

Royal College of Nursing response to Home Office, Department for Communities and Local Government and Department of Health consultation on Enabling closer working between the emergency services

1. The RCN is not in a position to comment on the interoperability between the Fire and police services which is the main focus of this consultation. As all emergency service providers may be involved with members of the public needing health care input, closer collaboration is likely to benefit the communities they serve. Additional comments relevant to health are added at the end of this consultation.
2. The RCN is not in a position to comment on this aspect of the consultation
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14. The RCN are not in a position to comment on this aspect of the consultation
15. Reference p21 Paragraph 3 'Concluding remarks "The Government expects the NHS ambulance service to do more in helping people access the right care closer to home through greater collaboration with primary and community care so that people are only transported to A&E when their clinical condition requires it."

RCN comment: It will only be feasible for the ambulance service to 'do more' in helping people access care closer to home if the primary and community care mentioned, much of which is currently and will be in the future provided by nurses, is funded and resourced appropriately. If not, the default will remain transportation to A&E regardless of whether the clinical condition demands it.

16. No.