



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **01.07.2023** Period start date To **30.06.2024** Period end date

Charity name: **Merseyside Lowland Search & Rescue**

Charity registration number: **1166213**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To relieve suffering and distress amongst persons endangered by accidents or natural hazards and the preservation of life by providing search & rescue services in Merseyside in co-operation partners, government bodies and other relevant organisations.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Throughout the 2023-2024 financial year, MerSAR has made significant progress, strengthening our relationships with both our Police Force and our governing body, Lowland Rescue. We have established ourselves as a dependable team within Lowland Rescue, with members contributing at a national level by participating in national courses. Additionally, we continue to support other Lowland Rescue teams with Bankside training and Team Leader development.</p> <p>Following last year's major milestone of acquiring an Incident Control Unit through local grant funding, we have now secured funding for a large thermal drone and a smaller drone. These assets enhance our ability to search for high-risk missing people from the air, allowing us to cover vast areas more quickly and effectively. We have also successfully procured new road search kits, essential for searches along roadways and highways. Our team members remain committed to ongoing skill development, continually enhancing our overall capabilities.</p> <p>We take pride in providing a highly professional and well-equipped volunteer team, available 24/7 to support Merseyside Police with high-risk missing person searches, as well as assisting other agencies during major incidents.</p>

		<p>MerSAR has experienced substantial growth, becoming more robust, efficient, and professional. Our team consistently acquires new skills and seizes every opportunity for development. In terms of search operations alone, our volunteers have dedicated approximately 300 hours—excluding additional time spent on events, training, administration, and other essential duties.</p> <p>Our commitment to continuous improvement remains strong, with plans to explore new resources and training opportunities as they become available and as funding allows. A key objective for 2024/25 is the adoption of new digital radios to enhance communication, integrate GPS technology, and keep pace with advancing technology.</p> <p>Since the pandemic, we have seen a slight increase in cash donations from charity collection pots; however, the ongoing cost of living crisis continues to impact overall contributions. We recognise that donations often come from individuals who may be facing financial hardship, and we are deeply grateful for every contribution, no matter how big or small.</p> <p>MerSAR remains actively engaged with the Merseyside community by attending events, schools, and clubs to raise awareness of our work. We are committed to promoting the Lowland Rescue name and increasing public understanding of the vital role Lowland Rescue teams play nationwide. Additionally, we are part of the Merseyside Search and Rescue Forum and the Merseyside Resilience Forum, working alongside HMCG, local councils, police, fire, ambulance services, and other resilience agencies.</p> <p>Through continued dedication and outreach, our team continues to raise its profile and advance the objectives set out in our constitution.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have complied with guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Merseyside Lowland Search and Rescue (MerSAR) possesses substantial resources to provide assistance to UK Emergency Services during times of crisis. MerSAR operates an Incident Control Unit, in addition to a 4x4 vehicle manned by its members, alongside a dedicated drone team. Furthermore, MerSAR is actively engaged in supporting neighbouring Lowland Rescue search teams, exemplified by its collaboration with Cheshire Search and Rescue, which is ongoing and fostering positive relationships.</p> <p>The team is proactively cultivating connections with other vital organisations, including Mountain Rescue, given Cheshire's proximity to North Wales and Greater Manchester alongside our neighbours in Lancashire who also have Mountain Rescue Teams. These collaborative efforts are instrumental in enhancing emergency response capabilities and fostering a network of support among regional search and rescue entities.</p> <p>MerSAR continues to save lives where possible but also to provide closure to families in some sad circumstances.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>The team's primary source of income comes mainly from public donations and contributions from individual trusts. Additional financial support is generated through sponsored events and the generosity of team members. Occasionally, we also receive donations specifically intended for acquiring specialised equipment.</p> <p>Our expenses cover a range of essential costs, including member training, insurance, vehicle maintenance, personal protective equipment, and other necessary consumables.</p> <p>Recently, we have successfully secured several grants to help cover costs related to software, drones, road kit, and various essential items. These grants have been generously provided by trusts and companies that support our work, either through direct funding or by offering grants for specific equipment.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Last financial year, the charity aimed to maintain reserves of £4,500 by the end of this financial year which we can safely say was achieved. We again would like to maintain this amount of reserve for the upcoming financial year
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£4,500 at present
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The charity receives its income from the general public and from individual trusts, as well as from sponsored events and financial support from individual team members. The team's expenditure covers training, insurance and vehicle running costs and purchase of consumables.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association , CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are voted in to post by full members of the team at the Annual General Meeting.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	

Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Merseyside Lowland Search & Rescue
Other name the charity uses	MerSAR / Merseyside Search & Rescue
Registered charity number	1166213
Charity's principal address	2 East Street Birkenhead CH41 1BY

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Lesley Ashcroft	Treasurer	3 rd February 2020 to date	
2	David Alcock	Trustee	3 rd February 2020 to date	
3	Eugene Chapman	Trustee	23 rd September 2020 to date	
4	Sherry Green	Trustee	15 th May 2023 to date	
5	Alison Braithwaite	Trustee	15 th May 2023 to date	
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	NA
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	NA
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	NA

Additional information (optional)**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information


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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Lesley Ashcroft	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee / Secretary	
Date	17.03.25	

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	David Alcock	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee / Chair	
Date	17.03.25	

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Merseyside Lowland Search and Rescue

YE 30 June 2024

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Merseyside Lowland Search and Rescue

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Merseyside Lowland Search and Rescue for the year ended 30 June 2024.

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 Trustee'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 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the application requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirements 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 being reached.



Andrew Chappell
FCA, MIMgt, FFTA

18th September 2024

Chappell Associates Limited
Chartered Accountants
Westfield House
Bratton Road
Westbury
Wiltshire
BA13 3EP



L. ASTLECROFT
Merseyside Search
+ Rescue
24.09.24

Merseyside Lowland Search and Rescue

Charity Number 1166213

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £
Income		
Donations and grants	20552	0
Contributions to PPE	0	0
	<u>20552</u>	<u>0</u>
Expenditure		
Training and search deployments	12038	0
Depreciation	3551	0
	<u>15589</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess of income over expenditure	4963	0
Funds brought forward	17472	0
Funds carried forward	<u>22435</u>	<u>0</u>

Represented by:

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Motor vehicles
Cost	6286	11000
Depreciation	-4555	-4813
Addition	7878	0
Depreciation on addition	-1182	0
	<u>8427</u>	<u>6187</u>
Bank balance	7822	0
Total assets	<u>16249</u>	<u>6187</u>

For the year in question, the charitable company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The trustees/directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.