



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

Internal Ref: 250707
Email:

Tel: 0300 123 0999
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 provide anonymized, aggregate data for the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2024, including but not limited to:

- 1. Emergency Callouts and Attendances**
 - Number of emergency callouts and attendances related to suspected or confirmed cannabis and cocaine intoxication or overdose.
 - Patient demographics (age, gender, location) where available.
- 2. Clinical Interventions Provided**
 - Types of clinical interventions administered by ambulance crews for cannabis and cocaine-related cases.
 - Transport destinations following attendance (e.g., hospital, mental health facility).
- 3. Please include any available data on cases where both cannabis and cocaine use are recorded as contributory or associated factors in emergency call outs or clinical interventions.**
- 4. Outcome Data**
 - Data on patient outcomes post-ambulance attendance (e.g., hospital admission, discharge at scene).
- 5. Coding and Classification**
 - Any internal codes or classification systems used to identify cannabis and cocaine-related emergency incidents.
- 6. Incidents of Violence or Offensive Behaviour**
 - Number of recorded incidents involving violence, aggression, or offensive language/behaviour toward ambulance staff during attendances related to cannabis or cocaine use.
 - Any available details on the nature or severity of these incidents.



Note for cannabis-related data only: when providing data, if possible, please can you distinguishing between any of the following type of cannabis (providing any specific codes where applicable):

- **Low to moderate THC level cannabis**
- **High THC level cannabis use (known as Skunk or similar high-potency strains)**
- **Use of synthetic cannabinoids (e.g., Spice, K2, HHC, SSCs)**

Note for cocaine-related data only: when providing data, if possible, please can you distinguish between powdered cocaine and crack cocaine (rock form) and provide any specific codes, if applicable.

If your trust does not routinely differentiate these in data collection, please confirm this in your response.

Formal Response

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

The Trust has responded to parts 1 – 4 of your request in the attached workbook:
FOI 250707 - Cannabis and Cocaine Callouts

Data blurring at less-than-5: The Trust can confirm that this information exists. However, where an output represents fewer than 5 individuals or incidents in the period requested, we have not provided exact figures. This practice is known as data blurring, which serves to mitigate against the risk of possible re-identification of individual data subjects via data recombination (sometimes referred to as jigsawing). This risk is assessed in accordance with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Anonymisation Code of Practice, in relation to Section 40(2) of the FOIA 2000.

Please note, the Trust does not maintain a record of the types of narcotics contributing to incidents, and does not differentiate these within data collection. The Trust has no categorisation available to distinguish between these, or provide any breakdown based on this.

5. Coding and Classification

- **Any internal codes or classification systems used to identify cannabis and cocaine-related emergency incidents.**

The Trust does not have any such internal coding or classification system.

6. Incidents of Violence or Offensive Behaviour

The Trust does not hold this information.

Trust records of incidents of violence or offensive behaviour toward ambulance staff do not include any specific categorisation related to the intoxication status of the perpetrator. They are not linked to a specific episode of care, so cannot be referenced by comparison to the data underlying the response to parts 1 – 4.

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](http://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.

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



Saving Lives,
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon