



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

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

Date:

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 230627.

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

**Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information from the South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust:**

- **How many call outs did you respond to in each of the last three reported years?**

Please see attached spreadsheet.

- **What was the total expenditure for your ambulance service in each of the last three reported years?**

The total expenditure for South East Coast Ambulance Service in each of the last three reported years was:

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£293,783,772</b>	<b>£301,790,676</b>	<b>£322,598,584</b>

- **How many call outs did you respond to involving a suspected drug poisoning in each of the last three reported years?**

Please see attached spreadsheet.

**How many call outs did you respond to involving an eventually fatal drug poisoning in each of the last three reported years?**

Please see attached spreadsheet. Less than 10, we are unable to provide exact figures as this may be identifiable to individuals.

- **How many call outs did you respond to involving a suspected drug poisoning involving illicit drugs in each of the last three reported years?**

We do not record illegal and legal drug cases separately, therefore the figures provided are inclusive of all cases where drugs were involved.

- **How many call outs did you respond to involving an eventually fatal drug poisoning involving illicit drugs each of the last three reported years?**

We do not record illegal and legal drug cases separately, therefore the figures provided are inclusive of all cases where drugs were involved.

- **What was the total cost of call outs involving drug poisonings in each of the last three reported years?**

The Trust has been reporting cost per incident via the National Cost Collection (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/costing-in-the-nhs/approved-costing-guidance/>), the average cost per incident the Trust attended was:

The 2022/23 year has yet to be calculated and therefore the 3 previous years is shown.

The total cost can be calculated by taking the total incidents multiplied by the average cost:

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Average cost of response:	£302.75	£363.13	£369.30

- **What was the total cost of call outs involving drug poisonings involving illicit drugs in each of the last three reported years?**

See previous question, take total incidents multiplied by average cost.

**What are the most common forms of medical treatment provided by members of the ambulance service to those experiencing or who have experienced/are experiencing a drug poisoning, and in what proportion of cases are they provided (in each of the last three reported years)? Alternatively provide the number of cases in which each form of treatment has been provided.**

In terms of ICD10 terms of reference, I'm generally looking at all of T40 and T42.4, and combinations thereof – unless F10-19 are used in cases of overdose, in which case F10-18 would cover acute drug intoxication, and F19 acute combined drug intoxication. In terms of treatment I'd be looking predominantly at pharmacological treatments if that's ok.

We don't map to ICD10 codes in that level of detail.

Narcan and ED are the most common treatments for overdose and poisoning. Critical Care Paramedics carry Flumazenil for benzodiazepine overdose.

**What is the average cost of the most common treatment types used by the ambulance service in response to drug poisonings in each of the last three years?**

Drug tariff costs are in the public domain and can be found here: [Drug Tariff | NHSBSA](#)

- **How many times was naloxone administered in response to a suspected drug poisoning in each of the last three reported years?**

Please see attached spreadsheet.

- **How many times was a defibrillator used in response to a suspected drug poisoning in each of the last three reported years?**

Please see attached spreadsheet. Less than 10, we are unable to provide exact figures as this may be identifiable to individuals.

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**

