

## DFS ANNUAL REVIEW

<b>Station:</b>	NCI Froward Point	
<b>Date of Review:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2011. 0930 - 1530	
<b>NCI Assessor:</b>	Chris Eddy	
<b>HMCG:</b>	Jeremy Linn	
<b>Declared facilities:</b>	Visual Watch VHF Radio Watch Radar Watch	
<b>Hours of Operation:</b>	Summer	0900 – 1700 (2000 frequently)
	Winter	1000 – 1600
<b>Station Management:</b>	Station Manager (SM)	Bob Tozer
	Training Manager	Michael Powell
<b>Qualified Watchkeepers + (Trainees):</b>	57 (2)	
<b>Watchkeepers participating in Review:</b>	Paul Hayes	Martyn Morris
	Phil Charlesworth	Stuart Rostrom
	Mark Layton	Graham Heaven
<b>Station Documentation:</b>	Required documents were available.	

**Station Equipment:** The Declared Facilities and other required equipment was available, suitable for purpose and serviceable.  
Comment. All 3 VHF Radios are located on the operating console side by side making it difficult to easily distinguish which set is actually receiving an incoming call. It would be advisable to consider a more effective design and/or use well separated speakers during the forthcoming refurbishment.

**Training:** The Training Manager supported by a small team of Training Officers, is responsible for initial and recurrent watchkeeper training. The records are complete and comprehensive. Watchkeepers are subject to a bi-annual proficiency check.

**Radar Assessment:** The Annual Radar return is attached.  
Comment. During discussion it became apparent that the radar checking records were taken from the watchkeepers bi-annual check. A routine check of radar proficiency will be initiated to ensure the requirement is satisfied in the intervening year.

**Radio Documentation:** Certificates are available for the station radio equipment and records of watchkeepers qualifications and continuing proficiency are available within individual training records.

Comment. As the list [Assessment Standards & Procedures Manual 6 D 6.24 (a)] is an Ofcom accepted substitute for the individual watchkeepers VHF Licence it would be beneficial to have a list readily available at the station to produce if inspected.

**Live or Simulated Exercise:** Two exercises were carried out with the agreement of Brixham CG and the participation of Dart IRB. In both morning and afternoon exercises an object representing a MOB was promptly located and reported. Once the IRB was “tasked” NCI directed it to the casualty using VHF Ch 0 (AM) and VHF Ch 73 (PM). Overall the exercises were quite successful and several valuable lessons were learned. Marked improvements and confidence levels came after each of the 5 individual events. Rob Clements, Operations Manager of the Dart Lifeboat was on site during the morning and made a valued contribution to discussion points during de-briefing.

Comment.

- Report the incident to CG as soon as the casualty is seen with basic positional information.
- Get the IRB moving quickly towards the general direction of the casualty. More specific directions can follow.
- Take care with VHF terminology, especially never use “Over and out”!

**Routine Station Procedures and Watch-keeper Interviews:** During the day the watchkeeping routine was smooth and efficient. The handing and taking over procedure was particularly informative. Watchkeeper interviews revealed a high level of knowledge of the essential competencies. Plotting exercises were generally completed, satisfactorily and accurately. Recent changes have been made to the chart table to facilitate the speed of plotting.

Comment. It is suggested that emphasis be given during initial and re-current training to practice in the reporting of positional information in the conventional order and terminology.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. The method of recording of the VHF Radio Licence information and the Annual Radar Check should be reviewed.
2. Positioning of the individual VHF Radios should be reviewed to separate the actual equipment and/or the speakers.
3. Emphasis to be placed on the correct terminology to be used during radio and telephone communications.
4. Watchkeepers to be reminded of the conventional order and terminology to be used when reporting positional information.

#### **Conclusion:**

The station operates in a sound, enthusiastic and proficient manner. Positive responses were made to the discussion points arising from this assessment.

Retention of Declared Facility Status is recommended.

**Signed.**

**C.D Eddy**

**Next Review:** To be scheduled for Spring 2012.