



## 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 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 keep 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 air ambulance flying, 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, 365 days a year and is called to, on average, three incidents a day in its helicopter and two Rapid Response Vehicles (cars).
- In 2018 almost one in four incidents were cardiac emergencies, one in five incidents were road traffic collisions and one in ten incidents involved children.
- In 2018 the largest number of incidents that Wiltshire Air Ambulance responded to were in the Swindon area (182), equivalent to a call out, on average, every two days.
- Other locations in 2018 where Wiltshire Air Ambulance was called to once a week, on average, were the Melksham area (82), the Chippenham area (79), the Devizes area (75), the Salisbury area (68) and the Trowbridge area (63).
- Wiltshire Air Ambulance moved into its new airbase at Outmarsh, Semington, near Melksham, in May 2018, with the official opening by the charity's Patron, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, on 14 December 2018. 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)