

Independent Ambulance Association Position Statement on Emergency Response Driving

As an independent body, Directors do not consider it's for the Association to endorse or recommend one training programme over another, whether clinical, driving or similar.

However, in respect to **emergency driving**, which can make the difference to patient outcome, Directors consider this to be a high risk and challenging aspect of the emergency ambulance role, and only those trained to the required standard should consider doing so.

[Section 87 of the Road Traffic Act](#) makes provision for exemptions for those using a vehicle for 'ambulance purposes'. This is generally held to be vehicles fully equipped and capable of conveying a patient with life threatening conditions, whether responding on behalf of an NHS Ambulance Trust or not.

The position of the Association is that as NHS Ambulance Service Trusts have the statutory duty to respond to emergencies, it is for them to determine the driving training standard necessary to do this safely, with due regard to the patient and other road users; they have done this through their Driver Training Advisory Group (DTAG): currently the stated standard is the Future Qualifications level 3 in [Emergency Response Ambulance Driving \(QAN 601/7335/X\)](#) programme (or the predecessor IHCD D2 programme).

The Association recognizes and subscribes to the primacy of NHS Ambulance Trusts in setting the required standard for emergency driving in an ambulance vehicle and recommends that Member organisations adhere to this.

IAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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