



**Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA**  
**Minister for Health; Mental Health**

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Our Ref: 76-27091

Thank you for your email of 27 September 2023 regarding the relocation of the Fremantle ambulance depot.

I understand the significance of the depot's strategic placement in proximity to Fremantle's city precinct, both from your perspective as a seasoned paramedic and a community representative. To respond to your letter, I have liaised with St John WA (SJWA) for information on the depot relocation.

SJWA was required to vacate the Fremantle depot following instruction from the City of Fremantle (the city) as the property owners. The city chose not to renew the lease due to strategic plans that included alternative use of the site. SJWA had a preference to remain in Fremantle and worked in consultation with the city as the community's representatives, however no suitable locations were identified.

To inform the depot's relocation, 'event simulation modelling' was performed by a specialised software program for emergency service providers, which can analyse the impact of a depot's relocation on operational performance. SJWA were able to predict the outcomes of multiple locations, with O'Connor providing the best alternative.

The ambulance response model across the Perth metropolitan area is such that crews are dispatched according to the case's 'nearest available resource'. Following relocation, SJWA recorded an increased drive time of five minutes when departing from the O'Connor depot to priority cases in Fremantle. However, as the vast majority of crews respond whilst they are outside of the depot, the average increase in overall response time to priority cases in Fremantle was only 1.2 minutes.

Furthermore, SJWA data indicates the average response time for Priority 1 cases in Fremantle over the past 12 months has been 11.85 minutes. SJWA's contractual performance requirement is to respond to 90 percent of Priority 1 cases within 15 minutes. This demonstrates the capacity to respond to cases in the city precinct remains, despite the challenges in securing a site within Fremantle as the preferred location.

I recognise the decision to relocate the Fremantle depot may have raised concerns among paramedics and the wider community. I hope the information above provides insight and assurance on the decision-making process.

Thank you for representing the voices of the Ambulance Employee Association of Western Australia. Your insights and advocacy for not only paramedics but also the communities you serve are essential to the ongoing development and refinement of emergency service provision.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Kind regards



HON AMBER-JADE SANDERSON MLA  
**MINISTER FOR HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH**  
8 NOV 2023