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2014 Quarter 3

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This report covers military Search and Rescue (SAR) activities for 2014 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 occuring 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 five years, quarterly callout numbers have averaged 490.

Key Points and Trends

• Between July and September 2014, military Search and Rescue units attended 609 incidents, resulting in 633 callouts and 528 persons moved (Table 1). The numbers of incidents and callouts were higher than 2013 Q3.

• The unit which attended the most callouts this quarter was RAF Valley, with 130 callouts (Table 4). RAF Chivenor was the second highest, with 107 callouts. There were two other units with over 80 callouts each: HMS Gannet with 89, RNAS Culdrose with 88.

• The unit which moved the highest number of persons this quarter was RAF Valley, with 123 (Table 6). RAF Chivenor was the second highest, with 98 persons moved.

• The most common type of callout this quarter was Medrescue, with 288 (45% of all callouts). Medrescues also involved the highest number of persons moved, with 302 (57% of all persons moved). These figures include Mountain Rescue Team callouts.

• The majority (65%) of callouts this quarter were to land-based incidents (Table 3). Callouts on land and coast both show a strong seasonal pattern with a dip in callout numbers in Q1 each year, increasing again in Q3. Maritime callouts show less seasonality, with no clear peaks during the year.

• In 2014 Q3, 98% of callouts were to civilian incidents and 2% were to military incidents (Figure 3).

Further Information

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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.

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What is included in this report?

This report covers military SAR activities for 2014 Quarter 3. It includes details of the activities of UK military SAR helicopters, RAF SAR helicopters operating in Cyprus and the Falkland Islands and military Mountain Rescue Teams. 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:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/military-search-and-rescue-monthly-statistics-index
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/military-search-and-rescue-annual-statistics-index

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 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 figures include people who are moved from a hostile environment to a safe environment, or to a medical facility to receive urgent medical attention. They also include individuals moved 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 for Cyprus and the Falklands is provided by ARCC Kinloss but checked directly with the overseas units to ensure that there are no missing records. All data is validated and checked by Defence Economics on receipt. Further details are available in the 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 Defence Economics' reports meet these requirements.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/military-search-and-rescue-annual-background-quality-report

Introduction

Military Search and Rescue

The military Search and Rescue (SAR) service exists primarily to assist military personnel in difficulty, but 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 5). 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 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.associationofairambulances.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 2014 Q3. In 2014 Q3 there were 633 callouts, 609 incidents and 528 persons moved. These figures reflect the fact that Q3 is the busiest time of year for Search and Rescue teams, with activity particularly high in July and August.

Table 2 shows the quarterly incidents, callouts and persons moved since 2004 Q3. For the first half of the last decade the number of callouts increased year-on-year, peaking in 2009. Since then callout numbers have fallen and in recent years there has been a return to the long-term average.

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. This is due to more people being active around the coastline and in the mountain regions of the UK.

Table 3 shows the location and category of callouts in 2014 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.

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 types of distress signals, and 'person' for an individual not on any of the aforementioned structures. The majority of callouts are generally categorised as 'person'.

Figure 2 shows the locations of callouts over the past five years. The majority of callouts are usually on land, averaging 68% 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 a boat, which does not depend on the season.

1. Search and Rescue Summary

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 involves assisting civilian casualties. During 2014 Q3, 98% of callouts were to civilians.

Figure 4 shows UK callouts over the past 5 years grouped according to the categories shown on page 22 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 59% of all callouts over the past five years. These show a seasonal pattern, with the peak generally coming 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 2014 Q3. These are the organisations that initially requested the assistance of a military SAR unit. The coastguard requested 46% of UK callouts during 2014 Q3, more than the police or ambulance services.

Figure 6 shows a time series over the past five years. 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 a dip in Q1 . There is less of a seasonal pattern to police or ambulance requested callouts. These type of callouts are generally responding to road traffic accidents, missing persons, or transfers between hospitals, which broadly occur equally throughout the year.

Table 1 UK & Overseas Callouts, Incidents and Persons Moved, 2014 Q3

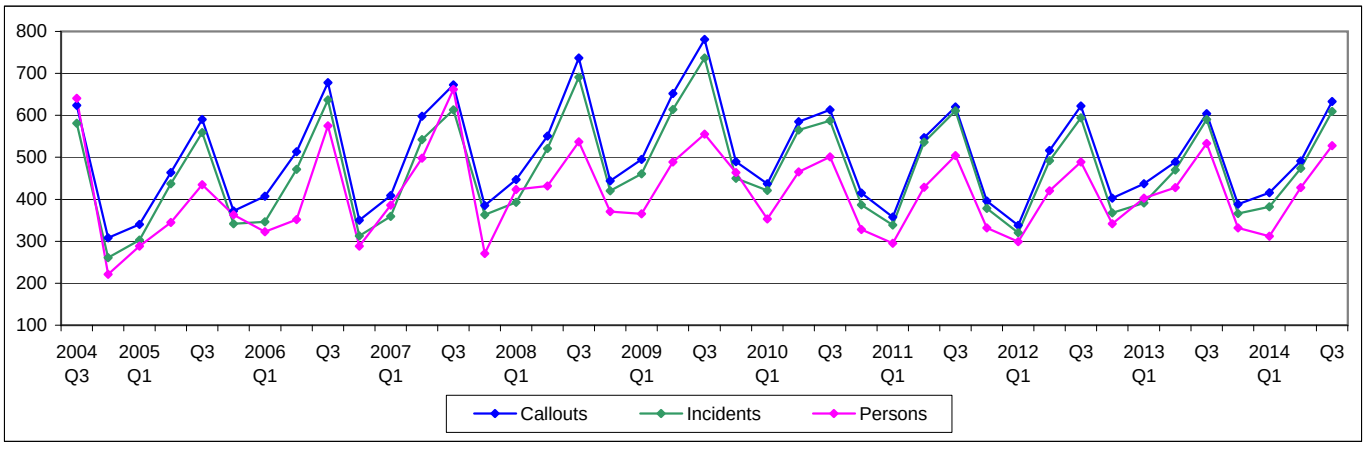
		Total Callouts	UK Helicopters	Overseas Helicopters	Mountain Rescue	Incidents	Persons Moved
2014	Jul	**217**	209	5	3	207	179
	Aug	**247**	243	3	1	238	219
	Sep	**169**	164	-	5	164	130
2014	**Q3**	**633**	**616**	**8**	**9**	**609**	**528**

1. Search and Rescue Summary

Table 2 UK & Overseas Incidents, Callouts and Persons Moved, 2004 Q3 to 2014 Q3

	Incidents			Callouts			Persons Moved		
	All	UK	Overseas	All	UK	Overseas	All	UK	Overseas
2004 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	492	486	6	516	510	6	420	417	3
Q3	594	579	15	622	606	16	489	481	8
Q4	368	357	11	403	392	11	342	332	10
2013 Q1	391	380	11	437	424	13	403	393	10
Q2	470	457	13	489	474	15	428	415	13
Q3	590	582	8	604	596	8	533	527	6
Q4	366	358	8	388	380	8	332	325	7
2014 Q1	382	368	14	416	402	14	312	288	24
Q2	474	459	15	491	476	15	428	417	11
Q3	609	601	8	633	625	8	528	520	8

Figure 1 UK & Overseas Callouts, Incidents and Persons Moved, 2004 Q3 to 2014 Q3



1. Search and Rescue Summary

Table 3 UK & Overseas Callouts by Location and Category, 2014 Q3

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Beacon	Flares	Person	Other	**Total**
Land	14	-	-	-	1	1	394	-	**410**
Coast	1	1	7	1	-	1	147	-	**158**
Maritime	-	31	17	15	1	1	-	-	**65**
Total	**15**	**32**	**24**	**16**	**2**	**3**	**541**	**-**	**633**

Figure 2 UK & Overseas Callouts by Location, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

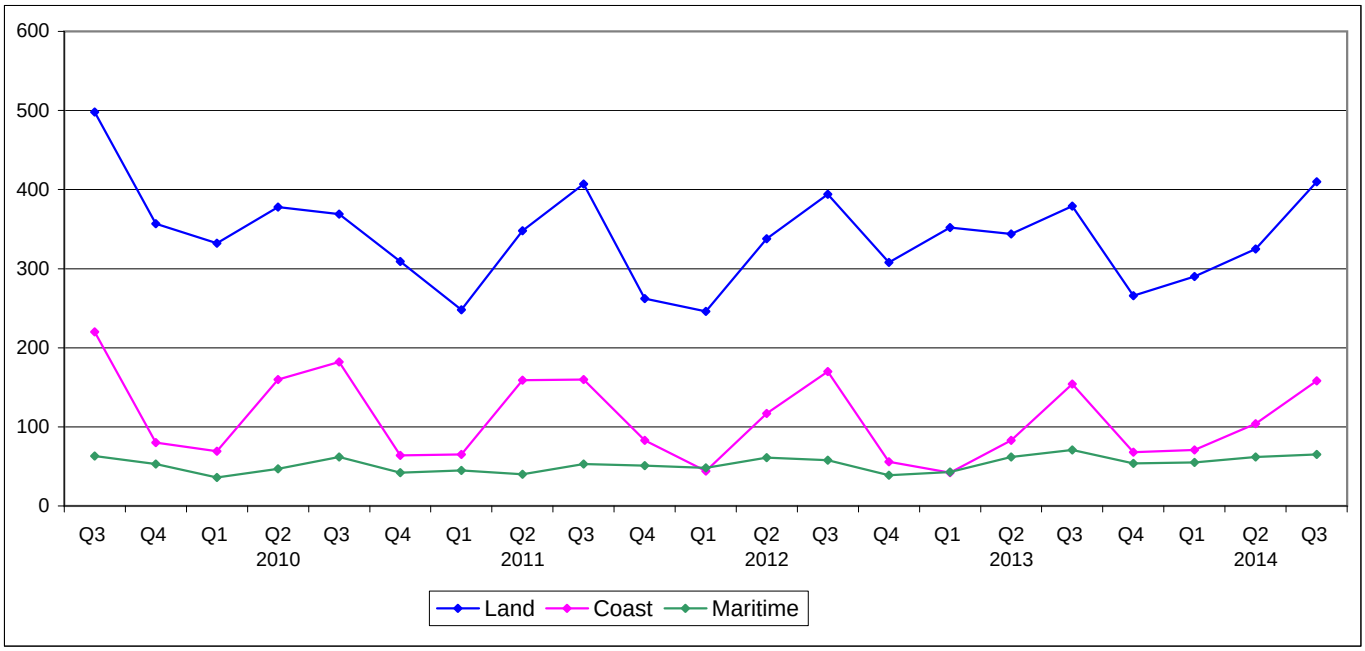
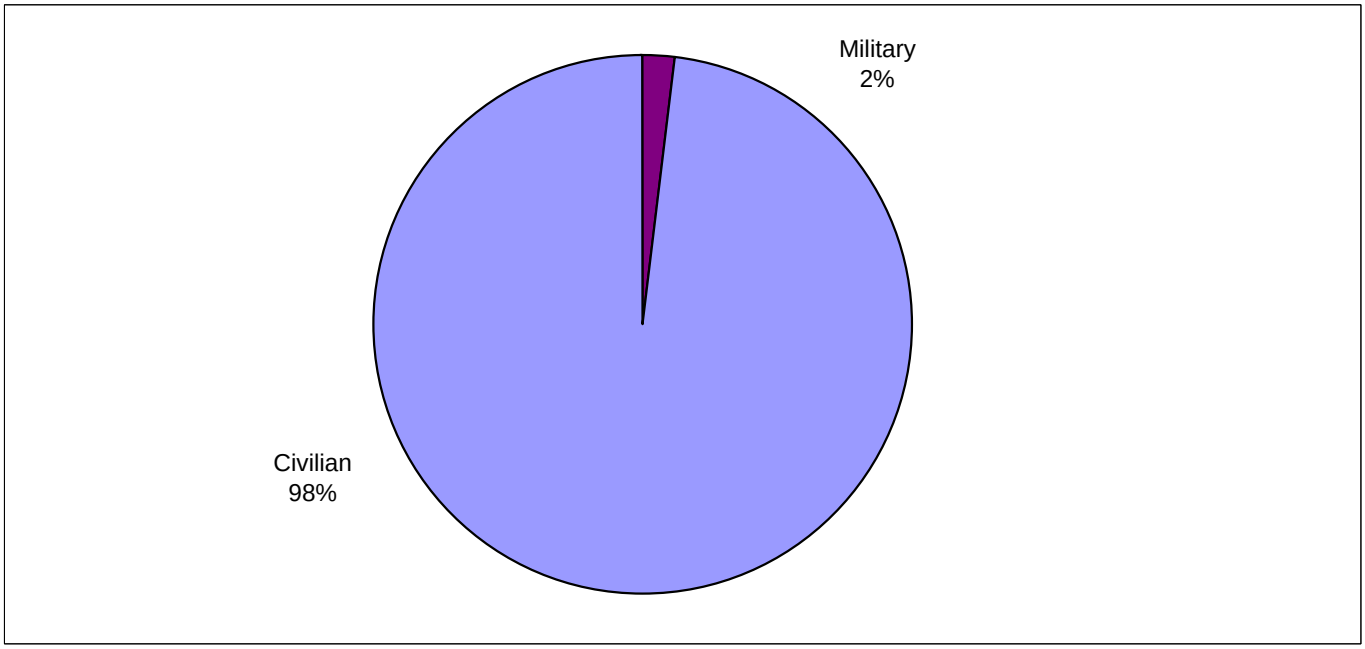
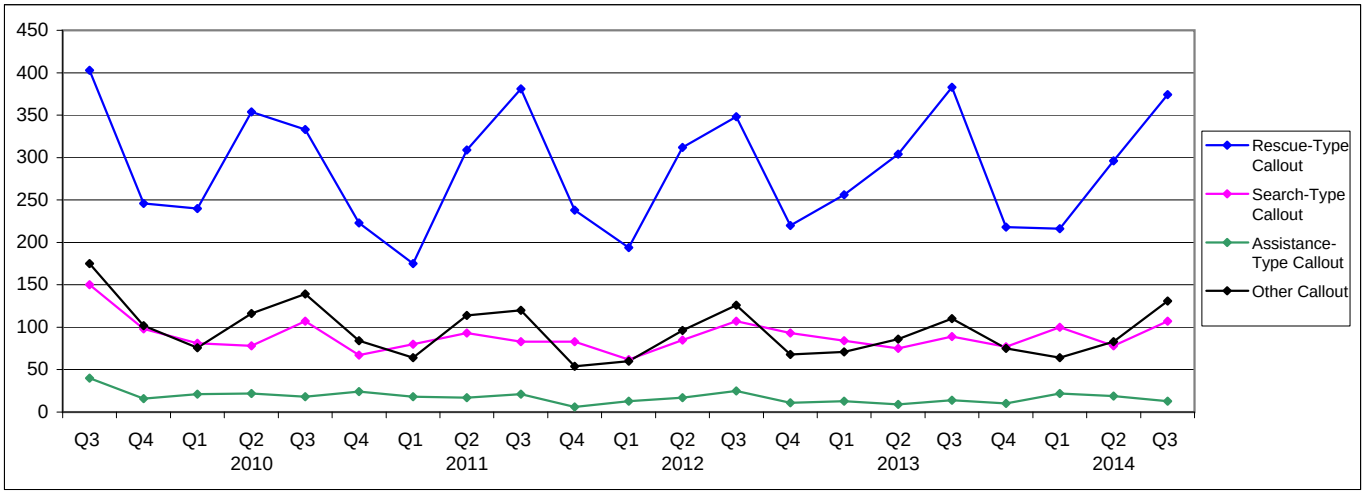


Figure 3 UK & Overseas Callouts by Civilian or Military, 2014 Q3



1. Search and Rescue Summary

Figure 4 UK Callouts by Callout Grouping, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3



1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 22

Figure 5 UK Callouts by Requesting Organisation, 2014 Q3

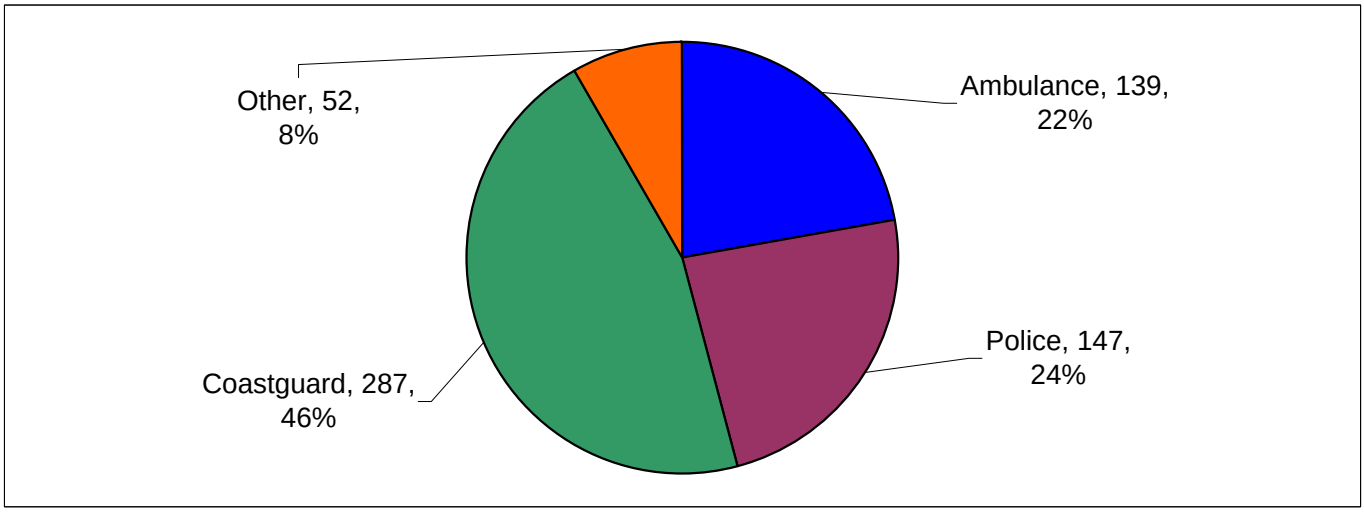
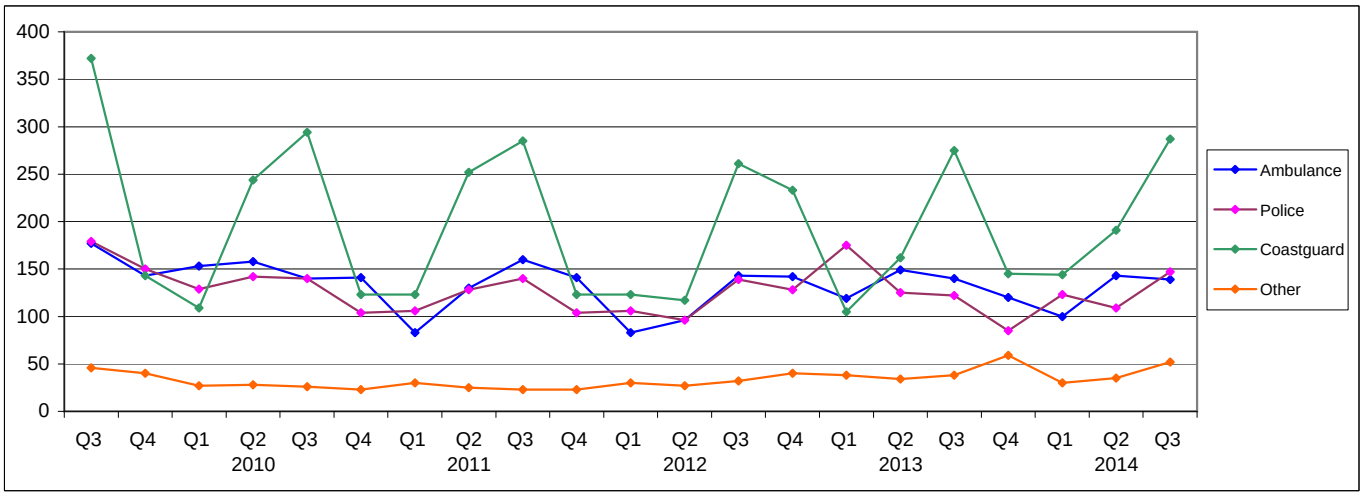


Figure 6 UK Callouts by Requesting Organisation, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3



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 in 2014 Q3 by both unit and assistance type. The units responding to the most callouts in 2014 Q3 were RAF Valley and RAF Chivenor, with 130 and 107 callouts respectively.

The assistance type with the most helicopter callouts during 2014 Q3 was Medrescue, with 286 callouts. This represents 46% of all helicopter callouts during the quarter. Medrescues involve moving an injured person to a medical facility, and generally account for a large proportion of the work of the SAR units

Figures 7a, 7b and 7c show the number of callouts by unit over the past five years. The units responding to the highest number of callouts are HMS Gannet (averaging 83 per quarter over the past five years), RAF Valley (averaging 76) and RAF Chivenor (averaging 71), which generally cover the Scottish Highlands, Snowdonia National Park, and south west England and south Wales respectively.

Most units show some seasonality in their callout numbers, although this is most pronounced for RAF Chivenor and RNAS Culdrose (both covering the south west of England), and RAF Valley (covering north Wales). These regions typically see a large increase of activity during the summer months, both around the coast and inland.

Figures 8a to 8h show the number of callouts for each helicopter unit over the past five years by the callout groupings shown on page 22 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.

Table 5 presents flying times for each helicopter unit. Total flying hours is a measure of the total time spent flying whilst on SAR callouts during the quarter, while 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 total flying hours this quarter was RAF Valley, with over 153 hours flown, closely followed by RAF Gannet, with over 151 hours flown. The two units with the highest average flying hours per callout were RAF Lossiemouth, with an average of 1 hour 50 minutes, and RAF Boulmer, with an average of 1 hour 48 minutes.

Figures 9a to 9c show flying hours by unit over the past five years. There is usually a strong correlation between callout numbers and total flying hours, although this can be affected by significant callouts which can often involve many hours searching. RAF Lossiemouth and HMS Gannet often have high flying hours, as these units typically respond to callouts in remote regions in Scotland, which can take longer to reach than callouts within some of the other units' response areas.

2. Search and Rescue Helicopter Callouts

Table 4 UK & Overseas Callouts by Unit and Assistance Type, 2014 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	2	2	9	9	2	27	2	5	7	-	34	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	1	5	2	3	2	1	14	1	4	5	-	19	1	-	1
Medrescue	23	31	20	74	63	9	220	38	28	66	-	286	-	-	-
Search-Medrescue	3	3	1	4	-	-	11	-	6	6	-	17	-	1	1
Medtransfer	-	2	2	1	4	5	14	22	10	32	-	46	-	4	4
Recovery	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	1	2	3	-	5	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	3	-	-	-
Transfer	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search	6	5	2	11	6	8	38	8	10	18	-	56	-	-	-
Top Cover	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Assist	1	1	2	1	1	-	6	1	1	2	-	8	1	1	2
Search-Assist	-	-	1	2	1	-	4	-	2	2	-	6	-	-	-
Recalled	9	11	11	16	14	9	70	9	13	22	-	92	-	-	-
Not Required	3	1	2	2	5	-	13	4	5	9	-	22	-	-	-
False Alarm	2	1	2	2	-	-	7	1	-	1	-	8	-	-	-
Hoax	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Precaution	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Aborted	1	1	-	2	2	-	6	-	1	1	-	7	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total Callouts	**52**	**66**	**48**	**130**	**107**	**36**	**439**	**88**	**89**	**177**	**-**	**616**	**2**	**6**	**8**

Figure 7a UK & Overseas Callouts for Boulmer, Lossiemouth & Leconfield, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

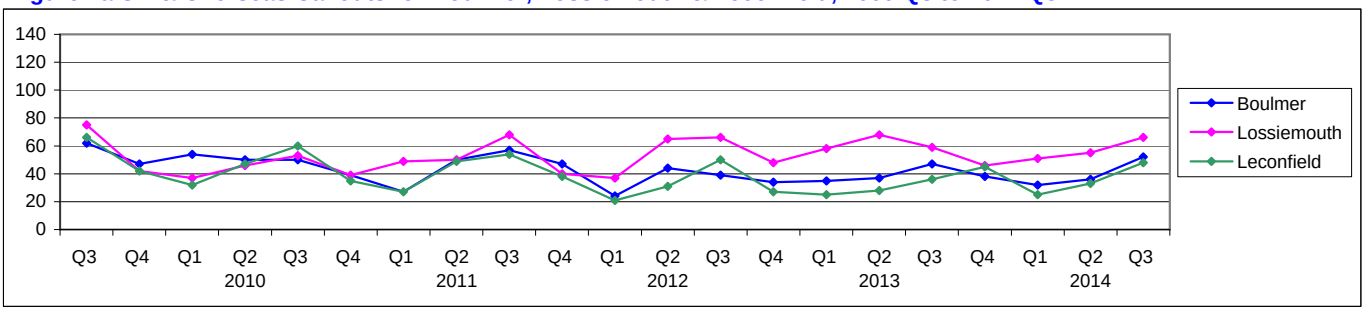


Figure 7b UK & Overseas Callouts for Valley, Chivenor & Wattisham, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

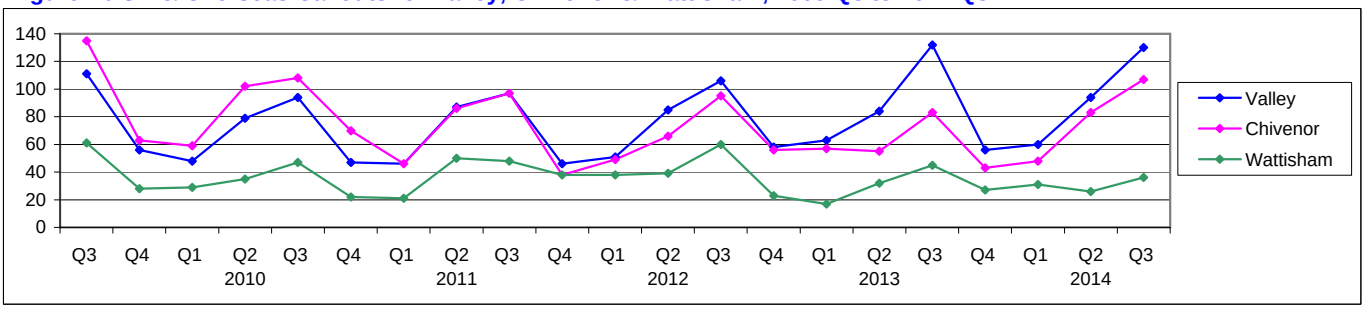
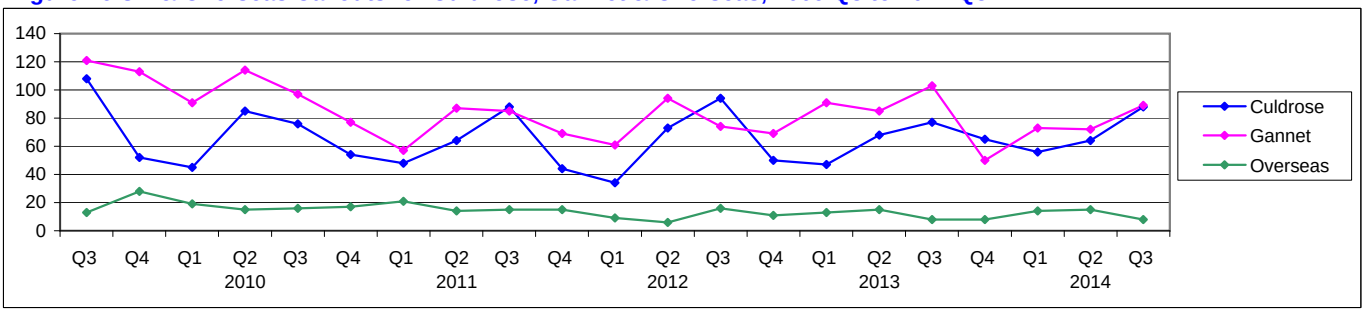


Figure 7c UK & Overseas Callouts for Culdrose, Gannet & Overseas, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3



2. Search and Rescue Helicopter Callouts

Figure 8a Callouts for Boulmer by Callout Grouping, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

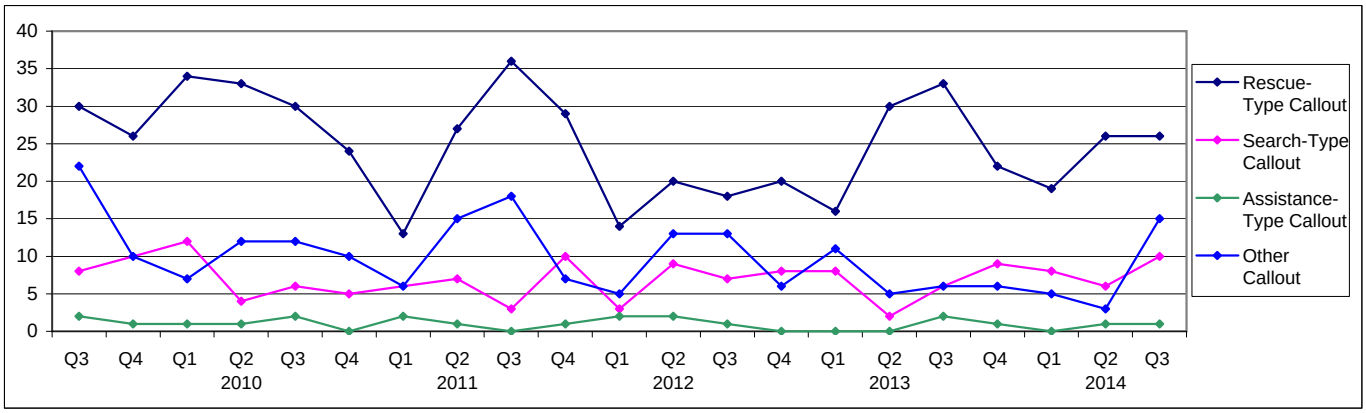


Figure 8b Callouts for Lossiemouth by Callout Grouping, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

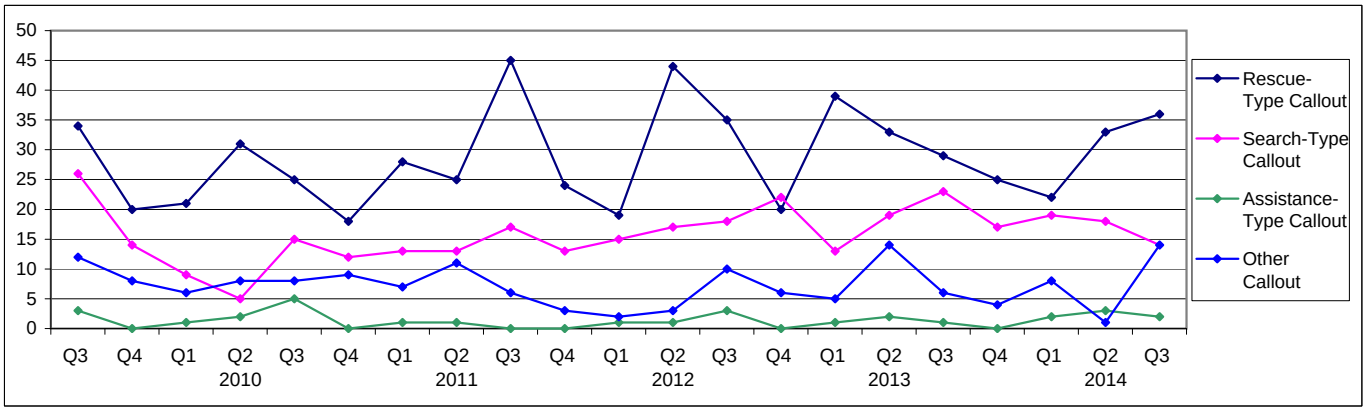


Figure 8c Callouts for Leconfield by Callout Grouping, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

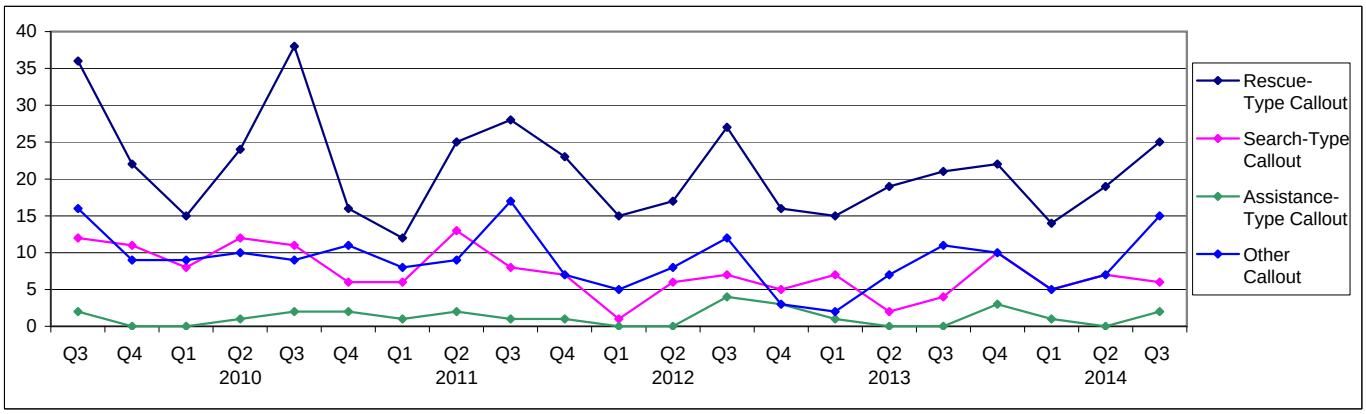
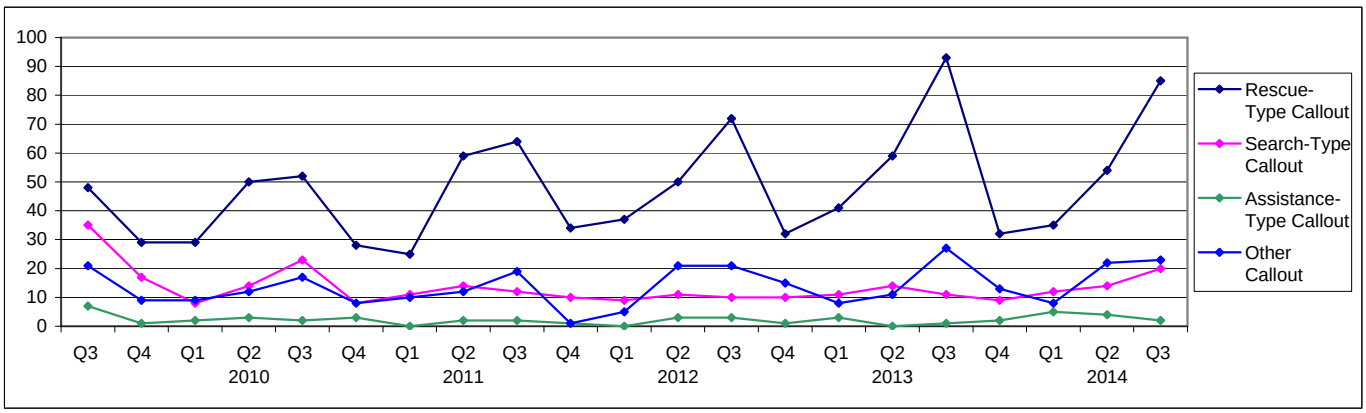


Figure 8d Callouts for Valley by Callout Grouping, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3



2. Search and Rescue Helicopter Callouts

Figure 8e Callouts for Chivenor by Callout Grouping, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

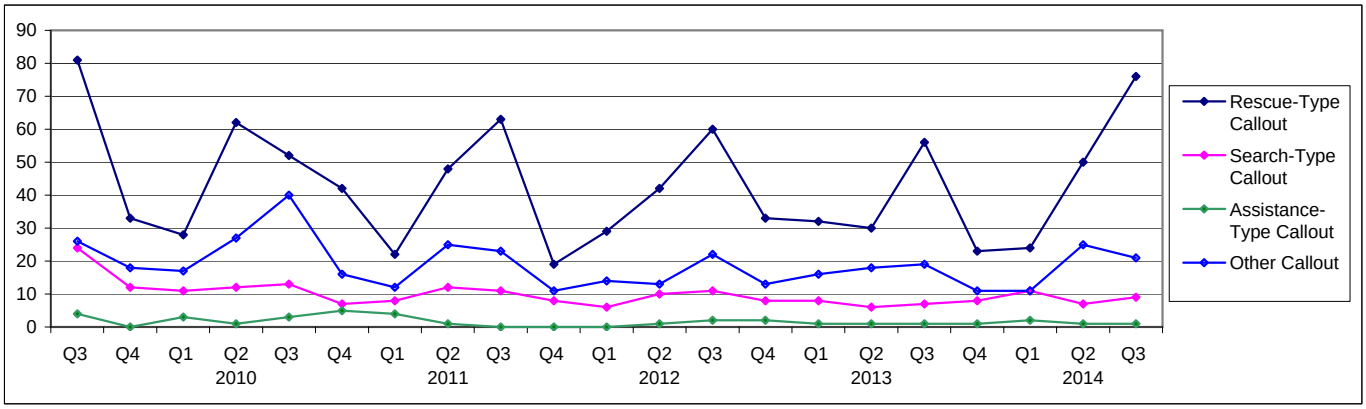


Figure 8f Callouts for Wattisham by Callout Grouping, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

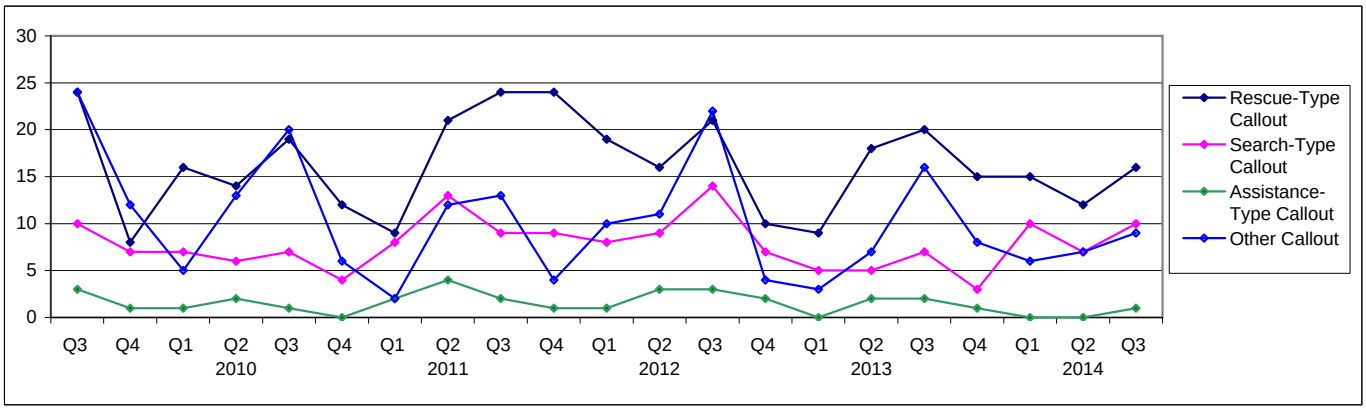


Figure 8g Callouts for Culdrose by Callout Grouping, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

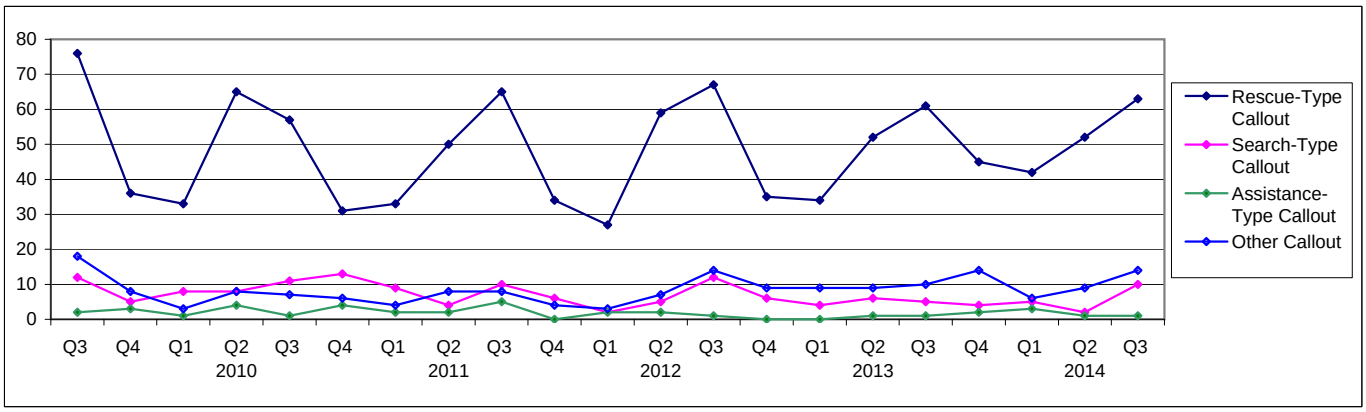
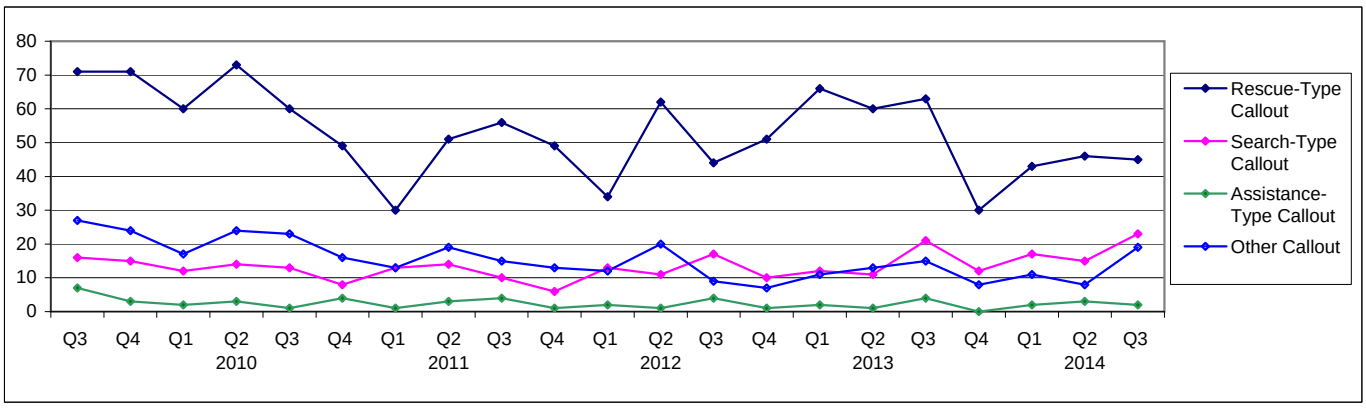


Figure 8h Callouts for Gannet by Callout Grouping, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3



2. Search and Rescue Helicopter Callouts

Table 5 UK & Overseas Flying Hours by Unit, 2014 Q3

	Total Flying Hours[3]	Average Flying Hours[3]	Average time to casualty[3,4]	Average distance from base (nm)[5]
RAF Boulmer	93.14	1.48	0.16	61
RAF Lossiemouth	120.37	1.50	0.19	64
RAF Leconfield	72.41	1.31	0.14	54
RAF Valley	153.45	1.11	0.11	28
RAF Chivenor	134.22	1.15	0.12	37
RAF Wattisham	59.10	1.39	0.18	49
RNAS Culdrose	112.25	1.17	0.09	32
HMS Gannet	151.24	1.42	0.17	54
UK Other Helicopters	-	-	-	-
Cyprus	1.35	0.48	0.07	13
Falklands	8.05	1.21	0.06	23
Overseas Other Helicopters	-	-	-	-
	907.18	**1.27**	**0.13**	**44**

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, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

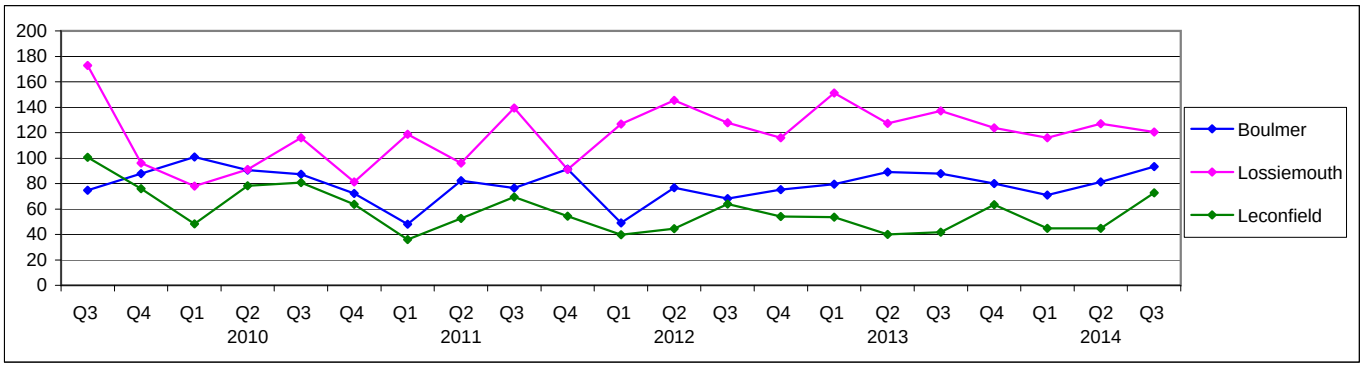


Figure 9b Flying Hours for Valley, Chivenor & Wattisham, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

