



Trust Headquarters
Nexus House
Gatwick Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 9BG

28th April 2022

Email:

Dear,

Tel: 0300 123 0999
www.secamb.nhs.uk

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 220414.

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

It has been reported that SECamb has been in REAP 4, the highest of the Resource Escalation Plan Levels (meaning the system is under extreme pressure) throughout winter 2020/21 and is now in REAP 4 again as of 10th March.

1. What is the escalation plan under REAP 4 (link of your website goes to a 404 message)?

This is not a disclosable document. It is classed as 'official' and is only available to other government agencies.

2. What is causing the extreme pressure and extreme delays?

There are numerous factors effecting SECamb's ability to respond to their patients. These include high sickness levels, requirement for staff to take appropriate annual leave, training requirements and other pressures within the wider NHS affecting service delivery.

3. To what extent could the problem be addressed with extra funding and/or extra staff?

We are proactively recruiting currently. However due to the training required to meet the skill levels of our staff, it is a long-term process. We have a robust process to identify the staffing levels required and are working to achieve the optimum staffing levels, which is an increase over our current establishment.

4. Are hospital-side delays affecting the situation?

The NHS across all disciplines is facing significant pressures in their delivery of services. We are working in partnership with all providers to make sure we deliver the best service possible, recognising we are just beginning to move out of a pandemic.

5. Is a shortage of vehicles affecting the situation?

We have sufficient vehicles in our Fleet to match our staffing levels.

6. Has urgent assistance been requested from NHS England or the Health Secretary Sajid Javid

We raise any concerns that will affect service delivery and patient care to our commissioners and partners within the NHS. Any concerns that we have are escalated through the appropriate structures within the NHS ensuring understanding of any issues that will affect patient care.

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**

