



Observer Procedure

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1 Scope

- 1.1. South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust) is committed to providing high quality patient care and safety at all times.
- 1.2. This procedure seeks to ensure there is a safe, consistent and auditable approach across the Trust for our staff (non-operational) and members of the public when observing on Trust vehicles.
- 1.3. This procedure will not apply to supernumerary direct entry Student Paramedics as they are directly supervised by the crew.
- 1.4. This procedure will not apply to clinical field operational staff already employed by the Trust.
- 1.5. This procedure is applicable to all clinicians in the Trust and sets out the scope of practice to which clinicians must adhere whenever they are supervising Observers during operational shifts.
- 1.6. The minimum age for observing on any Accident and Emergency vehicle is 18 years old.
- 1.7. The only vehicle observation shifts are permitted on are Double Crewed Ambulance's (DCA's) to ensure the appropriate supervision of the Observer and for patient safety.
- 1.8. Observation shifts with the Hazardous Area Response Teams (HART) vehicles will only be approved if there is a specific requirement from the Police or Fire Service or other relevant agency/organisation, which will require senior management approval.
- 1.9. Due to the nature of observing on a front line vehicle, the Trust will not be able to accommodate Observers with certain disabilities: this could include those people that require a wheelchair, walking frames or who have a visual impairment. Requests to attend an observation shift should be considered in such a way to minimise the impact of any disability, and reasonable adjustments can be considered to facilitate the observation shift.
- 1.10. Observers will not require a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate specific to SECAmb, and all persons observing will be the responsibility of the staff they are observing alongside. Observers must not be left alone with a patient nor be given any clinical responsibility (unless previously agreed, i.e. where a doctor is the observer).
- 1.11. This procedure has been developed to ensure that patients, staff and anyone undertaking an observer shift with SECAmb are adequately protected to ensure we meet compliance with the recommendations of the Lampard Report February 2015.



2 Procedure

- 2.1. The process to be followed by anyone wishing to observe a shift on board one of the Trust's ambulances is available online through the Trust's Sharepoint portal. Once submitted the process for each Operating Unit (OU) is administered by the Operating Unit Administrator for that Operating Unit, in conjunction with support from the management team at the OU.
- 2.2. OU Administrators assess each online application received, confirm that all of the steps within the process are complete, and approve or decline the application. Reviewing and approving may include checking the applicant's eligibility against the Eligibility Matrix in **Appendix A**.
- 2.3. The online process comprises completing an indemnity form, viewing a short film, and completing and successfully passing a quiz. External applicants must also submit identity documents. **Appendix B** sets out the process for applicants
- 2.4. Appendix C sets out the process for OU Administrators to follow when applications to observe are received

3 Definitions

3.1. Datix is the Trust's incident reporting management system.

4 Responsibilities

- 4.1. The **Chief Executive Officer** has overall accountability in relation to health and safety standards within the Trust, and is responsible for the health, safety and welfare of all Trust employees and that of any third party who may be affected by the Trust's undertakings
- 4.2. The Associate Director of Operations (West) has overall responsibility for this procedure.
- 4.3. The **Operations Managers (OMs)** will be responsible for the day to day implementation and monitoring of this procedure.
- 4.4. **Operating Unit Administrators (OUAs)** are responsible for confirming arrangements with relevant Trust staff and the observer, including requirements relating to appropriate clothing, indemnity forms etc.
- 4.5. **Operational Team Leaders (OTL)** are responsible for ensuring that this procedure is implemented operationally and observers are allocated a duty crew member at the commencement of shift.
- 4.6. Other members **of staff/ observers** will undertake the responsibilities allocated to them under this procedure.



4.7. **The Crew will** be responsible for the observer at all times and will ensure they are not left alone with patients.

5 Education and Training

5.1. The Learning & Organisational Development department will assume responsibility for the implementation and management of the online observer training course as specified by the Trust.

6 Audit and Review (evaluating effectiveness)

- 6.1. This procedure will be audited via the SECAmb Datix Incident Form (DIF 1) and any adverse events, by the OMs with feedback to the Associate Director of Operations
- 6.2. This document will be reviewed in its entirety every three years or sooner if new legislation, codes of practice or national standards are introduced, or if feedback from employees indicates that the policy is not working effectively.
- 6.3. All changes made to this policy and procedure will go through the governance route for development and approval as set out in the Policy on Policies and Procedures

7 References

- 7.1. Data Protection Act 2018
- 7.2. All relevant National Patient Safety Alerts, NPSA
- 7.3. NHS Indemnity guidance
- 7.4. Clinical negligence reporting guidelines
- 7.5. NHSLA Risk Management Standards Scheme coverage rules.
- 7.6. NHSLA Equality Scheme
- 7.7. Themes and lessons learnt from NHS investigations into matters relating to Jimmy Saville, Independent report for the Secretary of State for Health, February 2015, Authors: Kate Lampard and Ed Marsden

8 Equality Analysis

8.1. The Trust believes in fairness and equality, and values diversity in its role as both a provider of services and as an employer. The Trust aims to provide accessible services that respect the needs of each individual and exclude no-one. It is committed to comply with the Human Rights Act and to meeting



South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS

NHS Foundation Trust

the Equality Act 2010, which identifies the following nine protected characteristics: Age, Disability, Race, Religion and Belief, Gender Reassignment, Sexual Orientation, Sex, Marriage and Civil Partnership and Pregnancy and Maternity.

- 8.2. The Trust also has a duty to protect the health and safety of anyone on its premises or vehicles, and so as set out in clause 1.9 above, due to the nature of observing on a front line vehicle, the Trust will not be able to allow observers with certain disabilities, this could include those people that require a wheelchair, walking frames or who have a visual impairment. Requests to attend an observation shift should be considered in such a way to minimise the impact of any disability and reasonable adjustments can be considered to facilitate the observation shift.
- 8.3. Compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty: If a contractor carries out functions of a public nature then for the duration of the contract, the contractor or supplier would itself be considered a public authority and have the duty to comply with the equalities duties when carrying out those functions.



Turns	Australiain a Dans	Authorisation/ GRS	Operational
Туре	Authorising Dept	Input	Abstraction
Foundation Degree	Clinical Education	Clinical Scheduling	Υ
Direct Entry Para	Clinical Education	Clinical Scheduling	N
Qualified Entry	Employee Services Dept	Clinical Scheduling	Y
EOC Staff	Learning & Organisational Development	Clinical Scheduling	Y
Community First Responders	Learning & Organisational Development	OU Administrator	N
Non-Operational Staff	Learning & Organisational Development.	OU Administrator	N
Return to Work (Sickness)	OM or Equivalent	Clinical Scheduling	Y
Return to Work (Maternity)	OM or Equivalent	Clinical Scheduling	Y
Return to Work (Disciplinary/ Restriction)	OM or Equivalent	Clinical Scheduling	Y
Medical Professionals	Learning & Organisational Development	OU Administrator	N
Medical Students Potential Employees	Learning & Organisational Development	OU Administrator	N
Individuals who have been accept on to a training course within SECAmb or have a start date to join and will be working operationally	Learning & Organisational Development	OU Administrator	N
Other Emergency Services	Learning & Organisational Development	OU Administrator	N
MOD	Learning & Organisational Development	OU Administrator	N
MP, NED, DoH Staff Consultant etc	Learning & Organisational Development	OU Administrator	N





	Communication		
Media	Department	OU Administrator	N

Appendix A: Eligibility Matrix

Observer Procedure





Appendix B: Applicant Process

Observers Procedure - Applicants

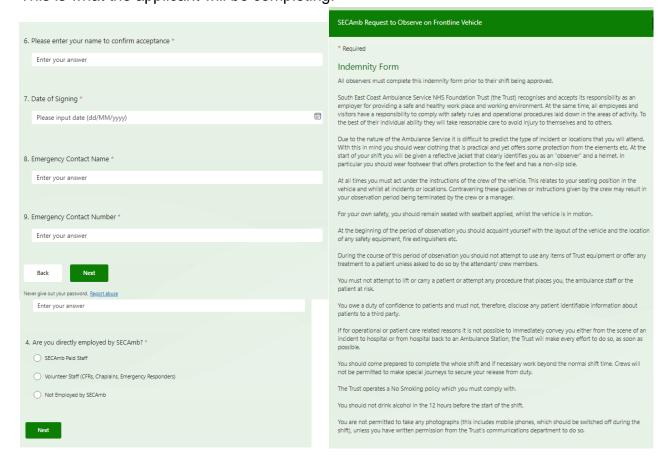
The Application is easy to complete and includes the following stages:

- 1. Complete the Online form Observer Shifts (sharepoint.com)
- 2. You will be emailed a link to watch an online video & complete a guiz.
- 3. When the quiz has been successfully completed you will then be connected with an appropriate OU to book in your date.
- 4. External Applicants will also need to send the following:
 - a. A copy of your ID document, such as a passport or driving license
 - b. Your work ID number
 - c. A letter from your employer or tutor to make a case for the shift to go ahead.

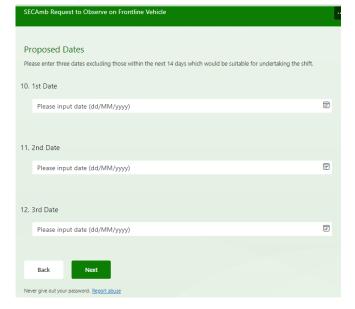
The Observers team are sending out the below link to all new enquiries. This link is also found on The Zone for internal staff <u>Observer Shifts (sharepoint.com)</u>. If you have any internal staff come to you directly, please ask them to use the link via The Zone.

External Link: <u>SECAmb Request to Observe on Frontline Vehicle (office.com)</u>

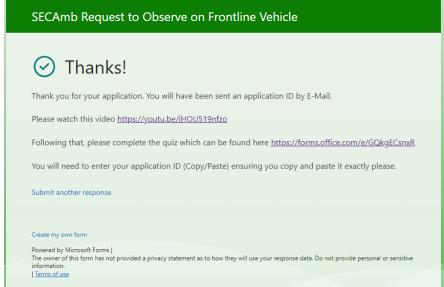
This is what the applicant will be completing:











Applicant receives the below email:





Dear Luisa

Thank you for completing the process to observe with a South East Coast Ambulance Service crew so far.

Your application ID is: 6150cb4e-3407-4e10-a6e2-1af8a86889cb

You will need this to further progress your application. Please include it in the subject line of any enquiries or correspondence regarding your application.

If you haven't already, you must now complete 2 further steps.

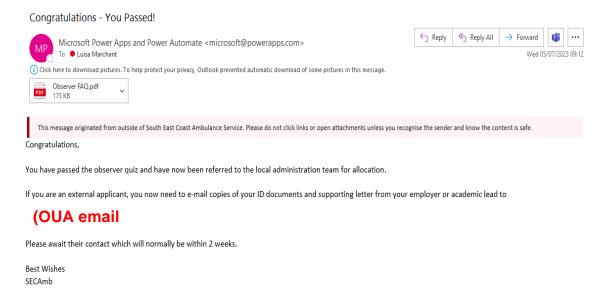
- 1. Watch the SECAmb observer video found here: Responder Video
- 2. Complete the short quiz to test your understanding: Quiz

You must enter your ID exactly as shown to complete the quiz. There are no spaces before or after the ID code. If you complete this successfully you will receive a confirmation E-Mail which will contain further instructions regarding E-Mailing your ID documents to the relevant adminstrator if required.

Thank you for expressing an interest in observing with us.

Best Wishes Team SECAmb.

Applicant completes the guiz and receives the below email:



The applicant will then receive an automated email containing their shift date and time as well as a document stating what they need to wear/bring with them on the day.

For applicants who are volunteer members of staff (CFR, Chaplain etc) – The application will be directed to the Community Resilience Manager. They will then authorise and forward the application details on to the relevant OU Administrator for a shift to be booked. There will be no ID submission requirement.





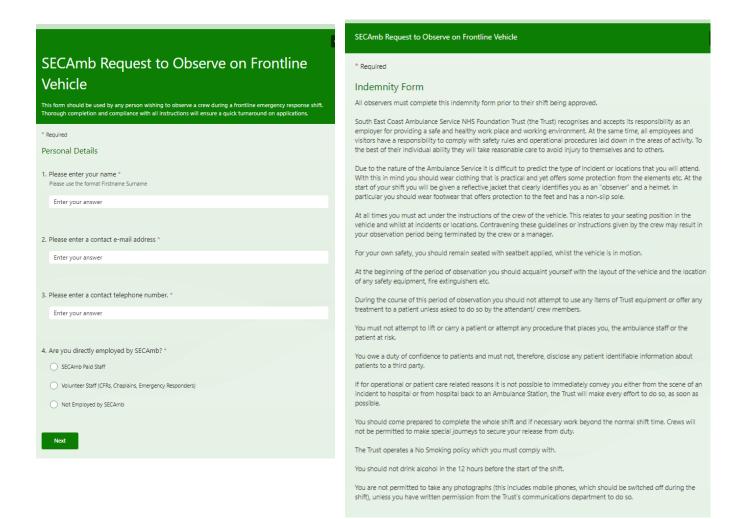
Appendix C: OU Administrator Process

OU Administrator Observers Process

The Observers team are sending out the below link to all new enquiries. This link is also found on The Zone for internal staff <u>Observer Shifts (sharepoint.com)</u>. If you have any internal staff come to you directly, please ask them to use the link via The Zone.

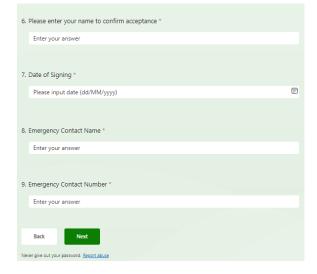
External Link: SECAmb Request to Observe on Frontline Vehicle (office.com)

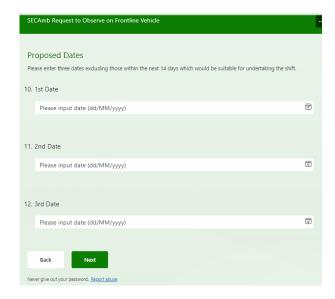
This is what the applicant will be completing:



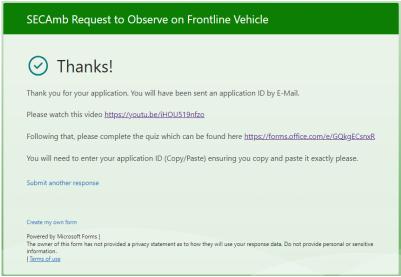
Observer Procedure















Applicant receives the below email:

Dear Luisa

Thank you for completing the process to observe with a South East Coast Ambulance Service crew so far.

Your application ID is: 6150cb4e-3407-4e10-a6e2-1af8a86889cb

You will need this to further progress your application. Please include it in the subject line of any enquiries or correspondence regarding your application.

If you haven't already, you must now complete 2 further steps.

- 1. Watch the SECAmb observer video found here: Responder Video
- 2. Complete the short quiz to test your understanding: Quiz

You must enter your ID exactly as shown to complete the quiz. There are no spaces before or after the ID code. If you complete this successfully you will receive a confirmation E-Mail which will contain further instructions regarding E-Mailing your ID documents to the relevant administrator if required.

Thank you for expressing an interest in observing with us.

Best Wishes

Team SECAmb.

Applicant completes the quiz and receives the below email:

Congratulations - You Passed!





This message originated from outside of South East Coast Ambulance Service. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Congratulations,

You have passed the observer quiz and have now been referred to the local administration team for allocation.

If you are an external applicant, you now need to e-mail copies of your ID documents and supporting letter from your employer or academic lead to

(OUA email)

Please await their contact which will normally be within 2 weeks.

Best Wishes SECAmb





At this point, the OUA will receive the following email:

Dear Nicola Chaplin,

ID 1e4d59fd-acaf-4fa0-8885-d9fc8b62400b

A new observer, Peter Hills, has registered their interest in completing an observer shift within your OU. They have completed their training video and passed the quiz.

They have been instructed to send three documents directly to you if they are an external observer:

Driving Licence/Passport

Work ID

Supporting letter from employer or tutor making a case for the shift to take place.

If external their age is 78 - please confirm they are 18 or over.

They have completed the indemnity form on 25/05/2023

Please identify a suitable shift for them from the options they have requested:

15/06/2023 13/07/2023 20/07/2023

Once you have identified a date - please click on the link below to upload their documents and automatically inform them of their booked date.

They can be contacted via: Telephone: 07919 897642 E-Mail: peter.hills@secamb.nhs.uk

https://forms.office.com/e/4ficqE3V4G

If the applicant is external – You will not need to do anything with this email until they have sent you (via email) all 3 ID documents.

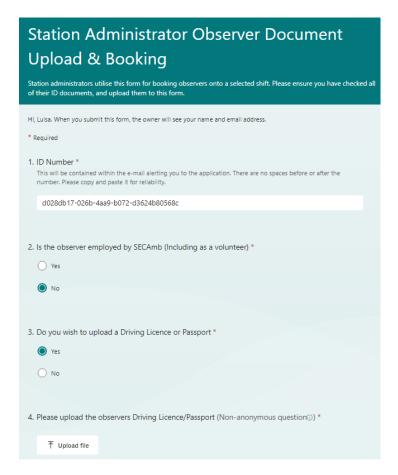
Please then check these ID documents – you are ensuring the work ID and passport/driving license are in date and the supporting letter is confirming they are in the role/placement they state they are in.

There is a 'Eligibility matrix' included in the new Observers Policy – due to be released in July/Aug 2023 which clearly states who we should and should not be accepting as observers.

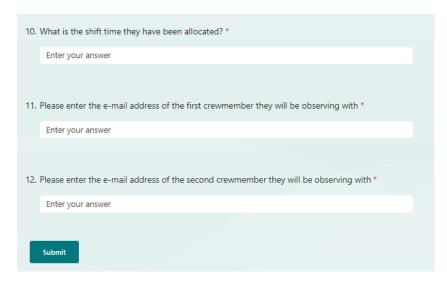
Please note: The applicants must be either already be studying or working within healthcare or be part of other emergency services. Please do not accept applications for individuals simply exploring employment options.

Once you have received ID documents, please follow the link at the bottom of the above email, it will take you to the below;









Once you have submitted this, the applicant will receive an automated email containing their shift date and time as well as a document stating what they need to wear/bring with them on the day. There is nothing further for you to do.





If the applicant is an internal member of SECAmb staff – You can follow the link at the bottom of this email with no need to await receipt of any ID documents.

Dear Julie Nicholls.

ID 5c819618-f14b-4fb6-b0b2-3bfee25fa427

A new observer, Luisa Marchant, has registered their interest in completing an observer shift within your OU. They have completed their training video and passed the quiz

They are: SECAmb Paid Staff

They have been instructed to send three documents directly to you if they are an external observer:

Driving Licence/Passport

Work ID

Supporting letter from employer or tutor making a case for the shift to take place.

If external their age is N/A - please confirm they are 18 or over

They have completed the indemnity form on 05/07/2023

Please identify a suitable shift for them from the options they have requested:

29/07/2023 30/07/2023 10/08/2023

Once you have identified a date - please click on the link below to upload their documents and automatically inform them of their booked date.

They can be contacted via: Telephone: 07777777777 E-Mail: luisa.marchant@secamb.nhs.uk

https://forms.office.com/e/4ficqE3V4G

If the applicant is a volunteer member of staff (CFR, Chaplain etc) – Their applications are being directed to the Community Resilience Manager. They will then authorise and forward the application details on to the relevant OUA for a shift to be booked. There will be no ID document upload necessary for these individuals either. You may then follow the link at the bottom of the email that has been forwarded to you and complete the 'booking a shift' process as above.

Responsibilities on the day:

- On arrival at the station, the observer will be allocated a crew and vehicle for his/her shift(s) by the duty OTL.
- Crews and/or OTLs that have an observer must check their identity against a form of photo ID (this could include NHS ID card, Student ID, Drivers licence etc.).
- The observer (non-SECAmb) must bring their completed indemnity and information form
 with them and hand it to the OUA, OTL or crew. This contains relevant contact details
 should an incident occur. The form should be returned to the observer at the completion of
 the shift.
- The crew must inform their relevant Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), and the OM/OTL for the station that they have an observer with them at the start of the shift.
- The crew will check that the observer is dressed appropriately in trousers and flat non-slip shoes and has the relevant safety equipment. They will ensure the observer is issued with an observer kit which will consist of a high visibility jacket with 'Observer' on the back, and a safety helmet.
- The observer will be shown around the station and the vehicle by the crew who will explain the relevant health and safety issues.
- The crew will ensure the observer is not left alone with patients **at any time**. The observer must not participate in any treatment to patients.
- At the end of the shift the observer will return the observer kit and any other relevant SECAmb property to the crew.

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- Any problems the observers have during the shift should be directed initially to the crew, OTL, OM or OUA. If none of these are available, then contact should be made to the Emergency Operations Centre who will contact the Duty Tactical Officer.
- All observers must wear a minimum of level 2 PPE at all times. Observers must not be within 2 meters of any AGP procedure and where necessary must leave the room or back of the ambulance when observing if an AGP is taking place.

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