

**MCIB**

Marine Casualty Investigation Board  
*Bord Imscrúdú Taisní Muirí*



**INTERIM REPORT OF THE  
INVESTIGATION INTO A  
FATAL INCIDENT  
INVOLVING AN IRISH COAST  
GUARD RIB  
AT KILKEE  
ON  
12th SEPTEMBER 2016**

**REPORT NO. MCIB/266/INTERIM  
(No.9 OF 2017)**

The Marine Casualty Investigation Board (MCIB) examines and investigates all types of marine casualties to, or on board, Irish registered vessels worldwide and other vessels in Irish territorial waters and inland waterways.

The MCIB objective in investigating a marine casualty is to determine its circumstances and its causes with a view to making recommendations for the avoidance of similar marine casualties in the future, thereby improving the safety of life at sea.

The MCIB is a non-prosecutorial body. We do not enforce laws or carry out prosecutions. It is not the purpose of an investigation carried out by the MCIB to apportion blame or fault.

The legislative framework for the operation of the MCIB, the reporting and investigating of marine casualties and the powers of MCIB investigators is set out in The Merchant Shipping (Investigation of Marine Casualties) Act, 2000.

In carrying out its functions the MCIB complies with the provisions of the International Maritime Organisation's Casualty Investigation Code and EU Directive 2009/18/EC governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector.



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The Marine Casualty Investigation Board was established on the 25th March, 2003 under the Merchant Shipping (Investigation of Marine Casualties) Act, 2000.

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## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 On the 9th September 2016, the Irish Coast Guard Station at Kilkee was tasked by MRSC Valentia to provide search and rescue volunteers at the cliffs to the southwest of the town, close to Fohagh Point. Reports indicated that a missing person may have fallen off the cliffs. The Irish Coast Guard Station provided both cliff top search teams and boat crew on 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th September.
- 1.2 On the morning of the 12th September the volunteers assembled at the Coast Guard Station and resumed operations, including a launch of the Delta Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB). Volunteers from the Doolin Coast Guard Station assisted. After the early morning launch, the RIB was recovered and prepared for a second mission at approximately 9.30 hrs.
- 1.3 At approximately 12.11 hrs, on the second tasking of the day and whilst searching a cove to the east of Fohagh Point, the Delta RIB capsized throwing all three crewmembers into the water. Immediately, a full scale search and rescue operation commenced. One of the crewmembers was picked up by a RIB commandeered by An Garda Síochána, a second crewmember was rescued by the SAR Rescue helicopter service. The third crewmember who was a volunteer from the Doolin Coast Guard Station was also recovered by a SAR Rescue Helicopter, but later died.
- 1.4 The missing person was reportedly found at a later date by Civil Defence units in nearby Intrinsic Bay
- 1.5 The Investigation is ongoing.







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