

SERVING WALES.
SAVING LIVES.



Trustee

Join the *Wales Air Ambulance Team*



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Charity





Welcome from our Chair

Wales Air Ambulance is the largest air ambulance charity in the UK, serving a population of just over three million people and providing lifesaving critical care interventions to our citizens whenever and wherever they need it. With a motto of “Serving Wales, Saving Lives” and a Royal Patron, His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, who has himself been an active HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Services) pilot, we are absolutely committed to delivering the very best service we can for the people of Wales.

We have successfully grown our service over the last twenty-three years from a single aircraft operating five days a week from a single base in South Wales to the four-aircraft, 24/7 service model that we have today. Our medical crews are some of the most advanced in the world, with Critical Care Consultants and Practitioners performing Emergency Department standard interventions at the roadside, in patients’ homes or among the fields, hillsides and coastline that make up the challenging geography of Wales.

We are a pan-Wales service. Regardless of where our dedicated crews are based, they travel the length and breadth of the country to deliver advanced lifesaving care.

Our ambition knows no bounds and we strive to continually innovate – from leading the field with our clinical R&D, to using robotics to automate our Lottery administration.

It is a wonderful privilege to be a Trustee of Wales Air Ambulance. As a service, we are the envy of many in the UK and further afield. World-leading studies have shown the difference we make – an evaluation of the first five years (2015 – 2020) of our partnership with the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS) showed that in 66% of the cases we attend, we supplied a level of service that is normally only delivered in hospitalbased Emergency Departments.

For victims of major blunt trauma (mostly road traffic accidents), we showed a nearly 40% increase in survival rate when compared with a standard ambulance/hospital response. These are not merely statistics, they are patients and they are families.

Shortly we will hit our milestone of achieving 50,000 missions in our 24th year. That is a massively impressive figure – but it is not just about patients. It is also about the families, friends, neighbours, work colleagues and bystanders whose lives we touch. As Trustee you will experience the incredible reaction of encountering past patients, but also people whose lives have been touched by our service. And trust me, it is an incredibly humbling experience when people just want to come up and say “thank you”.

We don’t just administer world class pre hospital critical care either – we also support patients and their families long after their initial encounter with us. Through our Aftercare Service, we ensure that not only are we one of the first on scene, but we are also the last to say goodbye. Our Patient Liaison Nurses work with our past patients and their families to ensure that complex treatment pathways are smoothed and, where outcomes are sadly negative, that bereaved loved ones are supported compassionately and helped to process their grief. Our patients and their families are wonderful ambassadors and their stories are truly inspirational. Please see some of them at the end of this pack.

If you like the sound of being a Trustee but want to learn a bit more, then please reach out for a confidential, informal chat.

Dr Kyle Jacques, Chair of The Board of Trustees

The Role of the Trustee

The Welsh Air Ambulance Charitable Trust (hereafter referred to as “the Charity”) Board of Trustees has overall legal responsibility for strategic direction and governance and is collectively accountable for compliance with relevant legislative and regulatory requirements.

Being a trustee is a voluntary role, undertaken because individuals have a commitment to furthering the purposes of the Charity and have the skills, experience and personal qualities needed for the strategic management of the organisation.

All reasonable expenses will be reimbursed. To serve as a trustee you must be over the age of 18 and not disqualified because of bankruptcy, unspent criminal convictions for offences of deception or dishonesty, or a legal order for removal/disqualification as a trustee or company director. It is a criminal offence to act as a trustee while disqualified.

The term of office is for 3 years; at the end of which the Trustee will be able to stand for re-election to the Board.

The Board of Trustees

The Board meets 6 times a year. The Board is supported by sub-committees, including Aviation, HR&OD and Finance, which are open to Trustees to join in accordance with professional experience, availability and interest.

Our Values

Trustworthy

We act with uncompromising integrity in everything that we do

Passionate

We are heartfelt in our commitment to delivering the best possible outcomes for the people of Wales and believe in everything that we do and say

Ambitious

We look beyond the present to deliver future value.

Responsible

We care about doing the right thing and taking ownership for our actions and our results.



Trustee Responsibilities

The statutory duties of a Trustee are to:

- Ensure that the Charity complies with its Constitution, the law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- Ensure the Charity pursues its objects as defined in its Constitution.
- Ensure the Charity uses its resources exclusively in pursuit of its objects.
- Contribute actively to the Board of Trustees' role in setting strategy, defining goals and evaluating performance.
- To attend and actively contribute to Board and sub-committee meetings.
- To represent the Charity at functions and events as appropriate.
- To support the Charity's equal opportunities, diversity and inclusion policies.
- To apply specific knowledge or experience to support the Board to make sound decisions.
- To scrutinise Board papers, lead discussions, focus on key issues, and provide advice and guidance requested by the Board on new initiatives, or other issues relevant to the areas of work in which the Trustee has special expertise.
- Safeguard and promote the values and mission of the Charity.
- Ensure the effective and efficient administration of the Charity.
- Ensure the financial stability of the Charity.
- Protect and manage the property of the Charity and ensure its proper use for charitable purposes.

The above list is not exhaustive and the Trustee may be required from time to time to perform additional tasks determined by the Chair of the Board.

Person Specification

Experience Skills & Knowledge: Essential Criteria

We are looking for people who have strong connections to Wales, and who are willing to volunteer their time to shape our practice and our services and guide the Charity as we continue in our lifesaving work across Wales.

We are looking for people from diverse backgrounds and geographical locations, who have a range of skills and experience that can ensure we are best placed to realise our strategic ambitions.

We are particularly looking for those with experience in leadership, fundraising, legal, retail, HR, accountancy and governance, where possible as part of the third sector. We are looking for people who understand the nature of charities and can bring with them their ideas and expertise to support our work.

Other skills and attributes that we would like from any prospective trustees are:

- A strong commitment to our mission, vision and values.
- A high degree of integrity.
- The ability to think strategically and plan for the future with good judgement.
- Critical thinking skills.
- The ability to work well as part of a team to collectively make decisions surrounding the Charity's future work, vision and strategy.
- A willingness to undertake any necessary training.
- An understanding of safeguarding.
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of being a charity trustee.
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to attend meetings (virtual and in person) including undertaking the appropriate preparation reading and work.
- Good independent judgement and the ability to offer constructive challenge.
- Be at least 18 years of age.

For more information on becoming a trustee and what is involved, please see the Charity Commission website.

How To Apply

If you are interested in applying to be a Trustee with Wales Air Ambulance, please send the following to Natalie Richards, Director of People and Organisational Development

natalierichards@walesairambulance.com.

- Your current CV .
- A covering letter that tells us about your career highlights and achievements, your motivation for applying and your key skills.

A competitive recruitment process will include a familiarisation event at one of our airbases, providing candidates with the opportunity to find out more about the Charity and meet some of our current Trustees. Following this session, short-listed candidates will be invited to attend a panel interview.

Closing Date for applications is 16th June 2024, with familiarisation events taking place end of June/beginning of July.



Data Protection

The information you provide in your application will be used by Wales Air Ambulance to assess your suitability for the role you have applied for. We will not use your personal data for marketing or fundraising purposes (unless you have previously supported Wales Air Ambulance) and we will not share your data with any third parties for their marketing purposes.

Further information about how we protect and use your personal data is set out in our Job Application Privacy Notice available on www.walesairambulance.com.



Patient Story - Jack Howells

In February 2023, every parent's worst nightmare came true when 13-month-old Jack Howells toppled over and hit his head on the floor at home, causing a catastrophic head injury.

Llanelli First Responders and paramedics were called, and due to the severity of Jack's condition, called for the support of Wales Air Ambulance. The adverse weather that day meant the critical care teams were operating out of the Charity's fleet of rapid response vehicles.

On arrival Dr Mike and Critical Care Practitioner Rhyan, were worried that Jack had a bleed on the brain.

To protect his brain and to give him the best possible chance of survival, the crew gave him a general anaesthetic, medication to help minimise the bleed and placed him on a ventilator to control his breathing. Without this treatment, Jack wouldn't have made it to hospital.

Jack's mum, Jess, said: "As parents, what we were experiencing was something that would only happen in a nightmare. We gave him a kiss so that he knew we were with him, and it was at that point that we saw the tiny neonatal ventilator kit. Jack looked so small and fragile.

"We were unable to travel with Jack but received a police escort. We didn't know if he would survive and before setting off, they gave us an opportunity to say goodbye. The journey seemed like the longest of our lives."

Jack suffered a large bleed on the brain and had fractured his skull and required emergency neurosurgery.

After a successful operation, Jack continued to thrive and is continuing to reach all his milestones.

Jess said: "It could have been so different for us, and we are so lucky we still have our little boy here.



"We will forever be indebted to the Wales Air Ambulance."

Richard's story

When someone suffers catastrophic injuries, early critical care intervention is vital.

Richard Jones was travelling to work when his life changed in a split second. Richard hit the crash barrier, flinging his vehicle into the air and into a large sign and poles, leaving him with life-changing injuries.

Wales Air Ambulance flew to the scene. Upon arrival, Dr Bob Tipping and Critical Care Practitioner Marc Allen spotted signs of internal bleeding.

Richard received six units of blood products in total, administered by our medics at the roadside. Due to the severity of his injuries, they also gave him a general anaesthetic and put him onto a ventilator to control his breathing.

Richard was then flown to the nearest specialist centre for limb injuries, where he underwent a partial amputation of his right leg.

Richard said: "I've always heard stories about all the amazing things the Wales Air Ambulance did. However, I never really thought about the service before and never thought I'd end up needing their assistance."

"Physically, I'm doing well. Mentally, I have the odd day when everything gets on top of me, when I'm a bit down in the dumps.

"Before the accident I was 100 miles per hour, now I'm getting used to the new way of life."

