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| <b>Safety Recommendation Number:</b>                 | IRLD2021013         |
| <b>AAIU Event Reference:</b>                         | IRL00917016         |
| <b>AAIU Report Number:</b>                           | 2021-008            |
| <b>Date of Publication of Safety Recommendation:</b> | 5 November 2021     |
| <b>Safety Recommendation Status:</b>                 | Implemented, closed |

**Safety Recommendation:**

The Minister for Transport should implement a procedure for IRCG to engage, at an appropriate level, with its SAR helicopter operator in relation to mission launch concerns in a manner that minimises any impact on duty crews and avoids creating a perception of competition or commercial pressure.

**Response:**

On 01 February 2022, and in subsequent engagement with the AAIU, the Department of Transport provided the following response to this Safety Recommendation:

"On behalf of the Minister I would like to convey the following:

The recommendation is accepted.

The Coast Guard and the operator have a formal arrangement in place for engagement at an appropriate level on mission launch concerns that minimises any impact on duty crews and avoids creating a perception of competition or commercial pressure. The process is enabled by a formalised schedule of operational level meetings.

The arrangement is prescribed in a Coast Guard Administration and Information Notice (A&I) issued in February 2022. The operator was consulted on the drafting of the document. The daily operation review meeting between the Coast Guard and the operator has a standing agenda item titled 'Tasking/Mission Launch Concerns and Incident reviews.' This meeting is one element of the engagement process. The safety interface arrangement and weekly Operations meeting where tasking concerns are included as a standing agenda item, provide further opportunities to address these matters.

The Coast Guard recently updated its operations notice that sets out arrangements for incident review. This notice makes specific reference to evaluation of the necessity and appropriateness of each mission. The process includes a review of Log entries and cross checking with voice recordings where considered necessary. For quality and training purposes, periodic incident related spot checks of voice recordings will be carried out.

Safety issues raised by either party are managed under the safety interface arrangement and tracked on the joint safety tracker."

**AAIU Comment:**

The AAIU notes the Minister's response of 01 February 2022.

The AAIU considers the status of this Safety Recommendation to be 'Implemented, closed'.