



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

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

10th March 2026
Internal Ref: 260208
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 & Formal Response

Freedom of Information Act Request: Impact of NHS financial requirements SECTION ONE: financial breakeven requirements

From 2025-26, NHS England's financial framework requires NHS trusts to meet a statutory breakeven duty. Where possible, trusts must avoid in-year deficits and recover prior deficits.

Request (section one):

- 1. Please provide the trust's in-year deficit or surplus for 2024–25, and its estimated in-year deficit or surplus for 2025–26, 2026–27 and 2027–28. (Where the trust plans to break even, please confirm this. Where a deficit or surplus is projected, please state the estimated value.)***

The Trust reported a retained surplus of £708k in 2024-25 and its adjusted financial performance was a £49k surplus. This is used by NHS England to assess the Trusts financial performance and is noted in note 1.30 of the Trust Annual Accounts which can be found [here](#).

The Trust is forecasting to meet the break-even requirement for 2025-26 as well as for 2026-27 and 2027-28.



SECTION TWO: efficiency, productivity and cost-reduction requirements
NHS England has set mandatory efficiency measures, including: reducing organisational cost base by at least 1%; delivering around 4% productivity improvement; reducing corporate service spending to pre-pandemic levels; and reducing reliance on temporary and agency staffing.
Request (section two):

2a. Workforce reductions and permanently deleted posts

Please provide the total number of job cuts, redundancies or post reductions that the trust has identified, planned or already implemented as a result of its breakeven duty and associated financial planning. If possible, please provide this information by financial year: 2025–26, 2026–27 and 2027–28.

This should include job cuts or redundancies, and posts that have already been permanently deleted whether or not this resulted in redundancy.

Where possible, and within statutory cost limits, please break this information down by staff group, for example: clinical staff, non-clinical staff, corporate / administrative staff

Please express figures in full-time equivalent (FTE). Where only headcount figures are held, please provide these instead and indicate this.

As part of ongoing restructures across the Trust, up to 10 roles in Clinical and Corporate/Administrative teams were included in planned changes for 2025-26. We are unable to provide a detailed breakdown as this would identify fewer than 10 individuals.

These changes aim to align teams with the Trust's strategy and support organisational sustainability. While some roles may no longer exist in the new structures, this does not automatically mean a reduction in overall headcount.

Restructures are still under consultation and it is not yet clear whether they will result in job changes, redundancies, or reductions in posts. Any impacts may extend into 2026-27.

Plans for 2026-27 and 2027-28 have also been submitted, reflecting the national requirement for 2 per cent efficiency savings. These may lead to further restructures, but any potential changes to roles or posts have not yet been finalised.

2b. Method of workforce reduction and post deletion

Where possible, please provide a breakdown of how the workforce reductions and permanent post deletions described in section 2a are being or will be achieved, for example through: compulsory redundancies, voluntary redundancies, non-renewal of fixed-term contracts, natural wastage, vacancy controls or recruitment freezes.

Where data is held, please break this information down by staff group (clinical/non-clinical/corporate, or equivalent categories used by the trust) and by financial year (2025–26, 2026–27, 2027–28).



The redundancies identified in question 2a are all compulsory redundancies.

SECTION THREE: planned service reductions

Breakeven planning may involve changes to service delivery, including reductions, reconfiguration or cessation of services.

Request (section three):

- 3. Please outline any services, departments or functions that the trust has identified for reduction, reconfiguration or closure as part of its breakeven duty and medium-term financial plan, and indicate in which financial year(s) these changes are planned (2025–26, 2026–27 and/or 2027–28).***

No reductions in service delivery are planned.

The Trust is currently reconfiguring some services as it moves to a divisional model. This includes changes across back-office functions, as well as clinical leadership and operational support roles to help ensure the organisation remains sustainable and able to continue delivering high-quality care to patients.

There are no closures planned.

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



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Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon