



AIR AMBULANCES UK
SUPPORTING AIR AMBULANCE CHARITIES

SAVING
MORE LIVES
TOGETHER

To find out more visit
www.airambulancesuk.org/APPG



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ABOUT AIR AMBULANCES UK

Air Ambulances UK (AAUK) supports the vital work of air ambulance charities at a national level.

Air Ambulances UK is the national charity supporting the lifesaving work of the UK's air ambulance charities, enabling them to save even more lives and improve patient outcomes every day.

AAUK is a national platform for the sector and works to raise awareness of the lifesaving work of air ambulance crews and how they make a difference to anyone in need of their specialist care. We raise national funds to invest in the air ambulance community and act as the voice on issues of national significance.

Our vision is that together we will ensure the best possible chance of survival and patient outcome for everyone in need of lifesaving pre-hospital care.

OUR VALUES



Trust



Excellence



Collaboration



Kindness



Innovation

OUR GOALS



To inspire national engagement and support

We will inspire commitment to the sector through raising funds, generating support and increasing national awareness of our cause.



To advance patient care

We will support and champion research and good practice in the sector by the delivery of projects and sharing of learning to improve patient outcomes.



To be a collective voice

We will become the trusted, national collective voice of the sector among central government, peer organisations, media and the public.



To maximise sector impact & income generation

We will deliver funding which enables air ambulance charity development and become the leading central hub of mutual information exchange, support and advice for the community.



To achieve organisational excellence

We will achieve the highest standards of governance and compliance, ensure financial sustainability and will nurture our team, as well as demonstrate our impact.

AIR AMBULANCE CHARITIES

There are 21 air ambulance charities in the UK.

Air ambulance crews bring the Emergency Department to patients who have suffered a life threatening or life changing trauma or medical emergency and provide advanced critical care to save lives. An air ambulance can reach someone in urgent need within minutes. Air ambulance charities are collectively dispatched to an average of 126 lifesaving missions each day across the UK. Each mission is funded almost entirely by the generosity of local communities.

MIDLANDS
AIR AMBULANCE

Cornwall 
Air Ambulance

YORKSHIRE
AIR AMBULANCE

WILTSHIRE
AIR AMBULANCE


AMBRYLANS AWYR CYMRU
WALES AIR AMBULANCE

 NORTH WEST
Air Ambulance
CHARITY

 Essex & Herts
Air Ambulance
Your local life-saving charity

KSS 
AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY
KENT SURREY SUSSEX

 HAMPSHIRE AND
ISLE OF WIGHT
AIR AMBULANCE

 AIR AMBULANCE
NORTHERN IRELAND
Saving Lives Across Northern Ireland

 East Anglian
Air Ambulance

 your local
air ambulance
Derbyshire · Leicestershire · Rutland
Warwickshire · Northamptonshire

SCAA 
Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance

 GREAT WESTERN
Air Ambulance Charity

MAGPAS 
AIR AMBULANCE

LINCS & NOTTS
AIR AMBULANCE

Devon Air Ambulance Trust

www.daatt.org

 DORSET & SOMERSET
AIR AMBULANCE

 GREAT NORTH
AIR AMBULANCE


THAMES VALLEY
AIR AMBULANCE

 London's
Air Ambulance
Charity



AIR AMBULANCE MISSION DATA



OVER

23,000

Helicopter Missions

Increased by 51% from 2021



OVER

7,500

Cardiac-Related Incidents Attended

Increased by 24% from 2021



OVER

22,500

Critical Care Car Missions

Increased by 54% from 2021



ON AVERAGE

126

Missions Attended Per Day

Increased by 24% from 2021



OVER

7,200

Road Traffic Collision Incidents Attended

Increased by 12% from 2021



ON AVERAGE

£4,110

Helicopter Mission Cost

Increased by 4% from 2021

**All data is based on the year of 2023. All air ambulance charities are independent with differing operational model(s) and so figures/data are averages. Cost of mission varies depending on geography, patient need, clinical and operational models of the local air ambulance charity.*



JASMINE'S STORY

Parents Niky and Ryan's lives were turned upside down on the morning of 31st October 2019, as any parents' worst nightmare became a reality. Their four-year-old daughter, Jasmine, had stopped breathing – she was unconscious suffering a respiratory arrest and in need of emergency care, fast. The Great Western Air Ambulance Charity's (GWAAC) Critical Care Team were dispatched to the incident in Gloucestershire with Critical Care Doctor and Senior Consultant, Scott, Critical Care Doctor, Andrew, and Specialist Paramedic in Critical Care, Jack, arriving on scene in less than 20 minutes.

Jasmine was very unwell – she had stopped breathing and needed an emergency anaesthesia – an intervention that our specialist crew can deliver on scene. They put Jasmine into an induced coma, taking over her breathing and preventing any further complications, before airlifting her to Bristol Royal Children's Hospital.

***Jasmine's mum, Niky, recalls:** "By the time the GWAAC team arrived I was crumbling, at a loss of what to do or what to expect. I will never forget Scott, Andrew and Jack's reassurances to me. I knew we now also had Emergency Doctors onsite, trained in Paediatrics, and they had her, they had 'this'. I felt complete trust in them. During the worst, most horrific episode that any parent could be in, I felt safe." **Niky continued:** "I will remember Scott talking to me for the rest of my life. The collaborative approach, communication, safety, checking and re-checking during fast paced treatment and decision making between teams was beyond what could be called perfect. Everything was co-ordinated and undertaken to ensure that Jasmine was alive, that she was stable and safe – and that she remained so."*

Jasmine spent almost two months in Bristol Royal Children's Hospital, where she was diagnosed with a very rare syndrome, ROHHAD – of which there are only 12 cases in the UK and 100 worldwide*. She has been described as a "whirlwind of positivity", taking life each day as it comes and fighting on through her recent diagnosis.

