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30<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 221215.

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

**1. The total amount spent on private ambulances and transport by this Trust in the financial years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.**

**Please provide yearly subtotals and a breakdown of cost by if services were used for 999-calls or non-urgent transfers.**

Our private ambulance providers have only provided services for 999-calls for the 3 years. The amount spent by year is:

2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
11,183,997	8,707,213	7,183,087

**2. Please state the number of times private ambulances or transport were used by the Trust in these years with yearly subtotals for 999 calls and non-urgent transfers.**

FYear	PAPResponses
2019/20	30874
2020/21	42483
2021/22	39840

Number of times a private ambulance has arrived on scene. NB: some incidents will have been attended by more than private ambulance.

Financial year 01/Apr-31/Mar

**3. Please state the three most expensive trips/visits carried out by private ambulances/transport in the financial year 2021/22 and if possible the nature of each trip. For example (999 response for an elderly patient who fell at home).**

We pay our private ambulance providers by an hourly rate to provide ambulance shifts and therefore we do not get charged per trip/visit, the three most expensive incidents were:

- £840.04
- £782.36
- £757.61

Costs above were generated from our submission as part of the annual Patient Level Information and Costing System (PLICS) Data collection for 2021/22 using the approved costing methods and allocations, the links below provide further information:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-tools-and-services/data-services/patient-level-information-and-costing-system-plics-data-collections>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/costing-in-the-nhs/approved-costing-guidance/>

Please note we are unable to share incident details as its patient identifiable data.

**4. Please provide a breakdown of spending by each private provider the Trust has used for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.**

Spending by private ambulance 999-calls by year to the nearest £

Provider	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
British Red Cross Society	1,637,140	372,731	0
CRG Clinical Services Ltd	223,087	812,787	18,135
Definitive PSA Ltd	70,167	198,182	0
Elite Emergency Medical Services Ltd	1,682,419	3,278,440	3,429,535
Elite Specialist Services Ltd	0	0	11,356
Falck UK Ambulance Service Ltd	2,215,777	638,427	0
Location Medical Services Ltd	119,573	172,046	0
Medi 4 Ambulance Services Ltd	325,095	489,815	384,739
Platinum Ambulance Service Ltd	2,604,498	3,211,985	3,399,764
Sites Ambulance Service Ltd	206,307	0	0
SSG UK Specialist Ambulance Services Ltd	1,127,781	0	0
St John Ambulance	632,980	347,703	67,759
Accounting Variation*	339,173	(814,903)	(128,201)
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,183,997</b>	<b>8,707,213</b>	<b>7,183,087</b>

\* Accounting Variation is a result of the difference between the estimated (accrued) cost of private ambulance provision at the year-end / previous year-end and that invoiced. The process of estimation is based on the hours recorded in our scheduling system.

Total values are as reported in our annual accounts for the years stated.  
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](mailto:FOI@secamb.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Coordinator  
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust**