



# Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat  
Spitfire Block  
Headquarters Air Command  
Royal Air Force  
High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire  
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Our Ref: FOI2015/03929

27 April 2015

Dear 

Thank you for your letter of 14 April 2015 about the MOD Search and Rescue Service (SAR). You have requested a map showing the UK bases for MOD SAR; the callsigns for each SAR unit and their locations; some photos and information on the SAR helicopters; the year in which MOD SAR started and when (approximately) it will end.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

After an initial search of our records I can confirm information within scope of your request is held.

The original reason for introducing the Search and Rescue service was to find and rescue downed pilots and aircrew during World War II. The RAF created the Directorate of Air Sea Rescue on 6 February 1941 and it operated alongside the RN SAR Service and the HM Coastguards which it still does today. RN SAR officially came into being in 1953. The current MOD SAR service is due to be phased out from mid 2015 and is due to finish in March 2016.

The callsigns and locations of MOD SAR aircraft are as follows:

## RAF

- Rescue 122 & 123 - RAF Valley, Anglesey
- Rescue 137 & 138 - RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland
- Rescue 169 & 170 - RMB Chivenor, Devon
- Rescue 125 & 126 - Wattisham Airfield, Suffolk
- Rescue 128 & 129 - DST Leconfield, East Riding of Yorkshire
- Rescue 131 & 132 - RAF Boulmer, Northumberland

## RN

- Rescue 193 - RNAS Culdrose, Helston, Cornwall.
- Rescue 177 - Gannet RN SAR Flight, Prestwick, Scotland.

I have enclosed paper copies of a map showing the UK bases for MOD Search and Rescue plus information on the RAF and Royal Navy (RN) SAR Force including pictures as requested. You are free to use the pictures for your own personal, private purposes outlined as exceptions to infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Acts but they should not be reproduced.

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, 1st 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

Air Secretariat  
Air Command