*ROHHAD figures based on 2020 data.

To watch Jasmine's full story visit: www.airambulancesuk.org/patient-stories

The Challenge

There are 33 Major Trauma Centres in the UK, however, not all have on-site primary hospital helipads. Only 17 have an on-site primary hospital helipad available during the night but not all of the 17 are in operation 24/7 due to planning constraints. Approximately, 60% of Major Trauma Centres in the UK do not enable 24/7 hospital helipad operations.

24/7 access to an on-site primary hospital helipad at a Major Trauma Centre and/or specialist hospital, negates secondary land transfers, ensuring that critically ill patients receive optimum speed to treatment, day or night.

Almost all hospital helipads are classified as unlicensed heliports and aerodromes. Consequently, no formal safeguards are in place as there is no requirement for statutory consultation concerning hospital helipads and coinciding planning and developments.

Air Ambulances UK (nationally) and air ambulance charities (locally) are not listed as consultees to engage in strategic planning conversations with NHS England, NHS Scotland, NHS Wales, HSC in Northern Ireland, NHS Trusts and Boards, and Local Authorities, concerning hospital helipads and community landing sites in the UK. This exclusion makes it a challenge for the air ambulance community to stay informed and actively participate in the decision-making process; to enable early conversations about the impact on lifesaving critical care.

What Can You Do?

(1) By the end of 2025, ensure that the Department of Health and Social Care, along with UK-wide NHS authorities, develop a SMART project pathway plan, ensuring all UK Major Trauma Centres and specialist hospitals have 24/7 accessible on-site primary hospital helipads by 2030, aligning with the Health Infrastructure Plan.

(2) By the end of 2025, ensure the Department for Transport and the UK Civil Aviation Authority advocate for all UK Local Planning Authorities to engage with regional air ambulance charities and/or helicopter operators to establish a specialised safeguarding pathway for hospital helipads in the UK, and for retrospective consultation, in decisions affecting hospital helipads and/or community landing sites; aligned with DfT Circular 2002 and CAP 738 'non-official safeguarding maps'

The Challenge

Air ambulance charities prioritise delivering the highest level of patient care. It is crucial for the charities to have access to patient data once they leave air ambulance care and transfer to NHS services. A seamless transition of this data would help air ambulance charities to gain further insight into the full patient pathway to inform and take learning from patient outcomes, and enhance aftercare support.



What Can You Do?

- (1) By the end of 2025, support Air Ambulances UK with engagement and collaboration with NHS England to secure safe access to patient data for air ambulance charities.
- (2) By the end of 2025, support Air Ambulances UK to ensure that air ambulance charities have a seat at their Integrated Care System Board; to be involved in conversations about the system response to patient need in their local communities and to ultimately provide the right care in the right place.

The Challenge

Air ambulance charities in the UK have continued to provide specialist critical care to patients in need of urgent treatment and care, amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing NHS challenges, including the repeated public sector staff strikes and the continued pressures on land ambulance trusts.

Air ambulance crews have worked tirelessly to safely adapt their services to meet patient need. Air ambulances are facing an increase in dispatches to patients, together with the reality of being hit with fundraising challenges due to former lockdown implications and the cost-of-living crisis.

Air ambulance lifesaving services are not immune to the rise in costs of, for example, fuel and other necessary equipment such as medical monitors.

In 2021, the UK's air ambulances collectively attended approximately 30,100 missions, and in 2023, 46,000 missions, evidencing a 53% increase. **

The average cost of an air ambulance helicopter mission increased from £3,962 in 2021 to £4,110 in 2023, highlighting a 4% rise. **

What Can You Do?

(1) Within each consecutive financial year, urge the Department of Health and Social Care to support the air ambulance community to identify and obtain UK-wide government grants and capital funding for equitable distribution.

Respective funding would enhance UK air ambulance charities' lifesaving services to meet the increasing demand and cost, whilst ensuring that air ambulances can operate from modern, fit for purpose airbases which provide a professional environment for crew, a safe and welcoming space for bereaved families and former patients, and facilities for fundraising activities and visits from supporters.

The Challenge

The government has proposed to impose a statutory levy of 0.1% of “gross gambling yield” (GGY) on all lotteries. Recognising that lotteries, unlike the rest of the gambling sector, are required to contribute all of their profits (which must be a minimum of 20% – air ambulances average 77%) to good causes, government proposed that GGY for lotteries should be defined as proceeds minus prizes minus good causes. As lottery proceeds may only be used for prizes, good causes and reasonable running costs, any increase in costs can only come from reducing prizes (with probable consequent effects on proceeds) or reducing the sum available for good causes.

In addition, however, the government has proposed that External Lottery Managers also pay the same levy, although it is less clear on what that will be based on. What is clear is that it will mean a further increase in costs for lotteries, with a further consequent reduction in sums available for good causes.

Unlike all other forms of gambling, lotteries have no “yield” – all of the money raised after paying prizes and costs goes to the good cause. In addition, the rates of gambling harm caused by lotteries is significantly lower than those other forms of gambling.

What Can You Do?

(1) By the end of 2025, urge the Department for Culture, Media & Sport to agree to a zero rate of statutory levy for lotteries and a continuation of the current voluntary contributions.

Lotteries, which allocate all profits to good causes, should not be burdened with additional costs that would ultimately reduce funds available for wider meaningful causes. Instead, advocate for a fair and tailored approach to regulation that supports the important work of organisations, such as air ambulance charities, ensuring that resources are maximised for the benefit of society.

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www.airambulancesuk.org

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