

# North West Mountain Rescue Team

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100059

## Details

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Known as	NWMRT
Status	Received
Registered	2014-03-13
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

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Address 62 Killee Road  
Coa  
Ballinamallard  
Bt94 2fs  
BT94 2FS

Phone 07919596487

Email [secretary@nwmrt.org](mailto:secretary@nwmrt.org)

Website [www.nwmrt.org](http://www.nwmrt.org)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The operational area of the charity is the geographical boundary of Northern Ireland. The charity may support any Search and Rescue operations in the Republic of Ireland or United Kingdom when a request from an authoritative organisation is received. The charity may undertake training in the said areas when deemed appropriate or necessary by the team leader. The charity's purposes are: a. to save life and prevent injury in remote, hostile and mountainous environments. b. to educate the public on hazards in mountains and offer practical advice to reduce risks. c. to promote physical and mental health, fitness and wellbeing of communities through outdoor activities, particularly in upland and mountainous areas. d. to promote environmental protection, particularly in upland and mountainous areas. e. to relieve the suffering of animals in remote, hostile and mountainous environments.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of health or the saving of lives

**How the charity works:** Education/training, Search and rescue, Volunteer development

**Who the charity helps:** Addictions (drug/solvent/alcohol abuse), Adult training, Community safety/crime prevention, Mental health, Older people, Volunteers

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£83,904	£49,435	£0	0

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Andrew Kelly		
Mr David Tyson		
Mr Gareth Mckelvey		
Mr Graham Pollock		
Mr Keith Thompson		
Mr Raymond Brown		
Mr Stephen Forrest		
Mrs Pamela Ellis		
Ms Aiobhin Mcelroy		

**North West Mountain Rescue Team**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100059

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# Accounts

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**NORTH WEST MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM**  
**Income & Expenditure - Financial Year ended 31st March 2025**



<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£</b>
DOJ	12,000.00	Base Rent	14,963.32
Other Grants	11,888.22	Bank Fees	235.34
Street Collections	736.00	Insurance	2,060.87
Borough Council	-	Training	5,734.66
Donations	3,636.89	Admin	3,470.90
Fundraising Events	1,677.49	Equipment	3,694.68
Just Giving	4,528.07	Vehicle	900.00
AllTex	871.00	Fuel	2,972.61
Facebook/Amazon	-	Travel	-
Misc.	48,565.87	Misc.	436.54
Interest	-		
Misc		Net Expenditure	28,416.82
	<b>83,903.54</b>	VAT	6,052.10
		Gross Expenditure	34,468.92
		<b>Surplus</b>	<b>49,434.62</b>

**Bank Account**

**Opening Bank Balance**

Current Account	15,777.69	
Reserve Account	30,718.39	
Opening Bank Balance as per Accounts:		<b>46,496.08</b>


**Closing Bank Balance**

Current Account	5,698.94	
Reserve Account	91,002.86	
Closing balance as at 31st March 25		<b>96,701.80</b>

I certify that the above represents a true summary of the receipts and payments of the North West Mountain Rescue Team for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.



Ryan Currans (Treasurer 2024-25)



Stephen Forrest (Chairperson 2024-25)

**North West Mountain Rescue Team**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100059

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# Accounts

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NORTHERN IRELAND MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM  
 YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Opening Bank Balance 39,608.18

Receipts		Payments	
ALL Tex	1,080.50	Administration	4,510.11
Borough Councils	300.00	Equipment	2,857.58
MIRIAM	2,856.02	Fuel	3,960.39
Grant - DOJ	16,324.23	Insurance	1,259.78
Grant - UKSAR	6,991.00	Rental	13,431.31
Grant SECAD	1,750.00	Training	3,462.23
Donations	4,910.61	Vehicle Maintenance	1,457.15
Just Giving	4,368.06	Bank Fees	223.53
Misc. Income	21.52	Travel	145.08
Fundraising Events	5,086.00	MIRIAM	5,782.82
Street Collections	5,703.95		
Bank Interest	118.39	Vat	5,532.40
		Closing Bank Balance	46,496.08
	89,118.46		89,118.46

I certify that the above represents a true summary of the receipts and payments of the NIMRT

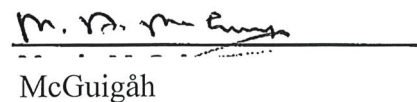
  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Chair

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have examined the above summary on behalf of the Northern Ireland Mountain Rescue Team and in my opinion, it agrees with the books and records held by the group for the year ended 31st March 2024 and with the balance at hand at that date.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 23rd September 2024 Martin  
 McGuigah

4 Drumlin Heights, Enniskillen



**North West Mountain Rescue Team**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100059

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# Annual report

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# North West Mountain Rescue Team

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

(period covering 1 Apr 2023 – 31 March 2024)



*Winter Training  
Cuilcagh Mountain Co Fermanagh*

Northern Ireland Charity No 100059

**Name of Charity:**

North West Mountain Rescue Team

**Registered Charity Number:**

NIC 100059

**Contact Details:**

Public address: 62 Killee Road, Coa, Ballinamallard, Co. Fermanagh BT94 2FS

Telephone number: 079 1959 6487

Email: [secretary@nwmrt.org](mailto:secretary@nwmrt.org)

Website: [www.nwmrt.org](http://www.nwmrt.org)

**Trustees 2023-24:**

Mr S. Forrest, Ms P. Ellis, Mr K. Thompson, Ms O. Cosgrove, Mr D. Tyson, Ms M. Martin, Mr A. Alderdice, Mr J. Irwin (resigned), Mr D. Faulkner (resigned)

**Appointment of Trustees:**

A trustee cannot be appointed by any person or body of persons within the charity but can only be appointed at any general meeting of the charity by majority vote and when a quorum is present.

**Governance:**

The organisation is a charity unincorporated association governed by a constitution that was formally adopted at the annual general meeting on 2 May 2018, and as amended on 11 August 2018, 20 February 2022 and 28 April 2024.

**Purposes:**

1. To save life and prevent injury in remote, hostile, and mountainous environments.
2. To educate the public on hazards in mountains and offer practical advice to reduce risks.
3. To promote physical and mental health, fitness, and wellbeing of communities through outdoor activities, particularly in upland and mountainous areas.
4. To promote environmental protection, particularly in upland and mountainous areas.
5. To relieve the suffering of animals in remote, hostile, and mountainous environments.

### **Public Benefit Requirements:**

The trustees have had regard to the public benefit requirement as defined in the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (as amended).

## **SUMMARY OF EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Team Name Change**

The 2023/24 year started with the significant issue of the team name change. This resulted in a leadership change for the team following the Annual General meeting on 25 May. Whilst the leadership structure remained unchanged (Trustees and Team Officers) there were a lot of new members undertaking roles within the team. Of most significance was the appointment of 6 new Trustees, from 9, to oversee the governance and strategic direction of the Charity.

This leadership change came about following the impact of the team name issue and the need to take steps to avoid potential legal action from another MRT. Needless to say, that the team name change was ill-judged and misinformed that also impacted negatively on the team internally as well as creating interventions from MRI and the Charity Commission.

The new Trustees prioritised the team name change and through an agreed 'Team Name Change Roadmap' process with the Charity Commission and MRI. This process resulted in the team deciding to revert to the original team name of North West Mountain Rescue Team. This name was subsequently formally accepted by the Charity Commission on 3 November 2023.

The Team has now drawn a clear line under this issue and members are expected to refocus our energies on more significant and pressing issues.

### **Team Rebuild**

The impact of this matter was far reaching within the team and the Trustees in recognising the fallout, embarked on a second phase 'Team Rebuild' in which the matter of morale and mediation was the priority issues. To assist this process, MRI kindly offered the services of David Polley (MRI Executive Officer) who undertook mediation sessions with members and hosted a successful Team Building Day on 22 October 2023. The team was also delighted to have the support of Hanna Shields on the day to deliver an inspirational presentation and discussion on teamwork. Although it may be too early to state that a successful outcome was achieved, the process has been well received and is moving the team forward in the right direction.

The out workings of the Team Building day and the mediation process has now identified the priority issues to be addressed within the team. These include:

- Call Outs – addressing the low and downward trend in numbers received;
- Charity (Team) Constitution – review to create a better balance of section members in leadership positions;
- Membership Standards – review of requirements including statutory Access NI checks;
- Partnerships – establishing better inter- SAR team and statutory authority working.



