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www.secamb.nhs.uk

18th May 2026
Internal Reference: 260428
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on **19/04/2026**.
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 list of all medications/drugs including IV fluids which are stocked on frontline ambulances in your trust.

Formal Response

The Trust confirms that it holds the information you have requested. However, we are withholding the information under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (endangering the safety of any individual). We consider that disclosure of a detailed list of the medications/drugs (including IV fluids) stocked on frontline ambulances would be **likely** to endanger the safety of individuals.

The information requested forms part of the Trust's operational readiness arrangements for emergency response vehicles. We consider that placing detailed stock information into the public domain could increase the risk of targeted theft or interference with ambulance stock (for example, to obtain controlled medicines or other items for misuse), which could reduce the availability of essential medicines for patients and create additional safety risks for patients, staff and the public.



Section 38 is a qualified exemption and is therefore subject to the public interest test. We recognise there is a public interest in transparency about the resources available to support pre-hospital care, and in providing assurance that ambulances are appropriately equipped. However, we consider that this is outweighed by the strong public interest in maintaining the safety and security of frontline ambulance operations and ensuring that medicines and IV fluids remain available for immediate clinical use. On balance, we consider that the public interest favours withholding the detailed list.

In addition, we are withholding the information under section 24(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (national security). We consider that disclosure of an itemised list of medicines/drugs (including IV fluids) carried on frontline ambulances could be used to inform hostile intent, including planning targeted interference with emergency response assets and associated supplies, and could therefore be **likely** to compromise national security by increasing risk to critical emergency response capability.

Section 24 is a qualified exemption and is subject to the public interest test. We recognise the public interest in transparency and accountability, including public understanding of how ambulances are resourced. However, there is a very strong public interest in protecting national security, including safeguarding critical national infrastructure and the resilience of emergency response services. We consider that providing detailed stock information could increase vulnerability to deliberate disruption and, on balance, the public interest favours maintaining the exemption and withholding the itemised list.

Where helpful, the Trust can confirm that frontline ambulances carry medicines and fluids in line with relevant clinical practice and governance arrangements; however, we are not providing the itemised stock list for the reasons set out above.

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