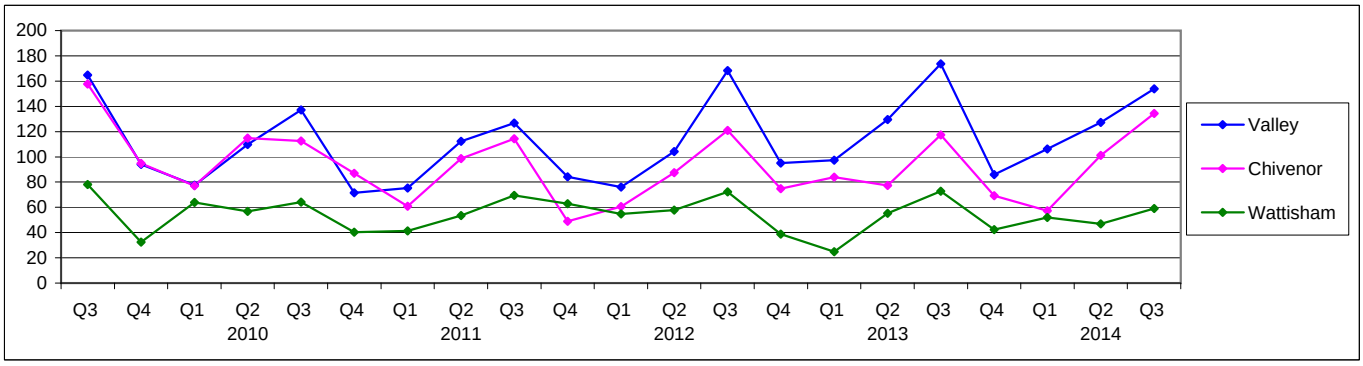
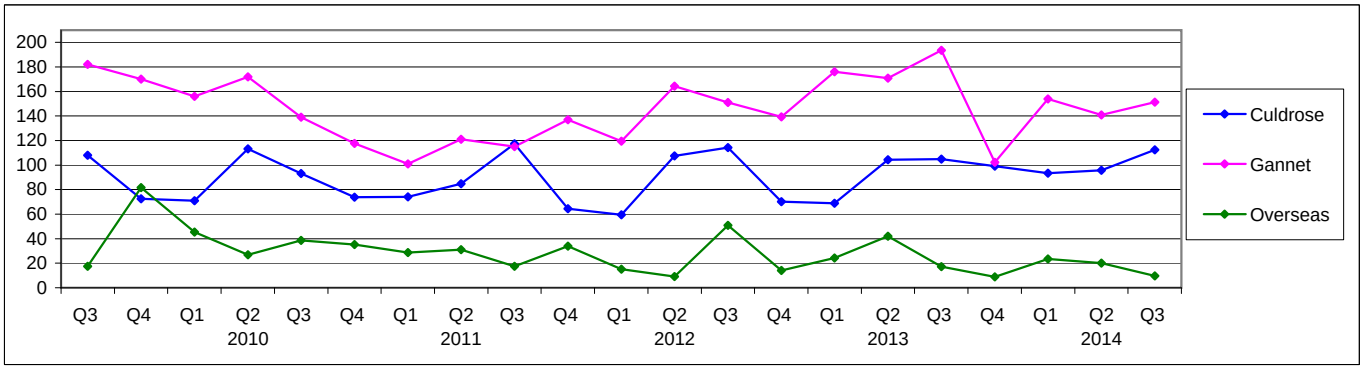


Figure 9c Flying Hours for Culdrose, Gannet & Overseas, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3



3. Persons Moved

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

Table 6 shows the persons moved by unit and assistance type for 2014 Q3, for UK and Overseas helicopter units. A single callout can involve moving persons 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 recordec 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.

Table 6 shows that during 2014 Q3, 57% of the persons moved were for Medrescues. The next highest group was Rescue, representing 19% of the quarterly total. Rescues involve the transfer of distressed uninjured persons from a hostile to a benign environment.

Figures 10a to 10c show the number of persons moved by unit over the past five years. During this period RAF Valley and HMS Gannet averaged the highest number of persons moved per quarter (both with 74), followed by RNAS Culdrose (56) and RAF Chivenor (55). These units are located in areas which typically show high demand for SAR assistance (see page 6).

Table 7 shows the number of persons moved in 2014 Q3 by location, for all SAR units (including Mountain Rescue Teams). As with callouts, most of the persons moved this quarter were from incidents on land.

Figure 11 shows persons moved by location over the past five years. In any given quarter over this period over half of the persons moved were from land-based incidents, with the average being 73%. 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 a ship) does not show a large degree of seasonal fluctuation.

Table 8 shows the number of persons moved this quarter by category. In 2014 Q3, 89% of persons moved were 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 97% of persons moved are civilians. In 2014 Q3, 97% of persons moved were civilian and 3% were military.

3. Persons Moved

Table 6 Persons Moved by Unit and Assistance Type, UK & Overseas helicopters, 2014 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	9	10	3	31	24	7	84	2	11	13	-	**97**	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	-	10	1	8	2	1	22	3	10	13	-	**35**	1	-	1
Medrescue	23	32	20	78	68	9	230	38	32	70	-	**300**	-	-	-
Search-Medrescue	3	5	2	4	-	-	14	-	7	7	-	**21**	-	1	1
Medtransfer	-	4	3	1	4	5	17	23	12	35	-	**52**	-	6	6
Recovery	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	1	2	3	-	**6**	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	**3**	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-
Total Persons	**35**	**62**	**31**	**123**	**98**	**22**	**371**	**68**	**75**	**143**	**-**	**514**	**1**	**7**	**8**

Figure 10a UK & Overseas Persons Moved for Boulmer, Lossiemouth & Leconfield, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

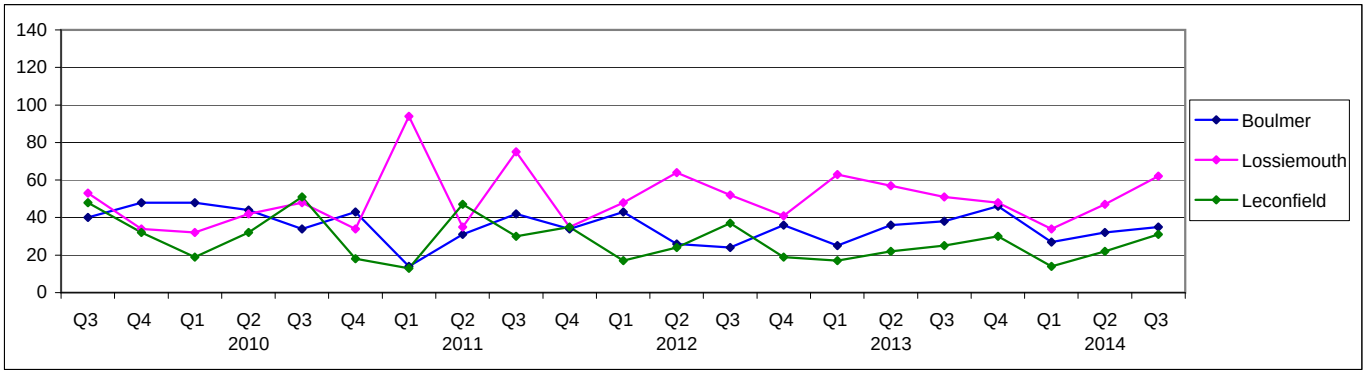


Figure 10b UK & Overseas Persons Moved for Valley, Chivenor & Wattisham, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

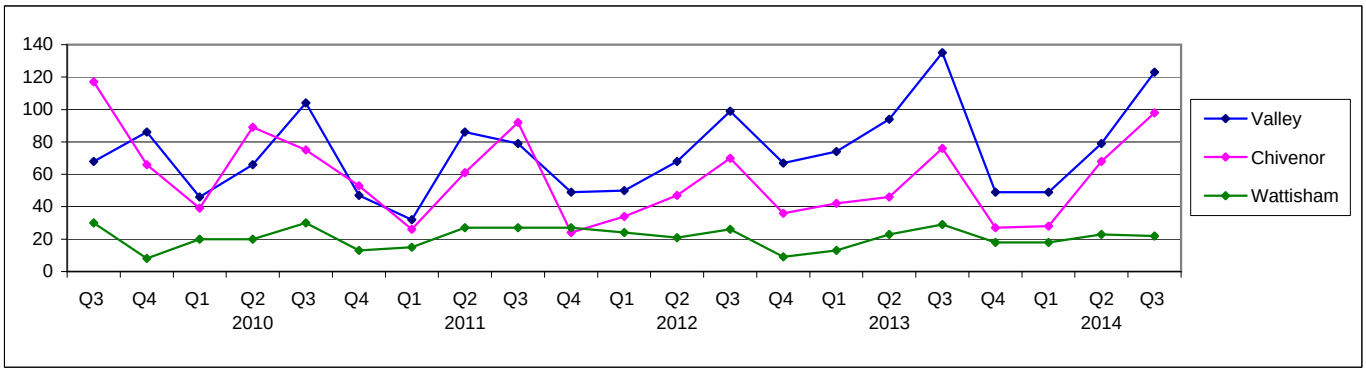
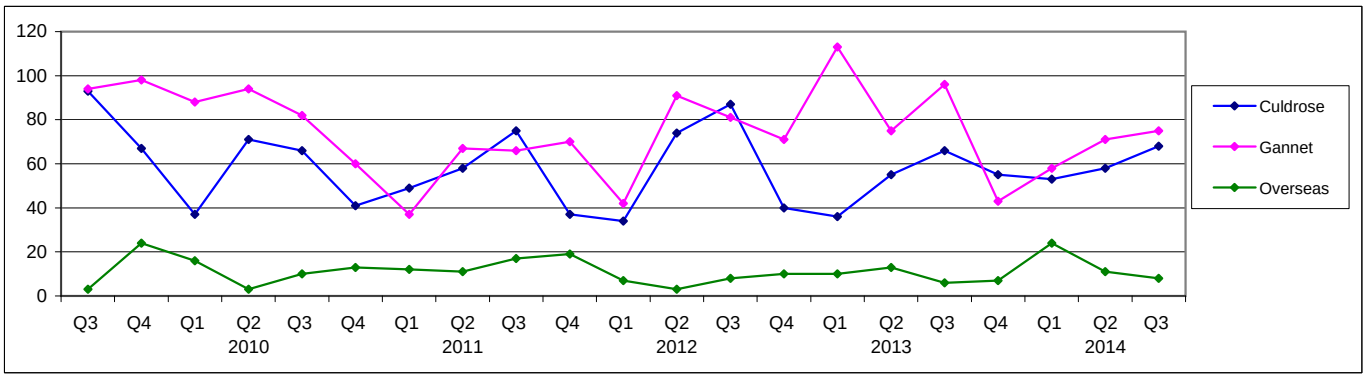


Figure 10c UK & Overseas Persons Moved for Culdrose, Gannet & Overseas, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3



3. Persons Moved

Table 7 UK & Overseas Persons Moved by Location and Assistance Type, 2014 Q3

Persons by Callout Location

	Land	Coast	Maritime	**Total**
Rescue	58	37	2	97
Search-Rescue	30	4	5	39
Medrescue	207	55	40	302
Search-Medrescue	20	2	1	23
Medtransfer	57	-	1	58
Recovery	4	2	-	6
Search-Recovery	2	1	-	3
Transfer	-	-	-	-
Total Persons	**378**	**101**	**49**	**528**

Table 8 UK & Overseas Persons Moved by Category and Assistance Type, 2014 Q3

Persons by Callout Category

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Beacon	Flares	Person	Other	**Total**
Rescue	-	2	-	-	-	-	95	-	97
Search-Rescue	-	-	5	-	1	-	33	-	39
Medrescue	1	23	7	14	-	-	257	-	302
Search-Medrescue	-	-	3	-	-	-	20	-	23
Medtransfer	-	-	1	-	-	-	57	-	58
Recovery	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	6
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Persons	**3**	**25**	**16**	**14**	**1**	**-**	**469**	**-**	**528**

Figure 11 UK & Overseas Persons Moved by Location, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

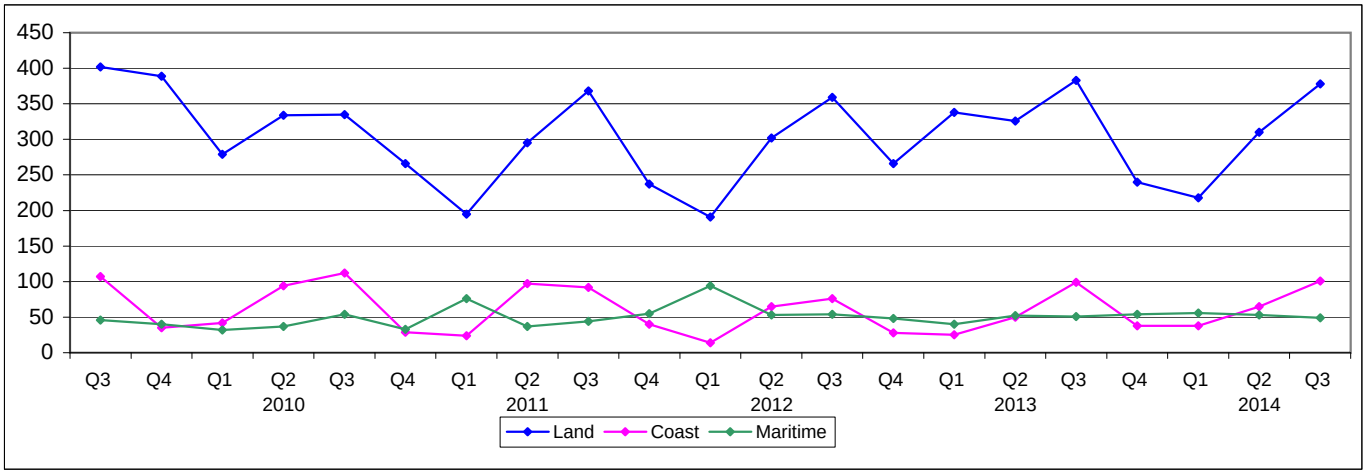
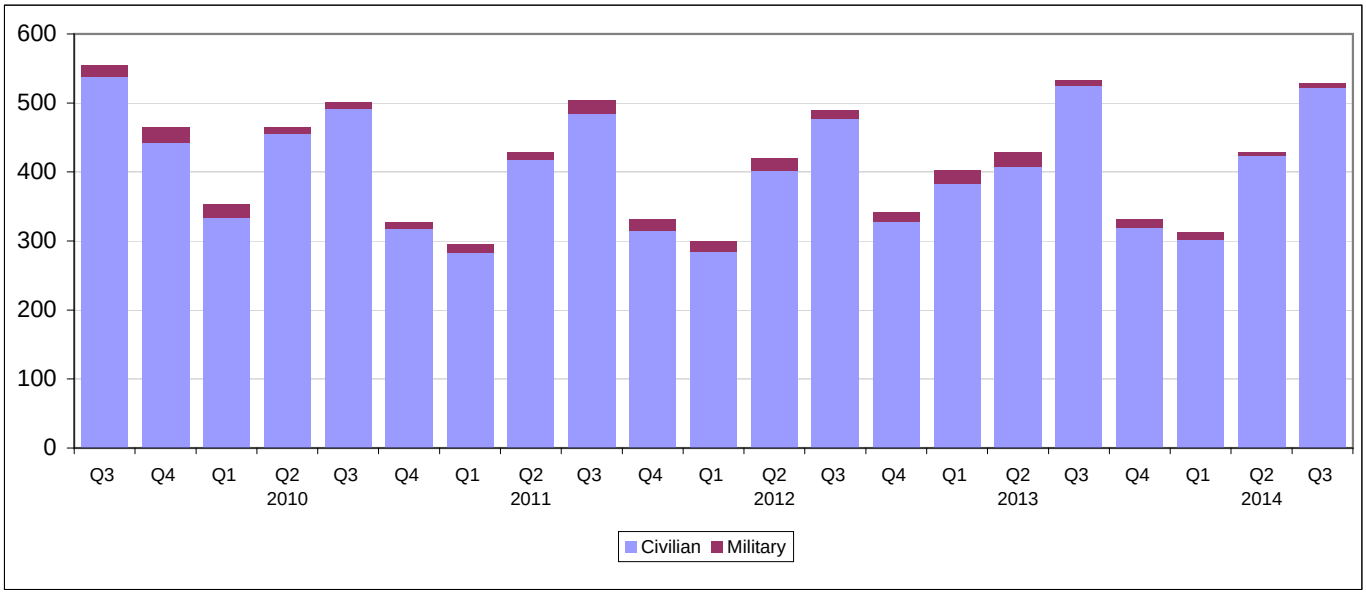


Figure 12 UK & Overseas Persons Moved by Civilian or Military, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3



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 2014 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, the helicopter unit 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 figure this quarter is 409, which is below the average for the past five years of 1,509 hours per quarter.

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. 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 needing to be rescued.

Figure 14 present military fixed wing callouts. Prior to March 2010, fixed wing coverage was provided by Nimrod aircraft operating out of RAF Kinloss. The Nimrods were withdrawn from service in March 2010.

Table 10 shows MCA callouts for this quarter. Lee on Solent responded to the the highest number of callouts, with 71. Shetland and Stornoway both attended similar number of callouts in 2014 Q3, with 52 and 50 respectively. Portland responded to 41 callouts this quarter. 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.

4. Other Search and Rescue

Table 9 MRT Callouts, Persons Moved and Man Hours by Unit, 2014 Q3

	Callouts	Persons	Man Hours
Lossiemouth[5]	3	2	225
Leeming	4	3	131
Leuchars	-	-	-
Valley	2	1	53
Other	-	-	-
Total	**9**	**6**	**409**

5. Formerly MRT Kinloss

Figure 13a Callouts and Man Hours for MRT Lossiemouth/Kinloss, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

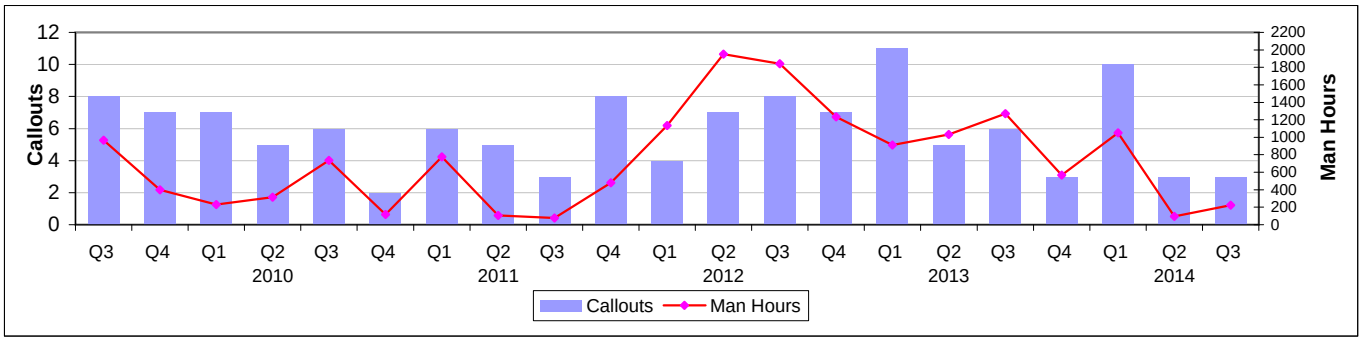


Figure 13b Callouts and Man Hours for MRT Leeming, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

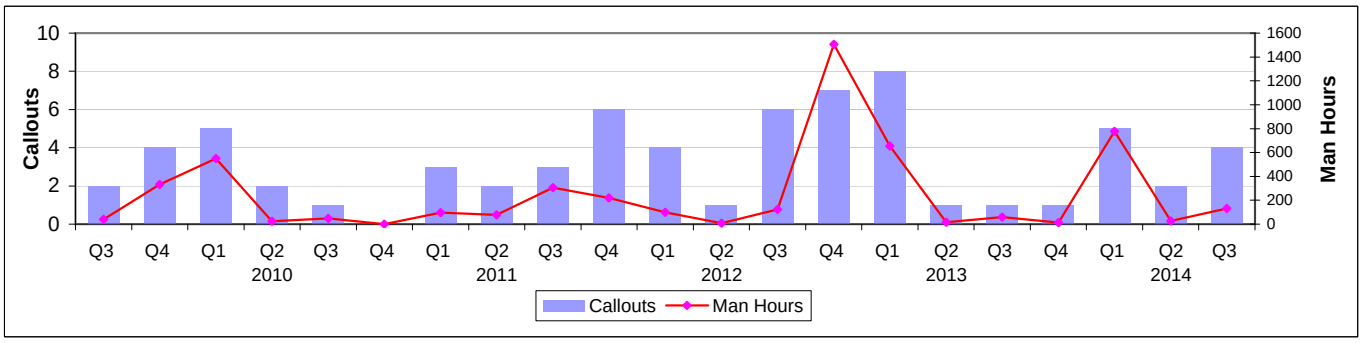


Figure 13c Callouts and Man Hours for MRT Leuchars, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

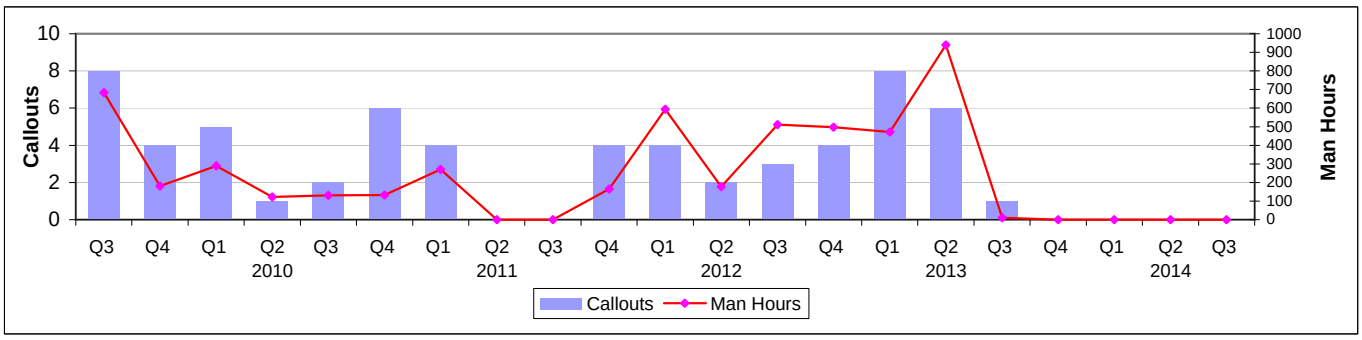
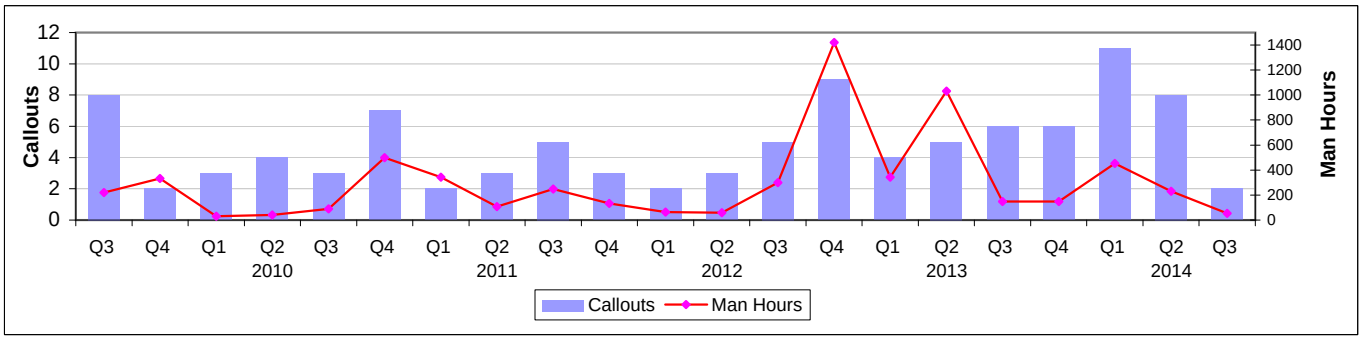


Figure 13d Callouts and Man Hours for MRT Valley, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3



4. Other Search and Rescue

Figure 14 Fixed Wing Callouts, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3

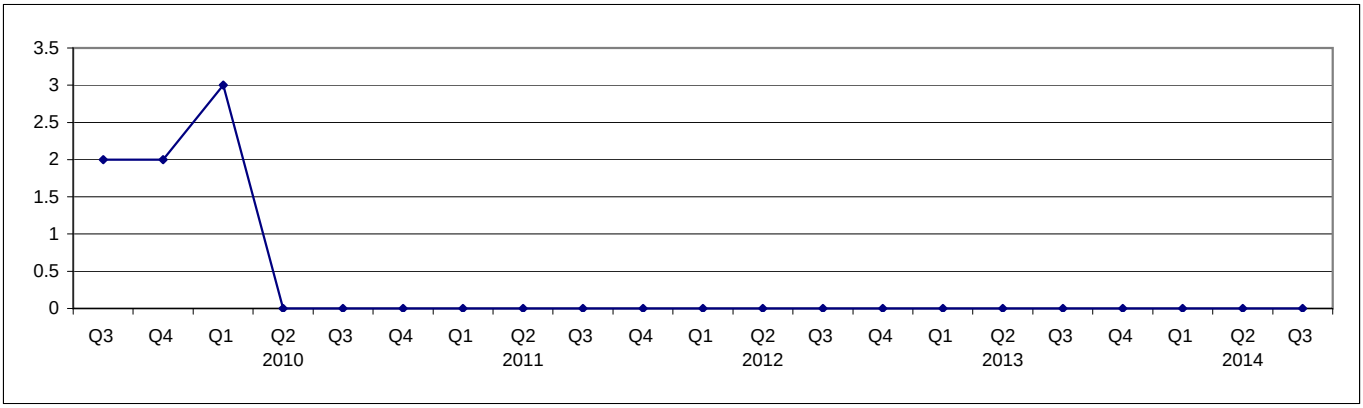
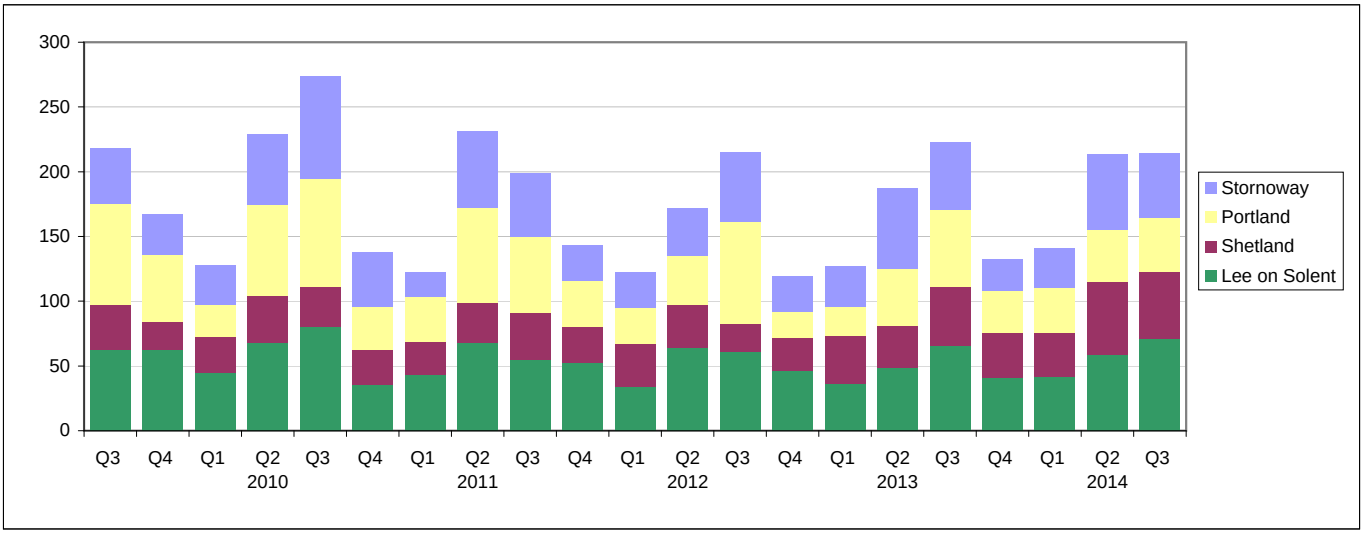


Table 10 Maritime & Coastguard Agency Helicopters Callouts by Unit, 2014 Q3

	Lee on Solent	Shetland	Portland	Stornoway	Total
Jul	23	20	24	14	**81**
Aug	27	19	10	22	**78**
Sep	21	13	7	14	**55**
Total	**71**	**52**	**41**	**50**	**214**

Source: Maritime & Coastguard Agency.

Figure 15 Maritime and Coastguard Agency Helicopter Callouts by Unit, 2009 Q3 to 2014 Q3



Source: Maritime & Coastguard Agency.

Please note that the figures in Table 10 and Figure 15 are provisional and subject to audit. They 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.

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.

The areas typically covered by each SAR unit are as follows:
RAF Boulmer: the Lake District, the north east coast of England, and south east Scotland
RAF Valley: North Wales and in the Irish Sea
RAF Wattisham: south east England
RAF Chivenor: south west England and south Wales
RAF Leconfield: the Midlands and the east coast of England
RAF Lossiemouth: the north of Scotland
HMS Gannet: central and western Scotland
RNAS Culdrose: Cornwall and out into the Atlantic Ocean

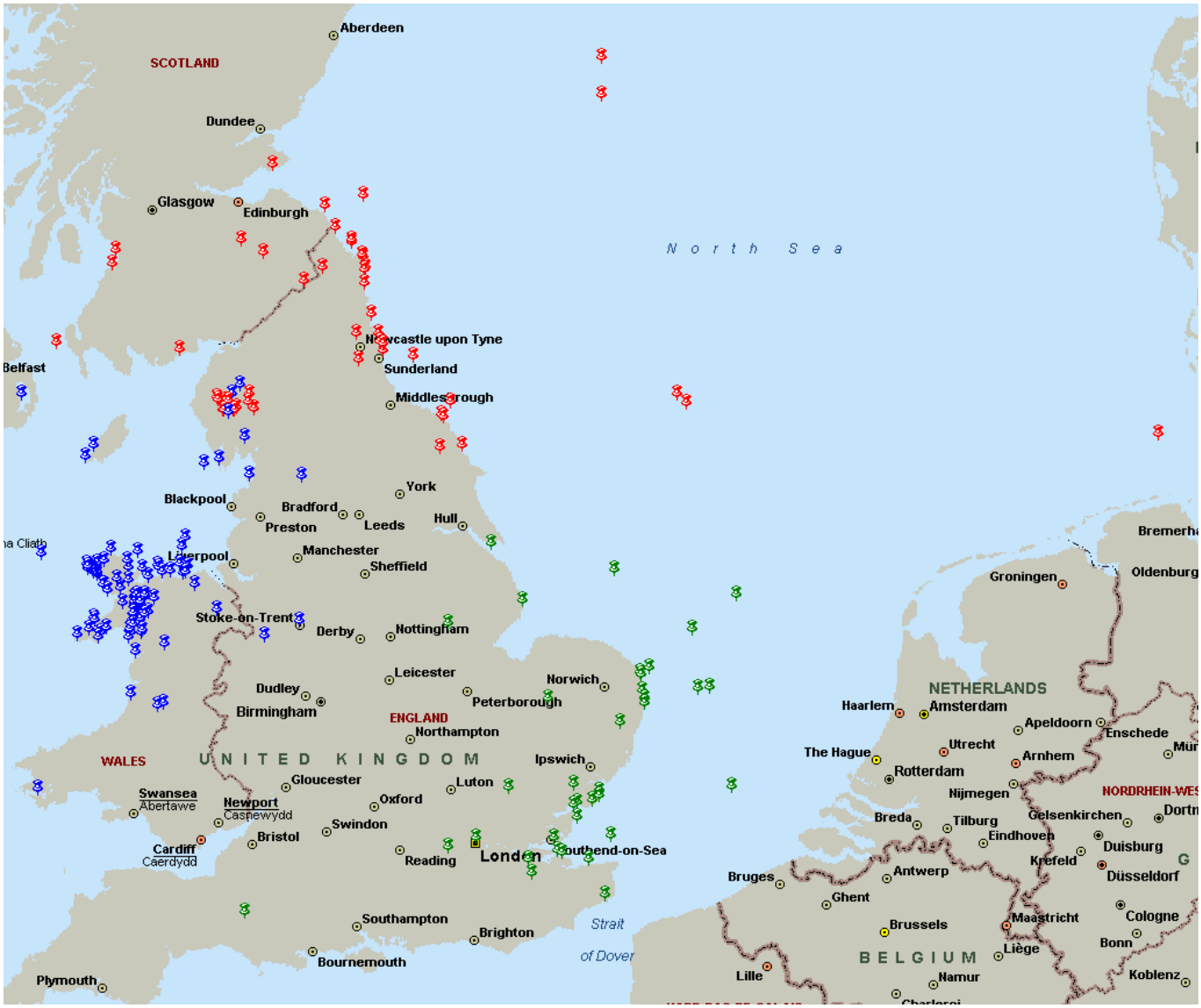
Although each unit will typically respond to callouts close to their base, they are sometimes required to travel further.

