



RNOC
ROYAL NAVY
OFFICERS' CHARITY

IMPACT REPORT | 2016

SUPPORTING NAVAL SERVICE OFFICERS THROUGH LIFE



HM THE QUEEN, PATRON

Official Portrait of HM The Queen © www.royalimages.co.uk

Please convey my warm thanks to the President and the Board of Trustees of the Royal Navy Officers' Charity for their loyal greetings.

As your Patron, I was most interested to hear of how you

have continued to support officers and their families over the past year. I much appreciate your kind words and, in return, send my warm good wishes to all concerned at the charity.

Officers within the Naval Service are often the people who are looked to for leadership, guidance, inspiration and help. But who's there for them when things get tough – financially or personally?

WE ARE.

The Royal Navy Officers' Charity (RNOC) is the only charity dedicated to supporting serving and former officers of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, QARNNS and their families and dependants – at every stage in their lives and careers.



ADMIRAL SIR MARK STANHOPE GCB OBE DL, PRESIDENT

The benevolence of the Royal Navy Officers' Charity, available to all serving and retired members of the Royal Naval Officer Community and their families, continues to make huge impact. The response to requests for help, which exceeded 200 at a cost of almost £335,000, are

always timely, confidential and rigorous in their assessment. Our sister organisation, the Association of Royal Navy Officers, also provides an excellent synergy and added advantages. It is an honour and privilege to be the President of such a focused and well-run organisation.



SURGEON COMMODORE JIM SYKES FFOM ROYAL NAVY, CHAIRMAN

It is an honour to be the Chairman of a charity which supports officers of the Naval Service, serving and retired and their entitled dependants, with the assistance they seek in their time of need, thereby maintaining a tradition which dates back 278 years. While the benevolence we

provide has changed markedly in that time, we remain resolute in continuing the tradition and strive to increase both the level and scope of our support in conjunction with like-minded charities in the sector.



COMMANDER MICHAEL GOLDTHORPE ROYAL NAVY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

It remains a great privilege to be the CEO of the RNOC. We have made in excess of 200 grants over this last year in support of retired personnel, their dependants and those still serving, all of which have been in response to the individual specialist requirements of those applying.

These range from the basic needs of those in financial difficulty in later life, to support of those still serving and their young families. Together with ARNO we reinforce the sense of belonging at times of personal need and in normal day to day life.



FIRST ESTABLISHED IN 1739...

...Under the name of The Amicable Navy Society, our objectives were to 'afford relief to distressed officers of the Royal Navy, their widows, orphans, mothers and sisters'. Society membership cost one Guinea per annum, with life membership available for 10 Guineas. While it is no longer possible to join the society, the objectives, albeit widened and modernised, remain.

TODAY RNOC EXISTS TO:



'Provide relief to persons in need (whether or not members of the society) being officers and former officers of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines and Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service and officers and former officers on their Reserve Lists, together with their spouses or former spouses, widows, widowers, families and dependants.'



Every year, we provide one-off grants and long-term financial support. We treat every case that comes in on its merits, then provide funding to meet the person's specific needs and situation. This flexible, individual approach really does transform lives.



TRUSTEES

Wayland Austin, Paul Bennett, Funmi Chirnside, Elizabeth Gibson, Bob Grainger, Graham Hockley, Ben Hughes, Eunice Marland, David Marsh, James Parkin, Martin Poll, Joe Turner, Roger Williams

WE HELP THE SERVING...

In addition to regular annuitants, a continually growing number of serving officers and their families, come to us for one-off support to help with a particularly difficult period in their lives. As an example, our grant helped a recently discharged Royal Navy Officer to relocate. Following the move, she wrote:

“I want you to be aware of the positive effect your generous grant is and will be making to how I am able to live my life. I also wanted you to know that the value of the grant to me is not just the money, but knowing your Board feels I am worth it.”



SUPPORTING THE OFFICER FAMILY



WE HELP THE RETIRED...

Retired officers and their dependants make up a high proportion of cases requiring our help – many are older officers who hold wartime or National Service commissions and, together with their widows, are often on low incomes. These Ladies and Gentlemen rely on our regular grants to help with everyday expenses and, in some cases, to survive. Sometimes, just knowing we are here, provides the comfort that they are not alone.

“I write to tell you how deeply appreciative I am for your support. Having been the wife of a Naval Captain who sadly died some 27 years ago, it is wonderful to feel the strong arm of the navy around my shoulders once more.”



THE SMALL THINGS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

QUICK RESPONSE TIME

When requests for help come in, we respond within 5 working days and in some cases, within 24 hours.

“The Royal Navy Officers Charity found out about my situation last week. I have a rare disease called Transverse Myelitis, which affects the spinal cord and has left me partially paralysed and unable to walk. The CEO contacted me last Wednesday and we talked about my finances and why a hand-cycle will make a big difference to mine and my children’s lives. The Trustees met on Friday and today (Monday) my funding for the hand-cycle has been granted. The CEO also informed me that the Trustees also awarded a grant to help pay off my car loan.”



“I never expected such an act, and am enormously grateful to the CEO and Trustees of RNOC – I will sleep easier at night and my life has been made a great deal easier by your generosity.”

CASE STUDY

“Since developing multiple sclerosis and relying entirely on benefits, things have been hard for myself and my son. From a practical standpoint, basic chores like vacuuming the floor, making beds, and mowing the lawn are beyond my physical capabilities, but with the help of a grant from RNOC I have been able to employ a cleaner and a gardener part time. I have also been able to get a dishwasher which is a huge help.

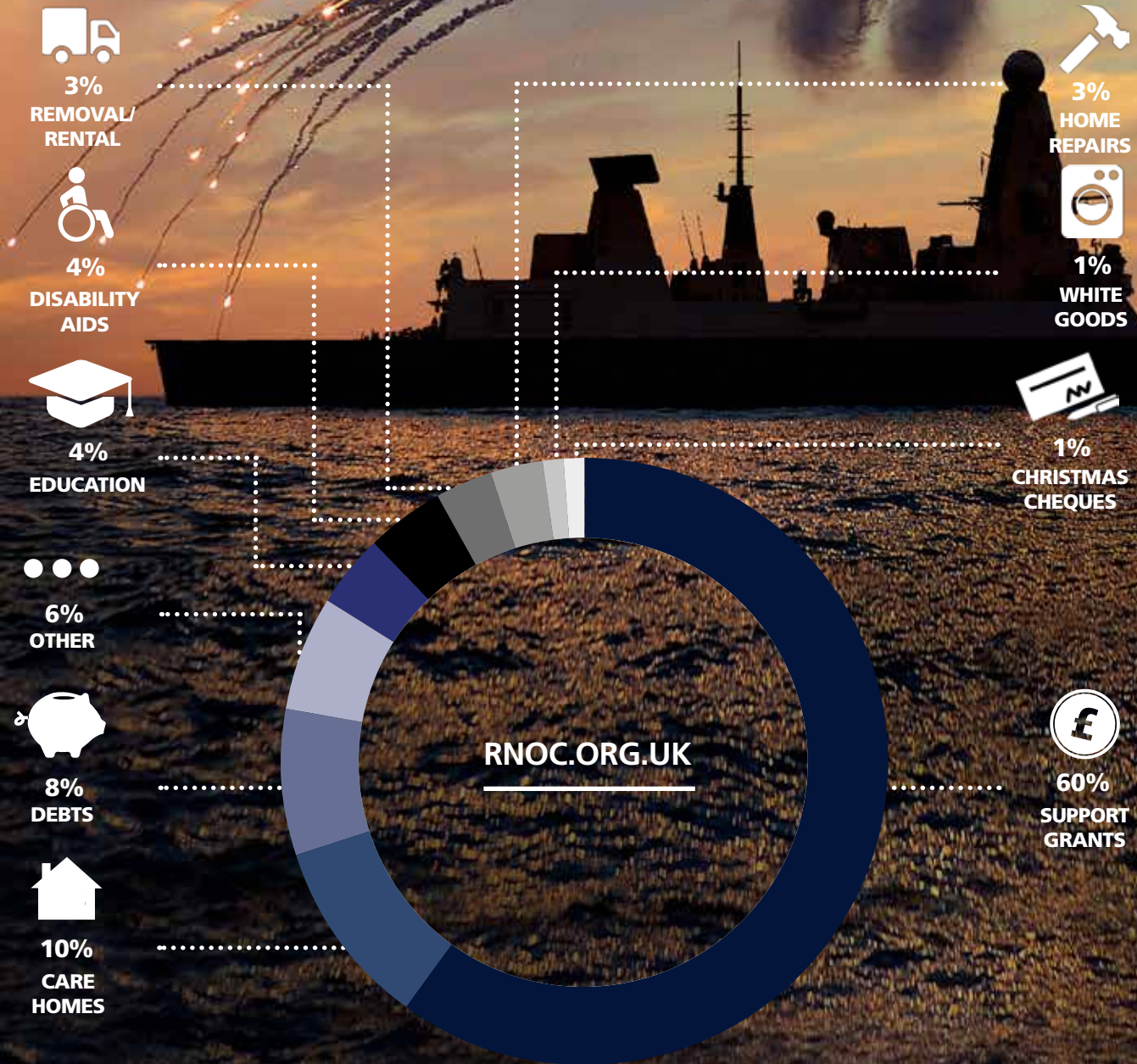
From a financial standpoint, I needed a bed for my son – he had been in the same broken bed since the age of 9 and now at over 6 foot, he had really outgrown it and it was giving him back problems. Alex (below) is now 17 and just graduated from a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma and is planning on a career in the Royal Marines. When I sit in my garden, and when I see the success my son is making of his life, I am immensely proud and incredibly grateful for the help I have received from RNOC. Thank you again from my heart.”



