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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:

- 1) What training (if any) is currently provided to new frontline Ambulance recruits on eating disorders?**
- 2) What training (if any) is currently provided to new call handler recruits on eating disorders?**
- 3) What training (if any) is currently provided to new dispatcher recruits on eating disorders?**
- 4) What ongoing training (if any) is currently provided to frontline Ambulance staff on eating disorders?**
- 5) What ongoing training (if any) is currently provided to call handlers on eating disorders?**
- 6) What ongoing training (if any) is currently provided to dispatchers on eating disorders?**
- 7) What initial training (if any) is provided to Managers within SECAMB about eating disorders and identifying/supporting staff members with one of these conditions?**
- 8) What ongoing training (if any) is provided to Managers within SECAMB about eating disorders and identifying/supporting staff members with one of these conditions?**



**9) What initial training (if any) is provided to HR staff within SECAMB about eating disorders?**

**10) What ongoing training (if any) is provided to HR staff within SECAMB about eating disorders?**

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 / confirms it holds part of / does not hold the information you requested.

**1) What training (if any) is currently provided to new frontline Ambulance recruits on eating disorders?**

This is dependent on the clinical grade qualification:

### **ECSW**

2.12a Describe relevant mental health conditions to include:

- Classification i.e. medical/social model

2.12b • Signs and symptoms

2.12c • Risk factors

2.12d • Prevalence

2.12e • Living with mental health conditions

2.12f • Impact on the family and carers

Question in the worksheets.

Please complete the following table to **describe** the relevant mental health conditions to include: (one of which is eating disorders)

- Classification
- Sign and Symptoms
- Risk Factors
- Prevalence
- Factors to Include: Psychological, emotional, practical, financial, social exclusion and discrimination and positive impact
- Impact on their family and carers



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## AAP

- [Outcome 1] Understand a range of mental disorders
- Question 1.3 in worksheet – Outline common mental disorders, including symptoms, associated features and warning signs (one of which is eating disorders)
- [Outcome 2] Understand current legislation and codes of practice relevant to mental health
- [Outcome 3] Understand own role in the assessment of individuals with mental health
- [Outcome 4] Understand own role when supporting individuals with mental health, in accordance with agreed ways of working
- [Outcome 5] Understand own role in the management of an individual who has self-harmed
- [Outcome 6] Understand own role in assessing the risk of suicide
- [Outcome 7] Be able to assess and support individuals with mental health, in accordance with agreed ways of working

Paramedics: these are trained externally at a number of universities around the country, and we have no direct control over the content of the programmes. However, most universities will align with the College of Paramedics Curriculum Guidance for Paramedics which have similar recommendations regarding inclusion of mental health conditions.

**2) What training (if any) is currently provided to new call handler recruits on eating disorders?**

**3) What training (if any) is currently provided to new dispatcher recruits on eating disorders?**

**4) What ongoing training (if any) is currently provided to frontline Ambulance staff on eating disorders?**

A review of the impact of eating disorders was included in our mandatory Key Skills Programme for all ambulance clinicians in 2023/24.

**5) What ongoing training (if any) is currently provided to call handlers on eating disorders?**

**6) What ongoing training (if any) is currently provided to dispatchers on eating disorders?**

**7) What initial training (if any) is provided to Managers within SECAMB about eating disorders and identifying/supporting staff members with one of these conditions?**

**8) What ongoing training (if any) is provided to Managers within SECAMB about eating disorders and identifying/supporting staff members with one of these conditions?**

**9) What initial training (if any) is provided to HR staff within SECAMB about eating disorders?**



**10) What ongoing training (if any) is provided to HR staff within SECAMB about eating disorders?**

HR does not provide any formal eating disorder training. Support for those who do can be found via the Wellbeing team, who will signpost the individual to the most appropriate support, but no internal management would be provided as eating disorders are complex and require highly skilled professional input

**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: [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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