



Trust Headquarters
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Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 9BG

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www.secamb.nhs.uk

9th June 2026
Internal Reference: 260616
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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to the supply and availability of surgical stapling products used across your Trust.

1. Current Stock and Usage

- What is the current stock level of surgical stapling products held by your Trust? Please break down by product type where possible (e.g. linear staplers, circular staplers, reloads/cartridges, skin staplers).
- What is your Trust's monthly usage or consumption of surgical stapling products by volume since May 2025 to present?

2. Supply Disruption

- 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.
- 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?



3. Stockpiling and Contingency

- Does your Trust hold a formal contingency or safety stock policy for surgical stapling products? If yes, please provide the minimum stock threshold.
- Has your Trust increased stock levels of surgical sutures as a precautionary measure in the past 12 months?
- If yes, by how many units did you increase stock levels?

Formal Response

This request is not applicable to the Trust as surgical stapling products are not stocked by 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