



Ministry  
of Defence



Military Search and Rescue  
Monthly Statistics  
December 2012

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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 December 2012 there were 128 incidents, resulting in 141 callouts and 116 persons moved. The number of incidents, callouts and persons moved were all higher than in December 2011, and were the highest for any December since 2009.
- The increase in callout numbers is most pronounced for land based callouts (109 in December 2012, compared with 82 in December 2011). There was also a large increase in callouts requested by the ambulance service over the past year (52 in December 2012, compared with 36 in December 2011).
- The unit which responded to the most callouts during December 2012 was HMS Gannet, with 24 callouts. HMS Gannet also had the highest number of persons moved, with 28. For each calendar year between 2006 and 2011, HMS Gannet was the unit with the highest number of callouts.
- The unit with the highest total flying hours this month was RAF Lossiemouth, with over 66 hours flown at an average of just over 3 hours per callout. One callout in particular, involving a fallen walker in the Skye Cullins, involved over 7 hours of flying.
- During December 2012 there were 8 callouts to mountain rescue teams, with a total man hours of 1,190. This is the third highest total man hours for any month during 2012 (July and October were higher). The most notable incident involved searching for a fallen climber in the Skye Cullins (as noted previously), where units from MRT Lossiemouth and MRT Leuchars spent a total of around 800 man hours.

## What is included in this report

This report covers military SAR activities for December 2012. 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 helicopters 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

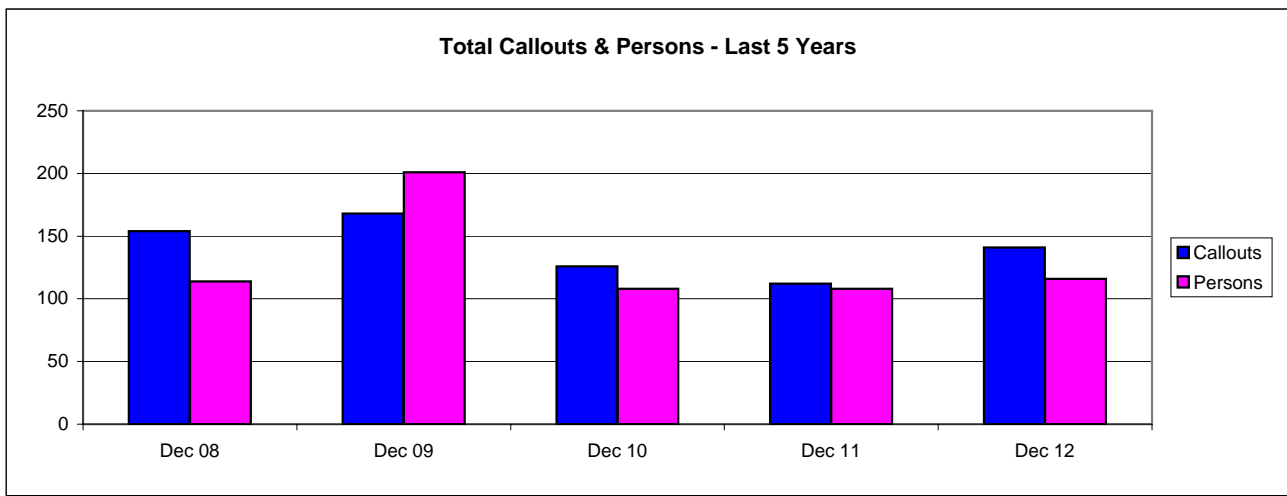
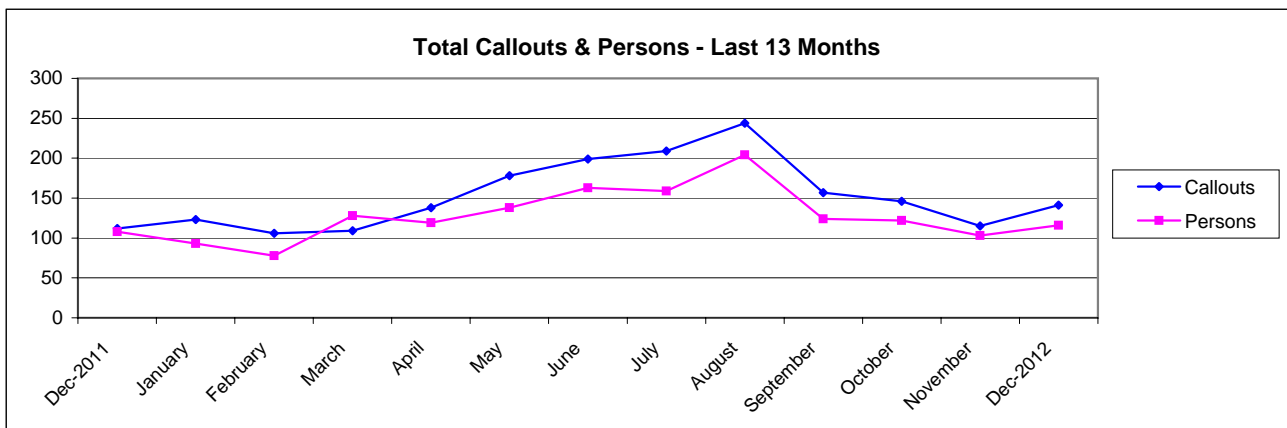
## Current Month

2012	Total Callouts	UK Helicopters	Overseas Helicopters	Mountain Rescue Team	Incidents	Persons Moved
December	141	130	3	8	128	116

