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2025
Internal Ref: 251044
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, please provide copies of the following documents and data that were in use as of March 2024:

- **Policies and guidance relating to patients who have attempted suicide, self-harmed, or are otherwise at risk of self-harm, particularly where they refuse assessment or treatment**
- **Clinical guidelines or standard operating procedures covering:**
 - **Assessment of mental capacity in the field**
 - **Circumstances in which paramedics may or must override a refusal of treatment due to risk to life or impaired capacity**
 - **Interaction with police or mental health services when a suicidal patient refuses care**
- **The clinical decision-making framework or flowchart (if one exists) used by paramedics in such situations**
- **Training materials or modules provided to ambulance staff regarding:**
 - **Assessing and managing suicide risk**
 - **Application of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the Mental Health Act 1983/2007 in pre-hospital settings**
 - **Procedures for documenting and escalating refusals of treatment**
- **Training compliance or completion rates for front-line ambulance staff for the above training, for the 12 months prior to March 2024**



- **Any internal audits, reviews, or evaluations from the past five years concerning incidents where patients at risk of suicide refused treatment and were left at the scene**

I am not requesting any personal data or information about identifiable individuals, only organisational policies, procedures, and anonymised training or audit data.

Formal Response

The Trust confirms it holds / confirms it holds part of / does not hold the information you have requested.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide copies of the following documents and data that were in use as of March 2024:

- **Policies and guidance relating to patients who have attempted suicide, self-harmed, or are otherwise at risk of self-harm, particularly where they refuse assessment or treatment**

These policies are available on our trust website, linked below for ease.

[Safeguarding-Policy-and-Procedures-for-Children-Young-People-and-Adults](#)

[Mental-Capacity-Act-Policy](#)

[Seeking-Consent-Policy](#)

- **Clinical guidelines or standard operating procedures covering:**
 - **Assessment of mental capacity in the field**
 - **Circumstances in which paramedics may or must override a refusal of treatment due to risk to life or impaired capacity**
 - **Interaction with police or mental health services when a suicidal patient refuses care**

The JRCALC Plus (Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee) app was available to frontline Trust operatives as of March 2024. This would be the main resource for field operatives' clinical reference. These resources are not held locally by SECamb.

A reference document "*Mental Capacity Act - A pocket guide for ambulance staff*" was held by the Trust, and has been attached as part of this disclosure.

- **The clinical decision-making framework or flowchart (if one exists) used by paramedics in such situations**

The Trust has attached the following documents as part of this disclosure:

- *Mental Capacity Assessment - Paper Form - FOI 251044*
- *EPCR 2023 MCA Functionality Improvements - FOI 251044*



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Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon

- **Training materials or modules provided to ambulance staff regarding:**
 - **Assessing and managing suicide risk**
 - **Application of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the Mental Health Act 1983/2007 in pre-hospital settings**
 - **Procedures for documenting and escalating refusals of treatment**

The Trust has attached the following documents as part of this disclosure:

- *L3 Safeguarding - Resources Document April 2023 - FOI 251044_Redacted*

The Trust has elected to withhold some information as exempt from disclosure, under section 43 of the FOIA. This section concerns exemption from the individual right to receive information from a public authority, where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person [S.43 (2)].

This exemption is being applied to training materials and modules that are produced bespoke, by SECamb employees, and retain a commercial resale value as the Trust's intellectual property.

- **Training compliance or completion rates for front-line ambulance staff for the above training, for the 12 months prior to March 2024.**

The Trust does not hold this information.

- **Any internal audits, reviews, or evaluations from the past five years concerning incidents where patients at risk of suicide refused treatment and were left at the scene**

The Trust does not hold this information. No anonymised audits, reviews, or evaluations have been conducted within the past five years, concerning incidents of this type.

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](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/about-ico/complaints-appeals-and-enquiries) (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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