

Official Statement

14 October 2024

Martin Coles CBE stepping down as CEO of Marine Society and Sea Cadets in late Spring 2025

The Marine Society and Sea Cadets (MSSC) announces, with great regret, that after nearly 15 years of dedicated service as Chief Executive, Martin Coles CBE will step down from his role in late Spring 2025.

Jeremy Penn, Chair of Trustees at MSSC, said: "On behalf of the entire organisation, I want to express our profound gratitude to Martin for his visionary leadership over the past decade and a half. His tenure has been one of remarkable transformation. He has led the charity in defining its purpose, analysing its impact, and driving its modernisation, growth, and long-term security."

Under Martin's leadership, we now offer a safer, more consistent, inclusive and engaging Sea Cadets Experience, supported by modern systems and equipment, together with more effective volunteer training and support. We are actively listening to young people, inspiring ever more of them to reach their potential through challenge and nautical adventure, all guided by the customs and traditions of today's Royal Navy. At the same time, the Marine Society's offer has been modernised to better equip seafarers to realise their potential and meet the evolving needs of the maritime sector. These achievements leave our charity in a stronger position than ever to meet the growing demand for our services in an increasingly dynamic world.

Reflecting on his time at the helm, Martin Coles said: "It has been the honour of a lifetime to lead the Marine Society and Sea Cadets and a real privilege to serve alongside such a passionate group of volunteers, employees, and trustees who together are making such a positive impact on the lives of young people and seafarers".

Martin will continue as our Chief Executive until late Spring 2025, and the recruitment process for his successor will begin shortly. Thereafter, Martin plans to remain an active volunteer, a role he describes as the best part of his week.

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