

London Ambulance Service update, 11 June 2007 (by e-mail)

Airwave is a national programme, and as a result of the events of 7 July it was agreed by the DH and the LAS for London to be brought forward in the overall programme by 12 months. In September 2006 the revised plan was for rollout to begin in summer 2007 with expected completion early in 2008. Since that time, much work has taken place by the LAS Project and Department of Health programme teams and Airwave, and late in 2006 we deployed 200 handheld radios with basic functionality to provide an Interim Command Communications facility.

As with any programme of this scale and complexity, there have been a number of contractual and technical changes and problems that have led to some delay (despite the considerable effort to minimise this). The current plan is that initial installations for test vehicles will start by the end of July, with roll out to some special resources and non A&E vehicles commencing in September. Whilst it is planned that we will install Ambulances and response cars from September 2007, due to a delay in essential Airwave control room software, which we have been advised will not complete installation and testing until just prior to Christmas, these vehicles will not be brought live until after the Control facilities are ready. Given the delay in the Control room systems this is planned to be from January 2008. We believe therefore that the current plan to complete all installations by the end of September 2008 is still realistic.

There is some risk to the rollout dates. There are significant concerns related to Airwave Capacity in London. To provide the contracted Airwave Service capacity for the LAS, Airwave are required to upgrade a significant number of base stations across London. This must be completed before the next contractual milestone which allows us to start the vehicle installations in September. Additionally there is a review of the current status of the national programme and Trust milestones being conducted by the DH programme team. This may well result in some changes to the London programme.

I hope this gives sufficient explanation.

Best regards

*Russell C Smith*

Deputy Director of Operations

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