



Ministry of Defence

Ref: FOI2016/00979

Defence Economics
Price Indices
Oak 0W #6028
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8QW

Telephone: **+44 (0)30 679 32100**
E-mail: **DefStrat-Econ-ESES-PI-
Hd@mod.uk**

17 February 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 20 January 2016 requesting the following information:

'I would like to enquire whether you hold data relating to rescues from salt marsh and mudflats in Essex by (MCA and/or MOD) over the last 5 or 10 years?'

If so, please could advise me how to obtain a copy?'

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

Although details on location are held, MOD does not hold data on Search and Rescue (SAR) callouts by ecosystem. Crews do have the ability to record observations on callouts in which they can reference the type of area in which the callout occurred. We have therefore searched this data to locate all callouts that have occurred within Essex in the last 10 years that reference 'mud flat', 'mudflat' or 'marsh' and have attached details of the callouts including latitude and longitude data. We have broadened the search phrase 'salt marsh' to 'marsh' as crews are less likely to record the stricter term 'salt marsh' in their reports. These numbers should be considered a minimum as crews may not have recorded the ground conditions where operations took place. Callouts in Essex were identified by latitude and longitude data provided by the crews. Although Southend-on-Sea is an independent Unitary Authority area with borough status we have included it as a separate piece of analysis as it is still included within the ceremonial county of Essex.

Please also note that all callouts, along with their coordinate details, have been published for the years 2011-2015 at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/military-search-and-rescue-annual-statistics-index>

To note, the data underpinning this analysis has been produced from that provided by the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) and includes all military SAR units, both helicopter and Mountain Rescue Teams (MRT) that operated in the UK during the last 10 years. As part of the transfer of SAR functions to a civilian contract controlled by the Department for Transport (DfT), military SAR units were drawn down throughout 2015 as civilian units replaced them.

MOD does not have access to the records for the Maritime Coastguard Authority (MCA). Any requests for MCA data should be addressed to:

mca_publication_scheme@mcga.gov.uk

Narrative details have been redacted to remove personal details; the details of each callout remain to help identify the type of action that occurred.

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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Head of Branch
Defence Economics (Price Indices)

Callouts in Essex

Incident Date	Time of Departure	Incident Position	Unit Name	Assistance	Persons Moved	Unit Type	Lat Dec	Long Dec	Narrative (Redacted)
07/09/2008	10:49:00	5134N00045E	H RAF Wattisham 22 Sqn 'B' Flt	Search	0	Sea King	51.56667	0.75	XXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX. R125 SCRAMBLED TO SEARCH FOR PERSON IN DISTRESS ALONG PAGLESHAM BEACH. A WATER INLET CLOSE TO SOUTHEND AIRPORT. 2 INDEPENDANT PARTIES HAD HEARD MULTIPLE CALLS FOR HELP BUT COULD NOT ESTABLISH POSITION OF OF PERSON. R125 COMPLETED EXTENSIVE VISUAL AND FLIR SEARCHES OF RIVERBANKS AND MARSHES WITH NOTHING FOUND. COMMS GOOD.
11/04/2010	18:18:00	5143N00050E	H RAF Wattisham 22 Sqn 'B' Flt	Rescue	4	Sea King	51.71667	0.8333333	XXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX. R125 SCRAMBLED TO ASSIST 4 PERSONS IN A BOAT TRAPPED ON MUD FLAT. BOAT LOCATED AND 4 PERSONS WINCHED ON BOARD. CASUALITIES THEN TRANFERRED TO COASTGUARD UNIT AT BRADWELL MARINA. R125 RTB. COMMS GOOD THROUGHOUT.
24/07/2010	22:27:00	5154N00115E	H RAF Wattisham 22 Sqn 'B' Flt	Rescue	4	Sea King	51.9	1.25	XXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX. R125 SCRAMBLED TO REPORTS OF 4 PERSONS STUCK IN MUD SOUTH OF HARWICH. POLICE ASU ALREADY ON SCENE AND ILLUMINATING AREA. ACTUAL SITUATION WAS 4 CHILDREN STUCK ON AN ISLAND ON MARSHES. 4 CASUALTIES WINCHED APPROXIMATELY 20 FT TO OTHER SIDE OF CREEK AND LANDED WITH PARENTS AND POLICE. COMMS GOOD THROUGHOUT.
14/02/2011	18:24:00	5146N00051E	H RAF Wattisham 22 Sqn 'B' Flt	Search-Abort	0	Sea King	51.76667	0.85	XXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX. R125 DIVERTED FROM TRAINING TO A SUICIDAL MALE BELIEVED TO BE MISSING IN THE MARSHES NEAR TOLLESBURY. EXTENSIVE FLIR & NVG SEARCH CARRIED OUT. AIRCRAFT RECOVERED TO WATTISHAM WITH AN OIL LEAK AND ENGINEERING ADVICE SOUGHT. R125 STOODOWN. COMMS GOOD THROUGHOUT.
25/09/2011	15:20:00	5156N00105E	H RAF Wattisham 22 Sqn 'B' Flt	Precaution	0	Sea King	51.93333	1.083333	XXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX. R125 retasked from training to report of lady with dementia walking out on to the mud flats at Misterly (River Stour). Her husband was seen to be walking after her. The casualty was seen by R125 to have been located by 2 other walkers and was in no immediate peril. Winchman was deployed to assess the casualty's state and help to reunite her with her husband. R125 then returned to training. Comms good throughout and FLIR camera used to ascertain casualty identification.

Callouts in Southend-on-Sea

Incident Date	Time of Departure	Incident Position	Unit Name	Assistance	Persons Moved	Unit Type	Lat Dec	Long Dec	Narrative (Redacted)
10/11/2008	15:31:00	5130N00045E	H RAF Wattisham 22 Sqn 'B' Flt	Search	0	Sea King	51.5	0.75	XXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX. R125 SCRAMBLED TO OVERDUE FV LOUISA 1NM S SHOEBURY NESS. FISHERMAN HAD MADE RECENT PHONE CALL TO RELATIVE WITH ACCURATE POSITION. ARRIVED ON SCENE SHORTLY BEFORE DUSK. CARRIED OUT EXPEDITIOUS VISUAL SEARCH OF AREA. VARIOUS PIECES OF FISHING EQUIPMENT LOCATED AND PICKED UP BY SOUTHEND ILB 2. THESE INCLUDED BAGS, BUCKETS AND NOTABLY A BUOY WITH THE VESSEL'S NAME. AFTER ECT, WHITE LIGHT SEARCH CONDUCTED ON MUDFLAT WATERLINE FROM EAST KNOCK TO SOUTHEND PIER. REFUELLED AT SOUTHEND THEN CONDUCTED CLA SEARCH USING FLIR. FURTHER SORTIE FLOWN FOR FIRST LIGHT SEARCH FROM 0640 TO 0825. SEARCHED MAPLIN SANDS THEN COASTLINE SHOEBURY NESS TO CROW STONE. FURTHER OVERWATER SEARCH ALSO COMPLETED. OTHER THAN FISHING ARTICLES PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED, NOTHING FOUND. COMMS GOOD.
16/10/2010	13:34:00	5131N00051E	H RAF Wattisham 22 Sqn 'B' Flt	Medrescue	1	Sea King	51.5167	0.85	XXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX. R125 scrambled to report of kite buggier with broken ankle on mud flats off Southend with tide coming in. Southend hovercraft onscene. Hovercraft identified casualty as there were lots of kites in the area, he also spoke to kite surfers in the area to ask them to remain clear or drop their kites. R125 landed to deploy winchman. Casualty was placed in CG stretcher and carried to aircraft which had moved twice due to rising tide. Casualty taken to Southend Airport for transfer to hospital by road ambulance. Comms good throughout.