



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Keir Mathers MP  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
Minister for Aviation, Maritime and Decarbonisation  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Friday, 19 June 2026

Dear Minister,

**Protect Coastguard Rescue Officers**

We write as Members of the Scottish Parliament to raise urgent concern about the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's proposal to end paid remuneration for Coastguard Rescue Officers attending emergency callouts and training.

Across Scotland, Coastguard Rescue Officers protect lives on our islands, cliffs, beaches, harbours and coastlines. When the call comes, they drop everything. Work is interrupted, family life is put on hold, and ordinary life is set aside because someone may be in danger.

They do not do this work for the money. They do it because they believe in service, community and saving lives. But the payment matters because it helps make that service possible.

The MCA's proposal comes only months after GMB supported a landmark legal case confirming that Coastguard Rescue Officers have worker status when attending callouts and training. It is deeply concerning that the response now appears to be to strip away the payment arrangements attached to that work.

That would undermine rights which Coastguard Rescue Officers and their union fought hard to secure. It would also risk damaging morale, weakening resilience and driving experienced responders away from a service coastal communities rely on.

The value of our coastguard teams cannot be measured on a balance sheet. Their local knowledge, training and experience can be the difference between life and death. They should be respected, not taken for granted.

We call on the UK Government to intervene and ensure the MCA pauses these proposals immediately, consults properly with Coastguard Rescue Officers and GMB, and finds a solution which protects workers' rights and safeguards the future of the Coastguard Rescue Service.

The MCA should stop, listen to its workers, and think again.

Signed,

Clare Adamson MSP

Karen Adam MSP

Heather Anderson MSP

Tom Arthur MSP

Jackie Baillie MSP

David Barratt MSP

Andrew Baxter MSP

Colin Beattie MSP

Dawn Black MSP

Siobhian Brown MSP

Ariane Burgess MSP

Kate Campbell MSP

Michelle Campbell MSP

Maggie Chapman MSP

Katy Clark MSP

Yi-pei Chou Turvey MSP

Martyn Day MSP

Jackie Dunbar MSP

Duncan Dunlop MSP

Iris Duane MSP

Joe Fagan MSP

Zen Ghani MSP

Patricia Gibson MSP

Hannah Mary Goodlad MSP

David Green MSP

Ross Greer MSP

Katie Hagmann MSP

Clare Haughey MSP

Jamie Hepburn MSP

Calum Kerr MSP

Kristopher Leask MSP

David Linden MSP

Donald MacKinnon MSP

Morven-May MacCallum MSP

Gillian Mackay MSP

Gillian Martin MSP

Liam McArthur MSP

Paul McLennan MSP

Stuart McMillan MSP

Lloyd Melville MSP

Jack Middleton MSP

Jenni Minto MSP

Laura Mitchell MSP

Laura Moodie MSP

Kate Nevens MSP

Willie Rennie MSP

Emma Roddick MSP

Lorna Slater MSP

Alyn Smith MSP

Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP

Pauline Stafford MSP

Paul Sweeney MSP

Maree Todd MSP

Alison Thewliss MSP

David Torrance MSP