



William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Our Ref: HJ/JAG
Your Ref: P-04-471
Date: 14 May 2013
Contact: Huw Jakeway
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Dear Assembly Member

In responding to the petition presented by Mr Hill, it is important to firstly acknowledge our Service's position on the availability and use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS) has over 100 AEDs throughout our communities either via static sites or a combination of static and roaming sites.

We recognise the significant benefits of having an AED readily available for cardiac arrests as detailed in the evidence submitted in the petition. It was indeed money secured from Welsh Government that purchased the AEDs for the Service in 2006. Over this period of time we have commissioned the AEDs, and ensured that our medical skills for our firefighters has evolved, in partnership with Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST), to a level over and above the traditional first aid at work; to include trauma training and basic life support with AEDs.

It is fair to acknowledge however, that the integration of AEDs into SWFRS has been primarily driven by the need to protect our firefighters who may suffer from a cardiac arrest during operational activities. There have been many occasions where AEDs have been used on members of the public. Presently, SWFRS, in partnership with WAST, are trialling a community fire responder scheme, where firefighters in a light vehicle are responding to defined red calls for WAST when they are the nearest resource. This trial has seen firefighters use AEDs quite regularly.

I am an advocate for having AEDs in readily accessible places throughout our communities and would add that AEDs should be accessible in places where there is robust management both in the training of staff in their use as well as regular maintenance, servicing and protection against vandalism; as is the case with fire extinguishers. Places of employment should be encouraged to play their part and extend staff training to include the use of AEDs for the safety of their employees and public alike.

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English
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CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL

In conclusion I would support the recommendations of the petitioner on the provision of AEDs in public places.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Jakeway', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Huw Jakeway
Chief Fire Officer