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[www.secamb.nhs.uk](http://www.secamb.nhs.uk)

14<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
Internal Reference: 260351  
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on **30/03/2026**.  
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

1. Your current Uniform and Dress Code Policy (including any appendices)
2. Your current infection prevention and Control Policy / guidance specifically covering:  
Bare below the elbow requirements ,  
permitted jewellery in clinical areas - eg wedding rings  
Any accommodations for articles of religious faith (hijab, niqab, kippah, kara, kirpan, crucifix, turban etc.)
3. Any specific dress code guidance for  
general clinical areas  
high infection risk areas like ICU,ITU, Isolation  
any dress policy pertaining to surgical/theatre environments and any scrubbing protocols
4. Any Equality impact assessment conducted in relation to the above policies
5. The date each policy was last reviewed and scheduled next review date

### Formal Response



Saving Lives,  
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon

Under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information is exempt from disclosure where it is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. This exemption is absolute and does not require a public interest test.

The Trust's **Uniform and Dress Code Policy and Procedure** and **Infection Prevention and Control Policy** are published and publicly available on the [Trust's website](#).

At the time of your request, the **Uniform and Dress Code Policy and Procedure** had last been reviewed in **March 2026**, and the **Infection Prevention and Control Policy** had last been reviewed in **May 2023**. Both policies remain in date and accessible to the public. As the information requested is already available to you, it is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Act.

Regarding the policy and guidance for 'bare below the elbow requirements, permitted jewellery in clinical areas - eg wedding rings and any accommodations for articles of religious faith (hijab, niqab, kippah, kara, kirpan, crucifix, turban etc.)', this can also be found on the [Trust website](#) under the **Infection Prevention Ready Procedure**. Please find attached to this response the Equality Impact Assessment conducted in relation to the **Uniform and Dress Code Policy and Procedure**, **Infection Prevention and Control Policy** and **Infection Prevention Ready Procedure**.

The Trust does not operate in any High-Risk areas such as ICU, ITU Isolation as we don't have these or any surgical theatre environments. Both the **Uniform and Dress Code Policy and Procedure** and the **Infection Prevention Control Policy** cover off the routine / general clinical areas.

### 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](mailto: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](http://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



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