

FOIA2093 Response

1. The full cost to Scarborough Borough Council (SBC) of the RNLI Beach Lifeguard service provided for 2011 season was:
 - a) throughout the Borough £90,567
 - b) in Scarborough North Bay £25,398 and South Bay £23,094
 - c) in Whitby £17,168

The Agreement with the RNLI to provide a lifeguard service during the season on the resort beaches of Scarborough North, Scarborough South, Whitby and Filey was established in 2009 for a 5 year term. The Scarborough BC payment to RNLI is increased each Season of the Term of the agreement by a percentage equal to the percentage increase in the All Items Retail Prices Index (as published by the Office for National Statistics).

2. What contribution, if any, do RNLI make to the partnership?

The RNLI have provided the following information shown in italics and this demonstrates the contribution the RNLI makes to the partnership:

The RNLI operate a joint funding arrangement with the Councils they partner with. Broadly speaking the Council pays the RNLI a contribution roughly equivalent to the seasonal lifeguard wage bill for the time they spend patrolling, with the RNLI picking up the cost for everything else.

As the Institution operates a number of beaches under a single management team on the North East coast it is not always possible to break down our exact running costs by beach, but the main areas the RNLI fund are listed below:

Induction Programme

Our lifeguard induction training programme is one of the most comprehensive in the world. All new lifeguards receive training in safety and wellbeing, and learn about the RNLI and the opportunities available to them. Training continues on the coast where they are taught how best to prevent incidents occurring. They study rescue theory, before putting it all into practice in a series of exercises. To back up this practical knowledge they also gain essential training in policies, procedures and the legal issues involved in being a lifeguard.

The RNLI pay the wages of each lifeguard whilst they are on the induction course.

Weekly training sessions

1 hour per lifeguard per week swim training paid for by the RNLI plus pool hire.

Access to training programmes

The RNLI provide access to a variety of training programmes to enhance individual and group skills. Training programmes offered include:-

- *Casualty Care for lifeguards*
- *Rescue Water Craft operator*
- *Inshore Rescue Boat crew and driver*
- *4 Wheel Drive training*
- *All Terrain Vehicle training*
- *Short Range Radio Certificate*
- *Media skills*
- *IOSH – health, safety and risk assessment.*
- *Train the trainer*
- *Tailor made senior lifeguard and supervisor management courses*

Annual training cost of each RNLI Lifeguard is £504, paid for by the Institution.

Equipment provision and maintenance

The RNLI provide all relevant equipment that the lifeguards require to discharge their duties based on risk assessment. The RNLI ensure that all equipment is maintained to manufactures standards and in most cases will employ and fund an area technician to oversee the equipment. Should anything go wrong the RNLI endeavour to being able to replace equipment with relief stock within 24 hours.

Uniforms and personal kit

Total Uniform cost: £494 wetsuit, waterproof jacket, pair of sunglasses, patrol shorts, first aid and trauma bag, patrol track suit top, rash vest, patrol tracksuit bottoms, personal kit bag, patrol shirts, swim wear, cap and whistle. Funded by charitable donations.

Shore works

The RNLI ask for first refusal on any facilities currently being used for the purposes of lifeguarding, and usually lease these on the basis of a peppercorn rent. Where no buildings are available, or those that are unsuitable, the RNLI look to provide their own mobile lifeguard facilities to operate out of.

Service costs

All equipment is maintained to manufactures standards in house in a dedicated Area Support Centre. The RNLI employ qualified mechanics to carry out regular maintenance and repairs. Relief equipment is kept allowing for all operational equipment to be replaced by a spare when it is out of service. Paid for by the RNLI.

Non-operational Staff

The Lifeguard service is supported by a range of staff both from within the Operations department and from the wider structure of the RNLI: These roles are all funded though the Institutions charitable resources.

Operational Support Staff

The RNLI will cover the wage costs of divisional lifeguard management and supervisory staff.

Beach Safety Education programmes

Prevention is a key part of lifeguarding and the RNLI beach safety service plays a vital role in preventing loss of life at sea and reducing incidents through changing behaviours and attitudes.

We run a range of programmes to develop people's awareness and understanding of the risks encountered on the beach, many aimed at children and young people. A tailor made education programme will be designed for the local area. This will be introduced in year two and be developed over years 3-5. The cost of running education initiatives is covered by the RNLI.

3. How many deaths from drowning occurred on SBC beaches in each of the five years before the RNLI lifeguard service was introduced and in each year since.

Since the commencement of the RNLI Service in 2009 there has been one death from drowning on SBC beaches in August 2010.

In the 5 years prior to the commencement of the RNLI Service there have been five deaths from drowning on SBC beaches; three in March 2005 (in a single incident on a slipway in rough seas) and two in August 2006. The incident in March 2005 was outside the lifeguarding season and one of the incidents in August 2006 was after the lifeguarding shift finished on that day.