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30th December 2021

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 211113.

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

I wish to obtain information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Specifically:

- 1) How many NQPs are currently employed by SECamb?**
445
- 2) When did SECamb begin the NQP process?**
First introduced 1st September 2016, in line with all UK ambulance Trusts.
- 3) How much money has SECamb saved (difference in Band 5 vs Band 6 pay x amount of NQPs minus cost of setting up and maintaining NQP team) since the implementation of the programme? Please can this be provided as a numerical table**

The total amount since the implementation of the programme up to November 2021 is £11,478,414, when comparing the Band 5 NQP to an equivalent Band 6 Paramedic minus the cost of maintaining the NQP team.

Values are rounded to the nearest £

Financial Year	Total
2017/18	£674,277
2018/19	£1,493,788
2019/20	£2,689,145
2020/21	£4,221,855
2021/22*	£2,399,349
Total	£11,478,414
* 8 Months to November 2021	

4) How many portfolio submissions are required of NQPs? How does this compare to other ambulance trusts?

Number of portfolio submissions varies depending on the individual, however NQPs are required to evidence 94 Consolidation of Learning Outcomes – this is the same as all other UK ambulance Trusts as it is a national programme.

5) How many hours does SECamb estimate the current portfolio takes to complete (on average)?

Data not available – this varies significantly between individuals and is not recorded by the Trust.

6) Does the completion of these clinical portfolio hours count towards the NQPs clinical hours?

Assuming that 'clinical hours' refers to hours spent in clinical practice, time spent undertaking training and development activity would not generally count towards this.

7) How many paid hours are provided to NQPs in order to complete the portfolio?

NQPs are eligible to 7 x 7.5 hour paid development days per year, so 105 hours across the standard two-year programme.

8) Does annual leave count towards NQP clinical hours?

Assuming that 'clinical hours' refers to hours spent in clinical practice, annual leave would not count towards this.

9) Do light duties count towards the NQP hours? If non-clinical light duties are not included, please could you advise how SECamb have justified breaching the Equality Act 2010 for those on light duties as a result of a protected characteristic disability / pregnancy/maternity etc?

This information is contained within clinical instruction C420. The Trust has balanced the need to maintain patient safety with the needs of colleagues with protected characteristics, which is lawful under the Equality Act 2010.

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**