

Does your premises have an Automated External Defibrillator?



Is it:

1. Emergency Ready? ie green light flashing or tick on the front panel of defibrillator.

Pads in date



Battery in date



2. Rescue Ready kit in place?

Disposable razor



Pocket mask/face shield



Paper towel



Tuff cut scissors



Disposable gloves



3. Available to the public?

4. Registered with the NI Ambulance Service on The Circuit? www.thecircuit.uk



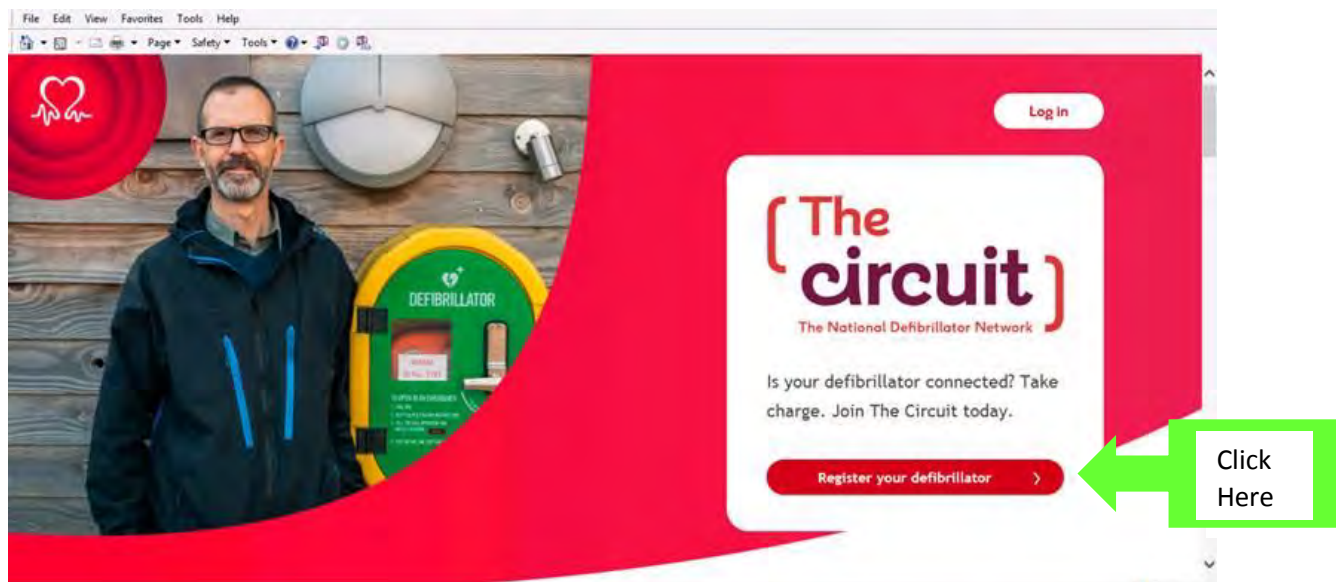
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service
Health and Social Care Trust