VARIETY OF GRANTS MADE IN 2016

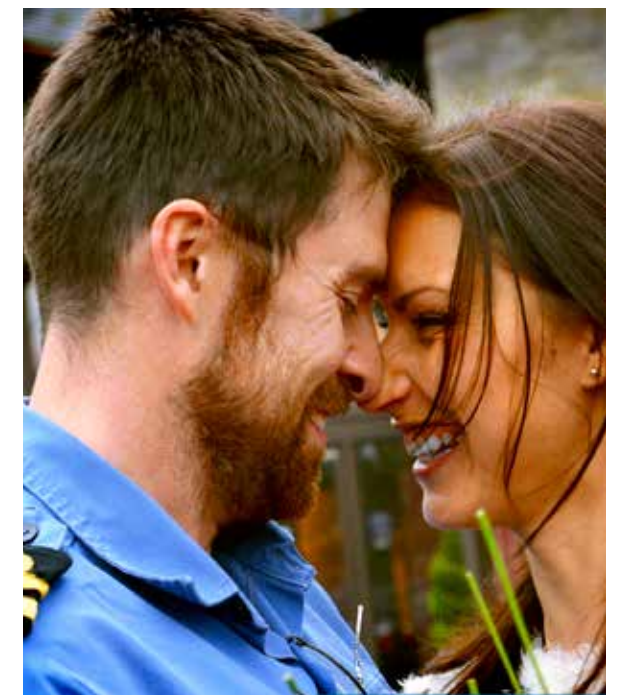
We assisted the officer family with grants totaling over £335,000.

To mirror our wide reach of beneficiaries, the grants we provide support an equally wide range of needs including: the cost of nursing and care home fees, mobility aids, education, household repairs and the replacement of white goods and debt.



EXAMPLES OF HOW OUR GRANTS WERE USED:

- A number of support grants for former officers and widows suffering from poverty and poor health living in Commonwealth and other countries
- Assistance to a serving officer with a severe disability with the cost of a specially adapted bicycle and vehicle to ensure the individual, and family, could remain mobile
- Funding to install a shower room for a former officer unable to access a conventional bath
- Repaying and consolidating debts to create more usable income
- Assistance in finding alternative accommodation for a recently widowed individual wishing to return to the UK
- Assistance with end of life and funeral costs



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There is always more we can and want to do in support of the Royal Navy Officer Family.

Currently the Royal Navy Officers' Charity receives all of its income from investments and a small number of donations and legacies. We are not funded by any other charity and do not receive any government funding. By giving to the Royal Navy Officers' Charity, you can help us help those who need it most. If you'd like to be part of our life-changing work, you can leave us a legacy or make a secure online donation at: mydonate.bt.com/charities/royalnavyofficerscharity

LOOKING AHEAD

Through our day-to-day partnership with the Association of Royal Navy Officers (ARNO) we will continue to raise our profile, ensuring all those who qualify are aware of the assistance we can provide. Working with other like-minded charities will ensure that help reaches those who need it as quickly and efficiently as possible. If you would like further information, or you are aware of anyone who could benefit from our help, please pass our details on to them, or contact us directly.

For further information visit rnoc.org.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trustees of RNOC are extremely grateful to all our supporters. We would particularly like to thank the following organisations for their help and assistance. In addition, an extra special thanks to the many SSAFA and Officers' Association caseworkers who, on behalf of our beneficiaries, compile and facilitate the numerous applications for assistance.

- Cazenove Capital Management
- MindWorks Marketing
- The RN&RM Children's Fund
- Child & Co
- SAIL
- The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity
- Greenwich Hospital
- SSAFA
- The WRNS Benevolent Trust
- Lloyd's Patriotic Fund
- The Officers' Association

SUPPORTED BY



The Royal Navy Officers' Charity is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 207405). Registered office as above. Disclaimer: The information used in this report is taken from the fully audited Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December. Copies are available upon request.

Designed and produced by MindWorks Marketing REF: 31109

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