



**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 2022**

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(3) and
(5)**

The following questions are to be put to the Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1. Question by Mrs. Amanda Hack CC:

Health Scrutiny have received a number of reports about the difficulties of Ambulance handovers, what is the current average wait time for patients arriving by ambulance?

Reply by the Chairman:

The current average wait time for patients arriving by ambulance, using January 2022 performance, is just over 1 hour. Please be aware the average handover time is impacted by longer waits experienced by some patients and the median wait time (middle of the range of wait times) is 26 minutes.

2. Question by Mrs. Amanda Hack CC:

It has been raised recently with a constituent that there is a Doctors Urgent Pathway, please could more information given on this pathway into hospital including:

- a. % of patients transported to hospital on this pathway?
- b. How is the doctors urgent pathway managed alongside 999 pathways?
- c. Average waiting times for the Doctors Urgent Pathway?
- d. Does the 4 hour waiting time measurement begin when the person arrives at the hospital in the ambulance, or at the point at which the handover into the hospital takes place?

Reply by the Chairman:

In answering this question it has been assumed that the question is referring to the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) Healthcare Professional Conveyance Protocol (HCP).

- a. For the last three months (Dec 21 to Feb 22) an average of 4.7% of the patients transported to hospital were transported on this pathway. This compares to 5.1% for a similar period pre-pandemic (Dec 19 to Feb 20).
- b. Once a patients arrives at ED they are prioritised on clinical need and acuity.
- c. Based on data received from EMAS the average wait for transport on the HCP pathway is 1 hour and 53 minutes for Leicestershire.
- d. The waiting time measurement for ambulance arrivals to A&E begins from when the handover occurs or 15 minutes after the ambulance arrives at A&E, whichever is the earlier.

The responses above are provided in the context that the LLR system remains under significant pressure, with an imbalance in capacity vs demand. I have been reassured that the health and care system, remains committed to working together to resolve this imbalance to improve both patient experience and outcomes.