

Maritime Charities Funding Group

UK Seafarers' Demographic Profile

Summary Report

January 2015

1 Introduction

The Maritime Charities Funding Group (MCFG) commissioned the Institute of Public Care (IPC) at Oxford Brookes University to undertake a project to provide a UK demographic profile of serving and former Royal Navy (RN), Merchant Navy (MN) and fishing fleet (FF) seafarers and their dependants, including projections to 2050. The project in part builds on the findings of earlier work reported in the MCFG's wide ranging 2007 'Supporting seafarers and their families' report.

The summary information presented here is supplemented in the main report by further estimates and projections. In the tables, numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Details of the sources used and assumptions upon which the estimates and projections are based are provided in the full report. Due to lack, or gaps in some, of the available data, some significant assumptions were necessary particularly in relation to the fishing fleet and some aspects of the Merchant Navy.

2 Overview

From the available data, the Royal Navy comprise the largest group of serving seafarers (33,000), followed by the Merchant Navy (30,000) and the fishing fleet (12,000). Thus the total current seafaring population is estimated to be over 75,000.

The numbers of all three groups have reduced considerably since 1945, and the size of the former populations is projected to continue to decline.

By far the largest group of former seafarers are the RN group, followed by the MN group which appears to be less than half the size of the former RN, and former FF – the smallest group projected to number less than 100,000 in 2015.

In terms of the former seafaring population, the number of former RN are projected to decline steadily over the coming years across all ages, as the World War II and National Service generation passes on. Among the former MN and FF, although a decline in total numbers is projected, within these totals, further rises in the numbers aged 65 and over, aged 75 and over, and particularly 85 and above are projected.

Numbers of former MN and FF aged 85 and over are projected to increase by more than 275% between now and the 2030s, while in the RN the number of former seafarers aged 85 and above has already peaked.

The oldest former seafarers are the group most likely to need help and support from maritime charities. They are key drivers of demand for care and support services, and the projected increase in their numbers among the MN and FF groups, highlights the need for providers to understand how they can meet the needs of frailer seafarers whether through the provision of services themselves, or working in partnership with commissioners or other providers.

Least is known about the dependants of the three seafarer groups. The numbers of dependants across all seafaring groups are expected to continue to decline from the present to 2050.

Wider contextual changes such as welfare reform and continuing public sector austerity measures are likely to create a range of needs for help and support among the adult and child dependants of serving and former seafarers. The projections in this report suggest that the demand for services will continue.

However, the main beneficiary group will continue to be men. Not only are seafarers vulnerable to specific health problems and conditions associated with their time at sea, but many, particularly former FF and some MN will have limited or no occupational pension provision.

A number of factors will interact and affect the projections made for this study. Continuing increases in longevity will tend to increase the size of all the ex-seafarer populations. Further changes in pension age could reduce the need for support in old age. Changes in medical treatment, health and social care policy and provision will also affect levels and type of need, and new problems may emerge, such as the consequences of obesity.

The table below presents a summary of current numbers across the three groups:

Table 1 Summary of current numbers across RN, MN and FF

	RN	MN	FF
Serving	33,000	30,000	12,000
Former under 65	171,000	63,000	41,000
Former aged 65+	209,000	91,000	58,000
Dependants	405,000	176,000	106,000
Total	818,000	360,000	217,000

3 Royal Navy

Serving RN

Assuming that the levels continue as set out in the Strategic Defence Review 2010, the number of serving Royal Navy (RN) is projected to continue to decline from 33,000 in 2014 to 29,000 in 2020 and remain stable thereafter.

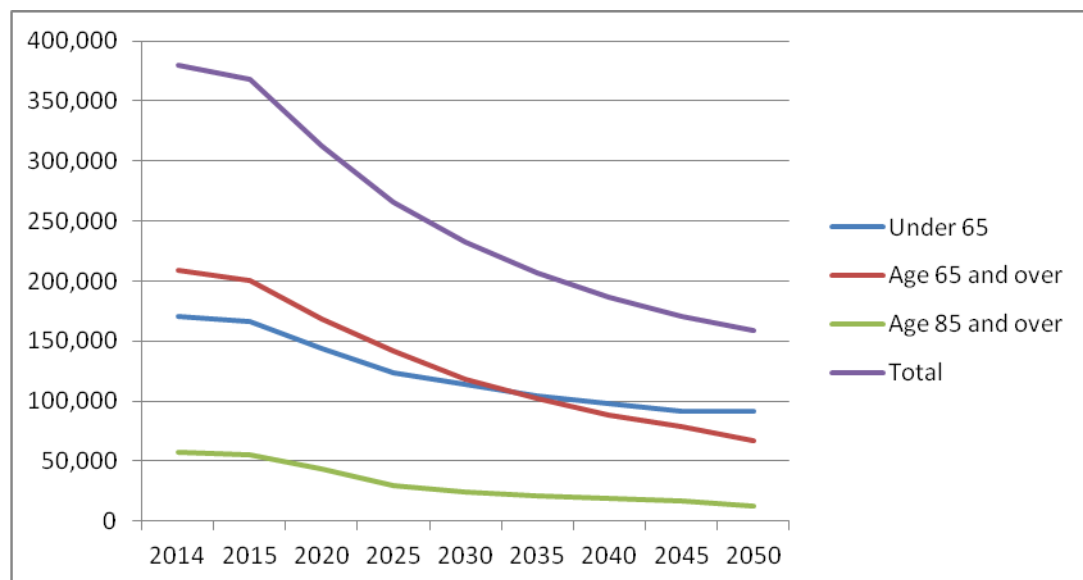
Former RN

There were an estimated 380,000 former RN seafarers in 2014, of whom 209,000 are aged 65 or over. The total number of former RN is projected to decline to 159,000 by 2050.

Table 2 – Projected former RN seafarers from 2014 to 2050

Age	2014	2020	2030	2040	2050
Under 65	171,000	144,000	114,000	98,000	92,000
Aged 65+	209,000	169,000	118,000	88,000	67,000
Aged 85+	57,000	44,000	24,000	19,000	13,000
Total	380,000	312,000	232,000	186,000	159,000

Figure 1 Projected former RN seafarers from 2014 to 2050



The decline in numbers will be steepest in those aged 85 and over as the war-time and National Service generations die out.

RN Dependants

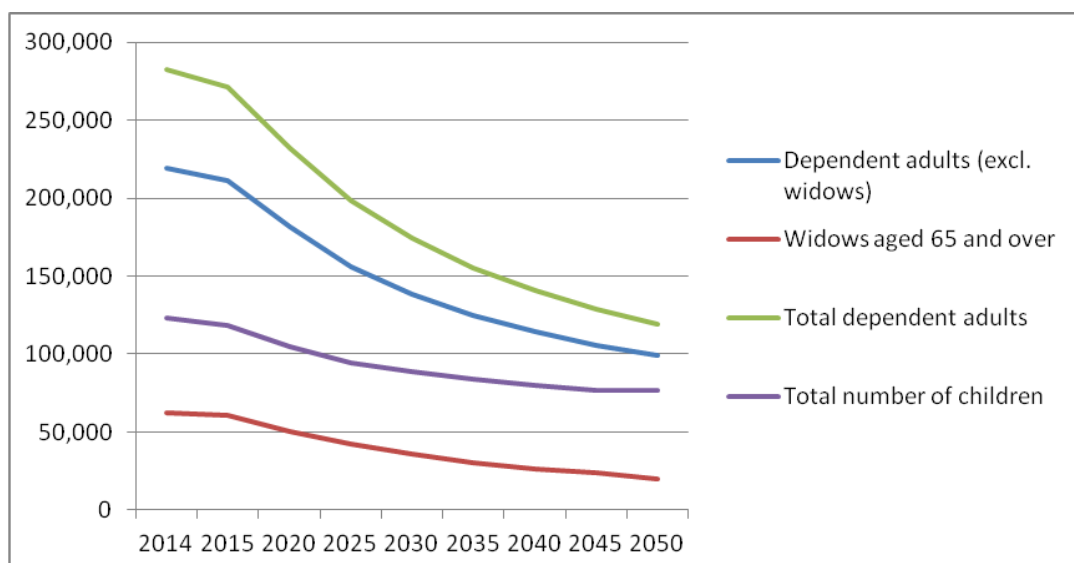
There are an estimated 282,000 RN dependent adults including widows and widowers and 123,000 RN dependent children. These groups are all projected to decline between now and 2050, with the number of widows falling

to about one-third of current levels, and lowest drop in the number of dependent children, falling by 38%.

Table 3 – Projected number of dependants of serving and former RN personnel from 2014 to 2050

Dependants	2014	2020	2030	2040	2050
<i>Serving RN</i>					
Dependent adults	17,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Children	31,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000
<i>Former RN under 65</i>					
Dependent adults	89,000	75,000	60,000	51,000	48,000
Children	92,000	77,000	62,000	53,000	50,000
<i>Former RN aged 65+</i>					
Dependent adults	113,000	91,000	64,000	48,000	36,000
Widows aged 65+	63,000	51,000	35,000	27,000	20,000
<i>All RN</i>					
Dependent adults (excl. widows)	220,000	181,000	139,000	114,000	99,000
Widows aged 65+	63,000	51,000	35,000	27,000	20,000
Total dependent adults	282,000	232,000	174,000	140,000	119,000
Total number of children	123,000	105,000	89,000	80,000	77,000

Figure 2 – Projected number of dependants of serving and former RN personnel from 2014 to 2050



RN limiting long-standing illness

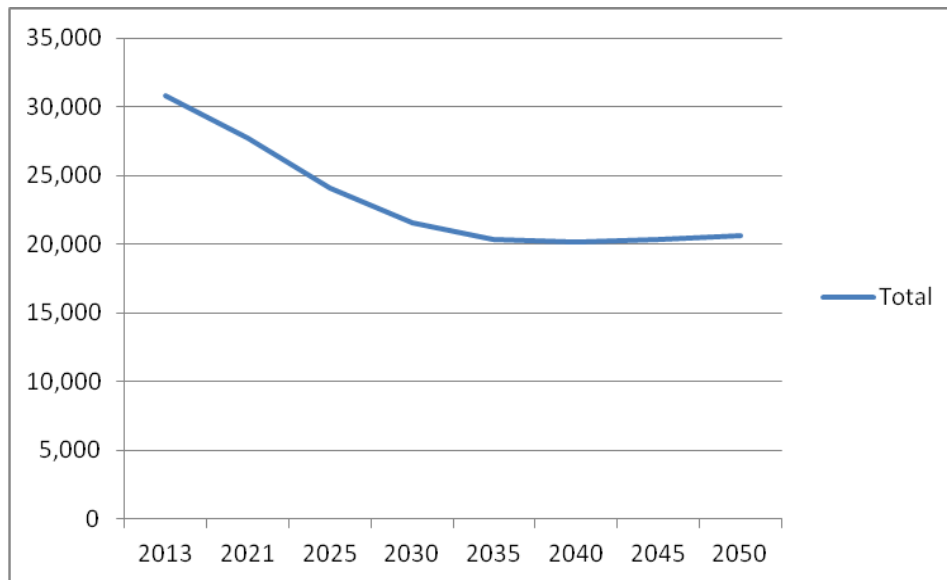
There are an estimated 110,000 former RN aged 55 and over with limiting long-standing illness and 67,000 former RN aged 55 and over with one or more limitation with an Activity of Daily Living. By 2050, numbers are projected to fall to 36,000 and 21,000 respectively.

4 Merchant Navy

Serving MN

The number of serving Merchant Navy (MN) is projected to continue to decline from an estimated 30,000 in 2014 to 20,000 in 2035 and remain stable thereafter.

Figure 3 – Projected numbers of serving MN from 2013 to 2050



Former MN

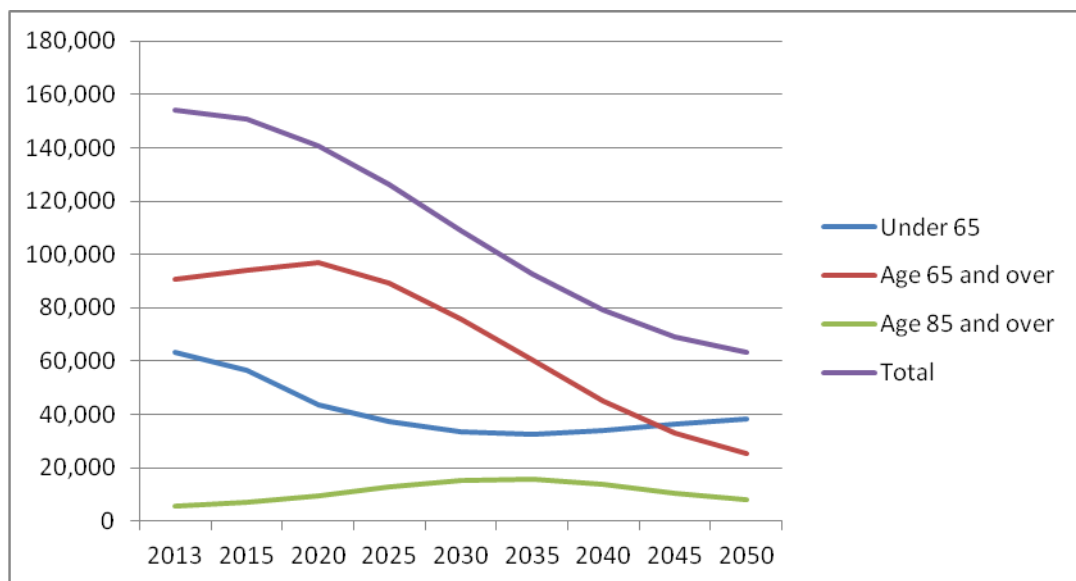
There were an estimated 154,000 former MN seafarers in 2013, of whom 91,000 are aged 65 or over. The total number of former MN is projected to decline to 64,000 by 2050.

However, the overall trend conceals an increase in the 65+ population up to 2020 and the growth of the 85+ population up to 2035 when it will be more than 275% its current estimated level of 6,000. This will have implications for the need for care and support among this group.

Table 4 – Projected former MN seafarers from 2013 to 2050

Age	2013	2020	2030	2040	2050
Under 65	63,000	44,000	33,000	34,000	38,000
Aged 65+	91,000	97,000	76,000	45,000	25,000
Aged 85+	6,000	9,000	16,000	14,000	8,000
Total	154,000	141,000	109,000	79,000	64,000

Figure 4 – Projected former MN seafarers from 2013 to 2050



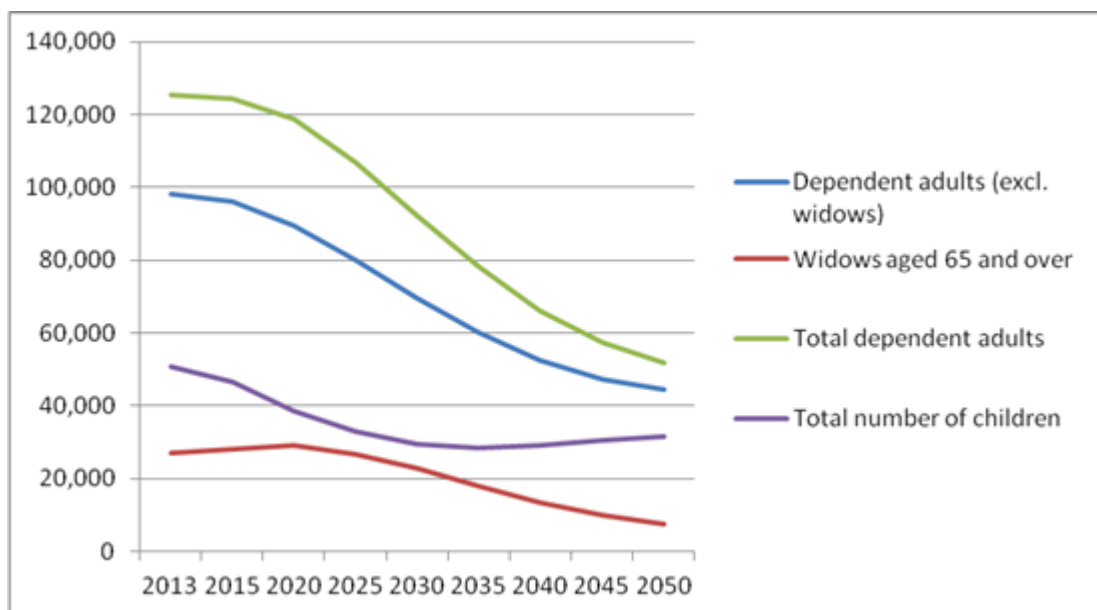
MN Dependants

There are an estimated 125,000 MN dependent adults including widows and widowers and 51,000 MN dependent children. The total number of dependent adults is projected to decline steadily between now and 2050, while the number of widows is projected to increase slightly up to 2020, before falling; while the number of dependent children is to decline up to 2035 before starting to rise steadily

Table 5 – Projected number of dependants of serving and former MN personnel from 2013 to 2050

Dependants	2013	2020	2030	2040	2050
<i>Serving MN</i>					
Dependent adults	16,000	15,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
Children	17,000	15,000	12,000	11,000	11,000
<i>Former MN under 65</i>					
Dependent adults	33,000	23,000	17,000	18,000	20,000
Children	34,000	23,000	18,000	18,000	21,000
<i>Former MN aged 65+</i>					
Dependent adults	49,000	52,000	41,000	24,000	14,000
Widows aged 65+	27,000	29,000	23,000	13,000	8,000
<i>All MN</i>					
Dependent adults (excl. widows)	98,000	90,000	70,000	53,000	44,000
Widows aged 65+	27,000	29,000	23,000	13,000	8,000
Total dependent adults	125,000	119,000	92,000	66,000	52,000
Total number of children	51,000	38,000	30,000	29,000	32,000

Figure 5 – Projected number of dependants of serving and former MN personnel from 2013 to 2050



MN limiting long-standing illness

There are an estimated 46,000 former MN aged 55 and over with limiting long-standing illness and 26,000 former MN aged 55 and over with one or more limitation with an Activity of Daily Living. By 2050, numbers are projected to fall to 14,000 and 9,000 respectively.

5 Fishing Fleet

Serving FF

Data on the current fishing fleet (FF) workforce is limited. Since 2005, it has fluctuated between 12,000 and 13,000 including part-time FF seafarers. It is assumed that numbers will remain stable from now to 2050. In 2013, there were an estimated 12,000 serving FF.

Former FF

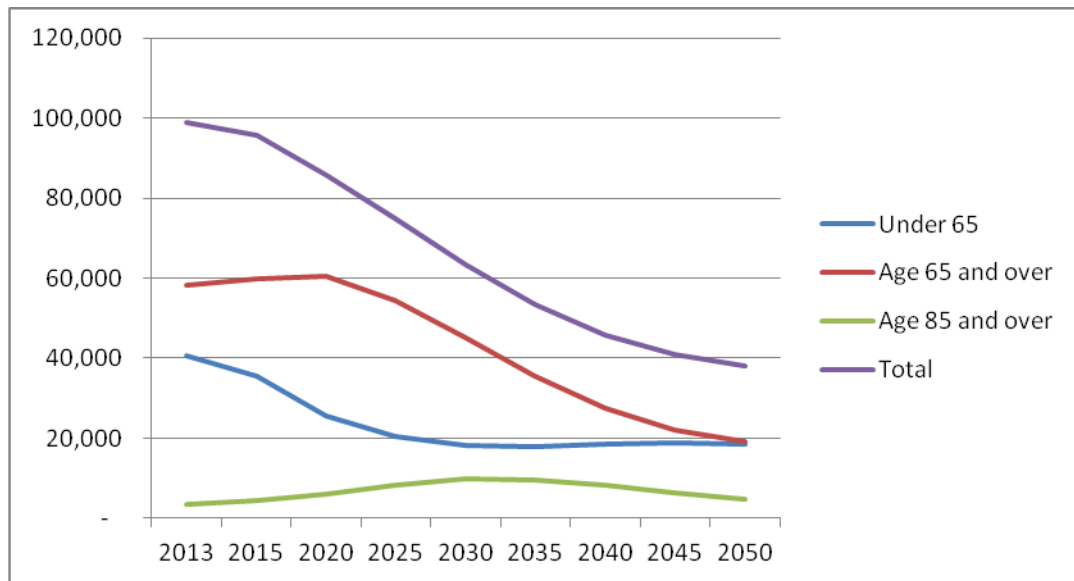
There were an estimated 99,000 former FF seafarers in 2013, of whom 58,000 are aged 65 or over. The total number of former FF is projected to decline to 38,000 by 2050.

Along with a slight projected increase in the 65+ population up to 2020, the 85+ population is projected to increase up to 2030 when it will be more than 270% its current estimated level of 4,000. This will have implications for the need for care and support among this group.

