# Rising assaults on UK paramedics highlight growing risks for emergency workers



An Express opinion piece has highlighted a significant rise in assaults on ambulance paramedics across the UK, reflecting a worrying shift over recent decades in the risks faced by emergency medical workers.

The article recounts how, in 1974, the notion of an ambulance crew member being attacked by a patient was considered almost unthinkable, so rare that a report of such an incident made front-page news for weeks in a local newspaper. Contrasting sharply with that past, an investigation by Good Morning Britain revealed that assaults on paramedics have since increased by approximately 15 per cent, equating to around 60 attacks every 24 hours, or roughly three per hour. This amounts to nearly 22,500 assaults annually, illustrating a troubling new normal for those who provide frontline emergency care.

Two paramedics who have recently endured attacks shared their experiences. Charlotte Miller, a paramedic with just one year of experience, was sexually assaulted multiple times by a patient in the back of an ambulance. Despite her efforts to fend off the attacker and the shock she suffered, she managed to summon police, who arrested and later successfully prosecuted the individual. She returned to work only two hours after the incident. Gary Watson recounted how, while attending to a disorientated and intoxicated man, he and a colleague were suddenly subjected to a prolonged and violent struggle, causing Watson to sustain facial, throat, and ligament injuries that kept him off duty for three months. His attacker received a suspended sentence.

The article calls for stringent sentencing for those who assault ambulance crews, emphasising the vulnerability of paramedics who, as healers, are often unable to defend themselves adequately. It portrays the paramedics as courageous and dedicated professionals who continue to serve despite the physical and emotional toll of such violence.

In a contrasting lighter section, the Express also features a nostalgic reflection on the Ford Anglia 105E, famously featured in the Harry Potter films as a flying car. The author reminisces about his own youthful ownership of a sky-blue Ford Anglia that bore resemblance to the magical vehicle. He notes the car’s growing status as a sought-after classic, akin to iconic models like the Aston Martin DB5 and Lotus Esprit, immortalised through James Bond films, and the DeLorean DMC-12, known for its role in Back to the Future. Collectors are now valuing well-preserved Anglias for their cultural connections and rarity.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://aace.org.uk/news/violent-incidents-recorded-against-uk-ambulance-staff-on-course-to-exceed-20000-a-year-for-the-first-time-ever/> - Supports the claim of rising assaults on UK ambulance staff, corroborating the projection of over 20,000 incidents annually and detailing the range of violent acts reported.
* [https://collegeofparamedics.co.uk/COP/News/2025/Violent%20incidents%20recorded%20against%20UK%20Ambulance%20Staff%20on%20course%20to%20exceed%2020,000%20a%20year.aspx](https://collegeofparamedics.co.uk/COP/News/2025/Violent%20incidents%20recorded%20against%20UK%20Ambulance%20Staff%20on%20course%20to%20exceed%2020%2C000%20a%20year.aspx) - Confirms the projected annual rate of violent incidents and describes specific types of assaults, including sexual violence and weapon-related attacks.
* <https://www.neas.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/aace-calls-further-interventions-violent-incidents-recorded-against-uk-ambulance-staff-reach-22500-year-first-time-ever> - Provides updated figures (22,500 annually) and emphasizes calls for policy interventions to address the surge in violence against ambulance staff.
* <https://rcem.ac.uk/increase-in-reported-violence-against-ambulance-staff-abhorrent-and-unacceptable-rcem/> - Corroborates the severity of the issue through statements from medical organizations condemning the violence and its impact on frontline workers.
* <https://www.eastamb.nhs.uk/newsroom/violent-incidents-recorded-against-UK-ambulance-staff> - Reiterates the projected 20,000+ annual incidents and contextualizes the data within the broader challenges faced by ambulance services.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=example> - Placeholder: No direct evidence of specific paramedic testimonies found in indexed results, but hypothetical examples of such testimonials might appear in video reports or regional NHS trust pages (specific URL unavailable in provided results).
* <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2046583/one-shocking-statistic-lays-bare> - Please view link - unable to able to access data