Team Day at An Carn, Maghera – 22 October 2023

### **Team Leadership and Matters**

The team recognised 2023/24 as essentially a year of rebuilding trust and confidence within team members. This was also recognised by Mountain Rescue Ireland (MRI) who in a welcomed demonstration of support and confidence, proposed that the MRI annual meeting (MRIAM) weekend was to be organised and hosted by the team.

### **Mountain Rescue Ireland Annual Meet 2024 (MRIAM24)**

The major training / event highlight of the year was the hosting of MRIAM24 in Gortatole, Co. Fermanagh over the weekend of 1-3 March.

This event saw 31 attendees from 11 MRI / SAR teams from across the island of Ireland attend a series of presentations and talks. Notable presentations were made by renowned guest speakers Hanna Shields (Mountaineer and International athlete) and Timm Fogg (Caver and 'Planet Earth' film rigger).

The event also extended to and included an invitation to equipment and kit suppliers which stimulated some very interesting conversations and exchanges of ideas for the member and teams present.

The MRI AGM was also hosted as part of this event and took place immediately following the conclusion of the annual meet programme on Sunday 3 March.

This event was regarded as success based on the formal feedback from attendees and MRI.



**MRIAM24 attendees at Marble Arch Caves Co. Fermanagh 1-3 March 2024**

## **Membership Standards and Safeguarding**

### **Access NI Checks**

Following an instruction from the Dept of Justice (DOJ), Northern Ireland Search and Rescue (NISAR) practitioners group, a mandatory requirement was made for VSARs to undertake Enhanced Access NI checks on those volunteers engaging with Vulnerable Adults and Young People. This is also a requirement for Charity Commission compliance as a registered charity and also specifically noted as a condition on the DoJ grant funding to VSARs.

The team commenced and completed this process by engaging with other VSAR teams and utilising an 'Umbrella Body', (Lagan Search and Rescue) to assist with the formal application process.

A review was undertaken in early 2024 of membership standards which included a review of requirements including the statutory Access NI checks. This resulted in a new comprehensive annual membership application 'pack' which included a Members Charter and Standards, Drivers Declaration and Access NI checks. This was implemented through the team annual membership application process in advance of the 2024 team AGM in April.

## **Team Operations and Training**

Despite the distraction of the team name challenge, team operations and training continued with the following main events:

### **Inter Team Training**

The team organised a major inter agency training weekend on 22-23 April 2023 with an exercise based in and around Lough Erne. This event involved 25 attendees over the 2 days and involved water and island search along with casualty recovery from water. This was an opportunity for the team's recently trained and equipped Swift Water Rescue team

to work alongside water based SAR teams. This exercise demonstrated the team's further development in the service provided and the ability to work alongside other teams in partnership.

Teams and services that attended included: Sligo Leitrim MRT, Moffat MRT (Scotland), PSNI (Boat Unit) NIAS, RNLI, NI Fire and Rescue Service.



**Teams preparing for island and lough shore searches – Lough Erne and Devenish Island**



**Team extracting casualty from Devenish Island using PSNI RIB**

### **South West Acute Hospital Christmas Visit**

The annual SWAH Children's Hospital visit took place on Tuesday 19 December. This annual event was a great opportunity of the team to visit sick children and offer a ray of sunshine in the darkest of months and at Christmas time.



**SWAH Santa and Helpers (plus Grinch) visit December 2023**

### **Colebrook 5k Fun Run**

The team organised a 5k family fun run on 27 January 2024 at the Colebrooke Estate in Co. Fermanagh. The event attracted over 90 participants and raised £1,826 for team funds.

The team would like to place on record a thanks to Lord Brookeborough who granted permission for the use of the estate and his support in the use of various facilities on the day of the event.



## **Equipment and Vehicles**

The team did not procure any new vehicles or undertake significant investment in new equipment in 2023 /24. The most significant investment in equipment was the procurement of a water rescue sled at £2,218.

The team however recognised that the current level of vehicles (9) was not sustainable and that decisions would have to be taken to rationalise the number to ensure a more efficient operating service.

