



Department  
of Health

Your Ref: SA/AC/YAS

PO-1045031

Stuart Andrew MP  
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01 SEP 2016

05 SEP 2016

Philip Dunne MP  
Minister of State for Health

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30 AUG 2016

Dear Stuart,

Thank you for your letter of 29 July to the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health, about Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust. I am replying as the issues raised fall within my ministerial portfolio.

I appreciate your concerns about local emergency response times. In line with the Government's commitment to devolve power to communities, decisions about NHS services are essentially a matter for the NHS locally. I note that you have contacted Rod Barnes, the Chief Executive of the Trust, and I hope that you receive a satisfactory response.

More generally, ambulance services are facing unprecedented demand, delivering over 3,400 more emergency journeys every day compared with 2010. Ambulance services deal with more than ten million 999 calls every year. The ambulance service continues to respond to the majority of life-threatening cases in under eight minutes, and the Department is working closely with NHS England and NHS Improvement to monitor and support performance in 2016/17.

There are over 2,300 additional paramedics in the NHS compared with 2010, an increase of over 20 per cent. There has also been a 60 per cent increase in paramedic training places in 2016/17 compared with the previous year.

Additionally, NHS England's Ambulance Response Programme is exploring whether changes to the way the ambulance service responds to calls could help improve patient outcomes and help services better manage demand. The School of Health and Related Research at the University of Sheffield is responsible for the evaluation of the programme, and we expect NHS England to make recommendations later this year.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Dunne".

**PHILIP DUNNE**