



**Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency**

To: David C. Horsley
The Coroner's Office
The Guildhall
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AB

Maritime Operations
Bay 2/07
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

RECEIVED
17 APR 2014
BY H.M CORONER

Tel:
Fax:
E-mail:



Your ref: **Report 3 Mar 14 De
Araujo**

15 April 2014

Dear Sir,

This letter is in response to the Regulation 28 matter of concern outlined in your report "that there is no formal protocol for reporting and coordinating rescue in relation to life threatening incidents in Portsmouth Harbour".

Her Majesty's Coastguard is responsible for the initiation and coordination of civil maritime search and rescue within the United Kingdom search and rescue region. This includes the mobilisation, organisation and tasking of adequate resources to respond to persons either in distress at sea, or to persons at risk of injury or death on the cliffs or shoreline of the United Kingdom. (Secretary of State for Transport, House of Commons, 9 March 1992).

The formal protocols, for persons on land, for the alerting of HM Coastguard are by calling 999 and ask for coastguard. Persons or vessels at sea use the global maritime distress and safety systems (GMDSS) protocols. Her Majesty's Coastguard have long standing arrangements with the Queen's Harbour Master, Portsmouth (QHM) (and all Harbour Authorities) that allow for mutual communication and cooperation during search and rescue activities within harbour limits. Both organisations have direct dial telephone lines between each other and can also communicate on marine band radio frequencies within the GMDSS.

When a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) of HM Coastguard is alerted to an incident within harbour limits they will task and coordinate appropriate search and rescue units to resolve the incident, at the same time they will communicate with QHM and often request resources to assist. Where the QHM is made aware of an incident they will alert HM Coastguard and frequently task their own resources and hand coordination to the MRCC. The appropriate MRCC in the case of QHM Portsmouth is MRCC Solent.



HM Coastguard



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MRCC Solent and QHM are members of the SOLFIRE multi-agency response group encompassing all harbour, emergency and local authorities that would respond to major incidents in the Solent. These organisations take part in annual multiagency exercises.

I hope that this answers the matter of concern in your report.

[REDACTED]

**For Chief Coastguard
Maritime Operations
HM Coastguard**

Copy to:

— QHM Portsmouth
[REDACTED]

