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Dear ,

The trust is in receipt of your information request, thank you. Please accept this formal response, which has been given the internal reference quoted above. Please quote this reference number in any correspondence.

Please accept the Trust's sincere apologies for the delay and inconvenience you have experienced regarding this response. At the time of writing the Trust continues to receive high volumes of FOI requests, many of which are complex and time consuming. In this instance, the Trust has not responded within the required 20 days, and for this we apologise.

### **Request**

You asked us:

**I would like to make use of the Freedom of Information act facility to make the following request:**

**Your service will be contracted to provide a Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) for incidents that require a specialist response.**

**The usual make up of the team would be to have HART Operatives/Paramedics working under the management or leadership of a HART shift supervisor or HART Team Leader (HART TL) while on duty. Local terminology will apply for this position. For consistency, I shall refer to the role as HART TL.**

**This position is consistently rated as an Agenda for Change (A4C) Band 7 role, while HART Operatives/Paramedics remain at A4C Band 6. I am aware that some services still evaluate the HART TL role as A4C band 6, I am not aware of your services status in that regard. Please correct me if I am wrong to assume it is a A4C Band 7 role.**

**To maintain contractual standards and provide a Safe System of Work (SSoW), teams must provide a minimum of 6 members of staff. For various reasons, abstractions can occur which bring the teams manning level to below that SSoW. Normal practice would be to allow HART qualified staff to backfill those abstractions to reinstate the SSoW.**

**My questions are:**

- 1. If a HART TL works an additional shift in excess of their contracted hours by covering a HART Operative vacancy on a shift. In your service,**



**at what rate of remuneration is that HART TL paid when covering that additional HART Operative shift?**

- 2. Does your service insist on a separate bank contract for HART TL's to carry out additional work above their contracted hours when not covering a HART TL shortfall?**
- 3. What expectation does your service have for HART TL's to carry out managerial duties/tasks when covering a HART Operative shift over and above contracted hours in their substantive post? For example, carrying out a command role if arriving on scene before the rostered shifts HART TL, carrying out staff support after a traumatic incident etc**

We have processed your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

### **Response**

The formal Trust response follows. Any separate document provided will be signified.

The Trust confirms it holds the information you requested.

**If a HART TL works an additional shift in excess of their contracted hours by covering a HART Operative vacancy on a shift. In your service, at what rate of remuneration is that HART TL paid when covering that additional HART Operative shift?**

HART team leaders are paid at their contracted rate.

**Does your service insist on a separate bank contract for HART TL's to carry out additional work above their contracted hours when not covering a HART TL shortfall?**

No

**What expectation does your service have for HART TL's to carry out managerial duties/tasks when covering a HART Operative shift over and above contracted hours in their substantive post? For example, carrying out a command role if arriving on scene before the rostered shifts HART TL, carrying out staff support after a traumatic incident etc**

Any staff on duty will work to their existing term and conditions regardless of the role they are undertaking on the day.

### **Next steps**

We hope you find the information provided to be of some assistance.

Should you be dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance via the following email address:



Saving Lives,  
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Usman Khan CEO: Simon Weldon

[FOI@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@secamb.nhs.uk)

You can ask us to review our response. If you would like us to carry out a review, please let us know within 40 working days. This will be conducted by someone who was not involved in reviewing the original response, ordinarily, the Trust Data Protection Officer.

Should you remain dissatisfied following our internal review, you can complain to the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) (ICO). You should make complaints to the ICO within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. The easiest way to lodge a complaint is through their website: [www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints](http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints).

The ICO's postal address is:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

**Freedom of Information Coordinator**  
**South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust**



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