

<b>Safety Recommendation Number:</b>	IRLD2021029
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<b>Safety Recommendation Status:</b>	In process of implementation

**Safety Recommendation:**

The Minister for Transport should periodically review the availability of in-house expertise, to ensure that the Department retains the necessary technical capabilities to intelligently oversee and review all activities associated with SAR aviation operations.

**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 IRCG contracts aviation support services, including auditing of the SAR aviation service provider and review of all activities associated with SAR aviation.*

*The Department will review the availability of inhouse expertise to ensure that the Department retains the necessary technical capabilities to intelligently oversee and review all activities associated with SAR aviation operations."*

On 19 September 2023, the Department of Transport provided the following update for this Safety Recommendation:

*"The Coast Guard has two contracts in place for provision of aviation expertise one contract applies to the current SAR Helicopter service and the other advises the procurement and establishment of the next generation Aviation contract.*

*The Department will continue to periodically evaluate best options for provision of aviation advice and expertise either under contract or by direct employment of a subject matter expert.*

*A further update will be provided in Q4 2023."*

**AAIU Comment:**

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

The AAIU also notes that the Department 'will review the availability of inhouse expertise to ensure that the Department retains the necessary technical capabilities to

intelligently oversee and review all activities associated with SAR aviation operations.'

The AAIU considers the status of this Safety Recommendation to be 'In process of implementation'.

The AAIU notes the Minister's response of 19 September 2023.

The AAIU notes the timescale of Q4, 2023 for further updates.

The AAIU considers the status of this Safety Recommendation to be 'In process of implementation'.