



Trust Headquarters  
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West Sussex  
RH10 9BG

Date

Email:

**Tel: 0300 123 0999**  
**[www.secamb.nhs.uk](http://www.secamb.nhs.uk)**

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 230139.

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

**I would like to submit a Freedom of Information request relating to SECAMB' guidance around Use of Speed / Speed Cap / Speed Exemption for your emergency response drivers.**

**The questions I would like to ask are:**

- 1. Regardless of legislation imposed by S87 RTRA 1984, Does SECAMB have a Speed Cap e.g. a speed to which drivers responding on blue lights are advised to stick within? For example, 20mph above national speed limit / 50% above national speed limit?**

50% against posted speed limit for the category of vehicle they are driving.

- 2. Is this a 'hard cap' or a 'guideline'? By this I mean, would drivers who choose to drive beyond this 'Speed Cap' face a discipline procedure or not?**

If in exceptional circumstances the driver of a Trust vehicle decides to exceed the Advised Maximum Speed Limits they may be asked to justify their actions to either the Trust or a Court of Law when required. The cap or limit is not intended to replace the skills & attitude given through the standards of driver training in selecting the appropriate speed in the given circumstances. However, it is considered helpful and can be used as a general reference point – taken from Emergency Driving and the Law Procedure.

- 3. Did SECAMB have a different speed before this one?**  
20mph over posted speed was the previous secamb limit.

- 4. When was it changed and why?**  
This is not recorded.

- 5. Has SECAMB noticed an effect on their response times because of this speed change? Positive or Negative.**

This is not recorded.

- 6. What driver training does SECAMB give to their drivers to get them used to driving at this speed limit? This is specific to driving at this speed not just nationally-recognised FutureQuals Qualifications - this may be training covered within a training course, but does SECAMB only train up to this speed cap / beyond it, or other?**

SECAMB teach the Future Quals L3CERAD course for higher speed training. The Speed limits in training are taught to adhere Secamb policy for exemptions claimed for speed. Anything over the Secamb policy, must be justified should an incident occur.

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**

