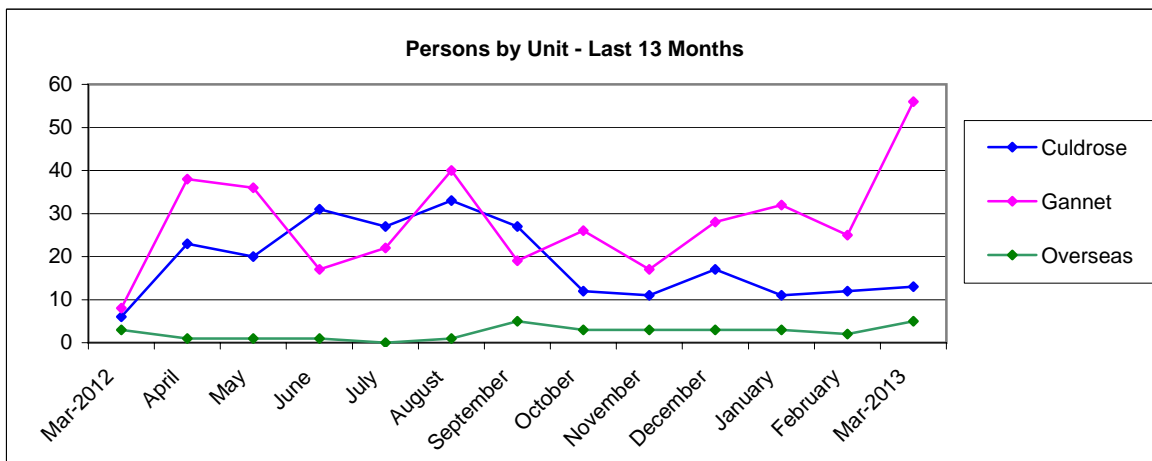
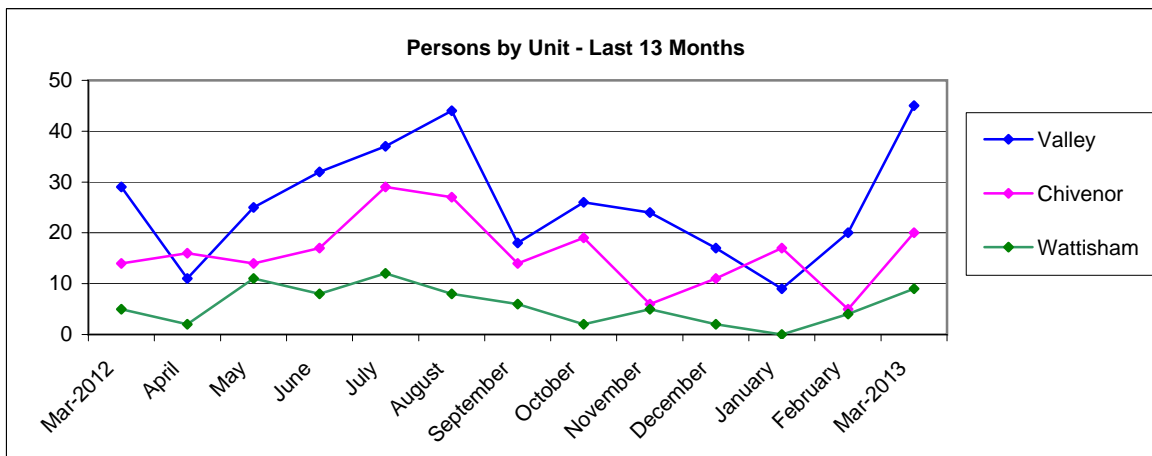
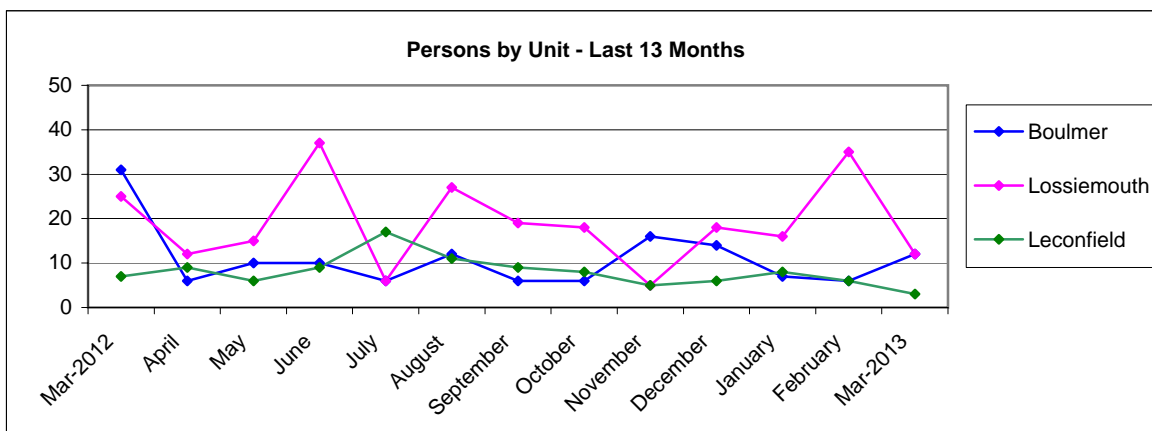


Callouts by Location - Last 5 Years



Persons - Helicopters (UK & Overseas)

| | RAF Boulmer | RAF Lossiemouth | RAF Leconfield | RAF Valley | RAF Chivenor | RAF Wattisham | RAF UK Total | RNAS Cudrose | HMS Gannet | RN Total | UK Other | UK Total | Cyprus | Falklands | Overseas Total |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|----------------|
| Rescue | 1 | 1 | - | 13 | 5 | 2 | 22 | 2 | 16 | 18 | - | 40 | - | - | - |
| Search-Rescue | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - |
| Medrescue | 7 | 9 | 3 | 19 | 12 | 4 | 54 | 9 | 17 | 26 | - | 80 | - | 4 | 4 |
| Search-Medrescue | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | - | 1 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 7 | - | - | - |
| Medtransfer | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 14 | 16 | - | 21 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Recovery | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| Search-Recovery | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| Transfer | - | - | - | 6 | 2 | - | 8 | - | 6 | 6 | - | 14 | - | - | - |
| Total Persons | 12 | 12 | 3 | 45 | 20 | 9 | 101 | 13 | 56 | 69 | - | 170 | - | 5 | 5 |



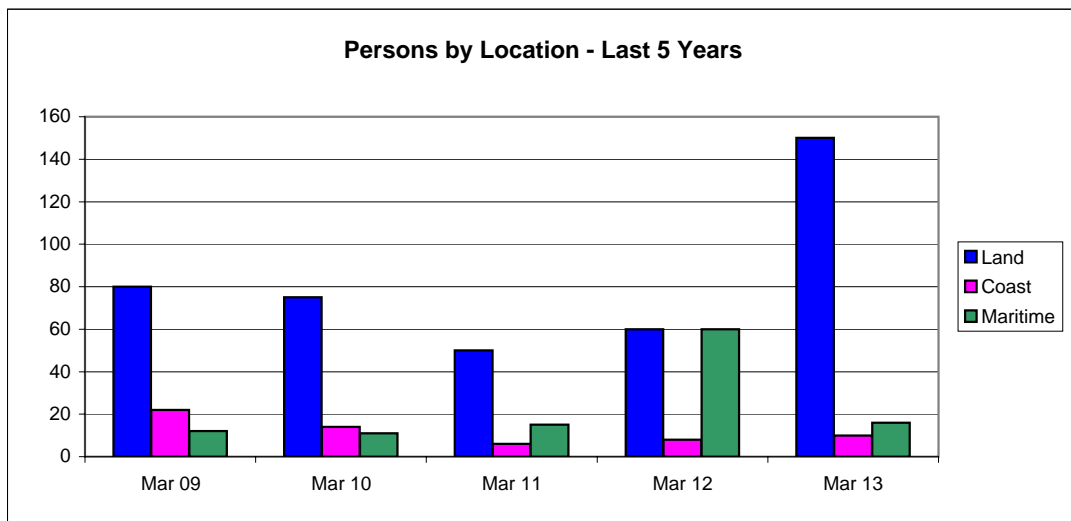
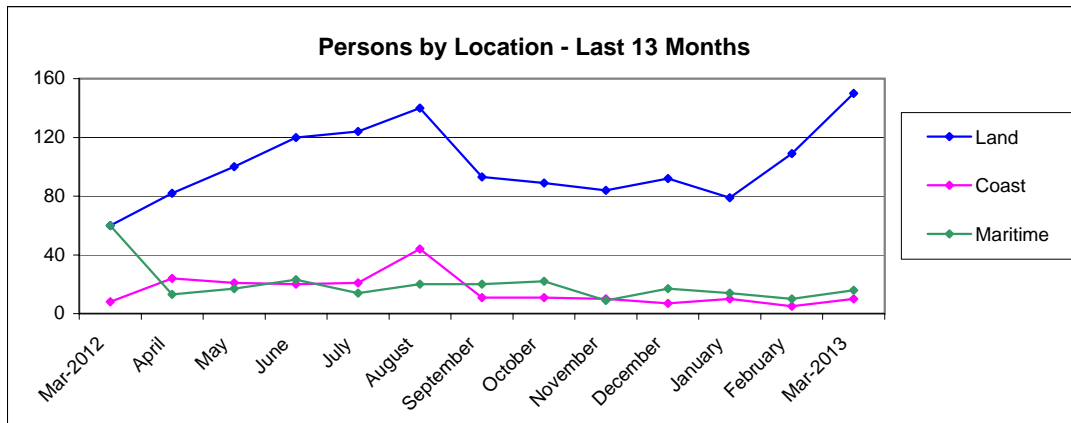
Persons - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

Persons by Callout Location

| | Land | Coast | Maritime | Total |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Rescue | 37 | 3 | - | 40 |
| Search-Rescue | 4 | - | - | 4 |
| Medrescue | 64 | 6 | 15 | 85 |
| Search-Medrescue | 6 | 1 | - | 7 |
| Medtransfer | 22 | - | - | 22 |
| Recovery | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| Search-Recovery | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| Transfer | 13 | - | 1 | 14 |
| Total Persons | 150 | 10 | 16 | 176 |

Persons by Callout Category

| | Aero | Ship | Leisure Craft | Rig | Person | Other | Total |
|----------------------|----------|----------|---------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|
| Rescue | - | - | - | - | 40 | - | 40 |
| Search-Rescue | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | 4 |
| Medrescue | - | 8 | 1 | 4 | 71 | 1 | 85 |
| Search-Medrescue | - | - | - | - | 7 | - | 7 |
| Medtransfer | - | - | - | - | 22 | - | 22 |
| Recovery | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| Search-Recovery | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| Transfer | - | - | - | - | 14 | - | 14 |
| Total Persons | - | 8 | 1 | 4 | 162 | 1 | 176 |



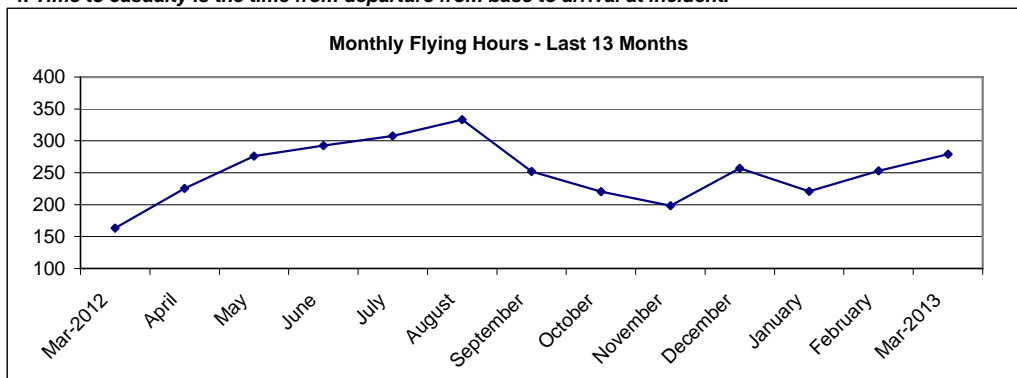
SAR Flying Hours & Mountain Rescue Teams

SAR Flying Hours³

| | Total Flying Hours | Average Flying Hours | Average Time to Casualty ⁴ |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| RAF Boulmer | 26.35 | 2.13 | 0.34 |
| RAF Lossiemouth | 46.23 | 2.54 | 0.33 |
| RAF Leconfield | 7.30 | 1.53 | 0.27 |
| RAF Valley | 46.25 | 1.27 | 0.17 |
| RAF Chivenor | 27.18 | 1.36 | 0.17 |
| RAF Wattisham | 15.00 | 1.52 | 0.42 |
| RNAS Culdrose | 22.16 | 1.35 | 0.17 |
| HMS Gannet | 82.40 | 2.04 | 0.39 |
| UK Other Helicopters | - | - | - |
| Cyprus | - | - | - |
| Falklands | 5.10 | 1.17 | 0.18 |
| Overseas Other Helicopters | - | - | - |
| | 279.17 | 1.54 | 0.28 |

3. Times are expressed in Hours and Minutes.

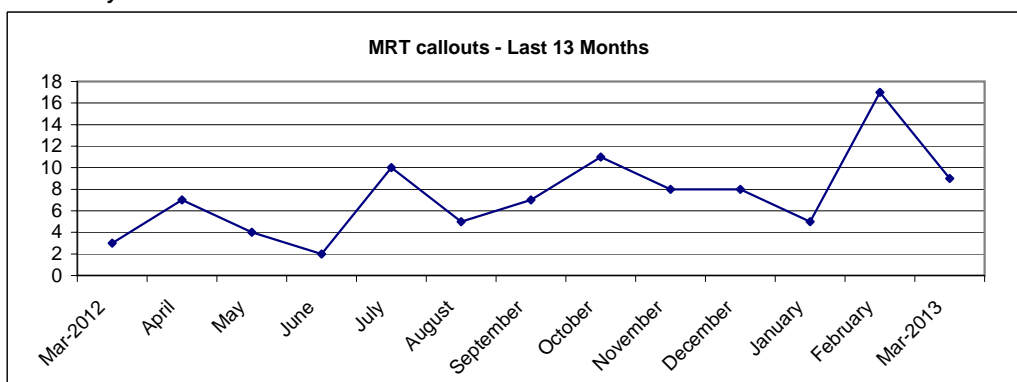
4. Time to casualty is the time from departure from base to arrival at incident.



Mountain Rescue Teams

| | Callouts | Persons | Man Hours |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Lossiemouth ⁵ | 3 | - | 327 |
| Leeming | - | - | - |
| Leuchars | 3 | - | 328 |
| Valley | 3 | 1 | 335 |
| Other | - | - | - |
| Total | 9 | 1 | 990 |

5. Formerly MRT Kinloss



SEARCH AND RESCUE DEFINITIONS

| | | GROUPING |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| 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 |