



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

17th April 2025
Internal Ref:
Email:

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

Dear,

The Trust is in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) request, thank you. This request has been assigned the internal reference quoted above; please ensure that you quote this number in any future correspondence.

We have now provided a formal response below.

FOI Request

You asked us:

The Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of the Ambulance Service and the NHS. In a statement provided to me, the CQC said NHS Trusts are required to report every alleged incident of sexual misconduct by its staff, regardless if such alleged incident occurred within or outside hospital premises.

- 1. Could you please confirm that from January 2019 until present day, the total number of your employees accused of child sexual abuse remains less than 10? Please update accordingly if there has been further updates.**
- 2. Could you please confirm if you notified the CQC about any of these cases? Please also confirm if you notified any other regulatory body or NHS England about these cases.**
- 3. In the unlikely circumstances that neither the CQC nor NHS England was notified about these cases, please explain in detail your reason for not doing so.**

Formal Response

The Trust confirms it holds part of the information you requested.



Saving Lives,
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon

1. Could you please confirm that from January 2019 until present day, the total number of your employees accused of child sexual abuse remains less than 10? Please update accordingly if there has been further updates.

The Trust confirms this number remains lower than 10.

2. Could you please confirm if you notified the CQC about any of these cases? Please also confirm if you notified any other regulatory body or NHS England about these cases.

As per contractual requirements, the CQC and ICBs have been notified of all relevant cases of concern that have police involvement as all these cases would. Regulatory bodies would also be notified as required by our contracts.

3. In the unlikely circumstances that neither the CQC nor NHS England was notified about these cases, please explain in detail your reason for not doing so.

The Trust does not withhold notification as set out in contractual requirements.

We have provided a link below to the section of the CQC's online guidance covering allegations of abuse, and notification thereof. This is publicly available. The guidance defines circumstances whereby a care provider must notify the CQC, concerning allegations of abuse. This is part of a larger body of guidance regarding notifications to the CQC, and how they are mandated for registered providers such as SECAMB.

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-regulation/providers/notifications/allegations-abuse-safeguarding-notification-form>

Next steps

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

Should you be dissatisfied with our response then in the first instance please contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance, via the following email address: FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

You can ask us to review our original response. If you would like us to carry out an internal review, please let us know within 40 working days of you receiving our original response. This review will be conducted by an individual who was not directly involved in reviewing the original response, ordinarily, the Trust Data Protection Officer. We will endeavour to complete this request within 20 working days.

Should you remain dissatisfied then you can contact the [Information Commissioner's Office](https://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints) (ICO). Complaints to the ICO should be made 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.



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Alternatively, 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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