



National Ambulance  
Resilience Unit  
**NARU**



National EPRR Team  
NHS England  
Skipton House  
80 London Rd  
London  
SE1 6LH

Chief Executives & Accountable Emergency Officers  
of NHS Ambulance Services in England

Gateway Reference: 06760

13 April 2017

Dear Colleagues

**RE: REVIEW OF NATIONAL CAPABILITIES (AMBULANCE)**

Further to the annual EPRR assurance process, NHS England have commissioned a comprehensive review of interoperable capabilities during 2017/18.

The review will be conducted on a confirm and challenge basis against the EPRR Core Standards and other national contract provisions for:

- Hazardous Area Response Teams (HART)
- Marauding terrorist Firearms Attack (MTFA)
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN)
- Mass Casualties

These capabilities represent a significant contribution to several Government strategies and our response to risks set out in the National Risk Register of Civil Emergencies. NHS England is therefore seeking additional assurance in these key areas during the 2017/18 financial year.

The review will be conducted by a panel of subject matter experts and an independent Chair. NHS England own the process, supported by the National Ambulance Resilience Unit.

This review will feed into the wider EPRR Assurance Process for 2017/18.

**The Review Process**

- Each English Ambulance Trust will be reviewed during 2017/18.
- During April 2017 each Trust will receive a CBRN questionnaire. Whilst linked to this review, please note this only covers one of the four capabilities being reviewed. Trusts will need to complete and return the CBRN questionnaire according to instructions provided with the questionnaire. This submission will be in addition to the request for evidence made 6 weeks prior to the review.

- Six weeks prior to their review date, the respective Trust will be served with the key lines of enquiry and a request for evidence.
- The Trust should provide the requested evidence at least 14 days prior to the start of the review.
- The Review Panel will visit the Trust on the review date and will spend four days on site conducting interviews and inspections in accordance with the key lines of enquiry.
- The Review Panel will provide the Trust with interim findings on the final day of their visit.
- A draft report will then be provided to the Trust within seven days of the visit. The Trust will then have up to 14 days from being issued with the draft report to challenge any aspects of its content with the Panel.
- The Review Panel will submit the final report to NHS England after that 14 day period and a copy will be sent to the Trust's Accountable Emergency Officer.
- NHS England may also share a copy of the Trust's report with their Lead Commissioner and any relevant Regulator on request.
- On completion of all ten reviews, a consolidated national report will also be produced to provide an assessment of the national state of readiness for the interoperable capabilities country wide.

### **Focus Areas (the Domains)**

The key lines of enquiry (KLOE) will be provided to each Trust six weeks prior to their review date but they will be based around the following seven domains:

1. Governance
2. Process
3. Operational Effectiveness
4. Personnel
5. Finance
6. Logistics
7. Stakeholder Engagement

NHS England, as the national NHS commissioning body has provided the Review Panel with the authority to inspect each Trust's finances (budget allocation and spend) specifically relating to the capabilities that are within the scope of this review.

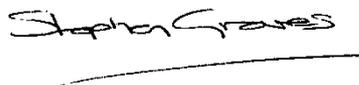
The key lines of enquiry provided six weeks prior to the review will explain exactly what the Review Panel will be looking for during the four-day visit. Please note, however, that the Review Panel will want to speak to both the Chief Executive and the Accountable Emergency Officer at a convenient time during the four days. Please take this as an early prompt to ensure availability in the appropriate diaries.

## Trust Review Dates

Trust	Service of KLOE and Request for Evidence	Deadline for Evidence Submission	Review Dates
NEAS	18 April	16 May	30 May – 2 June
SWAST	15 May	12 June	26 – 29 June
SCAS	11 July	8 August	22 – 25 August
LAS	24 July	21 August	4 – 7 September
SECAmb	1 August	29 August	12 – 15 September
YAS	28 August	25 September	9 – 12 October
NWAS	4 September	2 October	16 – 19 October
EMAS	11 September	9 October	23 – 26 October
WMAS	2 October	30 October	13 – 16 November
EoE	16 October	13 November	27 – 30 November
IoW	TBC	TBC	TBC

If you require any further information, please contact Christian Cooper (Compliance Officer) at [christian.cooper@nhs.net](mailto:christian.cooper@nhs.net)

Yours faithfully



**Stephen Groves**  
National Head of EPRR  
NHS England



**Keith Prior**  
Director  
National Ambulance Resilience Unit