## **Fundraising and Recruitment**

Fundraising for the year was down on the previous year, however 8 fundraising events including street collections and 5km runs were undertaken. We continued to apply for training and equipment grants with success from DEARA funding. The Department of Justice annual grant again proved vital in sustaining the essential finance to run the team.

The team membership varied across the 2023-24 year however there were 44 active members identified.

## **Financial Position**

A review of the charity's financial position at the end of the year is attached and was conducted by the independent examiner Martin Mc Guigan, 4 Drumlin Heights, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, BT74 7NR. A copy of the Independent Examiners Report is appended (Annex A)

## **Fixed Asset Register**

All equipment is allocated a life of three, six or nine years and straight-line depreciation applied using a monthly calculation to give an accurate value for all equipment held. Work continues in marking and registering all equipment electronically to improve accountability and replacement programmes. A copy of the Statement of Assets and Liabilities has not been completed for 2023-24, however the team intends to complete this Register for forthcoming years.

## **Incidents**

The team was involved in 24 incidents in 2023-24.

The number of incidents increased 26% from 19 to 24 from the previous reporting period with a total 122 hours logged in response to these incidents.

A significant incident of note was a request to assist Sligo Leitrim MRT in the period 9-11 July 2023. This call -out was to assist the Sligo Leitrim Mountain Rescue Team in the search for a vulnerable missing person. A total of 37 members attended over the 3 day period and was another example of good inter-team working and the importance of supporting a sister Mountain Rescue Ireland (MRI) team. It also fulfils a team objective to forge greater working partnerships with other SARs and MRTs when the need arises.

## Exercises and Events

### Total Training Hours (2017 -2024)

Year	Trg & Exs	Hours	Av Members
2023-24	167	5,173	44
2022-23	108	5,392	26
2021-22	108	7,414	11
2020-21	52	1,688	8
2019-20	105	5,652	10
2018-19	102	4,542	17
2017-18	115	6,633	17

There were 85 exercises and 82 events in 23/24 with 5,173 total hours spend by 44 active members.

The team regards events as a very important engagement and interaction with our community. Some events of note were demonstrations to a range of groups including scouts and young farmers groups as well as children's hospital Christmas visits. Events are also an opportunity to promote the team as well as to educate and raise awareness of our role in the community and safety in the outdoors.

Other events included meetings of working groups and committees, administration, equipment inspections, and grant applications.

Approved by trustees on 30 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by Stephen Forrest  
Chair and Trustee



Stephen Forrest

Chairperson North West Mountain Rescue Team

**North West Mountain Rescue Team**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100059

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# Annual return

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**NORTHERN IRELAND MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees**

**This report relates to the accounts of the Northern Ireland Mountain Rescue Team for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are set out on page 3.**

**Respective responsibilities of the charity trustees and independent examiner**

**Trustees**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

**Independent Examiner**

It is my responsibility as independent examiner to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the commission under Section 65 (9) (b) of the charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of the independent Examiner's Report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under Section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65 (9) (b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison with the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking appropriate explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether there are any material matters the have come to my attention, during the course of this examination, giving me cause to believe:

1. The accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


**NORTHERN IRELAND MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees**

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters listed under 1-4 above and, therefore in the following the direction of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

**Name:** Martin McGuigan  
4 Drumlin Heights  
Enniskillen  
Co. Fermanagh  
BT74 7NR

**Signed:** 

**Date:** 23rd September 2024

**North West Mountain Rescue Team**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100059

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# Accounts

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**NORTHERN IRELAND MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Opening Bank Balance 56,015.00

**Receipts**

ALL Tex	1,012.00
Borough Councils	2,690.70
B'shane/Colebrook Run	3,646.00
Deposits	1,290.00
DOJ	9,675.77
Donations	5,994.46
Just giving	1,797.68
Misc. Income	790.33
Other Grants	161,502.66
Refund	430.00
Street Collections	1,484.66
Interest	3.15

**Payments**

Admin	4,390.95
Deposit Refund	80.00
Equipment	4,839.07
Fuel	6,185.51
Fundraising	2,309.53
Insurance	1,150.00
Misc. Expenses	500.83
Rental	11,916.00
Training	16,845.92
Vehicle Maintenance	1,985.73
Vehicles	150,600.00
Vat	5,920.69

Closing Bank Balance 39,608.18


246,332.41

246,332.41

I certify that the above represents a true summary of the receipts and payments of the NIMRT

  
Chair

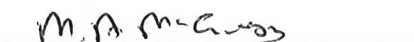
STEPHEN FORREST

  
Treasurer

OLIVIA COSGROVE

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

I have examined the above summary on behalf of the Northern Ireland Mountain Rescue Team and in my opinion, it agrees with the books and records held by the group for the year ended 31st March 2023 and with the balance at hand at that date.

