

UNITED KINGDOM SEARCH AND RESCUE (UKSAR) OPERATORS GROUP

MARITIME AND AVIATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING OF 17 JUNE 2005

1. The minutes of the meeting of 7 December 2004 were accepted.
2. The Chairman thanked the Isle of Man government for hosting the meeting and for the excellent visit to the Joint Control Room.
3. The Committee were provided with an update on the arrangements for Lifesaving Skills for the Police in England and Wales. This had now become a matter for the individual Police Forces. There was concerns that this would create disparities between skills in England and Wales and Scotland.
4. The Committee were provided with a verbal report on the last meeting of the UKSAR Operators Group on 22 February.
5. The Committee were also provided with a brief on the recent Transport Select Committee review of UK Search and Rescue arrangements, copies of the reports were available from the Parliamentary website. Two of the major issues discussed had been the position of voluntary bodies in Search and Rescue and the responsibility for beach life guarding.
6. The Committee were apprised of the current difficulties with regard to the collection and disposal of time expired pyrotechnics. The Committee noted that this was a growing problem but that there was no clear responsibilities as to who was responsible for the collection and disposal of out of date pyrotechnics, it was noted that the situation had been further complicated by recent rule changes.
7. Under an EU agreement the UK and Eire were required to report annually on the numbers of ordnance washed ashore in the UK.
8. The Committee were provided with a presentation on the development of the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre and the proposed harmonisation of maritime and aeronautical SAR.
9. The Committee were advised of the formation of the National Water Safety Forum and were appraised of the current work of the forum.
10. There had been one request to join the Committee which was refused.
11. The Committee were informed of an up and coming BBC programme which maybe critical of UK SAR arrangements.
12. The Committee were also advised of additional SAR assets in the Channel Island and Eire.