

# HORNSEA RESCUE

HORNSEA IN-SHORE RESCUE BOAT

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC TO PRESERVE & SAVE LIFE

REG. CHARITY NO. 1042449



103 Cliff Road,

Hornsea,

East Yorkshire,

HU18 1JB.

24<sup>th</sup> October 2008,

Dear Michael Richardson,

Michael Richardson,

Riverside House,

2A Southwark Bridge Road,

London SE1 9HA

Re Ofcom – Administered Incentive Pricing.

I am writing on behalf of Hornsea Inshore Rescue regarding the possibility of our charity being faced with an increase in the cost of using radio channels in connection with our service. There is a very strong case for the abolition of all charges for using radio channels to voluntary organisations involved in sea rescue work. The R.N.L.I. and the smaller independent life saving organisations together provide first class rescue services which enable the Government to meet its internationally agreed SAR obligations.

At present Hornsea Inshore Rescue is in the middle of a massive fund raising operation to complete the work on our new boathouse. This is actually on the sea front and will cut several minutes off the time needed to launch our boat. I am sure you will appreciate that when someone is in difficulties in the water minutes are absolutely vital. We are also facing large increases in our running costs due to the very high price of fuel. If after all this we are then to be faced with a price hike for using our radios it will create significant financial problems for us.

It is ironic that our organisation came into being to fill a serious gap in safety provision due to Government cut backs in the early 1990s. For many years our town had a locally based coastguard boat but when this was removed it meant there was no lifeboat provision between Bridlington and Withernsea – a distance of some 35 miles of holiday beaches.

People in the town rallied round and raised the money to buy our boat and it has been kept in service since then by the efforts of our community in terms of both crewing and funding. We have, over the past 13 years, taken part in many call outs, saving a considerable number of lives in the process. We therefore ask that no increase is made for ourselves and other users of radio for life saving purposes and further ask that Ofcom gives serious consideration to the abolition of the present charges.

Yours sincerely,

Rick Sumner, Press Officer.