



Eich cyf/Your ref ER
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/04418/22

Councillor Elwyn Jones
Chair of Cyngor Gwynedd
Cyngor Gwynedd

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16 January 2023

Dear Councillor Elwyn Jones,

Thank you for your letter of 15 December 2022 regarding service improvement proposals under development by the Wales Air Ambulance Charity and Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Services (EMRTS) Cymru.

I recognise the invaluable partnership between the Wales Air Ambulance Charity and EMRTS in saving lives and optimising outcomes in Wales. The service is making a huge and positive difference to outcomes for those in most clinical need across Wales.

The EMRTS service is commissioned by the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee which has directed the Chief Ambulance Service Commissioner to undertake a review of current service provision on its behalf.

The Commissioner has recently commenced a formal engagement process to inform the development of options for consideration by the Committee. The intent is to improve the existing service model, enabling more people who are in a life or limb threatened condition and suitable for an EMRTS response to receive one. The engagement and overarching review process will:

- ensure consideration is given to the right things, enabling key stakeholders' views and concerns to be fully understood;
- help the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee to decide what to do next, including to develop options to support service improvement and increase the numbers of patients that receive an EMRTS response; and
- consider whether a change in operational bases is required or not to achieve this goal.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

To clarify, no decision has been made. A robust options appraisal process is being drawn up by the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner as part of the engagement process to enable the best possible decision about the future of the EMRTS service in Wales.

It has been confirmed that the formal engagement process will take at least 8 weeks and will be comprehensive to allow stakeholders their opportunity to comment. You can contribute to the engagement process at the following webpage:-

[EMRTS Service Review - Emergency Ambulance Services Committee \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.nhs.uk/emrts-service-review)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services