



Association of Lowland Rescue

Trustees Report 2020/2021

February 2021 saw our Chair Gareth Pritchard step down and a new Chair, Teresa Archer elected in March 2021.

We continued to work on the four objectives set in 2019 as follows:

1. Supporting, engaging and communicating with our Teams and being transparent in our dealings

Each team has a named trustee contact and is encouraged to work with their trustee to resolve any local issues and receive support. We continue to provide regular updates and meetings to keep the organisation informed and engaged.

2. Ensuring our Tasking Agencies, SAR Strategic Partners and the Charity Commission have confidence in LR

Despite the ongoing limitations of the pandemic, we have continued to take part in virtual meetings with our primary tasking authorities through the NPCC, and engaged in the UKSAR Operators Group and various sub groups to move forward on important learning and development across SAR.

3. Demonstrating good governance and managing key risk areas

It is important in terms of overall governance that, as an organisation, we have accurate data on our activities and resources in LR. This assists in terms of internal management but also supports some of the developments we are undertaking and need external support. LR team members continue to develop the AIR (Annual Incident Report) database and to collate such important data.

The 2020 AGM took place over Zoom and attendance was excellent with a high percentage of our Teams attending. We elected a Vice-Chair as well as two new Trustees to give us a good complement of seven Trustees. Since then we have had two resignations, and will be looking to appoint additional trustees at the 2021 AGM.

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4. Establishing a Sub-Group to generate options of the future structure of LR – ensuring that we have a diverse membership of the group and including our younger members.

We had postponed work on this as the pandemic continued and we have had limited capacity on the trustee board. This does however remain an important strategic aim and work will take place during 2022 to move forward.

Key points from 2020 data include:

- There were **34 Lowland Rescue Teams**
- There were **1572 operational members** and 507 non-operational members across the teams. This compares with the operational numbers from 2019 (1587 operational). The lack of increase as has been seen in previous years may be explained by the impact of the COVID pandemic on the ability to recruit and train new members
- Resources available across the teams included:
 - 47 dogs
 - 99 vehicles
 - 48 boats
 - 46 drones
 - 94 bikes
 - 40 canoes and kayaks

The main change has been with the increase in drones compared to 2019 (25 drones)

- In total over **91,000 person-hours** (80,000 in 2019) of Lowland Rescue incident activity were completed
- In 2020 there were **2158 incident callouts** (1746 in 2019) including assists and **1642** (1594 in 2019) of these associated with searches for missing people.
- There was a dramatic increase to almost 450 'other' incidents related to providing support during the COVID pandemic either providing food and PPE for the local community or working in hospitals and vaccination centres.
- Operationally callouts were fairly stable across the year and days of the week with a slight reduction mid-week although comparison with previous years' show there are no clear month or weekday trends established. Peak callout times were at around 09:00 and 19:00 again consistent with previous years
- Based on the full economic costs of a police officer (National Policing Guidelines 2018) **the total value of the Lowland Rescue Services** provided for incidents alone would be **£5.4 million**. This excludes all costs associated with training and equipment

Teresa Archer

Chair, Lowland Rescue

September 2021



Annual General Meeting – 2021

Treasurer's Report for the financial year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Issues and Challenges faced during the year

Financial year 2020/21 was a challenging year with the main challenge being the lack of face to face activities such as training due to the COVID-19 pandemic which restricted spending.

Our main source of income continues to be the annual team subscription fee of £110 (£3,910) which only covers half of the Association's annual fixed running costs (annual average £6,243). The remaining unrestricted income (£2,589) is variable and comes mainly from donations through platforms such as Virgin Money Giving (which is to close this year).

The result of the above is that the Associations unrestricted funds amount to a mere £18,929.

Financial Results (As per Chappell Associates – Chartered Accountants)

The Associations Statement of Income and Expenses shows a surplus of £42,862 for this financial year.

In this reporting period we received £56,590 in Grants;

VTF	£49,460
JLP OFCOM	£4,500
CAF PPE	£3,000

Operating revenue for the year was £74,214 made up most notably of;

General Sales	£9,857
Donations Unrestricted	£2,589
Team Subscriptions	£3,910
Grants for ALSAR	£56,590

Operating expenses for the year were £31,352 which includes most notably;

General Purchases	£1,961
OFCOM radio licenses	£3,223
Insurance	£1,457
LRFR Medical kit	£3,058
Grants (PPE)	£7,266
SDH restricted fund	£8,787
Training course	£4,435

Cash on Hand

Lloyds Current Account	£84,499
Lloyds Saving Account	<u>£20,003</u>
Total	<u>£104,502</u>

Restricted SDH	£2,235
VTF 18/19	£15,642
VTF 19/20	£11,400
VTF 20/21	£35,016
JLP(OFCOM)	<u>£1,277</u>
Total Restricted	<u>£65,570</u>
Operating	£18,929
Reserve	<u>£20,003</u>
Total	<u>£104,502</u>

Plans for the forthcoming year

Priorities for the forthcoming year;

- Set Departmental budgets for the year and closely monitor actuals to ensure we break even on SDH and VTF.
- Consultation with teams and review of the Team Annual Subscription fee.
- Consultation with teams and review of the OFCOM radio license fee.
- Find a replacement platform to Virgin Money Giving for donations.
- Recruit a new Treasurer



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity name

ASSOCIATION OF LOWLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 MARCH 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1150317

Set out on pages

1 - 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2021.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

14/07/2021

Name:

ANDREW CHAPPELL

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FCA

Address:

CHAPPELL ASSOCIATES LTD

WESTFIELD HOUSE, BRATTON ROAD, WESTBURY

WILTSHIRE, BA13 3EP

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

**Income and Expenditure Account for Association of Lowland Search and Rescue
Year to 31 March 2021**

Income

General Sales	9,856.84
Donations - Unrestricted	2,588.90
Team Subscriptions	3,910.30
Grants for ALSAR	56,590.46
Misc	1,267.79
Total income	74,214.29

Less Cost of Income

Purchase Tax Control Account	-1,653.79
Training Course Costs of Sales	-4,435.00
SDH - Restricted Fund	-8,787.26
Other Grants - Restricted Funds	-7,266.23
Subscriptions	-308.57
Bank Charges	-107.37
General Purchases	-1,960.57
Hosting Fees and IT Consumables	-536.61
Training Costs	-75
Mileage Claims	-169.2
LRFR Medical Kits	-3,057.65
Travelling	-394.18
Insurance	-1,457.20
Postage and Carriage	-72.24
Property, plant and equipment	-771.02
Audit and Accountancy Fees	-300
Total Cost of Income	-31,351.89

Net Cash Flows	42,862.40
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Cash and Bank etc at 1 April 2020	61639.28
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Cash and Bank etc at 31 March 2021	104501.68
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