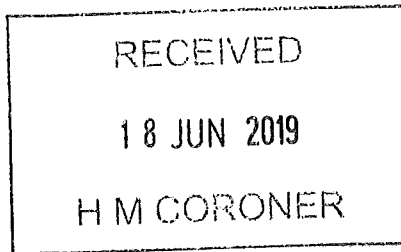




Department
for Transport



From the Secretary of State
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15 Jun

Thank you for your letter of 1 May, in which you enclosed a Regulation 28 Report, following an inquest into the death of Clive Anthony Jones, which includes two concerns that relate to Her Majesty's Coastguard, part of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

In relation to the first of your concerns about commissioning an independent review of the UK search and rescue (SAR) operational capability and functionality, I understand that an independent review will be completed by Jersey Coastguard and Guernsey Coastguard between 24 and 26 June. The Terms of Reference have been agreed and the review will include looking at the SAR operational capability, including the implementation of actions identified by both the Maritime Accident Investigation Board (MAIB) and the Irish Coastguard, following the sinking of the SOLSTICE.

The outcomes from this review will be captured in a completion meeting, which is on target to take place within the MAIB recommendation timeframe. I have asked the MCA to write to you once that process is complete.

The second concern recommendation, relating to conducting a thorough review of SAR information technology systems, has been completed, and the MCA confirmed this in a letter sent to the MAIB on 31 May. I am aware that a full review was conducted, and the improvements identified in the network have resulted in greater reliability and resilience throughout the UK. I trust this addresses the concerns raised in your letter.

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT