

# UNISON Great Western Ambulance Branch



5th March 2013

## **Media statement – Privatised 111 service**

Jo Fowles, paramedic and secretary of UNISON Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust said:

*“Although we were assured that 100 spurious 999 calls a day were teething problems, Harmoni’s privatised 111 service is continuing to put the NHS ambulance service under considerable strain. Clearly this isn’t a temporary issue, it is a fundamental systemic problem.*

*We understand that the Department of Health has postponed any further roll out of 111 by Harmoni across the country. This is due to the complete fiasco Harmoni have caused in SWAST.”*

## **Notes for editors**

UNISON Great Western Ambulance Branch represents around 1000 ambulance staff in the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire area of South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

UNISON Great Western Ambulance Branch is not available for further comment on this issue. Please contact the Regional Secretary's Office on 01823 285318.