Table 6 – Projected former FF seafarers from 2013 to 2050

Age	2013	2020	2030	2040	2050
Under 65	41,000	25,000	18,000	18,000	19,000
Aged 65+	58,000	60,000	45,000	27,000	19,000
Aged 85+	4,000	6,000	10,000	8,300	5,000
Total	99,000	86,000	63,000	46,000	38,000

Figure 6 – Projected former FF seafarers from 2013 to 2050



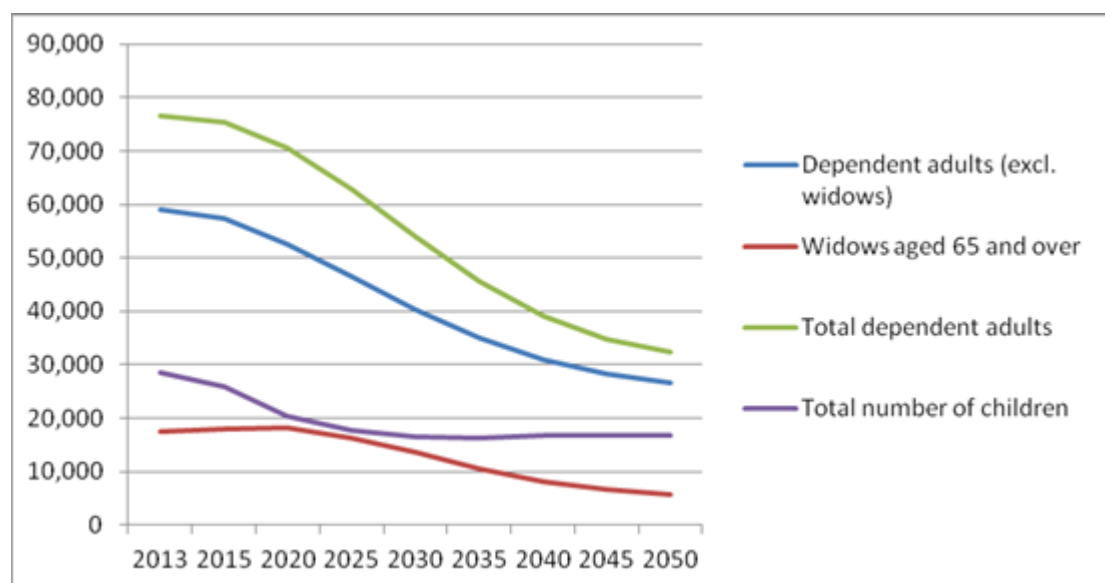
FF Dependants

There are an estimated 77,000 FF dependent adults, including widows and widowers and 29,000 FF dependent children. The total number of dependent adults (excluding widows) is projected to decline steadily between now and 2050, while the number of widows is projected to increase slightly up to 2020, before falling, while the number of dependent children is projected to decline up to 2035 before starting to rise slowly.

Table 7 – Projected number of dependants of serving and former FF personnel from 2013 to 2050

Dependants	2013	2020	2030	2040	2050
<i>Serving FF</i>					
Dependent adults	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Children	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
<i>Former FF under 65</i>					
Dependent adults	21,000	13,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Children	22,000	14,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<i>Former FF aged 65+</i>					
Dependent adults	31,000	33,000	24,000	15,000	10,000
Widows aged 65+	17,000	18,000	14,000	8,000	6,000
<i>All FF</i>					
Dependent adults (excl. widows)	59,000	52,000	40,000	31,000	27,000
Widows aged 65+	17,000	18,000	14,000	8,000	6,000
Total dependent adults	77,000	71,000	54,000	39,000	32,000
Total number of children	29,000	20,000	17,000	17,000	17,000

Figure 7 – Projected number of dependants of serving and former FF personnel from 2013 to 2050



FF limiting long-standing illness

There are an estimated 29,000 former FF aged 55 and over with limiting long-standing illness and 17,000 former FF aged 55 and over with one or more limitation with an Activity of Daily Living. By 2050, numbers are projected to fall to 10,000 and 6,000 respectively.

6 Conclusion

This study indicates that there will be a continuing need for charitable help and support, particularly among the oldest former MN and FF for many years to come. The report notes the apparently low membership of occupational pension schemes among some groups of seafarers. Thus, within the wider context of continuing welfare reform and austerity measures affecting health and social care it may mean that although the overall numbers may decline, the level of need may actually increase.