



Trust Headquarters
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12th October 2020

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 20/10/02.

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

Please can I make the following requests for information regarding provision of canvas stretchers and tourniquets by your ambulance service, particularly in the event of a major incident involving mass casualties.

Are your ambulance crews trained in the correct use of tourniquets and do you keep supplies of advanced tourniquets?

Our staff are trained in the correct use of tourniquets. The devices we use are covered in the next question.

What is the type of tourniquet used? Is it similar to the CAT, which has been in use by the British armed forces since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

We use the Combat Application Tourniquet (CAT) and the Special Operations Forces Tactical Tourniquet (SOFT-T).

Are tourniquets routinely kept in ambulances or response vehicles or are they stored elsewhere?

Tourniquets are included in the standard load list of all of our responding vehicles.

What is the plan for making them available in the unfortunate event of a mass-casualty incident such as a terrorist attack – and what is the timescale for bringing them to the scene?

The Trust maintains a fleet of vehicles specifically designed and located to provide key and iconic sites within the Trust location with access to additional items in the unfortunate event of a mass-casualty incident of any kind. These vehicles do contain additional clinical devices to support patient care and these vehicles are regularly serviced and audited to ensure they are available for use.

Does your ambulance service keep a supply of canvas stretchers for deployment in a mass-casualty incident? What is the plan for deployment?

The Trusts vehicles as outlined in the answer before and additional specialist vehicles in each operating unit area do contain a number of canvas, vinyl and drag stretchers available for use. These vehicles are deployed to any incident that may require additional equipment over and above usual supplies. The vehicles are ready for deployment by the Emergency Operations Centre either as a pre-determined response or on request.

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

Yours sincerely

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

