



Trust Headquarters
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West Sussex
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6th October 2025
Internal Ref: 250938-250721

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.

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

FOI Request

You asked us:

I am a freelance journalist looking into maternal healthcare in UK health trusts and boards a year on from a report [by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Birth Trauma](#).

I would be grateful for responses by email to the following 13 questions, which I am sending to every UK non-specialist health trust and board.

I appreciate it is a long list of questions, and it's quite possible not all of them will be relevant to your organisation. I also appreciate that data going back 10 years may not always be available, as your organisation may have been formed more recently than that. In this case, I would be grateful for the data stretching back as far as is possible.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions at all.

- 1. How many vacancies do you currently have for a) midwives; b) obstetricians? (And how many members of staff do you currently have in both those roles?)**
- 2. What is the number of stillbirths and neonatal deaths recorded in your trust/board in each of the past 10 years? And what was the recorded ethnicity of those who died, if the data is available?**



4. How many live births were recorded at your trust/board in each of the past 10 years?
What is the number of maternal deaths recorded in your trust/board in each of the past 10 years? And what was the recorded ethnicity of those who died?
5. How many medical negligence suits have arisen from incidents in your maternity department in each of the past 10 years? How many resulted in a payment being made, and how much was paid out in each of the past 10 years?
6. How many third- and fourth-degree tears have you recorded for each of the past 10 years?
7. What are your current rates of forceps use, if you keep data on this?
8. What are your current rates of ventouse assisted deliveries, if you keep data on this?
9. How many emergency caesarean sections have you carried out in each of the past 10 years?
10. How many Maternal Request Caesareans were made to staff in each of the past 10 years, and how many were approved?
11. How much did your trust/board pay for use of interpreters in its maternity department in each of the past 10 years?
12. How many people have received treatment as part of any MMHS (Maternal Mental Health Service) in the past year?
1. How many people are on the waiting list to receive treatment from the MMHS right now? And how long is the average waiting time for treatment?

Formal Response

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

1. How many vacancies do you currently have for a) midwives; b) obstetricians? (And how many members of staff do you currently have in both those roles?)

As an ambulance service we currently employ a single consultant midwife.

2. What is the number of stillbirths and neonatal deaths recorded in your trust/board in each of the past 10 years? And what was the recorded ethnicity of those who died, if the data is available?

Please see attached spreadsheet.

3. How many live births were recorded at your trust/board in each of the past 10 years?

Please see attached spreadsheet.

4. What is the number of maternal deaths recorded in your trust/board in each of the past 10 years? And what was the recorded ethnicity of those who died?

Please see attached spreadsheet.

5. How many medical negligence suits have arisen from incidents in your maternity department in each of the past 10 years? How many resulted in a payment being made, and how much was paid out in each of the past 10 years?

None (we are an ambulance service therefore N/A)

6. How many third- and fourth-degree tears have you recorded for each of the past 10 years?

Not recorded as outside scope for our clinicians to inspect/report

7. What are your current rates of forceps use, if you keep data on this?

None (we are an ambulance service therefore N/A)

8. What are your current rates of ventouse assisted deliveries, if you keep data on this?

None (we are an ambulance service therefore N/A)

9. How many emergency caesarean sections have you carried out in each of the past 10 years?

None (we are an ambulance service therefore N/A)

10. How many Maternal Request Caesareans were made to staff in each of the past 10 years, and how many were approved?

None (we are an ambulance service therefore N/A)

11. How much did your trust/board pay for use of interpreters in its maternity department in each of the past 10 years?

None (we are an ambulance service therefore N/A)

12. How many people have received treatment as part of any MMHS (Maternal Mental Health Service) in the past year?

Not applicable

13. How many people are on the waiting list to receive treatment from the MMHS right now? And how long is the average waiting time for treatment?

Not applicable

We now have new condition codes, and we are currently looking at ethnicity data capture so reporting will improve over time.

* 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.

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) (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