



NEWSLETTER

February 2025 | Volume 01
Stronger Together: Your voice, Our Action

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

At UNISON EMAS, we've listened to your feedback and are excited to launch our new monthly newsletter. You've asked for more communication, and we're delivering. This newsletter will keep you informed about the work we're doing on your behalf, highlight important issues, and share the progress we're making together.

It's more than just updates—it's about transparency, inclusion, and staying connected. Each month, we'll bring you the updates and insights that matter most to you—so let us know what you'd like to see. We'll also introduce members of our branch so you can get to know us better. We'll be sharing this not only on our website and social media but through other channels to ensure everyone who wants to stay involved can.



Together, we're stronger. Stay tuned for more!

ABOUT US

UNISON is the union that represents all ambulance staff – no matter what your role is. From mechanics and technicians to paramedics, control room staff, and administration teams, we are united in our mission to make things better for every member.

Our East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) branch understands the unique challenges you face in your work. We know the pressure you're under, whether it's from low pay that doesn't reflect the vital work you do, organisational change, recruitment challenges, or the rising issue of violence against staff. But you don't have to face these challenges alone – UNISON is here to support you.



UNISON PROUDLY SPONSORS EMAS FOOTBALL TEAM TO VICTORY!

UNISON is bursting with pride as the official cheerleader for the EMAS football team, who launched their season with a nail-biting 4-3 victory against the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service in Belfast last December!

Captain Joe Brailsford and the crew gave it their all, with the sensational Nick Malbon scoring all four goals!

And let's give a big shout-out to Paramedic James Windross, who snagged the coveted Player of the Match title! Hats off to the team for their stellar performance! We're looking forward to supporting them in their upcoming match against the East of England Ambulance Service on March 22nd in Peterborough.

Let's keep the momentum going!



UNISON's Role in the EMAS Rostering review

In September 2024, trade unions were invited to join a working group tasked with creating new rota and rostering principles for EMAS, prioritising staff welfare. This marks one of the most significant changes to EMAS rotas in recent years.

We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate on this project, where our primary focus has been to ensure that our members' welfare and equality are central to the decision-making process. We are committed to representing your interests and will continue to provide feedback, raise concerns, and ask important questions as we move forward. However, as we enter the next phase of the review, our actions will be guided by the views and instructions of our full membership, ensuring that your needs are accurately represented. We believe in maintaining open communication throughout the process, and your feedback remains essential to our involvement. As always, we encourage you to share your thoughts and concerns with us.

Your Voice Matters – Get Involved!



This review is an important step towards improving staff welfare at EMAS. To ensure the new rostering principles meet your needs, we need to hear from you. Here's how you can get involved:

Engage with UNISON EMAS:

- **Share Your Views:** We want to hear from you! Whether you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact us directly via our website: unisonemas.org.uk. You can also use the "[Contact Us](#)" page for easy access to local reps.

Provide Feedback Directly to EMAS:

- **Conversation Cafés:** Participate in EMAS's Conversation Cafés to discuss the new rostering principles. Keep an eye out for scheduled dates.
- **Rostering Review Survey:** The survey, circulated via E-News (Issues 452 & 453), is key to shaping the final rostering principles. Your responses are vital.
- **Workplace Group:** Join the Workplace Group for the Rostering Review to help shape implementation at your workplace.
- **Account Reactivation:** If your workplace account is inactive, contact IT for reactivation so you can fully engage in the review process.

Stay Informed: The FAQs, updated regularly, cover topics such as relief resourcing levels, flexible working, shift durations, and more. These can be found in the Enews (Issue 453) and the Workplace Group.

Stay Connected:

Your involvement is crucial at every stage of this review. Whether you're providing feedback to UNISON or engaging directly via EMAS channels, your voice is key to shaping positive changes. Reach out to us via our website or local representatives to ensure the final changes reflect your needs and support your well-being.

Together, we can make a difference!

LEARNING FOR MEMBERS

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL WITH UNISON EAST MIDLANDS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Each year, over 2,000 East Midlands UNISON members engage in various learning opportunities, enhancing their skills, knowledge, and career prospects. As part of our commitment to continuous education, we provide a diverse range of courses and grants to support our members in their personal and professional development.

Open University & general learning grants

DID YOU KNOW UNISON OFFERED LEARNING GRANTS TO MEMBERS?

In 2022 £10,000 was awarded to members across the East Midlands to support their learning journey

To find out more visit:
learning.unison.org.uk/financial-support

Our programme for the first half of 2025 is now available, offering a variety of courses tailored to the needs of our members.

To explore the full programme and see how you can benefit, start your learning journey today!

LEARNING GRANTS

To further support lifelong learning, UNISON offers learning grants to help cover the costs of training and education. These grants make it easier for members to invest in their future without financial strain.

Member Learning Programme January - July 2025

EXCEL BEGINNERS 28 & 29 JANUARY 10AM – 1PM (MS TEAMS) This course is aimed at members new to Excel You will need basic computer knowledge including using a mouse and how to save files	Adjust NEURODIVERSITY UNDERSTOOD 4 February 9.30am - 1pm Via MS Teams
Deaf Awareness & Intro to British Sign Language 26 February 9.30am - 12.30pm Via Zoom	28 Feb & 7 March 10.00am - 1.00pm via Zoom Assertiveness Feel confident to communicate your thoughts and feelings in positive way
Dementia Awareness 11 MARCH 2025 1PM – 4PM For members who work in a role where they may come into contact with individuals living with Dementia	EXCEL IMPROVERS 12 & 13 MARCH 10AM – 1PM (MS TEAMS) This course is aimed at members with some experience of Excel
Pre-Retirement Planning 20 March 9.30am - 4.00pm Delivered in-person in Northampton	Lone Working understand risk, responsibilities and the steps you can take 27 March 10.00am - 12.30pm Via Zoom

For details of each course visit:
<https://eastmidlands.unison.org.uk/members>

PASSIONATE ABOUT LEARNING? BECOME A UNISON LEARNING REP (ULR)!

1 PROMOTE

Let colleagues know about courses and opportunities

2 GIVE SUPPORT

Help overcome barriers that stop people (time, confidence, bad experience etc)

3 IDENTIFY NEEDS

What do people want to learn? What do they need?

4 ORGANISE COURSES

Talks, workshops, stalls, book-swaps, quizzes, courses. Anything to help get members back into learning!

LOCATION	DATES
Lincoln	23, 30 Jan & 6 Feb
Leicester	30 April & 7, 14 May
Derby	18, 25 June & 2 July
Northampton	2, 9 & 16 October
Nottingham	3, 10 & 17 November

Most ULRs will get paid time-off. For details see:
<https://eastmidlands.unison.org.uk/learning-reps/>

LGBT+ UPDATE



In 2024, our UNISON family, particularly our LGBT+ members, made significant strides toward justice, equality, and inclusivity for all colleagues. This year's achievements reflect our unwavering dedication to make meaningful and positive change.

Supporting Trans and Non-Binary Rights: We actively engaged in initiatives aimed at enhancing the protections and visibility of our trans and non-binary members. By empowering them to take on leadership roles, giving them a stronger voice and ensuring they have access to inclusive workplace policies.

Enhancing Workplace Policies: Our focus has been on implementing inclusive practices, such as comprehensive trans policies and creating safe, welcoming spaces for A-Spec (Ace and Aro) identities. These efforts highlight our commitment to intersectionality within our union.

Amplifying Underrepresented Voices: Throughout the year, we have made concerted efforts to elevate the voices of LGBT+ members who often go unheard. We aim to ensure everyone feels valued, supported, and represented in our union and their workplaces.

These essential actions have established a strong foundation for continued progress in 2025 and beyond. As a branch, we are focused on strengthening our ties with the EMAS LGBT+ network and deepening our connections with the regional network. This will help ensure we better represent all our members and continue our work for inclusivity and equality.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Branch AGM 2025

Date: 7th March 2025

Time: 10am

Venue: Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Nottingham.

UNISON Health Service Group Conference

Date: 7th - 9th April 2025

Venue: Liverpool

RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We need more activists across our divisions! **We need you!** We currently have opportunities in Derbyshire and Northamptonshire.

Find out more:

<https://www.unisonemas.org.uk/become-an-activist/>

COMPETITION TIME



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT US VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.unisonemas.org.uk



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