



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

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.

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.

FOI Request

You asked us:

To build our national understanding of how many suicide incidents emergency services across England are attending, we are submitting FOI requests to ambulance trusts and police forces across the country.

1. How many mental health incidents did your service respond to in these years? Please also indicate what percentage of total incidents were mental health incidents if possible:

a. 2020 b. 2021 c. 2022 d. 2023 e. 2024

2. How many suicide attempts and self-inflicted incidents did your service respond to in these years? Please also indicate what percentage of total incidents were suicide attempts and self-inflicted incidents if possible:

a. 2020 b. 2021 c. 2022 d. 2023 e. 2024

3. Please briefly outline any training your staff receive on the below areas, including what the training covers and the named training provider if externally delivered:

a. Suicide prevention b. Suicide postvention

4. If there is suicide prevention training in place, is it currently mandatory for all staff? If the training is not mandatory, please indicate which staff it is offered to.



5. If there is suicide prevention training in place, please indicate how many staff members received training in 2024 in:

- a. Number of total staff who received training
- b. Percentage of total staff who received training

Formal Response

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

- 1. How many mental health incidents did your service respond to in these years? Please also indicate what percentage of total incidents were mental health incidents if possible:**
- 2. How many suicide attempts and self-inflicted incidents did your service respond to in these years? Please also indicate what percentage of total incidents were suicide attempts and self-inflicted incidents if possible:**

Year	MH Cases	Mental Health %	Suicidality Cases	Suicide %
2020	24127	3.20%	4787	0.64%
2021	25770	3.38%	4182	0.55%
2022	27528	3.78%	5333	0.73%
2023	29746	4.05%	6649	0.90%
2024	32033	4.08%	7908	1.01%

- Date Range: 01/01/2020 - 31/12/2024
- Mental Health Cases - Count of cases initially categorised with a Mental Health disposition where SECamb provided any response.
- Suicide Cases - Count of cases initially categorised with disposition of patient experiencing suicidality, where SECamb provided any response.
- Note: 'Response' includes 'hear and treat' (no emergency vehicle sent), as well as cases where the patient was attended by an emergency vehicle.
- Note: The Trust is not able to provide a count of 'suspected suicides', this is not something SECamb is responsible for defining.
- Note: Only HM Coroner can confirm a suicide.
- Mental Health % - Percentage of total incidents that was made up by the Mental Health Cases subset listed above.
- Suicide % - Percentage of total incidents that was made up by Suicide Cases subset listed above.
- Note: Mental health and suicide incidents count may not represent 100% of all cases. For example, incidents where the primary disposition was cardiac arrest may not subsequently have mental health or suicide mentioned, even if this was the root cause.
- Note: Mental health and suicide incidents included in the counts provided may later be recategorised, following the attendance of clinical professionals.



- 3. Please briefly outline any training your staff receive on the below areas, including what the training covers and the named training provider if externally delivered:**
- a) Suicide prevention**
 - b) Suicide postvention**

The Trust delivers its suicide prevention training via the *Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training Programme* (ASIST). The Trust does not own the content of this programme in order to disclose this under FOIA. However, there is information published online regarding this course, at the following web address:

<https://livingworks.net/training/livingworks-asist/>

- 4. If there is suicide prevention training in place, is it currently mandatory for all staff? If the training is not mandatory, please indicate which staff it is offered to.**

The Trust delivers a variety of training programmes for its staff, some of these programmes (that are mandatory) feature techniques that would support suicide prevention, but are not explicitly part of a suicide prevention strategic framework.

The Trust does deliver the ASIST programme for its staff, but this is not mandatory.

- 5. If there is suicide prevention training in place, please indicate how many staff members received training in 2024 in:**
- a) Number of total staff who received training**
 - b) Percentage of total staff who received training**

In 2024, 69 staff members completed the ASIST programme of training. This represents 2.5% of the operational workforce, approximately 1.3% of total workforce.

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 Richard Banks, Head of Corporate 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



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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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