



Freedom of Information Request

1st November 2022

Question

I would like to know:

1. How does the ambulance system work for shift cover on weekdays and weekends in the Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire regions?
2. How many ambulances are on for each shift of the day for both areas?
3. Can you give a breakdown for each day of the past month between August 16th and September 16th for the peak time for ambulances queuing outside Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and/or the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital to drop off patients and how many ambulances were in the queue at that time.
4. For each of these days, what was the longest time an ambulance spent in the queue and can you give the reason for this?

Answer

1. How does the ambulance system work for shift cover on weekdays and weekends in the Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire regions?

Ambulance cover varies by hours of day and day of week in alignment with patient demand profiles. Hour of day profiles are attached for Aberdeenshire as a whole, which includes the stations in Aberdeen

Aberdeen stations have also been separated out for information as well. Note that as of mid-November, in addition to the profiles attached. An additional 24/7 double crewed ambulance and paramedic response unit will go live as part of the implementation of our demand and capacity programme

1. How many ambulances are on for each shift of the day for both areas?

As above, please see attached the information we hold.

We do not hold this information against the number of vehicles for each shift per day.

We have applied Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Scotland Act to question, the number of ambulances on each shift of the day for both areas, because public authorities are not required to create information in order to answer a request.

There's a distinction between creating new information, and compiling information. Where a request can be answered by compiling information from readily-available resources held by the public authority, this is not the same as creating new information. However, if collation of the information would require skill and complex judgement, the information is not held.

Without considerable skill and judgement we are not able to identify and retrieve the data needed to provide a response to your question. This would require minute by minute analysis of all data held for the specific area and all surrounding areas as we are a National Service and vehicle cover provided is dynamic and fluid with ever changing variables.

2. Can you give a breakdown for each day of the past month between August 16th and September 16th for the peak time for ambulances queuing outside Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and/or the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital to drop off patients

We do not hold this information. We do not record data against "peak time"

How many ambulances were in the queue at that time.

As above, we do not hold this information.

3. For each of these days, what was the longest time an ambulance spent in the queue, and can you give the reason for this?

The Scottish Ambulance service is publishing a weekly update of key statistics on unscheduled care operational measures across Scotland. The information includes trends in the number of unscheduled care incidents, responses, conveyances to hospital, response times and hospital turnaround times.

These can be found on our website [Unscheduled Care Operational Statistics \(scottishambulance.com\)](https://www.scottishambulance.com/unscheduled-care-operational-statistics)

Please see below the longest time(s) for the given date recorded for Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital.

Please note caution on the interpretation of the data provided.

The turnaround time(s) show **total time** from the time an ambulance arrives at the receiving hospital to the time it becomes available again within our systems.

The Scottish Ambulance Service does not hold reasons for extended turnaround times against specific conveyances.

To Hospital	Resource Arrived Destination Date	Turnaround Time
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	16/08/2022	301:02
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	17/08/2022	234:49
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	18/08/2022	146:58
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	19/08/2022	182:55
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	20/08/2022	265:03
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	21/08/2022	287:47
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	22/08/2022	206:25
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	23/08/2022	207:36
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	24/08/2022	255:56
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	25/08/2022	204:50
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	26/08/2022	157:23
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	27/08/2022	232:50
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	28/08/2022	313:24
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	29/08/2022	264:00
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary	30/08/2022	319:57

(Aberdeen)		
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	31/08/2022	176:40
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	01/09/2022	141:23
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	02/09/2022	186:58
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	03/09/2022	200:23
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	04/09/2022	312:44
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	05/09/2022	264:30
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	06/09/2022	291:55
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	07/09/2022	221:04
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	08/09/2022	305:58
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	09/09/2022	240:47
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	10/09/2022	426:05
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	11/09/2022	338:53
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	12/09/2022	421:29
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	13/09/2022	533:44
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	14/09/2022	269:23
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary	15/09/2022	266:35

(Aberdeen)		
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen)	16/09/2022	292:47

To Hospital	Resource Arrived Destination Date	Turnaround Time
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	16/08/2022	12:01
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	17/08/2022	44:26
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	19/08/2022	25:44
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	20/08/2022	43:00
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	21/08/2022	50:00
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	22/08/2022	19:24
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	23/08/2022	39:47
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	24/08/2022	34:07
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	26/08/2022	34:20
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	27/08/2022	30:10
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	28/08/2022	28:33
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	29/08/2022	26:15
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	30/08/2022	16:36
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	31/08/2022	28:01
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	01/09/2022	40:07
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	02/09/2022	29:36
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	03/09/2022	20:25
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	04/09/2022	33:04
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	05/09/2022	28:47
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	06/09/2022	69:18
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	07/09/2022	22:22
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	08/09/2022	101:00
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	09/09/2022	48:10
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	10/09/2022	2:29
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	11/09/2022	57:56
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	12/09/2022	53:09
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	14/09/2022	47:48
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	15/09/2022	30:12

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Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (Aberdeen)	16/09/2022	31:03
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