20 JUNE 2018

**Latest additions to Air Ambulance fleet**

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) has taken delivery of two new Rapid Response Vehicles (RRVs) to enable it to continue to extend its operational hours.

The RRVs – specially adapted Volvo XC90s carrying state-of-the-art life-saving equipment – are operational after sunset until 9pm, and on Friday and Saturday evening from 6pm until 2am.

The vehicles were chosen after consultation with Volvo Special Vehicles. Components such as shock absorbers and brakes were upgraded to ensure they are fit for emergency service work and the interiors were laid out to ensure EHAAT’s Critical Care Teams can carry the equipment they need. Volvo dealer Marshall of Bishop’s Stortford are providing maintenance for the vehicles going forward.

The vehicles join EHAAT’s two Skoda Scouts, meaning it now has four RRVs which are can be used when it is not possible to send a helicopter. Two are based at the Charity’s airbase at Earls Colne and two at North Weald airfield.

Like the helicopters, the RRVs can delivery both a Pre-hospital Care Doctor and a Critical Care Paramedic quickly to the scene, as well as the same life-saving equipment.

EHAAT Operations Director Cliff Gale said: “This enables us to bring an advanced level of clinical care and equipment to the patient when the helicopters are unable to be tasked due to unforeseen circumstances such as bad weather, poor light or unplanned maintenance.”

-ENDS-

**Photographs:** EHAAT Fleet

**For more information please contact the Communications Team on 0345 2417 690.**

**Notes to Editor:**

* Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) is a Charity that provides a Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) for the critically ill and injured of Essex, Hertfordshire and the surrounding areas.
* The service is provided free of charge but, unlike NHS emergency services, the Charity receives no direct funding from the Government or National Lottery. It costs £500,000 every month to keep the service operational and saving lives, and this would not be possible without the generosity and goodwill of people and businesses of Essex, Hertfordshire and beyond.
* Each of the Charity’s HEMS teams consist of two Pilots, a Pre-hospital Care Doctor and a Critical Care Paramedic.
* These teams, made up of highly-skilled individuals, tended to 1077 patients in 2016 and are the backbone of your local life-saving Charity.
* The fleet, consisting of two Air Ambulances, and four Rapid Response Vehicles (RRVs - cars) operates seven days a week from 7am to 9pm. After sunset, the Critical Care Team continues to provide the service using Rapid Response Vehicles.
* In addition, a Rapid Response Vehicle is operational on a Friday and Saturday evening from 6pm until 2am with a Pre-hospital Care Doctor and Critical Care Paramedic.