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West Sussex  
RH10 9BG

Tel: 0300 123 0999  
[www.secamb.nhs.uk](http://www.secamb.nhs.uk)

Internal Ref:  
Email:

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:

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the following information from the trust from the last five financial years:**

- 1. The number of staff who were sent to a foreign country to facilitate recruitment drives (to address shortages as set out as part of the NHS Long Term Plan).**
- 2. The total cost to the trust of each recruitment drive exercise including flights and accommodation**
- 3. The city and country that were visited as part of the exercise**
- 4. The type of staff it was hoped would be recruited**

**Please can the information be broken down by year, for the last five financial years (2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25)**

**Please limit the search to just those where the bills for the recruitment**

### **Formal Response**

The Trust confirms it holds the information you have requested.

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the following information from the trust from the last five financial years:**



**1. The number of staff who were sent to a foreign country to facilitate recruitment drives (to address shortages as set out as part of the NHS Long Term Plan).**

Departed UK on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 and returned to the UK on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
2 members of staff - One Recruitment Representative and One Manager from Operations

**2. The total cost to the trust of each recruitment drive exercise including flights and accommodation**

Funded by Health Education England as part of a multi trust exercise.

**3. The city and country that were visited as part of the exercise**

Australia – Interviews conducted in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne

**4. The type of staff it was hoped would be recruited**

Paramedics – Newly Qualified

**Please can the information be broken down by year, for the last five financial years (2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25)**

**Please limit the search to just those where the bills for the recruitment**

There were no bills, and this was funded by HEE

### Next steps

Please note you will be able to source a lot of information which is made available on our website.

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**



Saving Lives,  
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon