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27<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 200706.

You requested the following information, please also see our response below:

**I am writing to request information regarding how the trust adopts changes to help employees with back problems and would like the following information, if possible, please.**

**I have noticed that some colleagues have different chairs in the office and am led to believe that this is because of back problems. Would you be able to disclose the cost of these chairs, if they are individual issue or pool issue and the amount issued across the trust please?**

The cost range for Chairs is £150 - £300 depending on the requirements of the chair based on the DSE assessment, sometimes the solution is a raised adjustable desk to allow certain staff to stand up rather than sit down at their computer during their shift. Records of who has been issued a particular chair are held by the employee and the relevant department manager. The requirement for a specific chair often requires an employee to provide confidential medical information which assists in selecting the most appropriate solution. This is captured within the DSE assessment process.

**Do any front-line staff have any backpacks (ignoring the CCP and other specialist bags like HART) that would be used as replacement to the 'Primary Bag'? If so how many and is there a specific policy surrounding the use of these bags (such as the equipping of Vehicle Preparation Operatives)? If issued, what are the costs of these bags and which ones are issued? Are these bags personal issue or pool issue?**

**Does the trust have any unissued backpacks that meet the criteria for use in front line work (for example the need to be fluid repellent)?**

This is not something that is done as standard, but there is <10 being used for staff post referral from occupational health. These are pool use and held within the Trust.

We are restarting the consultation on the new Cat 1 bag, however this is in the early stages. We do have the two trial bags that we had already looked at, but these are not for Operational use at the moment. They do meet all the requirements for IPC etc.

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance via the following email address:

[FOI@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@secamb.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator  
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust