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The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

9 March 2022

Dear Mr Javid

Air Ambulance emergency first responders and the Platinum Jubilee Medal

Air Ambulances UK is the recognised national charity championing, supporting, and representing the work of air ambulance charities across the UK. We work closely with our air ambulance member charities and act as the one voice on issues of national significance.

The air ambulance community has like all emergency first responder services worked extremely hard and adapted to deliver lifesaving care throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of the charities have also seen an increase in the number of critical care incidents they are tasked with and throughout the challenges of the pandemic their teams have worked tirelessly to care for patients who have encountered sudden trauma or a medical episode.

It is hugely disappointing that we have been told by the Department of Health and Social Care that air ambulance staff who do not have NHS ambulance trust service are not eligible for a Platinum Jubilee Medal. This has caused considerable confusion given that quite rightly charities which deliver search and rescue services have been informed that their teams are eligible if they meet the 5-year service rule.

The exclusion of the air ambulance community on a matter of technicality is extremely unfortunate and fails to recognise the crucial role that the critical care teams have alongside the NHS together with the fact that they continued to save lives early in the pandemic when little was known about Covid-19.

Given your commitment to recognising the invaluable role of frontline workers we would be grateful for your support in securing the inclusion of air ambulance team members across the UK by withdrawing the unnecessary eligibility barrier of having to evidence NHS service to receive a medal.

Email: info@airambulancesuk.org

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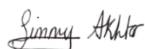
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Association of Air Ambulances (Charity) Ltd
Operating as Air Ambulances UK
International House | 126 Colmore Row | Birmingham | B3 3AP
Incorporated and Registered in England and Wales:
Registered Company Number 09391251
Registered Charity Number 1161153
Registered in Scotland SC051021

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Simmy Akhtar
Chief Executive Officer

Air Ambulance Charity Co-signatures



David Philpott
Chief Executive
Wiltshire Air Ambulance



Helena Holt
Chief Executive
Devon Air Ambulance Trust



Bill Sivewright
Chief Executive Officer
Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance



Matthew Jones
Chief Executive Officer
East Anglian Air Ambulance

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