



**Scottish  
Ambulance  
Service**

University National NHS Board



# Freedom of Information Request

**25<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

## Question

How are your paramedics trained?

How many years is their training?

Are they allowed to administer drugs and to intubate for example?

How is the general structure of the Scottish ambulance services?

## Answer

### **How are your paramedics trained?**

In 2018 the Health Care Professions Council announced a change in the Standards of Education and Training for Paramedics. This change introduced a new threshold of degree level training for paramedics from September 2021. Since 2019, five universities (HEIs) across Scotland have been awarded a contract to deliver the pre-registration full-time BSc Paramedic Education. These are: GCU; University West of Scotland (UWS); Queen Margaret University (QMU); Robert Gordon University (RGU), and University of Stirling (UoS). The Scottish Ambulance Service work in collaboration with these universities to provide practice-based placements throughout the three-year programme.

Further information is available on our website: [Studying to become a Paramedic \(scottishambulance.com\)](https://www.scottishambulance.com/studying-to-become-a-paramedic)

### **How many years is their training?**

All undergraduate degree programmes are three years in duration.

### **Are they allowed to administer drugs and to intubate for example?**

Please see the attached sheet detailing the drugs that Scottish Ambulance Service crews are able to administer.

Paramedics perform a variety of technical and non-technical skills. It could be said that patient assessment and developing a patient treatment plan is the most advanced skill that SAS paramedics perform. From a technical perspective they can also perform:

- Needle Thoracocentesis
- Needle cricothyroidotomy
- IV cannulation (including Jugular Vein Cannulation)
- IO cannulation
- Manual defibrillation

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**Scottish**

The Scottish Ambulance Service supports a stepwise approach to airway management, this is not a one-way process. Tracheal intubation as the initial airway is not recommended. Currently where clinically appropriate, SAS qualified paramedics are trained and authorised, to perform intubation.



### **How is the general structure of the Scottish ambulance services?**

The Scottish Ambulance Service is so vast there is not a general structure to share. It is for this reason we have applied section 17 of the Freedom of Information Scotland Act 2002 as information not held.

There are reports on our website that contain some detail of the scope of the Scottish Ambulance Service: [Our Board](#)