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11th December 2020

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 201119.

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

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from South East Coast Ambulance Service.

Given front line NHS staff have been under immense pressure due to the global pandemic I would like to know how the support staff have been functioning during this time. As a tax paying member of the public I am aware that the vast majority of your support staff refuse to attend their place of work and insist on working from home. Given that the support staff are in place to be that of a “support” element to front line staff, please explain how they are doing so from home?

No support staff have refused to attend their workplace. All were instructed to work from home to reduce unnecessary movement around the Trust sites and therefore reduce the risk of cross infections and because the office areas have been reassigned to increase our control room capacity allowing for increased staff and improved social distancing required to satisfy Covid secure workplace requirements.

With great appreciation for our NHS, I think the government implementing queue jumps and shopping discounts was a wonderful acknowledgement of the work being done, however, given that South East Coast Ambulance staff have such vast agile working it feels unjust that alleged key workers have miss-used the generosity of others.

We have no influence over the generous offers or their inclusion criteria that have been provided by businesses. We are not aware of any of our staff, all of whom we value greatly for their contribution to an incredible team effort, misusing the generosity of others.

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

