

# Specialist Estates Services Notification 23/12

**15 November 2023**

**For action by:**

Chief Executives, NHS Health Boards and Trusts  
Estates/Facilities Directors and Managers, NHS Health Boards and Trusts

**For information only:**

Copy to: Head of Capital Estates and Facilities  
Department of Health and Social Care, Welsh Government

Dear Colleague,

## **MANAGEMENT OF HOSPITAL LANDING SITES (HLS)**

In March 2022 an incident occurred during a helicopter landing at an acute hospital in England. During the approach and landing, several members of the public in the car park were subjected to high levels of downwash from the landing helicopter. One person suffered fatal injuries, and another was seriously injured highlighting the potential risk caused by helicopter landing near or adjacent to public areas on hospital sites.

The Air Accident Investigation Branch has subsequently published a report on the incident together with providing recommendations for the NHS to implement. A copy of the report can be found below:

[AAIB Report Derriford Hospital](#)

Further guidance for designing and managing HLS is given under CAP 1264. The standard outlines comprehensive guidelines and standards established by aviation regulatory authorities for the safe and efficient design, operation, and maintenance of helicopter landing areas at medical facilities.

[CAP1264 Standards for Helicopter landing at hospitals](#)

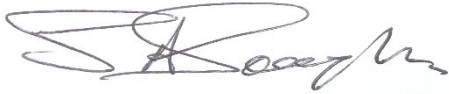
(Note: training is now available on the standard via the Civil Aviation Authority, details of the course can be found below: [Hospital Helipad Aviation Awareness Training Course by the UK CAA](#))

Accordingly, NHS organisations are reminded of the importance of reviewing their risk assessments and management systems regarding their helicopter landing arrangements and instigate appropriate actions including minimising the risk of injury from downwash.

Further work may also be required in the future, as the NHS across the UK responds to the AAIB recommendations.

Any enquiries on the content of this letter should be addressed to Ray Selby Head of Estates Development on 02920 904084 or email [ray.selby@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:ray.selby@wales.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Douglas', is positioned above a light blue horizontal line.

**Stuart Douglas BSc (Hons), PGDip, MRICS, MAPM**

**Director Specialist Estates Services**

**NWSSP Specialist Estates Services, 3rd Floor, Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff CF14 3UB**