



LONDON'S
AIR AMBULANCE
CHARITY

**WE'RE HERE
FOR LONDON.
TODAY,
TOMORROW,
ALWAYS.**



Help us keep moving forward.

Your guide to leaving a gift in your Will.

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WELCOME TO YOUR GUIDE TO LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Leaving a gift in your Will might be something you've just started thinking about – or something you've been considering for a while. We've written this guide to provide useful information about how to include a gift and share with you the profound impact that these types of gifts have on our charity.

We're a unique team of expert doctors, paramedics, pilots and fire crew who provide London with world-class medical care when a life is on the line. As the only helicopter emergency medical service in the capital, reliant on donations to operate, we need the support of people like you to make sure we can always be there for the next patient and their family.

We've come a long way in over 35 years. From performing open chest surgery on the roadside to delivering blood transfusions anywhere in London, our crews are better equipped than ever to save lives.

That progress is only possible because of those who support us.

After your loved ones are taken care of, even a small gift in your Will could help us give more patients the best chance of a future.

I hope that after reading this guide, you can see the lasting impact a gift in your Will can have – helping us to be here for London, today, tomorrow, always.

Jonathan Jenkins, Chief Executive Officer, London's Air Ambulance Charity



"95% of our income is from public donations, including gifts in Wills. It's only with your help that we can get to someone critically injured in time to make a difference."

OUR HISTORY

We were established in 1989 to prevent unnecessary deaths from trauma.
We took off with one simple mission: to save lives.

1989



Our first flight took off, delivering organs for a transplant.



1993

We performed the world's first successful open chest surgery at the roadside.



1999

Our first rapid response car was launched, taking the hospital to the patient all night.



2010

We began operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week.





We became the UK's first air ambulance to carry blood on board, bringing blood transfusions to the roadside.



We performed the world's first pre-hospital REBOA (a technique to prevent catastrophic bleeding) on scene.



Our second helicopter took flight, enabling us to reach 400 more patients a year by air.



2012



2014



2016



2025

For the first time ever in the UK, we brought ECMO (a machine that takes over the heart and lungs when someone is cardiac arrest) to the streets of London.





2024

We welcomed our two new Airbus H135 helicopters into service, with the company of HRH The Prince of Wales and supporter David Beckham.





2022

We spearheaded an innovative trial, SWIFT, testing the use of 'whole blood' in frontline trauma, to significantly reduce mortality in critically bleeding patients.





2021

We launched our third trauma team, enabling the service to reach even more patients and potentially save hundreds more lives.





2019

We marked 30 years of London's Air Ambulance Charity and announced HRH The Prince of Wales as our patron.





JOHN'S STORY: A LEGACY OF SERVICE, A FUTURE OF INNOVATION.

John Power, Chief Fire Officer has been a member of our dedicated crew for more than 30 years.

"After over 30 years on the helipad, I've seen what a difference this service makes. A gift in your Will could be the reason we're still flying 30 years from now.

"I started with London's Air Ambulance Charity in 1994, and year on year the service has grown and evolved before my eyes, all in the pursuit of helping more Londoners in their time of need.

"From performing open chest surgery on the roadside to delivering blood transfusions anywhere in London, our crews are better equipped than ever to save lives.

"I've seen firsthand how our service has given thousands of patients a second chance at life. But progress and ground-breaking innovations wouldn't be possible without the dedication of those who support us."



"After over 30 years on the helipad, I've seen what a difference this service makes. A gift in your Will could be the reason we're still flying 30 years from now."

WHAT CAN A GIFT IN YOUR WILL DO?

With the support of gifts in Wills, we can keep powering our service to help the patients of the future.

1. Fund the best care

On average, every day in London we treat six patients. From road traffic accidents and assaults, to falls from height and traumatic cardiac arrests, we're the only ones who can get there in time and with the expertise to make a difference.

Gifts in Wills ensure that in the future, we'll be able to continue to provide the world-class care that our patients need.

2. Pioneer new ways to save lives

London's Air Ambulance Charity has a proud heritage of pioneering new ways to save lives, redefining what is possible in pre-hospital care.

For over 35 years, we've developed groundbreaking techniques – from performing open chest surgery at the roadside to delivering life-saving interventions like REBOA and ECMO.

With a gift in your Will, we can ensure that the life-saving treatments of tomorrow are available to the patients who need them most.

3. Provide hope to our patients

Traumatic injury is the biggest killer of people under 40 in the UK – but on the worst day of someone's life, our medics can provide hope for the patient and their loved ones.

We're here for London today, tomorrow and always, because we believe that every life deserves the best chance. A gift in your Will can give them hope.



HOW GIFTS IN WILLS POWER OUR SERVICE



£1,000

Could provide four REBOA bags enabling us to perform hospital-level surgery to control internal bleeding at scene.



£25,000

Could go towards a replacement multi-function display in the helicopter which provides vital flight and navigational information to help our pilots fly to someone as quickly as possible.



1% of an £100K estate

Could support the development of 'whole' blood, which is given to our patients requiring open chest surgery at the roadside.



10% of an £250K estate

Could enable a PhD level researcher to work on an innovative project that could help us develop a new life-saving procedure.



DAVID'S STORY



Leaving a gift in your Will could help someone make it home.

In October 2023, eight pedestrians were taken to hospital after a Range Rover came off the road, crashing into a bus stop where they were standing. One of those pedestrians was David.

On arrival, David was identified as one of the sickest, therefore requiring our advanced trauma team. The team suspected that David's lungs had collapsed and he had a life-threatening pelvic injury.

They gave David pain medication, a blood transfusion, applied a pelvic binder to help stabilise his pelvis and administered a general anaesthetic to take control of his breathing. They performed two surgical incisions on either side of his chest to treat his collapsed lungs and then accompanied him to the nearest major trauma centre.

"I am unbelievably grateful that they were there on scene with David. Any gift will help them be there for someone else's child."

Gillian, David's Mum

It wasn't until more than 12 hours later that David's mum, Gillian, learned of the accident. On arrival at the hospital, Gillian found David out of surgery, with a ventilator breathing for him.

"I sat beside him and held his hand. He was very cold to the touch, pale and hooked up to a lot of equipment. It was a lot to take in."

David's pelvis had been severely fractured and required further surgery. He was in a coma for 11 days, during which he underwent even more surgery on his pelvis and had various chest infections.

On 30 January 2024, after many months in various hospitals, David was discharged home, where he is continuing his incredible recovery.

Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will, so we can continue to be there for patients like David in the future.



**WITH YOUR
HELP, WE'LL
KEEP MOVING
FORWARDS.**



THINGS TO CONSIDER

Leaving a gift of any size in your Will to London's Air Ambulance Charity will enable us to help the patient of tomorrow – but before you make your decision, here are a few things that might be helpful for you to know.

Why Wills are so important

A Will is a legal document that lets you decide what happens to your money, property and possessions after your death (including digital assets such as online accounts). If you have children under 18 it also allows you to assign a legal guardian to look after them.

After you've provided for your family and friends, a gift in your Will is an opportunity to make a lasting gift to a cause you care about.

In some cases, leaving a gift to charity in your Will can help reduce the amount of inheritance tax that needs to be paid on your estate. If you'd like to know more about this, we recommend discussing it further with a legal professional.

You can make a change to an existing Will

If you'd like to amend your Will, you'll need to use a codicil. A codicil is a legal document that lets you either add something to your Will or change it. A solicitor will help to guide you through this straightforward process.

FIVE SIMPLE STEPS TO PREPARE YOUR WILL

01 WORK OUT THE VALUE OF YOUR ESTATE

Think about everything you own. This could be property, savings or digital assets. Then do the same for anything you owe. The difference between the two will give you an idea of your estate's value.

02 CHOOSE HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE YOUR ESTATE

Make a list of the loved ones and charities you want to benefit from your estate. You need to decide what you would like to give – a percentage share, a specific sum of money or a specific item from your estate. [Page 16](#) explains more about the difference between these types of gifts.

03 CHOOSE YOUR EXECUTORS

Think about who is going to manage your estate and carry out your wishes – these could be friends, family or a professional such as your solicitor. Whoever you choose, make sure you ask their permission.

04 THINK ABOUT GUARDIANS

If you have children and/or pets, think about who you would choose to be the legal guardian of those closest to you.

05 CHOOSE A SOLICITOR OR PROFESSIONAL WILL WRITER

We recommend you use a solicitor or professional Will writer to write your Will. If you don't already have one, London's Air Ambulance Charity has a number of professional Will-writing partners who can help. See [page 19](#) for more information.

You can find our easy-to-follow Will planner on [pages 24 and 25](#) of this guide. This will help you gather all the information you need to make a new Will or update an existing one.



TYPES OF GIFT

THERE ARE THREE MAIN WAYS THAT YOU CAN LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL:

SHARE OF YOUR ESTATE *(residuary gift)*

This is a percentage of everything you own, after all other payments or gifts have been made. This option could be helpful to consider if you know you want to make a commitment, but don't necessarily know what your future finances might look like. This type of gift is the most popular with our supporters because it's inflation proof.

A CASH GIFT *(pecuniary gift)*

This is when you leave a set sum of money. It can be any amount, for example £500, £5,000 or £50,000.

A SPECIFIC GIFT

This is when you leave a gift that's not money – like a house or a car.



SUGGESTED WORDING FOR YOUR WILL

If you choose to include London's Air Ambulance Charity in your Will, please ask your solicitor to use one of the following suggested texts*:

For a share of your estate:

I give all/a share of (please state fraction/percentage) of the residue of my estate, absolutely, to London's Air Ambulance, 5th Floor, 77 Mansell Street, London E1 8AN Registered Charity Number 801013, to be applied by London's Air Ambulance for its general charitable purposes, and I further direct that the receipt of the Hon. Treasurer or any other proper officer of London's Air Ambulance for the time being shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

For a cash gift:

I give to London's Air Ambulance, 5th Floor, 77 Mansell Street, London E1 8AN Registered Charity Number 801013, absolutely, the sum (amount in figures, amount in words) to be applied by London's Air Ambulance for its general charitable purposes, and I further

direct that the receipt of the Hon. Treasurer or any other proper officer of London's Air Ambulance for the time being shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

**Please note this is suggested wording only. London's Air Ambulance Charity does not draft Wills and cannot offer legal advice.*

"I have pledged to leave 1% of my estate because I know it will be inflation proof and therefore worth more to the charity."

Anne, London's Air Ambulance Charity supporter



HOW TO MAKE YOUR WILL

After your loved ones are taken care of, any gift you leave could help us take the next step in life-saving innovation, giving more patients the best chance of a future.

It's beneficial to write or update your Will with the help of a solicitor. Doing so gives you peace of mind that your wishes will be respected. It simplifies matters for your friends and family too. It may seem daunting, but many people find that it's easier and less time consuming than they expected. You'll also have the satisfaction of knowing your affairs are in order.

Contact your solicitor

Your solicitor will be able to provide you with independent legal advice, guide you through the process and draft the Will for you.

We've provided suggested wording for you to share with your solicitor on **page 17** of this guide.

Two ways to make your Will for free

If you don't have a solicitor, you may be interested in working with our partners to have a simple Will written or updated for free.

We'll never place you under any obligation to include a gift in your Will to London's Air Ambulance Charity – though if this is something you'd consider then we'd be hugely grateful.



ONLINE WITH MY INTENT

London's Air Ambulance Charity has linked up with My Intent, an online Will-writing provider. This is particularly suitable for a simple Will that you can start whenever you wish.

It begins with an online questionnaire at **www.myintent.life/laac** where all the information needed to write a simple Will is gathered. My Intent then arranges a 30-minute appointment with a law firm, online or on the phone, for more detailed legal guidance and support, and then drafts your new Will. After that a solicitor checks your Will and sends it to you for signing in front of witnesses for it to be finalised.

My Intent

Next steps: To start making or amending your will for free, visit: **www.myintent.life/laac**



IN PERSON WITH A LOCAL SOLICITOR

London's Air Ambulance Charity is also part of the National Free Wills Network, which offers free Will writing services to the supporters of almost 200 charities across the UK. You can choose from almost 900 recommended solicitors no more than 15 minutes from home.

