Date:

Email

Dear

,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 231125.

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

i) What proportion of your ambulance fleet currently consists of converted FIAT vans?

We currently have 174 van conversion DCAs (Double Crewed Ambulance) which is 43% of our DCA Fleet.

(ii) Have any of these vans were deemed unsafe for any of the Trust's staff to drive because of their height or body shape?

None of these vehicles are deemed unsafe, the issue highlighted by certain staff is they are unable to find a comfortable driving position.

(iii) What assessment the trust has made of the proportion of its current ambulance staff who cannot safely drive these ambulances due to their height or body shape?

Where staff highlight or declare an issue with finding a comfortable seat position they will undergo a seat assessment by trained staff to ensure that the full movement range and adjustment of the seat has been utilised by the occupant. Where staff are assessed and still can't find a comfortable driving position they will be allocated one of our Mercedes DCAs to use.

(iv) How much, if any, money has the Trust spent modifying converted Fiat vans to mitigate safety problems with tall or small drivers?

The Trust has spent no money to date modifying Fiat DCAs all vehicles have passed required CEN standards and certification.

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