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2025
Internal Ref: 250616
Email:

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Dear ,

The trust acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) request, referenced above. Please ensure you quote this number in any future correspondence.

FOI Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request information regarding your current and planned usage of solar energy across your estate.

Please could you provide responses to the following questions:

1. Governance & Responsibility

- o Do you have a dedicated person or team responsible for solar energy investment and/or sustainability energy initiatives within your organisation?**
- o If so, please provide their role/title (personal names are not required).**

2. Current Solar Deployment

- o How many solar panel installations (PV systems) do you currently operate across your estate?**
- o What is the total installed capacity of these systems (in kWp)?**
- o What proportion of your organisation's energy usage is currently provided by solar generation?**

3. Investment & Strategy

- o Does your organisation have a documented investment strategy for expanding the use of solar panels or increasing on-site renewable energy generation?**
- o If so, please provide a copy of or link to the relevant strategy or plan (or summarise key points if not published).**

4. Solar and Net Zero Commitments

- o Does solar energy form part of your organisation's Net Zero / Carbon Reduction Strategy?**



- o If yes, how is progress against this strategy communicated to the public (e.g. via website, reports, dashboards, etc.)?

5. Future Plans

- o Are there any planned solar panel projects or expansions within the next 3 years? If yes, please provide high-level details (e.g. number of sites, scale of deployment, approximate timescales).

- o Have you conducted any feasibility studies on increasing solar capacity in the past 3 years? If so, can these be shared?

6. Procurement & Partnerships

- o Does your organisation currently use any third-party companies or frameworks to deliver solar energy solutions or manage installations? If yes, which ones?

- o Are there any upcoming procurement exercises planned relating to solar energy or wider renewable energy solutions?

7. Battery Storage

- o Do you currently use battery storage alongside your solar panels?

- o Are there plans to invest in battery storage in future?

8. Funding

- o Has your organisation accessed or applied for any external funding to support solar energy projects (e.g. SALIX, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, LEP funding)?

9. Barriers

- o What are the main barriers your organisation faces to further adoption of solar energy (e.g. funding, planning restrictions, roof suitability, internal resource)?

Formal Response

The Trust confirms it holds the information you have requested.

1. Governance & Responsibility

- o Do you have a dedicated person or team responsible for solar energy investment and/or sustainability energy initiatives within your organisation?
- o If so, please provide their role/title (personal names are not required).

Currently it is a collaborative approach between the Estates Team, led by a representative from Chris Bartholomew the Trust electrical contractor, and the Interim Sustainability Lead

2. Current Solar Deployment



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Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon

o How many solar panel installations (PV systems) do you currently operate across your estate?

4 in total at Ashford MRC, Banstead MRC, Brighton MRC and Tangmere MRC.

o What is the total installed capacity of these systems (in kWp)?

Estimated system capacity:

- Ashford MRC 272 kW,
- Banstead MRC 1440 kW,
- Brighton MRC 6615 kW,
- Tangmere MRC 130kW.

o What proportion of your organisation's energy usage is currently provided by solar generation?

3%

3. Investment & Strategy

o Does your organisation have a documented investment strategy for expanding the use of solar panels or increasing on-site renewable energy generation?

o If so, please provide a copy of or link to the relevant strategy or plan (or summarise key points if not published).

The Trust does not hold any relevant information to consider for disclosure.

4. Solar and Net Zero Commitments

o Does solar energy form part of your organisation's Net Zero / Carbon Reduction Strategy?

Yes

o If yes, how is progress against this strategy communicated to the public (e.g. via website, reports, dashboards, etc.)?

The SECamb Green Plan, a publicly accessible document is available via the Trust's employee intranet, and is currently in the process of being updated. The FY2024/25 SECamb annual report will include an environmental sustainability update.

5. Future Plans

o Are there any planned solar panel projects or expansions within the next 3 years? If yes, please provide high-level details (e.g. number of sites, scale of deployment, approximate timescales).

The Trust does not hold any relevant information to consider for disclosure.

- o **Have you conducted any feasibility studies on increasing solar capacity in the past 3 years? If so, can these be shared?**

Yes

6. Procurement & Partnerships

- o **Does your organisation currently use any third-party companies or frameworks to deliver solar energy solutions or manage installations? If yes, which ones?**

The Trust does not currently have a third-party arrangement of this type. Any future arrangement would be considered closer to the time of installation, as part of feasibility scoping.

- o **Are there any upcoming procurement exercises planned relating to solar energy or wider renewable energy solutions?**

The Trust does not hold any relevant information to consider for disclosure.

7. Battery Storage

- o **Do you currently use battery storage alongside your solar panels?**

No

- o **Are there plans to invest in battery storage in future?**

The Trust does not hold any relevant information to consider for disclosure.

8. Funding

- o **Has your organisation accessed or applied for any external funding to support solar energy projects (e.g. SALIX, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, LEP funding)?**

The Trust applied to the NHS Energy Efficiency Fund (NEEF), but was not subsequently awarded access to this funding.

9. Barriers

- o **What are the main barriers your organisation faces to further adoption of solar energy (e.g. funding, planning restrictions, roof suitability, internal resource)?**

Funding and Staff resource to progress initiatives.

Next steps

We publish a variety of information which may assist future enquiries relating to our service on our website – www.secamb.nhs.uk.

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 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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Serving Our Communities

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