



**Scottish  
Ambulance  
Service**

University National NHS Board



# Freedom of Information Request

## 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### Question

- 1 How many community managed/ funded PADs are presently available UK wide and in Scotland in particular?
- 2 How many times have PADs been used in the last three years?
- 3 How many times have they been used successfully in the last three years.
- 4 Do we know the cost to the economy of a fatal 'out of hospital' cardiac arrest?
- 5 Do we know the cost to the NHS of a saved, but injured, patient, who did not get a defibrillator promptly and is now suffering brain damage?
- 6 Do we know the monetary value of a patient of working age who was successfully saved by the prompt use of a PAD, or any defibrillator (in or outside hospital), and can carry on being economically active?

### Answer

The Scottish Ambulance Service is not aware of any previous or on-going campaigns to make defib consumables VAT exempt and are not, as an organisation, VAT exempt at wholesale cost either. The Scottish Ambulance service does not hold a complete list of the locations of Public Access Defibrillators, the register of the devices is held by the British Heart foundation, you can find where they are registered here [Defib finder – find the defibrillators nearest you.](#)

We publish Scotland's Out-Of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Reports on our website [Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Annual Report](#). This page also contains Scotland's Out-Of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy 2021-2026.

The Scottish Ambulance does not hold information on economic costs, it is for this reason we have applied section 17 to this part of your request.

In the spirit of being helpful, the Scottish Ambulance Service is aware of PADs Scotland group ([PADS SCOTLAND GROUP - Save a Life for Scotland](#)) who may be able to help in providing more information or statistics.