



**Scottish
Ambulance
Service**

University National NHS Board



Freedom of Information Request

18TH July 2024

Question

I am writing to inquire about the capabilities of your paramedics in providing advanced medical care to patients. Specifically, I am interested in understanding if your paramedics are trained and authorized to perform endotracheal intubation on patients in need of advanced airway management. Intubation is a critical procedure that can be essential in ensuring proper oxygenation and ventilation for patients in emergency situations. Additionally, I would like to know what the most advanced skill is that your paramedics are trained to perform on patients. Understanding the extent of your paramedics' capabilities can provide valuable insight into the level of care and expertise available through the Scottish Ambulance Service. I appreciate your time and attention to this inquiry. Any information you can provide regarding the skills and capabilities of your paramedics would be greatly appreciated.

Answer

Specifically, I am interested in understanding if your paramedics are trained and authorized to perform endotracheal intubation on patients in need of advanced airway management. Intubation is a critical procedure that can be essential in ensuring proper oxygenation and ventilation for patients in emergency situations.

[The Scottish Ambulance Service supports a stepwise approach to airway management, this is not a one-way process. Tracheal intubation as the initial airway is not recommended. Currently where clinically appropriate, SAS qualified paramedics are trained and authorised, to perform intubation.](#)

Additionally, I would like to know what the most advanced skill is that your paramedics are trained to perform on patients. Understanding the extent of your paramedics' capabilities can provide valuable insight into the level of care and expertise available through the Scottish Ambulance Service. I appreciate your time and attention to this inquiry.

[Scottish Ambulance Service paramedics perform a variety of technical and non-technical skills. It could be said that patient assessment and developing a patient treatment plan is the most advanced skill that SAS paramedics perform. From a technical perspective they can also perform:](#)

- [Needle Thoracocentesis](#)
- [Needle cricothyroidotomy](#)
- [IV cannulation \(including Jugular Vein Cannulation\)](#)
- [IO cannulation](#)
- [Manual defibrillation](#)