



UNISON Yorkshire Ambulance Branch  
**UNISON**



## UNISON Safety and Security concerns

10.08.2020

As members may have seen in the news, social media and One YAS, front line ambulance staff are coming increasingly under attack from a small minority of the public, we know this is not new issue to many. Recently we have seen Paramedics in another service stabbed and seriously injured also crews and vehicles across the country have come under indiscriminate attack whilst responding. This in turn has now led to an increased concern by staff within the Yorkshire Ambulance Service about responding to incidents which could result in physical harm from violence and aggression. It has become apparent that Police are not always attending incidents despite requests to do so. The police are also passing jobs to YAS which we feel could potentially put staff at risk of harm. Staff across YAS are feeling vulnerable for their own and colleagues personal safety. UNISON is extremely concerned that staff are being put in this vulnerable and dangerous position.

Many staff are calling for better protection which include Stab Vests, Body worn cameras and increased training on the National Decision Model and also YAS Safe Responding Policy and their rights to ensure their own safety.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 UNISON raised the issue at the Strategic Health and Safety meeting and explained to the Trust our concerns for our members.

The Trust are waiting for national guidance and the results of the investigation into the stabbing of the ambulance personnel before saying what YAS's position is going to be on this serious issue, although no time frame was given. UNISON do not agree this as a valid argument for delaying any decisions and processes that increase the safety of our members and staff.

We are led to believe YAS will be taking part in the phase 2 element of body worn cameras in 2021/22. Please continue to report concerns regarding such incidents via DATIX and to your UNISON representatives.

UNISON would like our member's views on these issues. For further advice or to raise issues or concerns on this matter please contact;

[yas.safetyconcernsunison@nhs.net](mailto:yas.safetyconcernsunison@nhs.net)

or

Ian Lawrence H&S Lead for North and East Yorkshire 07885576309

Steve Dollard H&S Lead for West Yorkshire 07717746172

Bryan Bell H&S Lead for South Yorkshire 07984026725

UNION OFFICE, SPRINGHILL ONE, BRINDLEY WAY, WAKEFIELD, WF2 OXQ  
Tel: 01924 584223 UNISON Direct 0800 0 857 857 Website: [www.uyab.co.uk](http://www.uyab.co.uk)

Branch Secretary, Kevin Fairfax, 07970 912012  
Branch Chair, Bryn Webster, 07798 825574



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