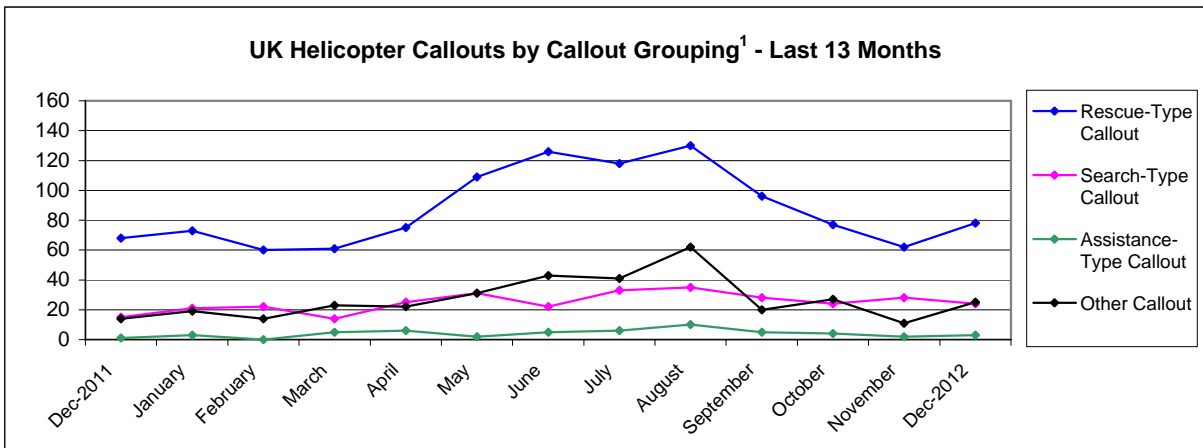
## Previous 12 Months

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
February	106	96	6	4	101	78
January	123	116	-	7	114	93
December	112	98	6	8	109	108

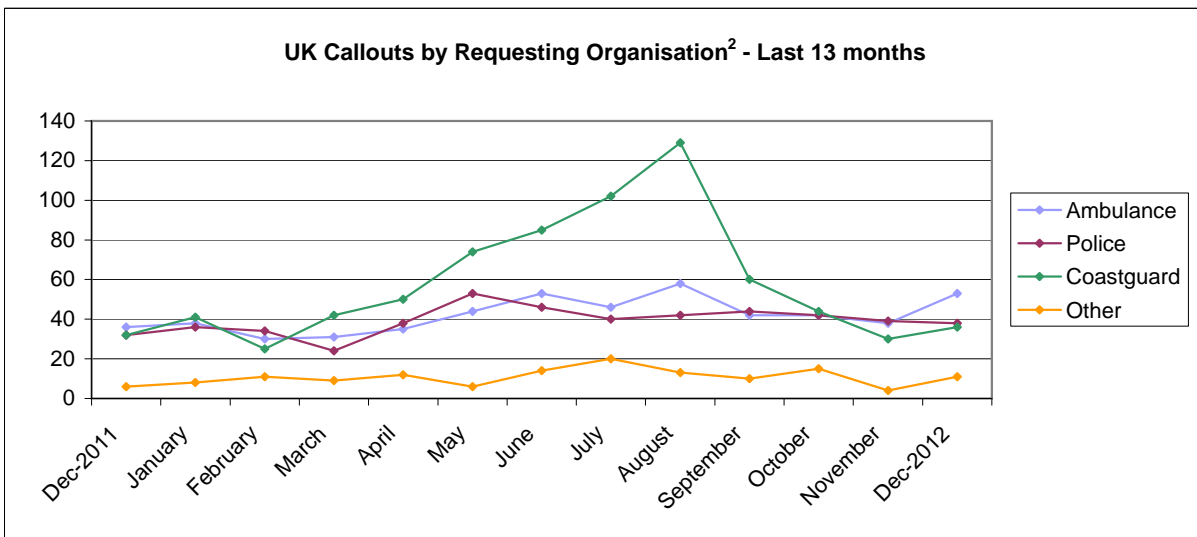
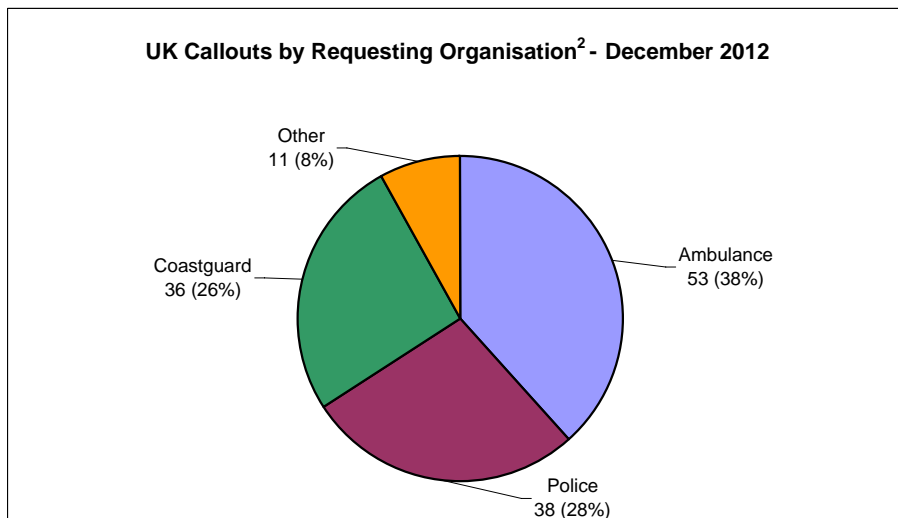
	ARCC Kinloss	RCC Cyprus	RCC Falklands	Total
Callouts	138	-	3	141
Incidents	125	-	3	128
Persons	113	-	3	116



# UK Search And Rescue Summary



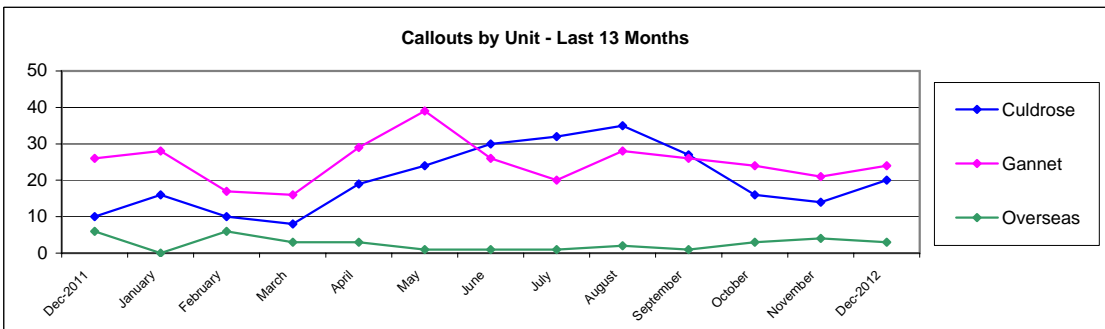
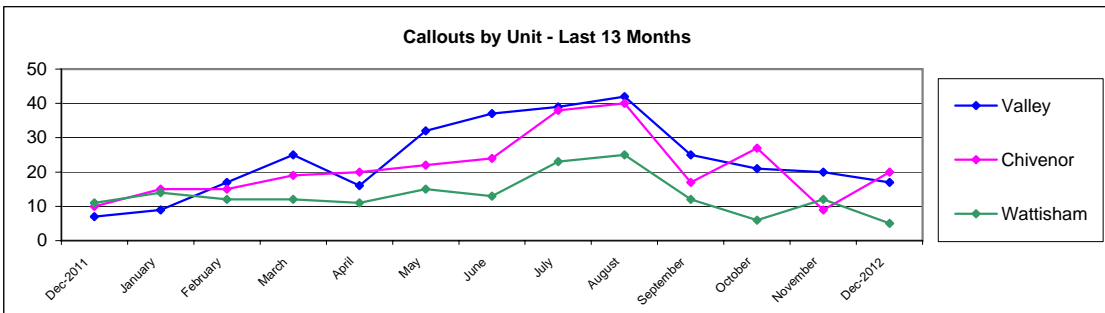
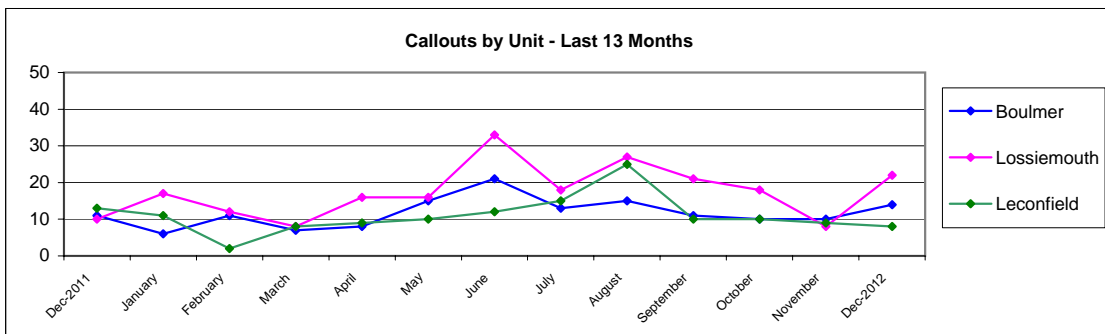
1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10



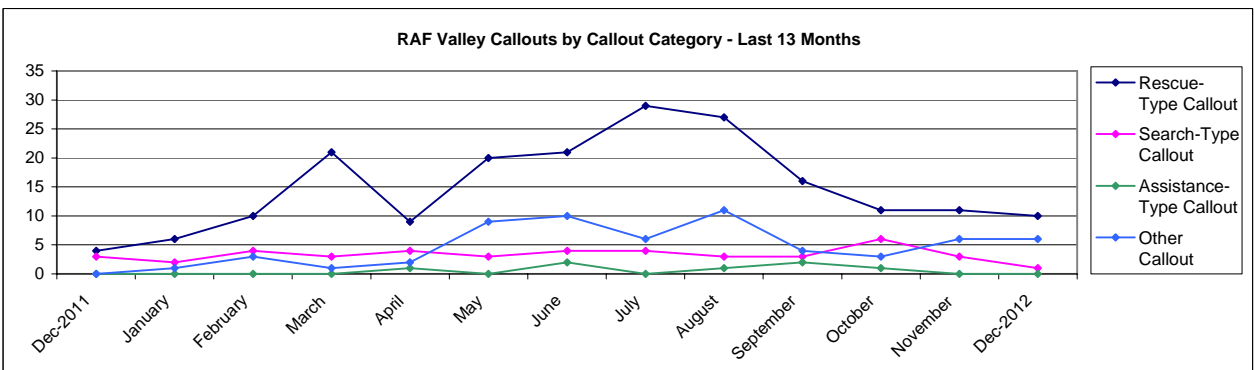
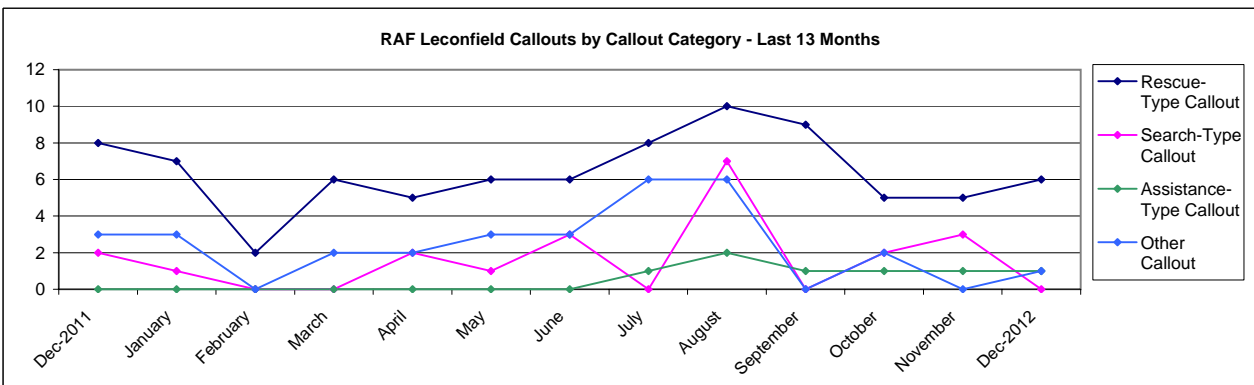
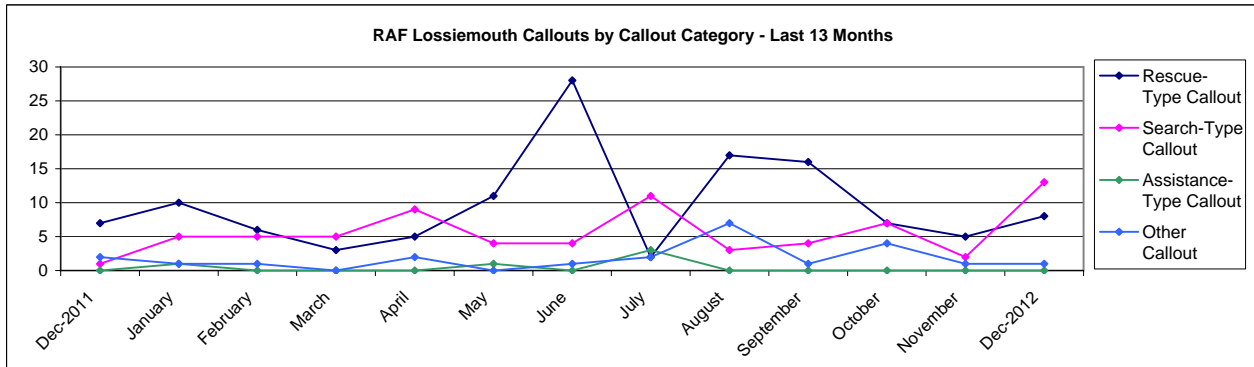
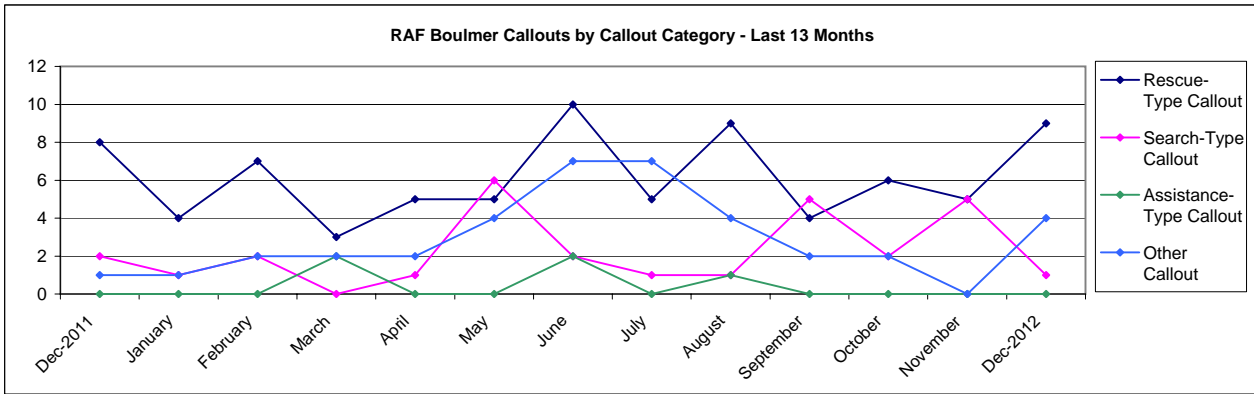
2. The requesting organisation is determined using an automated lookup function which searches for key text within the organisations' name. Within the 'Other' category, there may be a limited number of callouts by either Ambulance, Police or Coastguard due to the automated algorithm used.

## 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	-	1	-	2	1	-	4	1	2	3	-	7	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Medrescue	6	7	4	5	7	2	31	9	8	17	-	48	-	2	2
Search-Medrescue	-	2	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	-
Medtransfer	1	-	2	3	3	-	9	3	8	11	-	20	-	-	-
Recovery	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	1
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search	1	7	-	-	2	1	11	3	1	4	-	15	-	-	-
Top Cover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assist	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Search-Assist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recalled	2	1	1	3	6	-	13	2	1	3	-	16	-	-	-
Not Required	1	-	-	3	-	2	6	1	1	2	-	8	-	-	-
False Alarm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hoax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Precaution	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Aborted	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
<b>Total Callouts</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>



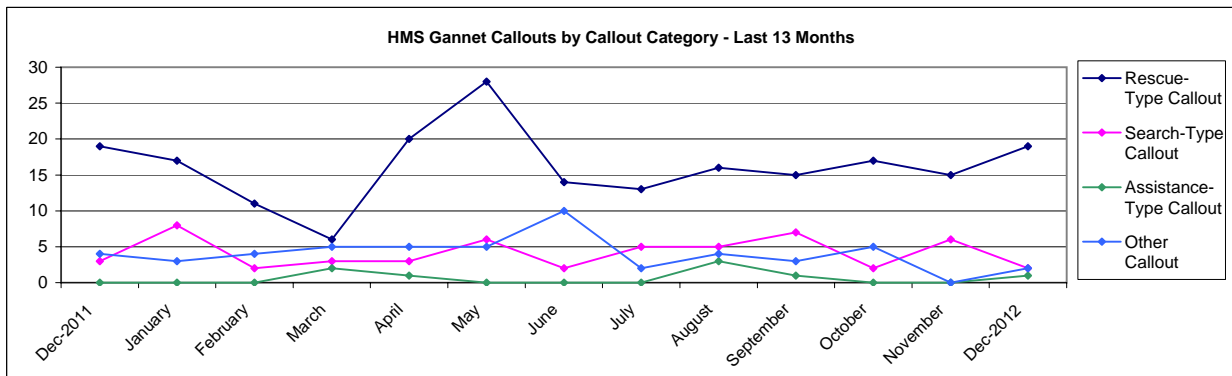
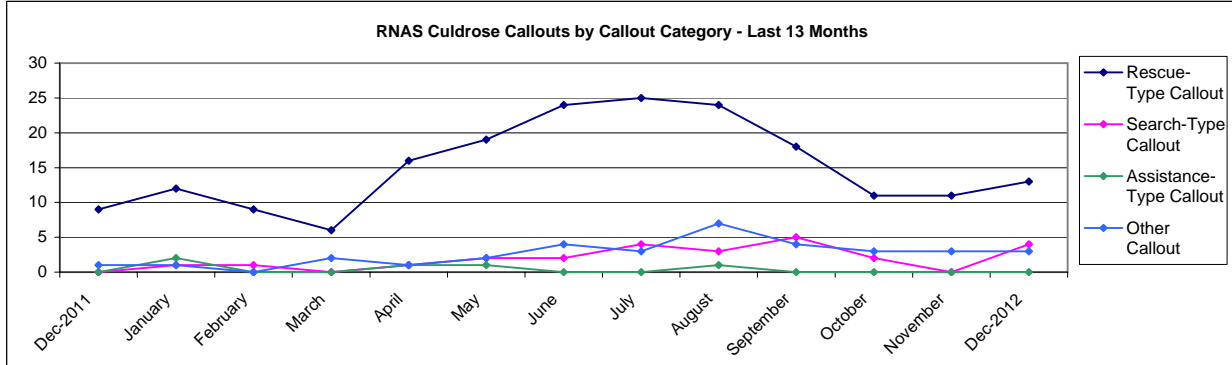
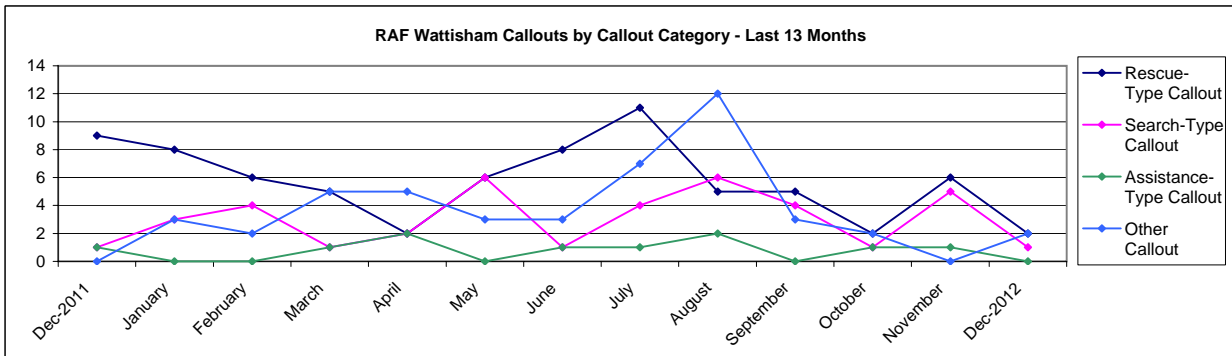
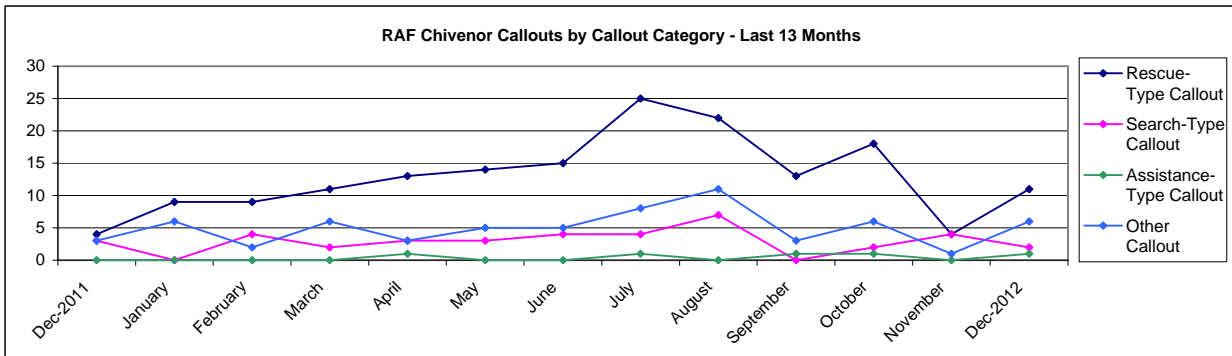
# Callouts - UK Helicopters



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)

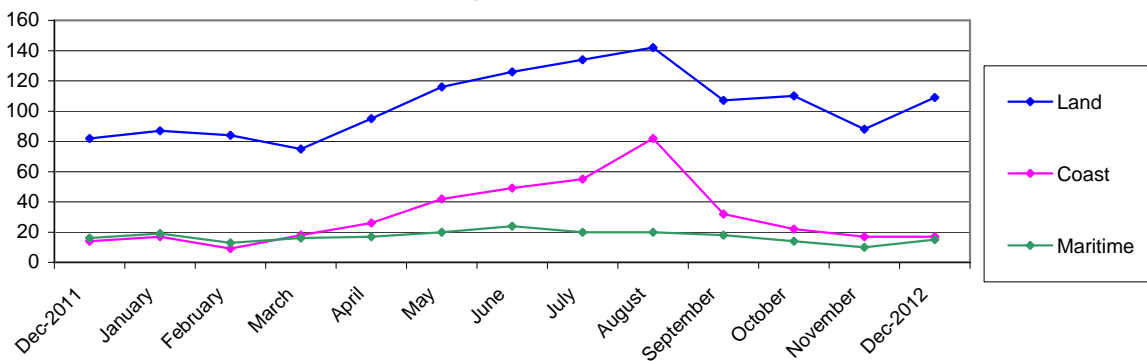
**Callouts by Location**

	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	6	-	1	7
Search-Rescue	2	-	-	2
Medrescue	36	3	11	50
Search-Medrescue	4	-	-	4
Medtransfer	20	-	-	20
Recovery	1	1	-	2
Search-Recovery	2	-	-	2
Transfer	1	-	1	2
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-
Search	9	6	-	15
Top Cover	-	-	-	-
Assist	3	-	-	3
Search-Assist	4	-	-	4
Recalled	13	4	1	18
Not Required	5	3	-	8
False Alarm	-	-	-	-
Hoax	-	-	-	-
Precaution	1	-	-	1
Aborted	-	-	1	1
Search-Aborted	2	-	-	2
<b>Total Callouts</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>141</b>

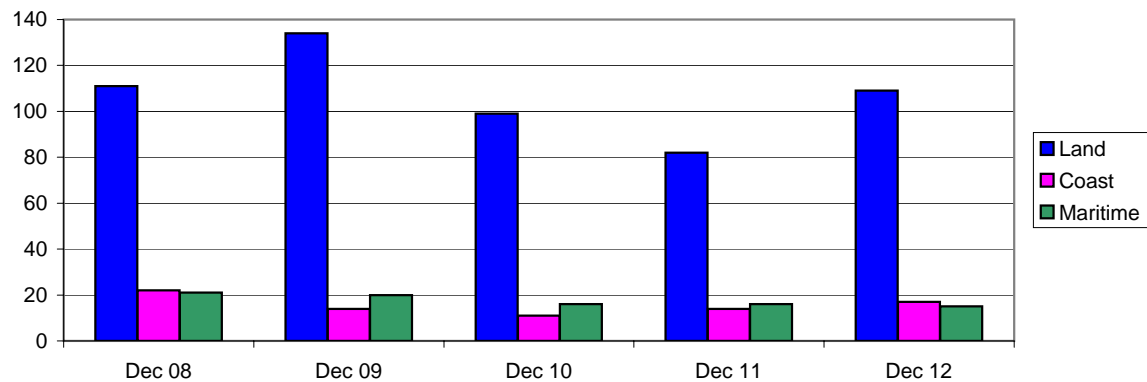
**Callouts by Category**

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Beacon	Flares	Person	Other	Total
Rescue	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	-	7
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Medrescue	-	5	-	6	-	-	39	-	50
Search-Medrescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Medtransfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	20
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Transfer	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search	-	-	-	-	-	1	14	-	15
Top Cover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assist	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Search-Assist	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Recalled	2	1	-	-	-	-	15	-	18
Not Required	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	8
False Alarm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hoax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Precaution	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Aborted	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Search-Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
<b>Total Callouts</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>141</b>

