



Adrian McCreesh  
Chief Executive  
Mid-Ulster District Council  
Burn Road  
Cookstown  
Co Tyrone  
BT80 8DT

15<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
Dear Adrian,

Lough Neagh Rescue wishes to make a formal request for an annual Council contribution of £12,000 towards our Search and Rescue expenditure for the incoming financial year 2021/22. This request would represent £12,000 from last year, which will keep Mid Ulster Council contribution in line with both ABC and Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Councils. In order to provide backing information, I have outlined below our actual incurred expenditure for 21/22. This expenditure is based on pro rata apportionment for general costs or specific Ardboe station costs which fall clearly within the Mid Ulster area. Attached also is a current reconciliation/recent accounts of our financial position for your review which demonstrates need.

As an independent and competent organisation declared to the Coastguard through the PSNI we have a pivotal and central role in all Search and Rescue activity for Lough Neagh and its tributaries and we operate a 24/7, 365 voluntary service on behalf of the community and other statutory Rescue agencies. As a voluntary organisation we are very dependent on our volunteers giving much of their time to become skilled operators to the levels consistent and required with our Declared Operational status as recognised by Coastguard. Our station at Ardboe covers all of the Western and SW shores contiguous with Mid Ulster District Council's area and which represents the largest coverage of Lough Neagh.

Over this past 30 years we have had tremendous financial support from all riparian councils around the Lough to include the three former councils which now form the Mid Ulster District Council. As a result of this support over those years we have surpassed our strategic 10 year planned targets and are now embarking on our new strategy which will see us into 2030. Our SAR and Flood/Swift water teams based in Ardboe, Antrim and Kinnego are recognised as key leaders in the voluntary rescue

services on these islands and we operate not only to local NISAR competencies but to the UK DEFRA boat code for Search and Rescue operations.

In 2021 the Council reviewed it's contribution level and set it at £12,000. This much appreciated contribution has indeed helped bring us into the next decade but now with two imminent sets of major boat rehals required, a new active Flood Water Response team in situ and increased activity we find ourselves having to liaise with our Councils in an attempt to meet the SAR needs of the Mid Ulster area.

It is our aim to have each of the three main riparian Councils match-fund the organisation at a similar level on an annual basis. We would wish to revisit our Service Level Agreement with Mid Ulster District Council since over this past 3 years major increases in costs and subsequent uplifts in contributions from both other Councils have created a match fund anomaly across Lough Neagh and particularly for our station in Ardboe, Mid Ulster.

As always , we welcome visits from your Councillors and officials to see first -hand the work being carried out in the area and to this end we would welcome the Council's Chairperson and the Chair of your Development committee to a visit to the Ardboe station. Mr Wilson, as former Council Chair had previously indicated towards the end of his tenure that he would still be interested in visiting us formally and we would welcome their visit.

In the meantime, if you require further information, please call myself on 07858523718 or by visiting any of the three stations during training scheduled on each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,  
Matthew Crozier  
Director  
Lough Neagh Rescue

Councils that provide assistance:

- **ABC – 12k**
- **Mid-Ulster – 12k**
- **Antrim – 12k**