For more information or advice contact the
Community Resuscitation Team on

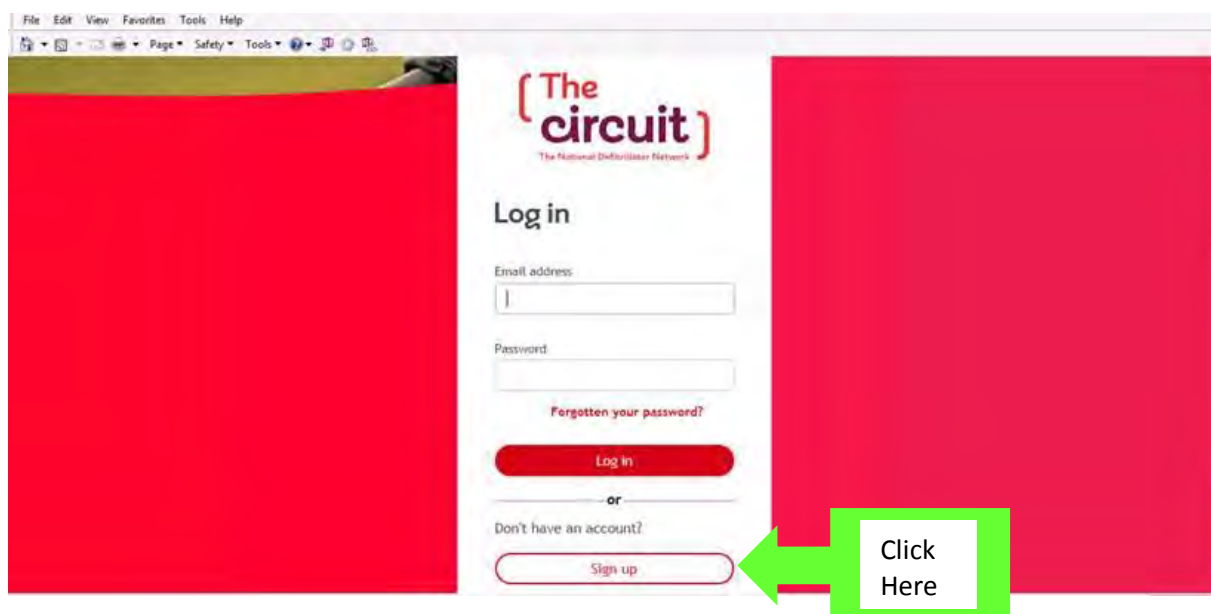
Email: resus.aed@nias.hscni.net

How to register on “The Circuit” and claim your defibrillator

Step One: Register on The Circuit at www.thecircuit.uk



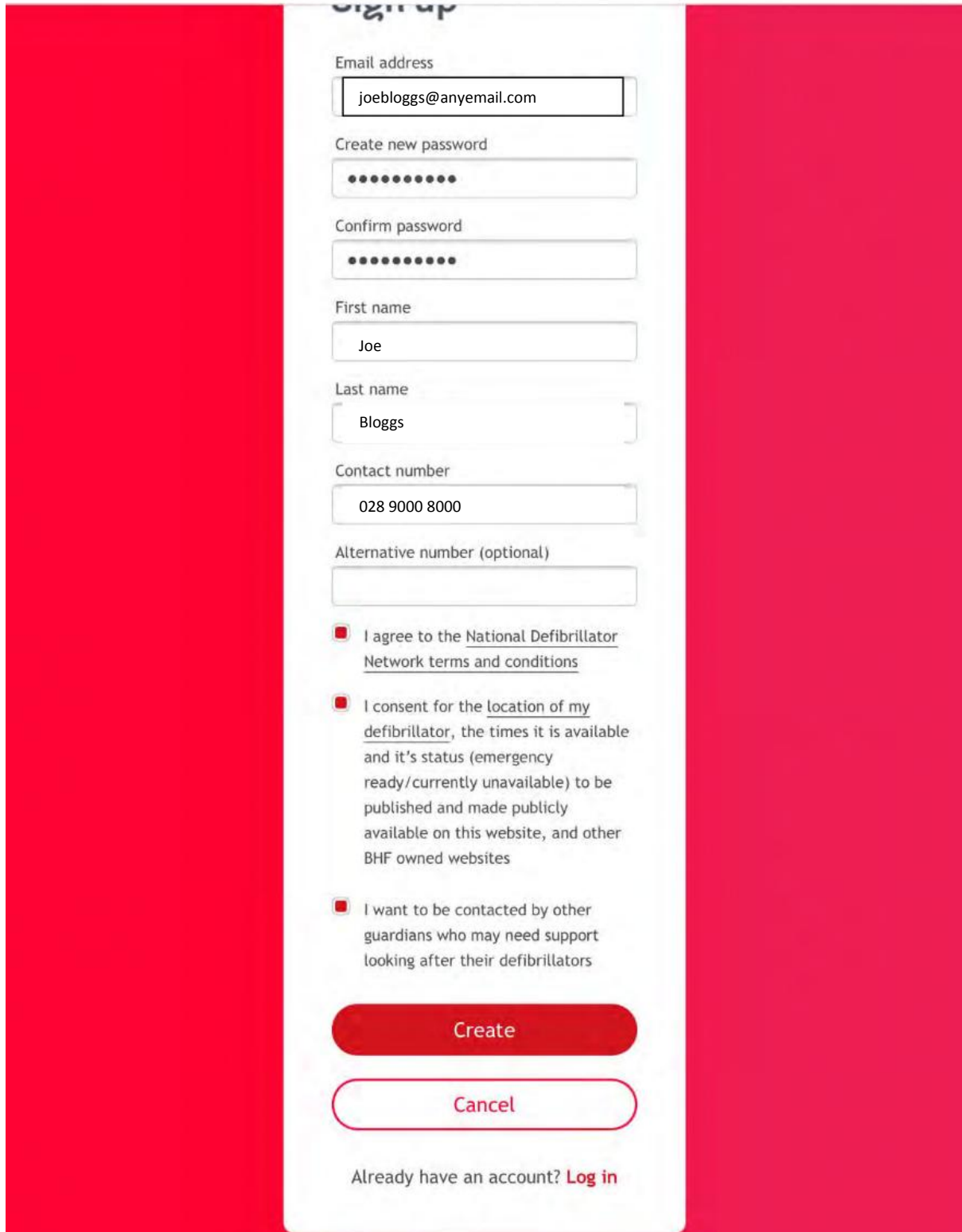
Please click on **“REGISTER YOUR DEFIBRILLATOR”** This will take you to a page that looks like the one below.



Please click on **“Sign up”**.

How to register on “The Circuit” and claim your defibrillator

This will take you to the page below.



sign up

Email address
joebloggs@anyemail.com

Create new password
••••••••

Confirm password
••••••••

First name
Joe

Last name
Bloggs

Contact number
028 9000 8000

Alternative number (optional)

☒ I agree to the [National Defibrillator Network terms and conditions](#)

☒ I consent for the [location of my defibrillator](#), the times it is available and it's status (emergency ready/currently unavailable) to be published and made publicly available on this website, and other BHF owned websites

☒ I want to be contacted by other guardians who may need support looking after their defibrillators

Create

Cancel

Already have an account? [Log in](#)

Please fill in your details and click “**CREATE**”.

You will then see the next screen...

How to register on “The Circuit” and claim your defibrillator



You're almost there

We have sent an email to:

joebloggs@anyemail.com

Please check and click the link to verify your email address and create your account.

Didn't get the email?

[Please re-send it](#)

Please check your email for the below email to allow you to verify your email address. Do this by clicking on the link provided.



Get connected!

Your help will save lives.

How to register on “The Circuit” and claim your defibrillator

Hello Joe Bloggs

Welcome - **we’re** so pleased that you and your defibrillator will be joining us on The Circuit - the national defibrillator network.

To activate your account, we need you to click on the link below to verify that it’s you.



Please note this link is only valid for 30 days.

If you have problems with accessing the link above, please try direct URL below:

<https://www.thecircuit.uk/account/verifyaccount?token=f7kzsg5mg8xxkjzrwzdugu1pi36dcury5s17s13x847needrdeo>

Thank you.

A few things you should know...

When you create an account, we will process your personal information as described in our [Privacy Policy](#). This will include storing information like your name, email address and telephone number for the purposes of providing this service and administering your account. We will also store information on the network when you submit information to it e.g. defibrillator status.

In addition, we will also carry out the following data processing activity:

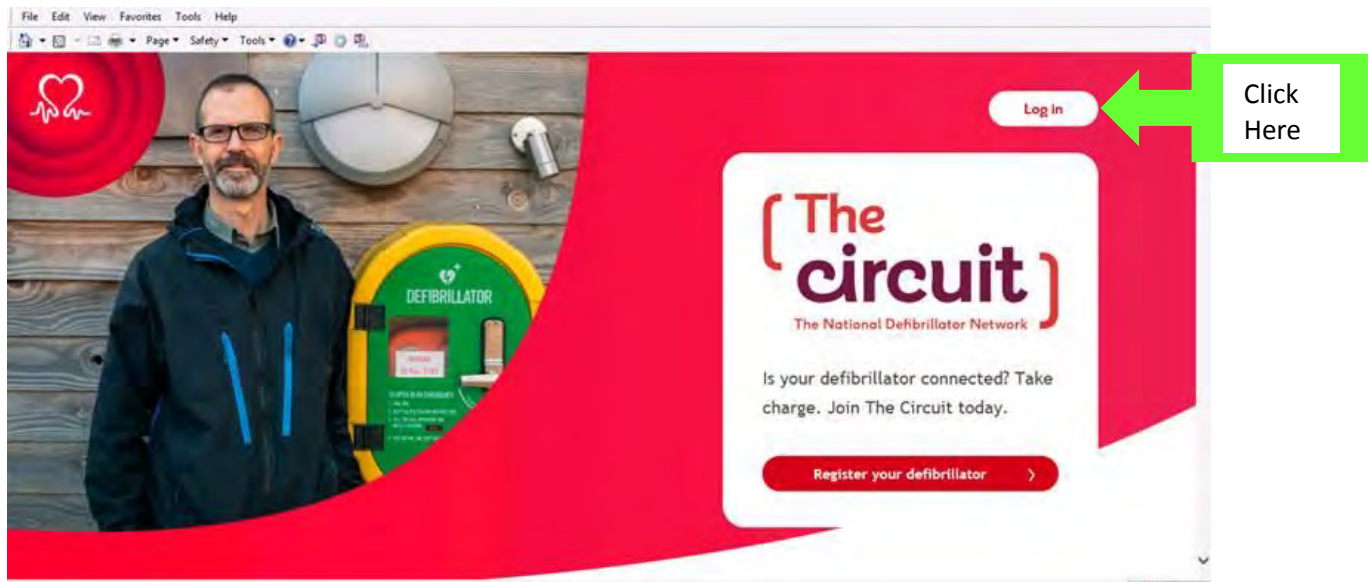
UK Ambulance Service Providers may wish to contact you by email regarding the status of your defibrillator device. We will only share your personal information with the UK Ambulance Service Provider responsible for providing emergency services for the area in which your defibrillator is located.

We will periodically contact you through the email address you used to register an account with us for the purposes of reminders and notifications regarding the requirement to carry out status checks of the defibrillator you have registered.

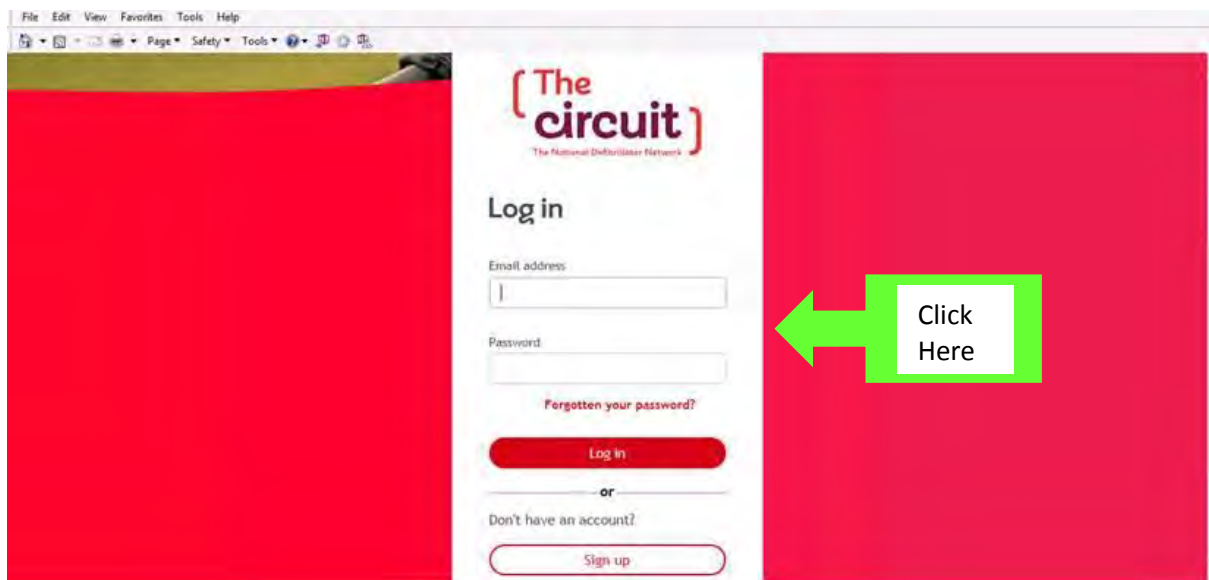
Once you have verified your email address you can now go back and **LOG IN** to The Circuit.

How to register on “The Circuit” and claim your defibrillator

Step 2: Logging in to The Circuit at www.thecircuit.uk

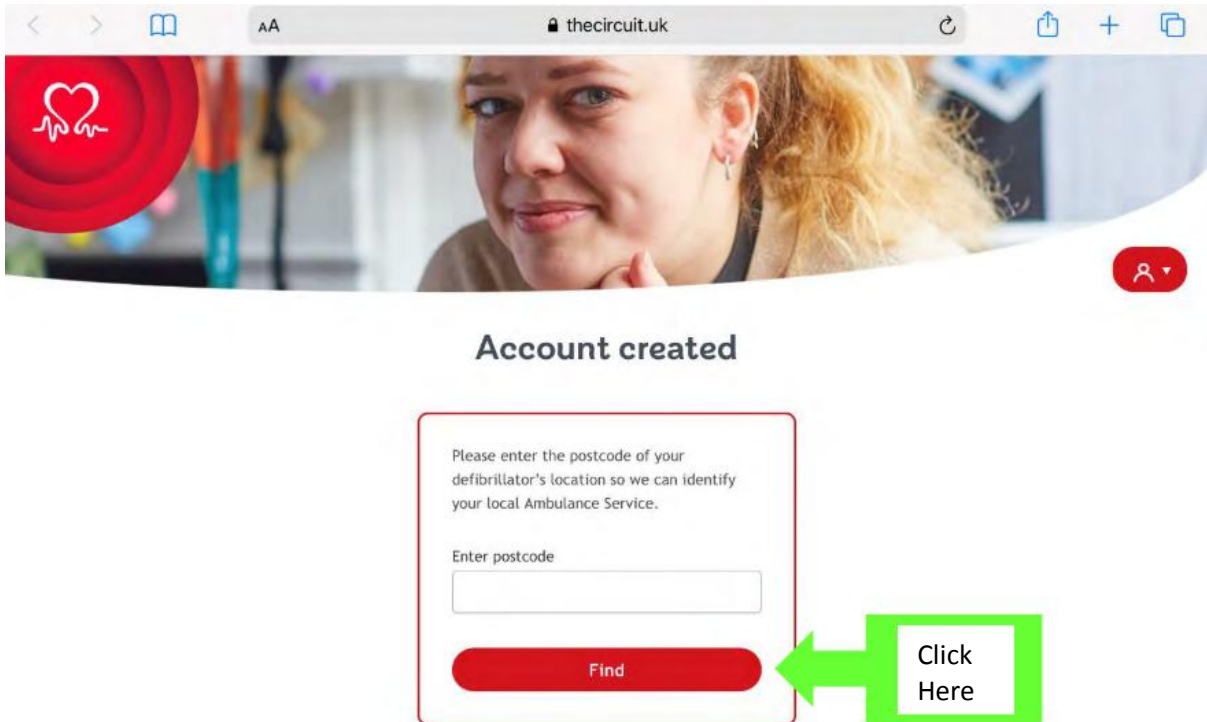


At the next page enter the email address and password that you registered with.



This will bring you to a page requesting the postcode of the defibrillator you want to **register OR claim**.

How to register on “The Circuit” and claim your defibrillator



the circuit

Account created

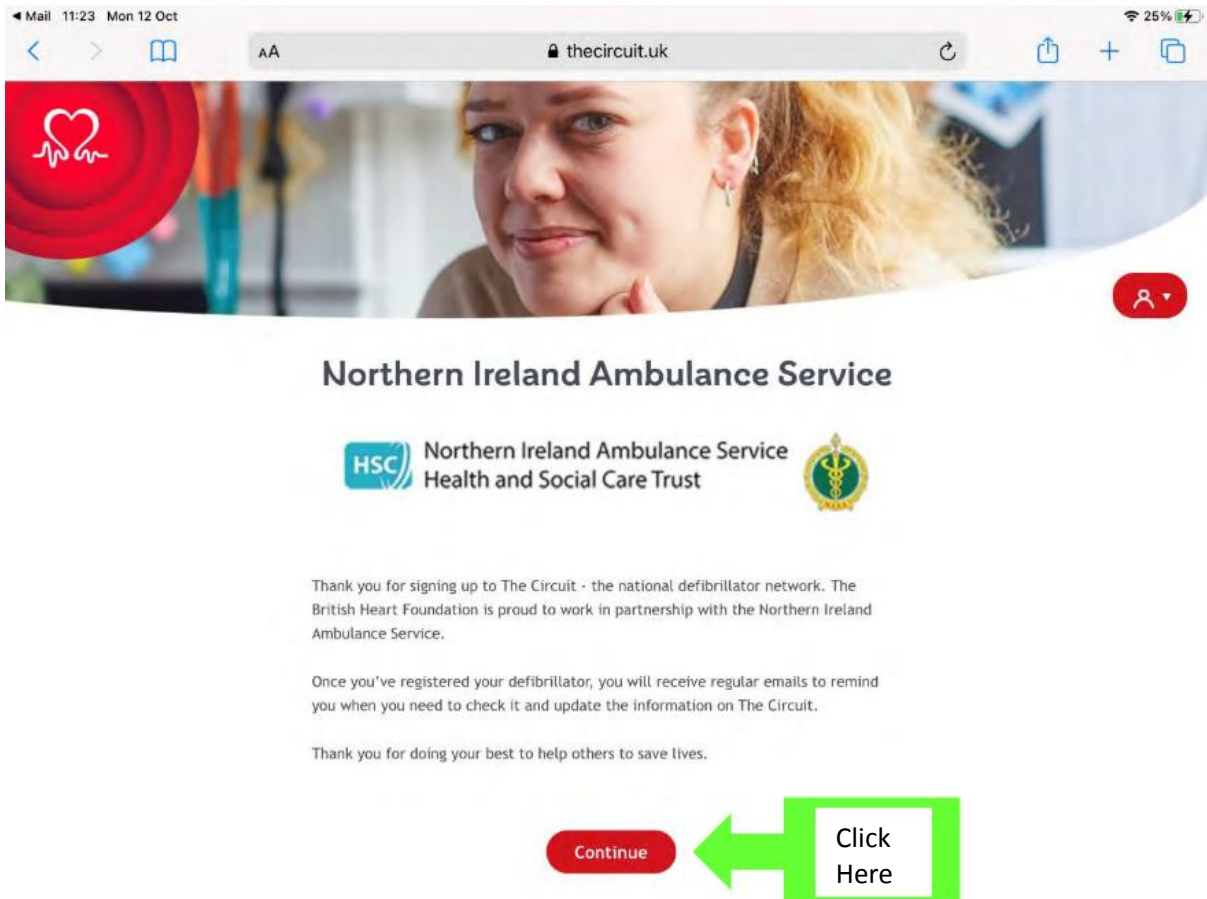
Please enter the postcode of your defibrillator's location so we can identify your local Ambulance Service.

Enter postcode

Find

Click Here

When you have entered the postcode of the defibrillator, you wish to register or claim, click on **FIND**.



Mail 11:23 Mon 12 Oct

the circuit

Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

HSC Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust

Thank you for signing up to The Circuit - the national defibrillator network. The British Heart Foundation is proud to work in partnership with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service.

Once you've registered your defibrillator, you will receive regular emails to remind you when you need to check it and update the information on The Circuit.

Thank you for doing your best to help others to save lives.

Continue

Click Here

Click Continue.

How to register on “The Circuit” and claim your defibrillator

The screenshot shows a mobile browser interface for the website thecircuit.uk. The page title is "Register a defibrillator". A red modal box titled "Important information" is overlaid on the page. The modal contains a "Covid-19 update" section with text advising users to stay indoors and not leave the house to check the defibrillator. Below the text is a red "Continue" button. A green arrow points from a box labeled "Click Here" to the "Continue" button. The background page shows a sidebar with links like "My defibrillators", "Upcoming actions", and "My invitations". The main content area has a form with fields for "Address line 3", "City/town*", "County", and "Postcode*".

Mail 11:24 Mon 12 Oct 25% thecircuit.uk

My defibrillators

Upcoming actions

My invitations

About The Circuit

FAQs

Contact us

Register a defibrillator

Please enter the details of the defibrillator to connect it to The Circuit

Important information

Covid-19 update

If you are self-isolating or have been advised by the NHS to remain indoors please do not leave the house to check the defibrillator. Instead, it is advisable to ask a friend or a neighbour to do so. If this is not possible please do not worry about it.

Thank you for all you are doing for your local community but please follow the government advice and do not put yourself at unnecessary risk.

For further information please visit our [FAQs](#)

Continue

Click Here

Address line 3

City/town*

County

Postcode*

Click continue after you have read the Covid-19 update.

This will take you to the next page.

How to register on “The Circuit” and claim your defibrillator

Mail 11:24 Mon 12 Oct thecircuit.uk

My defibrillators

- Upcoming actions
- My invitations
- About The Circuit
- FAQs
- Contact us

Register a defibrillator

Please enter the details of the defibrillator to connect it to The Circuit

1 Location 2 Details 3 Access

Location

BT99 9AS Find address

Defibrillator's address

Organisation

Address line 1*

Address line 2

Address line 3

City/town*

County

Postcode*

Click Here

The postcode will already be pre-populated, please click on find address.

This will allow you to pick the address of the defibrillator from a drop down menu. Please look through these to pick the correct address of your defibrillator.

How to register on “The Circuit” and claim your defibrillator

Mail 11:33 Mon 12 Oct

theircuit.uk

26%

Contact us

LocationDetailsAccess

Location

BT91 5AAFind address

1 defibrillators have been found at this postcode

Defibrillator's address

Organisation

Emergency Business Park

Address line 1*

999 Ambulance Street

Address line 2

Address line 3

City/town*

Belfast

County

LONDONDERRY

Postcode*

BT91 5AA

Available defibrillators (0)

If one of the following defibrillators is yours please select and continue

Claimed defibrillators (1)

Emergency Business Park
999 Ambulance Street
BT99 9AS

Matched defibrillator

☐ None

☒ Emergency Business Park
999 Ambulance Street
BT99 9AS

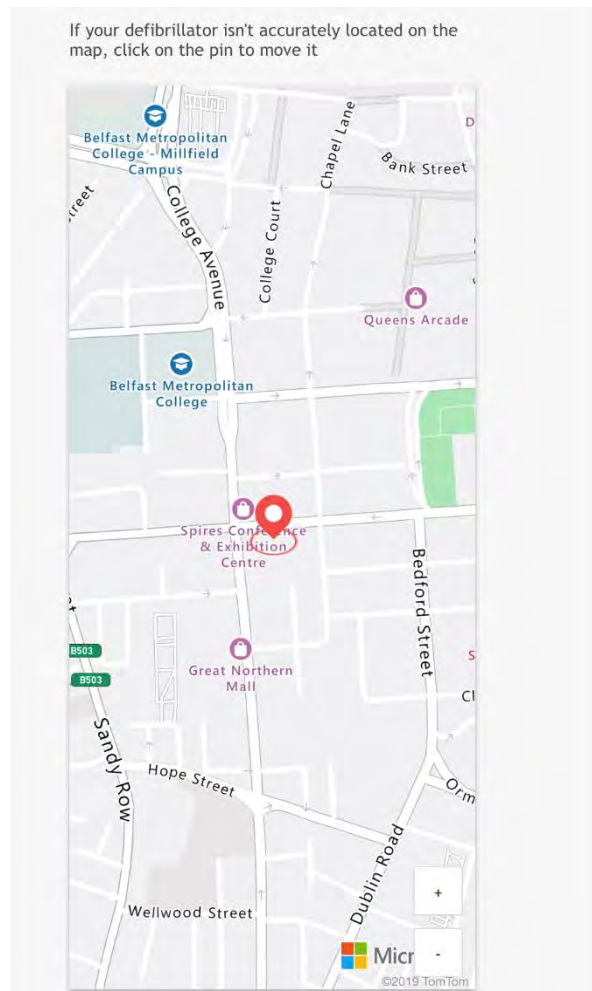
If your defibrillator isn't accurately located on the map, click on the pin to move it

Raine Road

Rectory Park

How to register on “The Circuit” and claim your defibrillator

Please follow the detailed instructions and move the red pin if your defibrillator is not in exactly the right place.



Once you are happy with where the pin is located on the map and that you have given clear and accurate instructions on where to find your defibrillator, then click **Save and continue**.

Defibrillator location* ⓘ

Defib located on shop outer wall

Remaining characters: 200

* - Mandatory fields

Before continuing, double check the accuracy of your defibrillator location on the map

Save and continue

Cancel

[Clear all fields on the form](#)

How to register on “The Circuit” and claim your defibrillator

Now you can give the Brand and Model of the defibrillator by using the drop down menus. Again, if you had already registered with NIAS, these will already be populated. Please put in as much detail as possible and check that any details already there are correct.

The screenshot shows a mobile web browser interface for 'theircuit.uk'. The top status bar shows 'Mail 11:35 Mon 12 Oct' and '26%' battery. A left sidebar contains links: 'About The Circuit', 'FAQs', and 'Contact us'. The main content area is titled 'Details' and is part of a three-step process: 1. Location, 2. Details (current step), and 3. Access. The form fields include: 'Brand*' with a dropdown menu showing 'Other'; 'Model*' with an information icon and a dropdown menu showing 'Other'; 'Device serial number' with an information icon and an empty text field; 'Is the defibrillator emergency ready?' with radio buttons for 'Yes, emergency ready' and 'No, not available' (selected); 'When was it last checked?*' with a date picker showing '06 Jul 2020'; 'When do the pads expire?*' with a date picker showing '31 Oct 2020'; and 'Do paediatric pads exist?' with radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No' (selected). A note at the bottom states '* - Mandatory fields'. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: 'Save and continue' (red) and 'Cancel' (white with red border). A 'Back' link is located below the buttons.

Mail 11:35 Mon 12 Oct theircuit.uk 26%

About The Circuit
FAQs
Contact us

1 Location 2 Details 3 Access

Details

Brand*
Other

Model* ⓘ
Other

Device serial number ⓘ

Is the defibrillator emergency ready? ⓘ
☐ Yes, emergency ready
☒ No, not available

When was it last checked?*
06 Jul 2020

When do the pads expire?*
31 Oct 2020

Do paediatric pads exist?
☐ Yes ☒ No

* - Mandatory fields

Save and continue Cancel

Back

Please Save and Continue...you are nearly finished!

How to register on “The Circuit” and claim your defibrillator

You can now set up the exact times that your defibrillator is available, however we recommend that this should be 24/7 where possible.

If your defibrillator is in a locked cabinet please ensure the access code is correct.

The screenshot shows a mobile web browser interface for 'thecircuit.uk'. The top navigation bar has three steps: 1 Location, 2 Details, and 3 Access (highlighted in red). On the left, there is a sidebar menu with 'About The Circuit', 'FAQs', and 'Contact us'. The main content area is titled 'Access' in red. It contains the following fields and options:

- 'Is it in a locked cabinet?' with radio buttons for 'No' and 'Yes' (selected).
- 'Please provide the pin number' with a text input field containing 'C1368Y'.
- 'Public restriction' with an information icon.
- 'Access type' with radio buttons for 'Public' (selected) and 'Restricted'.
- 'When is the defibrillator accessible?' with radio buttons for '24 hours, 7 days per week' (selected) and 'Not always accessible'.
- A note: 'A defibrillator is most effective when it is always accessible. If possible please locate it where it is always available.'
- A red button labeled 'Set accessible times'.
- 'Accessible dates' with a date range '12 Oct 2020 - 12 Oct 2025' and an 'Edit' link.
- A message: 'No Day/Time intervals were entered. This makes the defibrillator available every day for 24 hours'.
- A footnote: '* - Mandatory fields'.
- At the bottom, there are two red buttons: 'Register' and 'Cancel', and a 'Back' link.

When you have completed this please click REGISTER...and you are finished!
Thank you for being a part of a **#Community of Lifesavers**.



A Guide to Automated External Defibrillators (AED's)

An introduction to AED otherwise known as a defibrillator

An AED or Automated External Defibrillator is a life saving device designed to deliver a high-energy electric shock to the heart when someone is suffering from a cardiac arrest. This process is known as defibrillation.

An AED is simple to use and will give step by step instructions either via visual or verbal commands or quite often both.

Defibrillation is the third link in the Chain of Survival, with 999 and Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) being the first two. Early good quality CPR along with early defibrillation is the most effective treatment for Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA), this is when someone has collapsed, is unconscious and is not breathing normally.



FACT: When someone is in Cardiac Arrest, every minute that passes without good quality CPR can decrease their chance of survival by 10%

FACT: Over 80% of all Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests happen in a residential area!



FACT: An AED will analyse the heart rhythm and only provide a shock when it recognises that the heart is not beating normally and requires a shock to restart it back into a normal beating rhythm.

FACT: If a person is unconscious and not breathing normally, they are dead. You cannot make them any worse. Doing nothing means, they will definitely die. Starting CPR and using an AED (if available) will give them the best chance of survival.

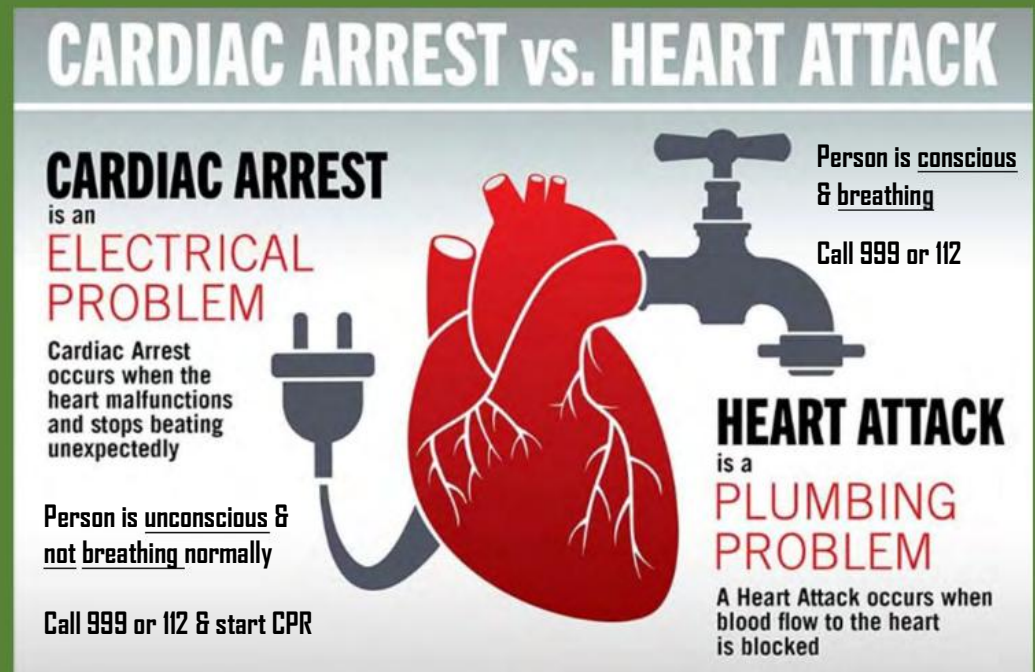
Why we need access to AED's in our Communities





In Northern Ireland, Coronary Heart Disease is the single biggest killer of 1 in 7 men and 1 in 10 women.

The two most influencing factors affecting survival are early effective CPR and early defibrillation. This defibrillation is achieved using an AED.




Many parts of Northern Ireland are very rural, therefore, getting an ambulance to someone suffering an Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest can be very challenging. However, with AED's in our communities and more people trained and willing to provide CPR, we can help save lives together.


The difference between Cardiac Arrest and Heart Attack?




Manufacturer	Model		Approx. MMRP including VAT	Warranty Years	IP Rating	CPR Coaching	Semi / Fully Automatic	Battery Standby Life Years	Approx. New Battery Cost incl VAT	Pads Shelf Life Years	Approx. New Pads Cost incl VAT	Approx. Average Annual Running Costs
Cardiac Science		Powerheart G5	£1,260	8 years	55	yes	fully	4	£342	2	£58.80	£114.90
Cardiac Science		Powerheart G5	£1,260	8 years	55	yes	semi	4	£342	2	£58.80	£114.90
CU Medical Systems		iPad SP1	£1,170	7 years	55	yes	semi	4	£240	3	£57	£85
CU Medical Systems		iPad SP2	£2,600	7 years	55	yes	semi	4	£240	3	£57	£85
Defibtech		Lifeline (7 Year)	£1,078	5 years	54	yes	semi	7	£318	2	£57	£74

Manufacturer	Model		Approx. MMRP including VAT	Warranty	IP Rating	CPR Coaching	Semi / Fully	Battery Standby Life	Approx. New Battery Cost incl VAT	Pads Shelf Life	Approx. New Pads Cost incl VAT	Approx. Average Annual
Defibtech		Lifeline View	£1,674	5 years	55	yes	semi	7	£318	2	£84	£87.50
Heartsine		Samaritan Pad 350P Graphic Interface	£870	8 years	56	no	semi	Battery & pads are a combined unit		4	£118	£29.50
Heartsine		Samaritan Pad 350P Fully Automatic	£870	8 years	56	no	fully	Battery & pads are a combined unit		4	£118	£29.50
Philips		Heartstart Frx	£1,434	5 years	55	yes	semi	4	£162	2	£64.80	£72.90

Manufacturer	Model		Approx. MMRP including VAT	Warranty	IP Rating	CPR Coaching	Semi / Fully	Battery Standby Life	Approx. New Battery Cost incl. VAT	Pads Shelf Life	Approx. New Pads Cost incl. VAT	Approx. Average Annual
Philips		Heartstart HS 1	£1,020	8 years	21	yes	semi	4	£162	2	£70.80	£75.90
Philips		Hearstart FR3	£2,370	5 years	55	optional	semi	4	£270	2	£52.80	£94
Philips		Hearstart FR3 ECG	£2,754	5 years	55	optional	semi	4	£270	2	£52.80	£94
Physio Control		Lifepak CR2 Semi Automatic Wifi	£1,470	8 years	55	no	semi	4	£208	4	£96	£76
Physio Control		Lifepak CR2 Fully Automatic Wifi	£1,590	8 years	55	no	semi	4	£208	4	£96	£76
Physio Control		Lifepak CR2 Semi Automatic 3G	£2,122	8 years	55	no	semi	4	£208	4	£96	£76

Manufacturer	Model		Approx. MMRP including VAT	Warranty	IP Rating	CPR Coaching	Semi / Fully	Battery Standby Life	Approx. New Battery Cost incl. VAT	Pads Shelf Life	Approx. New Pads Cost incl. VAT	Approx. Average Annual
Schiller		Fred PA-1 Semi	£1,170	5 years	55	metronome	semi	6	£204	2	£72	£70
Schiller		Fred PA-1 Fully	£1,170	5 years	55	metronome	fully	6	£204	2	£72	£70
Schiller		Fred Easyport Pocket defibrillator	£2,880	1 year	X4	metronome	semi	5	£108	2	£52.80	£48
Schiller		Fred Easyport w/ Manual Override	£3,180	1 year	X4	metronome	semi	5	£108	2	£52.80	£48
Zoll		AED Plus	£1,110	7 years	55	yes	semi	5	£78	5	£186	£52.80
Zoll		AED Plus Fully	£1,170	7 years	55	yes	fully	5	£78	5	£186	£52.80
Zoll		AED 3 Semi	£1,434	6 years	55	yes	semi	5	£170.40	5	£168	£68
Zoll		AED 3 Fully	£1,434	6 years	55	yes	fully	5	£170.40	5	£168	£68

Mediana, Reliance Medical		HeartOn AED15	£1,020	5 years	54	yes	semi	5	£174	2	£54	£61.80

**Prices are approximate MRRP and have VAT included, correct at the time of print – August 2021*

Some Frequently Asked Questions

♥ What is an AED?

