



Trust Headquarters
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18th May 2026
Internal Reference: 260427
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on **18/04/2026**.
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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could I request a loading list of all equipment, bags and consumables stocked on your frontline ambulances including a loading list for any individual bags.

Formal Response

Thank you for your request for information regarding the equipment, bags and consumables stocked on frontline ambulances.

The Trust does hold information within scope of your request. However, we are unable to provide full itemised loading lists or detailed bag-level contents. Detailed information about the precise equipment, consumables and bag configurations carried on frontline emergency response vehicles is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the reasons set out below.

The Trust considers that disclosure of detailed and comprehensive load lists, including the specific contents and configuration of individual response bags, would



be likely to endanger the health and safety of both Trust staff and members of the public.

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust operates emergency vehicles as part of a time-critical frontline response. Disclosure of detailed operational equipment information could increase the risk of misuse, interference, theft or targeted attacks on vehicles or crews, which in turn could directly impact the Trust's ability to provide emergency care and place patients and staff at risk. As such, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Act.

This exemption is engaged on the basis that the risk of harm is not remote or speculative, but a real and credible possibility arising from the nature of the service provided and the operational environment in which Trust vehicles operate. In addition, the Trust considers that disclosure of detailed operational equipment information would be likely to be prejudicial to national security.

Ambulance services form a key component of the United Kingdom's emergency response infrastructure and play a critical role in major incidents, resilience planning and multi-agency emergency responses. Providing detailed information about the operational capabilities of frontline emergency vehicles could be exploited to disrupt emergency response arrangements or reduce the effectiveness of the Trust's contribution to national resilience. The information is therefore also exempt under section 24(1) of the Act.

Both section 38 and section 24 are qualified exemptions and therefore subject to the public interest test. The Trust recognises the public interest in openness and transparency, and in providing information about the services it delivers. However, this must be balanced against the very strong public interest in ensuring the safety of patients and staff, protecting the effective delivery of emergency response services, and safeguarding national resilience arrangements.

The Trust has concluded that the public interest in maintaining these exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosure of the withheld information.

Where possible, the Trust has provided alternative, high-level information to give assurance regarding the general categories of equipment carried, without disclosing detailed or sensitive operational information.

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



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Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon

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



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