



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

Tel: 0300 123 0999  
[www.secamb.nhs.uk](http://www.secamb.nhs.uk)

8<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
Internal Reference: 260346  
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on **24/03/2026**.  
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.**

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

### Your Request and our Formal Response

I am currently undertaking a Master of Research (MRes) with the University of Cumbria to conduct a study exploring the perceived feasibility, impacts, and anticipated outcomes of introducing urethral urinary catheterisation competency within the UK prehospital setting.

As part of this work, I am seeking information regarding current practice and service demand across UK ambulance services. I would be grateful if you could provide the following information:

#### **Workforce and Scope of Practice**

1. Does your Trust employ Advanced or Specialist Paramedics, Nurses or Prehospital Practitioners?

**Yes – SECamb employs one or more of the following roles: Advanced or Specialist Paramedics, Nurses, and/or Prehospital Practitioners.**

2. Is urethral urinary catheterisation included within the scope of practice for any clinician group within your Trust?



Saving Lives,  
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon

- If yes, please specify which roles (e.g., Specialist Paramedic, Advanced Paramedic).

**No**

3. Is this skill:

- Routinely performed in practice, or
- Included in policy but not widely implemented?

**Not applicable to the Trust**

4. Is training in catheterisation provided internally or externally?

**Not applicable to the Trust**

### Clinical Activity Data

For the most recent available 3-5 **year period**:

5. The number of incidents attended that were coded or identified as relating to:
- Urinary retention
  - Catheter-related problems

Please refer to the table below:

| The number of incidents attended that were coded or identified as relating to Urinary retention | The number of incidents attended that were coded or identified as relating to Catheter-related problems |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2769                                                                                            | 36458                                                                                                   |

#### The number of incidents attended that were coded or identified as relating to Urinary retention

Incidents were identified by using the following Symptom Discriminators established at time of call:

PC urinary retention  
 RP AMB urinary retention  
 RP ED urinary retention  
 ED suspected acute urinary retention

#### The number of incidents attended that were coded or identified as relating to Catheter-related problems

Incidents were identified by using the following Crew Condition codes established at time on scene:

I34 – RETENTION OF URINE  
 I33 – DISORDER OF URETHRAL CATHETER

- Other urological complaints (where applicable)

**This is not detailed enough to allow a focused search in CAD or ePCR. To enable a more refined search, we would typically require specific identifiers such as the relevant NHS Pathways symptom group (SG) and symptom discriminator (SD) code(s), and/or agreed CAD/ePCR search terms (e.g., “urological”, “catheter”, “retention”), plus the date range and any inclusion/exclusion criteria (e.g., outcome/disposition, patient age group).**



Saving Lives,  
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon

6. If possible and where available, please include the coding system used (e.g., AMPDS, NHS Pathways).

### **We use NHS Pathways**

**NHS Pathways provides a symptom discriminator (SD Code) for urinary retention within the symptom group (SG code) for abdominal pain.**

### **Patient Outcomes**

7. Of the incidents identified above, please provide (where recorded):
- Number of patients conveyed to hospital
  - Number of patients treated and discharged at scene
  - Number of patients referred to alternative services (e.g., GP, community teams, urgent care)

**Please refer to the table below.**

| Number of patients with hear and treat outcome - Urinary Retention | Number of patients treated and discharged at scene - Urinary Retention | Number of patients conveyed to hospital - Urinary Retention | Number of patients referred to alternative services (e.g., GP, community teams, urgent care) - Urinary Retention |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1332                                                               | 317                                                                    | 1120                                                        | 101                                                                                                              |

**Number of hear and treat, patients treated at scene, conveyed to hospital and referred to alternative services**

These only take into account incidents coded with 'urinary retention'

### **Additional Information (if available)**

8. Any available data on:

- Repeat attendances for catheter-related issues

**This is not a detailed enough request to allow a focused search. To enable a more refined search, we would typically require the relevant coding identifiers (e.g., NHS Pathways SG/SD code(s)) and/or agreed CAD/ePCR search terms, plus a defined date range and the repeat-attendance criteria (e.g., “repeat within 24/48/72 hours”, outcome/disposition, and any age group filters).**

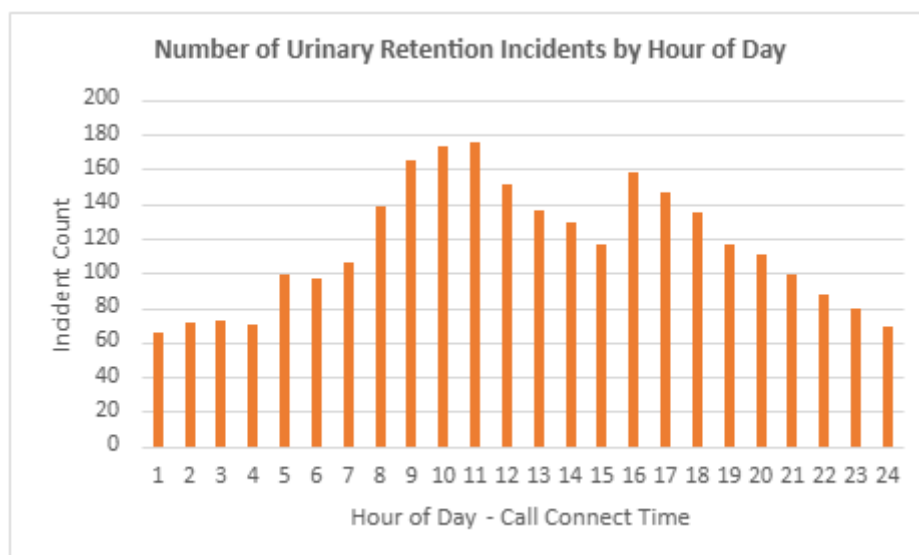
- Time of call (e.g., in-hours vs out-of-hours)

**Please refer to the graph below:**



Saving Lives,  
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon



- Recorded catheter-related clinical interventions undertaken by ambulance clinicians

**Not applicable to the Trust.**

9. Copies of any relevant policies, guidelines, or standard operating procedures relating to catheterisation within your Trust, if present.

**Not applicable to the Trust.**

### 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.



Saving Lives,  
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon

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



Saving Lives,  
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon