

For immediate release

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**LANDMARK VICTORY FOR GMB AS PARAMEDICS FINALLY GET PROMISE OF PROPER PAY FOR LIFE-SAVING WORK**

**At long last ambulance workers achieve fair dues for 'highly skilled, stressful and often dangerous’ role following gruelling campaign by unions**

GMB has scored a landmark victory after a long-running campaign was rewarded with paramedics finally being recognised for the work they do saving lives.

The Department For Health announced today paramedics across all ambulance trusts will be moved from pay band 5 to 6.

This means paramedic wages will now range from £26-35k, having previously been between £21-28K. [1]

The move follows years of GMB campaigning for fair pay and better rights for ambulance staff – dating all the way back to the Annex E protests in 2014 [2]

**Sharon Holder, GMB National Officer, said:**

“Achieving Band 6 for Paramedics is a welcome move forward after what has been a decade of poor pay and poor recognition of paramedic skill sets.

"GMB has campaigned for many years to ensure all ambulance staff receive fair pay and this agreement is a step in the right direction.

“We are pleased the DOH has recognised paramedics need to be paid properly.

“GMB will now work with ambulance employers to ensure the details of this agreement are properly implemented in a prompt manner.

“This pay uplift is richly deserved and long overdue.

“Paramedics do a tough, stressful and sometimes dangerous job. It's vital this is recognised in their salaries.”

**ENDS**

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[1] Paramedics whose job description is matched to the new band 6 profile, will move from a pay scale paying from c£21-28K to one running from c£26-35k.

New paramedics appointed after September this year will have a maximum two year consolidation of learning period of at band 5 prior to moving to band 6. This pay band has already been rolled out across several NHS ambulance trusts.

This announcement will see pay band 6 rolled out across all ambulance trusts. Under the new banding, paramedics will be expected to develop and deliver the necessary skills put forward by NHS England's UECR (launched to address the root causes of demand on ambulance services and to put in place measures to look after more people in the community).

This will be through reducing conveyance to hospitals through more ‘hear and treat’ and ‘see and treat’ – to help ensure that ambulance trusts become more of a mobile treatment service.

We also expect this to ease operational and financial pressure on hospitals.

[2] http://www.gmbnorthwest.co.uk/news/gmb-helping-ambulance-staff-fight-annex-e
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