

Spring 2024

# GREAT NORTH NEWS

[www.gnaas.com](http://www.gnaas.com)



## Anyone. Anytime. Anywhere.

The quest for a round-the-clock service.



     /GNAirAmbulance

Registered Charity No. 1092204  
Isle of Man Registered Charity No. 1329

Charity-funded,  
world-class  
critical care.

# Together, we save lives

**It's been another busy year for the charity, with record-high call-outs, expansions to the service and inspiring stories from our supporters.**

The need for the Great North Air Ambulance Service is bigger than ever. Our call-outs are at an all-time high with more than 2,100 incidents attended in 2023.

We have been working harder than ever to make sure that we are there to save anyone that needs rescuing, no matter who, when or where in the 8,000+ sq miles of our region.

**In January, we celebrated a year of providing critical care 24/7 in the North East. We also expanded our all-night rapid response vehicle service in Cumbria to four nights a week, meaning we are even closer to providing 24/7 cover across the whole of our region.**

It has been a long-term ambition for the charity to cover every night of the week so that no matter when someone is in need, the team are able to respond.

**Unfortunately, these essential expansions mean that we need to raise even more funds than before to keep our live-saving service running. The frightening truth is that for 2024 we are predicting to run at a deficit. This means we will have to go into our limited reserves just to keep the charity flying this year.**

The life of a charity-funded service can be a tumultuous one, but it usually brings about the most amazing support from the general public.





We wouldn't be where we are today without the unwavering enthusiasm of our supporters who dream up amazing challenges to raise funds, like five-year-old Ollie who became the youngest person to complete the Coast to Coast walk raising over £10,000 for our charity.

Or our past patients, who share their experiences so that we can spread our life-saving message; like Martina who faced a brutal domestic-violence attack sustaining 29 stab wounds.

Or our loyal volunteers who have donated more than 45,000 minutes of their time in 2023, helping to raise much-needed income and awareness.

Some supporters have demonstrated their loyalty to the charity by getting tattoos of our helicopter.

To read about our amazing community go to our news section at [gnaas.com](https://gnaas.com).

Looking ahead, we're preparing ourselves for what could be a tough year. The worst possible scenario is that we can't afford to be there. Your support is more vital than ever: whether it's a donation, a voluntary hand or just spreading the word about our cause- every bit helps.

Only with your continued generosity can we keep flying and saving lives across the region.

**Thank you for all that you do.**

**David Stockton**  
Chief Executive



# 6 months of missions...

The following data shows our missions in the last six months from 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023.



**1,100** deployments  
**1,057** incidents



**584**  
Helicopter



**516**  
Rapid response vehicle

## Call-out type



**13**  
Burns



**207**  
Cardiac arrest  
- medical



**49**  
Cardiac arrest  
- traumatic



**12**  
Drowning



**149**  
Fall



**15**  
Industrial



**96**  
Medical



**49**  
Self-harm



**27**  
Sport and  
leisure



**9**  
Transport  
- other



**11**  
Transfer



**35**  
Other



**135**  
Assault



**250**  
RTC

## Breakdown of Road Traffic Collision (RTC) type



**10**  
HGV



**4**  
Van



**18**  
Bicycle



**49**  
Pedestrian



**46**  
Motorcycle



**123**  
Car

## Helicopter responses per area



**10**  
Scotland



**788**  
North East



**267**  
Cumbria



**7**  
Isle of Man



**24**  
North  
Yorkshire



**4**  
Other



# “An alarm bell went off and the midwife said hang up and ring an ambulance.”



Naomi Clague, 37, from Portinscale, Keswick, was pregnant with her second child and had planned in a C-section. However, a few days before the surgery, Naomi began having contractions in the early hours.

She said: “I got into bed at 1:00am and at 1.40am my waters broke so I woke my husband Richard up and told him to get some towels and ring the midwife. When Richard told the midwife that the cord was coming first, an alarm bell went off and the midwife said hang up and ring an ambulance and then call us back.”

After calling 999, a paramedic and doctor team from the Great North Air Ambulance Service and paramedics from the North West Ambulance Service (NWS) quickly responded to the scene, because of the life-threatening complications that can arise from a home breech birth but upon their arrival, baby Maisie had just been born. She was delivered by Richard, with guidance from the 999 operator.

Naomi said: “It only took 34 minutes, she was born at 2.14am so it was pretty rapid, but considering she was the wrong way round, everything turned out okay.”

Due to the time of day, the team, including paramedic Terry Sharpe and Dr Lyle Moncur, responded on a rapid response vehicle.

The Doctor and paramedic from the charity worked alongside the team from NWS to check over Naomi and Maisie including cutting the cord and safely delivering the placenta.

Naomi said: “When Lyle and Terry turned up, they seemed to exude a certain confidence and knowledge and they were absolutely great.

Terry was looking after Maisie and Lyle seemed to know everything that a midwife would have done in this situation and was able to talk through how to cut the cord and get the placenta out.”

