



Trust Headquarters  
Nexus House  
4 Gatwick Road  
Crawley  
West Sussex  
RH10 9BG

22nd January 2026  
Internal Ref: 251244  
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:

I am a paramedic who delivers guest lectures to children's nursing students at different universities where I broaden their knowledge and understanding of the care, interventions and conveyance of paediatric patients in the pre-hospital environment.

As part of the lecture there is a discussion around the Paediatric Early Warning Score (PEWS) and the Paediatric Observation Priority Score (POPS) tools, and the sporadic utilisation of them in the pre-hospital environment. I am aware that not every ambulance service in the UK uses either of these tools, however I do not have a definitive list of which ambulance services do or do not.

If you are able to, would you please inform me as to whether either of these tools are used in SECAMB, or whether there are any future plans to introduce either tool please?

### **Formal Response**



Saving Lives,  
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon

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

**I am a paramedic who delivers guest lectures to children's nursing students at different universities where I broaden their knowledge and understanding of the care, interventions and conveyance of paediatric patients in the pre-hospital environment.**

**As part of the lecture there is a discussion around the Paediatric Early Warning Score (PEWS) and the Paediatric Observation Priority Score (POPS) tools, and the sporadic utilisation of them in the pre-hospital environment. I am aware that not every ambulance service in the UK uses either of these tools, however I do not have a definitive list of which ambulance services do or do not.**

**If you are able to, would you please inform me as to whether either of these tools are used in SECAMB, or whether there are any future plans to introduce either tool please?**

We can record a Paediatric Early Warning Score (PEWS) in our electronic patient care record (ePCR), however, PEWS does not appear in, and is not indicated for use by the national Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee (JRCALC) clinical practice guidelines. We do however use a range of tools to support paediatric care, such as NICE Guideline NG143. We do not use the Paediatric Observation Priority Score (POPS) in the Trust.

We do not use POPS in the Trust, and have no future plans to introduce POPS

### 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).



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](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](https://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](https://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