

Moving to Scotland



The Scottish Ambulance Service

The Scottish Ambulance Service is at the frontline of NHS Scotland, providing medical assistance and clinical advice to over 5 million people across the whole of Scotland. Scotland is made up of the mainland as well as all 700+ islands. There is such diversity of landscape and geography in Scotland which is one of its many appeals - from large bustling cities to remote and rural towns and villages and isolated rugged areas.

Scotland is broken down into 3 regional areas by the Scottish Ambulance service. As outlined in the map above, the regions are North, East, and West. Each region has its own management team who link in nationally and ensure services are bespoke to the population and landscape they are serving.

All three of our regions comprise of a combination of busy metropolitan centres, smaller cities and towns and remote, rural communities. The diversity of geography offers both challenges and opportunities whilst at work, but also presents a vast array of choices about lifestyle outside of work.

North

The North region comprises of 4 sub-divisions which are Grampian, Highland, Western Isles and Orkney & Shetland. This region covers a large geographical area which encompasses many islands, mountainous areas, and vast remote regions - this can lead to large distances to be covered by crews. There are also vibrant, urban centres found within the North region such as Inverness and

Aberdeen, Scotland's third largest city. Aberdeen Royal Infirmary is the biggest acute hospital in the area and is one of the four major trauma centres included in the national major trauma network in Scotland.

East

The East region has 5 sub-divisions which are Edinburgh, East & Midlothian, Tayside, Fife, Forth Valley and The Borders & West Lothian. This region also covers a large geographical area but is more condensed than the North. The East region is home to Scotland's capital city, Edinburgh and to Scotland's fourth largest city Dundee. Smaller cities such as Perth and Stirling are also found in this region. The region is served by major hospitals including the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Ninewells in Dundee and Forth Valley Hospital near Stirling.

West

The West region also has 5 sub-divisions which are Greater Glasgow, Argyll & Clyde, Ayrshire & Arran, Dumfries & Galloway, and Lanarkshire. This region is centred primarily around Glasgow, Scotland's largest city. The Glasgow city area has a population of 1.84 million people, which is around one third of the Scottish population. Glasgow is also home to Scotland's flagship hospital, the Queen Elizabeth. It was opened in 2015 and is one of the largest acute hospitals in the UK. Like the other two regions, West also has some remote and rural locations, primarily within the Argyll & Clyde and Dumfries & Galloway sub-divisions and a few islands such as Arran.