



Wiltshire  
**Air Ambulance**  
funded by you, flying for you



## Wiltshire Air Ambulance Fact File

- Wiltshire Air Ambulance Charitable Trust is a registered charity providing an essential Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) in Wiltshire and surrounding counties.
- Wiltshire Air Ambulance celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> year of operation in 2020. It began operating on 15 March 1990 and the helicopter and crew have saved countless lives. The charity shared a helicopter with Wiltshire Police for 24 years. It began operating as a stand-alone air ambulance on 9 January 2015, using a Bell 429 helicopter.
- Wiltshire Air Ambulance is a charity and relies on donations to continue saving lives. It is not funded directly by the Government and receives no National Lottery grants. It costs £3.75 million a year to keep the lifesaving service operational, that's just over £10,000 per day.
- Wiltshire Air Ambulance's paramedics are trained in critical care skills and, together with the specialist medical equipment they use, it enables them to deliver gold standard medical care to patients.
- Wiltshire Air Ambulance is operational up to 19 hours a day, every day, and is called to, on average, three incidents a day in its helicopter and two Rapid Response Vehicles (cars).
- In 2019 Wiltshire Air Ambulance undertook 1,233 missions, an increase of 12% on the previous year. This was the most missions in a year since it became a stand-alone air ambulance.
- In 2019 almost one in three incidents were cardiac emergencies, almost one in five incidents were road traffic collisions and more than one in ten incidents involved children.
- In 2019 the largest number of incidents that Wiltshire Air Ambulance responded to were in the Swindon area (224), equivalent to a call out, on average, every two days.
- Other locations in 2019 where Wiltshire Air Ambulance was called to once a week, on average, were the Chippenham area (90), the Trowbridge area (82), the Salisbury area (86), the Devizes area (73), and the Melksham area (61).
- Wiltshire Air Ambulance is based at Outmarsh, Semington, near Melksham. From this central site the helicopter can reach anywhere in the county within 11 minutes.
- For more information about Wiltshire Air Ambulance go to [www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk](http://www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk)