



Trust Headquarters
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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:

I would like to request the following information:

1. Policies on Water Crossings

Does your organisation have any official guidelines, standard operating procedures, or Risk Assessment Method Statements (RAMS) regarding the use of water crossings (e.g., fords, flooded roads) by employees or contractors operating your vehicles?

If so, please provide copies of any relevant policy documents or training materials.

2. Risk Assessments for Water Crossings

Have any formal risk assessments been carried out by your organisation concerning vehicles crossing fords or flooded roads?

If available, please provide copies of such risk assessments.

3. Training and Safety Measures

Are NHS drivers employed by your organisation (including maintenance or emergency response staff) provided with any training or guidance on how to assess the safety of water crossings?

If so, please provide details or copies of relevant policies or training content.



4. Recorded Concerns or Incidents

Have there been any reported concerns, near-misses, or incidents involving your drivers or contractors in relation to water crossings or flooded roads?

If so, please provide the number and general nature of such reports for the past five years.

By "field staff," I mean employees or contractors who operate vehicles as part of their duties in maintenance, emergency response, or operational roles where they may encounter water crossings, flooded roads, or other water hazards.

Formal Response

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

1. Policies on Water Crossings

The Trust does not have any official policies, guidelines, standard operating procedures, or RAMS regarding the use of water crossings.

2. Risk Assessments for Water Crossings

The Trust has not carried out any formal risk assessments concerning vehicles crossing fords or flooded roads.

3. Training and Safety Measures

Drivers employed by the Trust are provided with advice on 'driving through water', as part of wider driver training materials. This mirrors advice offered to all road users, by organisations such as the AA & Roadcraft. Similar topics are covered when undertaking category C1 driving licence training, which Trust employees must hold before driving emergency ambulance vehicles.

A summary of this advice is attached as part of this disclosure, in the document:
FOI 250404 - Driving Through Water

All employees who drive as part of Trust duties are expected to assess road conditions and risk dynamically, and act accordingly to reduce risk. The SECamb Driver Standards Policy can be found on our website at the following link:

<https://www.secamb.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Driver-Standards-Policy-Procedure-Emergency-Driving-and-the-Law.pdf>

4. Recorded Concerns or Incidents

During the period requested, the Trust identified 4 incident reports involving vehicles and flooding, or flooded roads. All 4 were of the general nature that a vehicle suffered damage, where the damage was either caused directly while negotiating a flooded road, or was a contributing cause of the situation where the damage occurred.



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](#) (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.

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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