



LIAISON AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

AND

THE IRISH COAST GUARD (IRCG)

LIAISON AGREEMENT

Between

THE GARDA SÍOCHÁNA and THE IRISH COAST GUARD (IRCG)

For

THE COORDINATION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE RESOURCES.

1. Status

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish the terms of a liaison agreement between the Garda Síochána and the Irish Coast Guard (IRCG) in relation to the coordination of an emergency incident which may take place on land or at sea.

2. The Role of the Garda Síochána

Provide policing and security services for the State with the objectives of among others, protecting life and property.

3. The Role of The Irish Coast Guard

The Irish Coast Guard is responsible for the initiation and co-ordination of maritime emergency management of Search and Rescue (SAR), oil, hazardous and noxious substance and pollution incidents within the Irish Maritime Search and Rescue Region and Pollution Responsibility Zone. 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 Ireland.

4. Agreement

a. Definitions

For the purposes of this Agreement, the following definitions apply:

i. Major Emergency

A major emergency is defined as an event which, usually with little or no warning, causes or threatens death or injury, serious disruption of essential services or damage to property, the environment or infrastructure beyond the normal capabilities of the principal emergency services in the area in which the event occurs, and requires the activation of special additional procedures and the mobilisation of additional resources to ensure an effective, co-ordinated response.

ii. Coastal Incident

A coastal incident is defined as an incident which develops on the “seaward” side of the coastline below the level of mean high waters spring tides (MHWS) which requires the activation of Marine Search and Rescue measures for vessels / craft or persons in need of assistance in the Irish Search and Rescue Region.

iii. Littoral Area

The littoral area is defined as that area which is contiguous to the sea and the land, including sea cliffs, marshes and beaches below the generally accepted boundary of the shoreline.

iv. Inland Waterways

Inland waterways are defined as fresh water navigational rivers, lakes and canals, excluding ports and harbours with access to the sea.

5. Service Description

The following services and functions are encompassed in the Agreement:

a. The Garda Síochána

i. The functions of the Garda Síochána pursuant to section 7 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and including the following matters;

- The maintenance of law and order;
- Traffic management;
- The provision of information to the public on actual or potential dangers arising;
- The co-ordination/conducting of searches for missing persons;
- The collecting of information on casualties and survivors;
- Arrangements in respect of the deceased, in association with the Coroner;
- The recovery of bodies;
- The provision of a Casualty Bureau;
- The protection and preservation of the scene;
- The collection of evidence and forensic work;
- The provision of air support, to undertake aerial reconnaissance of the affected areas.

b. The Irish Coast Guard

i. The functions of the Irish Coast Guard;

- Minimising loss of life amongst seafarers and coastal users;
- Minimising the risk of pollution of the marine environment for ships;
- Obtaining and evaluating all relevant information from appropriate sources;
- Initiating distress and urgency broadcasts as necessary;
- Alerting and tasking appropriate marine SAR resources;
- Alerting emergency services as required;
- Determining search areas, formulating search plans and tasking resources effectively;
- Appointing an On Scene Co-ordinator (OSC), where appropriate, to exercise co-ordination at the scene of SAR operations;
- Co-ordinating the action of all SAR units involved;
- Co-ordinating response to at-sea salvage, ship casualty and pollution incidents outside Harbour Authority Areas and giving support where necessary and oversight responsibility within harbour limits;
- Providing support to the relevant Marine Response Centre (MRC) and On Site / Local Coordination Centre where necessary;
- Mobilising units to assist with the search for survivors; and
- Dispatching mobile unit to the designated shoreline Control Point.

6. Co-ordination

- a. When the Garda Síochána is made aware of an incident, which lies within the responsibility of the Irish Coast Guard, the Garda Síochána will immediately notify the Irish Coast Guard.
- b. When the Irish Coast Guard is made aware of an incident, which lies within the responsibility of the Garda Síochána, the Irish Coast Guard will immediately notify the Garda Síochána. Contact details for all Garda Communications Rooms and fallback Communications Rooms are listed as Appendix 1 to this Agreement.
- c. In the event of any sighting of persons in the water or vessels in difficulty or what may appear to be a body will be immediately notified to the appropriate Rescue Co-ordination Centre for notification to all involved in the Search and Rescue (SAR).
- d. The Irish Coast Guard and the Garda Síochána co-ordinating responsibilities will remain unchanged.
- e. In the event of joint operations, each organisation has the control of and responsibility for the co-ordination of it's own resources.

7. Marine Incidents

- a. All incidents which occur in the littoral area or on the seaward side of the littoral area and require the activation of Marine Search and Rescue measures for vessels/craft or persons in need of assistance shall be the responsibility of the Irish Coast Guard (see Framework Document which is available on www.mem.ie). The Irish Coast Guard has a nationwide 24/7 helicopter service with advanced search equipment and a large force of Volunteer responders trained in appropriate skills including rescue boat, cliff and shoreline search with considerable local knowledge of their respective stretches of coastline. Moreover, coastal rescue often requires the assistance of RNLI lifeboats, Community Rescue Service of Ireland (CRBI) Boats.
- b. In such incidents, land based facilities such as Local Authorities, Health Service Executive and the Garda Síochána, which normally respond to callout procedures, will be activated by a request from the Irish Coast Guard.
- c. Depending on the nature of the event, it may be appropriate to activate an On Site Co-ordination Centre at a suitable location. Linkage between the Irish Coast Guard Co-ordination Centre and the On Site and Local Co-ordination Centres will be achieved by the exchange of personnel or contact points.

The Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and the Local Authority being represented at the Irish Coast Guard Co-ordination Centre, while the Irish Coast Guard will be represented at the On Site and/or Local Co-ordination Centres, as appropriate.

When the Irish Coast Guard or Principle Response Agencies request the declaration of a major emergency, as provided for by the Framework Document where casualties are being brought ashore, (or in the case where pollution or Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) is coming, or threatening to come ashore - the response will be initiated and directed by the IRCG in accordance with the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP). The local onshore response will be managed by the Local Authority, Harbour Authority or oil reception facility in accordance with their Oil Spill Contingency Plans.

8. Inland Waterways

The Irish Coast Guard has responsibility for receiving 999/112 calls and the mobilising of resources to Inland Waterway emergencies.

The Framework provides that the Garda Síochána should be the Principal Response Agency to undertake initial co-ordination at inland waterway emergencies. After the initial response, this role may be re-assigned, following consultation between the Irish Coast Guard and the Garda Síochána. The Irish Coast Guard also has Search and Rescue (SAR) responsibilities on inland waters, rivers and lakes.

When requested, the Irish Coast Guard will provide resources to assist. Such requests for assistance should be directed to the relevant Irish Coast Guard Co-ordination Centre listed as Appendix 2 to this Agreement.

9. Human Rights

Members of the Garda Síochána and the Irish Coast Guard shall at all times respect individuals personal rights and dignity as a human being and shall not subject any person to ill treatment of any kind.

10. Indemnity and Liability

In all cases indemnity and liability for the Irish Coast Guard equipment and personnel rest with the Irish Coast Guard. The decision to undertake any task requested by the Garda Síochána rests with the Irish Coast Guard.

11. Duration of Agreement

The Agreement will come into effect on **signature by both parties to the agreement** and shall be reviewed and amended from time to time subject to the agreement of the parties.

12. Endorsement

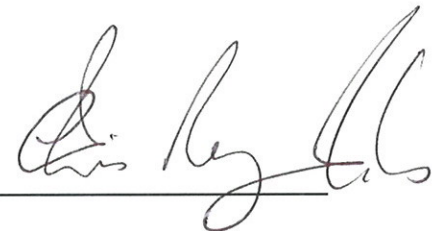
Consultation has taken place and agreement has been reached between the Garda Síochána and the Irish Coast Guard.

Signed: 

Date: 1st July 2015 .

Commissioner

The Garda Síochána

Signed: 

Date: 10th August 2015

Director

Irish Coast Guard

APPENDICES

- 1. CONTACT DETAILS OF AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA REGIONAL /
DIVISIONAL COMMUNICATIONS ROOMS**

- 2. CONTACT DETAILS FOR IRISH COAST GUARD MARINE RESCUE
CENTRES**

APPENDIX 1 – GARDA REGIONAL /DIVISIONAL COMMUNICATIONS ROOMS

Division / Region	Current Communications Room	Contact Number	FAX	Fallback Communications Room	Contact Number
Cavan/Monaghan	Monaghan	047 77200	047 77283	Dundalk	042 9388400
Clare	Ennis	065 6848100	065 6848183	Henry Street	061 212400
Cork City	Anglesea Street	021 4522000	021 4522083	Bandon	023 8852200
Cork North	Fermoy	025 82100	025 82183	Anglesea St	021 4522000
Cork West	Bandon	023 8852200	023 8852283	Anglesea St	021 4522000
Donegal	Letterkenny	074 9167100	074 9167183	Sligo	071 9157000
Dublin Metropolitan Region	Communications Centre, Harcourt Sq	01 6663108	01 6663177	Telecommunications Garda Headquarters	01 6663108
Galway	Galway	091 538000	091 538083	Ennis	065 6848100
Kerry	Tralee	066 7102300	066 7102383	Anglesea St	021 4522000
Kildare	Naas	045 884300	045 884381	Portlaoise	057 8674100
Kilkenny/Carlow	Kilkenny	056 7775000	056 7775084	Carlow	059 9136620
Laois/Offaly	Portlaoise	057 8674100	057 8674104	Naas	045 884300
Limerick	Henry Street	061 212400	061 212483	Ennis	065 6848100
Louth	Drogheda	041 9874200	041 9874283	Dundalk	042 9388400
Mayo	Castlebar	094 9038200	094 9038283	Swinford	094 0252990
Meath	Navan	046 9079930	046 9036183	Mullingar	044 9384000
Roscommon/Longford	Roscommon	090 6638300	090 6638383	Galway	091 538000
Sligo/Leitrim	Sligo	071 9157000	071 9157083	Letterkenny	074 9167100
Tipperary	Thurles	0504 25100	0504 25183	Cahir	052 7445630
Waterford	Waterford	051 305300	051 305383	Dungarvan	058 48600
Westmeath	Mullingar	044 9384000	044 9384083	Navan	046 9079930
Wexford	Wexford	053 9165200	053 9165281	Enniscorthy	053 9242580
Wicklow	Bray	01 6665300	01 6665341	Wicklow	0404 60140

APPENDIX 2

CONTACT DETAILS FOR IRISH COAST GUARD MARINE RESCUE CENTRES

VALENTIA

Ballycotton to Roundstone Co Galway

- Telephone 0669476109
- Fax 0669476289
- Email mrscvalentia@dttas.ie

MALIN

Roundstone County Galway to Lough Foyle

- Telephone 0749370307
- Fax 0749370221
- Email mrscmalin@dttas.ie

DUBLIN

Carlingford Lough to Ballycotton

- Telephone 01-6620922
- Fax 01-6620795
- Email CoastGuardNMOC@dtas.ie