NHS
South East Coast
Ambulance Service
NHS Foundation Trust

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24th November 2025
Internal Ref: 251043
Email: matt.kellaway@secamb.nhs.uk

Dear Matt,

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 can you provide me with a breakdown of how many operational secamb employees are currently on an employment break?

Please also include the following

- **how long the employment break was granted for**
- **how long the member of staff is into their employment break**
- **a breakdown how many people are on an employment break per OU**

Formal Response

The Trust confirms it holds the information you have requested.

Please can you provide me with a breakdown of how many operational secamb employees are currently on an employment break?

There are currently 26 operational SECAmb employees on career break.

Please also include the following

- **how long the employment break was granted for**

  We do not hold data on the length of career breaks granted. SECAmb does not record planned end dates for career breaks in our centralised records.

Instead, managers notify HR when a staff member is due to return. This approach helps prevent the risk of overpayments that could occur if a provisional end date were recorded. As a result, we are unable to report on the originally agreed duration of any career break.

- **how long the member of staff is into their employment break**

  See spreadsheet.

- **a breakdown how many people are on an employment break per OU**

  * Data blurring at less-than-10: The Trust can confirm that this information exists. However, where an output represents fewer than 10 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

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

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