



Ein cyf/Our ref MB/MD/4262/14  
David Rees AC / AM  
Chair  
Health and Social Care Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

8 October 2014

Dear David

I am writing with the information you requested about the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST) recruitment plan during the Health and Social Care Committee on September 18.

I have been advised the trust's recruitment plan is being delivered as expected and enclose details in table one of progress made to date in implementing the plan, which targets the recruitment of 119 additional whole time equivalent staff for which the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee agreed to provide £7.5million recurrent funding in April 2014. Please note that the information also includes details of recruitment to existing vacancies within the trust.

Table one: Recruitment in 2014-15 (as of September 17, 2014)

Role	Progress
Urgent Care Services staff	44 staff recruited
Paramedics	21 qualified paramedics recruited and all operational in the week commencing September 22, 2014.  12 Higher Education Institute paramedics to become operational week commencing December 1, 2014.  18 qualified paramedic applications received. Assessments and interviews to take place October 2014.
Emergency medical technicians (EMT)	41 applications for qualified staff received with assessments and interviews at the end of September
Trainee EMT	452 applications received for role and 201 shortlisted. Assessments and interviews to take place in October

Remaining posts to be filled	69 additional staff identified as 21 paramedic vacancies and 48 EMT posts
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In addition to the staff numbers in table one, 19 employees have completed an EMT conversion course. This cohort of staff will be qualified as paramedics from March 2015 and registered to practice in May 2015. A further 20 EMTs will start a conversion course in September 2014.

I also enclose details in table two of the ongoing training courses being delivered by the trust to enhance its staffing capacity across a range of disciplines.

Table two: WAST training courses

Course	Start Date	Operational from	Number of places
Qualified EMT induction (North) (two weeks)	24/11/14	8/12/14	12
Qualified EMT induction (South) (two weeks)	8/12/14	22/12/14	12
Trainee EMT (12 weeks)	5/01/15	30/03/15	24
Qualified paramedic induction (two weeks)	5/01/15	19/01/15	12
Qualified paramedic induction (two weeks)	19/01/15	2/02/15	12
Trainee EMT (12 weeks)	26/01/15	20/04/15	12
Qualified paramedic induction (two weeks)	2/02/15	16/02/15	12

*Best wishes,  
Mark.*

**Mark Drakeford AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services