



# SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG ASSOCIATION IRELAND NORTH

Specialising in mountain, lowland, trailing, collapsed structure, urban and drowned victim  
recovery

## ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Registered Charity: NIC 101234

The trustees of SARDA Ireland North are pleased to submit their Report for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

#### Reference and administration detail

Charity Name	Search and Rescue Dog Association Ireland North
Other names Charity is known by	SARDA Ireland North SARDA IN
Registered Charity No	NIC 101234
Charity's principal address	102 Tullybrannigan Road Newcastle BT33 OPW

#### Name of the Charity trustees who manage the Charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Date acted if not for whole year
Dr Neil Powell	Chairman/ First Callout Coordinator	
Dugald McCullough	Treasurer	
Kate Powell	Secretary	
Trevor Hartley	Assistant Training Officer/ Third Call-out Co-ordinator	
Raph O'Connor	Training Officer/Second Callout Coordinator	
Gerry Burns	Trustee	
David Fraser	Trustee/Equipment Officer	

#### Structure, governance and management

##### Description of Charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the Charity is constituted	Association consists of 20 members
Trustee selection methods	Trustees appointed/re-appointed at AGM

SARDA Ireland North (SARDA IN) is partnered with the Statutory Agencies involved in the search for missing persons in Northern Ireland. These partnerships ensure that the Charity helps maximise the potential for missing persons to be found provided the dogs are called on time. We also work alongside all the voluntary groups involved with the Northern Ireland Search and Rescue (NISAR). The PSNI has responsibility for calling us out for all searches and they also provide insurance cover for our SAR vehicles for which we are most grateful. All of the above groups meet regularly to plan and prepare for the development of search and rescue services here in Northern Ireland.

All our trustees and members give up their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits. Our qualified search dog handlers and dogs are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

### Objective and activities

Summary of the objectives of the Charity set out in it's governing document	SARDA IN provides specialist teams of search dogs and handlers at the request of the PSNI and other Statutory Services, to assist in the location of missing people. This service includes searches for missing persons, alive or deceased, in the mountains, lowlands, collapsed structures and waterways of Northern Ireland and beyond.
Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects	<p>In planning our activities for each year, we keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at all our trustee meetings.</p> <p>We attend call-outs to search for missing persons of any age, gender, ethnicity or religion is the focus of our activities.</p> <p>We are a cross-community Association. SARDA IN is the only voluntary SAR dog team within the UK and Ireland to have trained the full range of search dogs for searches in mountains, lowland, trailing, collapsed structure, urban and drowned victim recovery.</p>

### Additional details of objectives and activities

All members give a great deal of time and effort and additionally, some help the Association by 'hiding' for the dogs to find them in all weathers at all stages of training and qualification.

### Achievement and performance

Call outs	We have had 22 call-outs working in conjunction with our partners in NISAR.
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Training	<p>We have a vigorous training programme ensuring both dogs and handlers are trained to the highest standard ensuring the best possible assets are deployed. Our skills are updated on a regular basis. Three members and their dogs, are attached to the NI Fire and Rescue Service Urban Search and Rescue Team.</p> <p>Training continues per calendar month and individual handler training continues daily. We have a strong resilience (15 trained search dogs), in all our search dog</p>
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	disciplines – mountain, lowland, collapsed structure, lowland/urban, trailing, and drowned victim recovery. We also have three trailing dogs in training and one additional Urban Search Dog in training. We have attended several international training events with SARDA Scotland, SARAID and the UK International Fire and Rescue Service.
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Equipment	We are extremely grateful to the Department of Justice for helping us financially every year.
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#### Further financial review details

We continue to receive small donations from the public through the Charities Aid Foundation, Facebook and from a few collection boxes.

We are also very grateful that we now have been sponsored by Naturo Dog Food who continue to provide us with a regular supply of dog food for our qualified search dogs.

This year we have been able to hold a few collection days and we are extremely grateful for all the public donations – especially in our Belfast street collection before Christmas.

#### Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the Charity's trustees:-

Signature:	<i>Kate Powell</i>
Full name:	Kate Powell
Position:	Secretary
Date:	10 April 2023