

Involvement in major terrorism exercise



We took part in a major exercise this month to test the emergency service and Government response to a terrorist incident on the London Underground network during the Olympic Games.

Over 40 staff were involved in Forward Defensive which took place at the disused Aldwych Underground station – representing Oxford Circus station in August during the height of the Games. Staff worked with police and fire to get passengers to safety and treat those injured in the incident.

Led by the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police Service, this was one of a number of exercises that we have been involved in to test our readiness for the Games. [Find out more about our involvement in the exercise.](#)

Demand soars after cold spell



Mid-February saw our busiest week ever in relation to Category A calls – those to our highest priority patients with life-threatening illnesses and injuries.

The increase in calls – particularly to patients with respiratory problems and chest pain – followed a spell of very cold weather. We received 9,398 life-threatening calls during the week ending 19 February. This was a 2.8 per cent increase on the week ending 1 January 2012, our previously recorded busiest week.

Despite the increase in demand, we continue to reach more of our most seriously ill and injured patients quicker than ever before.

Foundation trust application delayed



The Department of Health has reviewed our foundation trust application and has asked for additional assurance to be provided.

It means that, at this stage, we do not know what the likely timeframe will be for the Service to be approved as a foundation trust. Meetings have been taking place to work through outstanding issues and agree a timeline for resubmitting our application.

Prime Minister's backing for 'booze bus'

David Cameron has recognised our work to manage demand from alcohol-related emergency calls.

The Prime Minister referred to the 'booze bus' – which is used to respond to alcohol-related calls in central London – as one of the "innovative solutions" being used across the country to meet pressures caused by excessive drinking.

The acknowledgement came as we received additional funding from NHS London to extend the



operation of the alcohol recovery centre in Soho. The centre, which is operating for a further five weekends from 24 February, provides an alternative to A&E departments for patients who have had too much to drink. [Find out more about the re-opening of the alcohol recovery centre in Soho](#)



This email was sent to by London Ambulance Service NHS Trust, 220 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8SD

Telephone: 020 7783 2317 Email: enews@londonambulance.nhs.uk

If you no longer wish to receive this e-newsletter please [unsubscribe](#).