



Prepared by: British Red Cross

IFRC Review of Emergency Decrees: SOUTH GEORGIA AND SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS

Overview

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) are situated 800 miles SE of the Falkland Islands. The main island of South Georgia is approximately 170 km long and between 2 and 40 km wide and occupies an area of 3,755 km², more than half of which is permanently ice covered. Mt Paget rises to 2,934 m and is the highest point in all UK mainland and territories outside of Antarctica. The South Sandwich Islands are a chain of eleven small volcanic islands 350-500 miles SE of South Georgia. The South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Maritime Zone occupies in excess of 1,000,000 km² of the Southern Ocean.

SGSSI remains free from Covid-19. Strict procedures have been implemented to minimise the risk of exposure to staff at South Georgia, and work continues in as normal a fashion as possible on the island. The tourist season is now complete and Grytviken will remain closed to visitors until at least August 2020. The wharf development continues with works entering the final phase, and preparations for the upcoming fishing season are continuing.

No COVID-19 specific measures have therefore been required.

There is no local emergency or disaster legislation. In the event of an emergency, measures could be taken under the Emergency Powers Order 2017.