



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Our Ref: 2016/10561

30 November 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 6 November 2016 requesting the following information:

Please can I request the following information.

A list of when the RAF helicopter has been deployed to a rescue on the Holy Island causeway in Northumberland in 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

Can the information include date of rescue, nature of each rescue ie how many people were rescued and details of what happened and how much each rescue cost?

Also can I request how much it costs per hour for the RAF helicopter to be in operation during a rescue and what those costs involve.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some information within the scope of your request is held.

See the table below:

Date	Nature of rescue	Number of people rescued
14 April 2014	Person stranded on the roof of a vehicle on Holy Island causeway. Casualty recovered by winch and was uninjured.	1
21 August 2013	Car cut off by the tide at Holy Island causeway. A visual search was conducted; the car was empty and nothing seen on the causeway. Helicopter stood down by Humber Coast Guard when occupants of the vehicle were located elsewhere.	0
14 March 2013	Reports of a female trapped in an overturned car on Holy Island near the causeway. Casualty and a relative taken to hospital in Wansbeck, Ashington.	2
28 August 2012	Elderly couple trapped in car on Holy Island causeway.	2


Information regarding the cost of each rescue and the hourly cost of a helicopter rescue is not held.

Under Section 16, Advice and Assistance, you may find it helpful to note that the Ministry of Defence did not raise any charges against individuals or organisations for Search and Rescue. From April 2015 the military and civilian search and rescue capacity began a transition to a single civilian contractor which is managed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. The Department of Transport is now responsible for producing official statistics on civilian search and rescue and their reports can be found, along with historical statistics from the Ministry of Defence, on www.gov.uk. Military search and rescue helicopters ceased to operate from RAF Boulmer at the end of September 2015.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely


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Air Command