

## Trustees Report 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

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 our probationary teams on their journey to full operational status. During 2022-23 we received £66,723 from Charities Aid Foundation which allowed us to continue providing additional training to all Teams to cover elements specific to our environment.

### **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 2022 AGM attendance was excellent with a high percentage of our Teams attending. We elected two new Trustees, Diana Green (Secretary) and Lyndsey Donaldson-Selby (Treasurer).

### **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 significant change continues through the review of all of our LandSAR training courses are reviewed and updated, which in turn may impact on our operating standards. This does however remain an important strategic aim and work will take place during 2023-24 to move forward.

### **Key points from 2022 include:**

- There were **34 Lowland Rescue Teams**
- There were **1,626 operational members** and 531 non-operational members across the teams. This compares with the operational numbers from 2021 (1653 operational).
- Resources available across the teams included:
  - 54 dogs
  - 106 vehicles
  - 49 boats
  - 64 drones
  - 98 bikes
  - 40 canoes and kayaks

This year we saw a significant increase in drones from 56 to 64 as drones are proving to be a valuable tool in searching for missing people. We also had 6 teams with sonar capacity – a valuable resource when searching in rivers, lakes etc

- In total over **69,700 person-hours were recorded** (102,000 in 2021) of Lowland Rescue incident activity were completed. 2021 hours included resilience efforts such as Covid support hence the large variance.

- In 2022 there were 1,450 **incident callouts** (2,372 in 2021) including assists and **874** (1,539 in 2021) of these associated with searches for missing people.
- The large number of resilience 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, July and November 2022 were the busiest months. During the week there were slightly more callouts on Saturdays and Sundays, and slightly less midweek.
- 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 £2.3 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.
- Platinum Jubilee Medals – 810 medals were requested across all 34 Teams. These were awarded to frontline emergency services personnel dealing with emergencies and have completed five full calendar years of service on 6 February 2022. Further eligible members were identified after a clarification in the eligibility criteria and these will be awarded along with Coronation Medals once received.
- Special mention to Suffolk SAR who were awarded of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.
- LR is working on introducing new processes for delivery of land search training with the sole aim being to ensure consistency of training offers across all teams.

Teresa Archer  
Chair until May 2023



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 2023

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 2023

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:

7 AUGUST 2023

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 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 Accounts for Association of Lowland Search and Rescue  
Year to 31 March 2023

Income

Donations - Unrestricted	6,519.12
Team Subscriptions	3,520.00
General Sales	1,866.00
Grants for ALSAR	81,032.83
	<u>92,937.95</u>

Less Cost of Income

Purchase Tax Control Account	2,369.83
Hotels	3,831.08
Travelling	1,611.27
Training Costs	1,664.00
Bank Charges	100.70
Telephone and Mobile Charges	38.95
VAT on SAR purchases	8,351.65
SDH - Restricted Fund	13,788.18
Subscriptions	149.88
Hosting Fees and IT Consumables	670.60
Audit and Accountancy Fees	300.00
Printing	44.00
Insurance	1,897.07
Licenses	3,223.00
General Purchases	179.17
VTF19 - Restricted Fund	7,644.00
	<u>29,160.08</u>

Net Cash Flows	<u>63,777.87</u>
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Cash and Bank at 1 April 2022	<u>112,697.81</u>
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Cash and Bank at 31 March 2023	<u>176,475.68</u>
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LR Lloyds Account	156,473.16
Bank Reserve Account	20,002.52
	<u>176,475.68</u>
Restricted-SDH DF	7,201.28
Restricted-VTF 2017/18	856.90
Restricted-VTF 2018/19	5,567.22
Restricted-VTF 2019/20	24,394.10
Restricted-VTF 2020/21	-
Restricted-VTF 2022/23	52,029.98
	<u>82,848.20</u>
Operating Reserve	66,423.68
	<u>20,002.52</u>
	<u>176,475.68</u>





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

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