



Trust Headquarters
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Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 9BG

Tel: 0300 123 0999
www.secamb.nhs.uk

Internal Ref: 250833
Email:

Dear Sir / Madam,

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:

I am writing to request data from your systems that provide details of how often 'blue light' vehicles are sent on emergency callouts, and the subsequent waiting times experienced for these units to arrive on scene.

If it is available separately, I am also hoping to receive insights into the quantity of relevant 'blue light' vehicle units in each fleet, and current vehicle status.

Notes:

- When defining 'emergency callouts', please focus on category 1 (calls from people with life-threatening illnesses or injuries) and category 2 (emergency calls) only [or equivalent, if other categorisation - e.g. 'RED']**
- When defining 'blue light' vehicles, please consider all relevant vehicle types (e.g. ambulances and other medical response vehicles) which might be sent to these emergency callouts**

Therefore, I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:



Please provide the below data, specifically in relation to relevant 'blue light' vehicles for emergency callouts for the entity:

1. Call out quantities // the number of emergency call outs that resulted in a 'blue light' vehicle being sent to scene (e.g. category 1 and category 2) - broken down for each individual date in a recent 12-month period

2. Average wait times // the average wait time for emergency call outs, duration between receiving the call to a 'blue light' vehicle arriving on scene (e.g. category 1 and category 2) - broken down for each individual date in a recent 12-month period

3. Vehicle units in fleet // the total number of 'blue light' vehicles in the current fleet (as of 27/08/2025) and how many were in the fleet on 27/08/2024 -

4. Units out of action // the total number of 'blue light' vehicles in the current fleet that have been 'out of action' at any point, for any duration, and for any reason during 2025 to date (up to 27/08/2025), plus the total number that were 'out of action' on 27/08/2025 (if any)

Date considerations:

- If 'a 12-month period' has been requested, please use 28/08/2024-27/08/2025 where possible *If this date range is not available, please use the most recent consecutive 12-month period with data available (and confirm what range has been used in this case)

****Note:** If a 12-month range is 'out of scope' due to cost limitations, please provide the information for Q4 2024 only (01/10/2024-31/12/2024)

- If 27/08/2025 and/or 27/08/2024 has been specifically requested, please use these dates where possible *If data is not available for these specific dates, please use the most recent date with data available (and confirm what date has been used in this case)

Formal Response

The Trust confirms it holds the information you have requested.

1. Call out quantities // the number of emergency call outs that resulted in a 'blue light' vehicle being sent to scene (e.g. category 1 and category 2) - broken down for each individual date in a recent 12-month period

Please see attached workbook.



2. Average wait times // the average wait time for emergency call outs, duration between receiving the call to a 'blue light' vehicle arriving on scene (e.g. category 1 and category 2) - broken down for each individual date in a recent 12-month period

Please see attached workbook.

3. Vehicle units in fleet // the total number of 'blue light' vehicles in the current fleet (as of 27/08/2025) and how many were in the fleet on 27/08/2024

27/08/2025 - 834/683 This includes all Operational, HART, EPRR and Blue light capable Lease cars

27/08/2024 – 897/682 This includes all Operational, HART, EPRR and Blue light capable Lease cars

4. Units out of action // the total number of 'blue light' vehicles in the current fleet that have been 'out of action' at any point, for any duration, and for any reason during 2025 to date (up to 27/08/2025), plus the total number that were 'out of action' on 27/08/2025 (if any)

Total number of instances when DCA's were VOR between 01/04/25 – 27/08/25 9,844

VOR 27/08/25 All operational vehicles 82 DCA 75

Please see NHS England Ambulance Quality Indicators page and the national performance data which is published monthly -

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ambulance-quality-indicators/>

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- If 27/08/2025 and/or 27/08/2024 has been specifically requested, please use these dates where possible *If data is not available for these specific dates, please use the most recent date with data available (and confirm what date has been used in this case)

Next steps

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



Saving Lives,
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon

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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