



Trust Headquarters
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4 Gatwick Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 9BG

Tel: 0300 123 0999
www.secamb.nhs.uk

5th February 2026
Internal Ref: 251031
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.

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

FOI Request& FOI response

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

You asked us:

I request the following information relating to contractors engaged within the Digital Directorate of South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.

Please cover the period from 1 April 2024 to the present (or the most recent complete month available).

Part A – Contractor engagement and cost

For each contractor engaged through a company or agency and paid via invoice (i.e. non-payroll, non-bank, non-permanent staff), please provide the following fields using anonymised identifiers such as Contractor 1, Contractor 2, ...:

- Anonymised identifier (e.g. Contractor 1)

Added to associated spreadsheet



- Supplying company or agency name

Added to associated spreadsheet

- Day rate or weekly rate currently paid

The Trust considers the withheld information to be exempt from disclosure under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption applies where the release of information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person or organisation, including the public authority itself. In this case, disclosure would be likely to compromise commercially sensitive information relating to suppliers, systems, and/or operational arrangements, which could negatively impact the Trust's ability to secure value for money, maintain fair competition, or protect the integrity and security of its commercial operations.

Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and requires the Trust to conduct a public interest test. While the Trust recognises the general public interest in transparency and accountability, on balance, the public interest in withholding this information outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Releasing this information would likely place the Trust and/or third-party suppliers at a commercial disadvantage, potentially weakening negotiating positions, exposing vulnerabilities, or revealing sensitive contractual or technical arrangements.

For these reasons, the Trust is unable to disclose the information requested.

- A list of all payments made - date and amount

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- The total amount spent on that contractor



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- Contract start date

Added to spreadsheet

- Expected end date or “ongoing” if not fixed

Added to spreadsheet

- Recruitment route (e.g. agency framework, direct appointment, single-tender action, competitive procurement)

Added to spreadsheet

- Justification recorded for use of a contractor rather than recruiting to a permanent or interim/secondment post

Added to spreadsheet

- Agency fees paid up front, and any recurring fees

None identified

- Number of staff that they directly line manage

Added to spreadsheet

- Number of contractors that they directly line manage

Added to spreadsheet



If any element is withheld under an exemption, please supply the remainder and cite the exemption relied upon.

Part B – Summary of contractor roles

Separately, please provide a list of all contractor titles or role descriptions currently engaged in the Digital Directorate and the number of individuals in each title or role.

Added to spreadsheet

No linkage to the cost data in Part A is required, in order to ensure anonymisation.

Added to spreadsheet

Part C - Summary of agency expense claims

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust is not obliged to comply with your request if we estimate that the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit is set by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 and is currently £450, which equates to 18 hours of staff time.

After reviewing your request, we have determined that fulfilling it would exceed this limit. Therefore, we are refusing your request under Section 12 of the Act.

**For mileage, expenses etc, provide a break down of total values in each category across all contractors, but shown as totals.
E.g. all contractors spent £40 in total on mileage.**

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust is not obliged to comply with your request if we estimate that the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit is set by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 and is currently £450, which equates to 18 hours of staff time.

After reviewing your request, we have determined that fulfilling it would exceed this limit. Therefore, we are refusing your request under Section 12 of the Act.

Part D - Future roles

A list of any contractor roles that have been approved but have not yet been recruited to.

Added to spreadsheet

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
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust



Saving Lives,
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon