



Trust Headquarters
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West Sussex
RH10 9BG

Date:

Email:

Tel: 0300 123 0999
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Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 231114. Firstly, please accept my sincere apologies for the delay and inconvenience you have experienced regarding this request. In this instance, the Trust has not responded to your request within the required 20 days, and for this I apologise. At the time of writing the Trust continues to receive high volumes of FOI requests, many of which have been complex and time consuming.

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act, and with reference to the Department of Health and Social Care's publication titled Government response to minimum service levels in event of strike action: ambulance services in England, Scotland and Wales, published on 06 November, which states that:

'Our engagement with representatives from ambulance trusts showed that establishing a minimum service level at the level we now propose would generally require around 80% of an ambulance service's resource on a typical shift.'

Please can provide me with copies of:

(a) Your response to the Department of Health and Social Care's engagement – either in the form of (i) a formal written submission or, if I does not apply (ii) copies of relevant emails or other electronic messages.

No response was provided as the minimum service levels and approach to planned strike action was not finalized for ambulance services.

(b) If held and not covered by (a), an illustrative calculation of the resources required to comply with the Department's proposed Minimum Service Level policy.

The MSL for ambulance services was not finalized and the policy published.

(c) Information on the total number of ambulances in your fleet at the latest date for which figures were available.

We currently have a total Fleet of 407 DCAs.

(d) Information on the number of operable ambulances in your fleet on that same date.

We are currently operating a VOR rate of around 18% meaning approximately 74 DCAs are unavailable due to planned/unplanned maintenance or RTC repairs.

If you require clarification of any aspect of this request then please do not hesitate to contact me.

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**