



# Guidelines for the Irish Water Safety

## Seiko just in time rescue award

### 1 Introduction

The aim of these Guidelines is to define the purpose of, and the criteria for granting, the “Seiko Just in Time rescue award” ("the Award"). They stipulate the process by which nominations for the Award will be received, prepared, examined and decided; the form of the Award; and the manner in which it will be awarded.

### 2 Purpose and Criteria

The purpose of the Award is to provide a unique, national recognition for those who, at some risk to their own life conducted a rescue service.

- 3 The Award will be conferred on individuals or groups of individuals who, attempt to save life in the aquatic environment (**see Annex C for definition**). The Award may also be granted posthumously.

### 4 Eligibility

Any person undertaking or assisting in a rescue service in the Irish Aquatic environment or any Irish person undertaking or assisting in a rescue service in a foreign aquatic environment is eligible for nomination for the award. Trained Response and Rescue Service Personnel may be eligible for nomination under certain conditions (**see Annex C for definition**).

### 5 Nominations

Members of the public or any agency, organisation or service including IWS should make nominations for the Award. Nominations should be submitted on the Rescue Award application Form (see Annex A) which may be obtained from IWS HQ or down loaded from the IWS website (**see Annex B for addresses**). Such nominations should be addressed to the Chief Executive, Irish Water Safety HQ.

**6**      **Process**

Nominations received at IWS HQ will be sent to the appropriate WSAC for Investigation (see **Annex A Guidance Notes for Water Safety Area Committees**).

The Area Committee has primary responsibility for the preparation of recommendations for the possible granting of the Award. .

**7**      When investigating a rescue service particular care must be taken not to give any indication of the recommendation that may be made or the possible outcome of the investigation.

**8**      Recommendations from the Area Committee should provide a full description of the circumstances and events giving rise to the nomination. See Guidance Notes at Annex B.

**9**      Speed in assessing a rescue service meriting the Award is essential. This must be a top priority to undertake these investigations when requested to do so. As a general rule the Area Committee will complete their preparation of recommendations in four weeks and return them to the Chief Executive, IWS HQ.

**10**     The Chief Executive has the final responsibility for endorsing and submitting the Area Committee's recommendations to the IWS Rescue Commission.

**11**     The Rescue Commission at its scheduled meetings will examine and decide upon all recommendations submitted to it by the Chief Executive.

**12**     The decision of the Rescue Commission will be final and there will be no leave to appeal that decision.

**13**     75% attendance of the Rescue Commission members will be required for decisions.

**14**      **Form of the Award**

The Award will take the form of a Seiko stainless steel watch and mantelpiece clock together with a certificate, citing the rescue service performed, from IWS.

<b>16</b>	<b>Presentation of the Award</b>
	<i>The Award will be presented at the IWS Awards Ceremony, which will take place in November each year.</i>
	If an award is made the nominee may be subjected to publicity

# **Annex A**

## **Guidance Notes for Water Safety Area Committees**

*A recommendation for a Seiko Just in Time rescue award will necessitate the following actions to be carried out by members of the AWSC*

- *A visit to the location*
- *The interviewing of the rescuers, rescued, witnesses and any others who can provide proof of the rescue and/or of participants,*
- *Confirmation of the details listed in each section of the application form*
- *A comprehensive written report supported by all other available documentation. To be completed in section E8 or by accompanying letter*

*The following factors also listed in the nomination form as guidance to the nominator should be considered when completing the Rescue Award Nomination Form and its comprehensive written report:*

- 1 Location of the incident:
  - An A4 OS map or sketch with scale would be helpful.
  - Others involved in the rescue service:
- 3 Prevailing weather conditions – check with independent source:
  - wind strength and direction,
  - direction and strength of sea/swell/tide,
  - spray/rain/snow,
  - visibility,
  - daylight or darkness,
  - Air and water temperature.
- 4 Skills display:
  - awareness of current and potential circumstances,
  - alertness,
  - experience,
  - local knowledge,
  - Initiative,
  - full and proper use of all available resources,
  - adaptability in rapidly changing circumstances,
  - swimming/ lifesaving,
  - first aid and/or rendering medical assistance,
- 5 Leadership demonstrated:
  - how the rescue was approached,
  - rescuer has and displays confidence,
  - knowledge,

- intelligence,
  - Charisma and humanity such that others will willingly follow.
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- 6 Determination to conduct the rescue operation:
- will to succeed,
  - resoluteness required completing the job however difficult or long or arduous the circumstances,
  - How often did the rescuer have to go in the water?
- 7 Courage demonstrated:
- Bravery or boldness.
- 8 Degree of risk to human lives [rescuer and rescued] involved:
- hazards,
  - fishing nets,
  - flotsam,
  - jetsam, and
  - Condition of rescued or recovered person.
- 9 Nearest land, sea or beach rescue service:
- Rescue without the assistance of rescue services or public rescue equipment often exposes the rescuer to considerable personal risk demanding a high level of physical fitness.
- 10 Rescuer's rescue training: and,
- 11 Any other information supporting the nomination: