

Scottish Government submission of 18 May 2023

PE1989/D: Increase defibrillators in public spaces and workplaces

Thank you for your email of 26 April 2023 inviting me to provide information on when the next report on the Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy will be published and what percentage of OHCA's, so far in 2023, had a defibrillator applied before the ambulance service arrived.

As mentioned in our initial petition response, on the 13th of December 2022, the most up-to-date published information on delivery of the Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy, including statistics on defibrillator application rates, is available here; [Scotland's Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Report 2019-2022](#). This includes data from April 2019 to 31st March 2022 and reports that the 2021-22 average of worked¹ out of hospital cardiac arrests in which a defibrillator was used before arrival of the ambulance service was 8%.

The next Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest report is due to be published in October 2023 and will include data from April 2022 to March 2023. This will enable a direct comparator to the 2021-22 average figure noted in the paragraph above.

The following information is not published data, and is a rolling average (Dec 2021 – Dec 22). Therefore, while we are sharing this with the committee for information, it should be considered with those caveats. The most recent data available is that as of 31 Dec 2022 the 12 month rolling average of worked out of hospital cardiac arrests in which a defibrillator was used was 9.2%. [PE1989: Increase defibrillators in public spaces and workplaces](#)

¹ 'Worked arrests' are OHCA that have a cause which does not involve major physical trauma and where resuscitation was attempted by the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS). This number forms the denominator for all subsequent outcome calculations unless otherwise specified. There are a number of reasons why SAS may not attempt resuscitation including obvious death or the confirmation that resuscitation was not the patient's wish.