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Email

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[www.secamb.nhs.uk](http://www.secamb.nhs.uk)

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**

You asked us:

**Please can you tell me how/if you utilise the lifeguards to respond to 999 calls on the beach in the following areas:**

- Hastings
- Camber sands
- Witterings
- Brighton

**If so, please provide the following:**

- how are they dispatched? Radio/phone/nma etc
- number of incidents attended last year by location, split into category of call and call type (arrest, fitting etc)
- number of incidents attended to date this year by location, split into category of call and call type (arrest, fitting etc)
- Any information about equipment, drugs etc each lifeguard unit carries and is authorised to use.

### **Formal Response**

The Trust confirms it does not hold the information you have requested.

Thank you for your request regarding the use of lifeguards in response to 999 calls on the beaches of Hastings, Camber Sands, Witterings, and Brighton.

In essence, we don't directly deploy lifeguards to beach 999 calls. In the event of an emergency call, we would contact HM Coastguard, who are responsible for coastal incident coordination and would then determine whether to notify and deploy RNLI or local authority lifeguard services themselves.



Please find below further clarification in response to your specific queries:

### **1. Dispatch Method**

Lifeguards are not dispatched directly by our service. All emergency incidents on beaches are referred to HM Coastguard, who have established communication protocols with lifeguard services. HM Coastguard may then use radio, phone, or National Mobilisation Application (NMA) systems to deploy lifeguards if appropriate.

### **2. Incident Numbers (2023 and Year to Date 2025)**

As we do not dispatch or record lifeguard deployments, we do not hold data on incidents attended by lifeguards, either by location or by incident category. For this information, we suggest contacting HM Coastguard and the RNLI, who may hold relevant statistics.

### **3. Lifeguard Equipment and Authorisation**

As we are not the authority responsible for lifeguard provision or oversight, we do not hold specific information regarding the equipment, medications, or protocols lifeguard units carry or are authorised to use. This information would more appropriately be sought from the RNLI or the local authorities responsible for lifeguard services in each area.

### **Next steps**

We publish a variety of information which may assist future enquiries relating to our service on our website – [www.secamb.nhs.uk](http://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](mailto: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](https://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**