

Chief Constables' Council

Title: British Overseas Territories Hurricane Response

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1. INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

- 1.1 Colleagues will be aware that the UK has a responsibility to support British Overseas Territories. This has previously seen the deployment of MoD assets and UK officers to support Overseas Territories in the Caribbean region following hurricanes to provide humanitarian aid and maintain law and order.
- 1.2 NPoCC now engages with wider cross government planning for the annual hurricane season (June to November each year), to ensure the islands are as well prepared as possible, and that effective UK contingency plans are in place should UK support be required.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 NPoCC has been working closely with colleagues in the region to develop improved briefing and deployment plans for any future deployment of UK officers. This has drawn from previous deployments and notably the experiences of officers who were deployed to the British Virgin Islands and Anguilla following Hurricane Irma in 2017.
- 2.2 Drawing upon this learning, and recognising the unique features of operating in a disaster area, we are making provision for stocks of specialist equipment, supplies, vehicles and rations, to support any UK deployment of officers. This will enable UK officers to be deployed swiftly, remain self-sufficient if necessary, and reduce the burden on the local islands at a time of significant pressure. Officers deployed will also be given a comprehensive pre-deployment briefing to ensure that they are as well prepared as possible and aware of the realities of the situation on the ground that they will be operating in.

3. RISK



3.1 The scientific scoring matrix used to assess hurricane likelihood is now scoring significantly higher than an average year. As such, it is assessed that it is now highly likely that one or more severe weather systems will impact the region over the next few months. This is in line with the trend which normally sees a significant weather event in the region every 5-6 years.

4. APPROVAL OF THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

4.1 Against this increased likelihood of needing to deploy UK officers this year, and to facilitate the fastest possible deployment of UK, Council is now asked to support the development of a standby cohort of officers who are willing to volunteer to be deployed if required.

4.2 The response to Irma saw around 60 UK officers deployed in total, with deployments lasting around 3 weeks at a time. Our current planning assumptions will mirror this.

5. DECISIONS REQUIRED

5.1 Mindful of changing availability and force pressures varying from day to day, council is asked to support the following proposals:

S31&S38

5.2 These proposals will also help us to pre-brief volunteers and ensure suitable vaccines and other welfare provisions are considered and addressed well in advance of any requirement to travel.

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