**Callouts by Location - Last 13 Months**

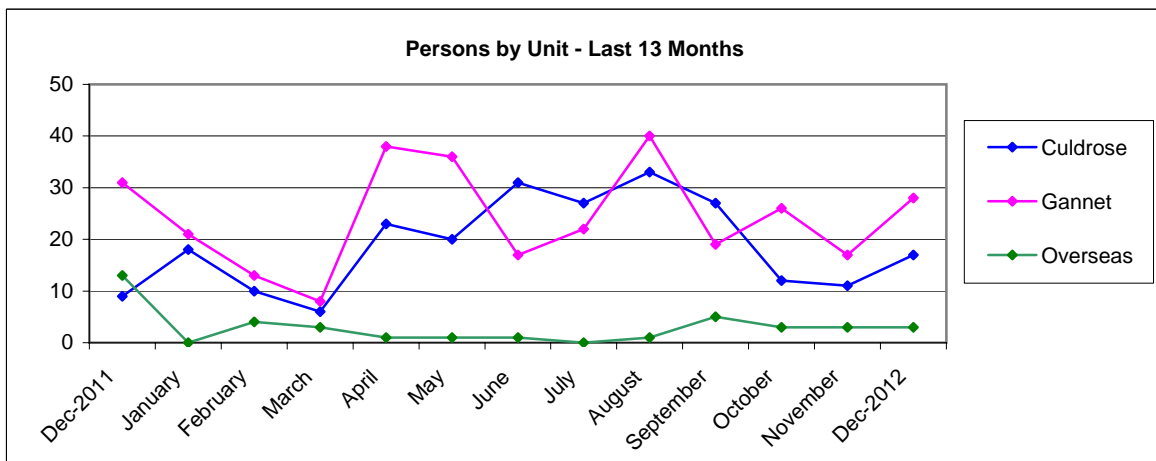
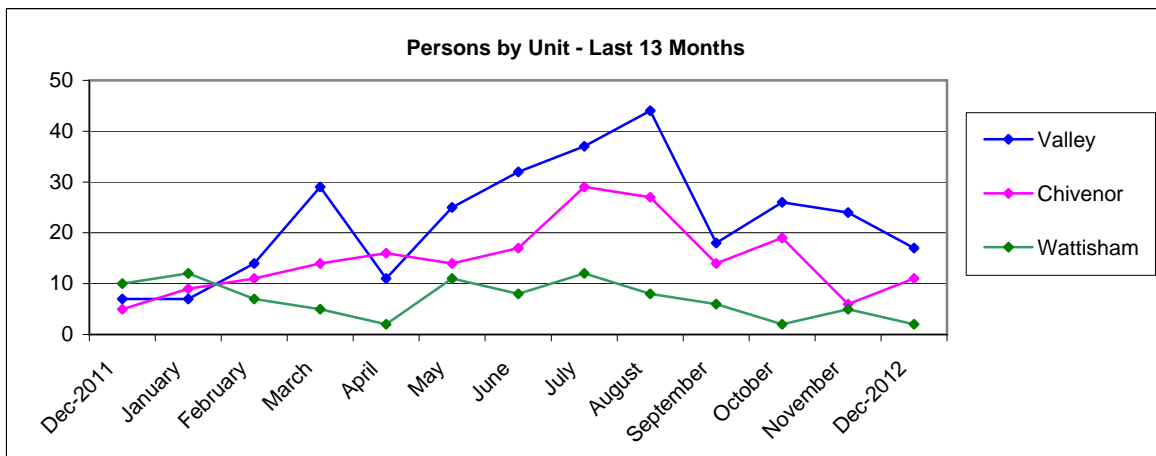
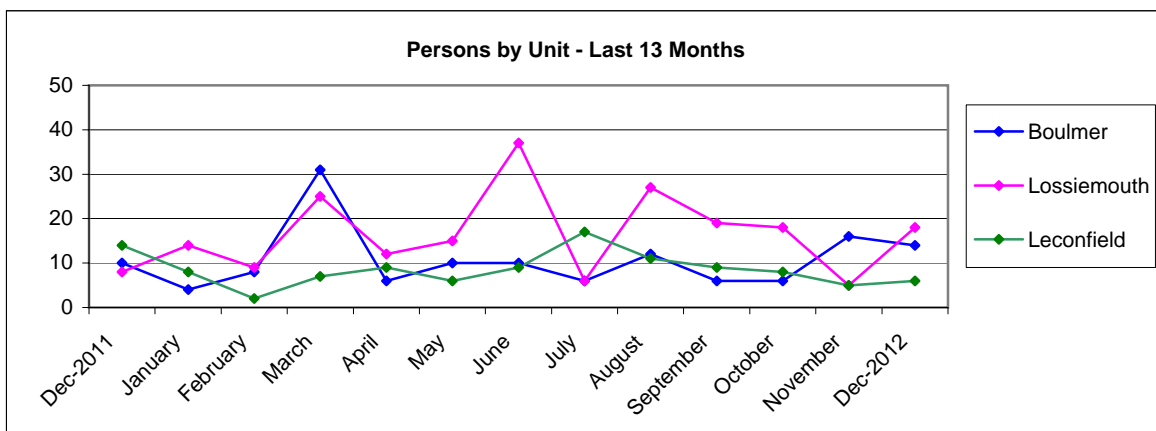


**Callouts by Location - Last 5 Years**



# Persons - Helicopters (UK & Overseas)

	RAF Boulmer	RAF Lossiemouth	RAF Leconfield	RAF Valley	RAF Chivenor	RAF Wattisham	RAF UK Total	RNAS Culdrose	HMS Gannet	RN Total	UK Other	UK Total	Cyprus	Falklands	Overseas Total
Rescue	-	6	-	4	2	-	12	1	5	6	-	18	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Medrescue	8	7	5	7	7	2	36	12	9	21	-	57	-	2	2
Search-Medrescue	-	2	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	-
Medtransfer	4	-	1	5	2	-	12	3	12	15	-	27	-	-	-
Recovery	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	1
<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>