Following the birth of Maisie, Naomi was taken to the Cumberland Infirmary in Carlisle for further treatment including undergoing surgery for a haematoma that developed shortly afterwards.

Dr Moncur said: “We train for obstetric emergencies however being asked to attend one in the middle of the night always gets the heart rate going. I was absolutely delighted to arrive and be told the baby girl had arrived safely and that Mum was well. We checked both over and supported getting them to the hospital for ongoing care. We were happy to attend, as so many complications can arise when going into labour, luckily Maisie was delivered safely.”

Naomi added: “Maisie is absolutely cracking, she’s very healthy and doing well.”

The charity’s service expansion into nightshifts across the region means we are able to attend these potentially critical incidents and offer our medical expertise and experience. However, we can only continue this life-saving service with your support.



# Night Riders

Our rapid response vehicles are specially kitted out for their jobs; to attend emergencies across the region.

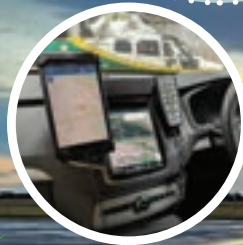
We have two teams responding to night calls covering both the east and west of the region from 8pm to 8am.

## Blue lights:

Our rapid response vehicles are all fitted with emergency blue lights and sirens to stand out against traffic at night and ensure we can get to the scene as quickly as possible.

## Comms:

On the dashboard we have an ambulance service radio. This is where we receive information from Ambulance Control about the nature of the emergency call-out.



## Dispatch Screen:

Details of the call-outs are here for the team to read.

## 4x4:

All of our vehicles are 4 wheel drive, these can come in handy for any off-road locations, especially when our region covers a number of rural locations.





### Crew:

We have the exact same specialist-trained team on in the day, as we do the night (minus the pilot!)

### Kit:

We take the same medical kit with us on helicopter missions, as we do on our car missions.

Including equipment to deliver blood transfusions, anaesthetise patients and perform life-saving surgery.



### Protective cages:

There is a wire cage in the back where the 44kg of medical kit is stored. This keeps the equipment in place while travelling at high-speed to incidents.

### Livery:

Each car is wrapped in our branded livery to advertise that we're an emergency vehicle. Along with reflective Battenburg that is seen on many emergency vehicles.

### Driver training:

Our paramedics always drive our vehicles on a night, they have to take a specialist four-week blue-light training course, allowing them to drive safely at speed. This course needs to be refreshed every three years.



# A ~~day~~ night in the life of our expert pre-hospital doctor



Our doctor Phil Godfrey, a veteran with our charity for a whopping 17 years, shares how the critical care team have adapted to working nightshifts. He gives a behind-the-scenes peek into a typical nightshift working for the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

“Regardless of the time of day, our shift begins with the usual kit checks, making sure our life-saving equipment is replenished for a new shift.

Like during the day, the onboard crew consists of a critical-care paramedic and a specialist pre-hospital doctor. The only difference is that we don’t need our pilot on a night as we trade the helicopter for a car, hitting the streets in our rapid response vehicles.

Typical nightshifts can be a lot quieter during the week and tend to get busier over the weekend. In terms of the call-outs we attend more incidents that are alcohol or drug-related person-on-person violence.

Incidents are usually in highly populated areas of the region, around big towns or cities.

In the North East we drive a little further north, to be in a better location. We have a local fire station that we can base ourselves from and have a sleep if it’s a quiet night. You need to take the rest when you can as you never know what the night will bring or how to prepare for it.

There are other challenges that come with working a nightshift, as with all night work it can be a hit to the system flipping your body clock for a short period of time.

But there are also positives too; there’s a hum of excitement being out and about on a busy night. There have been times when we’ve been driving around and we’ve actually come across fights breaking out, even people with knives. You’re right in the thick of it and it can feel invigorating being there to help people in their time of need.

**I think what I’ve learned from being in the first volunteer nightshift to now running 24/7 in the North East is that our 24/7 service is definitely needed. We’ve been to plenty of big car crashes on random Tuesday nights where we’ve made the ultimate difference to people’s lives.”**

“When out on a nightshift you can almost feel the simmer of something that might be about to happen.”





