



Association of Lowland Rescue

Trustees Report 2021/2022

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

We continued to support four probationary teams on their journey to full operational status. Merseyside Search and Rescue obtained Operational Status in November 2021.

During 2021-22 we updated our medical policy to give teams greater flexibility in choosing from a range of courses delivered by appropriately accredited training providers. We continue to work on providing additional e-learning to cover elements specific to our environment.

The trustees supported a number of teams with challenging issues, and received one complaint which was resolved satisfactorily.

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

Lowland Rescue continues to be an active part of UKSAR and regularly meets with the Operators, Medical, Radio Communications, Volunteer and Mental Wellbeing groups. Active work has also taken place in the Emergency Drivers Working Group.

In addition, we attend the Police Search Governance Board, and meet regularly with the National Police Chiefs Council.

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 2021 AGM took place over Zoom and attendance was excellent with a high percentage of our Teams attending. We elected a new Trustee, Adrian Edwards. Since then we had one resignation, and have co-opted two new trustees to be ratified at the 2022 AGM. Lyndsey Donaldson-Selby will act as Treasurer until then,

and Diana Green will act as Secretary. Thank you to Noel Kerr who has stood down as acting Treasurer and as a trustee, and to Andy Harrison who has stood down as acting Secretary. Andy remains a trustee.

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 postponed work on this as the pandemic continued and as we make significant changes to our operating standards over 2022-23. This does however remain an important strategic aim and work will take place during 2023 to move forward.

Key points from 2021 data include:

- There were **34 Lowland Rescue Teams**
- There were **1653 operational members** and 523 non-operational members across the teams. This compares with the operational numbers from 2020 (1572 operational). This increase is consistent with earlier years and follows a stagnation in team growth during 2020 possibly as a result of deferred intake programmes due to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and the ability to recruit and train new members.
- Resources available across the teams included:
 - 52 dogs
 - 110 vehicles
 - 52 boats
 - 56 drones
 - 95 bikes
 - 44 canoes and kayaks

The main changes are similar to previous years with large increases in vehicles (99 in 2020) and drones (46 in 2020).

- In total over **102,000 person-hours** (91,000 in 2020) of Lowland Rescue incident activity were completed
- In 2021 there were **2372 incident callouts** (2158 in 2020) including assists and **1539** (1642 in 2020) of these associated with searches for missing people.
- The large number of other incidents primarily related to providing support during the COVID-19 pandemic either providing food and PPE for the local community or working in hospitals and vaccination centres.
- Operationally, January 2021 was the busiest month and there is a significant variation across the year compared to pre-COVID-19 trends. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 lockdowns during 2021 this may have had an impact on search activity. There were no significant observable variations in callout by days across the week although, as has been observed previously, there was an upturn in callouts around 8-9am and 6-7pm.

- Based on the full economic costs of a police officer (National Policing Guidelines 2018) the **total value of the Lowland Rescue Services provided for search incidents alone would be £4.6 million**. This excludes all costs associated with additional activities supporting the NHS and other organisations during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as training and equipment.

Teresa Archer

Chair, Lowland Rescue

October 2022

Income and Expenditure Account for Association of Lowland Search and Rescue
Year to 31 March 2022

Income

Donations - Unrestricted	2,140.38
Team Subscriptions	3,630.00
General Sales	1,093.44
Grants for ALSAR	40,000.00
Assessment Fees: Dogs	195
	<u>47,058.82</u>

Less Cost of Income

Bank Charges	-84
SDH - Restricted Fund	-25,139.57
Purchase Tax Control Account	-5,097.82
VTF Dog fund	-262.5
Hosting Fees and IT Consumables	-657.99
Telephone and Mobile Charges	-34.59
Subscriptions	-73.29
Travelling	-1,345.89
Licences	-3,260.50
Adjustments	-70
Training Costs	-970
Audit and Accountancy Fees	-300
Insurance	-1,566.54
Total Cost of Income	<u>-38,862.69</u>

Net Cash Flows	<u>8,196.13</u>
----------------	-----------------

Cash and Bank etc at 1 April 2021	<u>10,4501.68</u>
-----------------------------------	-------------------

Cash and Bank etc at 31 March 2022	<u>11,2697.81</u>
------------------------------------	-------------------



**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

ASSOCIATION OF LOWLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

On accounts for the year
ended

31 MARCH 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1150317

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 MARCH 2022

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Date: 31/08/2022

Name:

ANDREW CHAPPELL

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

FCA

Address:

CHAPPELL ASSOCIATES LTD

WESTFIELD HOUSE, BRATTON ROAD, WEATBURY

WILTSHIRE, BA13 3EP

Section B

Disclosure

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