



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

Tel: 0300 123 0999
www.secamb.nhs.uk

2nd July 2026
Internal Reference: 260614
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on **04/06/2026**.
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 and our Formal Response

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to the supply disruption affecting surgical sutures.

1. Current Stock and Usage

- What is the current stock level of surgical sutures held by your Trust?

The current stock level of surgical sutures held by the Trust is enough for approximately 2 weeks.

- What is your Trust's monthly usage or consumption of this product (by volume and unit) since May 2025 to present?

The Trust usage or consumption of this product since May 2025 to present is 720 units.

2. Supply Disruption Impact

- Has the supply disruption resulted in any procedures being delayed, cancelled, or modified? If yes, please provide the number of affected procedures by month from January 2023 to the present.



No, the Trust has not cancelled, delayed or modified any procedures.

- Has your Trust raised any formal incident reports internally or with NHS England/NHS Supply Chain as a result of this supply issue? If yes, how many in the past 12 months?

No

3. Stockpiling and Contingency

- Does your Trust hold a formal contingency or safety stock policy for surgical sutures? If yes, please provide the minimum stock threshold.

We hold two weeks stock across our operational locations; with four weeks stock held at our two Logistics hubs.

- Has your Trust increased stock levels of surgical sutures as a precautionary measure in the past 12 months?

No

- If yes, by how many units did you increase stock levels?

This is 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.

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 Interim CEO: Jen Allan