



MEDIA STATEMENT

Thursday 19.08.2007

A spokesperson for EMAS said:

“Reports that the Air Ambulance flying from East Midlands Airport is to cease operations at the end of September are incorrect.

“It is however the case that operations have been reviewed. That helicopter currently serves Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and the West Midlands and in due course it will focus on Staffordshire and the West Midlands.

“Air Ambulances are provided by registered charities with support from NHS ambulance service trusts who provide paramedic crews. Given the above, we have been exploring options for improved air ambulance cover with the other Air Ambulance charities who operate in or close to the East Midlands. Negotiations are at an advanced stage and we intend to make an announcement once they are concluded.

“We are on course to see the new arrangements bring improved coverage to the East Midlands including:

- Faster response with the aircraft of one charity able to become air-borne in 1 minute
- Longer flying hours (including the possibility of night time flying in the longer term)
- Increased clinical skills on aircraft, achieved by having doctors as crew members.

“Air Ambulances do an excellent job and we know that they are highly valued by local communities and enjoy strong support. We are looking to take this opportunity to expand cover with existing and new partners, with no diminution of the service and strong Air Ambulance charities continuing to service the needs of the community with the active support of the East Midlands Ambulance Service.”

ENDS

Notes to editor

1. This statement issued by:

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2. The East Midlands Ambulance Service provides unscheduled care and patient transport for 4.6 million people in an area covering approximately 6,425 square miles.

We employ over 3,000 staff at more than 70 locations and operate a fleet of 850 vehicles. Our overall annual budget is £125 million.

Our accident and emergency crews will respond to over 500,000 emergency calls every year.

Our patient transport staff and volunteer ambulance car drivers provide care and transport on over 5,000 journeys to and from routine appointments each day.