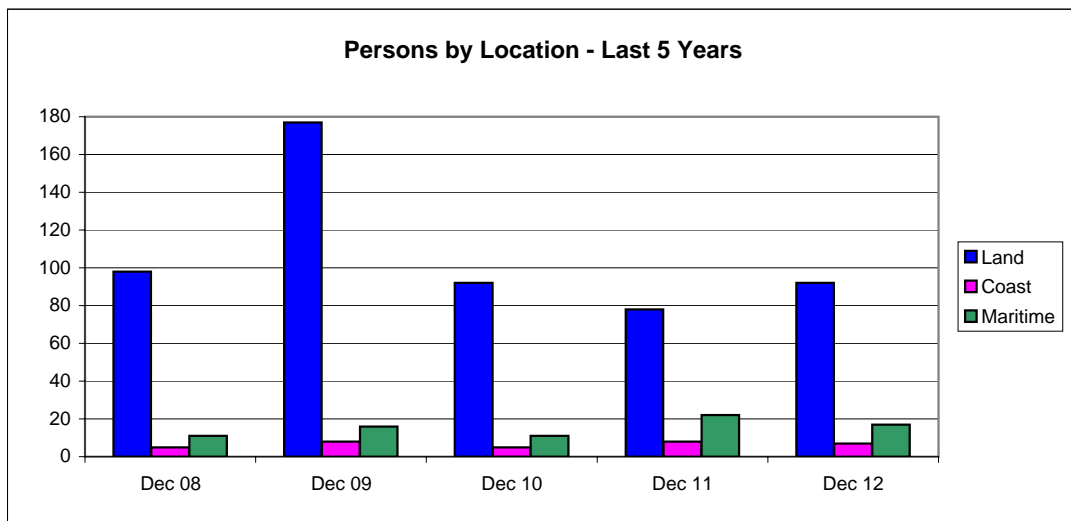
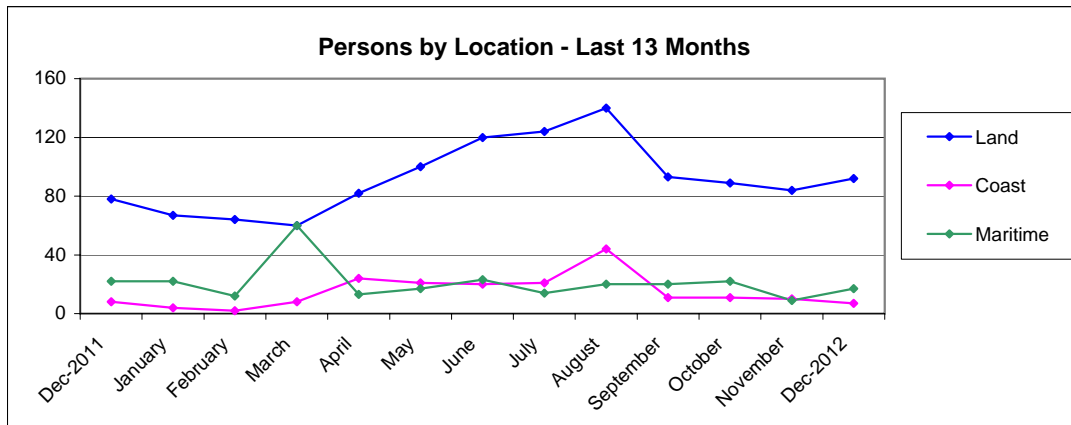
## Persons - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

**Persons by Callout Location**

	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	13	-	5	18
Search-Rescue	2	-	-	2
Medrescue	42	6	11	59
Search-Medrescue	4	-	-	4
Medtransfer	27	-	-	27
Recovery	1	1	-	2
Search-Recovery	2	-	-	2
Transfer	1	-	1	2
<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>116</b>

**Persons by Callout Category**

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Person	Other	Total
Rescue	-	5	-	-	13	-	18
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Medrescue	-	5	-	6	48	-	59
Search-Medrescue	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Medtransfer	-	-	-	-	27	-	27
Recovery	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Transfer	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>116</b>



# SAR Flying Hours & Mountain Rescue Teams

## SAR Flying Hours<sup>3</sup>

	Total Flying Hours	Average Flying Hours	Average Time to Casualty <sup>4</sup>
RAF Boulmer	30.25	2.10	0.39
RAF Lossiemouth	66.17	3.01	0.33
RAF Leconfield	22.15	2.47	0.55
RAF Valley	26.35	1.34	0.23
RAF Chivenor	24.58	1.15	0.18
RAF Wattisham	7.45	1.33	0.32
RNAS Culdrose	24.35	1.14	0.19
HMS Gannet	49.05	2.03	0.38
UK Other Helicopters	-	-	-
Cyprus	-	-	-
Falklands	5.00	1.40	0.26
Overseas Other Helicopters	-	-	-
	<b>256.55</b>	<b>1.56</b>	<b>0.30</b>

3. Times are expressed in Hours and Minutes.

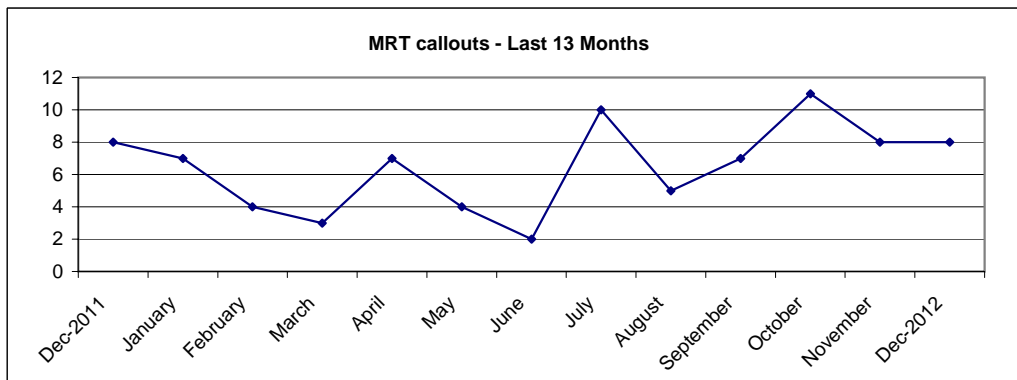
4. Time to casualty is the time from departure from base to arrival at incident.



## Mountain Rescue Teams

	Callouts	Persons	Man Hours
Lossiemouth <sup>5</sup>	4	-	721
Leeming	2	-	50
Leuchars	1	-	399
Valley	1	-	20
Other	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1190</b>

5. Formerly MRT Kinloss



## 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