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24th October 2022

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 221007.

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

- Do you record the incidents of siren use ? If yes, I would like to receive the data for Brighton and Hove for the last 5 calendar years. If you can break out the data for Wish Park that would be great. If there is only data for Sussex I would like to see that.

No, we have onboard computers which record activation but do not record this unless a complaint or accident occurs.

- Can you split the data according to 'type of incident' or 'reason for use of sirens'?

N/A

- If the answer is No: how do you know that ambulance drivers are using sirens in the supposed manner i.e.' only when necessary or desirable ' – as the regulations say ?

Staff are aware of the consequences of using lights and sirens inappropriately, they are all trained to L3CRED and undertake section 19 driver training as applicable.

- Does the issue get discussed in team meetings?

We get very few complaints relating to sirens and blue lights use – and if we do due to residential areas where ambulance response posts are we send out reminders of any planning restrictions.

- Has the call out rate for ambulances changed in the last 5 years. Can I see the data please for Brighton and Hove?

We have taken 'call out rate' to mean 'count of incidents'. Below is the data for incidents occurring within the old Brighton and Hove CCG area since 2018 (up to 30th September 2022)

Year	CCGName	Count of Incidents
2018	NHS Brighton and Hove CCG	43437
2019	NHS Brighton and Hove CCG	45973
2020	NHS Brighton and Hove CCG	44641
2021	NHS Brighton and Hove CCG	44093
2022	NHS Brighton and Hove CCG	32476

- **When have you last issued guidance about the use of sirens? And what was the guidance?**

L3CRED – and use as trained.

- **What evidence do you have for misuse of sirens by local ambulance drivers ?**

We occasionally receive concerns about the 'excessive' use of sirens. These concerns are never about a particular vehicle or incident but more of a general comment/concern and tend to come from people who live in busy roads. In these circumstances, we explain to them why our crews are required to use sirens and the consequences if they were not to use them.

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**