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RH10 9BG

Internal Ref: 250735  
Email:

Tel: 0300 123 0999  
[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.

Please accept the Trust's apologies for the delay and inconvenience you have experienced regarding your FOIA request.

### **FOI Request**

You asked us:

#### **Request:**

**1. The number of ambulance callouts to secondary school premises, broken down:**

- **By calendar year and/or month**
- **By locality**
- **For the period January 2020 to the most recent available date**

**2. For the above, please include (if recorded):**

- **Primary reason or incident type, specifically including:**
- **Drug poisoning / drug-related illness**
- **Suspected vaping-related illness**
- **Any categorisation or coding used in your call logging system that corresponds to these causes.**

**In addition to my request, I have attached a list of all the secondary schools that fall into the South East Coast Ambulance Service area. I have ordered these schools in order of capacity (from largest to smallest). I am aware that the list may exceed the time limit for an FOI**



**request and therefore I would appreciate if as many of these postcodes are interrogated as possible, working systematically down the list.**

### **Formal Response**

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

**1. The number of ambulance callouts to secondary school premises, broken down:**

- **By calendar year and/or month**
- **By locality**
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**2. For the above, please include (if recorded):**

- **Primary reason or incident type, specifically including:**
  - **Drug poisoning / drug-related illness**
  - **Suspected vaping-related illness**

Please see attached Excel workbook *FOI 250735 - Secondary Schools\**.

Please note, where there was no entry under county in the supplied list of school addresses, we have not been able to reintroduce or correct this information. Addresses with no county denoted appear under 'Not Provided' in the output.

\* 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.

- **Any categorisation or coding used in your call logging system that corresponds to these causes.**

The Trust has included the symptom group 'Toxic Ingestion / Inhalation / Overdose', to identify a dataset for drug poisoning / drug related. Vaping does not have a defined symptom group or disposition coding; relevant attendances to be included in these counts were identified via keyword search of records, which is limited to those records where this information was included and matched spelling.



## 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](#) (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](http://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