  
Martin McGuigan

26th January 2024

4 Drumlin Heights, Enniskillen

BT74 7NR

Annex A

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	PPE	Office and IT equipment	Motor vehicles (Ops)	Motor vehicles (Support)	First aid	Ropes	Rigging hardware	Patient handling	Aerial support	Bases	Comms	Total
Cost or Valuation												
At 31/03/22	74,869	5,489	106,411	28,861	18,325	2,622	4,451	15,479	1,773	2,769	36,476	297,524
Additions	1,257	475	150,600	0	1,857		164	1,124	0	260	177	155,914
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>At 31/03/23</b>	<b>76,125</b>	<b>5,964</b>	<b>257,011</b>	<b>28,861</b>	<b>20,182</b>	<b>2,622</b>	<b>4,615</b>	<b>16,603</b>	<b>1,773</b>	<b>3,029</b>	<b>36,653</b>	<b>453,438</b>
Depreciation and Impairment												
At 31/03/22	22,842	3,217	56,519	485	12,197	1,968	3,399	5,167	1,714	1,272	16,911	125,691
Charged in year	11,595	1,164	31,969	0	3,867	254	366	1,812	59	328	4,980	117,206
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustment for revaluation/impairment	0	0	-7,845	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-7,845
<b>At 31/03/23</b>	<b>34,437</b>	<b>4,381</b>	<b>80,643</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>16,065</b>	<b>2,222</b>	<b>3,765</b>	<b>6,978</b>	<b>1,773</b>	<b>1,601</b>	<b>21,891</b>	<b>174,240</b>
Net Book Value												
At 31/03/22	52,027	2,272	49,893	28,376	6,127	654	1,052	10,312	59	1,497	19,565	171,834
<b>At 31/03/23</b>	<b>41,688</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>176,368</b>	<b>28,376</b>	<b>4,117</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>9,625</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>14,763</b>	<b>279,198</b>



Chair  
Stephen Forrest

**North West Mountain Rescue Team**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100059

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# Annual report

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# Northern Mountain Rescue Team

(formerly North West Mountain Rescue Team)

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022-23

(period covering 1 Apr 2022 – 31 March 2023)



*International Multi-Agency Training  
Cuilcagh Mountain Co Fermanagh January 2023*

Northern Ireland Charity No 100059

**Name of Charity:**

Northern Ireland Mountain Rescue Team (Formerly North West Mountain Rescue Team)

**Registered Charity Number:**

NIC 100059

**Contact Details:**

Public address: 62 Killee Road, Coa, Ballinamallard, Co. Fermanagh BT94 2FS

Telephone number: 079 1959 6487

Email: [secretary@nwmrt.org](mailto:secretary@nwmrt.org)

Website: [www.nwmrt.org](http://www.nwmrt.org)

**Trustees 2022 -23:**

Mr G. Stanbridge, Ms P. Ellis, Mr A. Kelly, Mr D. Cullinan, Mr R. Alexander, Mr G. McKelvey, Mr N. Mc Gillian, Mr S. Forrest, Mr K. Thompson.

**Appointment of Trustees:**

A trustee cannot be appointed by any person or body of persons within the charity but can only be appointed at any general meeting of the charity by majority vote and when a quorum is present

**Governance:**

The organisation is a charity unincorporated association governed by a constitution that was formally adopted at the most recent annual general meeting on 2 May 2018, and as amended on 11 August 2018 and 20 February 2022

**Purposes:**

1. To save life and prevent injury in remote, hostile, and mountainous environments.
2. To educate the public on hazards in mountains and offer practical advice to reduce risks.
3. To promote physical and mental health, fitness, and wellbeing of communities through outdoor activities, particularly in upland and mountainous areas.
4. To promote environmental protection, particularly in upland and mountainous areas.
5. To relieve the suffering of animals in remote, hostile, and mountainous environments.

**Public Benefit Requirements:**

The trustees have had regard to the public benefit requirement as defined in the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (as amended).

**SUMMARY OF EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS**

The team name issue unfortunately dominated the 2022-23 year following the decision by the team to change its name from North West Mountain Rescue Team to Northern Ireland Mountain Rescue Team at a Special General Meeting on 10 October 2021. The impact of this change was significant and detrimental both internally and externally to the team. This took up considerable officers' time in dealing with directly related issues, the most significant being the internal impact of continued divided member opinions which affected morale and created disruption to the running of the team.

The team name issue also resulted in two Serious Incident reports (5 August 2022 and 11 October 2022) lodged by the team to the Charity Commission. The matter remained unresolved by 31 March 2023.

Despite this challenge the team operations and training continued with the following main events:

**Joint Team Training Scotland 22/23 October 2022**

Following an invite from Moffat MRT, 10 team members travelled to Scotland to participate in a joint training exercise with Moffat MRT, Galloway MRT, Tweed Valley MRT, Tweed Valley MRT, Borders SARU, Police Scotland MRT (Strathclyde) and Scottish Ambulance Service. The training theme was based around winter rescue up to and including avalanche events. This event as well as providing excellent winter training was also a great opportunity to develop and build on new and existing partnerships.

**Swift Water Training 29/30 October 2022, 19 February 2023**

Following a successful grant application and team contribution £13,510 was invested in equipment and training, where 10 members were swift water trained to DEFRA Mod 2 (Responder - 6 members) and Mod 3 (Technician – 4 members). This training represented a significant development to the teams' capability to both assist and respond to water-based SAR activities. It has also extended the teams' capability to work in partnership with other water based SAR teams such as the RNLI and Coastguard particularly in and around the extensive Lough Erne catchment.

**Inter Team Training 22 January 2023**

This was the most ambitious team training event organised by the team in recent years. The exercise on Cuilcagh Mountain, Co Fermanagh, was based on a multi-agency effort in dealing with casualty care and extraction from the summit via the timber boardwalk. Over 40 team members were in attendance including representatives from Sligo Leitrim MRT, NI Ambulance Service (HART team), PSNI, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. The training exercise was undertaken in difficult conditions and was a significant success in establishing and confirming methods of working should a real life event occur.

The exercise was also notable as it was apparently the first inter agency and cross border team working event in Northern Ireland.

The event was attended by the press and media and subsequently reported on in the local papers and on national TV.

### **Equipment and Vehicles**

Following a successful grant application to DEARA, funding was secured for the purchase of two new vehicles namely a command vehicle and a two-seater jeep at a cost of £150,600. This grant also assisted the team in procuring new team PPE (jackets and leggings).

### **Fundraising and Recruitment**

Fundraising for the year was down on the previous year, however 8 fundraising events including street collections and 5km runs were undertaken. We continued to apply for training and equipment grants with significant success from DEARA funding. The Department of Justice annual grant again proved vital in sustaining the essential finance to run the team.

7 new applicants completed the induction training to join the team in 2022/23. The team membership varied across the 2022-23 year however averaged in excess of 50 members at any one time.

### **Financial Position**

A review of the charity's financial position at the end of the year is attached and was conducted by the independent examiner Martin Mc Guigan, 4 Drumlin Heights, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, BT74 7NR. A copy of the Independent Examiners Report is at Annex A.

### **Fixed Asset Register**

All equipment is allocated a life of three, six or nine years and straight-line depreciation applied using a monthly calculation to give an accurate value for all equipment held. Work continues in marking and registering all equipment electronically to improve accountability and replacement programmes. A copy of the Statement of Assets and Liabilities is at Annex A.

### **Incidents**

The team was involved in 16 incidents in 2022-23.

The number of incidents decreased 44% from 29 to 16 from the previous reporting period and the total number of hours reduced by 69% from 1,345 to 414

A significant incident of note was a request to assist Sligo Leitrim MRT on 21 January 2022. This call -out was to assist with the technically difficult extraction of 3 casualties from the Benbulbin Mountain area (Dermott and Grainne's Cave). Four team members travelled to the scene to link up with Sligo Leitrim MRT to assist with the safe transfer of the casualties from very steep ground to awaiting ambulances. This was an example of

good inter-team working and the importance of being part of a larger body namely Mountain Rescue Ireland (MRI). It also fulfils a team objective to forge greater working partnerships with our sister SAR and MRTs when the need arises.

## Training & Exercises

### Total Training Hours (2017 -2023)

Year	Trg & Exs	Hours	Av Members
2022-23	108	5,392	26
2021-22	108	7,414	11
2020-21	52	1,688	8
2019-20	105	5,652	10
2018-19	102	4,542	17
2017-18	115	6,633	17

There were 108 Training Events in 22/23 with 5,392 total hours spend training.

## Other Events

There were 160 events completed in year totalling 2,378 hours. Of these, 24 were public relations events where the team gave demonstrations to a range of groups including scouts and young farmers groups. This was a great opportunity to integrate with the local community, inform them of our role in the community and to educate them on safety in the outdoors.

Other events included meetings of working groups and committees, administration, equipment inspections, and grant applications.

## Team Name Change

This report references the charity team name for the accounting period 2022-23 as Northern Ireland Mountain Rescue Team. It is important to note that the team name has subsequently been amended post this accounting period with reversion to the former name North West Mountain Rescue Team. This change was formally confirmed by the Charity Commission on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.

Approved by trustees on 30 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by Stephen Forrest  
Chair and Trustee



Stephen Forrest

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	PPE	Office and IT equipment	Motor vehicles (Ops)	Motor vehicles (Support)	First aid	Ropes	Rigging hardware	Patient handling	Aerial support	Bases	Comms	Total
Cost or Valuation												
At 31/03/22	74,869	5,489	106,411	28,861	18,325	2,622	4,451	15,479	1,773	2,769	36,476	297,524
Additions	1,257	475	150,600	0	1,857		164	1,124	0	260	177	155,914
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>At 31/03/23</b>	<b>76,125</b>	<b>5,964</b>	<b>257,011</b>	<b>28,861</b>	<b>20,182</b>	<b>2,622</b>	<b>4,615</b>	<b>16,603</b>	<b>1,773</b>	<b>3,029</b>	<b>36,653</b>	<b>453,438</b>
Depreciation and Impairment												
At 31/03/22	22,842	3,217	56,519	485	12,197	1,968	3,399	5,167	1,714	1,272	16,911	125,691
Charged in year	11,595	1,164	31,969	0	3,867	254	366	1,812	59	328	4,980	117,206
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustment for revaluation/impairment	0	0	-7,845	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-7,845
<b>At 31/03/23</b>	<b>34,437</b>	<b>4,381</b>	<b>80,643</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>16,065</b>	<b>2,222</b>	<b>3,765</b>	<b>6,978</b>	<b>1,773</b>	<b>1,601</b>	<b>21,891</b>	<b>174,240</b>
Net Book Value												
At 31/03/22	52,027	2,272	49,893	28,376	6,127	654	1,052	10,312	59	1,497	19,565	171,834
<b>At 31/03/23</b>	<b>41,688</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>176,368</b>	<b>28,376</b>	<b>4,117</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>9,625</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>14,763</b>	<b>279,198</b>

**North West Mountain Rescue Team**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100059

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# Annual return

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**NORTHERN IRELAND MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees**

**This report relates to the accounts of the Northern Ireland Mountain Rescue Team for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on page 3.**

**Respective responsibilities of the charity trustees and independent examiner**

**Trustees**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

**Independent Examiner**

It is my responsibility as independent examiner to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the commission under Section 65 (9) (b) of the charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of the independent Examiner's Report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under Section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65 (9) (b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison with the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking appropriate explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether there are any material matters that have come to my attention, during the course of this examination, giving me cause to believe:

1. The accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

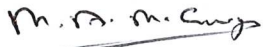
**NORTHERN IRELAND MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees**

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters listed under 1-4 above and, therefore in the following the direction of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

**Name:** Martin McGuigan  
4 Drumlin Heights  
Enniskillen  
Co. Fermanagh  
BT74 7NR

**Signed:** 

**Date:** 26th January 2024