



Key Facts

- AANI in partnership with NIAS provides a Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS), responding to severely ill or injured patients 7 days a week, 7am-7pm, 365 days per year.
- NIAS provide the team of 6 paramedics and 15 doctors, as well as medicines and equipment required to deliver the service.
- When a 999 call comes in, the HEMS paramedic on duty has the responsibility for dispatch of the air ambulance service. Certain incidents will mean automatic dispatch; other calls will need further information to ascertain if the service is needed. In some instances, NIAS road crew may task HEMS on arrival at scene.
- Onward travel to hospital can be via air, road ambulance with the HEMS crew or road ambulance with the NIAS crew.
- When we are tasked it takes, on average, 4 minutes to be airborne.
- Our helicopters and highly skilled pilots are provided by Babcock MSC Onshore Ltd; our contract also covers maintenance and engineering support.
- We have one operational helicopter, as well as a rapid response vehicle. The back-up helicopter is used for training and to minimise down time. The helicopter uses approximately 250l Jet1 aviation fuel per hour.
- The call sign for the helicopter is Helimed23 and our rapid response vehicle's call sign is Delta7.
- 50% of incidents are to road traffic collisions and a further 10% are to agricultural incidents. The remaining incidents are trauma related, some from a sporting activity; or could occur at home or in the workplace.
- The service is tasked to city and rural localities alike. As well as speed of arrival, the HEMS brings an extremely experienced team to the scene of the incident, effectively flying the hospital to the patient. This means advanced pre-hospital care starts begins within minutes.
- It takes £2m each year to sustain this service. That's £5,500 per day.
- This £2m funds helicopter rental, aviation team consisting of two pilots and a full-time engineer, fuel, insurance, the hanger where helicopters are housed, base for the team, medical crew uniforms and the charity infrastructure required for governance and to raise and administer funds.