



Air Marshall Sir Stephen Dalton GCB, BSc, FRAeS
Lieutenant Governor of Jersey
Government House
St Helier
Jersey

2/1/18

Sir,

Re: Jersey Lifeboat Association

The committee for the Independent Jersey Lifeboat and the recently discharged Royal National Lifeboat Institution's Jersey crew, wish to bring their strong and urgent concerns regarding the maritime safety of all mariners in or near Jersey waters to your attention.

Of principal and urgent concern is the action of the RNLI in dismissing without notice the Jersey Lifeboat Crews and withdrawing the Jersey based All Weather Lifeboat (AWLB) from Jersey waters to the UK, at a time of worsening late autumn weather and the immediate onset of winter storms, an action that is believed to be unparalleled and unprecedented in recent history, and seen by most as a flagrant disregard for the safety of those who sail on our waters for business or for pleasure.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the Tamar Class Lifeboat 'George Sullivan' has now returned to Jersey waters, it is incomprehensible that a completely new untrained crew can be practiced and readied in just a handful of months.

Previous crews have served the equivalent of apprenticeships over many years and, indeed generations in the navigation of the challenging reefs and waters, often in the most hazardous of conditions in and around Jersey's coast.

Over recent weeks, the discharged crew represented by their Coxswain Andy Hibbs and members of their support committee, have met with the Chief Minister Senator Gorst and other members of the Government of Jersey, to elicit their assistance in finding a remedy that restores the AWLB with a trained, competent, experienced and practiced crew, until such time as viable alternatives have been put in place, that meets the needs of all mariners, whether commercial or pleasure in our local waters.

To date our efforts have been without success and we, as do the boating community and professional fisherman, remain gravely concerned for those who today may be in peril in our Jersey waters.

Therefore, may we request an urgent meeting with you to explore whatever avenues can be opened that could result in the immediate restoration of a fully trained and competent AWLB crew under whatever service level agreements that can be brokered with the RNLI. After all, the RNLI refers to itself as 'the charity that saves lives at sea' and that Sir is also our mission and aim.

Yours Faithfully

Yours Faithfully

C/c Sir William Bailhache Bailiff of Jersey
Mr Ian Gorst Chief Minister of Jersey ✓

Telephone

Facsimile

Mobile

Email