



National Maritime
Information Centre

Information Guide

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WELCOME TO THE NMIC

The Cross Government maritime team at the National Maritime Information Centre are looking forward to working with you on maritime safety and security issues, and getting to know you and understand your organisation much better.

You will be aware, the NMIC is a new organisation – much of our early focus is on understanding who we can support and where we can add value to maritime safety & security and help you to achieve your goals.

We hope this information pack will help you understand the role of the NMIC and be the start of the dialogue between us.

Director NMIC

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This information pack has been developed to help key partners understand our role and how we can work together to strengthen the UK's maritime safety & security posture. As we move ahead we may work closely with you to ensure that collectively we achieve a positive outcome in the event of a major maritime incident. We are also focussed on providing you with the right products and services to help deliver your aims. A selection of NMIC outputs has been included. Please contact us if you would like to know more or would like to request support. The manner in which we share information with non-government partners will develop as we understand more of our collective business interests.

1.1 What is the NMIC



The NMIC is the UK National Maritime Information Centre. We are a cross-government body located at the Northwood Headquarters in Middlesex.

We work in close cooperation with the main

Government departments and are accountable to the Home Office. The NMIC brings together existing functions to provide improved maritime situational awareness and support to lead agencies in the event of emergency or crisis. This will allow a much better understanding of maritime safety & security risks and opportunities; information will be shared across Government, and to Industry, regional & international partners, and the public as appropriate.

1.1.1 NMIC Roles

- Actively monitor maritime activity around the UK and areas of national interest.
- Enable better understanding of maritime safety & security.
- Provide a “single voice” for maritime issues.
- Learn from maritime safety & security exercises.

1.1.2 Linkages

Similar to the JTAC¹ and CSOC² model, NMIC staff will provide linkage back to their parent departments whilst supporting NMIC objectives.

The NMIC Director reports to an inter-departmental Maritime Security Oversight Group (MSOG).

¹The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) launched in 2003 is the UK's Centre for international terrorist threat analysis and assessment. It is a multi-agency body, with staff attached from Government Departments, the military & law enforcement.

²UK Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC) launched in 2010 is the UK's Centre to enhance overall security & resilience in cyber space.

2.0 VISION, MISSION AND CHARTER

2.1 Vision

NMICVISION: To secure the UK advantage in the maritime domain.

Citizens, business and government can enjoy the full benefits of a clean, safe, sustainable, secure and resilient maritime domain: working together, at home and globally with partners, to understand and address the risks, to create a hostile environment for criminals and terrorists, and to seize opportunities in the maritime domain to enhance the UK's overall maritime development, safety, security and resilience.

2.2 Mission Statement

Produce Maritime Situational Awareness information³.

Provide a hub for national maritime surveillance information and co-ordinate the input of maritime departmental data. This will provide a trusted, coherent, robust, accurate and up to date picture of maritime activity affecting the UK and its interests.

Anticipate future threats and vulnerabilities.

Provide a consolidated situational awareness picture which will enable better identification and assessment of potential changes in the risks, as prioritised by the Maritime Security Oversight Group, to UK maritime safety and security. The consolidated picture will feed into Government hubs to collate, analyse and provide advice on identified threats and vulnerabilities.

Provide recommendations and advice to improve UK Maritime Situational Awareness.

Provide advice on current and anticipated state of UK maritime situational awareness, enabling informed decisions. Support Government in times of crisis by providing a coherent picture of activity in the maritime domain to the Cabinet Office Briefing Room.

Ensure the UK is informed and responds appropriately to maritime situational awareness situations.

Enable the efficient coordination of actions across government departments and partners where necessary, within UK maritime development, safety, security policy and structures. Strengthen and aid UK response to maritime incidents. Support significant Offshore Sporting and Maritime Festival activities, e.g. World Championships 2011, Olympic & Para-Olympic Games 2012 and International Festival of the Sea 2012 (IFOS 2012).

³MSA: The understanding of activities carried out in the maritime domain, to support timely decision making in the fields of Maritime Security and Maritime Safety.

Work in partnership with Government, industry and the public to ensure the UK maintains a balance of advantage in the maritime domain⁴.

Harmonise future Maritime Situational Awareness development in support of EU/NATO and other regional networks. Provide a single point of contact for EU and international partners developing similar situational awareness capabilities on a wider scale.

Provide UK Government and business (where appropriate) with Maritime Information.

UK departments responsible for clean and sustainable seas will have access to a wider picture of maritime activities providing more detailed information than before; assisting them in decision making and planning for enhancement of the maritime domain to the benefit of all.

2.3 Charter

By 2012, NMIC partners, customers and suppliers will be able to make the following assertions:

NMIC provides added-value maritime situational awareness.

As a customer, I trust the NMIC to produce the most comprehensive, reliable, accurate and up-to-date analysis of priority areas of the UK maritime domain. The NMIC's information is readily available to me in a useful format which contains unique, relevant analysis.

As a provider: I am confident that the NMIC will use my data, from non-classified to the most sensitive with due diligence.

NMIC anticipates future threats and vulnerabilities.

NMIC identifies and assesses potential changes in the risks to the UK's interests in the maritime domain, and highlights opportunities.

NMIC provides recommendations and advice to improve the UK's ability to monitor activity in the maritime domain.

Based on the current and anticipated states of UK maritime safety and security, the NMIC offers me advice and recommendations that I can use to make informed decisions.

NMIC enables the UK to respond appropriately to situations of interest in the maritime domain.

In the event of an incident in the maritime domain that has UK interest, I trust the NMIC to coordinate information flow across all government departments within UK maritime safety & security policy and structures efficiently. The NMIC regularly tests internal processes and the UK's response through exercises.

⁴Maritime Domain: All areas and things of, under, relating to, adjacent to, or bordering on a sea, or ocean including all maritime-related activities, infrastructure, people, cargo and vessels and other conveyances.

NMIC's Mission is to:

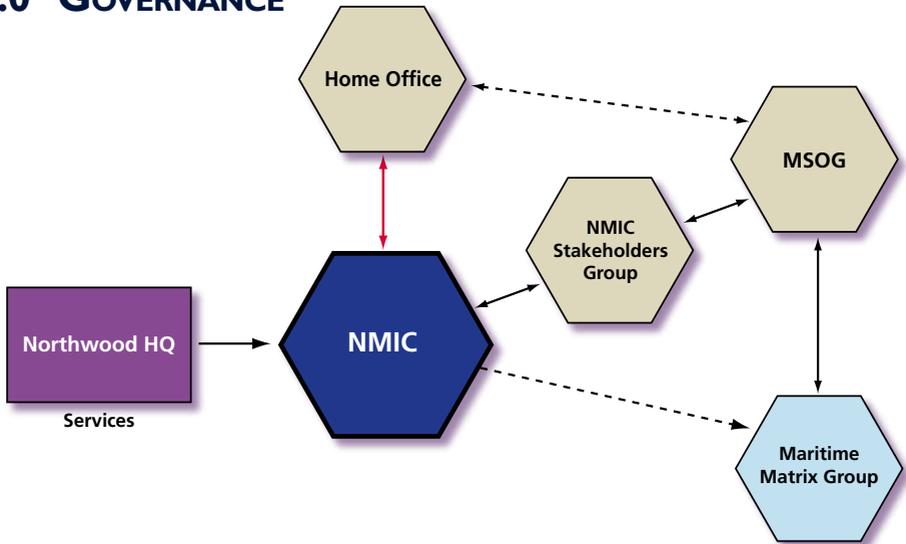
- Maintain Maritime Situational Awareness.
- Anticipate future maritime safety & security risks.
- To provide the single national maritime voice.
- Support UK response to maritime safety & security incidents.
- Work in partnership with Government, Industry and the public to give the UK the balance of advantage in the maritime domain.

3.0 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

NMIC has agreed formal Service Level Agreements (or Letters of Understanding) with each contributing department that outlines their commitment to supporting the vision and mission of the NMIC now and as it develops to meet the challenges it faces. In particular;

1. As a **supplier**, what is provided to the NMIC in support of maritime situational awareness and the conditions on its use.
2. As a **customer**, what information it expects from the NMIC in support of departmental maritime outputs and the manner in which it undertakes to use it.
3. As a **stakeholder** -
 - i. What it can do with its legal authority and capabilities to support the UK response to maritime risks.
 - ii. What resources it contributes to the NMIC for the core staff including HR terms & conditions.
 - iii. What skills it makes available in times of crisis and the mechanisms for NMIC to call on those skills.
 - iv. What technologies it makes available in support of the mission.

4.0 GOVERNANCE



4.1 The Maritime Security Oversight Group

The MSOG, made up with key representatives of core departments, agencies and the Cabinet Office is the senior-level decision making group for maritime issues. The purpose of the group is to provide strategic oversight and direction on all cross-cutting maritime security issues and programmes. The group is responsible for the Maritime Security vision, strategic objectives and risks, reviewing them as circumstances require, and allocating priorities in order to use them as a framework to drive and coordinate day-to-day policy on cross government programmes of work.

4.2 The Maritime Matrix Group

The Maritime Matrix Group, chaired by Home Office, will be held regularly to continue to oversee progress on all Maritime Security work streams, including the development of policy proposals identified to address risks and issues in the maritime security domain. This group will maintain a milestone document and risk register to determine issues for MSOG discussion.

