

**PTS Sub Committee  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2007 , 1400-1600  
Conference Room, HQ**

**MINUTES**

<b>Nic Daw</b>	<b>Head of PTS (Chair)</b>	<b>Pocock Street</b>
<b>John Comerford</b>	<b>Regional Operations Manager</b>	<b>Pocock Street</b>
<b>Chris Roast</b>	<b>Staff Side Rep – Unison</b>	<b>Chase Farm</b>
<b>Mo Akbar</b>	<b>Staff Side Rep – GMB</b>	<b>Whipps Cross</b>
<b>Eddie Brand</b>	<b>Staff side Chair</b>	<b>Romford</b>
<b>Scott Velleman (minutes)</b>		<b>HQ, Waterloo</b>

**Action**

**01/07 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Gary Bowyer.

**02/07 Previous Minutes – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

Agreed

**03/07 Matters Arising**

03.01 Bus Lane Driving (19/06)

JC confirmed that following a meeting he attended with Transport for London, PTS ambulances are allowed to use bus lanes whether they are carrying passengers or not. He specified though that this applied to bus lanes only and did not include entry into roads excluded for bus use only.

ND stated that he would confirm this in a PTS bulletin.

**ND**

JC also reminded CR and MA that PTS crews must not park in bus lanes and leave the vehicle as they would incur fines from the relevant authorities.

**04/07 Contracts (Standing Item)**

ND told the group that PTS was still overstaffed for current activity which is down by 28%. Financially, having included the payments for the 1.5 hour adjustments, PTS is now £600k in deficit. On a more positive note third party usage is now down to almost zero. ND also said that some contracts are spending too much on overtime and the pertinent managers are being spoken to about this.

MA claimed that in the past A&E crews have worked overtime for PTS which has generated extra costs for PTS.

**Contracts (Standing Item) (continued)**

ND said that he was aware of this issue and is investigating it with a view to trying to recoup some money from A&E.

He cautioned the group that the next 12 months are crucial for PTS. Most of the contracts that are held are in rollover situations, i.e. the contract expiry date has passed and the contracting organisations are extending the current contracts rather than re-tendering. NHS London is strongly encouraging all NHS Trusts to complete new tenders where applicable. ND stated that to look at the worst case scenario, if PTS were to lose all the contracts that are due for renewal within the next 12 months they could be left holding just one contract which would leave the service in serious jeopardy. ND said that he was confident that this wouldn't occur however it was important for all concerned to understand the possible ramifications of the next twelve months.

Finally ND underlined the need for PTS to use their resources more effectively as a service, rather than operate as separate contracts.

**05/07 Tenders (Standing Item)**

ND reported that he and the business managers are making big efforts with the North Middlesex, Homerton Consortium and Newham contracts. He is stressing to each contracting organisation that if the LAS were to win each of the three contracts they would be able to make considerable economies of scale. There are some encouraging signs with all three organisations, particularly with Homerton where we are one of the last three providers being considered.

ND and JC then reported that Camden PCT have received our presentation and we should hear something in February. UCLH have received our bid. Finally C&WL, Hillingdon, Queen Elizabeth, Kingston and Newham should all be going out to tender in the near future.

**06/07 Meal Subsistence Payments**

MA suggested that by PTS insisting that crews return to base for a lunch break rather than allow them to continue working and claim a £5 subsistence payment would actually end up costing the Service more due to the need for crews to make up lost time and up claiming overtime. MA also felt that it was wrong for management to have taken away the forms, and therefore the facility, to claim subsistence payments without any kind of discussion with the staff first.

ND replied that the whole subject of meal subsistence payments was currently being discussed by the Joint Secretaries. Following those discussions a conclusion will be drawn and management will communicate with staff.

**Meal Subsistence Payments (continued)**

MA recognised the need for the LAS to comply with European Union regulations around the Working Time Directive however he felt that until the Joint Secretaries reach a decision the old arrangements for subsistence payments should be reinstated.

ND disagreed saying that the Joint Secretaries should reach agreement imminently.

**07/07 Any Other Business**

**Single Manning Policy**

ND reported that he has asked Jason Challen to amend the policy to take account of the Stretcher Movano vehicle. As it has a bulkhead these vehicles will always need to be double manned. Once ND has read through Jason's amendments he will email the policy to staff side for comments. Following this the policy will be reissued as a revision at the end of January.

**Date of next meeting:** 08<sup>th</sup> March 2007, 1400-1600  
Conference Room, HQ