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Emergency Ambulance
Services Committee



EMERGENCY MEDICAL RETRIEVAL AND TRANSFER SERVICE WALES AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY

SERVICE REVIEW BRIEFING

ISSUE
4

Update position as at 6 January 2023

The purpose of this briefing note is to provide an update on the timescale for the start of the agreed formal engagement process in relation to the Service Review of the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS Cymru) who work in partnership with the Wales Air Ambulance Charity.

In the last briefing, we explained that we expected to start formal engagement when the engagement materials were agreed, but not before 9 January 2023. We also explained that the EASC Team would continue to work with experts in Health Boards and Community Health Councils to produce engagement materials for the work.

Work is continuing on the engagement materials (which will include timelines) but understandably our team has also been very busy supporting the NHS response to the current pressures facing the emergency care system and our patients. With apologies this does mean that the materials are not yet ready and therefore **we will not** be starting the formal process on 9 January 2023 (next week). We are hoping to share information as soon as possible, and now expect these to be available by early February and we appreciate your understanding during this period.

We know a lot of people are really interested in the service and want to take part in the engagement process. It's really important that we get this work right as this is a highly valued service to the people of Wales and therefore, we are not rushing the work.

We will let you know in advance of starting the formal engagement process and there will be a range of ways in which you will be able to take part.

This will include face to face meetings, online meetings and opportunities for you to provide information.

Thank you for your continued interest in this work, we really value the information you have already shared. We look forward to starting more formal engagement as soon as possible and please feel free to continue to contact us with any queries or suggestions you may have in the meantime.





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The formal public engagement process will be in two parts:

Part 1 will:

- Describe how EMRTS works now
- Discuss what must be in place and what are the must haves (constraints)
- Discuss how we measure the benefits and risks of each option (investment objectives)
- Discuss how the process reflects that some benefits are more important than others (weightings)

Review after six weeks to consider the process to date; discussions, agree the constraints, investment objectives and weightings to inform further areas for modelling.

Part 2 will:

- Present options including benefits and risks (and gather feedback and views from public, patients, staff and stakeholders).

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 sharing views and providing feedback and asking questions using the EASC Website
<https://easc.nhs.wales/commissioning/emrts/sdp/>
- Formal public engagement will confirm the current baseline position, will inform the development of boundaries or limits to be used and options that will then be modelled. This will ensure that the benefits or otherwise of each option are clearly set out and weighed up as part of an open, transparent and robust process.

Next steps:

- EASC Team to continue to work with experts in health boards and Community Health Councils to produce engagement materials for the work including timelines
- Expect to start formal engagement when the engagement materials are agreed but this will not be before the beginning of February 2023 - we will confirm in advance
- Final decision by EASC expected in 2023 following a period of public engagement that will 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.

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

Website:

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

Other helpful links

WAAC Website, [click here](#)

WAAC Service Analysis, [click here](#)

WAAC FAQs, [click here](#)

EMRTS Cymru Website: [click here](#)