4.2 The NMIC Stakeholders Board

The NMIC Stakeholders Board is a cross-government working group with the responsibility of overseeing future plans for NMIC development, reporting progress to Maritime Security Oversight Group. It will also contribute progress against the NMIC Business Plan, demonstrating the contribution to, and traceability from, the Maritime Security Programme.

5.0 INFORMATION SHARING

NMIC has agreed information and data handling procedures with a number of partner organisations. Partners should be aware that information is the NMIC's most prized asset and instructions will always be followed to ensure the maintenance of trust and confidence.

6.0 WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THE NMIC

Once fully developed, the following services will be available. We will also issue reports at all levels of protective marking and will strive to develop mechanisms to share information with non-governmental partners, business, industry, the scientific community and academia.

6.1 Services:

One Stop Shop – Bringing together Government Departments to optimise the use of maritime information, avoid duplication and benefit from best practise. Be the national voice for MSA issues.

Support – Support the nominated lead department in the event of emergency or crisis.

Provide – Maritime information to Government to aid decision making.

7.0 THE FUTURE

Future development of the NMIC will be in a spiral approach; Consider – Try – Test – Evaluate. We are committed to reviewing our capabilities and customer requirements on an ongoing basis. The NMIC Stakeholder Board will drive this programme to ensure effectiveness and efficiency across all departments.

Are there any products or services that you feel the NMIC should deliver on behalf of the Nation?

Do you have information or products that you feel would contribute to the NMIC?

If the answer is Yes to either of these questions, please contact us at your convenience.

8.0 HOW DO I WORK WITH THE NMIC?

8.1 Requesting service

The first step is to contact us to discuss your requirements (if you are a non-government partner please talk to your government contacts or UK Embassy officials).

8.2 NMIC's role in a Maritime Incident

The NMIC is not seeking to be involved in every maritime incident unless certain thresholds are met. When the NMIC is involved it will be in support of a nominated lead department to add value. In most incidents we expect to act as the information coordinating centre using our own departmental representatives to ensure there is validity and transparency.

The primary objective of the NMIC is to support a nominated department in providing a satisfactory response. The NMIC is accountable to the MSOG who will assess the NMIC's success in the involvement of any event.

8.2.1 Threshold Levels

Should a maritime safety or security incident occur that falls under any of the following conditions, the NMIC should be notified:

- Multiple UK Government departments are involved or need to be involved.
- The reputation of the UK might be significantly impacted.
- There is/will be significant Parliamentary interest.

The impact level of the incident will be assessed against the published HMG Business Impact Levels (BIL).

HMG Information Assurance Standards are issued jointly by the Cabinet Office and CESG. The standards outline minimum measures that must be implemented by Departments and Agencies⁵. There are currently six BIL Tables; the titles of each have been included below for information:

⁵Cabinet Office & Communications and Electronics Security Group and its advisers accept no liability whatsoever for any expense, liability, loss, claim or proceedings arising from reliance placed upon this Standard.

BIL TABLE NUMBER	TITLE
1	Defence, International Relation, Security and Intelligence
2	Public Order, Public Safety and Law Enforcement
3	Trade, Economics and Public Finance
4	Public Services
5	Critical National Infrastructure
6	Personal / Citizen

Further guidance to content for all the BIL tables can be accessed online at:

http://www.cesg.gov.uk/policy_technologies/policy/policy.shtml

8.2.2 Maritime Incident Management

It is not the NMIC's intention to interact directly with the customers of a stakeholder or interfere with other existing relationships. Engagement by the NMIC will be with the departmental representatives present on the staff and within stakeholder organisations.

The core activity of the NMIC will be maintaining Maritime Situational Awareness around the UK and areas of national interest. We anticipate this will lead to the early identification of maritime risks in some cases and assist in the response of partners. As our capabilities grow we may be able to identify trends or predictions how events might unfold. During routine activity we will develop the relationships required to work nationally, regionally and globally so we can maintain and enhance the UK's Maritime Situational Awareness.

The NMIC must add value to the safety and security of the UK's maritime interests and meet your Departmental requirements. To achieve this, it is important we have a good understanding of your areas of interest and up to date contact details. Any feedback, either in person, telephone or email that will help us monitor our performance will be gratefully received. Your input to the development of this National entity is important.

9.0 HOW TO ARRANGE A NMIC BRIEFING

We hope this information has been useful. If you would like a more comprehensive briefing on the NMIC model or services then please contact us (if you are a non-government partner please talk to your government contacts or UK Embassy officials).

Thank You



Contact us:

Tel: +44(0) 1923 956128

Email: nmic-group@mod.uk

NOTES