To get started, simply email or call us using the contact details below. We'll then pass your details to the National Free Wills Network who will send you everything you need.

NATIONAL FREE WILLS NETWORK

Next steps: Email us with your name and address quoting National Free Wills Network at: **supportercare@londonsairambulance.org.uk**, or call us on **020 3023 3300**.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Lots of people have questions about leaving a gift in their Will, here are a few answers you may find helpful.

Why do I need a Will?

A properly written Will is the only way you can ensure your wishes for your estate will be met in full and your loved ones and chosen causes will benefit as you intended.

Can I afford to leave a gift in my Will?

We regularly receive gifts of all sizes, from all sorts of people and every single gift is greatly appreciated. It could also be easier than you think, you can get your Will written for free, with no obligation to leave a gift to the charity with one of our free Will partners. See [page 19](#) for more information.

How can I leave a gift when family comes first?

We understand that your first priority must be to look after your loved ones. Once you've looked after the people you care about, even a small gift in your Will to London's Air Ambulance Charity can make a difference.

How easy is it to include London's Air Ambulance Charity in my Will?

A solicitor or Will-writing professional can write or amend your Will for you. All you need to provide them with is our name, address and Registered Charity number. See [page 17](#) for more information.

Can I change my mind?

You can write or amend your Will at any time. In fact, solicitors recommend you review your Will every few years and amend it to reflect any changes in your circumstances.

Where should I store my Will?

Your solicitor or Will-writer may offer to keep your original Will as part of their service. Make sure you keep a copy along with any other useful information that will help your executors fulfil your wishes, like your pension and bank account details.

Got more questions?

Please get in touch. We'd be delighted to chat if you need any further information or advice, simply email our friendly Supporter Care team at supportercare@londonsairambulance.org.uk or call us on **020 3023 3300**.

Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will.

HOW MANY PATIENTS ARE TREATED?

Here are some key statistics on our service:

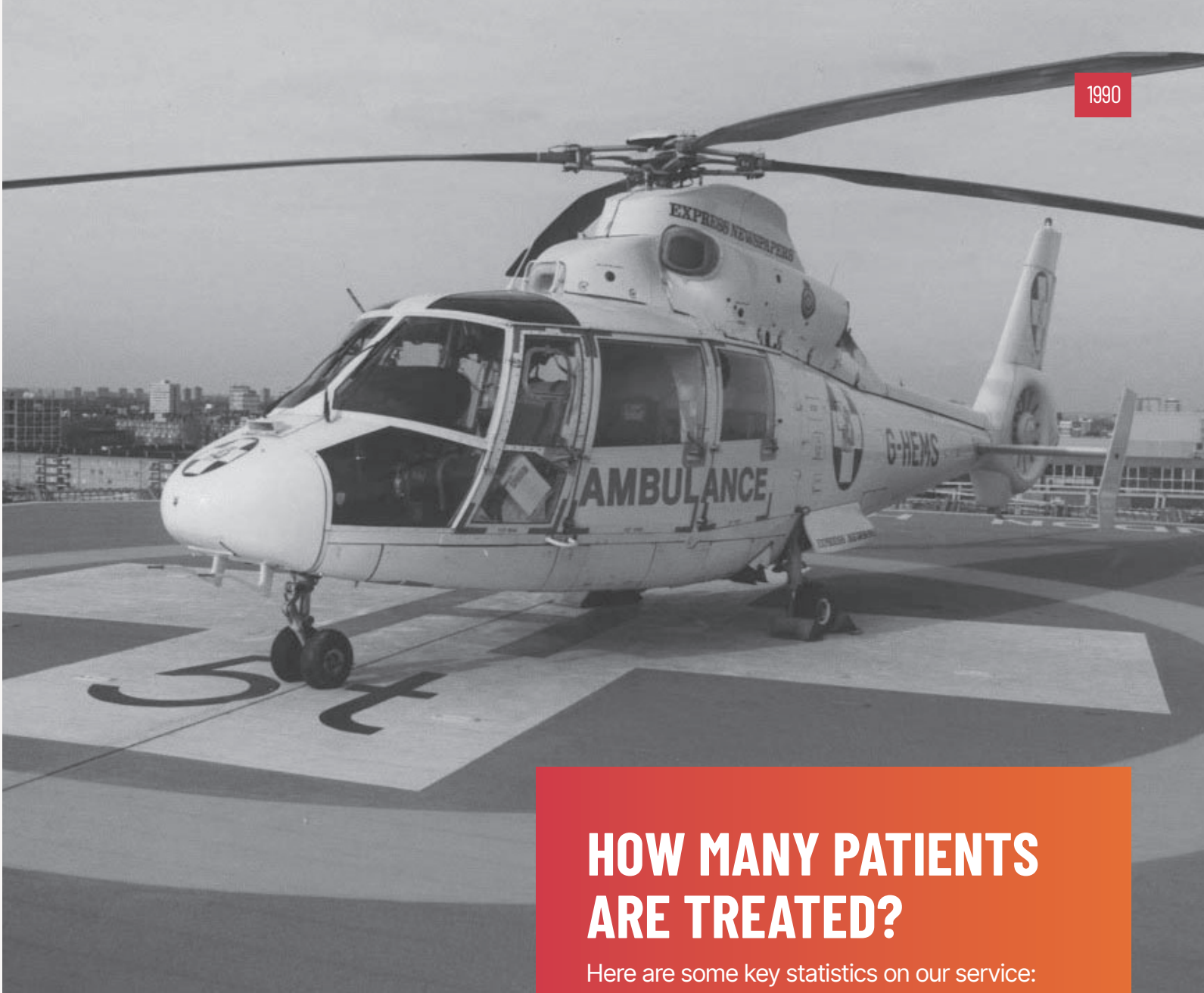
Average patients treated each day **6**

Average cost per mission **£2.6K**

Yearly cost to run the service **£17M**

Reaching anywhere in London within **11 mins**

Patients treated since 1989 **50,000+**





YOUR INTENTIONS

We understand that your Will is a personal document, but if you've made a pledge or if you're thinking about it, we'd be really grateful if you could let us know: simply email our friendly Supporter Care team at: supportercare@londonsairambulance.org.uk or call us on 020 3023 3300.

OUR PROMISE TO YOU



- + We'll answer any questions honestly and quickly
- + We won't put you under pressure – this is a big decision so please decide in your own time
- + We understand that your loved ones come first
- + We'll respect what your Will says
- + We'll use your special gift wisely and effectively
- + You don't have to tell us your decision – we respect your right to privacy
- + You're never under any obligation, you can change your mind at any time
- + We'll respect your decision without question



"If it wasn't for London's Air Ambulance Charity, we could have lost Alice that day."

Helen, Alice's mum.

YOUR WILL PLANNER

Please print and use these pages to record the information you need to write your Will.

Your full name:

Address:

Your partner’s full name and address:

Children’s full names and addresses:

Legal guardian’s full name and address:

Executors’ full names and addresses:

Funeral instructions:

YOUR ASSETS

ITEM	VALUE (£)
House and any other property	
Car	
Furniture	
Household effects (e.g. antiques)	
Items of value (e.g. jewellery)	
Savings in banks and buildings societies	
Shares/investments/Premium Bonds etc	
Insurance policies	
Pensions	
Other	
Remove outstanding debts e.g. mortgage/loans/credit cards	

FAMILY, FRIENDS AND CHARITIES YOU WANT TO REMEMBER:

NAME	ADDRESS	% SHARE	AMOUNT

**WHAT WE DO IS ONLY
POSSIBLE BECAUSE
OF OUR SUPPORTERS.
THANK YOU FOR HELPING
US TO BE HERE FOR
LONDON, TODAY,
TOMORROW, ALWAYS.**

If there's anything you'd like to ask or talk through,
then we'd be delighted to hear from you.



WRITE TO US:

London's Air Ambulance Charity, 5th Floor,
77 Mansell Street, London E1 8AN



EMAIL US:

supportercare@londonsairambulance.org.uk



CALL US:

020 3023 3300





Registered Charity Number (801013)
londonsairambulance.org.uk

