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17th June 2026
Internal Reference: 260602
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on **29/05/2026**.
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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information on paracetamol overdose incidents attended by your service. Please note that where data is not held in the format requested, I would be grateful if you could provide it in whatever format is available.

For the financial year 2024/25 (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025), please provide the following information. If complete data for this period is not yet available, please provide the most recent 12-month period for which complete data is held, and specify the dates covered.

1. The total number of incidents attended by your service where the primary presenting condition was paracetamol overdose or suspected paracetamol toxicity.
2. Of those incidents, how many involved patients aged 17 years or under. If possible, please break this down by the following age groups: 0-11 years, 12-15 years, 16-17 years.
3. Of all incidents, where this information is recorded, how many were classified as: (a) accidental overdose or therapeutic excess - defined as an unintentional overdose taken for therapeutic purposes; (b) intentional self-poisoning; (c) unknown or unclassified.



4. Of all incidents, how many involved a combination product containing paracetamol - such as a cold and flu remedy, co-codamol or similar - rather than paracetamol alone?

Formal Response

Overdose was identified with the following condition codes recorded on the patient care record:

- F38 – Accidental drug overdose
 - O08 – Intentional drug overdose
 - Other
 - P00 – Alcohol intoxication
 - P05 – Intoxication caused by recreational drug misuse
1. The count of incidents attended for a Paracetamol overdose for the financial year 2024/25 was 1861.
 2. For the count of how many involved patients were aged 17 years or under, broken-down by age groups: 0-11 years, 12-15 years, 16-17 years. Please refer to the table below:

Count of Incidents Attended - Paracetamol Overdose	
Age Range	Count
0-11 years	5
12-15 years	159
16-17 years	155

The following questions referred to “of all incidents” in the request. This has been interpreted to mean all overdose/intoxication incidents recorded using the condition codes listed above, rather than only those identified as paracetamol overdose. As a result, the following figures relate to the wider dataset rather than paracetamol-specific incidents provided above.

3. a) The count of incidents where this information is recorded as an accidental overdose or therapeutic excess - defined as an unintentional overdose taken for therapeutic purposes was 1,579.
- b) The count of all incidents where this information is recorded as intentional self-poisoning was 7,369.
- c) The count of all incidents where this information is recorded as unknown or unclassified was 10, 588.





4. The count of all incidents, that involved a combination product containing paracetamol and co-codamol rather than paracetamol alone was 2,166.

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