An AED is a small portable, lightweight, electronic device designed to administer an electric shock to the heart of a person in sudden cardiac arrest.

♥ Are AED's safe to use?

Yes. AED's are very reliable and will NOT allow a shock to be delivered unless required.

♥ Will I hurt the casualty by using an AED?

No. An AED will only shock someone who has collapsed, not breathing normally and whose heart is not beating effectively. An AED is a very intelligent device which has been pre-programmed to assess the heart rhythm and provide a shock if required.

♥ Can I be sued for hurting someone who is in Cardiac Arrest while trying to save him or her?

No. There has never been a case upheld against a rescuer who has been trying to save someone's life. There are many laws surrounding this but the key point is you cannot make someone worse than dead.

♥ What does the IP rating mean?

An IP rating (Ingress Protection) will rate how robust the AED is to dust and water. The higher the rating the more robust the AED is. Every AED comes with an IP rating helping you to make a decision based on environment and needs.

♥ What is the difference between an automatic and semi-automatic AED?

An automatic AED will deliver the shock without the need to press a button. A semi-automatic AED will require the rescuer to press the button to deliver the shock.

♥ Do I have to be trained to use an AED?

No. The Resuscitation Council (UK) in 2010 stated that untrained people have used AED's to save lives because the AED gives clear verbal and visual instructions to the rescuer. However, we do recommend some awareness to increase confidence and CPR skills.

♥ Can I use an AED on a child as well as an Adult?

Yes. Children between 1 and 8 years should have child pads applied. However, some AED's have a paediatric button which adjusts the energy delivery allowing the same pads to be used. If no child pads are available the RCUK say to use what you have. Childhood cardiac arrest is very rare.

♥ Will I need a cabinet for the AED?

If the AED is available to the public, we recommend placing it in a cabinet. Remember to think about the weather conditions the cabinet will face e.g. if you are by the sea the salty air will corrode the cabinet unless it is stainless steel.

♥ Is it a legal requirement to have an AED in my workplace?

No. There is no LEGAL requirement; however, a first aid needs assessment may identify a requirement. In addition, consideration should be given to the age and health profile of your employees and whether there is a high public footfall visiting your workplace.

Registering an Emergency Ready AED with NIAS

♥ Do I need to include any other equipment when purchasing an AED?

Yes, the following equipment, known as a 'Rescue Ready' kit should be purchased with your AED to maximize the effectiveness of the AED adhesive electrode pads:



- ♥ Tuff cut scissors - to cut clothes from the chest so the casualty has a bare chest – remove unwired bra if required.



- ♥ Disposable Gloves (latex free)



- ♥ Paper Towel - to dry the chest if it is wet from sweat or water so that the pads stick



- ♥ Face mask - to enable a bystander to give good quality breaths



- ♥ Razor - if a casualty has excessive hair then the area where the adhesive electrode pads are to be placed should be shaved, to maximize the pads sticking to the chest.

NB: If any of these are used then they should be disposed of and a new one provided, as they are 'one person use only'.

♥ Why is it important to register the AED with NIAS?

When a 999 call is made and NIAS are alerted to a Sudden Cardiac Arrest, the Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) (when given the address of the incident) will be able to see if there is an AED within 500 metres of the incident (in urban areas or 1 mile in rural areas) Once the EMD is assured that CPR is ongoing, another bystander (if present) will be directed to the AED location and given a code (if required) to open a cabinet if that is where the AED is stored.

The steps to alert a bystander to the closest AED is only possible if the device is registered with NIAS on "The Circuit".

NB: Registration on "The Circuit" is almost immediate and you will receive a confirmation email as soon as the device information is uploaded, usually within a few minutes.



To register an AED please go to www.thecircuit.uk and follow the simple instructions on screen.



Northern Ireland Ambulance Service
Health and Social Care Trust



2021

Guide to Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Cabinets





As the Guardian of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), you may wish to consider having your AED available to the public 24 hrs a day. In order to do this you will require an AED cabinet to keep your AED safe and protected from the environment around it.

This leaflet has been designed to:

- help you with key information to enable you to make an informed choice about purchasing an AED cabinet.
- set out your responsibility as an AED Guardian in the preservation and maintenance of your AED cabinet.

The main purpose of purchasing an AED cabinet is to protect your AED from the environmental elements. In cool or cold conditions, the AED battery can drain, therefore it is important to keep the AED in a cabinet where the internal temperature is controlled to prevent this from happening.

Outside or Inside Cabinet?

If your AED is going to be placed outside then it is important that a suitable cabinet is chosen to ensure the AED is protected from environmental conditions, tampering or theft and that it is connected to an electricity source.

When choosing an outdoor AED cabinet, you should check that it is temperature controlled to keep the AED at the correct operating temperature, preserving battery life and condition of your AED.

Outdoor cabinets must have a heater and some may also have a fan linked to a temperature sensor so if the weather is too cold the heater turns on automatically and in hot weather, a fan system helps to extract excess heat. With this in mind, the cabinet needs to have an electricity supply.

Please bear in mind this will maintain the life span of your AED's battery pack ensuring it is emergency ready and saving you money on replacement batteries.

Indoor cabinets must **NEVER** be used outdoors as they are not suitable and you may invalidate the warranty of your AED.

Cabinets Unlocked or Locked?

The Resuscitation Council UK recommend that all cabinets should be unlocked and easily accessible.

Some locked cabinets need a numerical code to unlock the door such as the ones below. However, if yours requires a key to open it please consider purchasing a new cabinet as this is **NOT** easily accessed in an emergency.



Remember a new AED cabinet may have a factory set access code. If you wish to have a specific code then speak to the AED cabinet distributor who may be able to request this for you, depending on the brand.

Things to consider regarding location

- Can the cabinet be connected to an accessible electricity source nearby?
- Is the lighting adequate around where you wish to site the cabinet?
- Is there a CCTV present to deter/prevent theft or vandalism?
- Can or is your AED fitted with a tracking device such as GPS? Most are not but it may be something you wish to consider.

How do I get the code to open the cabinet in an emergency?

If an AED is Emergency Ready then the Ambulance Service will give you the code when you ring 999 or 112 to confirm a cardiac arrest has occurred.

Alarm system – choosing a cabinet that has an alarm can be useful as this helps deter tampering and theft. The alarm also helps alert others to the emergency that is taking place.

Lighting – most outdoor AED cabinets are supplied complete with lighting so the AED can be visible in dark conditions. Some AED cabinets only have lighting to the inside of the cabinet once opened so we recommend that any outdoor defibrillator cabinet is situated in a position that has external lighting to ensure the cabinet is always visible in an emergency.

IP rating – the IP rating stands for ingress protection rating and shows how dust and waterproof the cabinet is. Some cabinets may have a ‘breather drain’ which reduces condensation build up inside the cabinet which in turn reduces the chances of internal corrosion inside the cabinet.

The higher the IP rating the more weatherproof the cabinet is. Please note that the cabinet rating will change if holes are drilled for wall mounting or for wires to be passed through so please check with the manufacturer if it is pre drilled and if not will this affect the rating and or warranty?

It is very important that the electrician fitting the cabinet ensure screws are correctly fitted and sealed to prevent water ingress. If the screws are not sealed properly water can get into the cabinet causing condensation and possible damage to the AED over time.

- The benefits of a high IP rating are less chance of water or dust ingress.
- The down side to a high IP rating is that the cabinet can suffer from condensation issues if they do not have a ventilation system.

Colour of cabinet – typically AED cabinets are a high visibility yellow, but there are also **green, red, or white with a red cross**. The important factor is that it is easily visible in an emergency.

Construction and materials used

Stainless steel is typically the most expensive product for constructing an outdoor AED cabinet with, but will be strong, durable and probably outlast most of its internal components. Marine grade stainless steel is preferable for any site near the sea where salt water or salty air is present.

Mild steel is generally cheaper but will be strong & durable providing it is a thick gauge steel. The downside to mild steel is that it will rust and this

can happen more quickly if the powder coating/paint finish becomes scratched or damaged.

Mild steel is not recommended near coastal areas as corrosion will become a problem.

Aluminium is typically lighter and will be strong and durable providing it is a thick gauge. The downside is that aluminium can suffer corrosion.

Plastic cabinets are usually lighter than metal and providing they are made of durable plastics such as polycarbonate and ABS will be strong, durable and don't suffer from corrosion like some metal cabinets can, however they may be flammable and in direct UV light may become brittle.

Warranty – check the warranty period and if this includes moving parts such as locking mechanisms and heaters etc. Does the manufacturer offer full support in the event of a warranty claim? In most cases the AED cabinet shell will have a long warranty but heaters and locks usually have a shorter warranty.

Spare parts – are replacement parts readily available for an AED cabinet? Parts such as LED lighting, heaters and fanning systems in most cases will not last as long as the cabinet so ensure that replacements parts are available otherwise you may need a new cabinet in the event of a component failure.

Checks and serviceability – your AED cabinet will need to be checked regularly to ensure it is in good general condition and to ensure that moving parts are working such as the door hinges and locking mechanism where applicable. Ask the manufacturer if spare parts are readily available in the event of failure of a component. If for example the lock mechanism stops working or the front of the cabinet was vandalised can spare parts be fitted rather than needing to replace the whole unit? Thoroughly read the cabinet instructions as not adhering to them could invalidate the warranty.

Status indicator visible – can your AED status symbol be easily viewed through the front of the cabinet? This can be useful as at a glance you will be able to ensure that the AED is present and see the status of the AED. All modern AED's carry out their own periodic self-tests and have a status indicator that is typically GREEN if the AED is

emergency ready and RED if the AED needs attention or there is a fault. Please note that you should still check that the cabinet opens correctly on a frequent basis.

In some locations an AED cabinet will be chosen with a solid front door with no viewing window. If this is the case the AED cabinet will need to be opened on a regular basis to inspect that the AED is present and in working order.



Signage – It is important that your AED location is clearly signed.

- Firstly, your AED cabinet should have written instructions or an infographic for bystanders to follow in an emergency, the letters AED or defibrillator and the universal heart symbol as below.
- Secondly if space is available a sign should be placed above the AED cabinet in an elevated position (this helps if a vehicle parks in front of the AED location obscuring the view).
- Thirdly signage can be added to local businesses etc describing the nearest AED location to raise awareness of its existence.



Size – check if all items fit in the cabinet such as the AED with carry case and rescue ready* kit?

There are some AEDs which are larger and may not fit correctly in some AED cabinets so check before you buy.

Registering your AED on The Circuit

It is essential that the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service is given full details of the location of your AED and any code or specific details which would be required to access the device in an emergency.

You can register your AED on [The Circuit](#) where all the details are uploaded immediately to the NIAS Ambulance control system.

When we receive a 999/112 call, we have the AED details on our system should we need to direct a bystander to it in an emergency.



In summary the main things to consider when choosing your AED cabinet are;

- Is the cabinet needed for inside or outside use? If it is outside then:
- What is the IP rating so it can be determined how much protection the AED cabinet will have against the weather?
- Does it need to be locked or unlocked?
- Is there ventilation for the AED so condensation build-up is prevented?
- Is it accessible when needed?
- Is it labelled and easily identifiable?
- Is the AED registered on The Circuit and available to NIAS in the event of an emergency.



In the event of an Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest, the priority is to start CPR, get an AED and apply the pads to the persons' chest with minimum delay. Unlocked cabinets allow immediate access to an AED in a situation where seconds count.

Where conditions allow, AEDs should be placed in openly accessible (unlocked) cabinets that allow immediate access in an emergency.

A decision to place a public-access defibrillator in a locked cabinet should be made only on the basis of careful risk assessment in that specific location.



The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service would like to thank you for helping us create a Community of Lifesavers.

For more information, contact us on:

www.nias.hscni.net

or

email resus.admin@nias.hscni.net

**Community of
Lifesavers** 
STRENGTHENING THE CHAIN OF SURVIVAL

[illegible]

Appendix 6

Dear Defibrillator Guardian

Your Defibrillator - Immediate action is required to ensure that your registered defibrillator remains available in an emergency

In February 2020, the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service transferred all **1,790** AED locations registered with us across to The Circuit. Due to GDPR regulations we could not transfer your personal data so we need your help in making sure the defibrillator registered on our system has a Guardian/Owner.

The Circuit is the National Defibrillator Network, set up in conjunction with all the UK Ambulance Services and funded by the British Heart Foundation. This database provides Ambulance Control's Emergency Medical Dispatchers with vital information regarding the location of the nearest Public Access Defibrillator (PAD), also known as an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

These AED's are an essential link in the Chain of Survival, helping to increase the number of survivors from Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest. (OHCA) The Circuit works seamlessly within Ambulance Control, providing a real-time view of available AED's across Northern Ireland.

We need you to take action - if you think you registered your community defibrillator with the NIAS **prior to February 2020**, then you **urgently** need to create an account on www.thecircuit.uk and claim your previously registered defibrillator. Knowing that your AED is available and emergency ready will enable us to continue to build a Community of Lifesavers across Northern Ireland.

If you have already registered/reclaimed your community defibrillator, thanks so much for doing so, it is greatly appreciated.

The information attached will instruct you how to set up an account on the circuit and register/reclaim your defibrillator.

If you require help with this process please call the support Helpline run by British Heart Foundation on **0300 330 5482** and explain that you are trying to register and claim your defib on the Circuit.

Regards

Community Resuscitation Team