The UK Hydrographic Office’s Public Task is:

a. SATISFY THOSE SOLAS OBLIGATIONS DELEGATED TO UKHO.
Source, assess, analyse, archive and maintain hydrographic, oceanographic, geophysical, astronomical and regulatory data required to improve maritime safety, protect the marine environment and maritime trade by the preparation, issue and updating of those charts and publications required for carriage compliance in all waters of UK national responsibility insofar as they are navigable by vessels subject to the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea or the Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations, together with the provision of the Radio Navigational Warnings service for UK waters.

b. SUPPORT TO THE UK NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY (NSS).
Improve the effectiveness of UK national defence and security by providing the Royal Navy and other UK Government defence and security customers with the hydrographic, oceanographic, geophysical and astronomical data, products, services and advice which they request, when their requirements cannot be satisfied by the provision of an existing or planned product.

c. UK GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION AND ADVICE TO UK GOVERNMENT
Represent the United Kingdom as experts in the fields of hydrography, oceanography, marine cartography, maritime boundaries & limits and computational astronomy, including within the International Hydrographic Organization and its associated bodies. Provide authoritative advice to other parts of UK Government on matters relating to these fields. Such advice will specifically include advice on hydrographic surveying & charting and applications to dump & dredge at sea, advice and support to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on the UK Civil Hydrography Programme and advice to the public on UKHO charts and publications.

d. OTHER LEGAL OBLIGATIONS WHICH FALL TO UKHO AS A PUBLIC BODY
Comply with all relevant legislation including the Public Records Act (including as a Place of Deposit for hydrographic records) and the INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community) Regulations 2009.