



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

### **Exercise Scope: questions to consider on Notification – response from the UK's Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)**



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### **Knowledge of the System**

- UK Coastguard structure:
  - 9 regional Coastguard Operating Centres (CGOCs)
  - 10 SAR helicopter bases
  - National Maritime Operations Centre
  - MCA Headquarters
- Monitoring of some alerting systems is devolved to assigned CGOCs
- Safe Sea Net is monitored by 2 GCOCs on an alternating weekly basis. They have responsibility for information flow following an alert.

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## Contact Between Daily user of SSN and MCA

- There is routine daily contact between CGOCs and the MCA on SAR and counter pollution issues, such as:
  - Spills, vessels not under command, EMSA satellite 'hits', groundings etc
- Information is shared through the MCA's incident management system ('Vision'), with further information passed via phone and email
- The Duty Counter Pollution and Salvage Officer (DCPSO) is the first point of contact for any incident that could lead to, or has resulted in, pollution in the maritime environment.
  - Once alerted, the DCPSO is the lead for appropriate follow-up action.
  - He/she is contactable 24/7 via pager, phone and email

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## Challenges associated with Notification and the Training Environment

- SCOPE 17 has highlighted a shortfall in identifying an initial alert through Safe Sea Net (SSN) via the UK CERS system.
- Although SSN is monitored 24/7 it does not provide automatic alerting to the Coastguard operators, thus acknowledgement of alert messages can be delayed.
- In this instance, once the alert was identified, subsequent response to requests for assistance were actioned
- It is recommended that future real-world and training notifications on SSN should be accompanied by a call to the MCA's Duty Counter Pollution and Salvage Officer (tel +44 7000 405 415) and followed up by email to: [CounterPollution@mcga.gov](mailto:CounterPollution@mcga.gov). This will guarantee swift response and action.

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**Exercise Scope: questions to consider on  
request for assistance exercise – response  
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**Process for receiving a request for  
assistance**

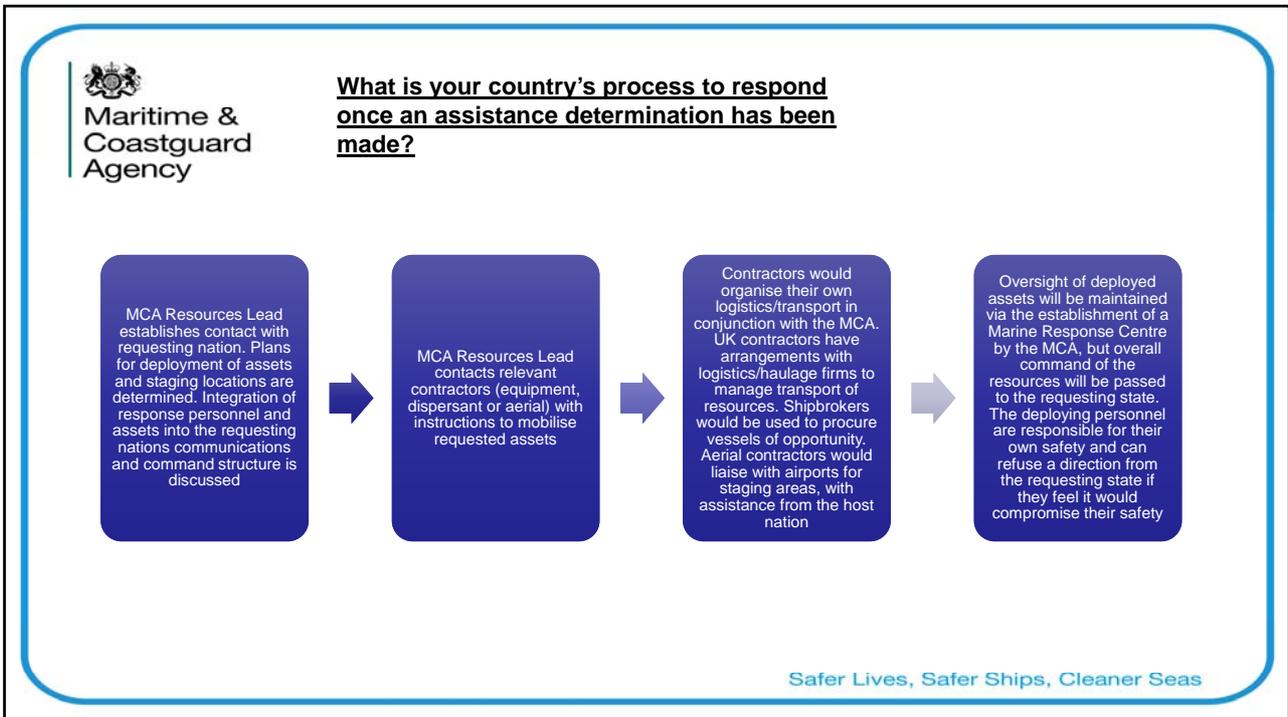
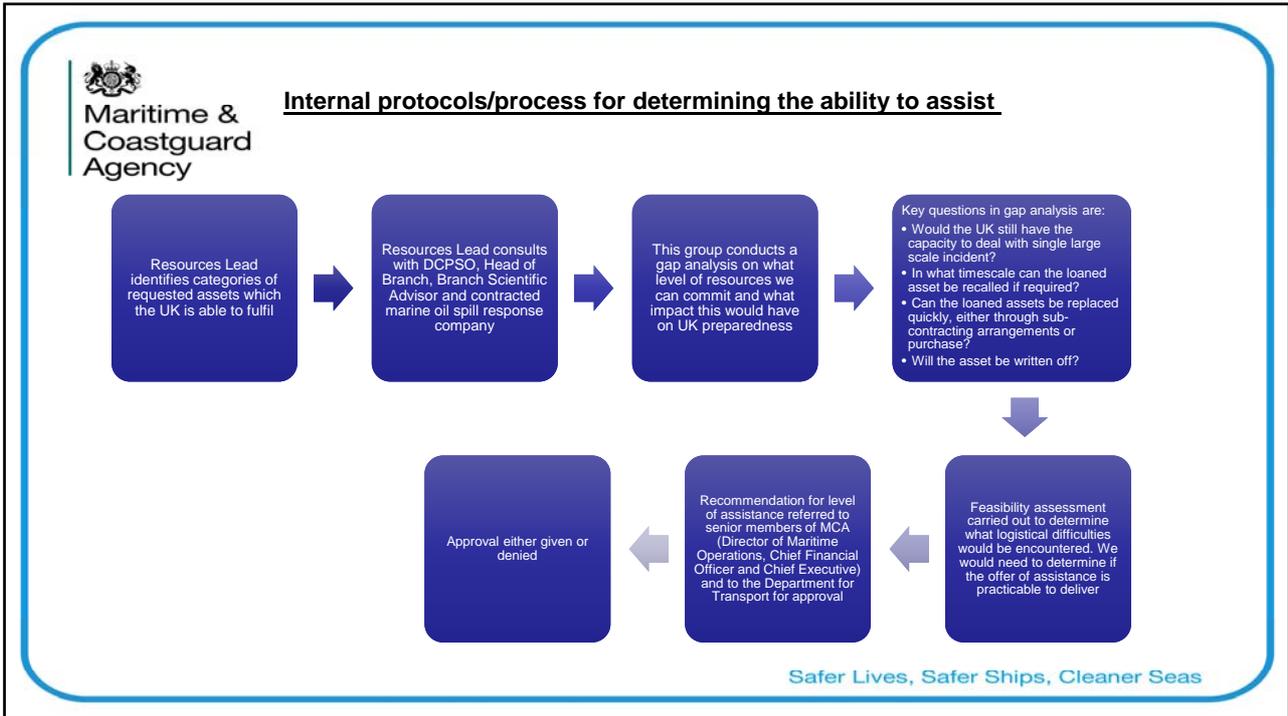
Notification of incident received by Falmouth  
CGOC via Safe Sea Net

Falmouth CGOC notifies duty Counter  
Pollution and Salvage Officer (CPSO)

Duty CPSO activates Resources Lead

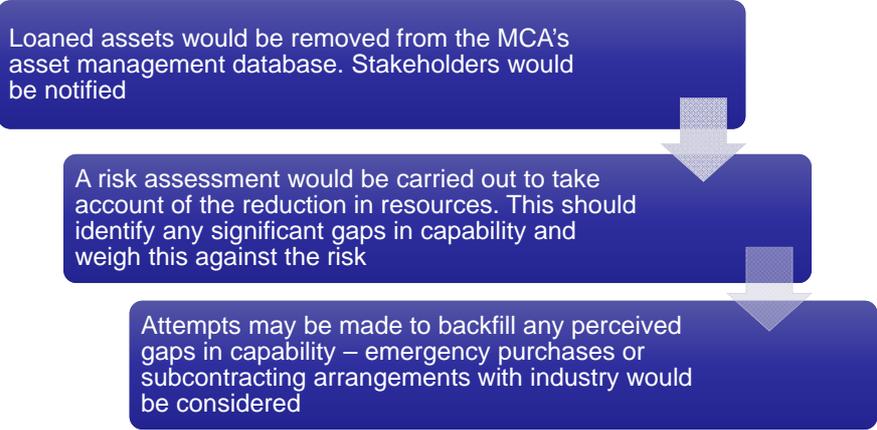
Resources Lead logs in to CECIS to review  
requests for assistance

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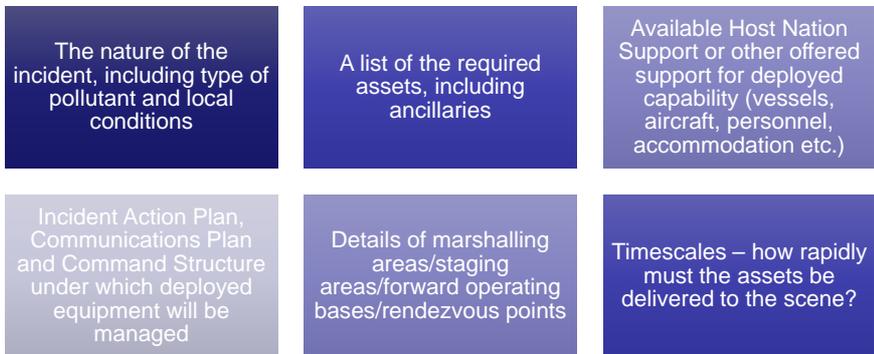
**Removal of response assets and personnel from national response system**



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**What type of information should be included in the request for assistance?**



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