

**AMBULANCE UPDATE**

16th November 2016

FAO: GMB Ambulance Committee, GMB Ambulance Officers

**Band Six Profile Released**
Ambulance Service GMB members are fully aware, earlier in the year GMB averted dispute in the ambulance service after successfully managing to lobby government and the ambulance service into accepting that a band six profile for paramedics was needed across the service. A profile that took account of the level of skill ambulance paramedics were operating at but without a corresponding rate of remuneration.

Since then the NHS Staff Council have endorsed work to prepare a profile through the National Ambulance Partnership Forum and more recently, a series of high level discussions on where the money is coming from to pay for the upgrade.

I am therefore delighted to confirm that the long awaited profile has now been published, in tandem with agreed guidance on the process of job matching to ambulance post and a supplementary FAQ document which aims to answer any obvious initial questions you may have. The aforementioned documents are attached.

The next equally important phase for GMB in the ambulance service is the actual process of matching ambulance paramedics currently in band five to band six, where they ought to be already.

This phase of the process requires us to make sure job descriptions are fully inclusive of those duties that meet the criteria for a band six paramedic and leaves no doubt for interpretation by an ambulance trust or matching panel. Further advice will be provided to GMB workplace representatives in the coming weeks.

Work has already commenced to address what happens in the case of Newly Qualified Paramedics (NQP) and a full report and update will shortly be provided by GMB National Ambulance Committee representatives.

In the meantime, ambulance service GMB members are encouraged to examine their current band five job description, make notes of any differences to the attached band six profile and engage their workplace representative on where and how the job description should be reviewed if their aim is to match to a band six role.

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