



Trust Headquarters
Nexus House
4 Gatwick Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 9BG

Internal Ref:
Email:

Tel: 0300 123 0999
www.secamb.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

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.

Request

You asked us:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act, please can you provide the following:

1. In the last five calendar years (2020-2024), how many paramedics and ambulance staff have been sexually assaulted on duty? Can this be broken down by years (2020,2021,2022,2023,2024) and by assault type (i.e. sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, sexual assault, verbal abuse of a sexual nature, exposure, rape)

1a) Of those, can you provide both, the number of assaults perpetrated by other staff members and the number perpetrated by a patient or other.

2. For the last year alone (2023/2024) - can you provide a breakdown of where instances of abuse/assault took place as well as a brief incident description.

2a) Can you provide a breakdown of genders of both victims and alleged perpetrators.

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

Response

The formal Trust response follows.

The Trust confirms it holds the information you requested.

1. In the last five calendar years (2020-2024), how many paramedics and ambulance staff have been sexually assaulted on duty? Can this be broken down by years (2020,2021,2022,2023,2024) and by assault type (i.e. sexual



misconduct, sexual harassment, sexual assault, verbal abuse of a sexual nature, exposure, rape)

- Incidents have only been recorded as sexual assaults.
- 2020 – 14
- 2021 - 14
- 2022 – 15
- 2023 – 24
- 2024 - 29

1a) Of those, can you provide both, the number of assaults perpetrated by other staff members and the number perpetrated by a patient or other.

- All apart from one are by patients or other i.e. not staff members
- One allegation was recorded as involving a staff member.

**2. For the last year alone (2023/2024) - can you provide a breakdown of where instances of abuse/assault took place as well as a brief incident description.
2a) Can you provide a breakdown of genders of both victims and alleged perpetrators.**

On the data requested 2023-2024 there were 24 sexual assault incidents recorded.

- Locations –
- Ambulance – 11
- Hospital – 4
- Public Place – 1
- Residential – 8
- 18 Of the 24 incidents showed a female as the victim with 6 males shown as the victim
- 18 of the 24 incidents recorded males as perpetrators with 6 females shown as perpetrators.
- Common descriptions are slapped buttocks, stroked leg, attempted to kiss, grabbed testicles, kissed neck, touched breasts.



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

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.

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



Saving Lives,
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Usman Khan CEO: Simon Weldon