



WMAS Newsletter

Issue 8

August 2013

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SG/CM

Inappropriate use of blue lights

Unison Senior Reps are becoming increasingly concerned over staff being ordered to respond to jobs under Emergency Driving Conditions. This is predominantly the case where a paramedic already on scene has made a clinical decision that although the patient does need to go to hospital it doesn't need to be treated as a blue light response and the crew responding to that patient can respond under normal driving conditions or 'cold back up'.

There is no automatic right to claim an exemption from Road Traffic Legislation, and the driver must be able to claim or demonstrate a reasonable approach by justifying the need for the exemption, if required to do so by the Police.

It is Unisons' advice that if a Paramedic on scene states that 'cold back up' is sufficient that this information is relayed to the crew via control. The crew responding then do so under normal driving conditions. The patient's condition has been assessed by a clinician on scene and it has been agreed by the HCPC that the clinician on scene is in charge of that patient and this CANNOT be over ruled by control.

The police are responsible for upholding the law, not the Trust.