



Trust Headquarters
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www.secamb.nhs.uk

5th March 2026
Internal Reference: 260307
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on **02/03/2026**. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. **Please ensure you quote the Internal Reference number above in any future correspondence.**

Your Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the use of volunteer emergency responders within your Trust. The questions below reflect the areas I am seeking clarification on, including whether your organisation operates any volunteer community responder/ first responder/emergency responder/staff responder/EMT or ECFR services within your trust and the training, qualifications, and operational scope associated with them. In particular I request information on the following points:

1. Operation of volunteer responder schemes

Do you operate a volunteer community responder, first responder, emergency responder, staff responder, EMT, or ECFR service within your Trust?

2. Use of blue lights

If such services exist, are these volunteers permitted to respond to emergency situations using blue lights?

If yes to the above, is this restricted to a particular volunteer responder role e.g. EMT or ECFR?

Is yes to the above, is there a requirement that the vehicle must be able to convey sick or injured patients in order to respond to emergencies on blue lights?

3. Required qualifications and training



If these volunteers are authorised to respond on blue lights, what qualifications or training must they complete in order to do so? Please include any mandatory clinical, operational, or regulatory requirements.

4. Driving training or assessment

If driving on blue lights is permitted, do these volunteers need to undertake specific driving training or assessment? If so, what does this training entail?

5. Emergency response

If these volunteers are authorised to respond on blue lights, are they also permitted to respond to pediatric emergencies?

6. Funding arrangements

Who funds the bluelightequipped vehicle used by volunteer responders, including the cost of insurance?

Formal Response

1. Yes, the Trust operates a community first responder and emergency responder programme.
2. The volunteer 'Emergency Responder' role is permitted to respond to emergency calls using blue lights but are not authorised to convey patients under emergency or routine conditions. The Community First Responder volunteer role does not respond to patients using blue lights.
3. Volunteer Emergency Responders are required to hold the First Responder on Scene qualification (as for all Community First Responders), and be current in their practice, and a Trust approved emergency driving qualification (generally Level 3 Certificate in Emergency Response Ambulance Driving).
4. Volunteer Emergency Responders are required to comply with the Trust's Driving Standards Policy with regards to training and assessment, a copy of which can be viewed [here](#).
5. Yes, within the scope of their training and in accordance with Trust policies and clinical governance arrangements.
6. Funding to obtain and maintain the vehicles comes from a range of sources, including core Trust funding and charitable donations.

Next steps

Some information held by the Trust is routinely published on our [website](#) and may be of assistance.

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review.

Requests for an internal review should be submitted within **40 working days** of the date of this response and should be sent to:

Richard Banks, Head of Corporate Governance at FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

The internal review will be conducted by an individual who was not directly involved in handling your original request, ordinarily the Trust's Data Protection Officer. We aim to complete internal reviews within **20 working days** of receipt.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of the internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO generally expects complaints to be raised promptly following the completion of an internal review.

The easiest way to raise a complaint is via the ICO's website:

www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Alternatively, you may write to:
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Corporate Governance Team
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust



Saving Lives,
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon