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Crawley  
West Sussex  
RH10 9BG

15th January 2026  
Internal Ref: 251212  
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:

**1) I write to ask for a copy of your policy on the deployment of Emergency Care Assistants.**

**2) How many ECA staff does SECamb employ?**

**Do your ECA staff ever work independently, comprising a full ambulance crew with no paramedic support?**

**If so, are such ECAs trained to any particular level to enable this autonomous level of clinical functioning?**

**3) If ECAs at SECamb do work without paramedic support/supervision, how long has this arrangement been in place?**

**Has it been evaluated? - Yes**

**If it has been evaluated, please disclose a copy of the evaluation report.**

**Or do ECAs always work with paramedic supervision?**

**4) Does SECamb purchase any ambulance or transport services from the independent sector?**

**If so, please disclose the details of the services currently purchased.**



**5) Do any of these independent services provide ambulance or transport crews that are staffed wholly by ECAs?**

**Are such crews clearly introduced to patients and their families as ECAs and not paramedics?**

**6) Are any contracted, independent services that are wholly crewed by ECAs deployed in response to NHS 111 calls?**

### **Formal Response**

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

**1) I write to ask for a copy of your policy on the deployment of Emergency Care Assistants.**

SECamb employ Emergency Care Support Workers (ECSWs)

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act exempts information that is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. If the requested material is already publicly available or can be obtained without undue difficulty, we are not required to provide it under FOIA.

In such cases, we will confirm that we hold the information and provide details of where and how it can be accessed, ensuring compliance with the Act while avoiding duplication.

This information can be found here -

[Scope of practice](#)  
[Urgent Transport Vehicle](#)

**2) How many ECA staff does SECamb employ?**

SECamb employs 296 Emergency Care Support Workers

**Do your ECA staff ever work independently, comprising a full ambulance crew with no paramedic support?**

Two ECSWs can be paired together to form an Urgent Tier Vehicle (UTV) crew. You can find this policy on our website.

**If so, are such ECAs trained to any particular level to enable this autonomous level of clinical functioning?**

Minimum ECSW scope, to a defined minimum employment period (clinical hours) as table shown.

This table shows which staff grades can work with other grades in an operational, patient facing setting. Unplanned, on-day requirements to deviate from this matrix must be agreed with a senior clinical lead (based on prevailing on-call or duty process)

	Non-clinical Driver	ECSW <3 months	ECSW >3 months	TAAP	AAP/ Technician	NQP <150 hours	NQP 150-300 hours	NQP >300 hours	Paramedic (all grades)	SRV
Non-clinical Driver	NO	NO	UTV (5)	UTV (2)	YES	NO	NO	UTV (7)	YES	NO
ECSW <3 months	NO	NO	UTV (5)	NO	YES	NO	NO	UTV (7)	YES	NO
ECSW >3 months	UTV (5)	UTV (5)	UTV (5)	UTV (2)	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
TAAP	UTV (2)	NO	UTV (2)	UTV (2)	YES	NO	NO	YES (6)	YES	NO
AAP/Technician	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO (1)	YES	YES	NO (4)
NQP <150 hours	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
NQP 150-300 HRS	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO (1)	NO	NO	NO (1)	YES	NO
NQP >300 hours	UTV (7)	UTV (7)	YES	YES (6)	YES	NO	NO (1)	YES	YES	NO
Paramedic (all grades)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

**3) If ECAs at SECamb do work without paramedic support/supervision, how long has this arrangement been in place?**

V2 of the UTV Policy was agreed in March 2025.

**Has it been evaluated?**

A monitoring, audit and review process can be found within the policy on our website.

**If it has been evaluated, please disclose a copy of the evaluation report.**

**Or do ECAs always work with paramedic supervision?**

Non-Applicable

**4) Does SECamb purchase any ambulance or transport services from the independent sector?**

SECamb does not purchase any ambulance or transport services from the independent sector.

**If so, please disclose the details of the services currently purchased.**

Non-Applicable

**5) Do any of these independent services provide ambulance or transport crews that are staffed wholly by ECAs?**

Non-Applicable

**Are such crews clearly introduced to patients and their families as ECAs and not paramedics?**

Non-Applicable



**6) Are any contracted, independent services that are wholly crewed by ECAs deployed in response to NHS 111 calls?**

Non-Applicable.

**Next steps**

We publish a variety of information which may assist future enquiries relating to our service on our website – [www.secamb.nhs.uk](http://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](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](http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints) (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**



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Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon