



London's
Air Ambulance
Charity

UP
AGAINST
TIME
APPEAL



We're **up against time** to replace our helicopters
and need your support to save lives

THE UP AGAINST TIME APPEAL

WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST

Time is precious when a life is on the line.

Every day, we are **up against time** to save lives in London. When an injury is so serious that there is no time to get to hospital for treatment, our crews are the only ones who can perform emergency surgery at the scene. Our helicopters get us to the patient's side in **11 minutes**.

As a Charity reliant on donations, we are up against time to replace our two helicopters by Autumn 2024.

We need to raise £15 million to do this. We need your help to keep saving lives in London.

Traumatic injury is the biggest killer of those under 45 in the UK. Especially in a busy city like London, it can happen to anyone, at any time – whether you're walking your children to school or commuting to work.

On an average day in London, five people are so seriously injured that they need immediate, hospital-level treatment at the scene to survive. Every minute they are waiting for treatment, can mean the difference between life and death, full recovery or lifelong disability.

Our medics bring the hospital to the scene of the injury within minutes, arriving by helicopter to the patient's side when the unthinkable happens.

Patients like Bruno.





BRUNO'S STORY... TOLD BY DR TOM HURST

999 call made at 17:32pm, a sunny Wednesday April afternoon.

"11-year-old Bruno had gone to the corner shop to buy ice cream.

Bruno's Mum, Fernanda, had looked at the clock and worried he was taking a long time to come home. She had that mother's feeling that something wasn't right and started running. She saw an ambulance and a crowd of people. She realised that something had happened to Bruno. She saw him on the floor surrounded by paramedics. She knew it was serious when someone told her 'The helicopter is coming to look after your son.'

Bruno had been knocked off his scooter by a vehicle and had suffered a catastrophic brain injury. **At 18:02pm, London's Air Ambulance was on the scene.**

As a Consultant at London's Air Ambulance, I knew that Bruno was in the group of patients that we worry a great deal about – he was unconscious with a severe traumatic brain injury.

We were up against time – Bruno needed treatment there and then to give him the best chance of a good recovery. We immediately gave him an emergency anaesthetic so we could take control of his breathing, put a tube in his windpipe to protect the airway and give him drugs to rest and protect his brain.

Thankfully, Bruno survived. He was taken to St Mary's Hospital for five months of further treatment and rehabilitation.

Time is precious when a life is on the line, and today we need your help to keep saving lives in London. As a charity reliant on 89% of its funding coming from the general public, we are **up against time** to replace our helicopters by Autumn 2024, and we need to raise £15 million to do it."

Dr Tom Hurst,
Medical Director at London's Air Ambulance
and Consultant in Pre-Hospital Care

UP AGAINST TIME SINCE 1989

London's Air Ambulance Charity was founded in 1989 by a group of determined medics, who saw a way to provide urgent care to critically injured people, like Bruno, in London.

With our first helicopter flying in September 1989, we became the first air ambulance to fly a doctor on board at all times. Only our medical team can give blood transfusions and put patients into an induced coma at the scene, in London. Our pioneering medics hold the world-first for performing open-heart surgery at the roadside, now with more survivors than anywhere else in the world.

For over three decades, we have been working closely with the NHS to develop rapid-response, cutting-edge care. Thanks to this unique collaboration, we are the experts in pre-hospital medicine. Procedures developed by our medics have even been adapted for use on the battlefield by the US military.

Our innovations save lives. But every minute that a seriously injured patient like Bruno waits for these procedures can have a devastating impact. By helicopter, our crews can avoid the city's traffic to get to the patient's side sooner. We can land in any area the size of a tennis court, getting as close to the incident as possible.

When **up against time** to save a patient's life, it's crucial that we can keep flying.

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LONDON'S AIR AMBULANCE ARE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE TOP TIER PROGRAMMES IN THE WORLD FOR INNOVATIONS - THEIR SYSTEM, HOW THEY DO THINGS. MY SIX MONTHS SERVING AS A LONDON'S AIR AMBULANCE FLIGHT PHYSICIAN WAS A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE. ”

MAJ Ryan Newberry
U.S. Army Medical Corps and Seconded
London's Air Ambulance Clinician



REPLACING THE FLEET

London's Air Ambulance Charity operates a fleet of two helicopters: we acquired a second helicopter in 2016. Having two aircraft means we can still reach patients if one helicopter experiences mechanical issues or is undergoing routine maintenance. It also provides greater resilience for London when a major incident occurs: for example, during terrorist attacks (our crew were first responders to the Westminster Bridge attack of 2017.)

The number of MD902s (our current helicopters) is in decline in the UK. As a result, by Autumn 2024, our existing helicopters will become increasingly difficult to maintain and find spares support for. We will struggle to keep our fleet flying beyond this timeframe.

If we don't replace our fleet, we can't reach London's most seriously injured patients in time to save them.



OUR SOLUTION

Following an extensive selection and contract negotiation process, we have selected two Airbus H135 T3H helicopters for the replacement of our fleet.

Backed by experience and a long heritage, the H135 is in service in more than 60 countries. It is known for its endurance, compact build, low noise levels, fuel efficiency, reliability, and cost-competitiveness. It is a market leader in emergency medical services worldwide and can be fitted with bespoke configuration to suit our operational requirements.

Key features include:

Compact size and bespoke medical fit out: makes it perfectly suited to operating in a congested and densely populated city like London. The helicopters are small enough to land safely in busy public areas and as close to our patients as possible, while allowing space for two pilots, medical crew of three, their equipment, and a stretcher that can be fitted as required.

Innovative cockpit with a Helionix Aviation

Suite: multi-functional digital screens are designed to improve the pilots' situational awareness and advanced flight management systems will increase their ability to deal with emergency situations. It will also provide 3-D maps of an area, alerting the pilot if there is poor visibility or if they are flying too close to a crane or skyscraper.

Compatibility with night vision flying: giving us the option to fly after dark in the future. This will be particularly important in the winter months during our peak times in the early evening and rush hour. Our current helicopters are not compatible with night vision technology so we use rapid response cars after sunset to maintain our 24/7 trauma service for London.

WHY WE NEED YOU

Two out of three people in London aren't aware that their Air Ambulance is a charity.

Our service is expensive. The NHS has a limited budget, and whilst it contributes by covering the costs of our paramedics and doctors, 89% of our income comes from donations. Without our Charity's supporters, London wouldn't have this vital lifesaving trauma service.

As a charity London's Air Ambulance serves the capital's wonderfully diverse communities, ensuring that everyone in our city – regardless of their gender, age, ethnicity or economic background – has the best possible chance of survival when they need us the most.

We are proud to be funded by the people we serve and protect. Through the COVID-19 pandemic and terrorist attacks, from car crashes to falls, it is our privilege to be here for every Londoner, every minute of every day. And now, we need your help to continue saving lives.

WILL YOU HELP US?



SUPPORT THE UP AGAINST TIME APPEAL

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**YOUR SUPPORT WILL ENABLE THE
CHARITY TO DO EVEN MORE IN THE
FUTURE TO DELIVER FIRST CLASS CARE
WHEN LONDONERS NEED IT MOST. ”**

HRH The Prince of Wales, Patron,
London's Air Ambulance Charity