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, 2014 Q3

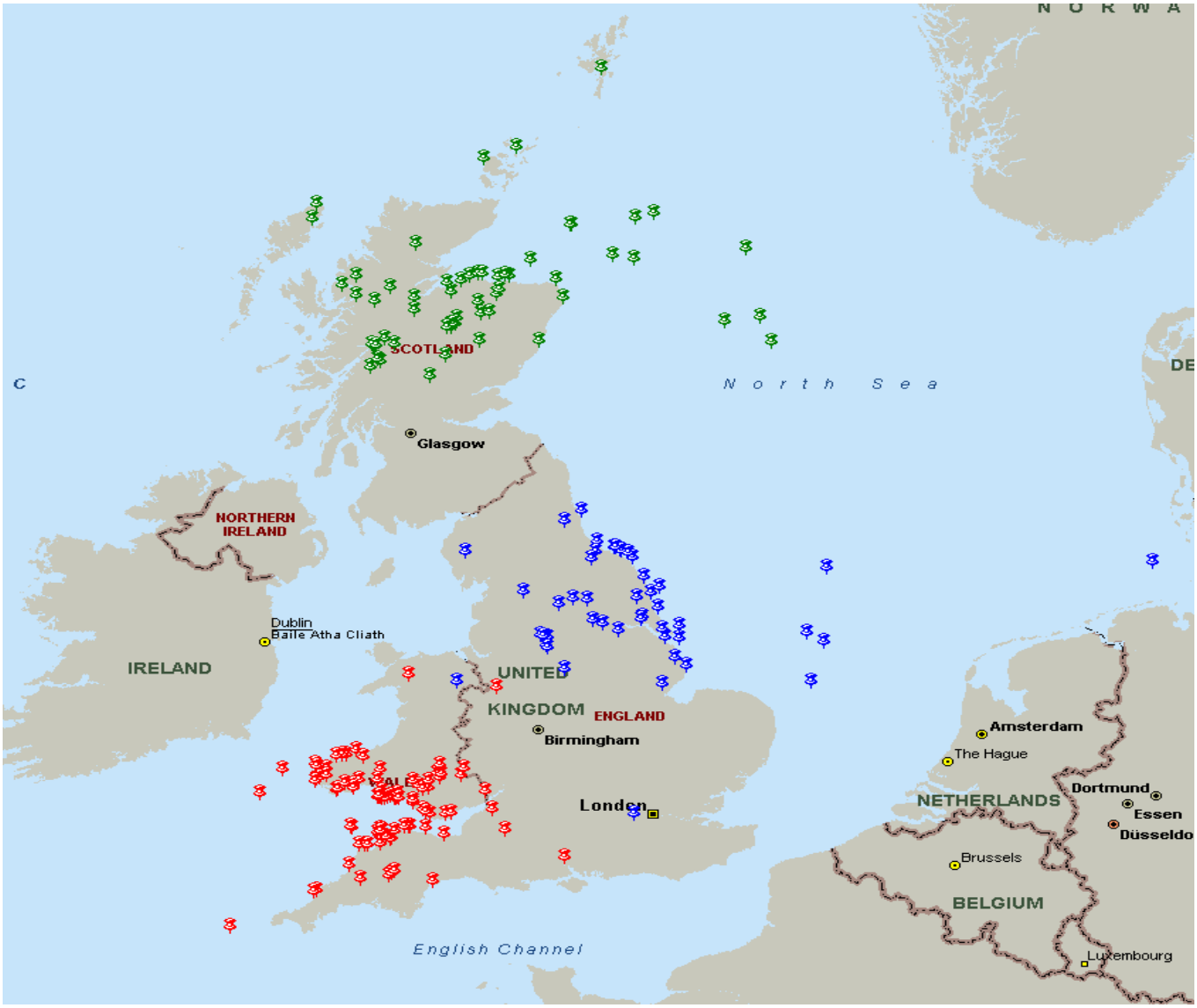
RAF Boulmer	
RAF Valley	
RAF Wattisham	



5. UK Search and Rescue Geography

Map 2 UK Callouts, 2014 Q3

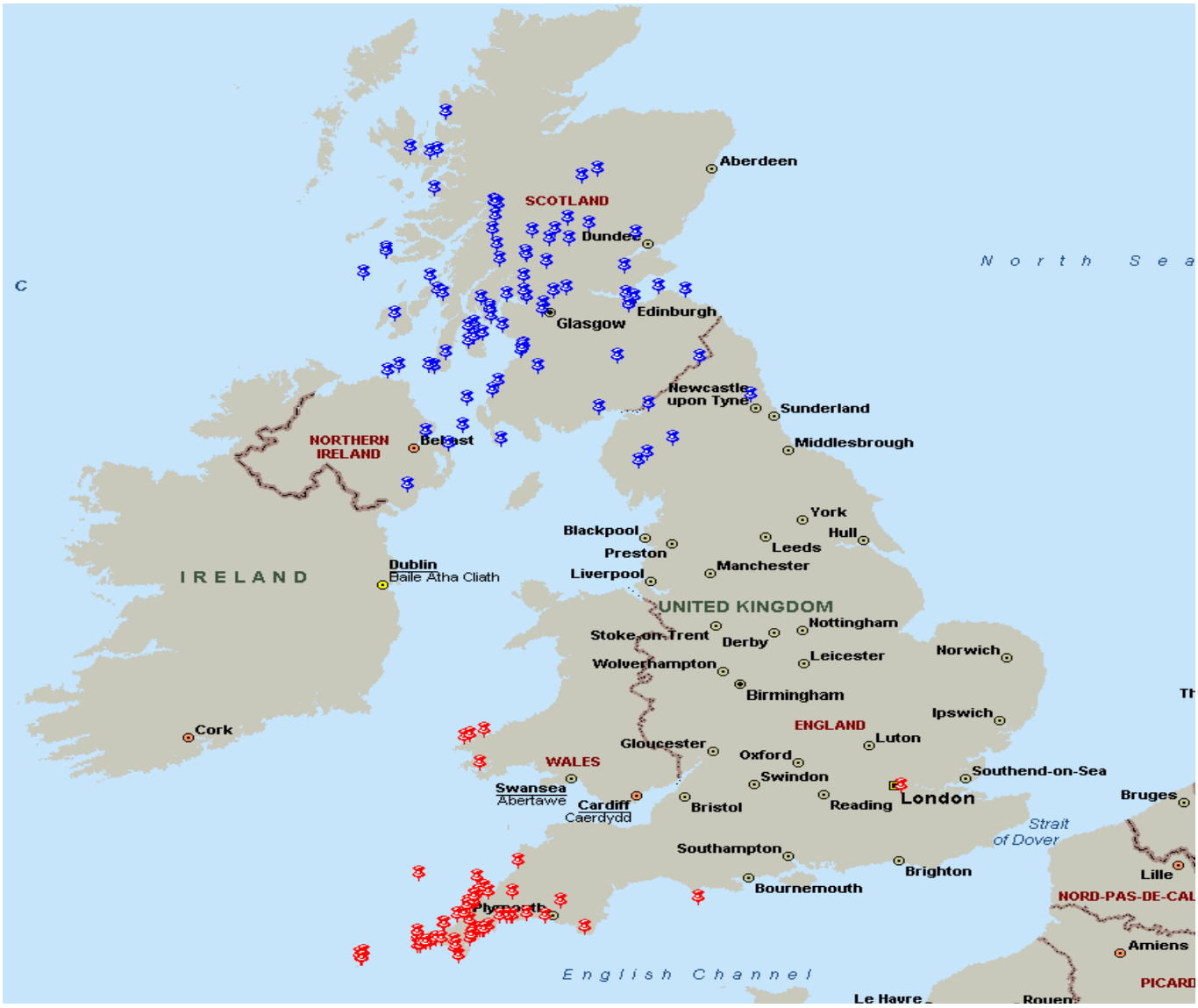
RAF Chivenor	
RAF Leconfield	
RAF Lossiemouth	



5. UK Search and Rescue Geography

Map 3 UK Callouts, 2014 Q3

RNAS Culdrose	
HMS Gannet	



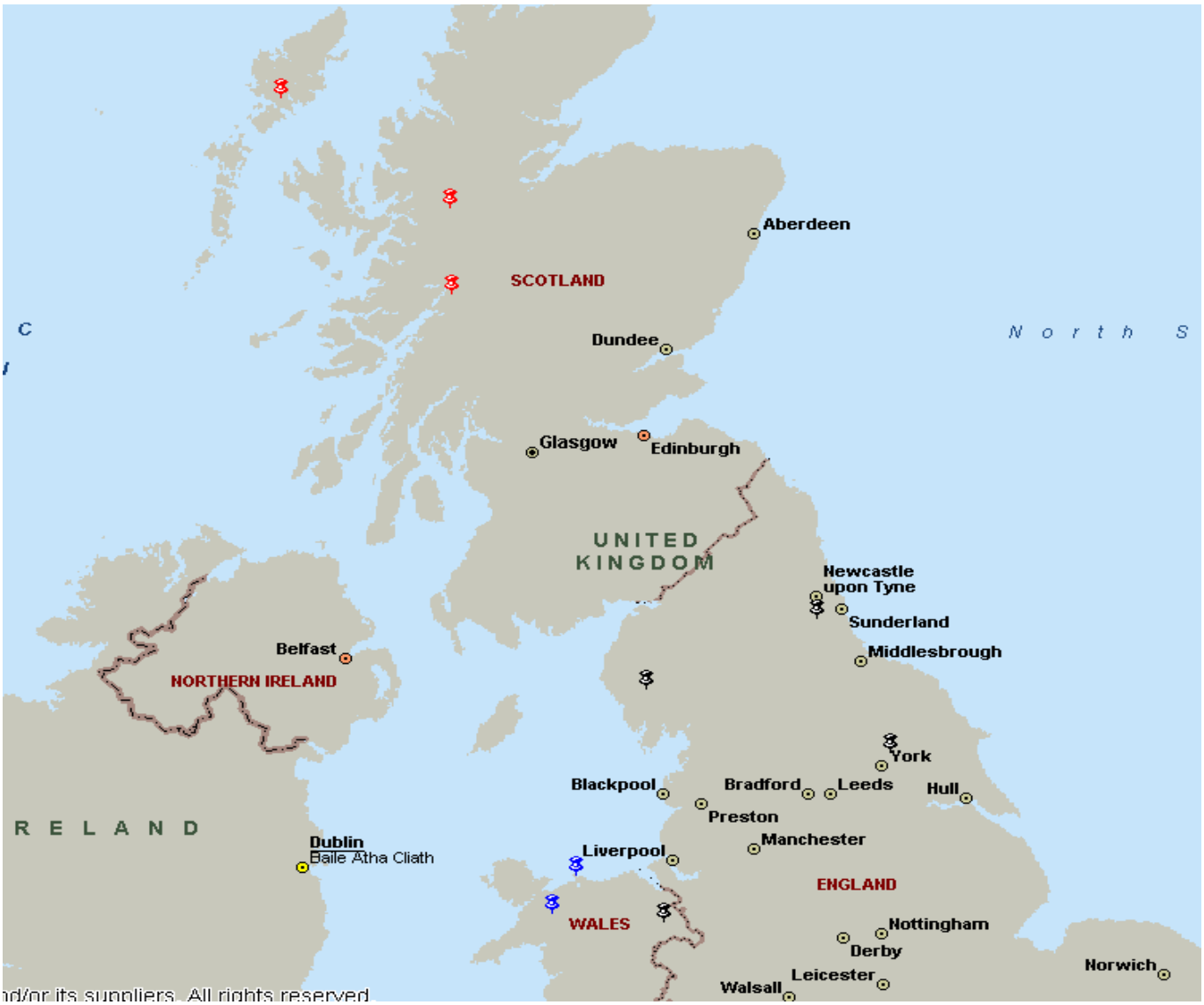
5. UK Search and Rescue Geography

Map 4 UK Callouts, 2014 Q3

MRT Lossiemouth

MRT Leeming

MRT Valley



6. 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