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Military Search and Rescue Monthly Statistics

March 2015

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This report covers military Search and Rescue (SAR) activities for March 2015. The report includes the number of incidents (the number of emergencies that military SAR units have responded to), the number of callouts (the number of units attending an incident) and the number of persons moved.

Coverage

United Kingdom, Cyprus, Falkland Islands

Key Points and Trends

- During March 2015 there were 130 incidents, resulting in 138 callouts and 118 persons moved. The number of incidents and callouts were lower than in March 2014, but the number of persons moved was higher. There were 8 overseas callouts in March 2015, more than in any of the previous 12 months.
- Most callouts were on land, as in previous months. During March 2015 there were 103 land, 17 coast and 18 maritime callouts.
- The unit which attended the most callouts during March 2015 was HMS Gannet with 29 callouts.
- The unit which moved the highest number of persons during March 2015 was HMS Gannet, with 26 persons moved.
- The most common type of callout this month was Medrescue, with 60 callouts. Medrescues also involved the highest number of persons moved, with 67, which represents over half of all persons moved.
- The unit with the highest total flying hours this month was HMS Gannet, with over 62 hours flown at an average of 2 hours and 9 minutes per callout.
- Mountain Rescue Teams responded to 7 callouts during March 2015, requiring a total of 1,294 man hours.

Further Information

Defence Economics welcomes feedback on statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this Statistical Bulletin or about our statistics in general, you can contact us at:

- Phone Defence Economics (Price Indices) 030 679 32100.
- Email defstrat-stat-enquiries-mailbox@mod.uk

If you require information which is not available within this or other available publications, you can submit a Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Ministry of Defence via the following link:

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/ContactUs/FreedomOfInformationInformationRequest.htm>

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.

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Other contact points within Defence Economics and Defence Statistics are:

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What is included in this report?

This report covers military Search and Rescue (SAR) activities for March 2015. 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 quarterly and annual basis, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/military-search-and-rescue-quarterly-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 (RN) or Royal Air Force (RAF) 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/statistics/military-search-and-rescue-annual-background-quality-report>

Introduction

Military Search and Rescue

The military 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. 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 three Mountain Rescue Teams (MRT) based at RAF Lossiemouth, 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 are 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/>

UK & Overseas Search And Rescue Summary

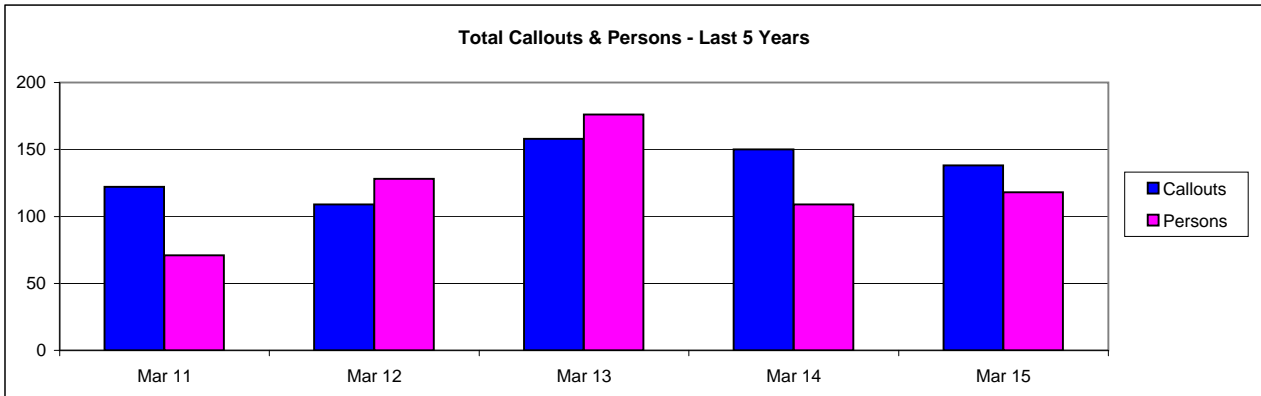
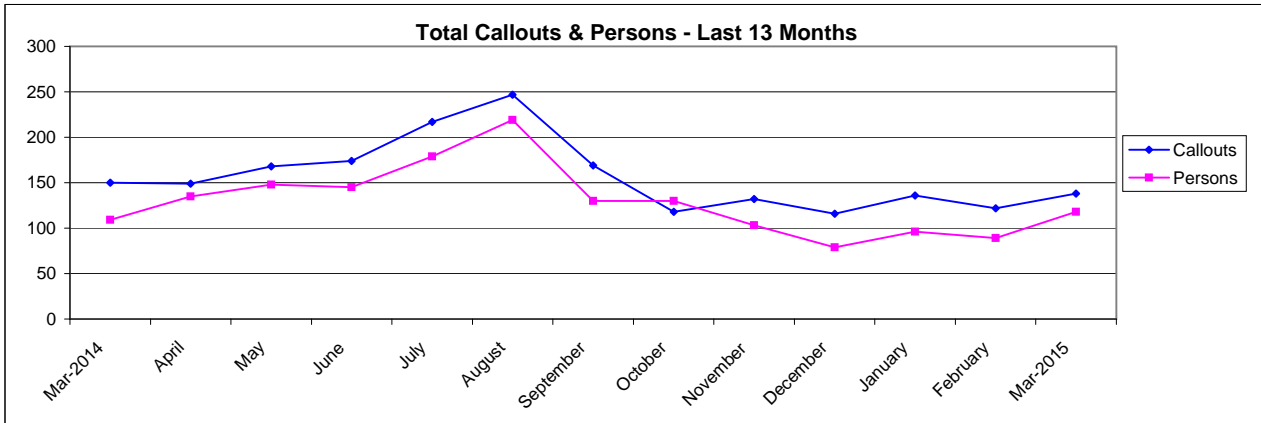
Current Month

2015	Total Callouts	UK Helicopters	Overseas Helicopters	Mountain Rescue Team	Incidents	Persons Moved
March	138	123	8	7	130	118

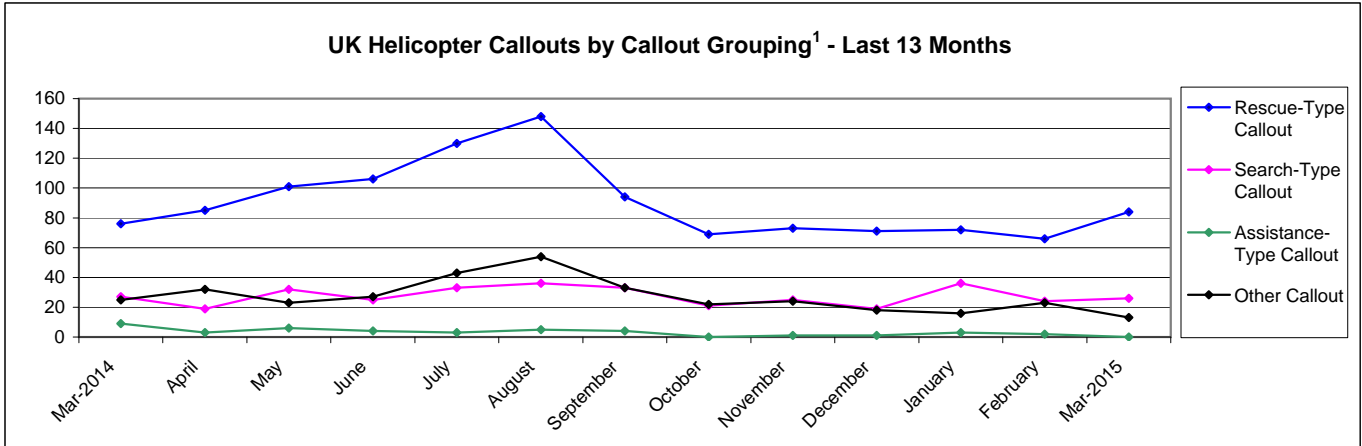
Previous 12 Months

Month	Total Callouts	UK Helicopters	Overseas Helicopters	Mountain Rescue Team	Incidents	Persons Moved
February	122	115	3	4	119	89
January	136	127	3	6	128	96
December	116	109	4	3	113	79
November	132	123	3	6	121	103
October	118	112	-	6	112	130
September	169	164	-	5	164	130
August	247	243	3	1	238	219
July	217	209	5	3	207	179
June	174	162	6	6	167	145
May	168	162	3	3	162	148
April	149	139	6	4	145	135
March	150	137	3	10	138	109

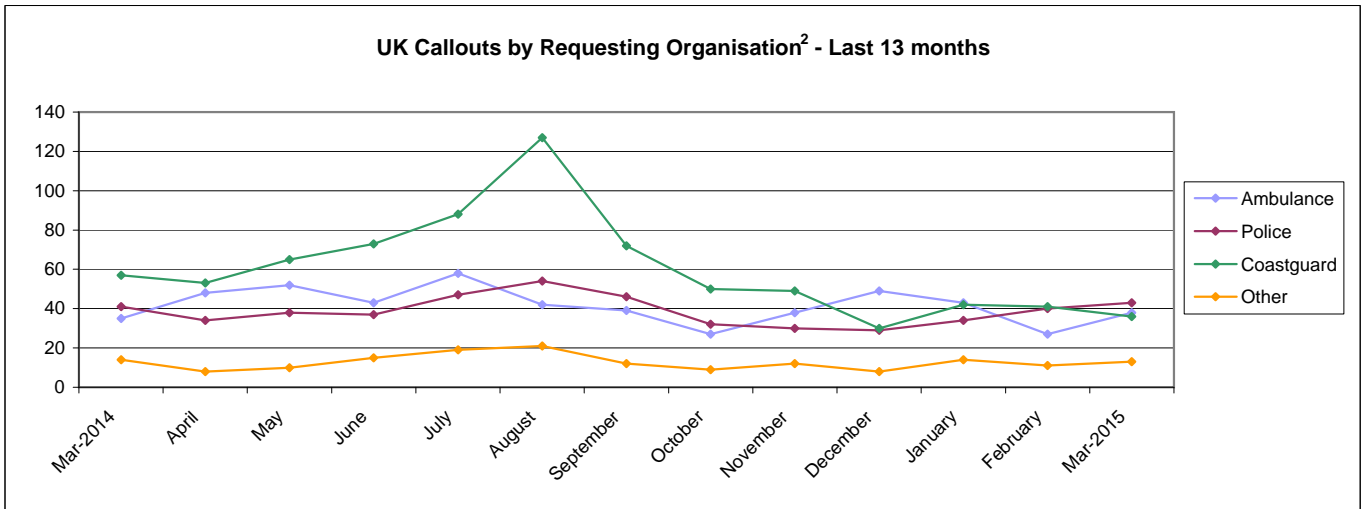
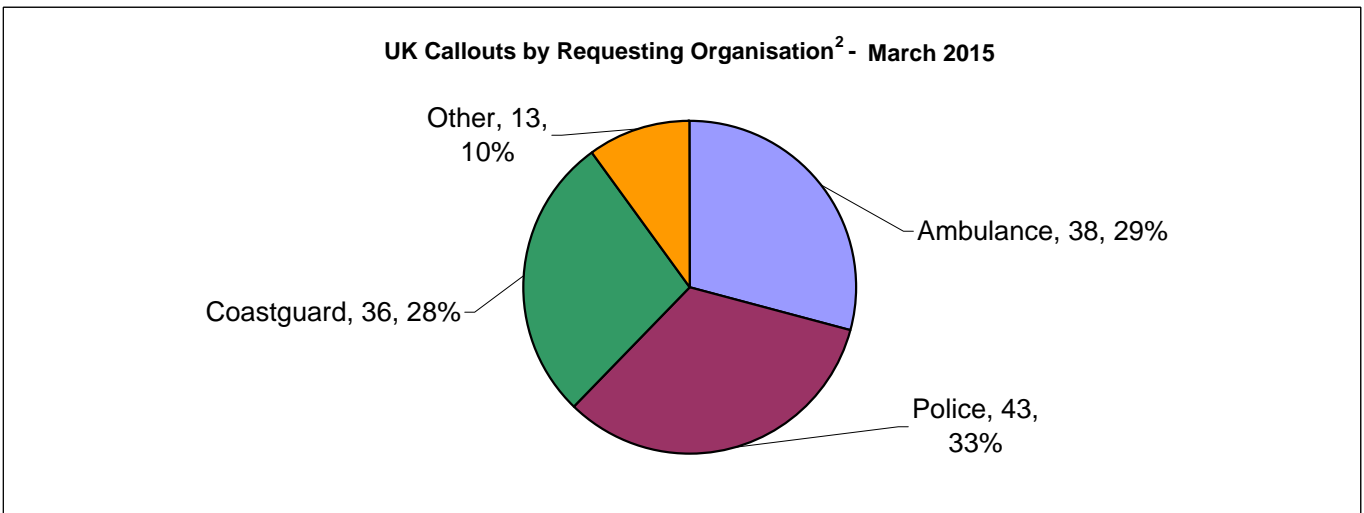
	ARCC Kinloss	RCC Cyprus	RCC Falklands	Total
Callouts	130	3	5	138
Incidents	122	3	5	130
Persons	108	2	8	118



UK Search And Rescue Summary



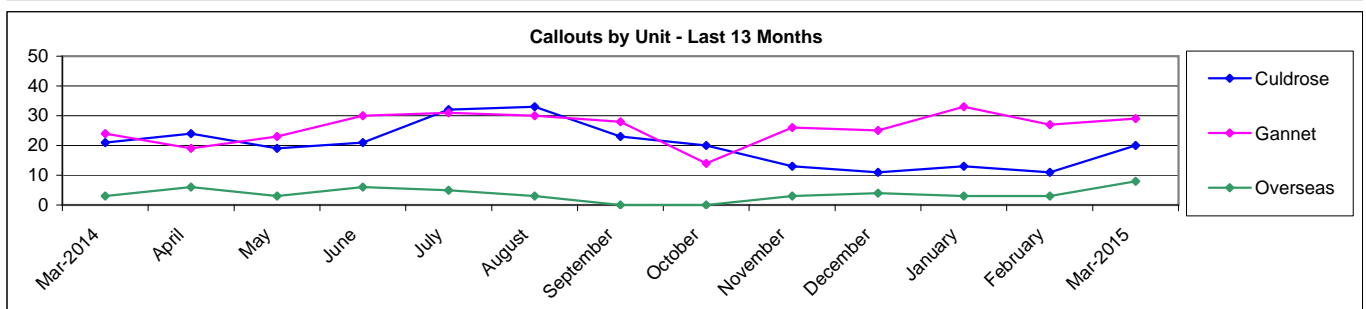
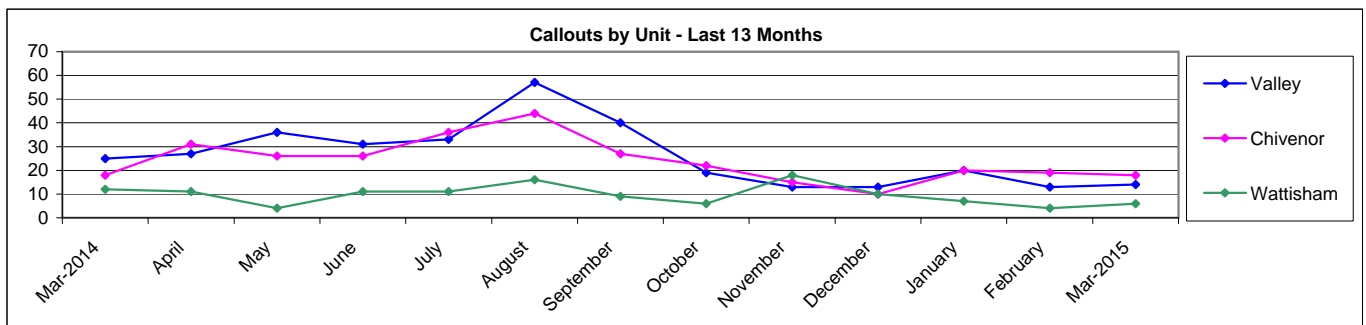
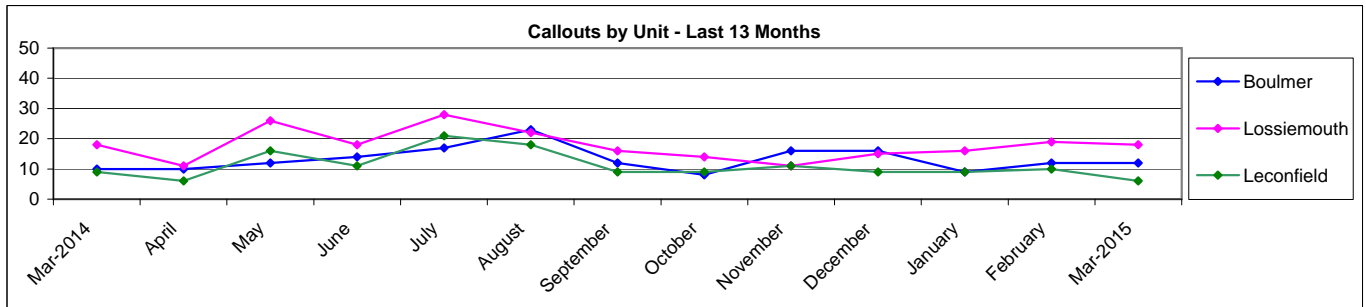
1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10



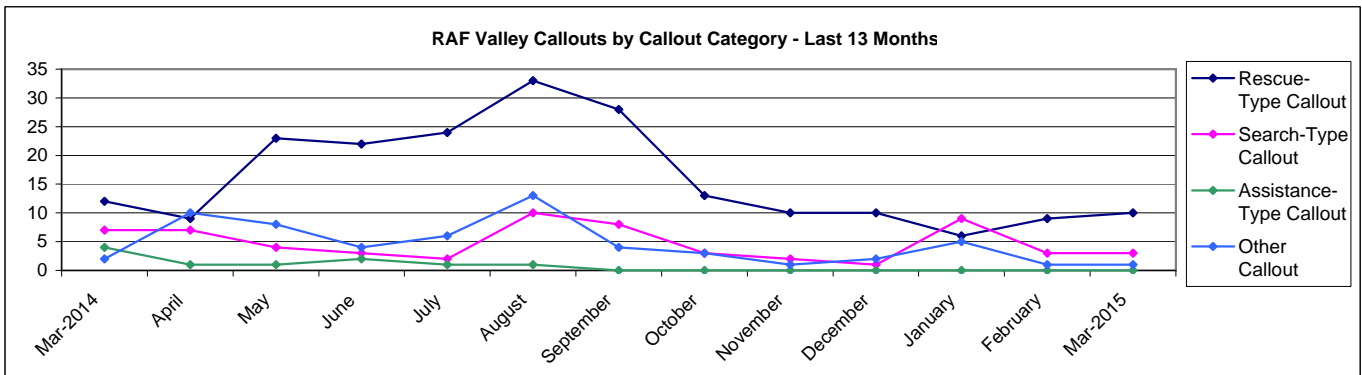
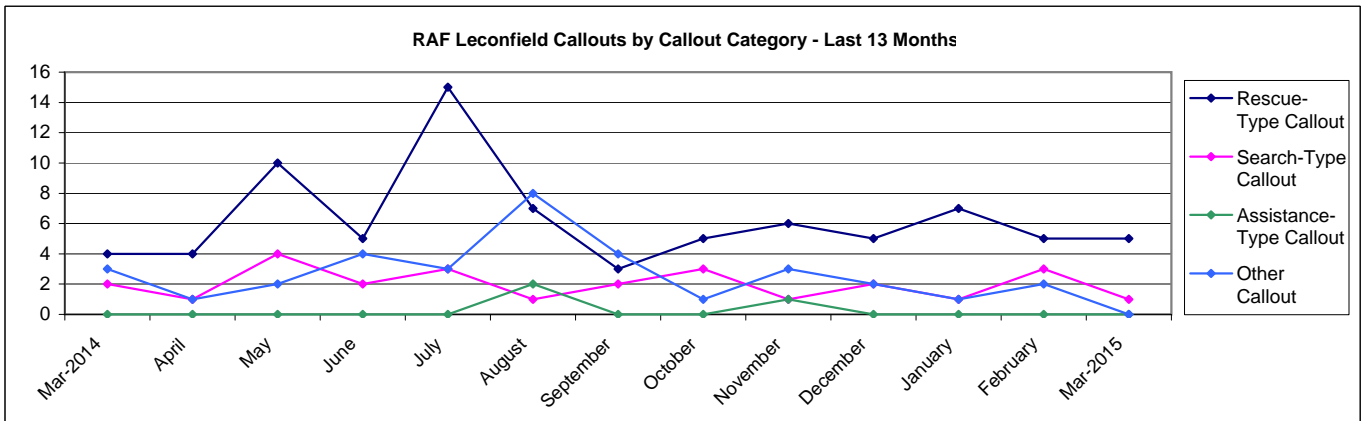
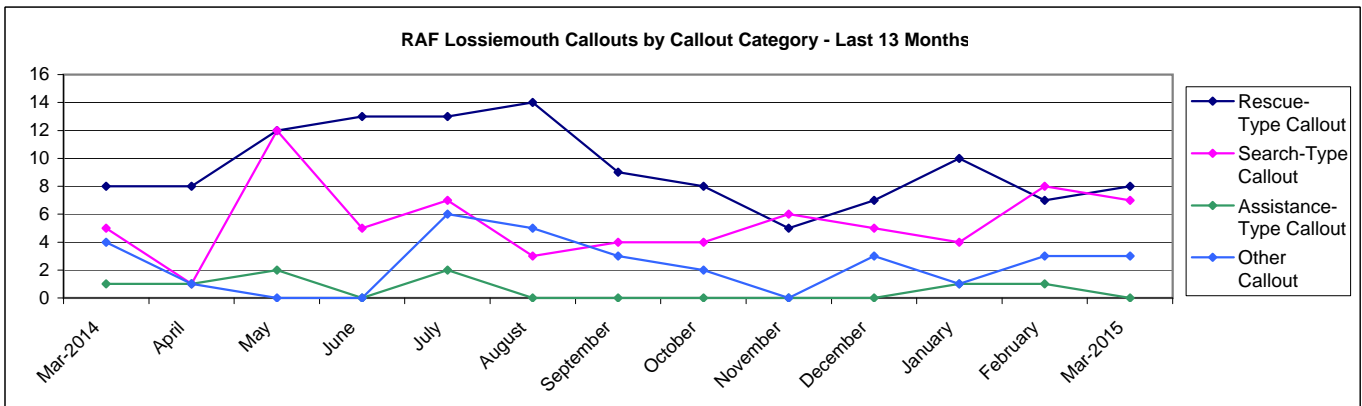
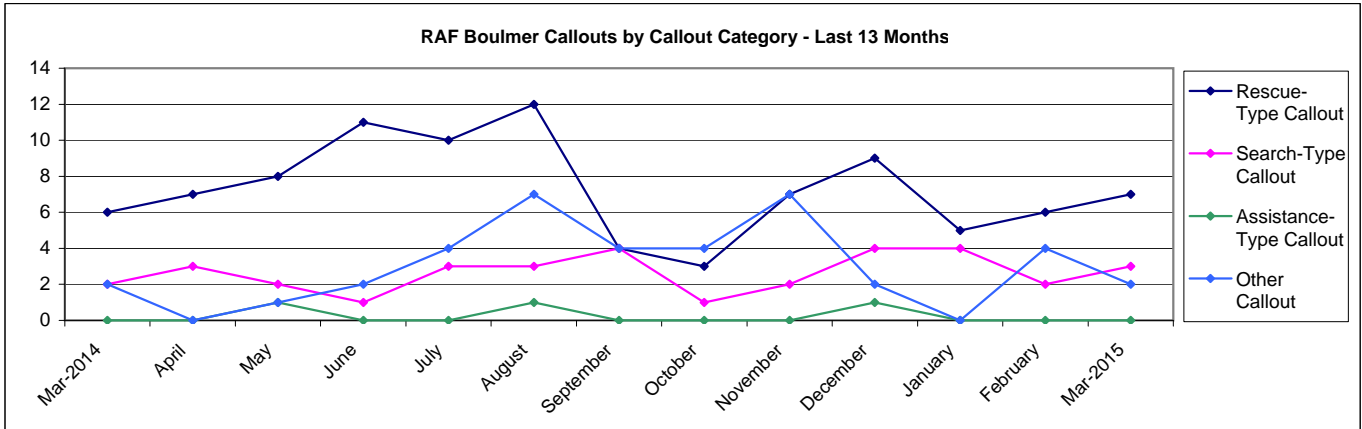
2. The requesting organisation is determined using an automated lookup function which searches for key text within the organisations' name. Within the 'Other' category, there may be a limited number of callouts by either Ambulance, Police or Coastguard due to the automated algorithm used.

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	-	-	-	2	3	1	6	-	2	2	-	8	1	-	1
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medrescue	6	8	5	8	8	2	37	11	9	20	-	57	1	2	3
Search-Medrescue	-	1	-	3	-	-	4	-	1	1	-	5	-	-	-
Medtransfer	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	5	10	15	-	17	-	3	3
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search	1	3	-	-	3	1	8	1	-	1	-	9	1	-	1
Top Cover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Assist	-	2	1	-	-	-	3	1	4	5	-	8	-	-	-
Recalled	1	2	-	1	2	2	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
Not Required	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
False Alarm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Hoax	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Precaution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aborted	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Total Callouts	12	18	6	14	18	6	74	20	29	49	-	123	3	5	8

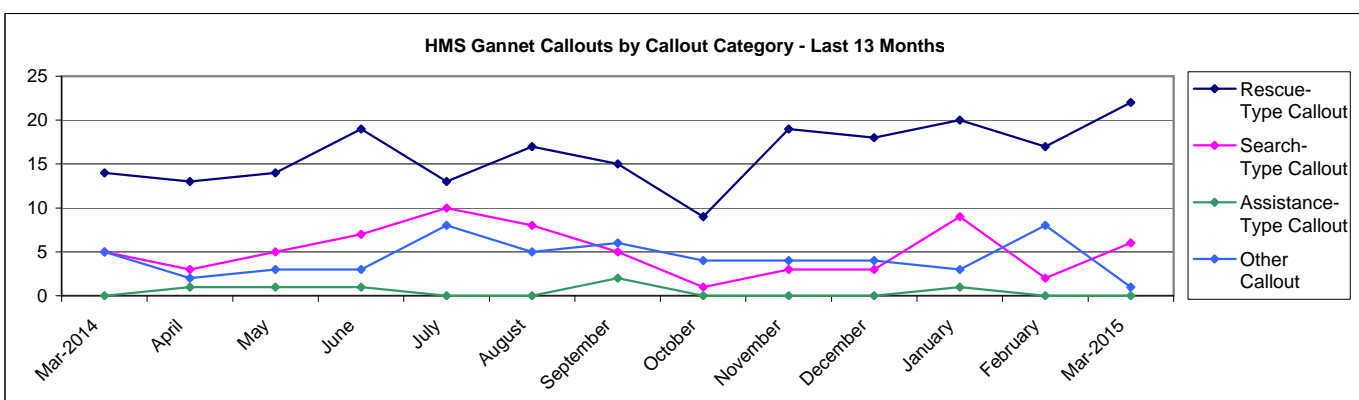
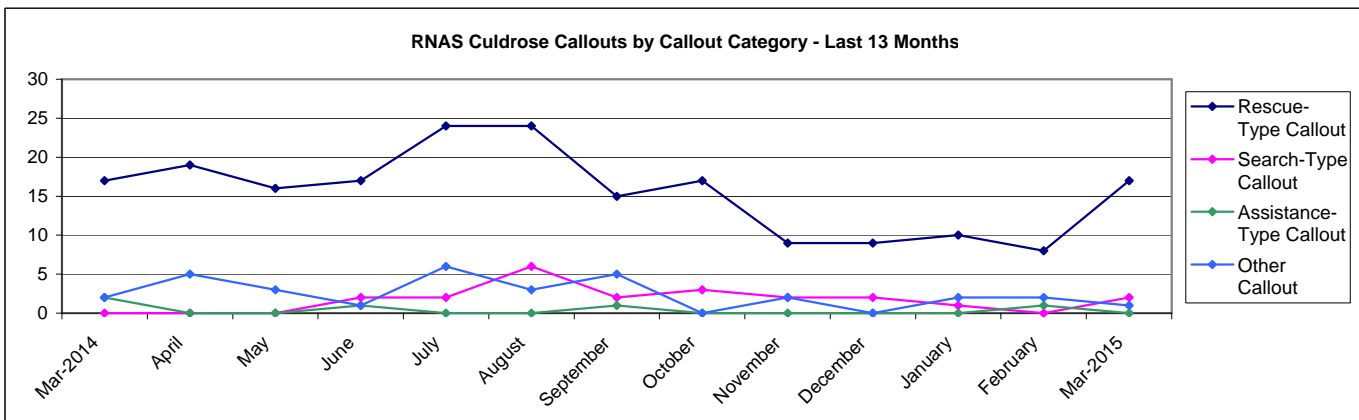
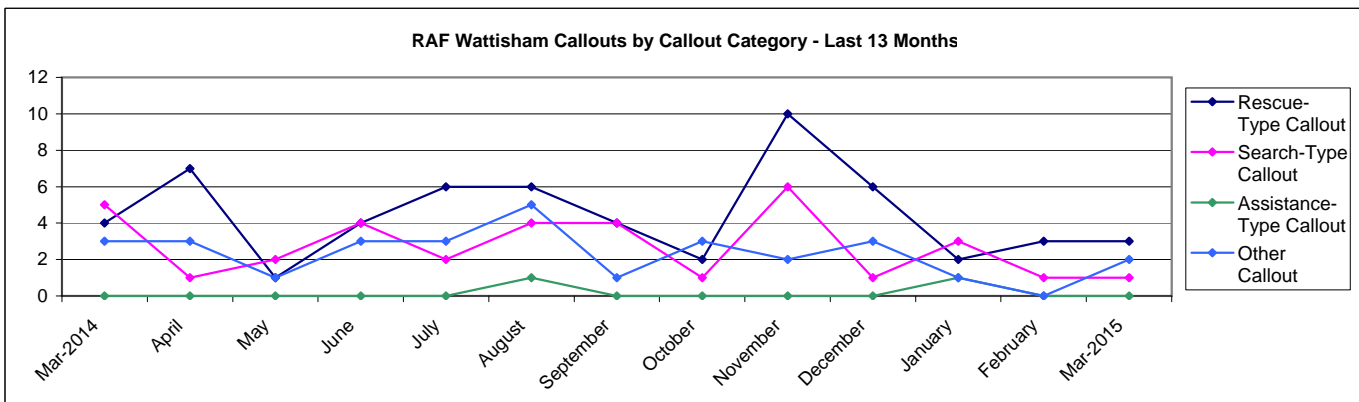
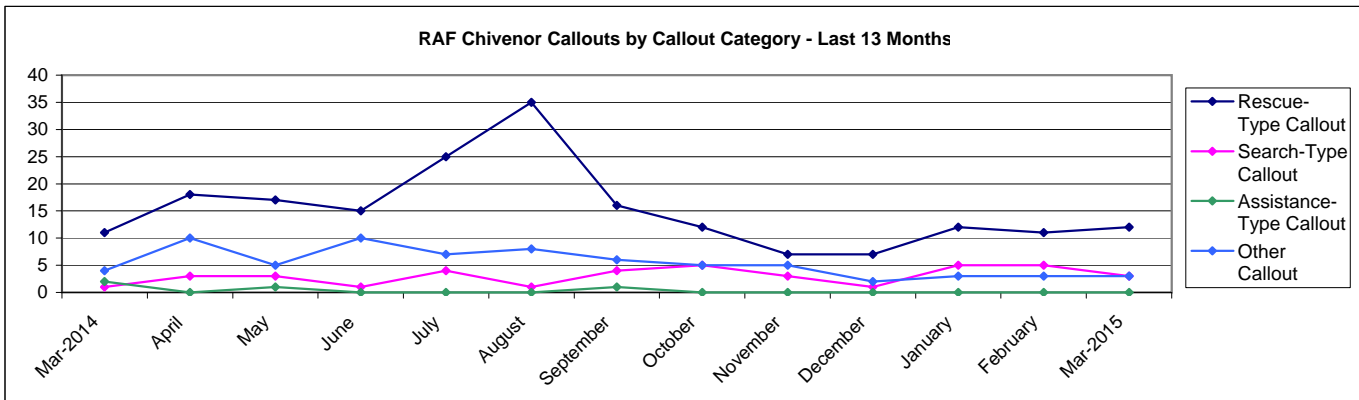


Callouts¹ - UK Helicopters



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

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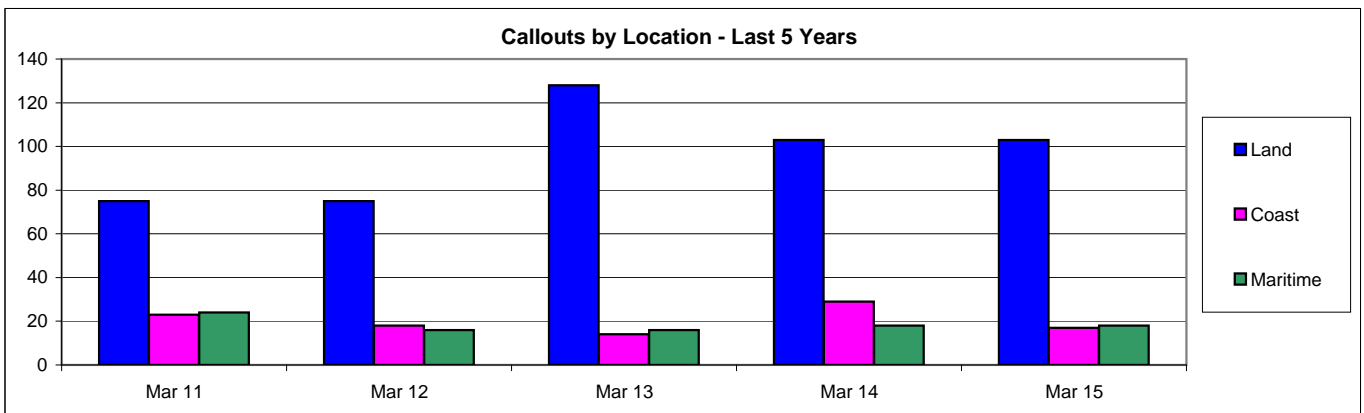
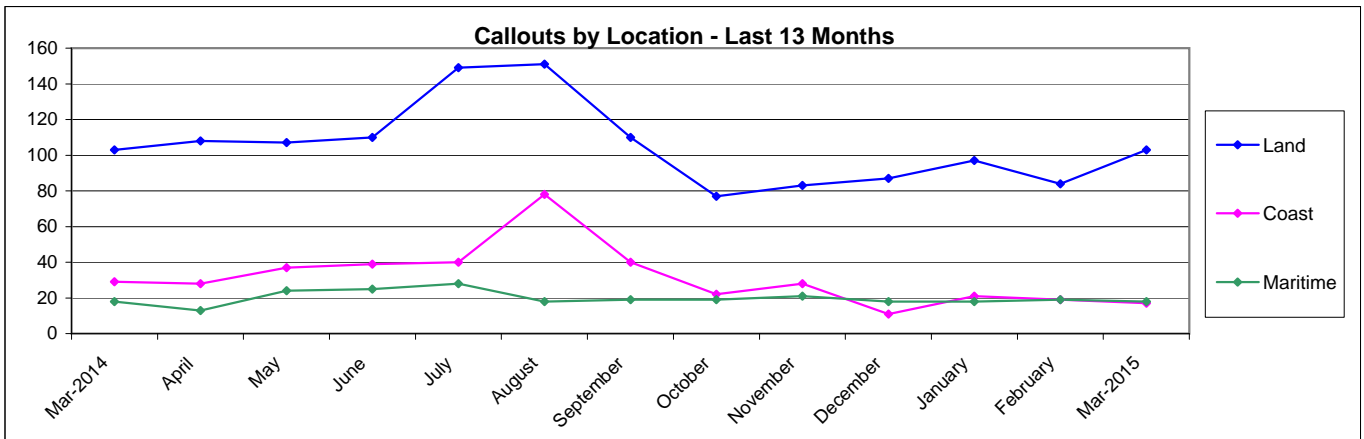
Callouts - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

Callouts by Location

	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	7	2	-	9
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-
Medrescue	40	3	17	60
Search-Medrescue	4	1	-	5
Medtransfer	20	-	-	20
Recovery	1	-	-	1
Search-Recovery	1	1	-	2
Transfer	-	-	1	1
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-
Search	9	2	-	11
Top Cover	-	-	-	-
Assist	1	-	-	1
Search-Assist	10	1	-	11
Recalled	5	4	-	9
Not Required	2	1	-	3
False Alarm	-	1	-	1
Hoax	-	1	-	1
Precaution	-	-	-	-
Aborted	1	-	-	1
Search-Aborted	2	-	-	2
Total Callouts	103	17	18	138

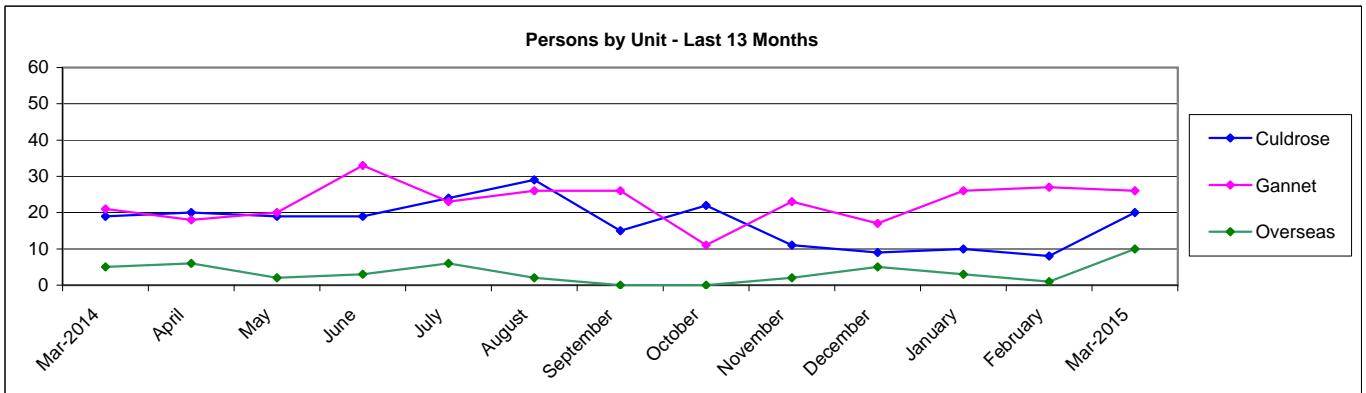
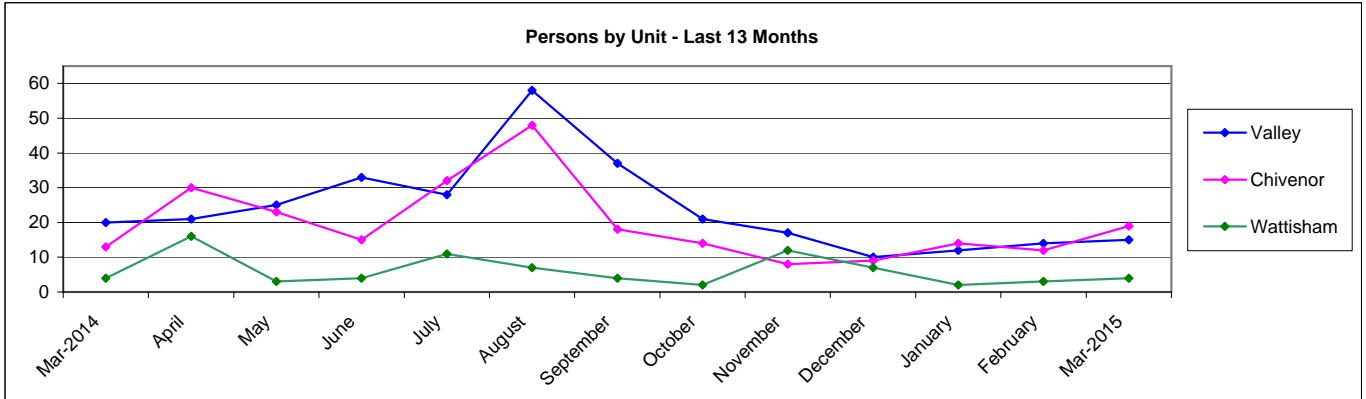
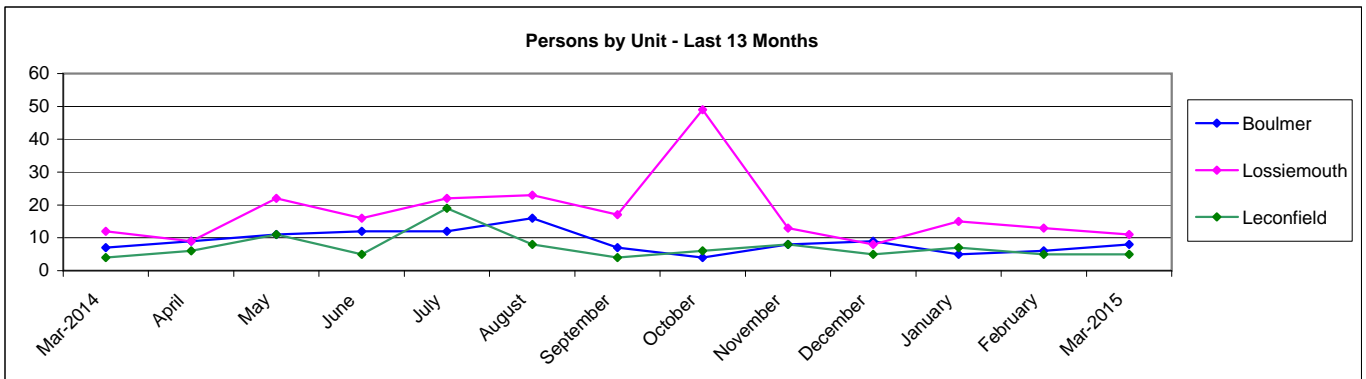
Callouts by Category

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Beacon	Flares	Person	Other	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	12	-	6	-	-	-	42	-	60
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	20
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	11
1	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	-	9
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Total	2	13	1	6	1	-	115	-	138



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	-	-	-	3	10	2	15	-	3	3	-	18	1	-	1
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medrescue	6	10	5	8	8	2	39	13	9	22	-	61	1	5	6
Search-Medrescue	-	1	-	4	-	-	5	-	1	1	-	6	-	-	-
Medtransfer	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	6	11	17	-	19	-	3	3
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Total Persons	8	11	5	15	19	4	62	20	26	46	-	108	2	8	10



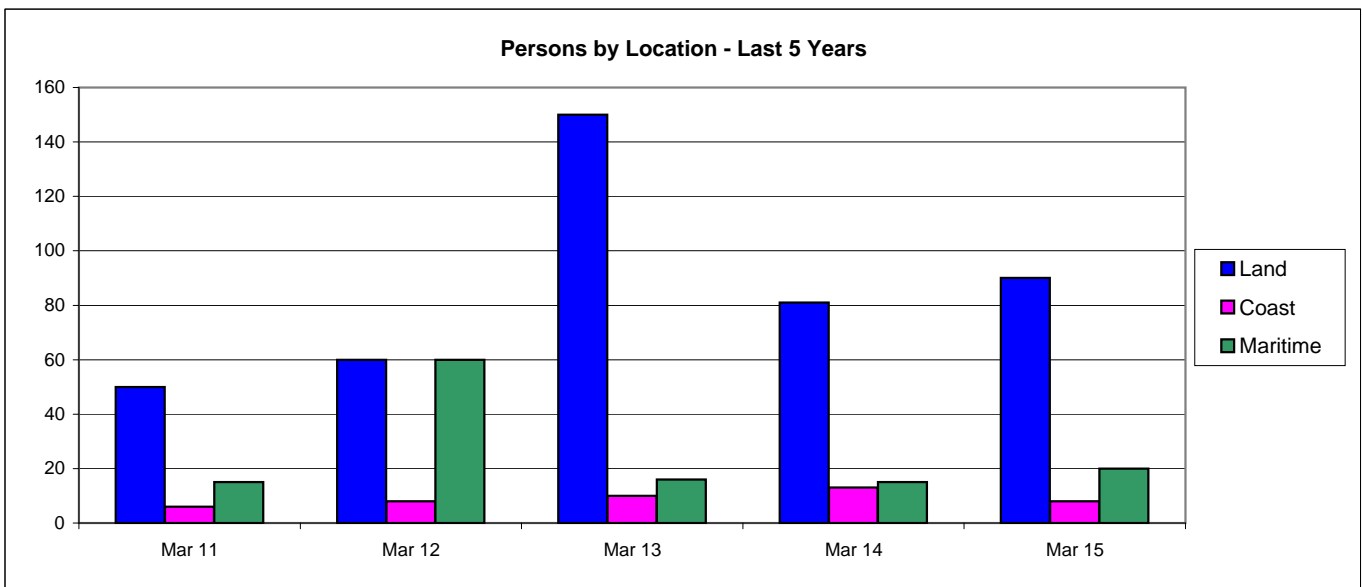
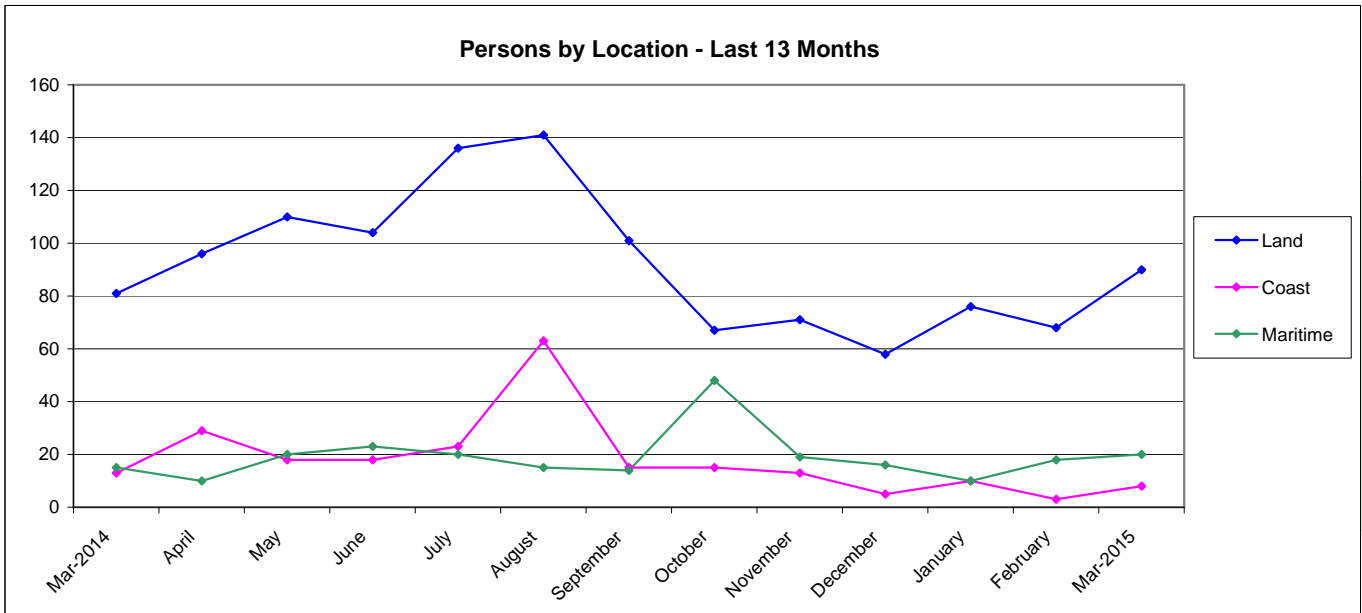
Persons - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

Persons by Callout Location

	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	16	3	-	19
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-
Medrescue	45	3	19	67
Search-Medrescue	5	1	-	6
Medtransfer	22	-	-	22
Recovery	1	-	-	1
Search-Recovery	1	1	-	2
Transfer	-	-	1	1
Total Persons	90	8	20	118

Persons by Callout Category

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Person	Other	Total
	-	-	-	-	19	-	19
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	14	-	6	47	-	67
	-	-	-	-	6	-	6
	-	-	-	-	22	-	22
	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	-	15	-	6	97	-	118



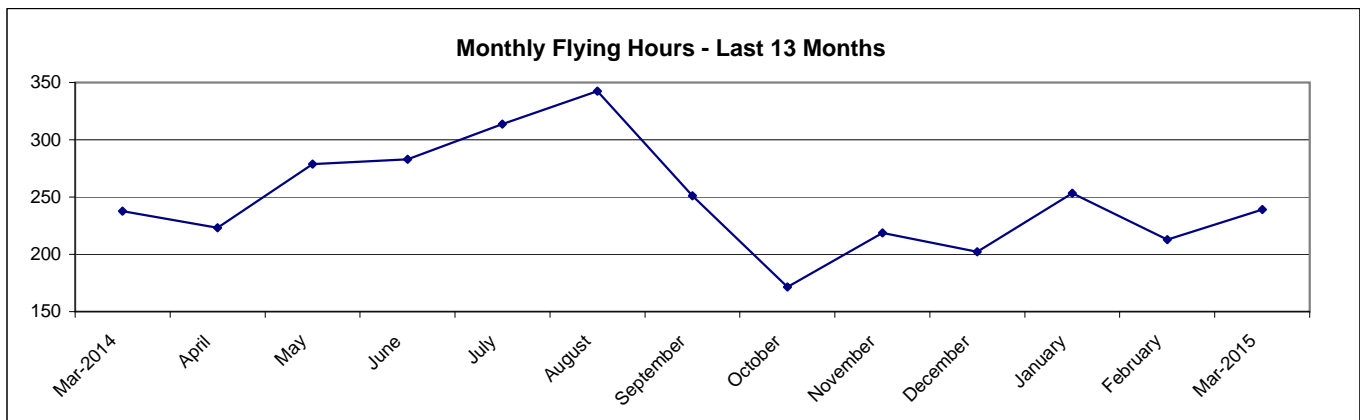
SAR Flying Hours & Mountain Rescue Teams

SAR Flying Hours³

	Total Flying Hours	Average Flying Hours	Average Time to Casualty ⁴
RAF Boulmer	27.05	2.15	0.33
RAF Lossiemouth	42.49	2.23	0.40
RAF Leconfield	9.45	1.38	0.28
RAF Valley	19.60	1.26	0.15
RAF Chivenor	25.40	1.26	0.22
RAF Wattisham	8.06	1.21	0.24
RNAS Culdrose	34.06	1.42	0.22
HMS Gannet	62.10	2.09	0.34
UK Other Helicopters	-	-	-
Cyprus	2.10	0.43	0.05
Falklands	7.10	1.26	0.14
Overseas Other Helicopters	-	-	-
	239.01	1.49	0.27

3. Times are expressed in Hours and Minutes.

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

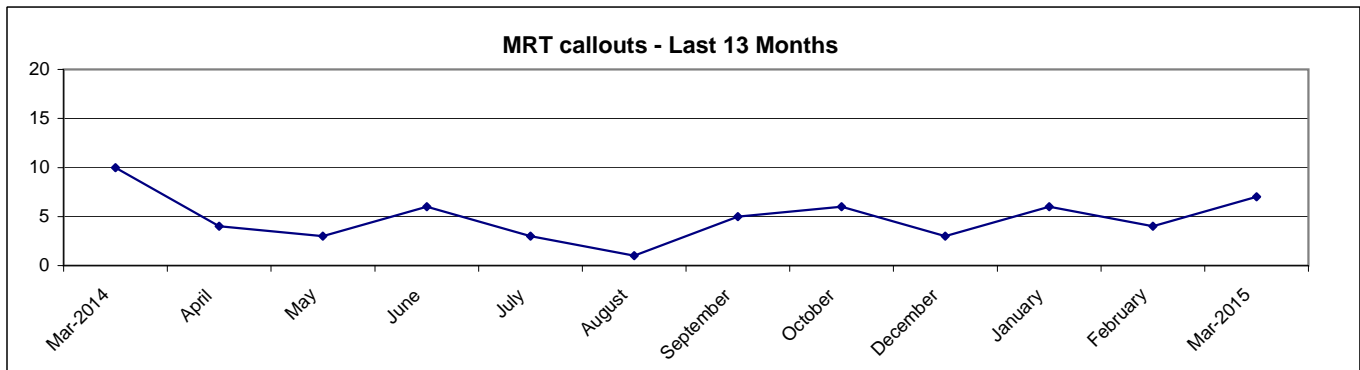


Mountain Rescue Teams

	Callouts	Persons	Man Hours ⁶
Lossiemouth ⁵	3	-	1,098
Leeming	3	-	134
Valley	1	-	62
Total	7	-	1,294

5. Formerly MRT Kinloss

6. Man hours are rounded to the nearest whole hour



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