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Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau  
Ambiwlans Brys  
Emergency Ambulance  
Services Committee

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL RETRIEVAL AND TRANSFER SERVICE  
WALES AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY**

# SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL BRIEFING

**ISSUE  
2**

## **Update position as at 10 November 2022**

The purpose of this briefing is to provide all stakeholders with the updated position in relation to the service development proposal developed by the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS Cymru) and the Wales Air Ambulance Charity (WAAC). We will prepare further briefings as necessary.

At the meeting held on 8 November 2022, the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC), a joint committee of all health boards in Wales that commissions ambulance services, received a service development proposal from EMRTS Cymru working in partnership with the WAAC, the proposal is available here:

<https://easc.nhs.wales/commissioning/emrts/sdp/>

EMRTS Cymru has a history of service development and expansion since it was established in 2015 to provide an all-Wales service in partnership with the WAAC. EMRTS Cymru aims to: provide advanced decision-making and critical care for life or limb-threatening emergencies that require transfer for time-critical treatment at an appropriate facility.

At the EASC meeting on 8 November, Members received an overview of the work undertaken by the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner to date following the initial discussions held at the meeting of EASC on 6 September. A significant number of comments and queries have been received from key stakeholders and the Committee agreed that further scrutiny was required in the following areas before further steps were taken. These included:

- clarifying the position regarding resource implications
- responding to the significant comments raised and views regarding the importance of response times
- understanding how the air and road response model works, recognizing that for urban and rural areas it would be different
- further work required regarding the impact of weather
- consideration of the data reference period to ensure that this is appropriate and not unintentionally biased
- understanding any seasonal variation
- improving the understanding of the options available, including to consider whether changing bases is necessary, identifying further options and understanding why options have been discounted
- working with health board colleagues to consider the modelling undertaken.



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## Key facts:

- **No decision has yet been made**
- Communities have raised concerns about the potential closure of the current air bases in Welshpool and Caernarfon
- Members of the public have been raising concerns and asking questions using the EASC Website <https://easc.nhs.wales/commissioning/emrts/sdp/>
- EASC received the service development proposal on the 8 November 2022, the proposal was available online from 3 November and a link was circulated to the key stakeholders (including to those members of the public who have commented and left their email address on the EASC Website).

## Next steps:

- Further scrutiny to be undertaken on the EMRTS Cymru Service Development Proposal by the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner and the EASC Team
- EASC Team to continue to work with health boards and Community Health Councils to produce an engagement document for the work
- Update to be received at the next EASC meeting on 6 December 2022 and a decision will be required to confirm when the formal Public Engagement will commence
- Final decision by EASC expected in 2023 following a period of public engagement to last no less than 8 weeks (with a review at 6 weeks).

## How can you find out more?

We have a website available where you can keep up to date with the latest information.

<https://easc.nhs.wales/commissioning/emrts/sdp/>

You can also pose a question or comment on the proposals and view the frequently asked questions (FAQs) by [clicking here](#).

### Other helpful links

WAAC Website, [click here](#)  
WAAC Service Analysis, [click here](#)  
WAAC FAQs, [click here](#)  
EMRTS Cymru Website: [click here](#)