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# Operational Bulletin



## Assistance to Force Entry

**Written By:** Blue Light Collaboration Manager  
**Authorised By:** Regional Operations Manager (Central and Specialist)  
**Contact:**  
**Review Date:** 13/02/2020  
**Applies To:** Frontline A&E | EOC staff | Private providers

### Headline action

**With effect from 13 February 2019.** In the event that assistance is required to force entry the Fire and Rescue Service should be requested for assistance (via EOC) not the Police.

In order to reduce unnecessary demand on other emergency services, reasonable efforts to gain entry must be attempted by staff prior to requesting assistance (see below). **Key points**

- + A SECamb response must be at scene (unless identified that the call is time critical)
- + Staff can still attempt a forced entry if they feel able to do so without endangering themselves or others
- + Reasonable attempts to gain access should have taken place such as checking the door is locked, presence of a key safe or checking with neighbours for a spare key or key safe code

### Evidence

The Fire and Rescue Services have a wider range of equipment to force entry, greater availability and are likely to cause less damage when gaining entry than Police, therefore contributing to a better experience for patients and staff.

Fire and Rescue Services in Surrey, Kent and Hampshire have already taken on this role but from the 23/01/2019 East and West Sussex Fire and Rescue Services will also take over this role from the Police.

This activity positively contributes towards compliance with the Legal Duty to Collaborate as required in the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

### Quality Impact Assessment

A QIA has been completed for this activity and no negative issues have been identified.

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