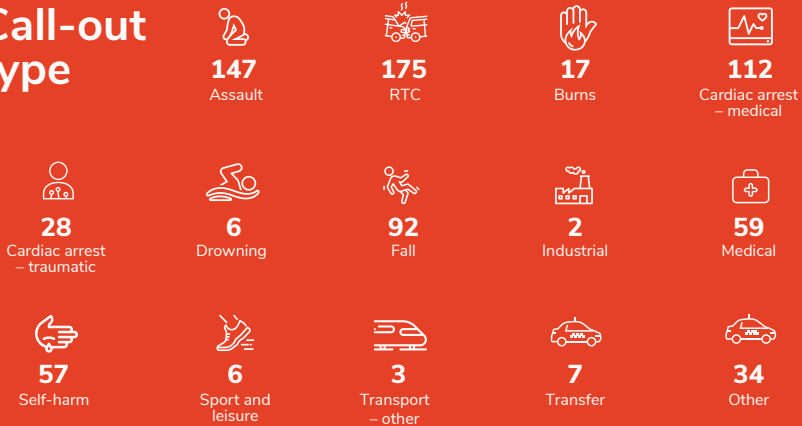
# Nighttime stats 2023

The following data shows our nighttime missions in the last year from 1 January to 31 December 2023



## Total night-time call-outs: 745

### Call-out type



### Responses per area



**1**

Scotland



**572**

North East



**162**

Cumbria



**6**

North Yorkshire



**4**

Other




# Leaving a legacy

In 2022/23, the Great North Air Ambulance Service's biggest single source of income was all thanks to supporters leaving our charity a gift in their Will, a whopping **£4.6 million** to be precise.

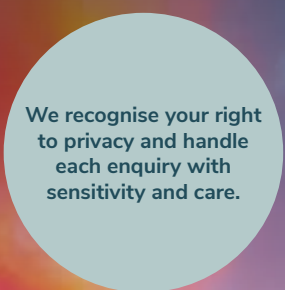
This amount has never been seen before by the charity (and may never be seen again) but we'd like to ensure the continued support of our legacies.

Without those invaluable donations, we wouldn't have been able to attend the **1,983 callouts** we were tasked with in the 2022/23 year, it's that simple.

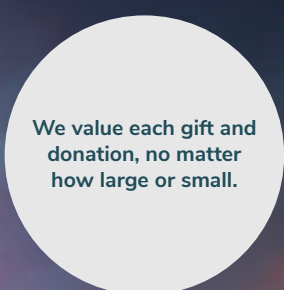
So, if you're thinking about giving the gift of life in your passing, here's what you can expect from our team...




Your loved ones always come first, and we respect that.




We recognise your right to privacy and handle each enquiry with sensitivity and care.




We value each gift and donation, no matter how large or small.



You can always change your mind; we respect that it is a big decision to make and urge you to take your time.



Your gift will go towards saving lives in our region.



Read Mandy and Simon's story on why they thought of our charity when writing their Will.



## Mandy and Simon's Story

"Leaving the Great North Air Ambulance Service a gift in our Will is an ideal way to show our support and a way of helping to futureproof a charity that's so desperately needed."

"I was diagnosed with bladder cancer and it was very serious. I had a life-saving operation, and thankfully I am here today. I think since going through something like that, Simon and I just valued life so much." said Mandy.

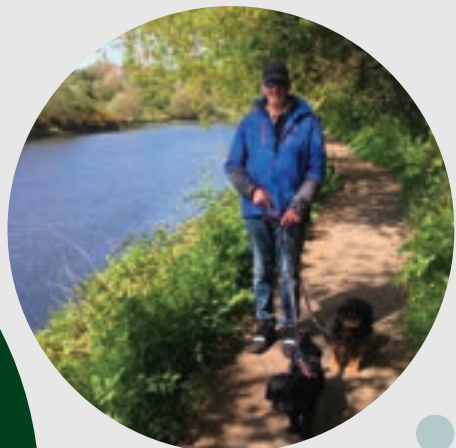
Changing our Will to add in GNAAS this year was such an easy process. When we went to see the solicitor, straight away she said 'GNAAS flew to my grandfather when he had an accident and he wouldn't have survived without their help', so it just goes to show how many people's lives the charity has saved.

You don't have to do outdoor extreme sports to appreciate the Great North Air Ambulance Service and you just never know when it could be you or your loved one that needs them one day and accidents do unfortunately happen.

Like many people, we aren't in a position to donate to the charity right now, so leaving GNAAS a gift in our Will is an ideal way to show our support and a way of helping to futureproof a charity that's so desperately needed.

All of the emergency services are struggling and there has never been a more vital time to support a life-saving service.

**What the charity do is invaluable, and so many lives would be lost without them. If you're thinking about leaving a gift in your Will, GO FOR IT! Give the gift of life!"**



If you would like to know more about how you can give to the Great North Air Ambulance Service in your Will, head to [gna.as/giftinwills](https://gna.as/giftinwills) or call 01325 487 263 and request a legacy pack.



# Get involved with our exciting events!

Whether you want to get active or be social, there's an event in our calendar for you.

Signing up to an event or holding your own for our charity means our critical care team can continue to be there for those who need us most.

To see this year's events, visit: [gna.as/events](https://gna.as/events)



Have a cuppa with us at Brew with the Crew

Climb with us at Cleveland 4 Peaks



Tee-off with us at our Corporate Golf Days



Celebrate with us at our Annual Balls



Jog with us at the Great North Run



Donate now or get in touch: [gna.as/donate](https://gna.as/donate)



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